

Machinery Safety Facts

HARVEST-TIME AND MACHINERY SAFETY
 "I'm so busy I don't have time to get sick!" Have you ever heard someone make that statement? Harvest-time is one of those times that illness or injury due to an accident would be the last straw. Bad weather, equipment breakdowns, hired help that fails to show when you need them, a sick cow, a repair part that was supposed to arrive day before yesterday, . . . just one problem after another. And there's just no time (or money) available for an accident. Yet history shows that harvest time is when many accidents occur. These accidents are usually serious, costly and time consuming. Also, most are preventable, if you know how to be careful and use common sense.

People and Farm Machinery Accidents
 Human errors are responsible for most accidents. Even most of those that are blamed on mechanical failure could have been prevented if someone had checked and repaired the equipment as the need arose. To err may be human, but it can also be deadly. The following suggestions will eliminate many of the human problems associated with accidents.
 Permit only the operator

on equipment while it is in use. Keep small children out of work areas unless accompanied by a responsible adult who can give them undivided attention. Give teen-agers work which they can handle safely. (Recognize such factors as sense of responsibility, experience, strength and ability to concentrate.) Make certain that operators of all machines, including trucks, are qualified - physically and mentally and when appropriate legally. Give extra supervision and instruction to inexperienced operators. Avoid excessive fatigue - take mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks. Keep your mind on what you are doing.

Mechanical Care of Equipment
 Don't assume that equipment is safe merely because no accidents have occurred. Check equipment and eliminate hazards promptly. If you don't they may eliminate you!
 Keep all shields and guards in place. Service equipment according to manufacturer's instructions. Replace worn parts. Disengage the power when making repairs or adjusting the machinery. Never put on or remove a belt or chain while the pulley or gear is in motion. Maintain the proper adjustment of slip clutches. Do not jack up the

machinery for repairs unless you use a jack stand to provide support if the jack fails. Do not allow grease or oil to accumulate anywhere on the machinery where you may have to climb while getting on or off or while servicing the machine. Use metal sediment bowls to reduce fire hazards. Watch for leaks. Keep exhaust systems in good condition to reduce fire hazard.

Operational Safeguards
 Use special caution when working near exposed moving parts. Reduce tipping hazards. Spread the rear tractor wheels. Insist upon a sturdy, comfortable seat on tractors and self-propelled equipment. Adjust it to suit the operator. Put all controls in neutral before turning on the ignition key. Remember that speeding is dangerous and hard on equipment. Use special caution and slow speed when making turns or abnormal maneuvers especially on slopes, near ditches, gullies or fences. Do not turn too short. Keep proper fire extinguishers on hand and ready for use; check them at regular intervals and know how to use them. Be especially careful of footing while mounting and dismounting. Do not dismount until equipment has come to a complete stop. Keep keys out of the ignition while tractors and self-propelled equipment are not in use to prevent children from accidentally starting them. Also set brakes and disengage PTO.

Highway Precautions
 When collisions involving farm equipment and other vehicles occur the person on the farm equipment is usually the victim. Use proper warning devices, such as the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) Emblem as required by law. Pull off the road whenever possible to allow traffic to pass. Try to avoid heavily traveled roads when moving the equipment. Do not move



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FFA Alumni Set National Meeting

The National FFA Alumni Association will hold its National Meeting October 17 and 18, 1974. The Meeting will be held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The Alumni Meeting will be in the Muehlebach Hotel on Thursday and Friday mornings, October 17 & 18, at 8:00 A.M. and 8:30 A.M. respectively.

Presiding over the Meeting will be this year's National FFA President Alumni Chairman, Mr. Gus R. Douglass, a former National FFA President and current Commissioner of Agriculture in West Virginia.

The first presentation of the "FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards" will be made. This award will be presented annually to former FFA

members for outstanding accomplishments, achievements, and exemplary service to agriculture.

Featured speaker for the Meeting is Mr. Orion Samuelson of WGN Chicago.

The FFA Alumni Association is made up of former members of the Future Farmers of America. It's devoted to assisting the FFA, promoting a greater knowledge of the agricultural industry, and

supporting education in agriculture.

All former members of the FFA are invited to attend the Meeting and join in the FFA Alumni movement. For more information, write: FFA Alumni Association, P. O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

The National 4-H Service Committee, Chicago, provides program services, information services, publishes *National 4-H News* magazine and operates a supply service offering some 1450 4-H emblemized items.

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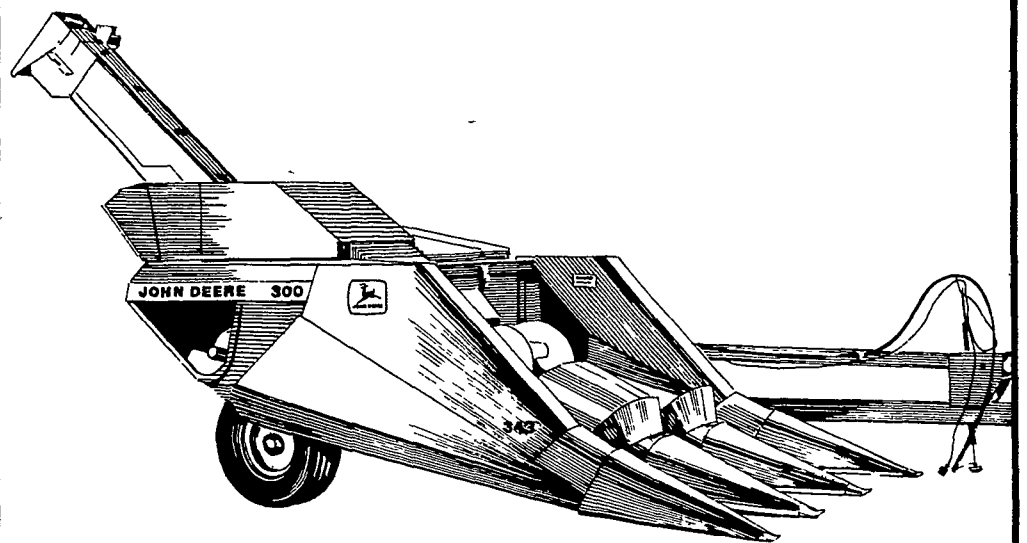
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