

Machinery Causes Accidental Deaths On Pennsylvania Farms

by L. H. Bull
State Agricultural Secretary

The deaths this summer of three Mifflin County youths in a silo explosion point up the need for increased awareness of farm accidents.

Few people are aware that agriculture has the third highest accidental death rate among American industries. Farming is topped only by mining and construction industries.

During 1966 — the latest year for which statistics are available — there were 8,100 farm deaths and 730,000 disabling injuries. Of the deaths, 3,700 involved motor vehicles, 2,400 were work accidents and 1,800 were in the home.

Incomplete records show that there were 38 farm accident-

caused deaths in Pennsylvania during the first six months of last year. Machinery caused 14 deaths; falls, seven; drowning, six; fires and explosions, four; firearms, three; miscellaneous, three; blows and falling objects, one.

*This information came from death certificates. If the physician or coroner neglected to indicate the death occurred on a farm, then the death was not listed as a farm death.

In other words, Pennsylvania's accidental farm deaths for the first half of last year may have been greater than the 38 deaths that we are aware of.

It is interesting to note that the deaths caused by machinery — 14 — led all categories. Many of the machinery-caused deaths

probably involved tractor accidents.

Here are some suggestions — furnished by the State Department of Public Instruction's section on farm and home safety education — which can help reduce accidents involving tractors:

1. Slow down when turning, working on slopes, near ditches or on rough or muddy ground.

2. Turn off power before unclogging, adjusting or servicing any machine. Keep shields and safety devices in place.

3. Inclines call for safety. Shift to a lower gear downhill or a power gear going up, especially when pulling heavy, rolling loads.

4. Youngsters and machinery don't mix. Keep them off and away from machinery. Train older youths to run tractors safely.

5. Should your tractor overturn, you or your employe will be far safer if the tractor is equipped with a protective frame and safety belt or crush-resistant cab.

Most farm home accidents involve falls caused by correctable dangerous conditions such as makeshift ladders, loose rugs and slippery bathtubs.

If your farm home is your castle, make it a safe castle.

USDA Scientists Find Use For Milling By-Products

A wheat product now being shipped to developing countries under the Food for Freedom program makes use of a new milling process developed by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

Protein-fortified wheat flour is a mixture of 70 percent ordinary wheat flour and 30 percent wheat protein concentrate to which calcium and vitamin A have been added. (Specifications for the concentrate call for a minimum of 20 percent protein.) The fine-grinding techniques for extracting the protein from milling by-products were worked out by scientists in USDA's Agricultural Research Service cooperating with the milling industry.

Some 5 million tons of the by-products are produced in the U.S. each year and contain an estimated 800,000 tons of good quality protein.

USDA's purchase of 12 million pounds of the product known as Protein Fortified Wheat Flour, Blend A for dis-

tribution in India and Iran marks the first large-scale commercial use of the concentrate which is obtained by taking coarse by-products of the regular flour milling process and running them through the mill a second or third time. Historically, these by-products have been used as a source of low-cost protein for livestock feed, although some go into production of breakfast cereals. Unrefined, they are usually too fibrous and dark-colored to be attractive as human food. The concentrate, however, has acceptable texture and color.

Because the concentrate has a higher nutritional value than ordinary wheat flour, the flour-concentrate mixture not only contains approximately 25 to 30 percent more protein than the original flour—specifications call for a minimum of 13.5 percent compared with a minimum of 11.0 percent for the regular flour ingredient — but the protein is of higher quality.



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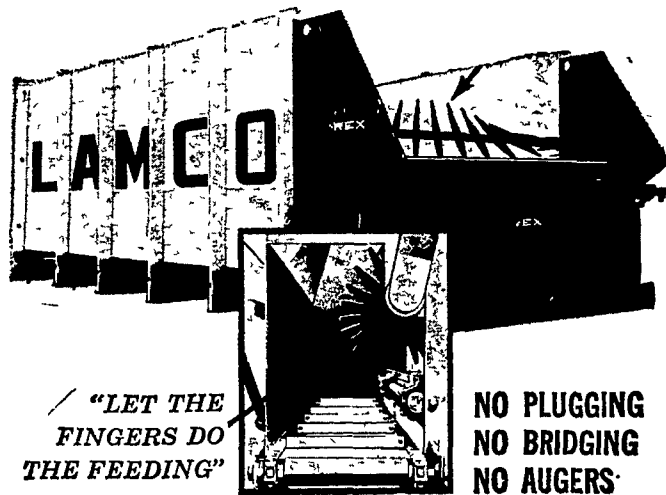
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New Cooperators Named By Soil & Water District

The Lancaster County Soil and Water District Directors met Monday, in the Farm and Home Center and approved the following new cooperators: Eli Ebersole, Strasburg Twp, 90 acres; Wm. J. Aaron, Drumore Twp., 176 acres; Marvin M. Weaver, Earl Twp, 97 acres; Wayne L. and Ruth E. Lawrence Sr, Warwick Twp, 45 acres; Larry High, Penn Twp, 55 acres

John S. Yost, Salisbury Twp., 100 acres; John E. Campbell, Earl Twp., 86 acres; Ivan R. Yost, Salisbury Twp, 145 acres; Charles G. Barley Jr., Mt Joy Twp, 45; Alfred M. Wanner Jr., Salisbury Twp, 113; Pa. Dept. of Forest and Waters, 224 acres; Earl E. Breneman, Manor Twp., 38; James R. and Jesse Wood, Little Britain Twp., 244 acres, and Elizabeth Twp.

Ray W. Snyder Is On Dealer Panel

Ray W. Snyder of Eastern State Distributing Co., Lititz has been recognized as a member of the Farm Store Merchandising National Dealer Panel. He is one of only 500 distributors throughout the United States who provide statistical data on their store's operation which is then compiled and put into a report which reflects trends and practices.

This information is used by panel members to improve and upgrade their services and products

As a panel member Snyder has been awarded a special decal which denotes his achievements to the agricultural community.

● Jay Irwin (Continued from Page 1)

ment, and farm records analysis"

A native of Blair County, Irwin earned his bachelor of science degree in 1949 at Penn State in agricultural economics. He served 15 years as manager of Farm Bureau Cooperatives in Indiana, Venango, and Westmoreland Counties.

Irwin was a member of the 1964 People-to-People delegation from Pennsylvania to Russia on a 22-day trip.

The poorest speller in the office is the man who can't take time to consult the dictionary.