
AG SAFETY S.T.A.T. - SAFE TACTICS FOR AG TODAY

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR – **Pony Carts Require SMV When Operating on Public Roads**

Dee Jepsen - State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader

Pony carts, when operated on public roads, are considered a slow-moving vehicle (SMV) and are required to display the SMV sign. The OSU Ag Safety Program has worked to revise a lighting and marking standard for animal-drawn equipment. Previous versions of the ASABE Standard only made recommendations for animal-drawn buggies and wagons; the revised standard includes pony carts and other low-profile sulky carts. This revision is important to the safety of cart operators, who tend to be children in rural and Amish communities.

The roadway issue was first identified by the Holmes County Amish Safety Committee. Their members consulted the OSU Ag Safety Office to seek an acceptable solution. Following months of lighting demonstrations with Amish leaders in surrounding states, as well as consultation with product engineers and pony cart manufacturers, a new standard was developed. To enhance the visibility of pony carts, the standard calls for reflective tape and a full size SMV emblem to be displayed on the rear of the cart. An aerial devise, such as an orange flag, should also be mounted on the cart, 4 – 7 feet above the road surface. The significance of this standard is to improve consistency of lighting and marking patterns on horse-drawn vehicles. It will also impact the safety of those riding in the carts. The standard was adopted by the professional society ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers) as a voluntary recommended practice. The standard was also accepted by members of the National Amish Safety Committee, and now they ask for assistance in disseminating the information to Amish communities throughout North America. The recommendations are available on the website: <http://agsafety.osu.edu/programs/amish-program>

By working together on safety issues, we can impact the safety of motorists and horse-drawn vehicle operators who share the same roads.

A SECOND ON SAFETY

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 40 percent of heat-related deaths occur in those 65 and older, and men account for two-thirds of these deaths in all age groups.

http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-07-2010/heat_wave_threatens_older_americans.html

BEING AWARE OF HEAT STRESS

Kathy Mann – Agricultural Safety and Health Program Coordinator

July has ended and August is just beginning but the summer's heat is continuing on. While the "dog days" of summer are in affect, we need to remember to stay attentive to heat and the serious health concerns it can lead to.

Working outside in the heat causes the build up of body heat either internally by muscle use or externally by the environment, referred to as heat stress. If the body is overwhelmed by heat, heat stroke and exhaustion can result. Heat stroke and exhaustion are the two main health concerns to pay attention to during those hot and humid days. Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. Symptoms of heat stroke are confusion, irrational behavior, convulsions, coma, and death. More than 20% of heat stroke victims die regardless of health or age. Younger workers seem to be more susceptible to heat stroke than older workers.

Here are 5 steps to control heat stress.

1. Schedule heavy tasks and work requiring protective gear for cooler morning or evening hours.
2. Drink one glass of water every 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the heat and humidity.
3. Know how medication(s) you are taking cause the body to react to sun and heat.
4. Avoid alcohol and drugs that increase the effects of heat.
5. Take breaks to cool down. A 10-15 minute break every two hours is beneficial.

Enjoy the last of summer's heat while continuing to stay safe and hydrated. For more information, view Ohio State University Extension's factsheet, Heat Stress AEX 192.1.22.

http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/192/pdf/0192_1_22.pdf

SHARE THE ROAD WITH ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLES

Dewey Mann – Safety Research Associate

Ohio averages 140 crashes per year where animal-drawn vehicles and motor vehicles collide.

It is projected that the Amish population (not including other horse and buggy groups) will double in less than 25 years, with over 10 new settlements around the country EACH YEAR.

What will this mean for rural areas of Ohio?

We could expect new areas of the state to see cultures who use horse and buggies as their primary transportation. Ohio counties such as Holmes, Wayne, and Geauga that have large settlements will continue to grow.

What does this mean for horse and buggy drivers?

