



## Brockett's Ag Advice

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### SAFETY

Are you a responsible person? Don't be in a hurry to answer that or to stop reading this column. The accident rate on Pennsylvania farms is horrendous. It is costly in time lost, in human parts lost, in machine repair bills, in livestock injured or lost, and in human lives. Danger is part of farm life. All of the ingredients are present for the breeding and birth of accidents. Hurry is a big culprit. Neglect is second on the list. Inexperience is always a possible problem. Too much experience can be just as bad. It all comes down to how responsible each and every one of us is.

### HURRY

Time is always short between March 1 and July 1. The days are

far too short and the weather seldom cooperates. The only time of the year that rivals this for "hurry up" is corn harvest season. Don't take chances - keep PTO shafts covered by guards. Don't take risks - keep all children away from forage wagons, idling tractors, etc. Keep children off machinery - if you want to give them the thrill of a ride on a tractor do it when the tractor is not doing work. Put the tractor in park if you get off of it for any reason - make sure it's in park because some tractors only go part way in.

### NEGLECT

Oh, I forgot to shut the gate (door, bars) now the heifers are out. Darn they got into the fertilizer and ripped open some bags. (result loss of fertilizer and maybe

dead heifers). Or, I forgot to put a safety pin into the clevis bolt (it hops out when you hit a bump and the forage harvester takes off).

### INEXPERIENCE

Farmers never like to admit inexperience with any equipment. Result is high lifts too high with too big a load - causes tractor to tip over. Or a belt or chain catches something like a metal rod or a sleeve (jacket) and breaks something. Take a few minutes to either have someone take you thru the paces or to read the manual or both. Then take it slow until you get some experience.

### TO MUCH

### EXPERIENCE

That's not quite true - you can never have too much experience. I guess the point I want to make is neglect or becoming lackadaisical because nothing has happened in the past. Examples are turning

your back on a bull that has never bothered you before or hopping over a moving PTO shaft or working on electrical equipment without turning the power off or coasting down hill. Just because you got away with it once doesn't remove the danger. Also remember that when you got away with it before you may have been more alert or taken other precautions as well as being lucky.

### BE CAREFUL

I plan to have a lot of good productive years ahead of me. During that time I'd like to continue working with, scolding, giving advice to, and learning from farmers. No matter who you are or how big or small your operation, you are the most important group of people in the world. Please take care and be around to enjoy your farm operation and your families.

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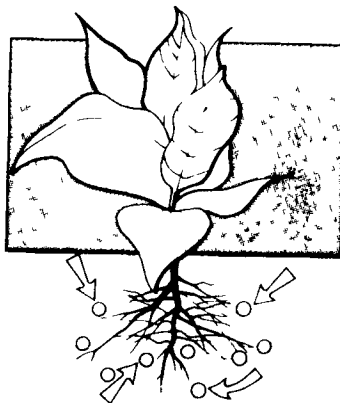


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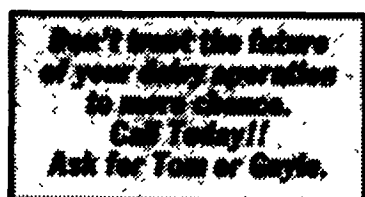
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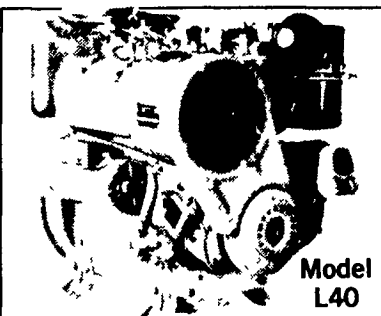


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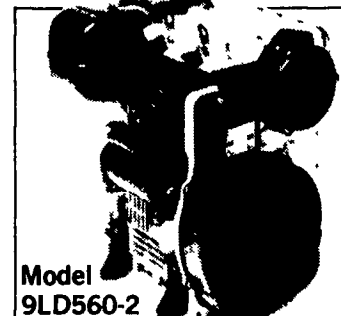


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