

Chain Saws: Powerful Tools, Potential Hazards

NEWARK, Del. — This winter's ice storms have damaged trees in almost every yard and field in southern Delaware.

And people will be using chain saws to remove broken branches and trees.

Every year, thousands of homeowners are injured in chain saw accidents. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were more than 44,000 emergency room injuries involving chain saws last year.

"Because a chain saw is a high-

speed wood-cutting tool, special precautions must be taken to reduce the risk of personal accidents," said Ron Jester, cooperative extension safety specialist at the University of Delaware. "Careless and improper use may

cause serious and disabling injuries."

To understand the risk that chain saws pose, Jester suggests visualizing the operating chain as hundreds of razors passing a given point every second. Contact with the chain always results in serious injuries.

The specialist notes that a significant number of accidents occur with lightweight chain saws that are used primarily by homeowners. Making sure your saw is in good operating order and using proper personal protective gear are the first steps toward safety. Jester offers the following tips to help prevent needless accidents:

- Thoroughly read the owner's manual
- Know your chain saw and its limitations
- Maintain the saw according to the manufacturer's recommenda-

- tions
- Use safety gear, including a hard hat, eye protection, sturdy work shoes, and safety chaps
- Always cut with a friend
- Use a safety tip or antikick device to reduce the chance of a kickback
- Always maintain a firm two-hand grip on the saw
- When felling trees, clear an escape path
- Use caution when refueling — gasoline is flammable
- Never force the saw and
- When possible use a hand tool such as a bow saw instead of a chain saw.

"Chain saw accidents are preventable," Jester said, "During this major storm damage cleanup, take time for safety."

For more information on chain saw safety, contact Ron Jester at (302) 856-7303.

Seed Company Carries Latest In Alfalfa Genetics

MIFFLINBURG (Union Co.) — The Ohio Seed Company announces the addition of three new outstanding Alfalfa varieties to the eastern Pennsylvania market.

With the additions of PGI Brands More, Stetson II+ and Pasture Plus, the Ohio Seed Company offers a complete line of trifoliate and multi-foliate alfalfas equal or superior to any current competitive alfalfa products. And, the PGI Brands of More, Stetson II+ and Pasture Plus are proven for the

Eastern Pennsylvania growing regions.

More is a multi leaf alfalfa with superior forage quality, pest resistance, and high persistence ratings. This high yielding multi-foliate is perfectly adapted for the eastern alfalfa growing regions.

Stetson II+ has a strong defensive package against diseases with a wide range of adaptability. Over the past years Stetson II+ has consistently topped the Penn State yield trials in three locations.

Perhaps the most promising of

the new alfalfa products is Pasture Plus. A new grazing alfalfa, Pasture Plus combines a strong disease package with an ability to withstand animal traffic. This product is a multi-purpose alfalfa, suited for grazing or conventional hay making.

For more information on these alfalfa varieties, contact Harry Keckley or Kevin Keckley at the Ohio Seed Company (800) 879-3556 or contact your Pennsylvania representative, Peter Johnson, at (717) 966-2580.

Dept. Of Ag Names Employee Of Year

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Robert L. Walker has named Deanna Baldwin, the head of the department's Grading Services, Egg Inspection and Grain Laws Section as the 1993 Maryland Department of Agriculture Employee of the Year.

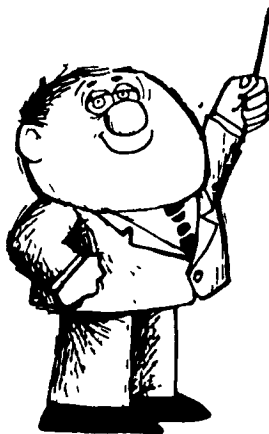
"Deanna has done an outstanding job of administering this service that supports the Maryland agricultural industry and protects consumers. Simply put, under her leadership, the program is now run better than ever," Walker said.

Baldwin's section inspects and grades commodities such as fruit, vegetables, grain, soybeans, poultry, eggs, and dairy products. The egg inspection unit grades eggs according to size and quality. The

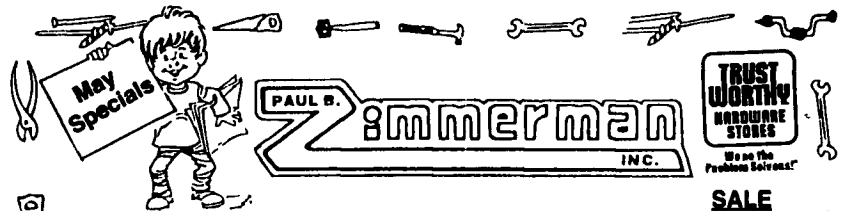
grain laws unit licenses all bona fide grain dealers in the state.

"Deanna has handled personnel reductions brought on by budget cuts and maintained an efficient operation, inspecting at some 8,400 businesses. She has the respect of her staff and the people in the industry. The Maryland Department of Agriculture is fortunate to have someone with Deanna's abilities running such an important consumer related program," said Walker.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture instituted its Employee of the Year Award in 1989. Baldwin is the fifth employee so honored at the department for their service to the people of Maryland.



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