As there are more animal-drawn vehicles on the roadways, there is an even greater need for proper lighting and marking. Increased lighting and marking allows motorists an opportunity to identify the slow moving vehicle, and act accordingly. Fact sheets providing recommended lighting and marking are available from the Agricultural Safety and Health office and online at:

http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/pdf/0596_4.pdf

http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/pdf/0596_7.pdf

What does this mean for motor vehicle drivers?

Always be on the look out for slow moving vehicles (farm machinery, animal-drawn vehicles, etc.). From discussions with horse and buggy Amish in northern Ohio, their perception is that out of town tourists often exhibit more patience and observe proper roadway laws (not passing on a double yellow line) better than some local motorists.

As new horse and buggy communities integrate into our rural communities, let's work with our new neighbors to keep our communities a safe place to live. An award winning video on safe driving around animal-drawn vehicles can be found online at:

[Sharing the Roadways in Amish Country](#)

INJURY PREVENTION – Age and Lighting Can Impact Vision

Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

Vision impairments can develop gradually over a period of years, and have an impact on the ability to recognize objects at different distances, distinguish patterns and colors, adapt to changing light levels and clearly focus on objects. For example, a 45-year-old may need four times as much light to see objects as they did when they were age 25. By age 65, the light needed to see clearly may double to that at the age 45. Farmers often work in low light conditions such as early-morning or late evenings. As the farmer ages, they may find it harder to efficiently operate controls or levers and react to potential hazards, in low light conditions. Some simple suggestions to keep an individual with vision impairment safe and productive on the farm include:

- Make sure work areas and walkways are well lighted and that light bulbs are checked and replaced regularly.
- Use auxiliary lighting to reduce shadows when working on equipment or confined areas.
- Utilize motion sensitive lighting or install timers on the lights and have them set to turn on for the normal time you typically enter that building.
- Ensure traveled paths are solid and free from obstructions to prevent trips and falls. Changes in elevation should be marked or a smooth transition should be created.
- Using contrasting colors between floors, walls, tools and equipment can help assist

with problems of depth perception.

- Color code tools like rakes, hoes and shovels, by wrapping a wide band of colored duct or electrical tape around handles. For example put red tape on Phillips screwdrivers and green on flat head screwdrivers.

- Wrap rubber bands around handles to distinguish between metric and standard wrenches.

- Utilize magnetized trays to keep parts, such as nuts and bolts, organized while working on equipment.

- Install floor markings as guides when moving from extreme bright to dark areas, such as moving equipment into a building on a bright sunny day.

For more information about the Ohio AgrAbility Program, visit www.agrability.osu.edu or contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at mcguire.225@osu.edu or 614-292-0588.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Flooded Roadways

Kent McGuire – OSU Ag Safety and Health

A year ago at this time we were talking about drought conditions in Ohio. This year we have seen several weather events bringing excessive amounts of rainfall that have caused flooding. In some cases, these conditions have caused flash flooding, which is the most dangerous kind of flooding because it combines the destructive power of high water with incredible speed and unpredictability.

According to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, more deaths occur due to flooding each year than from any other severe weather related hazard. More than half of all flood related deaths occur in automobiles as people and their vehicles are swept downstream. The main reason is that people underestimate the force and power of water. Six inches of moving water can knock a person down and a mere two feet of water can move a large vehicle. With water across the roadway, drivers cannot always determine the depth of the water and if roadbeds are washed out. Motorists are reminded when faced with flooded roadways - **Turn Around, Don't Drown**. State officials urge motorists to be aware when approaching a flooded road, stop and do not cross. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. And NEVER drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

For more information about Emergency Management contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at mcguire.225@osu.edu or 614-292-0588.

Ag Safety S.T.A.T. - Safe Tactics for Ag Today is an e-mail newsletter prepared by Dee Jepsen, Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist and team members from the State Safety Office, in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering at OSU. The primary goal of this monthly newsletter is to help you stay connected to everyday safety news and activities that may be used in your own newsletters or programs. If you have safety-related questions or program ideas that you would like to share, please contact Dr. Jepsen at jepsen.4@osu.edu
