

Coalition: More Needs To Be Done To Teach Kids Farm Safety

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — One farmer recalled a barn party in which a boy slid across the floor into a plywood hay hole cover. The plywood slid aside and the boy plummeted head first to his



Shari Burgus, director of program services for Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, Earlham, Iowa, spoke at the Lancaster County Coalition of Safe Kids meeting on Monday night. Burgus provided various examples of ways in which the local chapter can implement a range of educational activities, including day camps, with information on how to teach kids safety on the farm. One of those items she handed out was a booklet, "Teaming Up: A Farm Safety Walkabout For Kids," written in collaboration with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa and the University of Iowa.

Rotational Grazing At Field Day

OXFORD (Chester Co.) — On July 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Lindenhof Farm on Route 472 in Oxford near southern Lancaster County will host a field day to showcase their long-term grazing system.

Millie, Widmann and Axel Linde own and operate the 70-cow Guernsey dairy farm. The Linde's have used rotational grazing for more than 40 years and the herd is second in the state for pounds of milk production in the Guernsey breed.

They have also developed an extensive and unique watering system for their cattle and have recently expanded their dairy facility.

The Lindenhof Field Day is sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and Atlantic Dairy Cooperative.

For further information, contact Leon Ressler at Lancaster County Cooperative Extension, (717) 394-6851.

Lunch will be available to purchase on site.

death.

A nurse recalled treating a 13-year-old who survived a fall through a similar hole, but endured a long hospital stay from traumatic head injuries.

A 4-year-old girl was riding on a wagon when she fell off, breaking vertebrae in her neck, nearly killing her.

The list goes on.

Four years of age "is probably one of the most dangerous ages for children on the farm," said Shari Burgus, director of program services for Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, Earlham, Iowa. Burgus was invited to speak to the Lancaster County Coalition of Safe Kids meeting on Monday night.

Although four years of age is statistically the most dangerous in terms of death and severe injury for children (because of their curiosity), the age of 14 can be just as deadly. This is true because adolescents are given more responsibility and often aren't supervised. They're still learning the ways of the farm.

Burgus told the group of 35 farmers, health professions, educators, medical technicians, and others at the meeting that 14-year-olds often feel "invincible."

"They are doing more activities on the farm," she said.

Burgus spoke about some of the things that a group such as the Lancaster coalition can do to help promote safety. One such idea is a "safety camp" that can review aspects of safety for children in the farm community — including Plain farms.

Linda Reburn, a registered nurse in the trauma unit at Lancaster General, said that it is often difficult to teach youngsters in the Amish community. "It's not that (the parents) are neglecting the children," she said. "I just don't think that they have the proper knowledge to present to them."

Often, older children at a young age are beset with the responsibility to watch younger children on the farm. "You can't expect the 6- or 7-year-old (child) to watch the

2-year-old — that's how many of these (accidents) happen. It shouldn't be that way."

Also, according to Reburn, one year she helped treat seven patients kicked by a mule. One involved a 4-year-old. One 7-year-old died as a result of being kicked.

Farming, a dangerous occupation by all statistics, in general has the highest rates of death and severe injuries leading to disability, said Dr. Butch Wieland, Lancaster General Hospital staff and chairman of the farm safety committee. Every year, 300 farm children die in ag-related accidents in the U.S., and 5,000 are severely injured, often leading to permanent disability. In a Penn State study conducted from 1985-1989, of 73 ag-related accidents, 14 fatalities were under the age of 20.

Most accidents (54.6 percent) are the result of tractors overturning, with extra riders.

The coalition and other groups strongly oppose extra riders on tractors, because few, if any, tractors are made to support more than one operator.

Other accidents involve harvesting machinery and related hazards inherent to farming.

Burgus provided various examples of ways in which the local chapter can implement a range of educational activities, including day camps, with information on how to teach kids safety on the farm.

One of those items she handed out was a booklet, "Teaming Up: A Farm Safety Walkabout For Kids," written in collaboration with the Blue Cross and Blue

