

Panic Pierces The Heart

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County 4-H Tractor Safety Program was born.

Through tremendous dedication, Fran and Dale Bushong built our 4-H Tractor Safety Club. Their enthusiasm bubbled over into the kids and other leaders.

The program grew to cover four safety units plus the tractor safety and certification program. Even though the Bushongs are no longer its leaders, a core of dedicated, and excellent leaders have been maintained.

Over the years, the club has had as its goals: to inspire our 4-H youth to think safety first; to provide 4-H youth with "hands on" tractor driving training; to train youth in proper tractor and equipment maintenance; and to provide a positive 4-H learning experience that develops the youth's practical skills and self worth while having fun.

Each year, the Lebanon County 4-H Tractor Safety Program has surpassed the club's goals. The 1993 Tractor Safety members were introduced to a core of new leadership that rose to the challenge of providing a great 4-H experience. This was done with the help and enthusiasm of four teen leaders that volunteered. All were members of last year's club and felt the desire to help out.

Though not a large club, two girls and 15 boys took the opportunity to learn through the 4-H Tractor Safety Program in 1993 which met weekly for 10 weeks from mid-January to April. The lessons included demonstrations, safety video tapes and "hands on" shop sessions.

The Unit 2 members met in the Lebanon Valley Implement Shop and many times they were up to their elbows in grease, tearing

down engines, studying fuel systems, doing maintenance checks, etc.

The Occupational Hazard Unit chose to have two Saturday shop days at Messicks Farm Equipment.

Special friendships developed as 4-H'ers worked together in the classroom and preparing demonstrations. Carol Ungemach, 4-H'er Michael Ungemach's mother, shared how much her son learned and how great a time he had. She said, "That Tractor Club was something Michael was really into and he found a good friend in the club, Jarod Zimmerman. He just can't wait till he can work in the shop next year."

Another highlight of the club's year is the educational field trip. This year was no exception.

In mid-April, about 45 members, leaders, parents and other family members journeyed to the Fiat-New Holland manufacturing plant in New Holland. Fiat-New Holland personnel graciously hosted us to an exciting tour of the farm equipment plant.

Safety in the plant was stressed. It was very evident how far behind agriculture at the farm level is in relationship to industry when it comes to safety.

Late April brought the climax of the year. The Achievement Recognition Banquet was held at the Lebanon Valley Agricultural Center. Almost 80 people enjoyed a covered dish picnic dinner that was topped off by member awards and demonstrations and a special presentation by guest speaker, Dr. Albert Price, a Lancaster County medical doctor and Director of the Lancaster County Safe Kid Coalition.

Dr. Price's enthusiastic and heart felt talk on the urgency of making our farmsteads safer for

our farm kids touched all.

Dr. Price praised the efforts of the 4-H leaders and members and challenged the families in attendance to take up the charge of farm safety and ensuring safety for our kids. He encouraged Lebanon County to take an even more aggressive approach.

Awards were presented to Jason Gahres, Michael Ungemach and Darren Brandt for being the top tractor drivers in Unit 1 and Unit 2, respectively.

Todd Getz was recognized for having the highest score on the Occupational Hazard test. George Dice was honored for having the best 4-H Record Book. Chris Wagner, Jeremy Troutman, Jason Blatt, and Mike Blecker were recognized for serving as teen leaders.

Jeremy Troutman was awarded a certificate for his achievements as Pennsylvania State 4-H Tractor Driving winner in 1992 and his placing of fifth at the Eastern National Agricultural Engineering Event in Richmond, Virginia.

Of course, recognition would not be complete without thanking those that make the 4-H Tractor Safety Training a hit — the 1993 4-H Tractor Safety Club leaders.

Those leaders of Unit 1 were Jim Dice and Carl Blatt, and Unit 2 leader was Ronnie Lehman. The Occupational Hazard Certification leaders were Pete and Ivan Hanson.

The sponsors for the banquet, awards and recognition were BHM Farm Equipment, Binkley and Hurst Inc., Evergreen Tractor Company, Fahnestock Farm Service, Mark Hershey Farms, Hubers Animal Health, Ju Vin Dale Holsteins, Keller Brothers, Lancaster Safe Kids Coalition, Lebanon Valley Implement Company, Carlos R. Leffler Inc., Messicks Farm Equipment, Calvin & Susie Miller Family, Oakenbound Holsteins,

Promise Lane Farm, Stauffer Tractor Repair, Umbergers of Fontana, and Wengers Farm Machinery.

