



## OPINION

### Please Be Careful With Your PTO

The saga of power take-off (PTO) hazards continues, as these systems continue to cause serious injury and death among our farm population. You don't have to go to North Dakota for the much publicized PTO accident that caused a teenager to have a double amputation accident last winter. We have had accidents from PTO and PTO driven equipment much closer to home and even more recently.

Imagine being pulled into or around a metal shaft that spins between 540 and 1,000 times per minute. In the blink of an eye, you could lose your arms, your legs, or your life. Farm safety specialists like Dennis Murphy, professor at Penn State, are asking farmers to consider the potential for such accidents and take steps to avoid them.

PTO drivelines enable farmers to use their tractor's engine to power other equipment. But these drivelines can result in serious injury or death when they entangle the victim's limbs, loose clothing, jewelry, or even hair. Hair entanglements have resulted in six serious scalping incidents to female farmers in New York during the past decade. Recent comprehensive studies on PTO hazards at Purdue University produced the following data on fatal and nonfatal PTO incidents:

- the tractor or machinery operator was involved 78% of the time,
- PTO shielding was absent or damaged in 70% of the cases,
- PTO couplings were the entanglement areas approximately 70% of the time, and
- a bare PTO shaft, spring loaded push pin or through bolt was the driveline component at the point of contact in 63% of the cases.

In order to simulate the PTO hazard in a life-like scenario, the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Penn State has developed a new PTO hazard simulator demonstration. The computer-driven simulator was designed and developed by Tim Pierson, an instructor in the department. It proved to be a popular exhibit at the 1992 Ag Progress Days at Rock Springs. The simulator tests how quickly participants can pull away from the PTO driveline in a simulated incident. The computer randomly selects when the entanglement occurs. Some participants react very quickly but not quickly enough. In a real-life situation, they would still be wrapped between one to three feet around the PTO shaft.

Faculty and county extension staff who have demonstrated the PTO hazard simulator report that participants' reactions have ranged from scared to amazed. Many on-lookers have contributed their own personal stories about PTO entanglements.

We know of several of our readers who have had horrible experiences with PTO driven equipment. Life has been lost. Much suffering has been endured.

Please be careful with your PTOs in this silo-filling and corn-picking season.

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, October 16

Lancaster County Country Auction to benefit Lancaster Farm-land Trust, Paradise Sales Barn, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Forest Stewardship Landowner Workshop, Best Western Centre Court Restaurant and Conference Center, Montgomeryville, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Sunday, October 17

Old Time Plow Boys Club at the Seidel Farm, Mertztown, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

### Monday, October 18

Tulpehocken Young Farmers Dried Flowers Christmas Tree Demonstrator, High School ag classroom, 7:15 p.m.-9 p.m.

ADADC District 14 meeting, Tally-Ho Restaurant, Kanona, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 19

Grassland FFA Greenhouse Open House and Decorating, Garden Spot High School, 1 p.m.

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Silage Corn Management.

Westmoreland Co. Tested Hay Sale, Westmoreland Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.

ADADC District 4 meeting, Saratoga Co. Extension, Ballston Spa, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

ADADC District 9 meeting, Tally-Ho Restaurant, Richfield Springs, N.Y., 7:45 p.m.

ADADC District 11 meeting, Lansing Methodist Church, Lansing, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

Lancaster 4-H Leaders Recognition Banquet, Millersville U., 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 20

### Thursday, October 21

National Meeting on Poultry Health and Processing, Sheraton Ocean City, Ocean City, Maryland, thru Oct. 22.

Lancaster County 4-H Swine Ban-

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## NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Deworm Sheep

In the humid Mid-Atlantic region, sheep need to be dewormed more often than in other parts of the country, according to Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent.

The ewe flock should be dewormed every other month beginning in May with the last deworming occurring after a hard killing frost.

Lambs on pasture and replacement ewe and ram lambs, including the show stock, should be dewormed every 4 weeks. A variety of dewormers are available for sheep and should be rotated to decrease the chance of resistance.

Consult your veterinarian for advice on deworming products labeled for sheep.

### To Use Top Quality Bulls

According to Bennett Cassell, Virginia Tech dairy scientist, each breeding on your farm is an opportunity for genetic improvement of the herd.

According to Cassell, a successful, profitable breeding program involves the consistent use of top genetic bulls on all cows from which you want to keep any offspring.

If you are interested in upgrading your herd's genetics, even heifers should be bred to bulls known to have good genetics. What is a superior bull? Almost every breeder has their own definition and the answers vary among experts.

A good guide to start with might be to select a group of high PTAS bulls, with good reliability. From that group, select bulls that also

## Farm Forum

### Editor,

Several major farm organizations across the United States have united their efforts in urging the United States Senate Ag Committee to conduct a National Dairy Hearing.

In addition a letter signed by the organizations has been sent to all of the members of the United States Senate urging the Senate Members to support the efforts of the organizations in obtaining the needed milk hearing.

