

Young farm workers need training exemptions

NEWARK, Del. — Farm employers should insist that young employees and summer help have training exemptions before working on a farm, according to Delaware extension safety specialist Ron Jester.

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 had special training and received a certificate.

The provisions do not apply to youth working on the farms of their parents or guardians, but the training is still essential, says Jester.

Among the hazardous jobs not open to youth 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 Jester, 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 operational 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.

The Delaware Extension Service is currently setting up training programs in tractor and farm machinery

safety. These will be similar to correspondence courses, with formal classes interspersed throughout the eight-week program. The deadline for registration is January 25.

For further information contact county extension agents or 4-H youth agents in New Castle, Kent, or Sussex counties, or Ron Jester, at the University of Delaware Substation in Georgetown.

Wool grower calls farmers "sacrificial lamb" for U.S.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — R. J. Rich, chairman of the board of directors of the National Wool Growers Association, said he was not surprised at the Carter Administration's grain embargo of the Soviet Union.

In remarks before the 115th meeting of the nation's oldest livestock organization, Rich said "agriculture is usually always the 'sacrificial lamb' whether it is the environment, the economy or foreign affairs."

"We are in sympathy with our farmer friends," said Rich, "because the Wool

Growers know very well how capricious the Administration is toward agriculture."

He cited President Carter's 60 percent reduction in wool tariffs, the recent Andrus predator control program protecting coyotes at the expense of sheep and Secretary Bergland's condemnation of wool grower efforts to control lamb imports on similar actions.

"Throwing corn at the Russian Bear is not going to scare him off," said the Burley, Idaho, rancher,

referring to the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

"It will, however, have economic and political repercussions in this country."

Rich went on to praise sheep producers in the U.S. He predicted that sheep numbers in America would show an increase over 1979, halting a 20-year decline.

"This is a tribute to our determination and the work of the National Association," Rich declared. "We will redouble our efforts in this next decade to strengthen the industry and provide America with quality food and fiber," he concluded.


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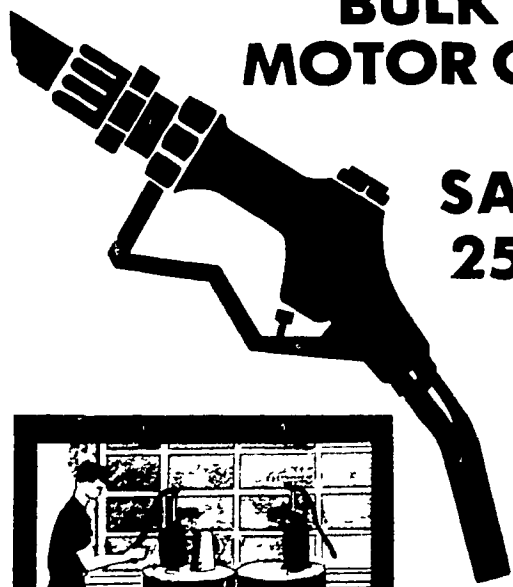
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