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

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**THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR – Safety and Health Programs Ready to Come to You
Dee Jepsen – State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader**

This has been a winter for the record books in many areas of the state. While the snow was falling, the Ag Safety and Health Office was whirling to have new curriculum ready to be launched spring 2014. Read the three announcements below to learn how our activities can benefit farm families, gardeners, firemen, and agricultural employees in your rural communities.

MONTHLY SAFETY SLOGAN

Safety is a full time job. Don't make it a part time practice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

SEEKING LOCATIONS to PRESENT “OSHA and AG WORKSHOPS” in Summer/Autumn 2014

The OSU Ag Safety Program has developed an “OSHA and AG” educational program to address the safety and health topics commonly found in the agricultural industry. The 1-day workshop will be offered in 5-9 locations around the state in response to the growing concern about farms and their OSHA workplace requirements. Although small family farms continue to be exempt from certain government regulations, the workshop will help farmers understand when they are and are not exempt, how to control for workplace injuries, obligation to provide a safe environment for employees, and other protection liabilities. If you are interested in being a host location, please contact Dee Jepsen for more details at 614-292-6008 or jepsen.4@osu.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

NOW SCHEDULING: Grain Bin Awareness Programs and Grain Rescue Trainings

The Grain CART (Comprehensive Agricultural Rescue Trailer) is now being scheduled for spring and summer programs. This 40-foot trailer is equipped with a fully functional grain bin, grain leg and gravity flow wagon to simulate several scenarios when grain is stored on the farm. The Grain CART was developed by OSU students in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering in partnership with the Ohio Fire Academy and other private donors.

There are two types of classes using the Grain CART. A 6-hr course conducted by the Ohio Fire Academy (course # 1954) is specifically for firemen and other first responders to learn and practice rescue techniques. A Grain Bin Awareness program is taught by the OSU Ag Safety Program and is designed to teach farmers, farm families, community members and first responders about the many hazards associated with stored grain. Each class has separate fees.

To learn more about the program, and how to schedule the Grain CART for your community safety program, please contact Dave Torsell, Program Manager for Emergency Management and Agricultural Rescue, at torsell.5@osu.edu or 614-292-9455.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES TO PILOT TEST SAFETY CURRICULUM

Does your county office or agricultural partners have responsibility for conducting annual safety programs to meet Workers' Compensation requirements? If so, there are curriculum kits available to help you. There are 12 different topics for you to choose, each one with Power Point presentations (with speaker notes) and evaluations for your audience to give us feedback about the content. Please contact the Ag Safety Office to learn more about these pilot programs and how they can be used at your local safety event. Kathy Mann, Program Coordinator, at 614-292-0622 or mann.167@osu.edu.

INJURY PREVENTION – Safety around the Barnyard Babies

Kathy Mann – OSU Agricultural Safety and Health Program Coordinator

Spring is right around the corner bringing new life on the farm. Who doesn't love seeing the cute and cuddly baby animals? Although some farm animals are pets, most animals on the farm are considered livestock. And while livestock may look cute and cuddly, they can pose a hazard when working around or handling them. It is important for children to have adult supervision whenever they are near livestock.

Livestock exhibit certain behavioral traits. Recognizing and understanding these traits can help prevent injuries. The first trait is maternal. To mothers of young farm animals, you are a dangerous predator. When they feel their young are in danger, they will snort, kick, or charge.

Livestock are unpredictable. They can become scared, tired, hungry, or irritated quickly without warning. It is important to always remain alert when working around mothers with their young.

Another behavior trait is territorial. Just like us, animals want their own pen, stall or space. Cows tend to walk into the same stall day- after-day. When people invade or try to remove them from this area, they may feel threatened.

In addition to the behavioral traits, animals give visual signs when they feel unsafe or nervous. Just as our faces show our feelings, livestock use body language to communicate feelings. For example:

-When animals lower their heads, paw at the dirt, bellow, or snort, they are getting ready to charge. Likewise, animals that pace their stall or circle around their baby may charge if you try to approach.

- Ears that are laid back against the neck or head means animals are mad and will likely try to kick or bite.

While enjoying the new babies on the farm this spring, remember to stay alert, watch for visual discomfort signs, and make sure children are always supervised when around livestock.

For more information about Working Safely With Livestock (AEX-990-08), visit ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/pdf/AEX_990_08.pdf

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Get Ready to NOT be Blown Away

Dave Torsell – OSU Program Manager, Emergency Management

This is the time to get busy preparing for the severe weather that will follow our unpredictable OHIO winter! The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather has set dates for several events that will be of great interest to all of our readers and all of us should take advantage of the time we have to prepare!

National Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 2-8.

National Flood Awareness Week is March 16-22.

Ohio's Statewide Tornado Drill is Wednesday March 5 at 09:50 a.m.

Keep in mind that preparation is key to survival in severe weather conditions and time to prepare ahead is a blessing. Make the best use of your time and develop a **safety preplan** that you and your family can follow to lower your chances of being injured.

Something to consider is to tie down or secure any materials that could become flying weapons if they are picked up by the wind. Keep tree limbs trimmed away from roofs and power lines. A professional may be needed to do this safely!

When high winds hit or a tornado warning is issued, the safest place you can be is in your basement. No basement, then get to a small room such as a closet or bathroom near the center of your home. Stay away from windows and, as the Committee for Severe Weather awareness encourages us to do, **DUCK!**

D-Go **DOWN** to the lowest level.

U- Get **UNDER** something.

C- **COVER** your head.

K- **KEEP** in the shelter until the storm has passed.

Floods are another severe weather danger that can result from thunderstorms, heavy rains and the thawing snow that we have all been hoping for.

Flowing water is a strong advisory and it takes only inches to sweep you off of your feet. Just two feet of water can move vehicles and a wave of water can destroy buildings. Your action should be to get to higher ground if possible, or if authorities have said to stay off of the roads then follow their direction.

If you don't know if you live in a floodplain then contact your Designated Floodplain Administrator (DFPA). This person can be found at www.dnr.state.oh.us/Portals/7/floodpln/communitylist.pdf.

For more information on what to prepare for severe weather, including printable materials, go to www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/SpringSummerWeatherTerms.aspx.

Take the time to PREPARE NOW! You never know when severe weather will strike. Being prepared is your best defense to keep you and your family safe. Take care and COME ON SPRING!

For more information about Emergency Management contact Dave Torsell, Program Manager for Emergency Management and Agricultural Rescue, at Torsell.5@osu.edu or 614-292-9455.

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
