



# OPINION

## Farms: Risky For Children

Every year between 175 and 300 children are killed in the United States while working or playing on the farm. Another 23,000 are seriously injured.

Why are children at such risk on farms? Terry Moddox, Dairy Extension Agent in Huntingdon County says part of the answer lies within the structure of the agricultural industry. Production agriculture employs many individuals whose age is outside of that found in other industries -- below the age of 18 and over the age of 62.

Children on farms are often exposed to a wide array of occupational and environmental hazards that are not present in other industries. In addition to young individuals who work on the farm, many youngsters live and play around the farm exposing themselves to hazards that are uniquely dangerous.

Children take on many roles around the farm including working, accompanying adults, and playing. Agriculture-related injuries can occur during all of these facets of farm life.

Many children are injured while working. Injuries can occur when children operate and work around machinery. Injury scenarios can include tractor rollovers, falls from equipment or ladders, and entanglement in power take-off shafts and other machine components such as augers. Children are injured during livestock-related chores, such as feeding animals or cleaning out livestock pens, and are most often kicked, bitten, or crushed by animals much larger than themselves.

What you can do:

- 1) Make sure that a child is old enough (physically and mentally capable) to safely complete a job.
- 2) Before allowing a child to operate or work around machinery, train them in its proper operation, making sure that the child understands the following:
  - \* how to shut off the machine
  - \* the basic theory of how the machine functions
  - \* what aspects of the machine present special hazards
- 3) Allow the child worker to take rest breaks when tired
- 4) Remember that the child's understanding of the machine is not as thorough as yours.

Children have been injured while accompanying adults. As the extra rider, numerous children have been run over after falling off a tractor. Too many children have been injured or killed by riding on trailed equipment and falling off, sometimes going underneath the equipment itself. Children riding in grain trucks and gravity-flow unloading wagons have been suffocated by flowing grain.

What you can do:

- 1) For your child's sake do not let them ride on equipment unless it is specifically designed for an extra rider.
  - 2) Do not let youngsters enter a grain truck, wagon, or grain bin, especially when the grain is flowing.
  - 3) Always keep an accompanying child within eyesight. Know their whereabouts at all times.
- Children are injured while playing. The farmyard can seem like a giant playground just waiting to be explored and conquered. The painful reality is that kids are injured while playing in work areas or while watching someone else work.

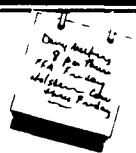
All too real examples include: being backed over by trucks, tractors, and implements; falling off of ladders, hay mows, or through floors; becoming entangled in augers, power take-offs, or gutter cleaners; ingesting milk pipeline cleaner, pesticides, and other harmful chemicals; and falling into and drowning in manure pits, lagoons, wells, stock tanks, and ponds.

What you can do:

- 1) Provide a play area that is fenced off from machinery and other hazards.
- 2) Designate hazardous farm areas as "off limits" to children.
- 3) Make sure you know where your children are at all times.
- 4) Be sure ladders that are "off limits" end at least seven feet above the ground to prevent child access.
- 5) Do not leave pesticide or caustic cleaner containers in child accessible areas.
- 6) Do not let youngsters play in grain bins, grain trucks, or grain wagons.
- 7) Maintain your equipment and be sure that all guards and shields are in place and functioning.

Be Careful! The fall season with corn and bean harvest under way is a prime time for an accident to happen.

## Farm Calendar



Saturday, October 31  
Halloween

Juniata County Grazing Field Day, farm of Edgar and Lorraine Rits, Honey Grove, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Annual Harvest Field Day, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Clucas Farms, Oldwick, N.J.  
Nittany Lion Fall Classic Sale, Ag Arena, State College, 11 a.m.

Sunday, November 1

Monday, November 2  
Half-Day Dairy Workshop, Almond Grange Hall, 10:30 a.m.-noon and Filmore Fire Hall, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, November 3  
Election Day



**NOW IS THE TIME**  
By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Check Alfalfa Fields

Now is a good time to start determining which alfalfa fields need to be rotated to another crop.

Start this fall by counting the number of plants per square foot. Fields with 4 to 5 plants per square foot should be considered good candidates for rotation next spring.

However, knowing the number of plants per square foot should not be the only criteria for selection. Individual plants may respond to

### Wednesday, November 4

Northeast Lamb Pool, Wyalusing Sales Barn.

Westmoreland County Farm-City Night, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 7 p.m.

Fawn Grove Olde Tyme Days meeting, Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.

Lancaster County Conservation District annual meeting, Stockyard Inn, noon.

Northeast Silage Management and Dairy Nutrition Conference, N.Y. State Grange Headquarters, Cortland, N.Y., 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Fruit School, St. Pius Retreat House, Blackwood, N.J., thru Nov. 6.

Farm-City Night, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 6:30 p.m.

Half-Day Dairy Workshop, East Randolph Fire Hall, 10:30 a.m.-noon and Ellicottville, Cornell Coop. Ext. office, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

### Thursday, November 5

ADA/DC District 3, Chateaugay, N.Y., noon, or Nov. 10.

Lehigh County Cooperative Extension annual meeting, Animal Rights and You, Seipstown Grange, 7:30 p.m.

Erie County Cooperative Extension annual meeting, Edinboro Inn, 7 p.m.

Sustainable Poultry Production Farm Tour and Workshop for the Small Producer, begins with farm tour at Bill and Teri Robinson, Freeburg, 10:30 a.m.

