

Ag Safety S.T.A.T. September 2014

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

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR – *National Farm Safety & Health Week*

Dee Jepsen – *State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader*

National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 21 – 27, 2014.

This year's theme is "Safety Counts – Protect What Matters." Each day of this week the OSU Ag Safety web page will promote a different topic. Be sure to check out this site, and be ready to repost to your friends, family, and other program blogs and web pages. Find us (and like us) on Face Book at: OSU Ag Safety & Health for regular safety related messages and events.

MONTHLY SAFETY SLOGAN - In honor of National Preparedness Month:

A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare!

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 - Preparing for a bumper grain crop: Grain storage structure preparation

Dewey Mann – Safety Research Associate

The latest USDA forecast predicts that U.S. producers will harvest 3.82 billion bushel of soybeans and 14.0 billion bushel of corn. If realized, these expected record yields would be an increase of 16% and 1% respectively over the 2013 harvest. With the lowest commodity prices seen since 2010, producers will likely be storing and holding grain long into 2015. In addition to servicing augers, bearings, gearboxes, grain leg components and other handling equipment, add 'house keeping' and 'hazard communication' to your maintenance checklist. Here are some

points of grain storage structure maintenance for producers and commercial grain managers to consider prior to the harvest season:

Remove all old grain and debris from bin walls, stiffeners, floors and aeration ducts prior to filling with new grain.

Systematically inspect areas where moisture and pests could potentially enter the storage structure. Here are a few suggested places 'inside-out and ground-up' to use as a check list:

- Foundation (seal cracks)
- Foundation to base of bin
- Inspect bin sheet seams and replace any broken or missing bolts
- Bin entry door
- Unloading equipment (where auger/conveyor tube exits the structure)
- Aeration fan(s) and transition to bin
- Bin roof eave
- Roof vents
- Top access and fill doors

Maintenance around the bin is as important as inside of these structures. Maintain areas around grain storage structures and ensure no vegetation (weeds, brush, etc.) is growing up against the outside of the bin. Grain pests (insects and rodents) can be residing in the vegetation. Remove any spilled grain from around the outside of the storage facility.

If an empty-bin application of appropriately labeled insecticide treatment is part of your annual maintenance, be sure to always follow individual product labels. For empty-bin insecticides applied in liquid form, allow a minimum of 24 hours for the product to dry before loading grain into the storage structure, and consider applying at least two weeks prior to harvest.

Finally, think safety first! Review your safety procedures for working with flowing grain. ALL EMPLOYEES should know where to find shut-off switches, fire extinguishers, and emergency phone numbers. Being prepared for harvest will reduce the risk of injury, and knowing how to react in an emergency can save lives (maybe even your own).

Article idea and fundamental concepts from: Young, C., 2012. Preparation of Storage Facilities for Grain Harvest. C.O.R.N. Newsletter 2012-28. Retrieved August 29th, 2014 from: <http://corn.osu.edu/newsletters/2012/2012-28/preparation-of-storage-facilities-for-grain-harvest>

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INJURY PREVENTION – Safety for Senior Farmers
Kent McGuire – CFAES Safety and Health Coordinator

There are several reasons older farmers are remaining active on the farm; good health, desire to remain active, financial, or enjoyment of life on the farm. As a demanding harvest season approaches, our senior age farmers are at a higher risk of injury due to diminished sensory systems. Many farmers may not be aware of changes in their sensory systems since they gradually diminish over time. Common sensory areas that are affected include: reaction time, balance, musculoskeletal system, respiratory system, hearing, and vision. To reduce the risk of injury because of reduced senses follow these simple guidelines:

- Minimize machine or background noise.
- Get regular vision exams.
- Use sufficient lighting in darkness and reduce glare in extreme brightness.
- Avoid crossing between dim areas and brightly lit areas.
- Exercise caution when working in extreme hot or cold temperatures.
- Be alert and focus on the task at hand, because sense of touch can diminish with age
- Keep walking and working surfaces dry and free from obstacles or debris.
- Maintain 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting equipment (1 hand / 2 feet)(2 hands / 1 foot)
- Anticipate changes in ground elevation or rough terrain.
- When increased efforts are needed, ask for help or use mechanical means.
- Organize work areas to avoid reaching above shoulder level or from an awkward position.
- Minimize repetitive tasks and avoid prolonged standing.
- Make an effort to minimize vibration when using tools or equipment.
- Be cautious of physically demanding activities that are not routinely performed.
- Set a pace and take breaks while performing work tasks over a long period of time.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment when appropriate (ear plugs, safety glasses, gloves, etc..).

