

# Kid's KOrner

## Mowing Safety Quiz: Can You Cut It?

GAP (Lancaster Co.) — Each year there are more than 60,000 lawn-mowing related injuries. In almost all cases, the accidents are preventable. All it takes is knowledge about how a power mower operates and understanding of some safe mowing techniques.

In 1985, Briggs and Stratton, the world's largest manufacturer of engines for outdoor power equipment, developed the "Knowing Mowing Safety Program." The 90-minute course is taught at Red Cross chapters and lawn mower dealers throughout the country.

As part of this national focus on mowing safety, Gap Power Equipment, on Rt. 30 in Gap, offers this simple quiz on lawn mowing safety.

See if you and your kids can cut it!

### QUESTIONS

1. Name three dangerous parts of a power mower.
2. Name two safety features that all mowers should be equipped with.
3. As soon as the mower is turned off, does the blade stop mowing?
4. As soon as the gas tank runs out you can refill it? (True or False)
5. You should turn off the mower every time you cross a sidewalk or driveway. (True or False)
6. How hot can a lawn mower engine get while running?
7. When using a walk-behind mower, always mow a slope or hill: a. across the incline b. up and

down the incline c. in either direction — both are safe

8. It is safe to mow over small sticks and other items on the lawn?

9. It's OK to let someone ride on the back of a riding mower? (True or False)

10. How do you safely mow around a tree: a. Tip the mower as you move around the tree b. Pull the mower toward you periodically c. Keep all four wheels on the ground as you turn

### ANSWERS

1. Some dangerous parts on a power lawn mower include: a. the sharp cutting blade spinning beneath the mower that can cause serious cuts or lacerations. b. An open discharge chute is where grass is discharged, but it also can shoot out other objects at over 200 miles per hour. c. Belts and rotating parts can catch loose clothing or fingers. d. a hot engine or muffler can cause severe burns.

2. Safety features which all mowers should have are a discharge chute guard and a rear skirt to protect against objects thrown from the rear of the mower. c. a retaining post to hold the spark plug wire.

This wire always should be disconnected when a mower is not in use or being worked on to prevent accidental sparks. d. A bail bar is located at the handle, which, when released, automatically stops the blade or sometimes the engine. Never tape down the bail bar!

3. No. The blade can take 3 to 10 seconds to stop spinning after the



A "Knowing Mowing" instructor presents students with certificates after completing the "Knowing Mowing" lawn mower safety course sponsored by Briggs & Stratton and the American Red Cross. Some of the important safety tips they've learned are: never mow barefoot, never pull a mower toward you and always mow when grass is dry.

engine is turned off.

4. FALSE. Allow the engine to cool for about 10 minutes. Gasoline spilled on a hot engine could catch fire. Also make sure the spark plug wire is disconnected when refueling. Gas spilled on a

spark plug can also ignite the mower. And only fill your gas tank 3/4 full because gasoline expands when heated.

5. TRUE. Shut off the mower when you cross a driveway or sidewalk because a stone or

another object could get kicked up or flung out of the mower. It's also not good for the blade.

6. The muffler can reach up to 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

7. (A) When using a walk-behind mower, mow across the incline to maintain proper balance and footing. If you try to mow uphill, the mower could roll backward over you. Mowing downhill, you could slip and fall under the mower. But remember to mow up and down with a riding mower, which is heavy and could slip going side to side.

8. NO. Never mow over any items on the lawn. These objects could be kicked up and out of the mower. Always clear the entire yard, including sidewalks, and driveway, or any sticks, stones, debris, toys and especially pets and other people.

9. FALSE. Never let anyone ride with you on a riding mower. They could easily fall off and be run over or injured by the blade, discharged objects or wheels.

10. (C) When turning the mower, always keep four wheels on the ground. Tipping the mower exposes that deadly blade and pulling it towards you can throw you off balance.

HOW DID YOU DO? Ten correct: You can cut it! Fewer than 10 correct: Don't take the chance of injuring yourself or others by improperly using outdoor power equipment.

