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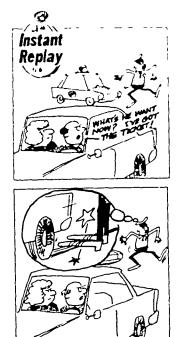
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Lower speed limits paying off

The gasoline shortage and the national 55 mph speed limit are considered the principal reasons why traffic deaths have dropped more than 10,000 since 1972

Nevertheless, traffic crashes have killed more than 2 million Americans since the first death was recorded in 1899. In this Bicentennial Year alone, fatalities are expected to exceed the number of Revolutionary War battle deaths by more than 10 times.

The number of crash deaths is influenced by numerous accident exposure factors which, in combination, increase or reduce the chance of fatality.

The gasoline shortage reduced deaths because fewer people were travelling fewer miles. The 55 mph speed limit is cutting deaths because traffic moves at a more uniform pace, reducing the chance of collision. And at lower speeds crash injuries are less severe.

Many factors affect the chance of a fatal accident, like nighttime driving conditions, the safety features built into a roadway or vehicle, even the weather.

Several measurement rates have been developed to

compare the severity of the crash problem under different risk conditions and to show trends. While not perfect, the most familiar of these is the Mileage Death Rate, or MDR, which is the number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

Deaths dramati has dro point to history.

The following chart illustrates trends in traffic deaths, vehicle mileage and the MDR during the last 25 years

In the 22 years preceding 1973, vehicle mileage increased an average of 5.0 percent per year, deaths 2.0 percent per year. Thus the MDR declined by more than half.

Since 1973, mileage has dropped and rebounded.

Deaths are down dramatically, and the MDR has dropped nearly a full point to 3 47, lowest in history

To emphasize the importance of reduction in the MDR, if the rate had stayed at the 1950 level of 7.59 deaths last year would have totaled nearly 100,000 instead of the actual 45,600. This reduction in deaths occurred despite a three-fold increase in exposure associated with vehicle mileage during the 25-year span.

The following table shows the relative hazard for 1974 under daytime and nighttime conditions in both urban and rural areas.

Adams County poultry judges on top

GETTYSBURG - Adams County's 4-H Poultry Judging Team placed first in the Northeast United States 4-H Poultry Judging Contest recently in Springfield, Mass. By winning the state 4-H contest earlier this month at Penn State, Darlene Resh, Dillsburg and Bob and Tom Trone, East Berlin represented Pennsylvania in this contest.

The contest sponsored by the Northeast Poultry Producers Council, consisted of competition between 4-H and FFA teams representing the various states in the NEPPCO 14 state membership area.

Bob Trone received the third highest individual score in the contest while his brother Tom placed fifth and Darlene Resh placed sixth in the competition. The second place team was from West Virginia with Virginia placing third.

The team was accompanied to Springfield by their coach, County Agent John Schwartz. They will now be going to Louisville, Kentucky to participate in the National 4-H Poultry Judging Contest in November. The Adams County Poultry Association and the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation sponsored the team by providing travel expense funds.



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