For more information on agricultural safety and health issues, please contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at mcguire.225@osu.edu or 614-292-0588.

INJURY PREVENTION - On the Road

Kathy Mann – Program Coordinator

As we approach the fall season, there will be an increase of farm equipment traveling on the roads. This is a good time to refresh both the motoring public and the farm equipment operators of safe practices for traveling on public roads.

Vehicle collisions are often the result of the speed differential between slower-moving farm equipment and passenger cars and trucks. Many times the vehicle driver simply doesn't have enough time to react if they do not recognize the farm equipment soon enough. It is critical for SMV operators to do their part to be seen.

Safety reminders for both SMV operators and the motoring public drivers are below. Rural road rage can be negated if everyone takes the responsibility to have extra patience, careful driving

habits, and use high-visibility markings and lighting. Drive safe, and enjoy those beautiful county roads this fall season.

Sharing the Road with Motorists – Tips for SMV operators

When traveling on public roads:

- Mount a SMV emblem to the last piece of equipment being hauled. The emblem should be pointed up, placed 2-6 feet above the ground, as near to rear center as possible.
- Stay alert at all times to avoid a serious accident. Do not use the cell phone or two-way radio while operating equipment on public roads.
- Keep a constant lookout for pedestrians, animals, mailboxes, steep ditch embankments, and other roadway obstacles.
- Slow down for sharp curves or when going down a hill.
- Consider using an escort vehicle to follow behind.
- Be cognizant of high traffic times, usually mornings and late afternoons.

Sharing the Road with Farm Equipment – Tips for Every Motorist

When traveling on public roads:

- Farm machinery has a legal right to use public roads just as other motor vehicles.
- Farm machinery can unexpectedly turn onto a public road from a field or driveway.
- Farm machinery travels slower than normal traffic, often at speeds of 25 miles per hour or less. Automobile drivers must quickly identify farm equipment and slow down immediately to avoid rear end crashes.
- Farm machinery operators may not be able to see you because the large equipment or a load can block part of their rearward view. If you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you.
- Slow moving farm machinery traveling less than 25 miles per hour should display a slow moving vehicle emblem on the back of the equipment. This is a quickly identifiable sign to other motorists.
- Machinery that is half on the road and half on the shoulder may suddenly move completely onto the road.
- Extra-wide farm machinery may take up more than one lane to avoid hitting obstacles such as mailboxes and road signs.

For more information about rural roadway safety, see “Boosting Visibility of Ag Equipment,” http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/pdf/AEX_598_08.pdf or visit the OSU Ag Safety and Health website, <http://agsafety.osu.edu>

INJURY PREVENTION - Assistive Technology for farmers with a disabling condition

Andy Bauer – Ohio AgrAbility Educational Program Coordinator

The Ohio AgrAbility Program’s mission is to promote independence for people in agriculture who want to continue to farm after experiencing a disabling condition. With that in mind the

Ohio AgrAbility Program would like to invite farmers visiting Farm Science Review to visit our tent on Land Ave., between Kottman St. and Market St.

In keeping with the Farm Science Review theme of “Experience the Difference”, Ohio AgrAbility is bringing in new and different assistive technology to show farmers across Ohio how to stay independent and keep doing what they love to do, farm. Joining us this year will be, a gate opener system, after-market assistive equipment, a lift system, handicap accessible truck conversions, and a standing wheelchair company.

The gate system is a mechanically operated gate opener that will allow the user to open and close the gate without leaving their vehicle. The gate opens at a slow rolling speed without having the driver stop. The gate will close slowly behind the vehicle after passing through. The system is a kit that can be installed on any new or existing gate.

