

Penn State Establishes Ag Endowment

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)—The Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council (PASC) has given \$12,000 to create a farm safety endowment in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Our purpose in establishing this endowment is to promote agricultural safety and health among the citizens of Pennsylvania," said Robert E. Faubel, PASC president and property staff adjuster at Old Guard Mutual Insurance Company in Lititz.

"This endowment will be used to develop strong linkages for the dissemination of safety information and to promote overall public awareness of the risks associated with farming activities," said Faubel.

The fund will support extension programs, research, and other components of the Agricultural Safety and Health program in Penn State's agricultural and biological engineering department.

"We're delighted to accept this generous gift from the council," said Dr. Lamartine F. Hood, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. "This endowment will benefit the entire agricultural community."

"Farming remains one of the most hazardous professions in the nation," said Sam Steel, senior project assistant in the agricultural safety and health program. "Our goal is to raise public awareness of the risks faced by farmers and other agricultural workers. This fund will help us reach more people."

The endowment may support the purchase of a farm safety van,

which would transport agricultural safety exhibits and demonstrations to functions ranging from county fairs to extension meetings.

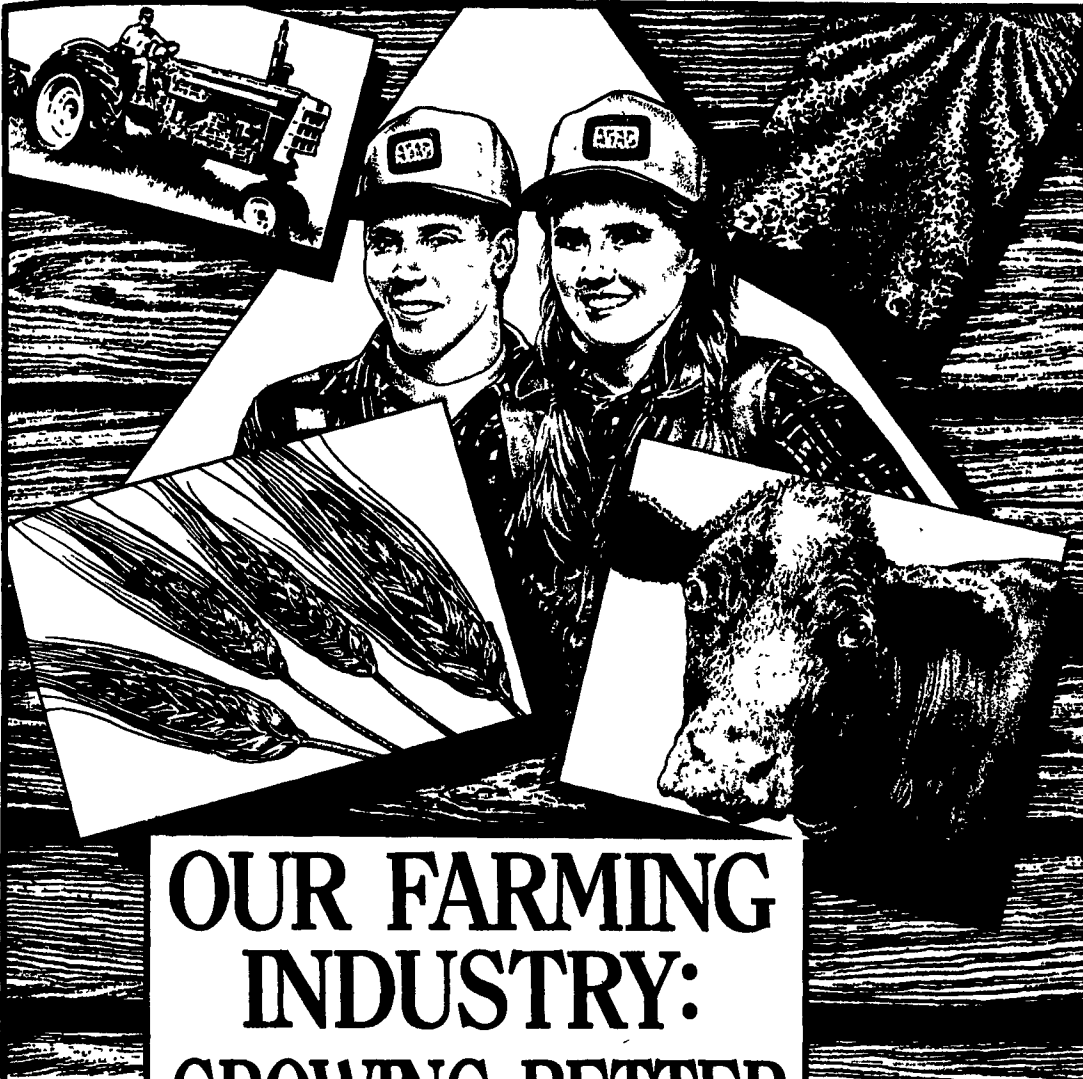
"The van would make it easier to bring those exhibits to a wider audience," Steel said. "Our ultimate goal is to reduce agriculture-related accidents and health problems by making agricultural workers more careful."

One exhibit demonstrates how quickly accidents can occur around power take-off shafts that drive grain elevators and other farm equipment. "This demonstration tests an individual's reaction time, revealing the nearly superhuman speed necessary to avoid serious harm when accidents occur," Steel said. "People leave the exhibit realizing that powered machinery should be treated with caution and respect."

Other exhibits compare various types of respirators and air filters, demonstrate the hazards of improper corn harvester operation, and illustrate how tractor rollovers occur and can be prevented.

To raise additional support, the PASC is offering a limited edition Keystone Farm Safety Tractor model. The collectible model represents a 1967 Allis-Chalmers Model 170, which featured an early version of a factory installed rollover protection structure with seatbelt. Proceeds from the sale of 500 numbered tractors will go to the endowment.

For more information about the model or farm safety issues, contact the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council, 246 Agricultural Engineering Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 863-7710.



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