

## Young farm workers may need training exemptions

UNIVERSITY PARK - Farm employers should insist that young employees and Summer help have training exemptions before working on a farm, reminds Dennis J. Murphy, Extension safety specialist at PennState.

The child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act state that youth under 16 cannot be employed in certain hazardous agricultural operations unless they have had special training and received a certificate. The provisions do not apply to youth working on the farm of their parents or guardians, but the training is still essential, says Murphy.

Among the hazardous jobs not open to youth unless they have the special training, are operating a tractor over 20-horsepower, operating or assisting with the operation of certain pieces of farm machinery, operating or assisting with trenchers, fork lifts, chain saws, or other types of machines, and working inside airtight produce and grain storages or silos.

Other forbidden jobs involve working at high elevations, handling hazardous materials, working pens with breeding stock, handling explosives or anhydrous ammonia, working in heavy timber operations, transporting

passengers in buses, tractors, trucks or autos, or riding on a tractor as a passenger or helper.

In certain of these operations, notes Murphy, 14- and 15-year-old farm

workers can receive exemptions if they have completed formal training in these areas. Training programs available for 14- and 15-year-olds teach them about normal working

hazards involved with tractor and farm machinery. Written and operations examinations test their knowledge of the correct use of machinery. Exemptions are also

available for 4-H youth who have completed specific training requirements, and for students who have completed certain units in the Vocational Agriculture Training Program.

## Red meat production down

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Commercial red meat output during April totaled 2.88 billion pounds, according to statistics released last week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For beef alone that represents a 6-year low, says a Department spokesman, and the overall slump comes despite greatly increased pork supplies.

USDA says the decline in red meat sales came

because April's pork output, though up by 13 per cent from a year earlier, was not near great enough to offset the 17 per cent drop in beef production. Beef production hit the lowest point since April of 1973.

Veal production, at 33 million pounds, was also down a third, compared to year-ago levels. Lamb and mutton output remained basically unchanged, USDA reported.

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