

# Extension safety specialist develops training program to save lives

UNIVERSITY PARK - One of the root causes of multiple farm deaths is good-intentioned bystanders who plunge in without knowing how to help a farm accident victim, says a Penn State farm safety expert.

Farming is the second-most hazardous industry in the nation partly because of the number of these multiple deaths, he adds.

But Dennis Murphy, associate professor of agricultural engineering, has developed a specialized training program which he hopes will help eliminate death due to lack of knowledge.

Says Murphy, "If a farmer falls into his manure pit, do you enter the below-ground storage area after him to help him get out? Or do you first call a rescue squad?"

If you want to commit suicide, you'll go in after him. If you want to save him and yourself, you'll call for help and then set up fans to ventilate some of the lethal hydrogen sulfide gas. A few breaths of a high concentration of the gas can kill.

Murphy has turned 10 years of experience in farm safety procedures into the formal training program that he is now taking on the road throughout Pennsylvania. He says he will provide information to farmers and, more importantly, to their families, on how to be the most help at the scene of an accident.

Victims of farm accidents are most often discovered by a family member or a neighbor," he says. Their first few minutes of reaction may make the difference between life and death.

This course isn't going to get anyone a Red Cross card," Murphy says. But the "First on the scene" program can help its participants decide what to do if an accident does occur, particularly one that results in entrapment in or under machinery or farm storage structures.

"I just want them to be able to make rational decisions when they discover an accident give them first-aid tips and help them know what to describe on the telephone," Murphy says.

Farmstead hazards--tractors, animals, toxic gases and chemicals -- require a certain knowledge that "isn't necessarily pleasant to think about," Murphy

says. "So people don't, until it's too late."

Besides the specialized hazards, the very nature of farming as an isolated occupation, usually performed alone in rural, perhaps difficult-to-reach areas, all add up to make it number two on the nation's top three hazardous industries list, Murphy says.

Only mining had more annual deaths last year, says the Penn State professor. But miners and construction workers are working in such improved conditions that death rates in both industries have been lowered while agriculture remains a steady killer.

Tractors are the number-one

problem, says Murphy, followed by fatal machinery accidents, death by animals charging or trampling, drownings and less often, electrocution, suffocation and falling at the workplace.

But it is the tractor that most often kills, and often takes lives in two age groups not found in mining or construction statistics, Murphy points out. Not uncommon on farms are youths and older people who unfortunately bear the brunt of the fatality statistics.

Forty-three percent of all Pennsylvania farm accident deaths from 1980 to 1984 were almost evenly divided between kids aged 14 and under and elders

65 or older, he says.

This information gives strong support to the notion that many elderly operators are placing themselves in positions of high risk when they operate a tractor," Murphy says, blaming old age for decreasing reaction time, physical strength and eyesight.

The children who fall off tractors undoubtedly start out riding along for the fun of it. Young children are run over by parents, grandparents and others who give in to pleas for just a little ride," Murphy says.

That's why farming is so hazardous," Murphy says. It exposes the whole family to potential situations.

It is the whole family he hopes to get at his sessions. Because, he says, it just may be a son or daughter who ultimately saves his parent's life, as long as he or she knows how.

Murphy begins offering 'First on the scene' in March, and says he is already booked through summer. He will showcase the program at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council on March 25 at the Penn State Sheraton in State College. Contact the council at 220 Agricultural Engineering Building, University Park, Pa. 16802 for more information or a registration brochure.

## Winners listed in state FFA Record Book Contest

UNIVERSITY PARK - Winners in the State FFA Record Book Contest were recently announced, following judging at the Penn State University. Below is a list of the gold medal winners in each category of competition.

- 1986 STATE PROJECT CONTEST WINNERS**
- Vegetable Garden**  
1. Lisa R. Popl, Blair
  - Poultry (Meat)**  
1. Troy Miller, Fulton
  - Market Lambs**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Sheep Breeding**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Beef Finishing**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Dairy Heifers**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Horses (Pleasure)**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Small Grains**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Swine Herd**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Field Corn (Grain)**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Dairy Cows**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Miscellaneous Plant Science**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Four Enterprises**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Jr. Projects**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Ten Enterprises and Over**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Eight & Nine Enterprises**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Seven Enterprises**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour
  - Rabbits**  
1. Rich Crane, Montour

