

Ag Progress Demo Will Show Importance Of Rollover Protection

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Lancaster Farming Staff
ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Dr. Dennis Murphy, Penn State ag engineering professor, warns tractor operators not to be a "Tuff Kelly."

Tuff Kelly is the "simulated human," in this case a mannequin, used to demonstrate a rollover accident.

The Tuff Kelly will be used in a series of tractor rollover accident demonstrations at Ag Progress Days next week.

A 1989 Penn State study showed that about 70 percent of all tractor-related fatalities involve a rollover. Tractor accidents caused more than 300 deaths in the United States in 1992, with 53 percent resulting from overturns, according to the National Safety Council.

Two types of demonstrations will be shown at the west end of the Russell E. Larson Ag Research Center, near the sinkhole, according to Murphy. The demonstrations will show one rear overturn and one side overturn.

With the aid of research associate Dr. Tim Pierson, Murphy will demonstrate a side overturn on a field specially built with a 20-degree slope. Two tractors, each about 35 horsepower, remotely controlled, will show exactly what happens to Tuff Kelly when a few tons of steel pin and crush him after overturning.

The mannequin, weighing about 110-120 pounds and dressed to look like a common operator, will be used to demonstrate that

although a sloped field may look easy to plow, operators sometimes ignore life-threatening obstacles, such as bumps and holes.

Many operators don't realize that without a rollover protection structure (ROPS) on a tractor, a rollover can prove deadly, as it has so many times in the past, according to Murphy.

Three types of ROPS will be featured during demonstrations all three days of Ag Progress. The types include an enclosed cab, a fold-down ROPS, and a two-post ROPS (retrofitted tractor rollover structure).

Operators, without thinking of their own safety, sometimes remove the ROPS structure because of clearances needed to spray trees or because "they simply don't like the idea of using a ROPS on their tractor," said Murphy. "We want to present information to them in a way that allows them to understand the value of a ROPS on a tractor."

In addition, the ROPS Learning Center at the site will provide important safety information and guidelines to ensure operator safety. One of those often overlooked safety guidelines is using a seat belt in conjunction with the ROPS.

At the demonstration, information will be provided on costs to retrofit a tractor with a ROPS.

Also examined will be the effects on tractor accidents of having more than one rider, and improper hitching.

The demonstrations are scheduled four times a day, weather



What happens to an operator, and ways to prevent injury from rollover accidents like this, will be presented at Ag Progress Days.

permitting, said Murphy, with a demonstration also scheduled for Wednesday evening.

According to an estimate by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, in Sweden, where ROPS are mandatory, 90 percent

of operators in overturns escape serious injury or death.

"In 1985, U.S. tractor manufacturers began making ROPS standard equipment," said Murphy. "Unfortunately, fewer than 20 percent of all tractors in Pennsylvania

have rollover protection."

Operators can visit the learning center to find out what kind of ROPS they need for their tractors.

For more information, call toll-free (800) PSU-1010 until August 16.

AG Progress Days

"Penn State AG Science..."

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Lebanon Holstein Sets Field Day

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — The Lebanon County Holstein Club is to hold its annual field day activities 7 p.m., Friday, August 19, at the John Kline Farm, in Myerstown.

Also, the club has announced that it has about 45 head of Holsteins consigned for the club sale, set for 7 p.m., Friday, August 26, at the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds.

According to a club spokesman, Jim Fair, the guest speaker for the field day is to be Horace Backus, of New York, cattle broker, pedigree reader, auctioneer, and Holstein historian. He has also run a business for years making sale catalogs.

Also, Jim Yonker, of Red Fever Farm in Fleetwood, Berks County, is to be the official judge of the

several classes of Holsteins at the Kline's Ramona Holsteins. Yonker also works as an artificial insemination technician for Sire Power Inc.

Kline's farm is located along Ramona Road, about three miles south of Rt. 422.

A pig roast is also scheduled to be held with the field day activities.

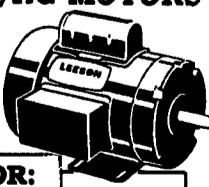
For more information, call Fair at 274-9838.

The sale is to offer a mix of milking cows and bred heifers from quality animals ready to add to the milking string, to those with high pedigrees.

Sale catalogs won't be available until August 19, the same day as the field day. Call Dale Hoover at 867-2489.

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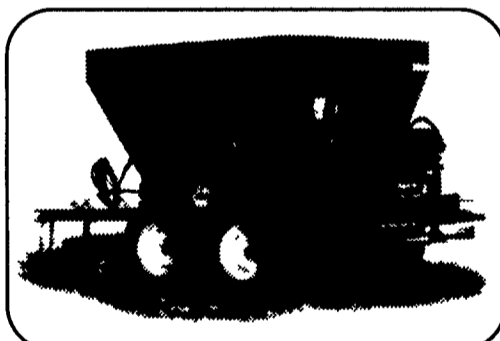
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