



OPINION

Take Time To Be Safe

On a cold January morning a 29-year-old east coast dairy farmer uncapped a concrete stave silo to feed silage to his cattle. As usual, the uncapping created lots of dust inside the silo. Later that afternoon this farmer felt like he had the flu, only worse. And by evening he went to the emergency room and was hospitalized and diagnosed as having organic dust toxic syndrome.

This true case history along with thousands of others like it contradict the popular conception that farmers are some of our healthiest workers. While farming is seen romantically as a clean, healthy, happy way of life, the facts show that on-the-farm accidents are killing and maiming hundreds of thousands of farmers annually across the nation. And now a whole new array of health hazards lurk in moldy corn bins, dusty hog houses, newly filled silos, liquid manure pits and chemical applying jobs of all kinds. With nearly 200,000 injuries and 2,000 deaths per year, agriculture (several years ago) passed mining as the most dangerous occupation in the United States.

And the fall harvest season with its pressure to get the crops in the barns before bad weather sets the stage for a serious accident. When you're tired or in a hurry, accidents are more likely to happen. Ron Jester, University of Delaware Extension safety specialist says it's natural to take pride in one's

ability to work long hours in pursuit of a goal. However, fatigue, drowsiness and illness frequently contribute to mishaps in the field. Add dust and noise to the hurry and fatigue, plus possible bad weather and equipment that's not harvest-ready, and it's not surprising that farmers sometimes make mistakes or fail to respond quickly enough in an emergency.

Here are some timely suggestions from Jester that can help you avoid a serious accident this fall.

- * Be sure all safety guards and shields are in place.

- * Always place blocks or stands under the combine header before doing any work underneath it.

- * Be certain the combine has stopped all rotation before making visual or hand inspections.

- * Be sure members of your family, as well as co-workers, have a reasonable understanding of the basic operation of the equipment in case an accident does happen. Sometimes an injury is made more severe because machinery wasn't turned off properly or was moved in the wrong direction.

Also know what you would do if you are first on the scene of a serious farm accident. Know how to raise or lower the hydraulic cylinder, turn off the engine or the PTO. Know how to set the brakes and stop the unloading augers. Accidents can be prevented. The safety practices you follow in advance will allow you to reap benefits not only during harvest but throughout life. Be careful!



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Check Stored Grain

Farmers should check all their stored grain at this time of year because heating of stored grain can be a symptom of insect activity or just too much moisture. In either case, the heating problem should be corrected before the grain is ruined. If grain requires pest control materials (as listed on page 66 of the 1987-88 Agronomy Guide), it should be done while the air temperature is still fairly high or above 60 degrees F. If it's moisture, then check for possible leaks in the roof. We have too much money invested in the seed, fertilizer and labor to lose it in storage.

To Protect Show Animals

September, in Lancaster County, is Fair time. It is also a time to be concerned about the health of show animals. Fairs should be a place where we can exhibit our animals; they should not be a place

York County FFA Swine Show, 1 p.m.

Thursday, September 15
North East Community Fair, North East, runs through September 17.

Oley Valley Community Fair, Oley, runs through September 17.

Solanco Fair, through the 16th. PA Egg Marketing quarterly meeting, Olde Hickory Inn, Lancaster, 6 p.m.

Friday, September 16
Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass.

York County FFA Swine Sale, York Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 17
Pride of York Co. Swine Sale, York Fairgrounds, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 18
Penn Ag annual meeting, Sheraton Inn, Gettysburg, Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, through the 24th.

Monday, September 19
Reading Fair, through the 24th. Gratz Fair, through the 24th.

Tuesday, September 20
Lancaster Fruit Growers' meeting, Kauffman's Fruit Farm & Market, Bird-in-Hand, 7:00 p.m.

Ephrata Fair, through the 24th. Harmony Grange Fair, Westover, through the 24th.

Wednesday, September 21
South Lancaster Co. Fair, Quarryville, through the 23rd.

Friday, September 23
1988 PA Maple Tour, Penn Wells

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for spreading disease and other ailments. Be considerate of other exhibitors and of other show animals. If your animals have an infection or contagious problems, leave them at home; it's like keeping a sick child out of school to protect those who are healthy. If you do show, consult your veterinarian about necessary tests and protective vaccines.

When you return your livestock to the farm after the show, isolate them from other animals on the farm before introducing them to their herdmates.

To Check Feed Bins

We are coming into the fall season where we see considerable temperature change from day to night. This causes a lot of moisture condensation, as we see it on car windows in the morning. This same type of condensation takes place in the bulk feed bins on our farms. It causes the build-up of molds on the bins and in the feed.

