

Kids' KOrner

Safe Kids America Week Is May 22 To 29

NEWARK, DE — Safe Kids America Week, a national effort devoted to raising awareness of childhood injury prevention, is kicking off in Delaware on May 22 at the Blue Hen Mall in Dover at 3 p.m. Delaware Safe Kids Coalition and the Division of Public Health are sponsoring the program. Delaware's lieutenant governor, Ruth Ann Minner, will preside over the festivities.

The day's events include demonstrations of bicycle, fire, water and poison safety. Also scheduled are recycling and exercise demonstrations as well as fingerprinting and face painting. Costumed characters, including Smokey the Bear and the buckle-up dummies Vince and Larry, will be meeting and greeting children and their parents.

According to Ron Jester, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension safety specialist and chair of the Safe Kids Coalition, preventable injury is the number-one-killer of children aged 14 and

under. He says that efforts throughout the week will focus on different safety issues.

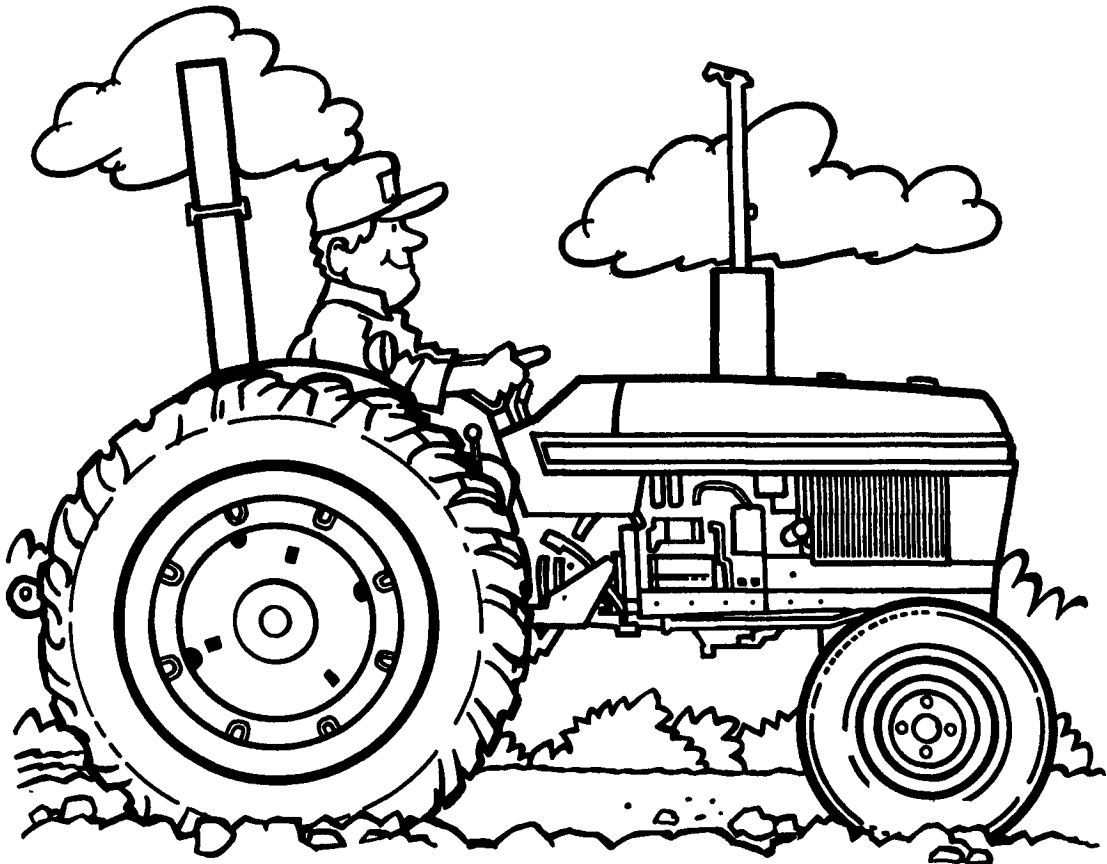
Monday will feature traffic safety including seat-belt use and bike safety. Bicycle rodeos will be held at schools and parks in the state.

The focus for Tuesday is fire safety including tours at the Dover Fire School.

Wednesday, legislative day, will be used to present issues related to childhood injury prevention to the state legislature. Children who have survived accidents because of equipment such as bike helmets, car seats and smoke detectors will be recognized at a ceremony in Dover.

