



OPINION

Farm Safety Week

Each year, approximately 130,000 people suffer disabling injuries on U.S. farms. During National Farm Safety and Health Week, September 19-25, the nation's attention will focus on efforts to make farms safer places to work and live.

The 50th annual observance of National Farm Safety and Health Week gives farm families a chance to review safety on their farm, says an expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Farming remains the nation's most dangerous occupation, and it's vital to be aware of how accidents happen and take steps to avoid them," says Dr. Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering. "Farm Safety and Health Week is a good time to inspect your farm and take care of any safety or health hazards."

Farmers also should review factors about the farm workplace that can increase their risk of injury. "Several aspects of farming are unique compared to other occupations," says Murphy. "For instance, most farmers and their families live, work and play at the worksite. That's a situation construction workers or salespeople don't share."

Most farmers also work longer than eight hours per day, especially dairy farmers who have chores that must be done seven days per week.

"Longer work hours can cause fatigue, increasing the chances of an accident when operating farm machinery," Murphy says. "Many chores must be done during twilight or at night, so poor visibility contributes to farm accidents."

Many farmers also work with large and unpredictable livestock. "Uncontrolled livestock are just as hazardous as heavy machinery," says Murphy. "A 1,200-pound bull can crush you as swiftly as a tractor rollover."

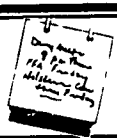
Many farmers work past age 65, often farming until age 75 or 80. Problems can result when a farmer's chores exceed his or her physical limits. "Compounding the problem, many farmers work alone during the day without fellow workers to assist in an emergency," says Murphy.

Farms also have younger workers than other workplaces. "Children can perform chores appropriate for their age, but some farmers let children operate tractors and other machinery before they are old enough to handle the responsibility," says Murphy. "Too often, that leads to tragedy."

"Most accidents resulting in serious injury or death to farmers, farm workers and family members are preventable, so take some time during Farm Safety and Health Week to check your farm and resolve situations that might threaten you or your loved ones."

The life you save may be your own or you may save the life of a loved one!

Farm Calendar



Saturday, September 18
 Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant, Sheraton East-Harrisburg, reception 5:30 p.m.; dinner 6:30 p.m.
 Dorset Fall Field Day, Perry Farm, Whitehouse Station, Hunterdon Co., N.J.
 Country Craft Fair, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Sept. 23.
 New Jersey Organic Country Fair, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, Pennington, N.J., 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
 The Days of the Past, Delaware Valley Old Time Power and Equipment Association, Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, N.J., thru Sept. 19.

York Fair Junior Livestock Sale, York Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.

Sunday, September 19
 Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, thru Sept. 25.

Gratz Fair, Gratz, thru Sept. 25.
Monday, September 20
 Pa. All-American, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru

Sept. 23.
 Pa. Junior Dairy Show at All-American, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.
 Reading Fair, Reading, thru Sept. 25.

Tuesday, September 21
 Fall Championship Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9:30 a.m.
 Ephrata Fair, Ephrata, thru Sept. 25.

Harmony Grange Fair, Harmony, thru Sept. 25.
 Successful Retirement Seminar, Walgreen Co., Lehigh Valley Distribution Center, Bethlehem, continues Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 22
Autumn Begins
 Eastern National Holstein Sale, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

West Lampeter Community Fair, Lampeter, thru Sept. 24.

Thursday, September 23
 Eastern National Holstein Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 8:30 a.m.



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
 Lancaster County
 Agricultural Agent

To Attend
Northeast Poultry Show
 The Northeast Poultry Show will be held September 29 and 30 at the Lancaster Host Resort, Route 30 east of Lancaster.

Educational programs are scheduled for both mornings. Topics include animal welfare, food safety, ventilation, SE research overview, disease management, and litter effect on turkey quality.

There is a registration fee for the morning programs. Both afternoons from noon to 5 p.m. the exhibit hall will be open. More than 100 exhibitors will be showing the latest in poultry equipment and services.

Admission to the exhibit hall is free. In addition, on Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m. Dr. Charles Pitts, Penn State entomologist, will discuss effective fly control. One pesticide credit in category 4, animals, will be given for people attending this session. On Thursday afternoon, Michael Brubaker, Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Services, will be discussing Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Law at 2 p.m.

Also, a \$100 bill will be awarded as a door prize for each hour the exhibit hall is open.

So, plan now to attend the largest poultry trade show in the Northeast. More information is available by contacting the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, 500 Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

To Observe
Farm Safety
And Health Week
 September 19 to 25 is National Farm Safety and Health Week. This year marks the 50th anniversary of this week, sponsored by the National Safety Council.

In 1992, 1,200 people died in farm-related accidents in the U.S. Safety and health education can play an important role in reducing fatalities and injuries on farms.

