

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp

Today marks the beginning of National Farm Safety Week.

As a farm wife, few things worry me more than the ever present danger of accidents. With modernization, farm equipment has become ever larger, more powerful - more deadly.

Farming, I think I just read somewhere, now ranks as the second most hazardous profession, right up there behind coal mining.

No. It won't happen to you. Or will it?

In a recent bizarre orgy of accidents, farm neighbors in a distant county happily came through with only badly scarred bank accounts.

A brake locked on a self-propelled windrower as one farm

son was driving the big machine down the road. Swinging uncontrollably into a 90-degree turn, the windrower smacked solidly into a tree, to the tune of some several thousand dollars in damages to the hay machine. To say nothing of the tree.

Several days later, the same young man, hauling a loaded hay wagon through town, had the misfortune of having the wagon unhook. It methodically crashed into an automobile, which in turn crashed into a house porch, effectively totalling both vehicle and porch.

And on a farm nearby, another farmer parked his pickup and the fertilizer spreader wagon hooked to it on a flat spot behind the barn.

He unhooked the spreader wagon, which happened to be filled with some two tons of dry chemical fertilizer. The wagon promptly began to drift away and the farmer grabbed the wagon tongue to turn the wheels so that the spreader would miss the barn in its impromptu journey. It did - and came to rest at a watery stop at the bottom of the farm pond.

Meanwhile, his pickup truck had drifted off in the opposite direction, striking a concrete barrier. It sustained several hundred dollars worth of damage.

No, I didn't make those stories up. They happened to two fine dairy farm friends of ours, (I hope they'll forgive me for tattling), and were related to us by an informer who must remain anonymous.

They were lucky. A friend in the hospital after a tractor backed over him wasn't so fortunate. Nor was another friend who tumbled from a ladder while working on his barn. Both are now recuperating, but could have been injured much more seriously than they were.

Farmers are already an endangered species due to urban sprawl, high interest rates and low returns on production. We can't afford to lose anymore of you to accidents.

Record numbers

(Continued from Page C30)

Intermediate Champion, Premier Karama 096S, shown by Scott Bohlen, Howell, Michigan; Calf Champion, Black Gold Blueblood K068, shown by Bruce Kroeker, Hutchinson, Kansas; and Reserve Calf Champion, DD Lady Taurus 620, shown by Todd Dawes, Urbana, Indiana.

The winning group of five heifers exhibited by members of a Junior Angus association, was shown by the Iowa Angus Association. The

youngsters won \$100 for their organization's treasury. Second place and \$75 went to Indiana; third place and \$50 to Michigan; and 4th place and \$25 to Illinois. Each of the other 12 associations that exhibited received \$15.

Awards were also presented to state associations for the outstanding display of their cattle.

The premier breeder award, for breeding the highest placing heifers in individual classes, went to Summitcrest Farm, Summitville, Ohio.

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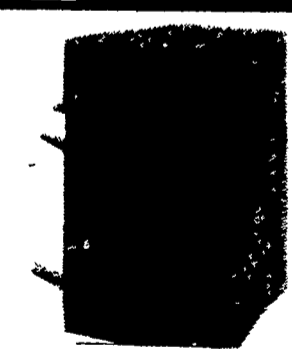
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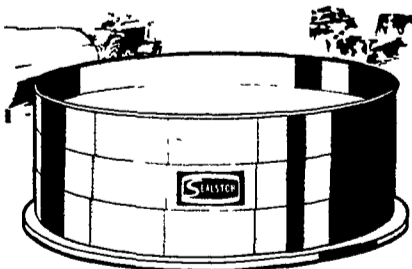
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