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

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR – *National Farm Safety and Health Week "Working Together for Safety in Agriculture" September 15-21, 2013*

Dee Jepsen - State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader

National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 15-21, 2013. This commemorative week is dedicated to the safety and well-being of hard working farm families. The theme is "Working Together for Safety in Agriculture."

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous industries to work. Protecting farm families and farm workers takes efforts from everyone. During Farm Safety Week, be sure to check out OSU's Ag Safety Facebook page for daily posts of safety messages, videos, and links to other organizational campaigns. Together we can work towards safer Ohio farms.

Our page is: <https://www.facebook.com/OSUAgSafetyandHealth>

A SECOND ON SAFETY

Tractors are responsible for 41% of the farm deaths to children under age 15.
(National Agricultural Safety Initiative)

Throughout harvest season remember to keep bystanders and others away from the tractor operation area. Do not allow "extra riders," especially children.

STAYING SAFE AROUND GRAIN

Kathy Mann – Agricultural Safety and Health Program Coordinator

As harvest time is approaching, take time to refresh your family, friends and employees about the hazards of grain.

Grain can create a deadly flow regardless of where it is stored. Bridged grain or grain stuck to the side or over an opening can engulf a person once it is broke free. A person can become trapped in this grain within seconds, which can lead to suffocation. It only takes 3 to 4 seconds for an adult to become helpless in grain and only 20 seconds for an adult to become totally covered.

- Help protect your family by:
- Locking doors, gates and discharging chutes of any grain storage units.
- Keep kids out of grain wagons, carts, semi beds.
- Have ladders and grain elevator legs high enough kids cannot climb on then, if this is not possible make sure to secure a barrier to prevent access.
- If entry into the bin is necessary, always have at least 3 people and make sure all augers are turned off. One person is to enter the bin and the others remain outside in case an emergency occurs. Always use a body harness with a lifeline secured to the outside of the bin.

For more information about grain entrapment, view <http://ohioline.osu.edu/atts/PDF-English/Bin-Entrapment.pdf>

MACHINERY MAINTENANCE – How it Relates to Your Safety and Well-Being

Dewey Mann – Safety Research Associate

If 'it' moves, 'it' requires regular maintenance to keep working the way it was designed. Whether 'it' is a truck, grain cart, or a combine nothing performs well for long if scheduled maintenance is neglected. But what does maintenance have to do with safety?

Even well maintained machines are prone to break down (Murphy's Law), but machines in good working order are LESS LIKELY to fail during the season. Due to the timeliness of our industry, farmers have a short window to get crops out in the fall; a break down from a poorly maintained machine can cause economic losses and unnecessary stress on farm employees. The rush to fix machines could lead to injuries during repair.

Part of keeping a safe work environment for our employees (which usually involves family members) is properly maintaining our equipment.

Here are some tips from farmfamily.com to keep in mind as the busy fall harvest season approaches:

- Avoid improper lifting (lift with your legs, and get assistance if weight is greater than 50 lbs.)
- Keep all tools in good working condition

- Ensure all equipment has a WORKING (fully charged) fire extinguisher
- Take extra precaution when making hydraulic system repairs. Use cardboard, clipboard or 1by block of wood, not a hand, to find a leak
- Make sure all equipment is turned off and stabilized and that chocks are placed under the wheels to prevent rolling
- Never climb under a vehicle or piece of equipment on a jack unless it is properly secured with blocks or jack stands
- Using safety locks on combine headers and implements only take a minute to install, and could save a life (your own or a family members)
- Make sure all tools have proper safety shields
- Keep the work area clean, and practice safe habits when working
- Wear protective clothing and safety gear
- Train family members and workers to have safe work habits
- Educate novices helping with repairs and maintenance prior to their participation
- DO NOT HURRY. Most injuries happen when people rush and do not think through what they are about to do.

We know that we can't control the weather, but focus on the variables you can control on your operation; training, safe work practices for employees, and well maintained equipment. Have a safe harvest!

INJURY PREVENTION – Safety for Senior Farmers **Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator**

As fall approaches, many of our farmers are preparing for a long demanding harvest season. This includes our senior age farmers. For older farmers, a physically and mentally demanding harvest season can present a variety of health and safety issues, including a higher risk of injury due to diminished sensory systems. Many farmers may not be aware of changes in their sensory systems since they gradually diminish over time. Some common sensory areas that diminish over time include: Reaction time, Balance, Musculoskeletal system, Respiratory system, Hearing, and Vision. To reduce the risk of injury because of limited sensory systems follow these simple guidelines:

- Minimize machine or background noise.
- Get regular vision exams.
- Use sufficient lighting in darkness and reduce glare in extreme brightness.
- Avoid crossing between dim areas and brightly lit areas.
- Exercise caution when working in extreme hot or cold temperatures.
- Be alert and focus on the task at hand, because sense of touch can diminish with age
- Keep walking and working surfaces dry and free from obstacles or debris.
- Maintain 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting equipment (1 hand / 2 feet)(2 hands / 1 foot)

- Anticipate changes in ground elevation or rough terrain.
- When increased efforts are needed, ask for help or use mechanical means.
- Organize work areas to avoid reaching above shoulder level or from an awkward position.
- Minimize repetitive tasks and avoid prolonged standing.
- Make an effort to minimize vibration when using tools or equipment.
- Be cautious of physically demanding activities that are not routinely performed.
- Set a pace and take breaks while performing work tasks over a long period of time.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment when appropriate (ear plugs, safety glasses, gloves, etc.).

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

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – National Preparedness Month by the Federal
Emergency Management Agency
Kent McGuire – OSU Ag Safety and Health**

September has been designated as National Preparedness Month. This is a time where Americans are asked to take the time to prepare for an emergency. Emergencies can happen anytime and anywhere without notice. Households, businesses and organizations should prepare in the event an emergency causes you to be self-reliant for three days without utilities, electricity, or water, without access to a supermarket or local services or maybe even without response from police, fire or rescue. Preparing can start with four important steps: Be informed about emergencies that could happen, and identify sources of information in your community that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency. Make a plan for what to do in an emergency. Build an emergency supply kit. Get involved.

For more information on preparing for an emergency review the www.ready.gov link provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. 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