Northeast Silage Management and Dairy Nutrition Conference, Wildwood Conference Center, Harrisburg Community College, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Half-Day Dairy Workshop, First Citizen National Bank, Ulysses, 10:30 a.m.-noon and First Baptist Church, Galeton, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

### Friday, November 6

Lancaster 4-H Dairy Awards Night, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

National Conference on Direct and Niche Marketing of Lamb and Wool, Turf Valley Hotel, Ellicott City, Md., through Nov. 7.  
ADA/DC District 13, Vernon Center United Methodist Church,

(Turn to Page A11)

low plant population by producing more stems next season.

Wisconsin research shows that maximum yields are produced with 55 or more stems per square foot. Next spring after growth starts, return to your suspect fields and count the number of stems per square foot. When stems average only 40 per square foot, you may expect yields to be reduced by 25 percent.

Identification of suspected fields in the fall will improve time management next spring when things are rushed.

### To Give Housed Cattle Attention

As we bring cattle, especially heifers, in from pastures it may be beneficial to deworm them. Consult your veterinarian for specific recommendations.

At the same time, ask your veterinarian about the need for specific vaccinations, especially for respiratory diseases.

To minimize the risk of health problems with confined cattle, avoid overcrowding. Also, provide them with well-ventilated, draft-free and dry facilities. If necessary, install a ventilation system.

Remember, fresh air is much

more important than warm air. If you have fans installed, be sure they are routinely serviced and the louvers are clean and open and close properly.

Check the air inlets. The inlets are what makes the ventilation system function. They need to admit fresh air to all parts of the stable and enough air to avoid drafts and to let the fans remove stale air.

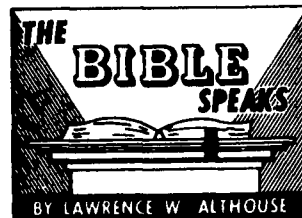
### To Prevent Calf Scours

One of the most common diseases of young calves is diarrhea. It is responsible for most of the deaths that occur within a week of birth.

The most important cause of infectious diarrhea is Escherichia coli. Young calves may pick up this bacteria from the environment and dirty feeding utensils. Thus, sanitation becomes very critical.

Be sure the young calf is born and raised in a clean environment. Because of its nutritional value, milk is a good media for bacteria growth. It is very important to clean and sanitize milk feeding equipment after each feeding.

*Feather Prof's Footnote:* "Cherishing children is the mark of a civilized society." — Joan Cooney



AN END TO LIMPING  
November 1, 1992

### Background Scripture:

1 Kings 17:1-7; 18.

### Devotional Reading:

1 Kings 18:30-39.

Some years ago, a nationally prominent clergyman was challenged to appear on a television program with an equally well known atheist. During their debate, the clergyman lost his temper and, in the view of many of those who watched the encounter, the debate as well. The clergyman became so angry with the atheist that he lost his ability to discuss the issues.

Actually, this well-known atheist makes a lot of Christians angry, some of them downright hateful. She is the kind of person that lots of Christians love to hate. They regard her as a great threat to Christianity, little realizing that their angry responses to her are greater threats to the cause of Christ than her atheistic professions.

### BAAL & GOD

The question is not how vigorously we defend the Gospel, but how energetically we live it. To some degree, this was the situation with which Elijah confronted the people of Israel. These people were not in open rebellion against God. So far as we know, there were no atheists among them. They counted themselves as loyal Israelites, as part of God's chosen people.

So, it was not that they had chosen Baal instead of God, but Baal in addition to God. They were enjoying what seemed to them the best of both worlds, serving both God and Baal. And that is why Elijah challenged them with these ringing words: "How long will you go limping with two different opinions?" (18:31). The "limping," scholars think, is a reference to a ritualistic dance which the priests used to perform around the altar, beding and leaping with various contortions. So, Elijah is probably using this strange dance

as an analogy: they are limping through life, literally hopping from one foot to the other — obviously, a ridiculous spectacle.

To me this story's main relevance for us today is our similar disposition to count ourselves as Christians, yet live by the standards of the world. Vocally, we declare our allegiance to the way of Christ, but when it comes down to day to day living, it is the Baal of materialism and secular values by which we live our lives and measure virtually everything. Instead of "Like a mighty army moves the Church of God," we limp through life, hopping from one foot to another. To evoke—and perhaps, mix—yet another metaphor: it is virtually impossible to march while you're straddling a fence!

### CHOOSE & SERVE

So Elijah lays down the challenge: "If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him" (18:21b). Instead of trying to worship and serve both God and Baal, decide who you will choose as Lord and follow him. If the secular world is right about what is important in life, what constitutes success and failure, what are life's highest values, then, by all means embrace the secular and stop giving lip-service to God. Don't bother defending God. It isn't defense he wants from us, but obedience. It isn't words, but deeds.

But, if we really believe that the love of God in Jesus Christ is the most important reality in the world, then we must let that reality dominate our lives. In other words, Christ challenges us as Elijah challenged the people of Israel: make your choice and live accordingly. You can have the world or you can have the Gospel—but not both. It is time to stop limping and start marching.

### Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday  
Ephrata Review Building  
1 E. Main St.  
Ephrata, PA 17522

— by —  
Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Stehman Enterprise

Robert C. Campbell General Manager  
Everett R. Newwanger Managing Editor

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