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

Vol.4 No. 10 October 2011

THOUGHTS from the EDITOR – Youth Labor Laws for the Hired Farm Hand
SAFETY STAT of the MONTH – October is an important month for safety
NEW CHILD LABOR LAWS WEBINAR – October 6 at 3pm
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CHILD LABOR REGULATIONS
AG SAFETY AT THE 2011 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW!
INJURY PREVENTION DURING HARVEST SEASON
Emergency Management Tip of the Month – AGRITOURISM and SAFETY

THOUGHTS from the EDITOR

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

October brings a month of high activity on Ohio farms. It is also a time when consideration is being given by the Department of Labor to evaluate the child labor laws when hiring young workers (ages 14 and 15). Safety professionals are working to improve the conditions of the work environment for young workers. During the month of October, a public comment period has been extended for everyone - but especially for those who employ young workers, are educators of young workers, or are parents of young workers. In my role as the Extension Agricultural Safety Leader, I encourage readers to review the proposed changes and be familiar with these changes. Please note, such regulations will not directly affect immediate family workers in that family farms will continue to be exempt.

SAFETY STAT of the MONTH:

October is an important month for injury prevention and health promotion. During this month, many safety observation weeks occur, including:

Fire Prevention Week (National Fire Protection Association - <http://www.nfpa.org>)

Brain Injury Awareness Month (Brain Injury Association of America - <http://www.biausa.org>)

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (<http://www.nbcam.org>)

Crime Safety Month with McGruff the Crime Dog (<http://www.ncpc.org>)

Red Ribbon Campaign - drug free children campaign (National Family Partnership - <http://www.nfp.org>)

Halloween Safety Month (<http://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween>)

NEW CHILD LABOR LAWS WEBINAR

Recently the Department of Labor issued a proposed ruling to change the kinds of agricultural equipment and agricultural chores young people would be permitted to perform. This Webinar (a web based presentation) will outline these changes and explain what this ruling could mean for Ohio farms and agricultural businesses that employ teens.

For more information about the Webinar and how to register, please contact the OSU Ag Safety Office at <osuagsafety@gmail.com> or call [614-292-0677](tel:614-292-0677).

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOL PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CHILD LABOR REGULATIONS

Dee Jepsen, Agricultural State Safety Leader

Farm employers and agricultural businesses are encouraged to read more about the proposed changes to the Department of Labor Child Labor Regulations and how these changes will affect youth working in agricultural settings. The opportunity for public comment is open through the end of October. To access the complete

document, visit the US DOL website:

<http://webapps.dol.gov/FederalRegister/HtmlDisplay.aspx?DocId=25286&Month=9&Year=2011>

To comment on the ruling or read reviews of others, visit the Regulations.gov Website:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;dct=FR%2BPR%2BN%2BO%2BSR%2BPS;rpp=10;po=0;D=WHD-2011-0001>

These proposed changes will be the first update since 1970. They are designed to bring agricultural jobs in line with other guidelines required of employers in non-agricultural areas. NOTE: The proposed rules would continue to exempt children working on family farms.

A summary of the changes include:

1) Regulatory changes to the Child Labor Laws for Agriculture.

- Tractors operated by 14 and 15-year old youth be equipped with approved Roll-Over Protective Structures (ROPS) and seatbelts; and that seatbelt use be mandated.
- Prohibit the use of tractors of any horse power, including small garden-tractors; whereby the training exemption will either be removed or changed to 90 hours of study.
- Require that student learners operating tractors & farm machinery on public roads have a valid state driver's license.
- Prohibit use of electronic devices, including communication devices, while operating tractors, power-driven equipment, and motor vehicles.
- Restrict use of all power-driven equipment (similar to that of non-agricultural industries).
- Prohibit minors from riding as passengers on all farm machines when on public roads, and all student learners riding as passengers must have an "approved seat and seatbelt" with a mandatory use seat belt policy.
- Prohibit employment in occupations involving operation of non-powered driven hoisting apparatus and conveyers; no student-learner exemption would be permitted.
- Prohibit certain occupations involving working with or around animals: includes handling animals with known dangerous behaviors; assisting in animal husbandry practices that inflict pain upon animal or result in unpredictable behavior (such as branding, breeding, dehorning, vaccinating, castrating, and treating sick/injured animals); poultry catching or cooping in preparation for market; working in a yard, pen, or stall of an intact (non-castrated) male animals or with female animals with suckling offspring or umbilical cords present; herding animals in confined spaces or on horseback, or using motorized vehicles such as trucks or all terrain vehicles.
- Prohibit the felling, bucking, skidding, loading, or unloading timber of any size; and prohibit the removal of stumps except by manual means
- Prevent the employment in construction, communications, wrecking, demolition, and excavation for youth 14-15 years of age.
- Prevent the employment while working on roofs, scaffolds, ladders, and elevations greater than 6 feet, including elevated farm structures like grain bins, silos, windmills, and towers, as well as elevated farm equipment and implements.
- Prohibit driving all motor vehicles and off-road vehicles by youth younger than 16.
- Prohibit work inside a fruit, forage, silo, grain bin, or manure pit.
- Consistent with EPA Worker Protection Standards for pesticides, ban all work that falls within the EPA classification of pesticide handler.
- Prohibit the employment of young workers in tobacco processes - includes planting, cultivating, topping, harvesting, baling, barning, and curing.
- A new non-agricultural regulation prohibiting the employment of youth in occupations containing farm-product raw materials and wholesale trade industries - includes work performed at country grain elevators, grain elevators, grain bins, silos, feed lots, feed yards, stockyards, livestock exchanges, and livestock auctions.

