

# Safety Should Be Top Concern

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president of the Indiana County Farmers Association or his membership on the Penn State 4-H Ag Engineering Curriculum Committee.

Instead, they made their videotape from the standpoint of a farm family — and had their three children play roles in the testimony.

One of the most graphic exhibits on the videotape shows 5-year-old Christopher Griffith demonstrating the danger of working in a gravity box wagon. Christopher places a toy figure of a little girl on top of shelled corn in a model of a gravity wagon. When he opens the slide gate at the bottom of the wagon, the girl is sucked into the corn and covered.

Leanne said the exhibit was created by an Iowa farm mother whose 11-year-old child was suf-

focated in a gravity wagon accident.

The tape also stresses what Dan said is one of the most easily prevented farm accidents — having extra riders thrown from tractors. The demonstration emphasizes that tractors have only one seat, and so should only have one rider.

In their taped endorsement of HB 2505, the Griffiths urge legislators to specifically earmark some of the proposed funds for educating younger children.

"Unfortunately, we have very few materials to teach farm safety to younger children," Leanne said. "Most farm safety curriculum is designed for youngsters age 14 and older. We would encourage you to designate some funds in this bill for 6- to 13-year-old children."

The Griffiths also asked the committee members to include

funds in the bill for a farm youth safety specialist. That person's job would be to coordinate safety programs and provide a clearing house for safety information, curriculum materials and available safety displays.

The Griffiths see the youth safety specialist as a resource person who could also travel throughout the state assisting volunteer groups like the Indiana County 4-H Safe Tractor Club that are trying to make farms safer.

The initial grant money the Griffiths received has been spent — well-spent, Leanne believes.

"We have worked with several hundred farm children over the last 12 years," she said. "Does safety education work? We have seen positive results. To our knowledge, no one who has been in our club has been permanently disabled or killed in a farm accident."

## Young, Old At Risk

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — According to statistics compiled by Penn State University's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, youngsters and older people are frequently most at risk in farm-related accidents. And tractors are involved in nearly two-thirds of all fatal accidents on Pennsylvania farms.

In 1991 and 1992 — the most recent years for which complete figures are available — there were at least 84 fatal accidents on the state's farms.

Twenty-eight of the people killed (33 percent) were age 65 or older.

Twelve of those killed (14 percent) were age 10 or younger.

Tractors were the common thread in many of the deaths. Fifty-two of the 84 fatalities (62 percent) involved tractors or the

equipment attached to tractors. Thirty deaths resulted from tractor overturns, 15 people died when they were run over by a tractor or the machinery it was pulling, five were fatally injured when they were entangled in PTOs, and two were killed in falls from tractors.

The Penn State statistics also noted seven people drowned in farm ponds and seven died from injuries from horses, mules, and cows.

Among the other causes of accidental deaths listed were falls from barn roofs, fires, and carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Brown Swiss Video Star

BELOIT, Wis. — The Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association of America announced this week that it has made available a video tape extolling the virtues of the dairy cattle breed.

According to a news release, "The new informational video, 'Brown Swiss, the Ultimate Dairy Machine,' is now available. This 15-minute, full color video showcasing the attributes of the popular and profitable Brown Swiss cow is filled with testimony from top Brown Swiss breeders."

According to the news release, the video was designed to highlight breed attributes and provide answers that commercial and registered breeders may have.

"This is a perfect education tool for 4-H and FFA clubs, or any dairy businessman seeking information about Brown Swiss," according to the news release.

For more information, call the association at (608) 365-4474.

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