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

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR –

Dee Jepsen – State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader

The fall harvest season brings anticipation for thousands of visitors who love going for a drive in the country and stop at local agritourism farms. By this I mean those looking for pumpkins, apples, hayrides, and corn mazes.

Before these activities begin, there are preparations the farm owners should take to ensure a safe season for the guests. August is the perfect time to perform the following checks:

- fire extinguishers are available and fully charged
- first aid kits are stocked for employees and visitor use
- equipment has underwent a maintenance and safety check to eliminate any potential breakdowns during the busy season
- weather radios have fresh batteries, ready to alert the operation of an up-coming storm or tornado
- employees have been trained on emergency actions that should be taken in the event something unexpected should happen

Inviting the public to a farm is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. Being sure the business is prepared to handle emergencies and equipment failure is one of those responsibilities that should not be overlooked.

MONTHLY SAFETY SLOGAN

A smooth sea never made a skillful mariner. Be prepared for what you encounter along the way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

CHECK OUT AG SAFETY AT THE 2014 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW!

The OSU Agricultural Safety and Health program staff will be available to meet and talk with attendees of Farm Science Review, September 16-19.

Look for us at the following locations:

OSHA and AG session during Question the Authorities – in OSU Central on Wednesday @ 9:40am, Tuesday @ 12:15pm and 2:15pm, and Thursday @ 10:20am and 11:45am.

Grain Safety - daily 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30 - OSU Central, on Kottman Street side

Teen Ag Safety Challenge - daily at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, and 12:00 p.m. OSU Central, on Kottman Street side

Ohio AgrAbility Assistive Technology Show & Tell - OSU Central, on the Land Ave side

Purdue's Breaking New Ground Program - OSU Central, on the Land Ave side

Ohio AgrAbility and Universal Design for Garages and Farm Shops - McCormick Building, Friday Ave

Also available for Farm Science Review attendees:

* A mobile scooter charging station at the Ohio AgrAbility tent.

* The "AgrAbility" Bus will be available from noon to 4 p.m. daily to transport individuals between the exhibit area and field demonstrations. The bus will be available at the main shuttle location near the Review administration headquarters building.

For more information about the Farm Science Review, visit FSR.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.

MACHINERY MAINTENANCE - Thinking Ahead for Silage Safety

Dewey Mann – Safety Research Associate

While injury and fatality statistics for silage harvesting and storage are not easily tabulated, few operations present more hazards. The USDA – National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) estimates the Ohio dairy herd to be 267,000 head. With all of those hungry mouths to feed, now is the time for operation managers and custom harvesters to start planning for a safe, efficient corn silage harvest.

Here are some tips to get your crew and equipment ready:

Personnel:

- Getting ready for the long hours of silage harvest can be just as important as preparing the equipment.
- Training new employees and communicating with all crewmembers is crucial to help refocus the harvest team on the tasks that probably haven't been completed in a year.
- Important topics to consider will vary based on the operation, but might include dressing for the job, wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that includes hearing protection and safety glasses around choppers and blowers, and roadway safety when transporting equipment.
- Keep bystanders (especially children) away from equipment and filling areas.

Machinery:

- Operate tractors with a Roll-Over Protective Systems (ROPS), which includes a protective roll bar, or cab AND A SEATBELT.
- Keep ALL machine guards and shields in place.
- Ensure there is a solid base when using end or side dump equipment.
- Any time two or more machines are in the same location (multiple wagons/trucks, pack tractors, etc.), establish a driving procedure to prevent collisions.

Heights:

- The landscape of dairy farms is changing with less upright storage structures and more bunker and bag storage.
- The hazards will vary based on the systems in place.
- Use caution when covering a bunker, especially in wet weather. Guarding above walls will reduce the likelihood of injury.
- Never stand on top of a silage overhang, particularly near the feeding face.

Think safety first! Even the most skilled worker can become frustrated with malfunctioning equipment, poor weather conditions, and other stressful situations. This could lead to a hazardous shortcut, or misjudging a situation and taking a risky action. Communication, preventative maintenance, and proper planning can increase the likelihood of a safe and successful silage harvest.

*Article idea and fundamental concepts from: **Murphy, D.J. and W.C. Harshman. 2006. Harvest and storage safety. Pg. 171-187. Conf. Proc. of Silage for Dairy Farms: Growing, Harvesting, Storing, and Feeding. NRAES Publ. 181. Ithaca, NY.***

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INJURY PREVENTION – Working in and Harvesting the Garden with Arthritis or other Physical Limitations

Arthritis tends to affect most farmers and gardeners in their hands, knees, and hips because these joints take the most pressure. These same joints also are affected by people with other physical limitations such as limited mobility, knee pain, fatigue, and unable to get up if sitting on the ground.

Simple tips will help make the task at hand easier to do.

- Plan your day ahead. Do the more physical jobs first early in the day when it is cooler and you are not as tired.
- Don't try to do all the jobs at one time. Take regular breaks and allow your body time to rest and recover.
- If the day is hot, get into some shade to cool off. And change the tasks you are doing to reduce over fatigue.
- Use a cart, wagon, or other means to take your bucket, tools and supplies to the garden at one time. Cut down on repeated trips.
- Ask for help doing cumbersome tasks
- Avoid stressful positions and change positions frequently.
- Use a garden stool or chair when possible to take the weight off your joints. Use a knee or kneeling pad to reduce stress while working on your knees.
- Use foam pipe insulation to build up the handles on buckets and baskets to reduce stress on the hands.

Remember: Pain is the body's way of telling you to slow down or stop for the day. Respect it. Have an enjoyable gardening experience.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH: Be Wise Immunize!

Dave Torsell – OSU Program Manager for Agricultural Rescue and Emergency Management

The National Safety Council has chosen August as **National Immunization Awareness Month**. What a great reminder for all of us about the importance of keeping our immunizations current. Since August is also **Back to School Month**, the timing for this reminder could not be better. Communicable diseases have been around for a long time. Those of us who were born before 1957 can certainly remember all of the immunizations and vaccinations we had to have especially throughout our school years. Names like polio, measles, mumps, and chicken pox and even flu, which were almost forgotten for a period of years, are now making their way back into our vocabulary. Cell phones, video games, and countless ways that aid in the spread of bacteria and virus are all around us. We should make every effort to make sure we are protected in the event we come in contact with one of these communicable diseases. With kids, and young adults as well, getting ready to go back to school, we need to be proactive in making sure they have the protection they need. Every family should visit their family physician and ask about immunization and vaccination up-dates for the entire family.

We need to realize that these diseases have been around a long time and even in our progressive society, some of these diseases can potentially grow to epidemic proportions. The National Safety Council has put together a great program to raise the awareness for people of all ages. Their current campaign starts before the birth of a child and continues with information through adulthood. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is a great site to visit for specific information about the diseases including signs and symptoms, preventative actions as well as information on immunization and vaccination schedules. The individual preventative actions we take today will set the stage for a safe and healthy community tomorrow. **Be wise, Immunize!**

For more information please visit; www.cdc.gov/vaccine/schedules/index.html and www.nsc.org/news_resources/Resources/Pages/NSCSafetyCalendar.aspx.

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
