

Safety survey

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12-month survey went into great detail in attempting to pinpoint causes and types of accidents on the farm, and is expected to be of significant value to insurance companies, equipment manufacturers, construction engineers, legislators, and OSHA personnel.

Lancaster County Agent Jay Irwin, who compiled survey results for the program in Lancaster County, pointed out that every township in each of the 13 surveyed counties was covered systematically in order to come up with a representative picture. In each case, the ladies of PFA volunteered to do the leg work. Pointing to highly detailed sheets of information, Irwin commented that the project required considerable time and effort. He openly praised participants for their contributions.

Results of the various surveys are now flowing into computers at Penn State and conclusions should be forthcoming within the next two months.

Irwin explained that farm families were chosen at random to participate, and both those being interviewed as well as those asking the questions, did so on their own volition. Once the pattern of the survey was established, the participating farm families were visited quarterly to report on any of the accidents or illnesses which might have occurred during the previous three months. Every township in the county was canvassed. All interviewers were given proper instructions beforehand.

Similar surveys have been taken elsewhere across the country, with Maryland having completed its project a year ago, and Delaware just getting into one of its own this month.

Some interesting results of the first

quarter survey in Lancaster County are as follows

Out of a total of 17 reported accidents, seven occurred while performing routine chores. As might be expected, it was the fathers and their sons who were involved most of the time while wives and daughters combined accounted for only about a quarter of the incidents. The fathers outdid the boys by a score of 12 to five, counting the six reported illnesses.

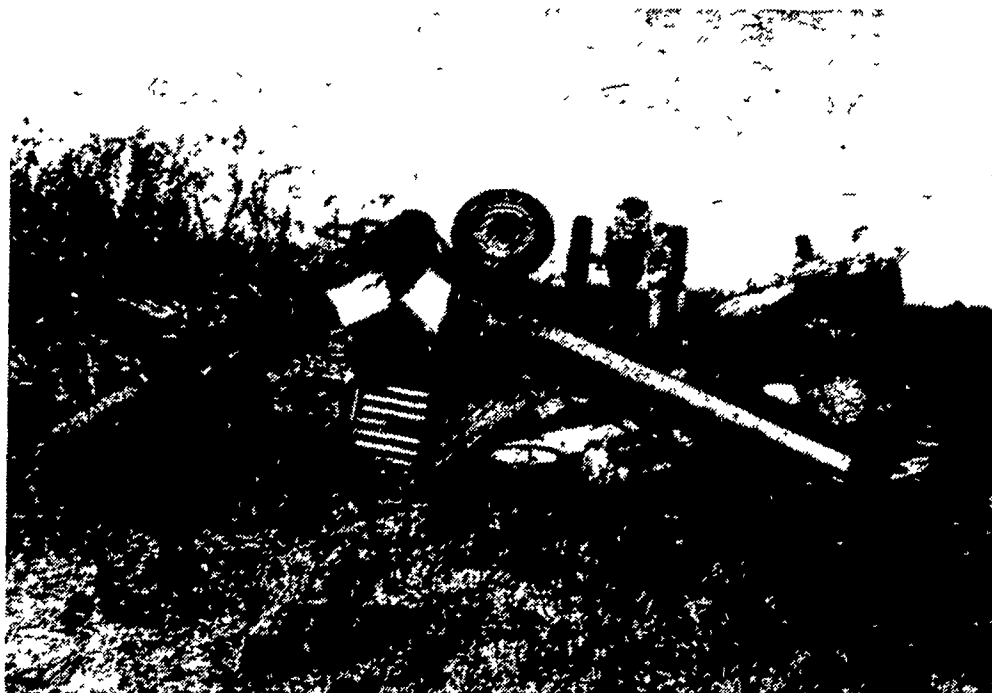
It's also revealed in the survey, that when an accident occurs, it happens in a powerful enough way to require professional attention. That was the case in 12 of the 17 accidents reported between December 1975 and February 1976.

Aside from routine chores, building and machinery maintenance rated higher than average in their contributions to accidents. Animals caused four of the injuries.

A breakdown of the 210 families surveyed in Lancaster County shows that the average member of these families had spent 36.8 years on the farm. All types of farming operations were represented, with dairy farms outnumbering all the rest combined.

Irwin commented that no stone was left unturned in these surveys, and backed the statement up by pulling out one form after another. Every piece of equipment was recorded, the person's attitude was taken into consideration, and such specific items as wind direction, age of machinery and illness symptoms were marked down.

Interviewers were given a general report form which filled two 8 by 11 sheets of paper on both sides. Then there were also supplemental sheets to go into further detail on specific accidents or illnesses. In each case, that involved at least one more sheet of paper to fill out. The PFA volunteers ac-



Most accidents on farms occur while performing routine chores, a recently completed survey reveals.

The accident above was caused by lug bolts not being tightened sufficiently on one of the rear wheels.

cepted their duties and performed their work conscientiously, Irwin indicated.

The purpose behind this study is obvious: to reduce accidents, save lives, and bring injuries to a minimum. Irwin expressed considerable confidence that insurance companies would pick up the completed survey for evaluation. Machinery manufacturers are likely to take a close look and Irwin noted that one internationally known Lancaster County firm has already expressed deep interest in the project. The result, it is hoped, will be safer equipment.

A final aim of the survey is to make accurate information available to government agencies and legislators who hold the power to make and enforce safety regulations. The general consensus among farmers is that bureaucrats too often don't know enough about farming and accidents to pass truly beneficial legislation, even though their intent might have been perfectly good.

Surveys such as the one recently completed in Lancaster County and 12 other Pennsylvania counties are expected to provide the basis for more realistic safety regulations.

