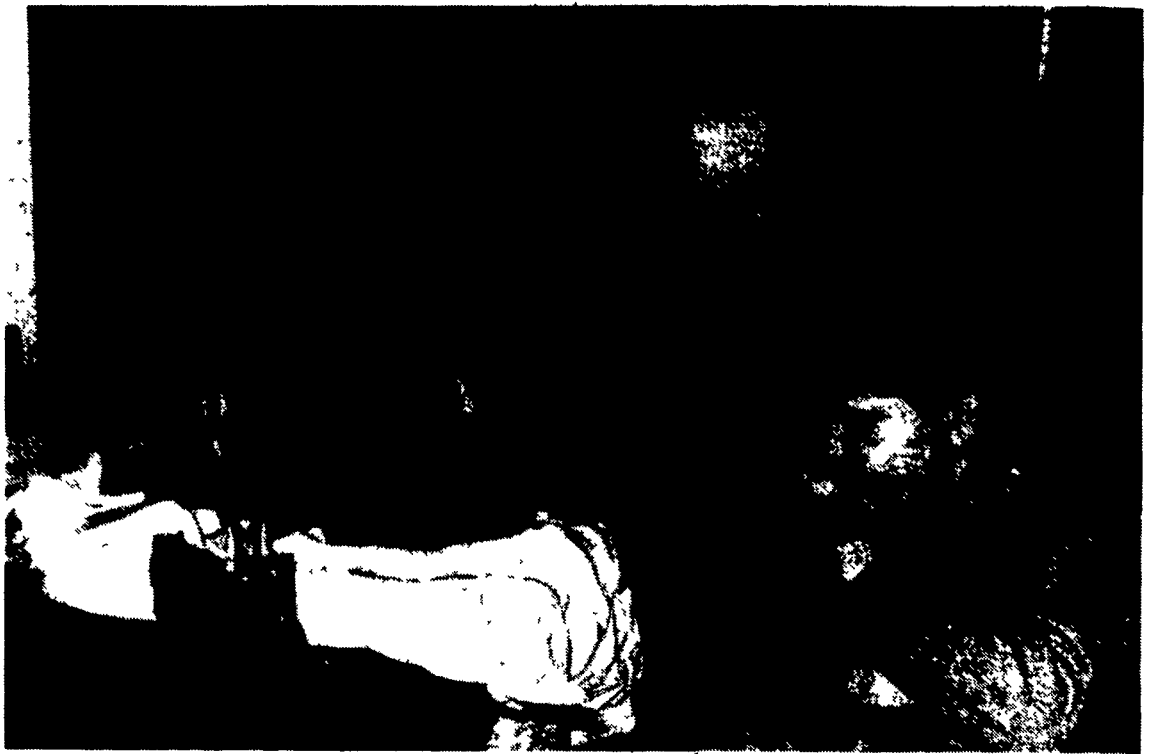


# Safety Should Be Top Concern



Dan and Leanne Griffith recommend special protective chaps that can stall a chain saw before it cuts into an operator's leg.



Leanne and Dan Griffith talk about some of the props for their farm safety demonstrations with sons Samuel, 1, and Chris, 5.

years ago began preaching farm safety as two of the seven adult advisors of the Indiana County 4-H Safe Tractor Club.

Using a \$520 grant from the National 4-H Council and a \$2,500 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, they created a series of farm safety minidemonstrations designed for youngsters. Their goal was to create educational workshops where the minidemonstrations could be used as training aids to spread the safety information as widely as possible.

"What we're trying to do is have the kids learn them, and go out and do them for other groups," Dan said.

The nine minidemonstrations cover the importance of wearing protective clothing when using

pesticides, removing pesticide residue from clothing, what to have in a farm first-aid kit, preventing tractor rollovers, precautions to avoid getting caught in a corn picker, safety measures when working around gravity wagons, hearing protection, chain saw safety, and testing reaction time.

The Griffiths and the other advisors of the 4-H club presented their demonstrations to a large crowd for the first time last summer. Farm youth from 17 counties were invited to a 4-H Farm Safety Field day at Mack Park in Indiana, and more than 100 youth attended.

"Sadly, one farm family couldn't come that day," Leanne said. "They were at a funeral for a cousin who had been killed in a tractor rollover accident."

The Griffiths' 4-H work attracted the attention of state Rep. Sara Steelman, (D-62nd). Steelman asked the Griffiths to testify in Somerset before the Pennsylva-

nia House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee in support of House Bill 2505 that she sponsored.

HB 2505 would allocate \$250,000 a year for two years to be used for developing and staging farm safety education programs, particularly for youngsters and older farmers. Steelman said the proposed legislation would include a funding cap of \$20,000 for any one program.

The Griffiths were scheduled to testify before the committee on Feb. 11, but a heavy snow forced them and several of the House members to cancel their travel plans to Somerset. So the Griffiths did the next best thing.

They videotaped their testimony for the committee members to view at their convenience.

When they taped their presentation, they did it not from the viewpoint of Dan's position as

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(Continued from Page A1)

According to the Griffiths, 23,500 children in America each year receive farm-related injuries serious enough to require treatment by a doctor or hospital. About 5,000 farm youngsters are permanently disabled annually. And approximately 300 children

— almost one each day — die each year in farming-related accidents.

Relying on their backgrounds as farmers and educators — Dan was a vo-ag teacher in the Marion Center Area School District and Leanne taught science at Indiana Area Junior High — the Griffiths

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