

Pequea Valley FFA promotes harvest safety

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
INTERCOURSE — As farmers navigated their combines or corn pickers across the rolling fields of eastern Lancaster County this harvest season, they had something extra to think about.

And, that's just what the Pequea Valley FFA wanted.

The something extra that the FFA'ers tried to implant in the minds of the harvesters was the need for continuing concern about safety during the harvest — traditionally one of the most dangerous times of the year for farmers.

About 40 members of the vo-ag classes conducted a comprehensive harvest safety program during recent weeks under the direction of teacher Clair Witwer.

The safety program, devised by

the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council, took on several phases:

—On-farm visits were made to ag operations primarily in the school district to personally outline the need for continuing safety concern to farmers.

—Some 300 folding "reminder" cards containing safety rules were distributed. The cards are intended for use on kitchen or dining room tables. They were also placed in area restaurants.

—More than 1500 "danger" stickers were placed on harvest machinery, including self unloading wagons, corn pickers, storage harvesters, tractors, blowers, elevators, combines and particularly PTO shafts.

—The students are also constructing a corn picker safety exhibit which will be displayed at



Shown with the Fall Harvest Safety poster they made are members of the Pequea Valley FFA Chapter, from the left, Mike McCauley, Richard Griest, Mike Kreiser and Cesario Pope.



Mark Frey, of the Pequea Valley FFA, places "Danger" sticker on PTO shaft of corn picker of Glenn Hershey, foreground. Chapter members, some of whom are grouped in background, conducted a fall harvest safety program among farmers in school district.

the East Towne Mall later this month.

In preparation for the effort, the students studied harvesting safety in the classroom and made field trips to area equipment dealers, such as C.B. Hooper, Intercourse, to inspect machinery and learn the possible danger points on each.

And, what are some of the safety points the FFA'ers stressed to farmers? Well, such things as:

- Stop all machinery before cleaning, adjusting, greasing, etc.
- Keep all guards and shields in

place.

—Never reach into areas with moving parts.

—Keep riders off machinery

—Keep work clothing in good repair.

This marked the first year that the Pequea Valley FFA Chapter conducted the safety program.

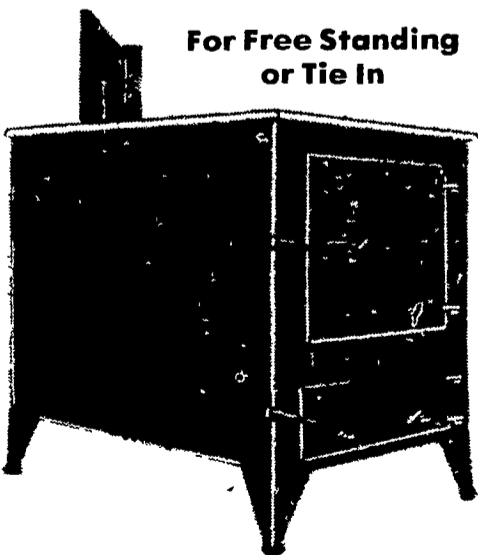
"We plan to make it an on-going effort," explained advisor Witwer.

"We may even expand it a bit to include some spring planting safety tips but the major concentration will remain on the fall harvest time."

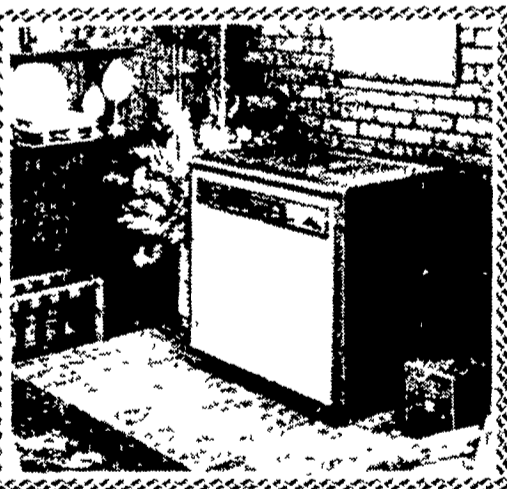


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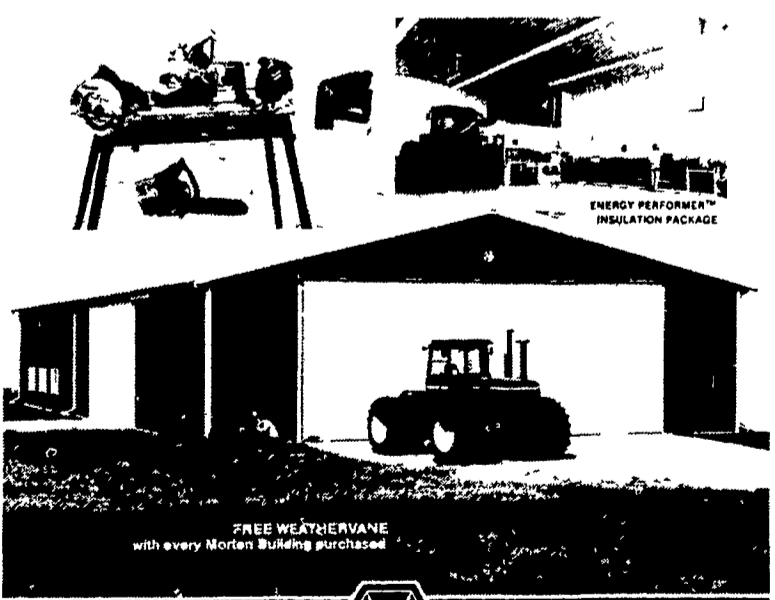
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