

## In Top Ten States Injury From Falls

National Safety Council figures show Pennsylvania one of the ten top States reporting fatalities from falling on farms. Falls account for about 10 percent of the farm fatalities due to accidents in the United States. But in Pennsylvania, falls cause 14.2 percent of the fatal accidents. There are nine categories

listed as the cause or agency of fatal accidents on farmland and around service buildings by the safety council. In Pennsylvania and in the United States, machinery leads.

However, in second place in the northeastern states, including Pennsylvania, is falls followed by firearms and drownings. For the nation, drownings, firearms and falls ranked in that order follow machinery as the cause of accidental deaths.

The rate of accidental deaths from work and recreational activities on farms is increasing slightly each year. The death rates associated with machinery, drownings, firearms and electrical current are increasing, while those associated with animals, falls, lightning and burns are decreasing.

Although the rate of all accidental deaths of farm people is decreasing each year, the increase in the rate of accidental deaths which occur on farmland is of major importance to farmers. It is important, therefore, that people who work and play on farms must be alert to dangers that affect their lives.

### What Causes Accidents? It Could Be Breakfast

Does a farm accident begin at breakfast? "It can," says the Pennsylvania Rural Safety Council, "if there is a lack of harmony at the breakfast table."

The attitude the farmer has when he goes out to run a lot of complicated machinery is extremely important, the Safety Council contends. If his wife or children upset him at breakfast, he is much more likely to have an accident than if he leaves the table in a good frame of mind.

"It's just a theory," says William L. Henning, State Secretary of Agriculture and chairman of Pennsylvania Farm Safety Week, "but we think how a farmer feels at breakfast has a lot to do with how safe he stays throughout the day."

Henning's observations came on the eve of the annual

Pennsylvania Farm Safety Week which starts July 24.

It's not only a nagging wife at the breakfast table that can drive a man to an accident, Henning—a married man—hastened to point out. "Burnt toast, bad weather or a sleepless night can have the same disastrous effect," he said. "Anything that causes a farmer to concentrate less on the work at hand is to be avoided, if at all possible."

"There are two great injustices that can befall a child; one is to punish him for something he didn't do. The other is to let him get away with doing something he knows is wrong"—Judge Robert Gardner, Superior Court, Orange County, California.

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### Farm Safety

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four farm families are accident-free each year, safety, like liberty, requires eternal vigilance. He said that Pennsylvania farm families enjoy a lower farm machinery accident rate than the national average, but the state is toward the top in the number of deaths and serious injuries caused by falls.

the health and prosperity of the remainder of the Commonwealth. Accident prevention is a simple task, most of the time requiring only good housekeeping habits, proper training of youngsters and an awareness of the dangers to be faced on a modern mechanized farm," Secretary Henning said.

The Pennsylvania Rural Safety Council is composed of private businesses, farm organizations and governmental agencies interested in lowering the rural accident rate in the Keystone State.

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