

Common Sense Can Prevent Tractor Accidents

NEWARK, Del. — With each new growing season, unwary farmers run the risk of death or mutilation from tractor rollovers or entanglement in unguarded tractor equipment.

"More than 500 fatalities occur each year among tractor operators," says Ron Jester, University of Delaware extension safety specialist. "In addition there are thousands of crippling injuries. Probably nine out of 10 of these accidents could have been prevented if the injured worker had just followed established safety procedures — most of which revolve around common sense."

Jester cites three actual accidents that could have been prevented.

• A 25-year-old farmer was operating a tractor with his 6-year-old nephew on his lap. They made a sharp turn on a slope, and the tractor overturned, killing them. The tractor did not have rollover protective structures (ROPS).

• A 17-year-old boy, using a tractor to run a feed grinder, caught his clothing on the unguarded PTO (power take-off) shaft. His right arm was amputated.

• A 58-year-old farmer was run over while "jump starting" his tractor. He died because he had forgotten to set the transmission in neutral.

To prevent similar accidents, the extension safety expert shares several safety reminders for tractor drivers.

"Match ground speed to operating conditions at all times," he says. "Avoid obstacles, ditches and steep slopes, and keep alert for overhead power lines."

Never allow extra riders, Jester says, and always stop the power

before unclogging or fixing a power-driven machine.

"When on the road, use your flashing lights," he says. "Make sure the slow moving vehicle emblem is clean and visible, or replace it."

A Future Farmers of America safety decal reminding tractor drivers to be alert for possible rollover, runover or power shaft accidents is available in limited

quantities from county extension offices in Newark (451-2506), Dover (697-4000) and Georgetown (856-7303).

As part of a statewide safety awareness campaign, Jester urges all Delaware farmers and their families to take time May 9 at 1 p.m. to go over emergency shutdown procedures on farm equipment.

Daniels Named Outstanding Advisor At Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK — Dr. Roland R. Daniels, associate professor of horticulture at Penn State, will receive the second annual College of Agriculture Excellence in Advising Award at commencement ceremonies Sat., May 16.

The College of Agriculture Alumni Society initiated the award last year to recognize and reward outstanding advising among faculty "Dr. Daniels exemplifies

the caring, understanding and devotion to students that are so important to our students for a successful college career," says Patty McMurray, president of CAAS. The selection committee was made up of faculty, students and members of the board of CAAS.

A former student wrote, "At a time when I was struggling academically, Dr. Daniels motivated me to improve my

average and attend graduate school for a Ph.D. Dr. Daniels is a primary force in the success I am enjoying as a plant physiologist."

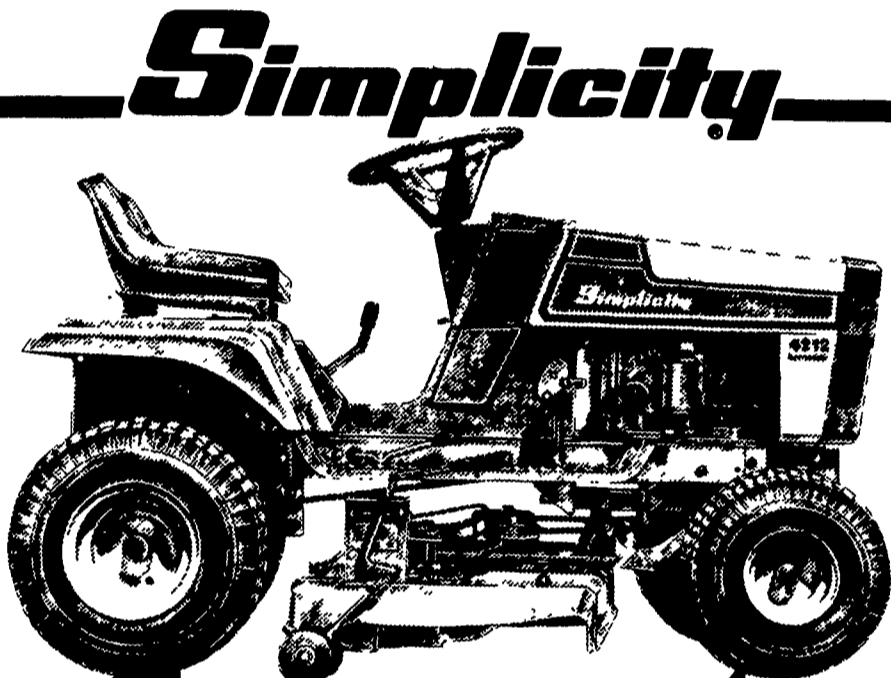
In the words of a current student, "In today's world where people are often too busy to care, Dr. Daniels stands out as a remarkable individual. He has had a greater positive influence on me than anyone or anything in my college career."

Dr. Daniels teaches graduate

and undergraduate courses in fruit and vegetable production and marketing and is the Division of Undergraduate Studies adviser for the College of Agriculture.

In addition to his academic duties, Daniels is the faculty adviser for Alpha Gamma Rho and the Penn State Horticulture Club, which sponsors the popular Hort Show each year at homecoming. He has served as the acting assistant dean for resident education of the College of Agriculture and is the author of numerous publications. He has also served as adviser to the Ag Student Council.

The College of Agriculture undergraduate commencement will be held in Eisenhower Auditorium at 9 a.m. and State Representative Samuel Hayes will deliver the commencement address. About 244 students in agriculture will receive their baccalaureate degrees on Sat., May 16.



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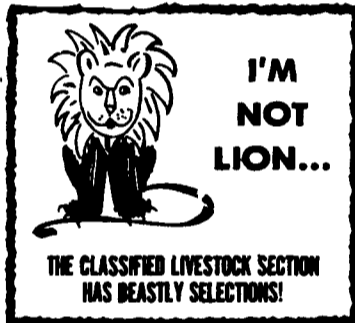
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