Progress has been made in some areas. Farmers, farm workers, and family members are safer when working with animals, around

Friday, September 24
 The Greater Appalachian Llama Conference, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, thru Sept. 26.

1993 Eastern National Livestock Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md., thru Sept. 27.

Pa. Maple Tour, Potato City, thru Sept. 25.

Lycoming Co. Fall Crops Day, begins at Dick Snyder Farm, near Montoursville, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 25
 Eastern National Livestock Show, Timonium, Md.

Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, thru Oct. 2.

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water, and in weather-related emergencies.

However, we need to continue to emphasize the importance of safety and good health. Tractor incidents are the leading cause of accidental death and injury on the farm.

To reduce tractor deaths, farmers must have rollover protective structures (ROPS) installed on all tractors. However, to protect the operator, the seat belt must be used at all times.

Also, tractor operators should never allow extra riders on the tractor. When dismounting the tractor, always make sure you have shut down the power takeoff unit.

Now is also a good time to think about your health. When was the last time you or any member of your family had a complete physical? As you schedule your physical, make sure to check when was the last time you had a tetanus shot. You might want to consider scheduling a flu shot to reduce your chances from working with the flu this winter.

Health and safety are two very important areas we to often take

for granted. Now is the time to take proactive actions to protect your health and well-being.

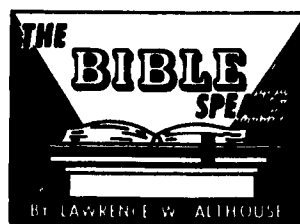
To Use Proper Diesel Fuel

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau reminds us that on October 1 this year the federal Clean Air regulations will require the use of low sulfur content diesel fuel in diesel powered vehicles used on highways.

High sulfur fuel, which will be color-dyed in contrast to the low sulfur fuel's clear color, will be permitted only for equipment used off the road.

Violators founded with dyed fuel on highways will be subject to fines up to \$25,000. Farmers with off- and on-road vehicles have the option of either buying all of the more expensive clear, low sulfur fuel, erecting separate storage tanks for low and high sulfur fuel, or purchasing low sulfur fuel at the pump.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." John Wooden



ON BEING TOO CLEVER

September 19, 1993

Background Scripture:
 Genesis 3:1-13

Devotional Reading:
 Psalms 51:1-4, 6, 9, 17

The times in my life when I have been most foolish are ironically the times when I thought I was most clever. Knowledge has never done me in. Neither has wisdom or understanding. But cleverness will every time.

If we are truly knowledgeable, truly wise and truly understanding, we will also have some degree of humility. We will recognize that, in spite of all that we do know, there is still a lot we do not know. And, no matter how much we may celebrate the powers of the intellect, we will know that there are limits beyond which intellect alone can not carry us. But, when we are clever we are also likely to be arrogant.

No one exalted wisdom and understanding more than the writer of Proverbs, but he also warns us: "Be not wise in your own eyes" (Prov. 3:7). I'm not saying there's anything inherently wrong in cleverness, but all too often it causes conceit and conceit often leads to trouble.

MORE SUBTLE

There are a number of varied strands in the story of the garden of Eden, but cleverness seems to be the besetting sin. First, with the serpent, whom the writer says is "more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made". The serpent's mouth drips with cleverness--(I can recognize it for mine has too, at times)--"Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?" He begins by sowing a clever seed of doubt. When Eve says that God warned that touching the fruit of the tree would bring death, the serpent replies with what must have seemed to be inside knowledge: "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (3:4).

If I had not read this story many, many times, I would have bet my bottom dollar that the serpent would not be successful in beguiling Eve. Think of it: the man and woman have it made. They live in a magnificent garden. All their needs are provided for. Their relationship with God and with each other leaves nothing lacking. What could the serpent possibly offer the woman to lead her to disobey?

What the serpent could and did offer the woman was the opportunity to be more clever than God. They didn't need the fruit of the tree; they could have lived forever without it--literally! But why not grab it! The man and the woman were too clever to believe that disobeying God would have any dire consequences.

THE SERPENTS' FAULT

There's no end to their cleverness. When God reproaches the man, he tries to load the blame on the woman and, indirectly, God himself: "The woman whom thou gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree and I ate" (3:12). And the woman cleverly tries to pass the buck to the serpent: "The serpent beguiled me and I ate" (3:13).

At the end of the story, the serpent could have appeared to Adam and Eve and said, "See I told you that you wouldn't die; he's just thrown you out of the garden, that's all!" But what neither the serpent nor the man and woman were smart enough to know is that living outside the garden eventually would mean death, for they had lost their innocence and with it their immortality.

Like the parables of Jesus, this story has different levels of interpretation and meaning for us. But, whatever else it may mean to you, it says that the genesis of sin is disobedience to God. And the source of disobedience is often an excess of cleverness and a deficit in humility.

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