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**Average farm accident costs \$700**

NEWARK, Del. - One pays most for safety when one tries to do without it, says Delaware Extension safety specialist Ronald C. Jester. An accountant or business consultant can show what lost workdays and consequent machine downtime can do to the financial balance sheet.

Last year the estimated cost per Delaware farm accident was approximately \$700, and that figure is rising exponentially, according to Jester. Accident costs must take into account the value of time lost, medical expenses, the hiring of replacement labor, property damage, and intangible losses.

One farmer realized more than the economics of safety when he said, "I bought rollover bars for my son's tractor...They are cheaper than caskets."

It's estimated that human error causes 85 to 90 per cent of all accidents. If human error could be eliminated,

we could save thousands of lives and millions of dollars, the safety specialist says.

With farming operations moving into high gear, farmers must recognize their physical, physiological, and psychological limitations and capabilities. Factors such as carelessness, fatigue, overload, preoccupation, and incompatibility between worker and machine may confront the farmer daily. The following suggestions will help eliminate many of the factors associated with accidents:

\* Give extra supervision and adequate training to inexperienced operators.

\* Do not permit extra riders on farm equipment especially children and others not involved in the job.

\* Keep children and on-lookers out of the work areas.

\* Make sure teenagers have had proper training in

accordance with the Child Labor laws, and assign work within their physical limitations.

\* Insure that all operators of farm machinery are qualified, physically and mentally.

\* Avoid excessive fatigue by taking frequent short rests.

\* Keep your mind focused on what you are doing.

\* Solve emotional problems before beginning work.

\* Know your machinery thoroughly so that the operation is natural and easy.

Remember, Jester says, safety is too important to learn by accident.

**York County meeting focuses  
on farm use of sewage sludge**

YORK — A meeting on the agricultural use of sewage sludge will be held May 14 at the Penn Township Waste Treatment Plant. All interested farmers from the area are invited to attend. The plant is located 1½ miles east of Hanover off of Route 116. To get there, turn left on Ridge Ave. at the Hanover Brands plant. The sewage facility is about a quarter

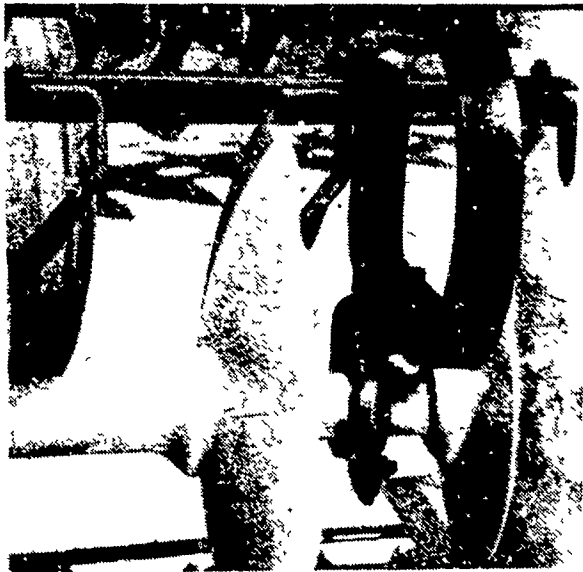
mile past the railroad tracks.

The program will begin with a tour of the plant at 7 p.m. Demonstrations of a spreader equipped with injectors may follow. Afterwards, the group will move to the township building to hear Dr. Ray Shipp, Extension agronomist from Penn State discuss the matter.

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