

From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



Editor's Note: The article for this week was prepared by Jess Erway, teacher of agriculture and Young Farmer instructor at Manheim Central High School.

Living Attitudes

We are at the beginning of a new season where the main concern is time.

Your job — make the best of that time. Your performance and that of your workers can vary from day to day, hour to hour and job to job, depending on whether you can maintain a good relationship with your family — children, wife — workers, and so on.

Also, whether the environmental conditions (heat,

cold, noise, dust, farm chemicals, humidity and vibrations) affect you in job performance.

We all have natural characteristics and limitations which must be considered in our ability to do work safely. They are: body stature, strength, reach, agility, learning ability, memory, reaction, speed, stress reaction, endurance, emotions, visual and auditory characteristics. Heavy demands can overload us leading to errors or confusion.

By no means do the lack of any of these keep us from doing our work, but we need to keep in mind that each of these limitations that we possess does tend to limit us.



Jess R. Erway

For instance, if we forget where we put the tool box it may take valuable time to find it for minor repairs, therefore encouraging us to hurry with the baling and therefore placing us into a frame of mind that is not always alert, which may cause us to say after an accident has occurred, "I know better than that."

This is a list of temporary situations which may contribute to an accident. Aggressiveness, anger, attention-getting, bereavement, boredom, discontent, domestic strife, frustration, inferiority feelings,

excitement, failure to judge speed and distance correctly, hostility, indecision and impulsiveness, preoccupation and personal conflict, resentment, risk or chance-taking tendencies, subconscious needs for punishment, unwillingness to accept monotony and routine, illness, prior injury, drugs or alcohol.

We might do well to recognize any of these traits in us which we possess and work toward their correction.

Since we have listed problems, there must be some way to overcome them, so I shall list some favorable factors for safe job performance.

1. Training, skill, experience.
2. Knowledge of safety rules, operating according to instruction manuals.
3. Ample energy from balanced diet, enough rest.
4. Normal state of mind.
5. Free from physical disability or illness that degrades performance.
6. Mature enough if youth, sensible and prudent if older.
7. Capable of functioning under stress and able to react correctly in emergency.
8. Ample strength, agility and endurance.
9. Proper dress along with any needed personal protective equipment (respirator, safety shoes, hand, head and eye protection, etc.).
10. Have protective devices on farm equipment — protective frames, crush-resistant cabs, safety belts, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, all shields in place, etc.

We must be aware that oft-times one will accept risk to save time, save effort, avoid discomfort attract attention, assert independence, express resentment, gain group approval and just for excitement, challenge or experimentation. If any of these motivations seems to satisfy the person; the more he will take the risk that goes with it.

Recognize Youth's Deficiencies
One of the problems facing adults is their failure to recognize that young children must learn good habits of safety in order for them to act safely. Whereas we will take time to train our own children this valuable lesson, it always seems a little harder to spend our time on the fired boy who in all probability has far less training around the mechanical farm world than those raised on the same farm that they grow up on.

So time is needed to make him aware of hazards associated with the specific location or activity and he must be made aware of

what could or might happen. Some may have the motor skills to operate machinery, yet not know how to do so safely.

Lack of knowledge of safety rules, procedures or emergency responses may make him more likely to make an accident-producing error or react incorrectly in an emergency situation. Sometimes he acts unsafely because he lacks the skills for the activities undertaken. He may have enough knowledge but cannot use the mental and physical resources in a precisely coordinated way to produce a desired result. This most often occurs in the unexperienced or young.

Age is of little value in a true assessment of safety but the Federal government has set a liability age limit of 16 years. Which means we have the responsibility to see that those under this age are trained in skill deficiencies to decrease our liability when we hire him.

However, do not forget that youth, whether our own or someone else's, should be given time to enjoy and relax and the best way to do this is to take time ourselves. It usually pays off by being a more restful and satisfied self.

In Norway, it was recently reported, the government has adopted a policy whereby farmers may now claim up to \$140 for two-weeks vacation!

ATTENTION

TRACTOR PULL BUSINESS MEETING

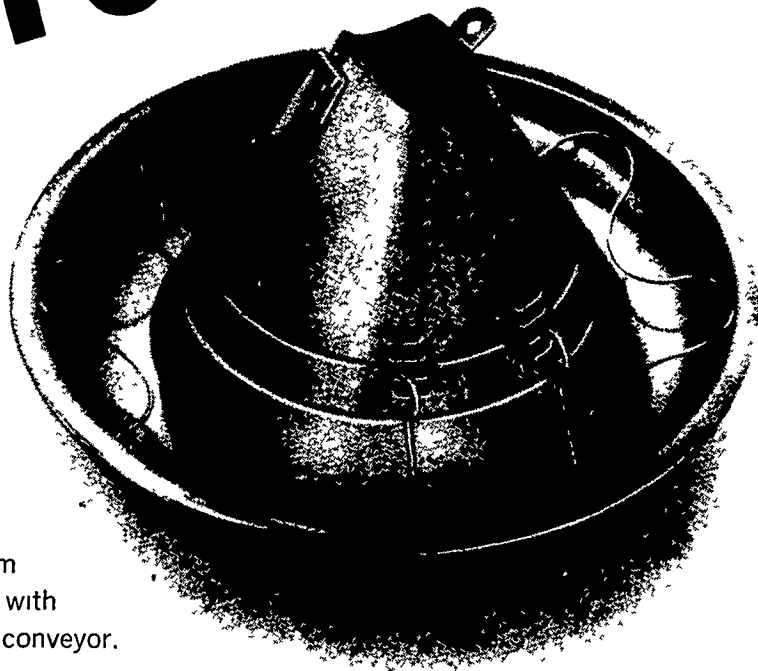
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