

LADIES, HAVE YOU HEARD?

By Doris Thomas, Extension Home Economist

Read the Label on Household Products For Safety

A label is worthless if you don't read it. Federal agencies are continuing to improve their protective services to the public.

For example, pesticide labels and patterns of use are being continuously reappraised and modified, in the light of new research information.

The label on each pesticide container is in fact an important legal document. This includes practically all bathroom cleaners, disinfectants, and sanitizers classified and registered as pesticides by the federal government. It represents 7 to 10 years or more of painstaking research, many thousands of hours of labor, involves 25 to 50 pounds of technical data typed double-spaced and cost up to \$10 million.

All of this voluminous research is carefully reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency investigators before any product can be sold. You, the user, have every reason to expect all claims on the label to be fair and reasonable.

The law imposes safeguards for the public but the most important still depends on you. All the research and precautions in the world are of no value if you don't read the label.

It's your responsibility to read the label, follow the directions listed and heed the precautions.

Noise on the Farm Could Pose Health Hazard

Life and work on farms has changed considerably in the last 25 years. One of the often unnoticed changes has been that "peace and quiet" has been replaced by a noisy environment, often at levels considered hazardous by health experts. Evidence is increasing that noise also affects man's nonhearing systems and his psychological state.

Noise affects people in different ways. However, everyone is affected by excessively high levels of noise depending on loudness, length of exposure, distance from noise, and pitch or frequency. A moderately loud noise for a long period of time can be just as hazardous as a very loud noise for just a short period of time.

During Agricultural Progress Days in August, 1974, a hearing survey was conducted through the joint efforts of the Cooperative Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University and the Williamsport Hospital. A total of 83 farmers were given a pure-tone hearing test.

According to Donald Daum, Extension agricultural engineer, of the 83 farmers tested, only 18 indicated normal hearing. The remaining 65 indicated some degree of hearing loss. Of these 65, 38 demonstrated some patterns of noise-induced hearing loss. A dominant characteristic was that 24 persons showed a

greater hearing loss in the left ear and only 9 persons showed a greater hearing loss in the right ear. The remaining 5 men indicated an equal amount of hearing loss in each ear.

Previous surveys have suggested that a possible reason for farmers showing a greater noise-induced hearing loss in the left ear than in the right is that most farmers operate their tractors while looking over their right shoulder to check equipment performance. Another factor attributed to the "left-ear deficit" is that many farmers are also shooters. Thus, continued exposure of the left ear to the muzzle blast of a shotgun may also be a contributing factor.

The results of the survey are not conclusive. But they do suggest that noise-induced hearing loss is prevalent in the agricultural community and that additional research is needed.

According to the Extension agricultural engineer, the first step in preventing the problem is to make the farmer aware of the hazard. The farmer must know that the noise emitted by his equipment can cause permanent damage to his hearing. After he has been informed of the damaging noise, he must use proper methods of preventing hearing loss such as the use of ear muffs or ear plugs.

To protect farmers and others from noise hazards, the Extension specialist suggests the following precautions:

1. Reduce the noise at the source. Maintain the engines, especially muf-

Family - children's service establishes speakers bureau

Family and Children's Service announced today the formation of a Speakers Bureau, as part of a continuing program to keep Lancaster Countians more in touch with agency happenings.

Consisting of members of the agency's Board of Directors, the Speakers Bureau will provide speakers and programming for local clubs and community organizations.

Highlight of the Family and Children's Service Speakers Bureau presentation will be a newly developed 20 minute sound-slide presentation. It details the range of services offered

by Family and Children's Services.

According to Allen R. Smith, Executive Director of the agency, the Speakers Bureau is another attempt to more clearly define the role of Family and Children's Service in the community. "Over the years our responsibilities have changed drastically," Smith notes, "to the point where we're currently providing services many people in the community may not even associate with us."

"Through the Speakers Bureau we hope to introduce the full scope of our work to Lancaster Countians, enabling our public to better

evaluate the services we offer, and the way we might be able to assist in their problem solving."

Smith points to two examples of the agency's new thrust. Our new program is the agency's work on behalf of senior citizens. The other is a newly developed program called advocacy, dealing with various organizations - the State included - considering ways to make it easier for people to get necessary services.

"If you went by our name along, we should be working only with children and families," Smith says. "But this is not so, as the advocacy program points out. We're interested that residents of Lancaster County become more familiar with all that we do. The Speakers Bureau will help us do just that."

While the film presentation will be the feature of the Speakers Bureau program, Bureau members will provide additional information not covered by the film. They will also answer questions from the audience regarding Family and Children's Service programs.

Groups and organizations wishing to schedule members of the Speakers Bureau in their programming should contact the agency at 630 Janet Avenue, Lancaster, 17601 or phone 397-5241.

Their hand stretches out

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fliers; adjust and lubricate machinery or replace with quieter equipment.

2. Isolate noise from people. Move noisy equipment outside the room or building; enclose noise source with a noise barrier; or protect person from noise by using sound-conditioned cabs, acoustical ear muffs or ear plugs.

3. Limit high noise level exposure. Plan work for short periods in noisy conditions. Shift personnel among jobs or don't operate noisy equipment for long periods of time.

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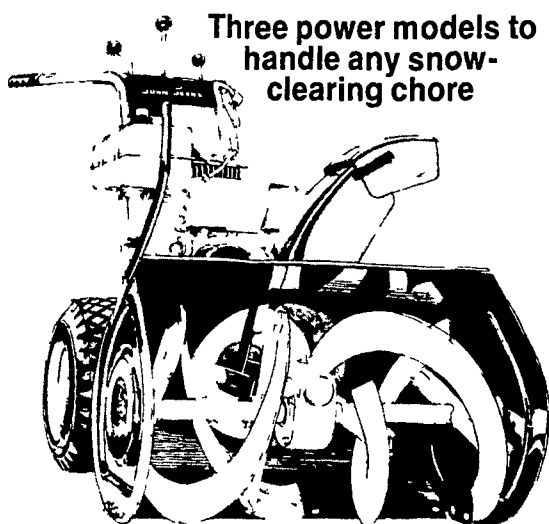
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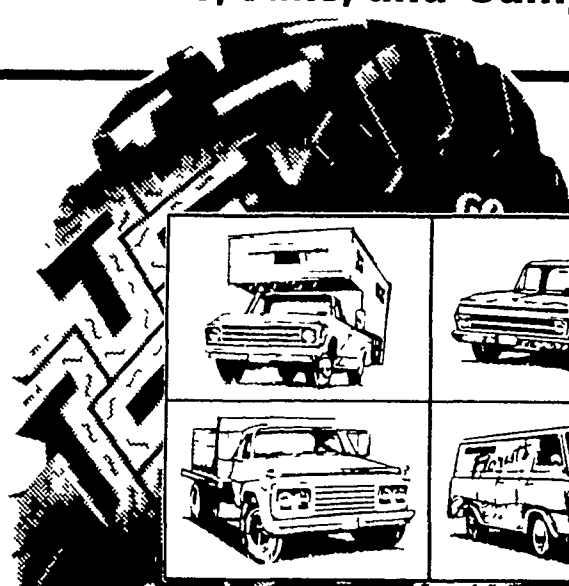
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