

## Farm safety advice

# Cleanup tips to prevent grain-dust explosions

NEWARK, DE — Mill managers and grain elevator operators are keenly interested in dust control and fire prevention. The occasional explosion that completely destroys a facility and kills or injures several employees is a vivid reminder that dust is highly volatile and that an explosion can occur in any facility if proper precautions are not taken.

According to University of Delaware extension safety specialist Ron Jester, the rash of dust explosions a few years ago and OSHA's subsequent active participation in inspections and rule-making have made elevator operators more aware of potential hazards. Farmers with milling and grain storage operations also have cause for concern.

Since dust, oxygen and a spark in a confined space must all be present to create an explosion, prevention involves removing one of these elements. The best way to reduce the hazard is to eliminate

either the dust or the source of ignition, the specialist says.

He suggests farmers and others with grain storage facilities follow these guidelines to minimize the chance of a grain dust explosion:

- Maintain a good housekeeping program. Prevent dust buildup on equipment, pipes, floors and around grinders.
- Be sure dust-tight equipment is really dust-tight. Keep spouts and positive-pressure air ducts in good repair to prevent the escape of dust. Promptly fix leaks in grinding equipment and fans.
- Use a dust-control system to help reduce pressure buildup inside equipment and to keep dust from being forced into the mill.
- Prevent ignition by removing foreign materials from incoming ingredients. Magnets are commonly installed in spouts leading to processing or grinding equipment.
- Lubricate bearings according to manufacturers' recom-

mendations to prevent overheating.

• Align belt drives properly. Misalignment can create friction and sufficient heat to generate a fire.

• Check tension on bucket elevators. Inspect them periodically to ensure proper operation.

• Enforce the no-smoking rule in mill and grain facilities.

• Install dust-tight lights and explosion-proof plug-in recep-

tacles.

• Practice welding safety in the mill. This includes shutting down machinery, cleaning work areas, covering combustible materials with flame-proof tarpaulins and having a fire extinguisher handy.

• Be sure wiring conforms to the National Electrical Code.

• Reduce buildup of static electricity by making positive metal connections between pieces of equipment and the ground.

"It isn't easy to plan, supervise

and conduct fire prevention programs and practices," Jester says. "In fact, some managers and employees may actually have a negative attitude about fire prevention. They feel that because they've never had an explosion in their plant, they never will."

But nothing could be further from the truth, the safety specialist warns. Unless proper precautions are taken, there is an ever-increasing danger of explosion or fire.

## Moore speaks at meeting


UNIVERSITY PARK — H. Louis Moore, professor of agricultural economics extension at The Pennsylvania State University, spoke at the first joint conference of the Farmstead Equipment Association, Milking Machine Manufacturers Council and International Silo Association held this summer in Chicago.

These groups are affiliated with the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute. They represent an interest in the state of the agricultural economy, since their

sales are dependent on the economic health of farmers.

In his presentation, entitled "What the Future Holds," Moore summed up the events that shaped the agricultural economy this year and gave his prospects for next year. He was somewhat optimistic for the future of agriculture, although he admits the remainder of 1985 and the start of 1986 will be increasingly depressing for the grain sector. But low grain prices, he adds, will create profit opportunities for livestock producers.

**IT'S MAGIC**  
How quickly  
You Get Results  
From Our  
Classifieds!



PHONE  
717-394-3047  
or 717-626-1164

## AGRI-INC.

### Custom Built Farm Buildings Designed To Your Needs

**Specializing In Dairy Systems:**

- Tie Stall & Free Stall Complexes
- Heifer & Veal Barns
- Machinery Sheds
- Metal Buildings For Commercial Use


**NEED RENOVATIONS...  
OR A NEW BUILDING?**

**DON'T DELAY — CALL TODAY**

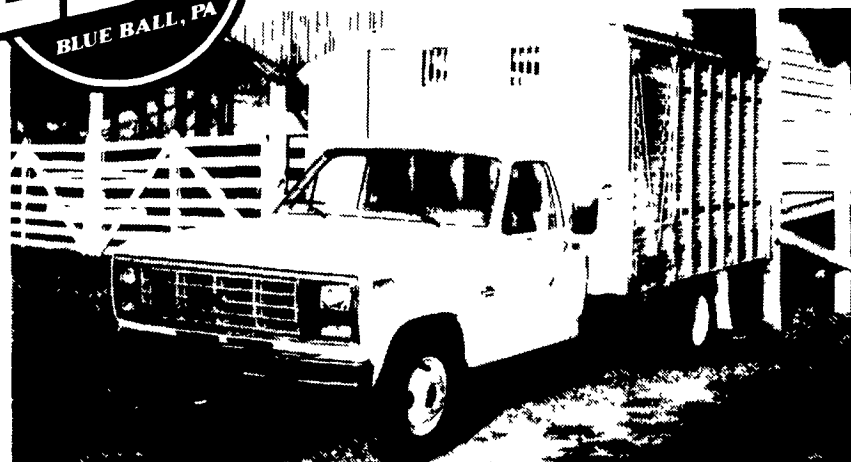
## AGRI-INC.

FARM & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS  
RD 4, EPHRATA, PA 17522  
Located In Farmersville  
PHONE (717) 354-4271



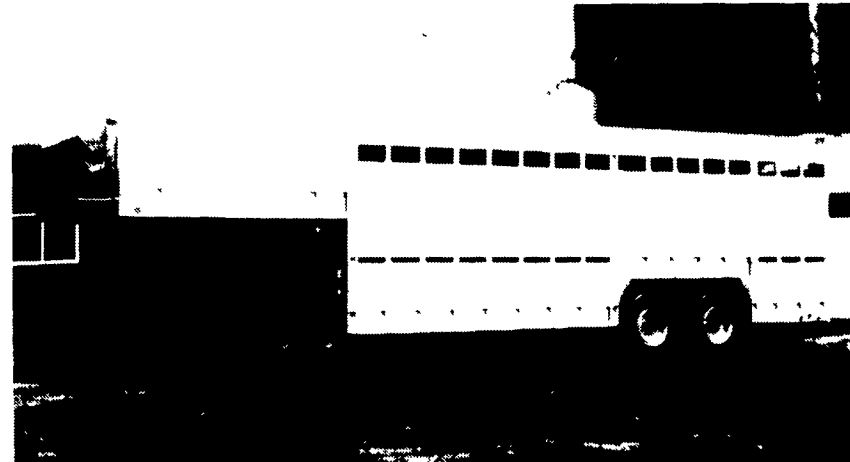


## ALUMINUM LIVESTOCK TRAILERS AND BODIES



**ALUMINUM STRAIGHT LIVESTOCK BODIES**

LENGTHS AVAILABLE: 8' to 32' WIDTHS: 96" Standard to 102" Optional  
HEIGHT: 6'6" Standard to 8' Optional



**ALUMINUM EBY GOOSENECK TRAILERS**

LENGTHS AVAILABLE: 14' to 28' (longer lengths available as option)  
WIDTHS: 96" Standard - 102" Optional HEIGHT: 6'6" Standard - 7'6" Optional

**FLASH**

Call For Real Good Deals On Eby  
Rugged Aluminum Grain Bodies

## M.H. EBY, INC.

P.O. Box 127 Blue Ball, PA 17506  
(717) 354-4971