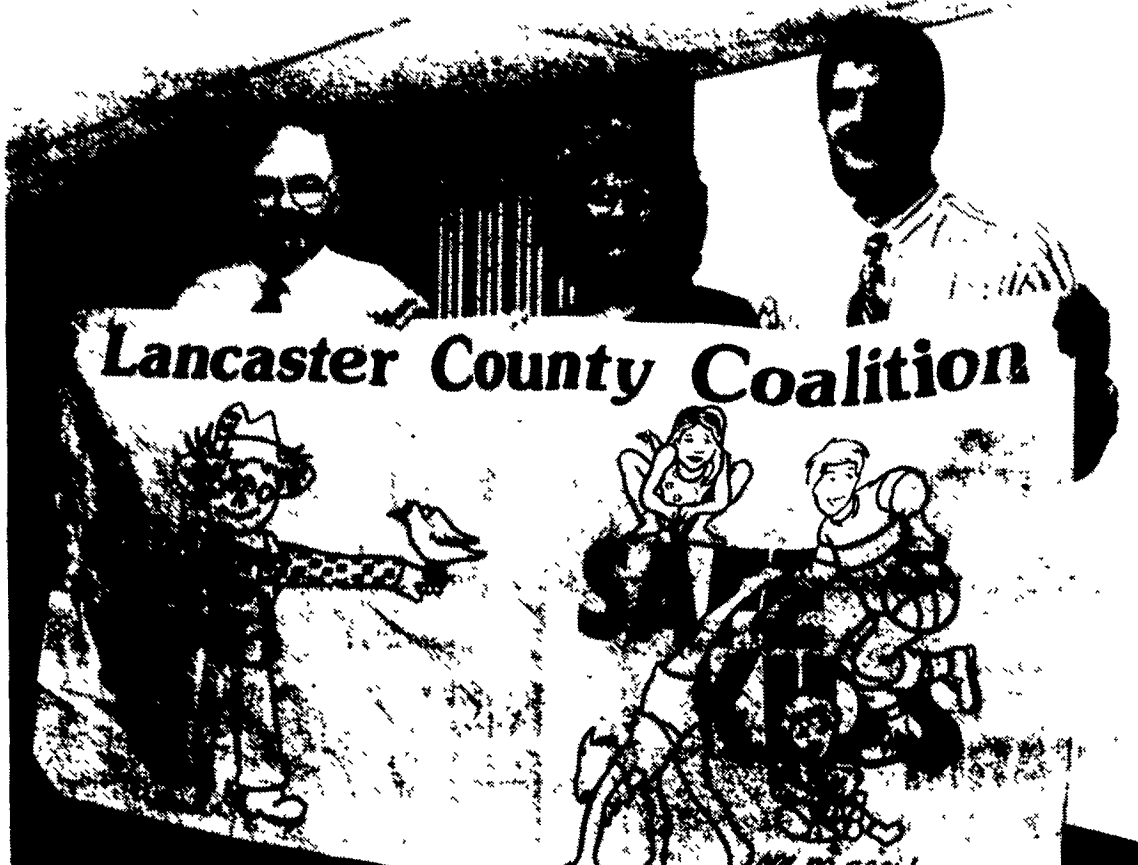
Shield of Iowa and the University of Iowa.

She told the group that the activities worked very, very well and got a good response.

William Sheehan, Lancaster postmaster and chairman of the local coalition, said that about 8,000 kids a year in this country die from injuries. The goal of the coalition is to prevent those injuries.

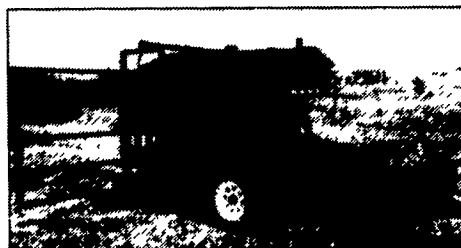
"If you would stop and think about it, if this were a disease, we would be fighting an epidemic," he said. "And the cure is right here in this room. It (involves) responsible adults who take the time to see what we can do to save our kids."

"Education is key," said Burgus. "Anything we can do even to prevent one injury is worth it."



Four years of age "is probably one of the most dangerous ages for children on the farm," said Shari Burgus, director of program services for Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, center. From left, William Sheehan, chairman of the coalition; Burgus; and Dr. Butch Wieland, chairman of the farm safety committee.

HEAVY DUTY HOOF TRIMMING TABLES



- 2 10-inch lift belts
- 3500 lb. axle with or without brakes

- 12-year building experience in the tables design
- 2"x2" tube frame chute
- chute measures 75"x28"x 72" high
- 4" casters for cradle fold-up
- Two hydraulic cylinders for extra stability



- tool box for D.C. pump and battery protection
- manure grate to keep work area clean
- fold away side gate
- removeable head board
- 45 min. video from International Hoof Trimming School of Canada

Delivery Available

THREE MODELS TO CHOOSE:
1. PORTABLE 2. STATIONARY 3. 3 POINT HITCH

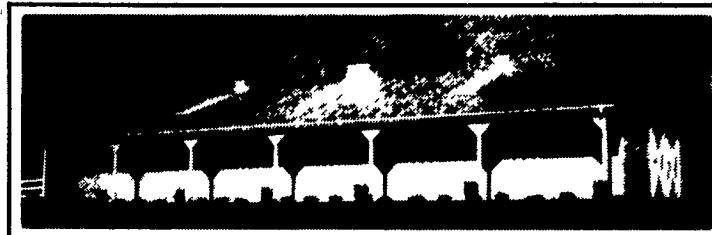
BERKELMAN'S WELDING
RR 7, AYLMEER, ONTARIO, CANADA N5H 2R6
(519) 765-4230

AGRI-INC.

Custom Built Farm Buildings
Designed To Your Needs



RIDING ARENA



HORSE STALL BARN

Let Our Experience Work For You

- Dairy Complexes And Replacement Stock Facilities
- Horse Stall Barns And Riding Arenas
- Workshop And Machinery Storage Buildings
- Timber Column Buildings For Light Commercial

AGRI-INC. The Construction Professionals

151 E. Farmersville Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522
(717) 354-4271

Serving The Agricultural Industry For Over 25 Years