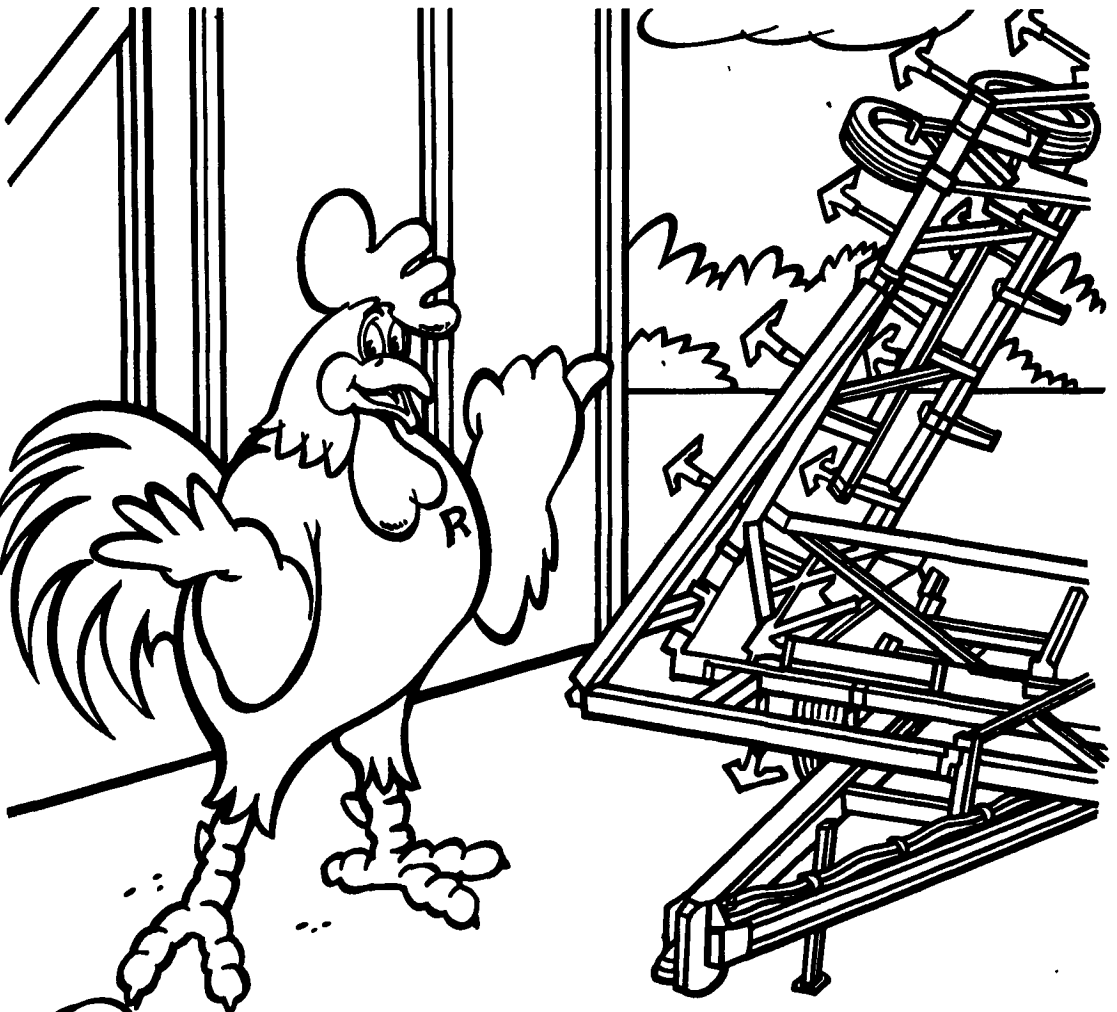
On Thursday playgrounds in each of Delaware's counties will be inspected for equipment safety.

For information on how you can get involved in Safe Kids America Week, contact Ron Jester at (302) 856-7303 or your county extension office.



Don't ask for a ride. Real tractors aren't toys.

Play it safe, sometimes it's good to be a chicken.



Only a turkey would play around sharp points. Can you find all the sharp points on this machine?

Fifth Grader Spends Day As Scientist

NEWARK, Del. — A day as a scientist for fifth-grader Sheryl Grieve took her on a grand tour of the facilities of the College of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Delaware on March 10. The Forest Oak student's prize for winning a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) essay contest was spending a day at her dream job.

DARE is a drug prevention program implemented by state and local police departments across the country. All of Delaware's public elementary schools and many private schools participate in the program. Depending on when a school district makes the transition from elementary to middle school, the DARE program is taught in the 5th or 6th grade. The focus is on the exit grade before entering middle school.

Corporal Antonio Asion, working through the community services division of the Delaware State Police, has headed the DARE program for three years. The DARE essay contest was his way to follow up on the effectiveness of the 17-week program. Asion, known as Corporal Tony to students, thought a day on the dream job would be a fitting reward for a well-written essay.

"The first thing I have the kids do during the program is tell about themselves and their dreams," Asion says. "I emphasize how drugs can ruin that dream and then we keep the idea alive over the 17 weeks."

Although Asion doesn't have a formal technique for tracking DARE students, he says differences in attitudes among children

who have been through the program and those who have not are easily observable.

"When visiting high schools, I see a difference in respect (among DARE students)," he says. "DARE students are more attentive."

Sheryl is a model DARE student, attentive to every detail of her day as a scientist. Before the day on her dream job, she equated being a scientist with being a chemist. And although she spent a good deal of time in laboratories surrounded by pipettes, chromatographs and test tubes, she admitted that she broadened her concept of being a scientist as a result of her whirlwind tours of greenhouse, animal science and soils laboratories. Perhaps a career in a science other than chemistry could be in Sheryl's future.

The opportunity to hold a live mockingbird as part of her introduction to wildlife conservation was a hit. But not every subject area tempted Sheryl. An hour in an entomology laboratory produced grimaces and a gentle but firm rejection of the opportunity to feed cabbage looper caterpillars to spined soldier bugs. At the end of that hour, Sheryl admitted that studying insects could be interesting — for someone else, not her.

Like many scientists, Sheryl is a person of few words but keen observation, saving her comments until all data is collected. When her day as a scientist was complete and Sheryl had a moment to reflect and weigh her experiences, she knew with certainty that the part she liked best was "holding the bird."