The joint letter points to the declining unstable milk prices received by dairy farmers in all areas of the United States, more importantly the group urges the United States Senate Ag Committee to make the hearing wide open and listen to all dairy proposals!

Bert Morris of the New York State Grange says, "the hearing is needed and it's time to put all the cards on the table."

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give you the additional traits you are breeding for or select bulls to improve the pedigree that will make your cows more marketable.

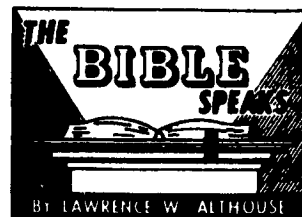
With your list of bulls in hand, buy semen and services in a very businesslike manner. Remember to update your bull selection every 6 months after the new sire summaries are printed. Also, avoid overstocking your semen tank.

The bulls that are superior today may become inferior in a year or so as proofs change and as genetic levels continue to climb.

### To Prepare For Emergencies

This past week I have learned about two very serious farm accidents. Both resulted in farmers losing one of their legs.

The first involved a farmer becoming entangled in a combine and the other involved the placing of a silo unloader in a silo. Fortunately for both, help was nearby and emergency personnel arrived



THE ONE WHO SEES US  
October 18, 1993

### Background Scripture:

Genesis 16:1-3, 15:1-18.

### Devotional Reading:

Genesis 16:1-15.

The story of Abram, Sarai, and Hagar must be read in the context of God's promise: "I will make of you a great nation" (12:2). Although he could not imagine how God would fulfill that promise, Abraham believed it.

How much later it is in Genesis 16, we do not know, but the writer of the passage makes it evident that God's promise seems no nearer fulfillment than before: "Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children" (16:1). Perhaps Abram still believed in the promise of God, but Sarai has run out of patience and trust. Instead of waiting for God to keep his word, she took things in her own hands: "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go into my maid; it may be that I shall obtain children by her" (16:2). In those days it was believed that God was both the giver of fertility and barrenness and it was customary for a barren wife to give her maid to the husband and claim the child as her own. Hagar would become pregnant and bear the child; but it would belong to Abram and Sarai, not Hagar.

### LOGICAL BUT WRONG

It may have been an acceptable custom but it was fraught with risk; as we see from the story in Genesis. As far as logic was concerned, it was a reasonable idea — but that didn't mean the people involved could handle it. And in this case, they didn't. Hagar, the pregnant servant girl, now felt that God had shown her favor and she lorded it over Sarai. Could Sarai handle this? No, not at all. Furious, she takes out her anger on Abram: "May the wrong done to me be on you!" (16:5). (These sound like real people!)

Sarai had refused to wait any longer on the Lord and even persuaded Abram not to wait either. That's not too unlike many of us today. We, too, get impatient waiting for the Lord to fulfill his promises. We finally get to the point where we believe that, if we don't

very quickly.

Is your family prepared to handle an emergency? First, make sure someone knows where you are working at all times. Have directions written out to your farm and placed next to the telephone along with emergency phone numbers. Make sure everyone knows how to exit your home safely in the event of a fire.

Install and make sure smoke detectors are working in your home. Always take a few seconds and do a walk around and look under before starting and moving any tractor or machinery. It could save the life of your child or grandchild!

Keep chemicals and soaps, etc. out of the reach of small children. Safety needs to become a standard on every farm. The sooner this happens the better.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "Be curious always! For knowledge will not acquire you; you must acquire it."*

do it, it won't get done. Our problem, therefore, is often not so much disbelief as impatience. And impatience keeps us from trusting.

So, when Sarai dealt harshly with her, Hagar fled into the wilderness. Can you imagine what she must have been feeling? One moment she was feeling God's favor with human life inside her, but now she had to flee and it seemed she was utterly deserted. As Sarai has despaired of God keeping his promise, so Hagar must have felt equally abandoned.

### GOD SEES!

Encountering an angel of the Lord in the desert. Hagar is reassured. She will bear a child and he will become father of a great multitude. So she shall go back to her mistress and submit to her. We could well understand that, if at this point Hagar had said, "No way!! You think I'm crazy? That Sarai has it in for me." But the angel reassures her: "the Lord has given heed to your affliction" (16:11) and like Abram, Hagar accepts God's promise and trusts him enough to go back to an unpromising situation. That's hard: on the strength of God's assurance that he is with us, to go back to a situation we want to run from.

Hagar's response is one of trust and wonder: "She called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, 'Thou art a God of seeing'... 'Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?' (16:13). It was believed that to see God meant immediate death. But the basis of her trust in God was not just that she had seen him (we are to assume the angel was God in disguise), but that, despite her role as a despised servant, God saw her and her affliction. And seeing her, he had compassion on her.

Often, like Hagar, we think that God cannot see us in our lowly place. We are too insignificant, too lacking in worth for him to know our plight and our needs. But, like Hagar, we need to remember that our Lord is "a God of seeing" and we are never out of his sight.

## Lancaster Farming

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