When feed bins are cleaned out, they should be inspected thoroughly, right down to the boot. Also, when you are taking feed out of the bin, keep a close watch for chunks of feed; it will tell you if a problem is developing.

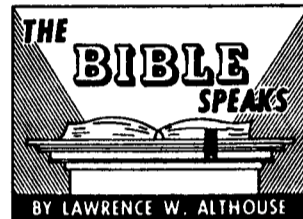
After cleaning out the bin, it should be sprayed with a mold inhibitor and allowed to dry. You can use calcium propionate solution as the inhibitor, at the rate of 21 ounces per gallon of water for the spray. One of the best ways to prevent this condensation problem is to insulate the bin. The insulation will slow down the temperature fluctuation.

To Stop Feeding Trees and Shrubs

The time is here when we should not be applying any fertilizer to rose bushes, trees and shrubs. The season's growing period is about over and new growth should have a chance to harden before cold weather arrives. When we fertilize during the fall we encourage new growth, which will be tender, and will winter-kill in zero weather.

It is best to wait until early spring to apply any plant food to these types of plants. Mulching is a good practice to help conserve moisture and control weeds, but keep the fertilizer in the bag until the 1989 season.

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WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...
September 11, 1988

Background Scripture: Job 2:11-13; 4:1-9; 11; 13:1-12.

Devotional Reading: Proverbs 18:24 through 19:7.

You know how the old saying goes: "With friends like these, who needs enemies?" That must be the way Job felt about his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, when they came "to condole with him and comfort him" (Job 2:11). That was their intention, but it was hardly the effect they had upon Job. When all three had finished giving him their advice, he responded with unmistakable anger, calling their counsel "lies," themselves "worthless physicians," and demanding that they "keep silent."

THEY "MEANT WELL"

Don't you think Job was a bit harsh with his friends? After all, they did come to see him in his time of suffering. They came with the best of intentions: to "condole with him" and what they said to Job represented the very most current religious thinking of the day. It was assumed that prosperity was a sign of God's favor, while adversity was a consequence of God's displeasure. Just about everybody believed that in Job's time-- and for many centuries before and after.

Let's see what his three friends said to him. Eliphaz simply stated

the popular belief that suffering is the punishment for sin: "As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same" (4:8). Bildad advised Job to pray because God answers the prayers of the upright: "If you are pure and upright, surely then he will rouse himself for you..." (8:6). Zophar attempts to console Job with the observation that he is really suffering less than he deserves: "Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves" (11:6b).

Note that all three of Job's friends, although their advice is different, share one thing in common: each is certain that Job's suffering must be attributable to his sins. So, these three friends came with the best of intentions and armed with the best religious thinking of the day, but they turned out to be the kind of friends Job didn't need.

BITTER THINGS

Actually, Job's well-meaning but harmful friends are still with us today. Smug in their human understanding of the complexities of life, they hand out their simplistic platitudes to all whom they find in need. "Everything will work out all right," they assure us -- and it doesn't! "It is God's will for you to do this," they advise us. "God is punishing you," they warn us. "Just turn it over to God and your troubles will be gone," we are promised. And they are utterly sincere in what they tell us.

But it is their arrogance -- for that's what it is when we profess to know so completely the mind of God -- that makes them, not only painful friends, but also dangerous sinners in the eyes of God.

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 10
PA Holstein Championship Show, State College, Ag Arena, 9:00 a.m.

Schaefferstown Horse Parade & Harvest Fair, 10:00 a.m. Runs through Sunday.

Autumn Harvest Hereford Classic, Spring Bottom Farm, Fairfield, 11:00 a.m.

Sire Power open house, Tunkhannock headquarters, 10 a.m.

Monday, September 12
Bellwood-Antus Farm Show, Bellwood, runs through September 15.

Claysburg Area Farm Show, Claysburg, runs through September 15.

Green Township Community Fair, Commodore, runs through September 17.

Tuesday, September 13
Wyoming/Lackawanna Holstein

Field Day, Wayne & Roger Sherwood's Farm.

Denver Fair, Denver, runs through September 17.

Albion Area Fair, Albion, runs through September 17.

Sinking Valley Community Farm Show, Skelp, runs through September 17.

Wednesday, September 14
Corn & Soybean Field Day, PSU Research Lab, Landisville, 10:00 a.m.

Berlin Brothersvalley Fair, Berlin, runs through September 17.

Williamsburg Community Fair, Williamsburg, runs through September 19.

Solanco Fair, runs through September 16.
The Big E Fair, West Springfield, Mass., runs through September 25.

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