The lift system manufacture makes mobile lifts, hand controls, home access equipment, and mobility products that allow the user to be more productive and not confined to their wheelchair. They are designed to fit your life style and they continually create new lifts and adapt existing equipment to fit your needs.

The handicap accessible truck company converts GM trucks to make them handicap accessible and provide an alternative to the traditional minivan for drivers and/or passengers. They produce a wheelchair accessible vehicle that gives you the choice of driving a full size GM truck anywhere you want to go, whether across town, or just out to the field.

The standing wheelchair company builds custom fitted wheelchairs that allow a more independent life and may keep people healthier. The chair allows a person to be more independent and do more things. The chair gives the user the benefits of: 1) pressure relief, 2) weight bearing for bone integrity, 3) gravity on bowels and urinary tract, 4) stretching of muscles and tendons, and 5) improved circulation.

The after-market assistive equipment manufacturer carries a product line of over 750 innovative products designed to make a farmers work easier and more productive. Products like seats, suspensions, extended steps, mirrors, and floor mats to name a few. All products can be purchased through many of your local equipment dealers.

Come see us at Farm Science Review and see all the products designed to make life and work tasks easier. Not only for farmers but for everyone. For more information on these products and the Ohio AgrAbility Program contact www.agrability@osu.edu or Andy Bauer, Ohio AgrAbility Educational Program Coordinator, at www.bauer.528@osu.edu or call (614) 247-7681.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH: “Be Prepared”

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

The National Safety Council has chosen September as National Preparedness Month. While many of us have never experienced a major disaster you never know what is lurking around the corner waiting for a chance to make itself known. Turn on the television and watch what is happening in other areas of the United States. Did you ever conceive that Detroit Michigan would be under 12 feet of water in some areas or that wild fires would burn away such a large portion of our Western states. There are disasters happening all around our nation and we need to be prepared. How many families were ready for the Napa Valley to be hit by a magnitude 6.0 earthquake when they were given only a 10 second warning? The old saying that “it won’t happen here” is almost laughable!

Any one of these scenarios could happen to us at any time so we need to take control now and prepare ourselves, and our families, for the worst case that might happen to us.

The National Safety Council has a “READY” campaign that emphasizes 4 main areas for being prepared.

- Be Informed- Make sure you know what measures to take throughout the entire emergency. Listen for alert system activation. Know what types of severe situations your area is prone to. Know the locations of shelters and make a resource list so you can get what you need when you need it.
- Make a Plan- Even disasters can be well managed if you have a plan. First an foremost, know where your family members are and if there is access to get to them as well as other locations you may need to get to for functional needs. Make sure everyone in your family understands the importance of the plan and knows their role should disaster strike. You may need to have a plan that includes both small and large animals and their care. Plans need to be in place, understood, and used to increase your chances of making it through these incidents. Make your plan a document and make sure everyone knows where it is.
- Build a Kit- ready.gov has a nice list of essential items for a disaster preparedness kit. Basic items such as a gallon of water per person for three days. A three-day food supply of non-perishable items is also recommended. Flashlights and a weather alert radio also come in handy as well as trash bags with ties, a whistle to alert rescuers should you be trapped in rubble, and tools to shut off utilities if the need arises.
- Get Involved- Find out how you can support and be part of preparing your community for disasters. You can find everything you need to get started at fema.gov. There are free downloads which will help communities, businesses and individuals prepare for the worst. Volunteer, work with the local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and if you don’t have a team, start one! You can become a leader in Americas PrepareAthon. Help to make your community an example for everyone by being prepared. At the FEMA site, business owners can download a wealth of information and aides to use to assist with their Business Continuity Plan. These plans can help businesses limit their downtime and get them back up and running as soon as possible.

Everyone can play a part in being prepared for disasters. They do not just happen in other places; they can happen at anytime and anywhere. Being prepared is the key and the resources to help you get going are at your fingertips.

You can find practical and useful information at www.ready.gov and www.fema.gov.

For further information contact Dave Torsell at torsell.5@osu.edu.

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 maybe 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