CFTC establishes 'hot line'

WASHINGTON - A "Consumer Hot Line" (800-424-9838) and a list of twelve guideline questions designed to help consumers get useful information from telephone salesmen offering com-

modity options were announced recently by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The Commission said millions of dollars have been lost, and warned consumers to "thoroughly check out" and "shop around" if they get a phone call suggesting fantastic profits through quick options purchases.

The CFTC also pointed out that it was not saying "don't buy", but stressed the need to protect the customer and the reputable firms in the business by encouraging the proper information be obtained and impulse purchases be avoided.

The consumer alert came on the eve of the effective date for tough new CFTC regulations controlling U.S. sales of options on commodities such as sugar, coffee, cocoa, gold, silver, copper and platinum.

"Thousands of consumers - farmers, businessmen, housewives, senior citizens - are getting unsolicited phone calls from boiler-room sales operators," said CFTC Chairman William T. Bagley. "Fast talking pitchmen with little experience in the options business read mimeographed statements and use high pressure techniques."

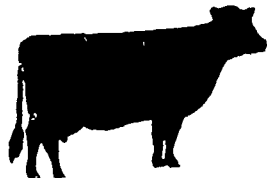
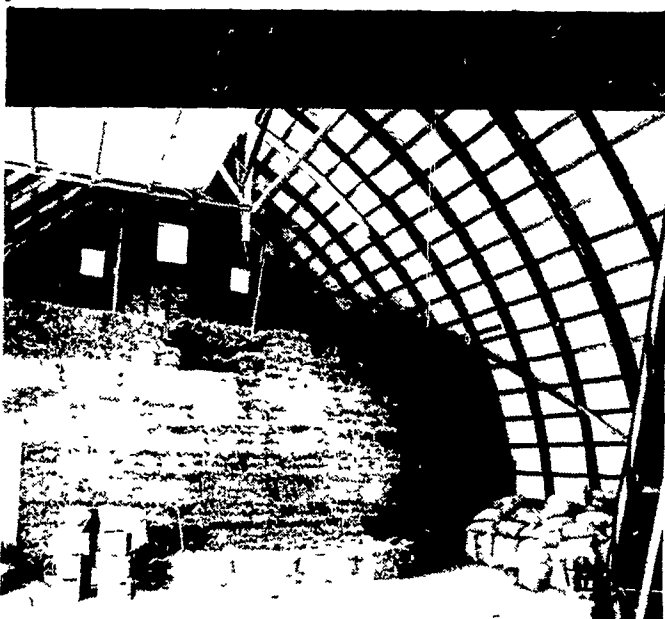
Charolais gets Brown

HOUSTON, Tex. - W. Robert Brown, coach of the 1976 Texas A&M University meat animal evaluation team, will assume duties as director of junior activities for American-International Charolais Assn. on Jan. 1.

Brown will complete his requirements for a Master of Science degree at A&M in December. Basic studies toward that degree were

research of factors influencing the weaning weights in a Charolais herd. He received his bachelor of science degree with a major in animal production from A&M in 1974.

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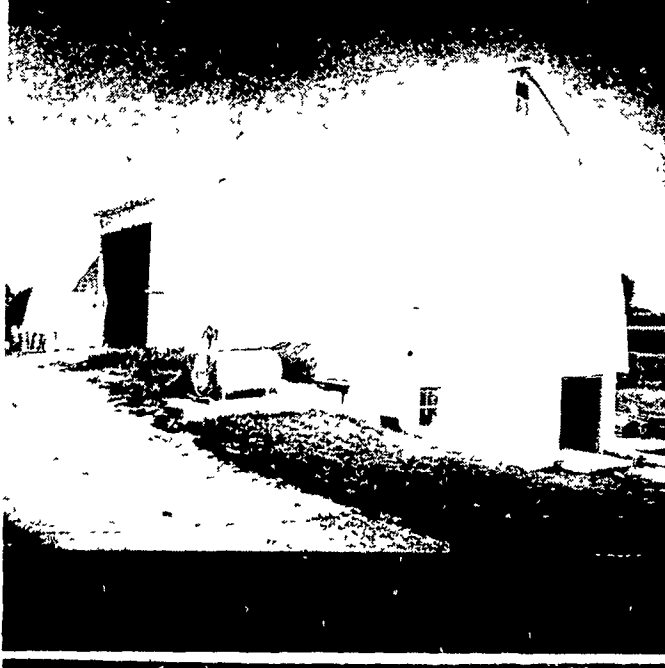
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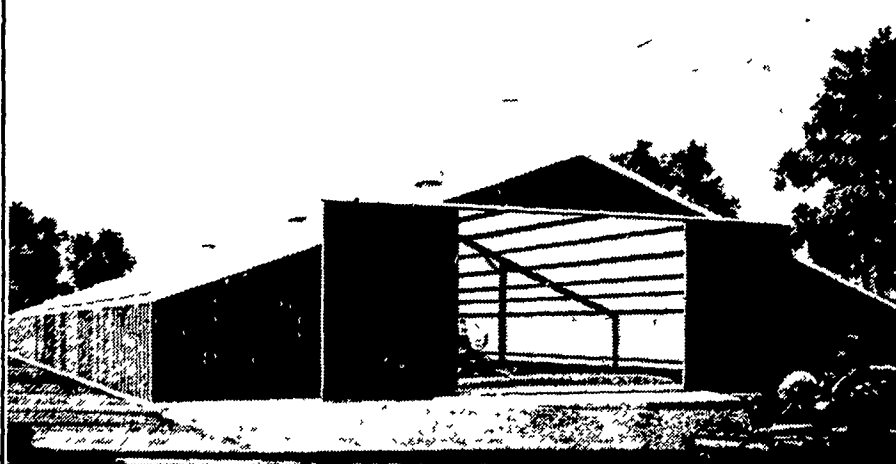
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