

How to move machinery without becoming a statistic

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — As farmers 'saddle up' in their tractors, trucks, spray rigs and other motorized equipment to begin the Spring planting season, they are asked to take an invisible rider along with them: highway courtesy.

The Maryland Agricultural Commission, advisory body to the state Department of Agriculture, reminds farmers that while they have free right to use the roads of the state just like everyone else, they

should take care to exercise common sense when sharing the highway with faster moving traffic.

One of the best ways to avoid problems is for farmers to plan carefully their equipment movements so as to avoid being on the roads during rush hours.

State law allows farm equipment on the road and in fact grants agricultural machinery some favors in that tractors, combines, etc., do not have to be licensed. It does require flashing lights

in many cases and display of the familiar slow moving vehicle emblems.

The Ag Commission points out that operators of farm machinery have to bear in mind that drivers of automobiles are not too familiar with farm machinery on the roads and in some cases, are actually terrified of meeting a large tractor on the road. Therefore, the commission says operators of the farm machinery should take extra

care to look out for their traffic neighbors.

Besides, as one member of the Commission notes, "A farmer should never be in such a hurry that he can't take time for courtesy because he ought to want the other road users to have a safe and happy day so that they can come back as his customers three times a day."



Hereford High School FFA wins Maryland State corn contest



Members of the FFA crops committee at Hereford High School, Maryland, pose with trophy hardware during recent seventy-third annual meeting of the Maryland Crop Improvement Association. The FFA group was honored as first-place winner in the 1979 official state corn yield contest with a mark of 187.57 bushels per acre. This marked the first time that the contest has been won by an FFA chapter in Maryland. But it was the fifth consecutive victory by a Baltimore county representative. Show from left are: Bob Prigel, Sam Bosley, Mike Tracey, Laurel Cutter, Caroline Fiske (vo-ag teacher), Lisa Maenner, and John Badalato. Tracey is holding his first-place no-tillage award plate, while Badalato shows off his over-all championship plaque. Badalato was also student coordinator for the FFA corn-growing project.

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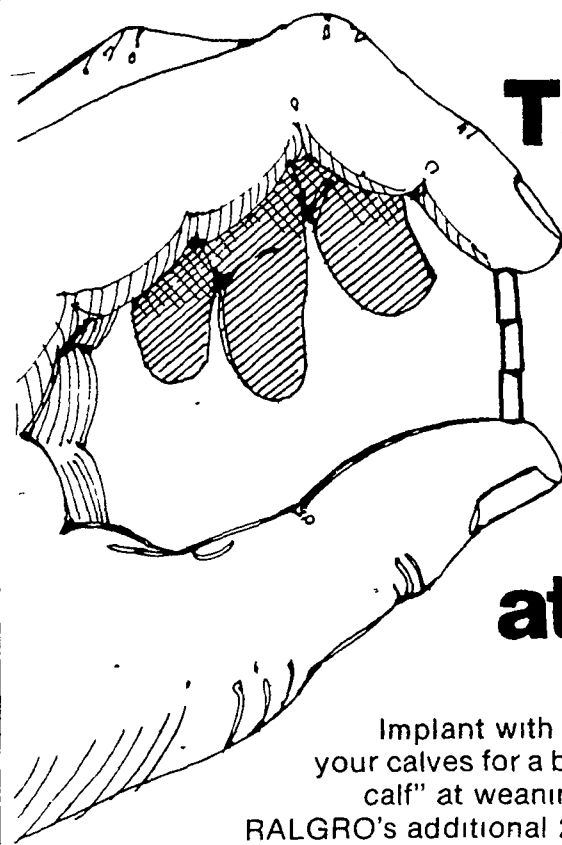
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