

Lydon joins Del. faculty

Be alert during harvest

NEWARK, Del. — Grain flowing into a combine represents the profits from a year of hard work and investment. University of Delaware extension farm safety specialist Ron Jester warns farmers not to let a tragic accident rob them of that reward. A safe, efficient harvest depends first on the machine operator.

A combine and other equipment must be in top running order with all protective devices in place. It's vital to observe ALL the standard precautions listed in the operator's manual, but Jester advises taking safety a step further. **STAY ALERT.** "Constant alertness on the job is mandatory," he says. "Preoccupation and fatigue are common contributors to harvesttime accidents."

Equipment downtime also contributes to exhaustion and frustration. So check all machinery and equipment in advance and make mental preparations for the job ahead.

"Having a safe harvest often depends on how successfully you deal with problems that arise," Jester says. "Factors such as uneven feeding, separator capacity, size of feeding and threshing mechanisms, available engine power, or ground conditions limit a combine's capacity. When you exceed the limits, you're asking for trouble, or a breakdown."

The specialist advises farmers to take special care in dealing with the following harvest situations:

— **Plugged combines.** If some part of a combine does plug, shut off the engine at once. Follow steps for unplugging as outlined in the operator's manual — with the **POWER OFF.**

— **Adjustments.** While a machine is running, never try to make adjustments other than those recommended by the manufacturer. No one should enter a grain tank or stand near straw choppers or spreaders when a combine is in operation.

— **Children and animals.** Be on the lookout for movement in the field ahead of a combine, as children or animals could be

hidden by the crop. Keep children well away from all harvesting operations.

— **Falls.** Operate a combine smoothly when working on sloping land; the machine has a high center of gravity and can be upset. If space permits, make a large loop when turning to go up a hill. Don't overfill the grain tank when working on sidehills, and watch for ditches and holes.

— **Fire.** High temperature and dry conditions increase fire hazards and place extra stress on machinery parts. Make sure a combine is equipped at all times with a fire extinguisher.

— **Slippery footing.** Down crops and cold, wet weather are sometimes a problem when combining grain corn late in the

NEWARK, Del. — Constance L. Lydon, a landscape designer with considerable practical experience in ornamental horticulture, has joined the faculty of the University of Delaware College of Agricultural Sciences. Lydon holds a master's degree in landscape architecture from Cornell University as well as a bachelor's degree in floriculture and ornamental horticulture from the same institution. As a lecturer in the department of plant science, she will teach courses on land-

scape design and landscape construction.

season. Take extra care to guard against the hazards of mud and ice. "You hold the key to harvest safety," Jester says. "Get started right — and have a safe harvest season."

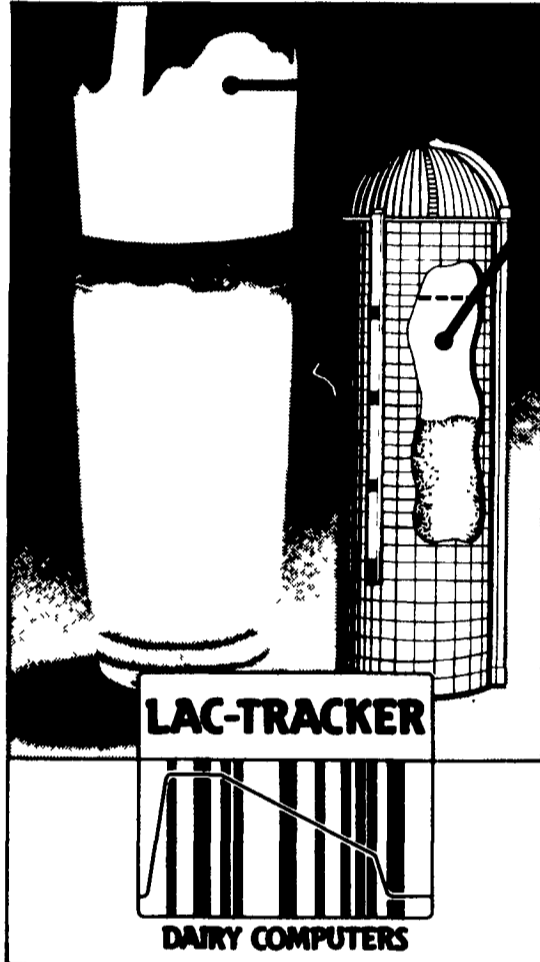


Constance Lydon

scape design and landscape construction.

Lydon's background includes extensive work experience in the nursery industry. Her family owns and operates Schichtel's Nursery, a 500-acre wholesale establishment located in western New York. She has worked with many phases of nursery operation ranging from production to inventory control. She also was involved with garden center management and landscape design and construction at the nursery's retail outlet.

Before joining the University of Delaware faculty, Lydon worked as a landscape planner for a local engineering firm developing subdivision site designs and planting plans.



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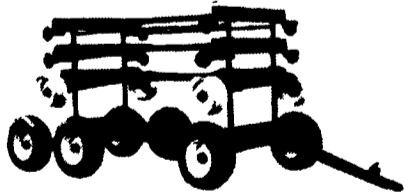
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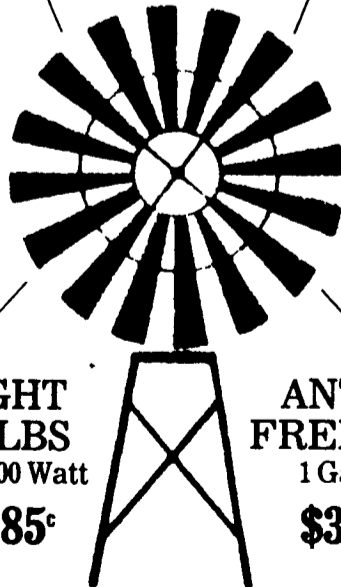
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