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

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Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

A SECOND on SAFETY – CHEMICAL STORAGE on the FARM

Take a second to examine the method you use to store chemicals on the farm, and you can save yourself a lot of trouble by preventing chemical exposure, fires, spills and property damage. Ask yourself the following questions:

What's in there? Use proper labeling practices to make sure every container is clearly marked. Put together a complete list of chemicals and matching MSDS sheets to keep on site.

Do I have adequate storage facilities? Chemicals should be protected from wet weather, flooding and extreme temperatures. Sheds should be ventilated to prevent the buildup of flammable or toxic vapors.

How am I preventing contamination? Don't store chemicals near feed or grain bins, by livestock quarters or inside human residences. Never use the same buckets or tools for measuring chemicals and livestock feed. Chemicals should be stored near the mixing tank to prevent unnecessary transport and potential spills.

How would I clean up a spill? Mixing areas should be able to contain spills—make sure your shed has a concrete or plastic-sealed floor, NOT bare ground. Keep some adsorbent clean-up materials on hand: dry soil, kitty-litter, or paper pellets with a shovel and bucket.

2012 FARM SAFETY ROUND-UP DAY CAMPS

Calling County hosts for the 2012 Farm Safety Round-Up Day Camps –

We are currently seeking counties to host a Farm Safety Round-Up Day Camps in 2012!

These day camps provide youth an opportunity to learn about agricultural hazards and injury prevention. The mission of the day camp program is to teach youth about rural dangers; however the campers do not have to be farm children to benefit from the educational sessions. Injuries from horses, livestock, ponds, lawn mowers and electricity can occur to anyone, not just farm kids. Campers learn in a fun, interactive way the consequences of poor judgment around power machinery, flowing grain, and livestock. Heading into our 15th year, approximately 18,100 youth have enrolled in this statewide event!

These programs serve as ideal conduits between businesses and community organizations interested in the health and safety of local youth. Many agencies use the Round-Up program to benefit their own outreach education efforts. For example, local electric co-ops have dynamic electric safety presentations, the YMCA has excellent water safety/water rescue programs, and health departments have a variety of health programs targeting younger audiences.

For more information about hosting a day camp, including the benefits and goodies sponsored at the state level, please contact Kathy Mann, OSUE Agricultural Safety & Health Program Coordinator, at mann.167@osu.edu or [614-292-0622](tel:614-292-0622).

Deadline to become a day camp host is **March 5, 2012!**

INJURY PREVENTION – BEING a GOOD PATIENT

Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

The winter months are typically a time to plan for the upcoming year and provide routine maintenance on tools and equipment on the farm. For many individuals, it is a good time to visit the doctor for a physical exam, go to health screenings, or have a medical procedure done. There is more to being a good patient than just sticking your tongue out and saying "Ahh". To be a good patient, you should take an active interest in your care, treatment, and safety. Patients who become an involved member of their own health care team can have better results, a quicker recovery, and a safer experience. In an effort to be a better patient follow some of these simple guidelines:

- Speak up and participate in your care.
- Choose a doctor that you feel comfortable talking to.
- Ask someone you trust to come with you to the hospital or appointments. This person can also learn, ask questions, and be an advocate for you.
- Be honest. Tell your doctor about all health conditions, health history, allergies and medications.
- Bring a list of all current prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, or supplements, including dose and time you take them.
- Learn more about your condition, care, treatments, and options.
- Understand that more tests or medications may not always be better. Ask what will be achieved with a new test or medication.
- Write down questions or concerns as they come to mind. This will help remind you to share them with the medical staff.
- Get a second opinion if you are not sure about your condition, treatments, or available options.
- Tell the nurse or doctor if something does not seem right about your care.
- Make sure the staff checks your name band and asks for your name and birthdate before providing any care, procedure, or medication.
- Before a procedure, make sure you understand exactly what is being done, and the expected outcome.
- If you are having a procedure or surgery, ask the staff to teach you about any safety precautions such as expected limitations during recovery, preventing falls, protective clothing, and even how to contact staff in an emergency.
- Remind the doctor, nurse or pharmacist of any allergies when given a new medication.
- Ask for written information about new medications and ask if it can be taken safely with your other medications.
- Notify your doctor, nurse or pharmacist, if you notice side effects after starting a medicine.

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

Emergency Management Tip of the Month – AVOIDING the FLU

It's not too late to keep yourself from getting the flu! Flu shots are still available at many local clinics, doctor's offices and pharmacies- check with your local health care provider to find out where you can get one. Families with young children, pregnant women, elderly people or immunocompromised individuals should make sure everyone in the household is protected from getting sick. Uninsured patients can contact their local health clinic to find out if they are eligible for a free flu shot voucher. In addition to getting a flu shot, don't forget to follow this advice:

- Wash your hands regularly
- Cover your cough (in your elbow, not your hands)
- Don't share food with sick people or young children
- Stay home if you get sick

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