2) Changes to the training exemption - commonly known as the Tractor Certification Program - Eliminates training offered through Cooperative Extension programs. Recognizes programs taught through school-based

agricultural education programs and their instructors. The proposal also seeks to increase training from 24 hours to 90 hours.

AG SAFETY AT THE 2011 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Ag Safety exhibits at the Farm Science Review. We appreciate the support and interest we receive from farm families, agricultural businesses, and first on the scene medics and fireman. We also expanded our universal design garage in the McCormick building and had many clients and visitors say hello to our staff at the AgrAbility display. We will see you next year with exciting demonstrations and outreach opportunities to support our mission in the Ag Safety Program. The 2011 farm safety theme was: Safety Counts, and your community is counting on you!

INJURY PREVENTION DURING HARVEST SEASON

Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

As harvest season begins, farmers look forward to reaping the rewards of their hard work back in the spring. It is a time that involves long hours and the use of multiple pieces of farm equipment working simultaneously to achieve the same goal: completing the harvest. The continuous activity, diminished daylight and stresses that can be associated with harvest can often lead to agriculture-related injuries. Common injuries associated with fall harvest include slips, trips and falls; blunt trauma incidents; sprains/strains; and injuries due to fatigue. Some simple ways to reduce the risk of an injury during harvest include:

- To reduce fatigue, try to get enough sleep. This is your body's time to rest.
- Set a pace for yourself, and plan out your day's activities.
- Take short breaks throughout the day. Get out of the combine or truck for a few minutes, and do something to get away from the equipment and revitalize.
- Increase caution when working in early morning or late evening when daylight is diminished.
- Observe the basic safety rules of the equipment's operating manual.
- Keep equipment properly maintained and insure equipment has adequate lighting for working in the dark.
- Ensure that hand holds or railings are in safe operating condition.
- Maintain 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting equipment. (1 hand and 2 feet) or (2 hands and 1 foot)
- Avoid jumping off of the last step and anticipate changes in ground elevation or rough terrain when dismounting from the last step.
- Exercise caution when steps or walking surfaces are wet or dirty.
- Be alert to your surroundings. Know where equipment is being positioned and be observant to individuals who may be walking around equipment.
- When working with others around equipment, maintain eye contact and communicate your intentions with the other person.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment when appropriate (ear plugs, safety glasses, gloves, etc..).
- Utilize respiratory protection such as an N95 respirator in dusty environments.

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

Emergency Management Tip of the Month – AGRITOURISM

Aletha I. Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator

Agritourism is a business strategy that incorporates agriculture and tourism. It includes on-farm experiences such as farm markets, u-pick produce patches, and Christmas tree farms as well as off-farm experiences such as farmer's markets, fairs, festivals, and agricultural field days. Agritainment such as corn mazes, petting zoos, and hayrides are included in many agritourism enterprises. Safety is of utmost concern when we invite visitors to our farm. Here are some basic strategies for helping to keep visitors and employees safe.

Maintain a safe location:

- Have an emergency response plan with detailed information pertaining to emergency contacts, actions to take during various emergencies such as fires and inclement weather, and location of first aid kits and fire extinguishers.
- Invite your local fire department to do a site visit to ensure that your operation provides appropriate access for emergency response vehicles.
- Have a weather radio and respond as necessary to inclement weather alerts.
- Designate a storm shelter for your location and mark it clearly. Guide visitors as necessary.
- Ensure an adequate supply of fresh drinking water for employees, livestock and visitors.
- Ensure hayride and sleigh ride routes do not cross public roads or highways.
- Treat bodies of water with larvicide to prevent mosquitoes.

Train employees thoroughly:

- Use your emergency response plan as a training manual for new employee orientation training as well as annually or as needed for all employees.
- Train workers in first aid and CPR through a local certifying agency.
- Workers should be able to recognize visitors who show signs of weather-related-distress or the onset of a possible medical condition and take appropriate action.
- Ensure that any tractor pulling a hay wagon weighs more than the gross weight of the heaviest wagon it will tow.
- Tow only one wagon at a time.
- Always harness and hitch horses to wagons before allowing riders onto the wagon.

Protect visitors from illness and injury:

- Follow food safety regulations and standards.
- Ensure domestic animals and livestock are current on vaccinations and medical treatment.
- Restrict access to machinery, open water, and chemicals.
- Enforce a no smoking policy or provide a designated smoking area away from corn stalks, straw bales, and dry grass to prevent fires.
- Encourage visitors and staff to utilize hand wash stations when exiting petting zoo areas to prevent the spread of germs.
- Monitor corn mazes from elevated platforms to ensure visibility and safety of all participants.
- Require riders to stay seated at all times during hayrides or sleigh rides.

Agritourism is a fun and exciting way to enjoy farm life and agricultural areas! Planning for the safety of visitors and employees will help ensure that the good times continue! For more information on emergency preparedness and agritourism, please contact Aletha Reshan at reshan.1@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