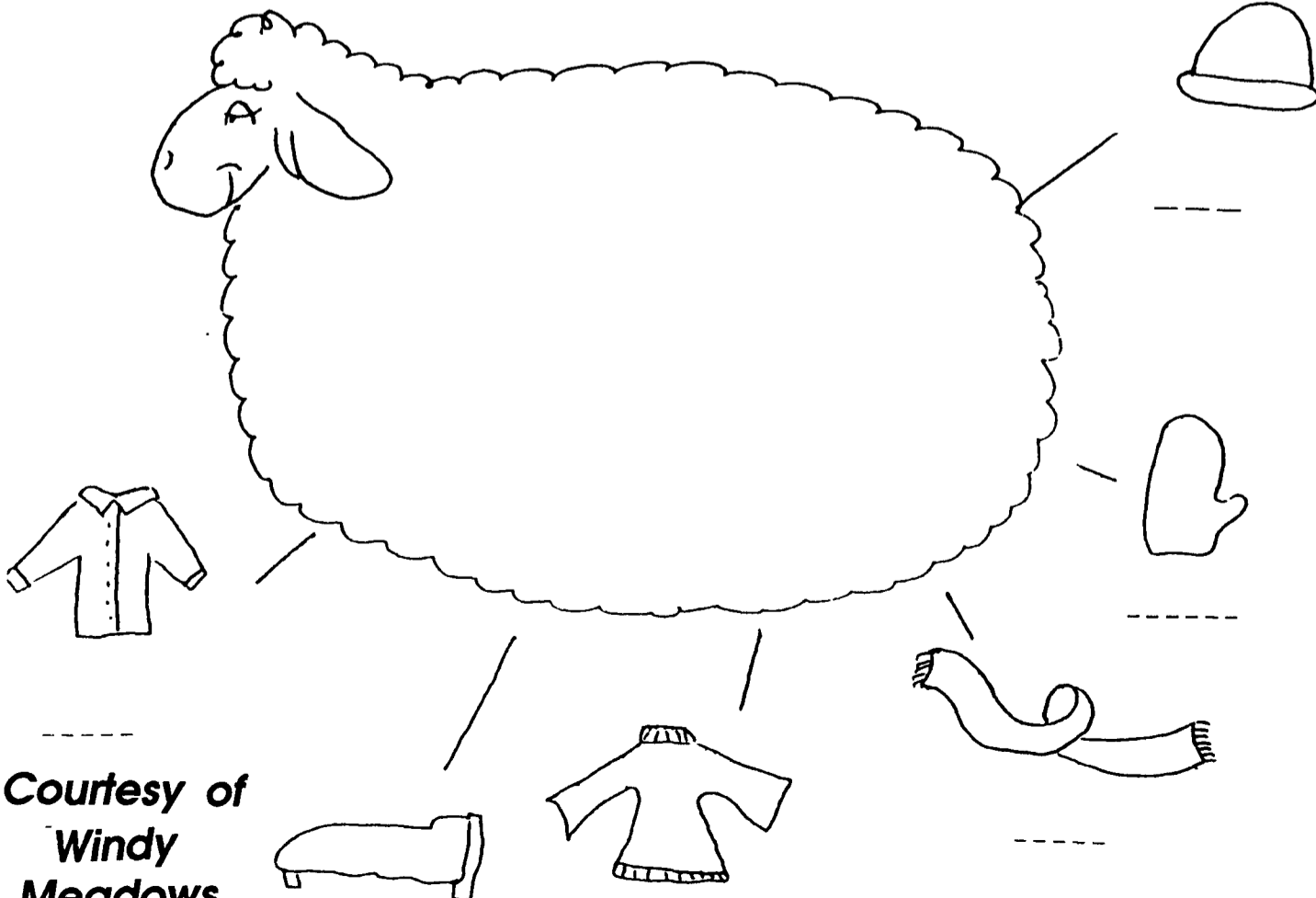
Before tackling any lawn mowing chores, enroll in a "Knowing Mowing" course.

Gap Power Equipment of Gap will offer the "KNOWING MOWING" classes on April 13, at 10 a.m. at Salisbury Twp. Park, Rt. 897, in Gap (Raindate is April 20). The 90-minute course is open, free of charge, to anyone 12 years of age or older.

To register, call Gap Power Equipment at (717) 442-8970.

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