As we reflect on National Safe Kids Week, let us all take up the challenge set forth by Dr. Price — the challenge to make our farmsteads a safer place for our kids. Let this next week be your beginning to a safer workplace — your farm. Isn't your family worth that?

Maybe you are interested enough to get something started in your community or county.

SRBC Chairman Writes To Correct Headline

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—The headline on page 1 of Lancaster Farming's May 15, 1993, issue related to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's (SRBC) decision that "Ag Should pay for using Susquehanna water" was incorrect. Actually, the commission postponed such a decision for another year by continuing ag's exemption. In addition, the commission consists of only four members, not five members, since the executive director is not a commission member.

Commission Chairman John R. McCarty writes: "Apparently, your reporter took one statement made by a Commissioner which questioned the wisdom of extending "regulatory" or "application fee" exemptions to any user and interpreted this as a "decision" by the Commission to revoke the current "application/monitoring fee" exemption for agriculture. Contrary to the implication of your headline and the first paragraph of the article, this exemption remains in effect for agriculture, and there is no immediate plan to revoke this exemption.

"Actually, this meeting item did

Through the 4-H Program and your Penn State Extension agent, we can assist you. Why not give us a call.

As we surge into the summer's growing season and anticipated harvest, let's take a moment to give thanks for keeping our family and family farm safe.

Don't let the panic of losing a loved one — your little Johnny or Mary — pierce your heart because of farm safety neglect.

They're not "just kids" they're YOUR kids.

not deal with "application/monitoring fees" at all, but with the question of how the Commission's consumptive use regulation should be applied to agricultural users. Ag users are not exempt from that regulation, though the Commission has had a suspension of the regulation in effect for agriculture since May, 1992.

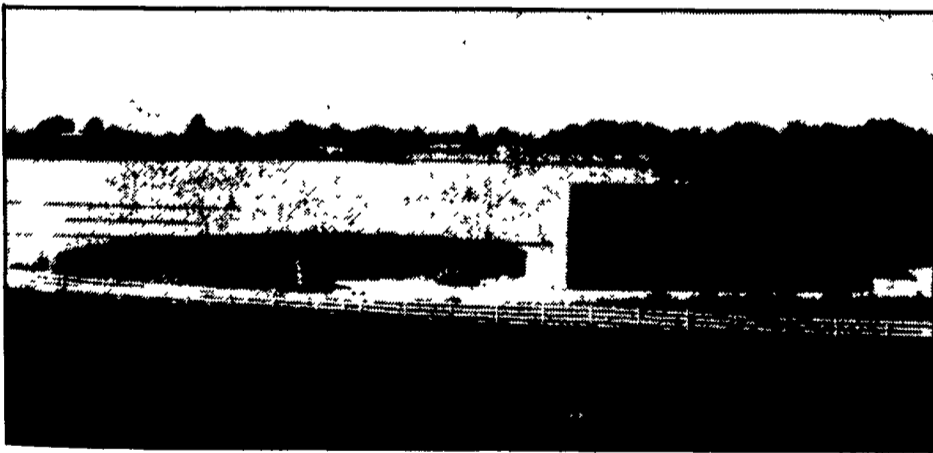
"During the period of the suspension, the Commission appointed an "Agricultural Water Use Advisory Committee" to formulate recommendations concerning possible changes in the regulation as it affects agriculture. These recommendations were presented to the Commission at the May 13, 1993, meeting along with the SRBC staff recommendations.

The Commission rejected both the Committee's and the Staff's recommendations and adopted a resolution extending the suspension of the regulation pending adoption of some unspecified amendments or the expiration of one year, whichever occurs first. The staff was further directed to present a proposal to the Commission providing for the registration of all water users in the basin. Thus, the Commission made no decision at the meeting directing agriculture to pay for Susquehanna water as indicated by your headline."

Editor's Note: While it is true the Commission made no decision at the meeting directing agriculture to pay for Susquehanna water, the Commission's own news release of the "meeting report" dated May 24, indicates the idea is on their minds. The news release says in part... "The Commission extended the current suspension of the regulation to agricultural users for up to one year while it... formulates possible amendments to the regulation including a procedure to register all water users. While taking no immediate action, the Commission made it clear that it does not favor a total exemption of agricultural uses"...

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