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

Vol. 5 No. 6 June 2012

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR – Announcing a New On-line Resource for Farm Safety & Health

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

A new resource for Farm Safety and Health has just been launched on eXtension. This is very exciting news for educators, injury outreach specialists, and also farm workers. The on-line resource will serve many groups with valuable articles on safety topics, calendars of safety related events, and an FAQ section that can be accessed 24/7/365. I am extremely excited to be a part of this national effort, and provide subject matter support to an agricultural community that is also doing business 24/7/365. There is never a “down time” for safety and health education.

Please help me share the news by posting the new resource in your newsletters, your website and other social media outlets. Our Ohio surveillance data tells us that we are nearing our peak season for the frequency and severity of farm-related injuries. This is great timing for eXtension to support this season with an ounce of prevention!

A SECOND on SAFETY – Summertime Heat

Heat illness includes a range of disorders that result when your body is exposed to more heat than it can handle. The human body is constantly engaged in a life-and-death struggle to disperse the heat that it produces. If allowed to accumulate, the heat would quickly increase your body temperature beyond its comfortable 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat-related illness can affect anyone not used to hot weather, especially when it's combined with high humidity. People especially at risk for heat illness:

- Infants, young children, elderly and pets
- Individuals with heart or circulatory problems or other long-term illness
- Overweight or obese individuals
- Employees working in the heat
- Athletes and people who like to exercise (especially beginners)
- Individuals taking certain medications that alter sweat production
- Alcoholics and drug users

This section was compiled using information from the National Safety Council. For additional information about heat illness, please visit their website at www.nsc.org

SPREAD THE WORD – FReSH IS OUT!

A new online resource is available to help answer farm safety and health questions. eXtension, a national research and educational based website supported by 74 land grant universities, has launched a website specifically for Farm Safety and Health (http://www.extension.org/farm_safety_and_health).

The new Community of Practice, Farm and Ranch eXtension for Safety and Health (acronym is FReSH), is a refreshing resource needed for today's farming population. Besides providing answers to frequently asked farm safety questions, this site also contains relevant articles on a variety of safety and health topics, and a calendar of farm safety events. "Our goal is to become a one stop clearinghouse for all agricultural safety and health information," said Aaron Yoder, a Community of Practice leader for this site.

Take time now to visit the site and see the variety of topics available and read several of the posted articles for this season. Go ahead and bookmark the site for quick reference to future questions that may come up throughout the year.

Featured articles for this season include:

- Safety recommendations when baling and handling big round bales
- Confined space hazards and gas monitoring of manure pit gases
- Beef cattle handling safety
- ATV safety
- Hearing loss and protection for agricultural producers
- Grain bin entrapments from flowing grains

The leaders who have provided support for the Farm Safety and Health content include Linda Fetzer, Dennis Murphy, and Aaron Yoder of Pennsylvania State University; Richard Brozowski, University of Maine; Karen Funkenbusch, University of Missouri; Dee Jepsen, The Ohio State University; Carol Jones, Oklahoma State University; Michael Pate, Utah State University; Charles Schwab, Iowa State University; and John Myers, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

eXtension is a national internet-based educational network that is integral to and complements the community-based Cooperative Extension System with 24/7/365 availability. Agriculture is a dangerous industry; this online resource is now available to serve the hard working men, women, and families with up-to-date safety and health materials to protect the most valuable assets: the farm workers.

YOUTH SAFETY- "Do the Ride Thing" Video contest

Kathy Mann – Program Coordinator

What: There is the opportunity for Ohio youth to participate in the "Do the Ride Thing" ATV video contest. This contest is sponsored by the ATV Safety Institute (ASI).

Who Can Participate: Students: Ages 6 to 18. Students will be grouped according to age ranges: 6-10 years old, 11-14 years old, and 15-18 years old.

Contest Dates: June 1, 2011 through August 15, 2012

Prizes: Each age category has a First (\$500), Second (\$300) and Third (\$200) prize. One Grand Prize (\$2,500) winner will be selected, all age categories are eligible for the Grand Prize.

How Does it Work? Create a 15, 30 or 60 second video Public Service Announcement (PSA) that will inform and motivate people to follow safe and responsible ATV and/or dirt bike use. Remember, the purpose of this contest is to help raise awareness about the importance of ATV and dirt bike safety and to

encourage your friends and family to always use the “Golden Rules” of ATV Safety when riding an ATV and to always follow the MSF Dirt Bike Riding Tips when riding a dirt bike.

Entrants are asked to remember to always demonstrate the safe and responsible use of ATVs and/or dirt bikes in their video submissions. Keep in mind that depicting unsafe activity or non-compliance with any of the “Golden Rules” or “Dirt Bike Riding Tips” will disqualify a video from the contest. HINT: Read the “Golden Rules” and “Dirt Bike Riding Tips” first, and then put your outline, story board and script together.

If you have youth interested in participating please contact Kathy Mann at 614-292-0622 or mann.167@osu.edu to enter.

Tractor Safety Train-the-trainer Workshop

A train-the-trainer program will be offered July 25, 2012 for volunteers interested in teaching the programs, as well as secondary Ag teachers and Extension personnel who need to know their obligations for signing off on the Certificates of Training. This will be a 1/2 day in-service training, on the Farm Science Review grounds in London, Ohio. A second training opportunity will be conducted in the fall for those that cannot attend the July 25 training.

Registration for both events will be announced mid June. For more information contact Dee Jepsen at 614-292-6008 or email osuagsafety@gmail.com.

INJURY PREVENTION- Caught-In Or Caught-Between Objects

Kent McGuire - Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator

As we progress into summer, there is a full list of work to be done on the farm such as spraying crops, wheat harvest, baling hay, and moving livestock to pasture. Most of those tasks involve the use of equipment in one form or another. In some instances farmers can find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time, and be in a situation to be caught-in or caught-between objects, which can lead to serious injuries. Caught-in or between incidents occur for some of the following reasons:

- Working on or around moving equipment
- Working on equipment with stored energy (Example: Hydraulic cylinder)
- Inadequate guarding on equipment or guards have been removed
- Incorrect hitching practices
- Not being visible to the equipment operator
- Unaware of approaching danger in the work environment

Some guidelines to use to prevent caught-in or caught-between incidents should include:

- Always shut down equipment before doing repairs or inspecting of equipment.
- Chock the wheels on equipment that could move or roll.
- Never work under equipment that is supported only by a jack. Use a secondary support device.
- Use the cylinder safety locks on equipment that support hydraulic cylinders, to prevent the release of stored energy in the cylinder.
- After servicing equipment make sure all guards are in place and properly secured
- When hitching or unhitching equipment, stand to the side, and be clearly visible to the tractor driver.
- Leave an escape route to prevent getting pinned between two objects.
- Use extra caution when working around equipment the uses belts / pullies: chains / sprockets: or PTO shafts.

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 Tip of the Month – Baling Fire Prevention

Baling season is in full swing. Whether it's hay or straw – be on the alert for fires. Fire safety includes fire prevention. Having a fire extinguisher available is one of the best strategies – keep one in the field either in the tractor, or mounted on the baler. And keep one in the barn. A functional and fully charged extinguisher is a minimal expense considering the protection it offers the equipment, facilities, commodity, and lives.

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