- State Winner**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Regional Winner - Western**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Regional Winner - Eastern**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Miscellaneous**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Greenhouse Production Record Book**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Floral Design - Green Book**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Off Farming Agriculture Experience - Under 800 hrs.**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Off Farming Agriculture Experience - Over 800 hrs.**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Swine Finishing**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Skills & Tasks - Greenhouse**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Occupational Experience On Farm - 800 hrs. or less**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Occupational Experience On Farm - 801 hrs. or more**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Skills & Tasks - Mechanics**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Skills & Tasks - Floriculture**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Swine Breeding**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Dairy Herd**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Wildlife Conservation Chapter Award - Brockway**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- State Winners - All Gold**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford

- Three Enterprises**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Five Enterprises**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Six Enterprises**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Horses (Commercial)**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Computer Record Book**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Interstate Milk Producers**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford

- Farm Credit Service Award**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- State Winner**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Berks Lehigh Valley**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Butler**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Headwaters**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Lancaster**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Meadville**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Northeastern**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- Southeast**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- West Central**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford
- York**  
1. James E. Helman, Bedford

## Designer-Craftsmen set Craft Fair dates

RICHBORO - The Pennsylvania Designer-Craftsmen will be sponsoring three craft fairs this year.

Unique, one-of-a-kind, contemporary, traditional crafts in blacksmith, iron, pottery, pewter, weaving, stained glass, wood, fraktur, theorem, quilting, gold and silver jewelry, leather, candles, batik, early American decoration, tin, macrame, toys and basketry will be available at these fairs.

The first fair will be the 39th State Craft Fair, July 31 through Aug. 3 at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster. The granddaddy of Pennsylvania's craft fairs, this event features 250 juried

members of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen, demonstrations, a craft gallery exhibit and festival foods.

The State Craft Festival at Tyler will be held Sept. 25 through 28 at Tyler State Park on Route 332 between Newtown and Richboro. This Fair features over 180 juried members of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen.

The Pennsylvania Christmas Craft Market will be held at Memorial Hall at York Fairgrounds in York. This market will feature 150 juried members of the Guild of Craftsmen, quality food and free parking.

Admission to all events is \$3 for adults; children 12 and under free.

### COW MATS

Use our unique method of installing a one piece mat under a row of cows. Prevents movement of mat and bedding from creeping underneath. All "row" and single mats are cut from heavy one inch rubber belting.

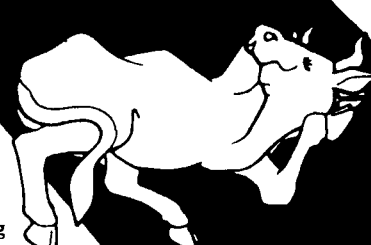
SAVE COWS, TIME & BEDDING

SAVE 40% on New Replacement Belts For Farm Machines

- Bale Thrower Belts \$70.00
- Grove-Gehl-Int.-S.U. Wagon Box Belts \$120 to \$150

Also Available: Bean Picker Belts & Big Round Baler Belts

Any flat belt can be custom made for your farm machinery (cleats installed). Belts shipped same day by UPS.



Flat belts shipped same day as order

For more information, write:

## Bob Gabel

Rt. 16, Chaffee, New York 14030

CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-537-3003

Phone Collect: 716-496-6025

## POURED REINFORCED CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

- Circular Tanks
- Retaining Walls
- Gravity Fill Storage
- Receiver Pits
- Slatted Floors
- Basements and Building Foundations



SIZES & LAYOUTS TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

We are qualified to handle any poured concrete job you may need. We use a practical aluminum forming system to create concrete structures of maximum strength and durability. For a highly satisfactory job at an affordable price, get in touch with us.

### POURED FOR DURABILITY

# Groffdale

## concrete walls, inc.

BRICK CHURCH RD. LEOLA, PA. 17540

FOR SALES & LAYOUT CONTACT  
GROFFDALE POURED WALLS (717) 656-2016  
JAKE KING (717) 656-7566



GIGANTIC SELECTION in Lancaster Farming's CLASSIFIEDS

Reemay Poly TOBACCO BED COVERS

6 Ft. Wide x 100 Ft.  
6 Ft. Wide x 150 Ft.  
9 Ft. Wide x 100 Ft.

We Will Ship

MICHIGAN PEAT

Discount For Quantity Tobacco Seeds, Etc

WIRE FENCING

LP-GAS Service

BLOCK CHOCOLATE FOR YOUR CANDY MAKING IN BROKEN PIECES OR 10 lb BLOCKS. IN COLORS or VARIOUS GRADES OF CHOCOLATE

W.L. ZIMMERMAN & SONS

Thurs. till 8: Fri. till 9  
Ph. (717) 768-8291  
INTERCOURSE, PA