

# Farms Pose Hazards For Young Workers

NEWARK, Del.—The next time you pass a farm and see a tractor in operation, look a little closer. The operator may be a lot younger than you think.

It's a tradition, even a necessity, in many farm families for children—both boys and girls—to begin helping with planting and harvest. Operating heavy machinery and working around animals and agricultural chemicals can be dangerous.

Studies show that almost 15 percent of victims of farm accidents are children under 10 years old. Also farm children from 5 to 14 years old are three times more likely to be injured than other children their age. In fact, more than 23,000 children will be injured on farms in the United States this year.

"This really should come as no

surprise," said Ron Jester, cooperative extension farm safety specialist at the University of Delaware. "Considering that farming is one of the most hazardous occupations according to the National Safety Council's latest statistics."

The same hazards that injure adults can also injure children—heavy equipment, grain augers, use of all-terrain vehicles and lung hazards from dust and sprays.

"Children are our most precious resource," said Jester. "I urge everybody—especially those in rural communities—to strengthen their support for rural safety programs directed to farm and rural children."

The safety specialist offers the following tips for making your farm a safer place for children:

- Take time to discuss farm

safety with your children. Take a tour of your farm and explain the hazards and how to protect against them.

- Make sure that your children's play area is physically separated from the work area.

- Don't ask children to do chores that are beyond the capability of their age or maturity.

(Extension offers a fact sheet on age-appropriate farm tasks.)

- Store chemicals under lock and key.

- Be careful how you dispose of empty chemical containers. Follow label directions or call the Delaware Solid Waste Authority.

- Ponds and lagoons should be inaccessible and strictly off limits for young children.

- Children must be 14 and older to operate heavy equipment. Make sure that their training is thorough and adequate.

- Don't allow children to work long hours—they need more frequent breaks than adults. Accidents often happen when an individual becomes too tired to be attentive.

## Welsh To Lead Ag Sciences Graduation

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.—Scott W. Welsh, a Penn State senior majoring in agriculture science, has been named the student marshal for the College of Agricultural Sciences spring commencement. He is the son of William and Ann Welsh of Lebanon County.

Welsh will lead the procession of approximately 285 graduating seniors at the ceremony, which takes place on Saturday, May 13, at 9 a.m. in the Eisenhower Auditorium on Penn State's University

Park Campus. Accompanying Welsh at commencement will be his academic adviser, Dr. Thomas Bruening, assistant professor of agricultural and extension education.

Student marshals are chosen in recognition of outstanding academic performance. Since coming to Penn State, Welsh has been on the Dean's List and the College of Agricultural Sciences honor roll. He participated in the University Scholars Program dur-

ing his junior year and received the Morrell Smith Scholarship and the Alan Nutt Memorial Award in his senior year.

Welsh also received the Senior Student Award from Gamma Sigma Delta, given annually by the agricultural honor society to students in the college with the highest grade-point average. After graduation, Welsh and his wife, Margaret, will manage a Chester County sweet corn and vegetable farm.

## Pond Management Workshop Set

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Pond management and practices to increase the usefulness of your pond will be the focus of an upcoming program sponsored by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with Maryland Sea Grant.

Whether your pond is utilized for recreational use, wildlife and fishing, or aquaculture production, this workshop will provide up-to-date information to participants on improving the various aspects of pond usage.

At the Pond Management Workshop, basic pond ecology and nutrient cycles will be discussed. Other important aspects that will be covered are proper stocking, pond fertilization, design, liming, and aeration. Water testing procedures and analysis of the results will be demonstrated. Recommendations for management of bass, bluegill, trout and hybrid bass populations will also be examined.

Many problems such as the overgrowth of aquatic weeds and algae overproduction can hinder the quality of plant and animal life of the pond. This workshop will offer solutions to these and many other pond issues.

The program will be held at the Carroll County Cooperative Extension Service office, Carroll County Agriculture Center, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday evening, May 22. The \$5 registration fee will cover the cost of handouts and break beverages.

For registration or additional information,

contact the Carroll County Extension (410) 848-4611.

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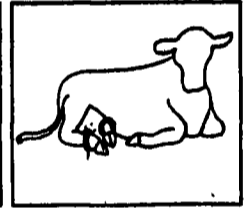
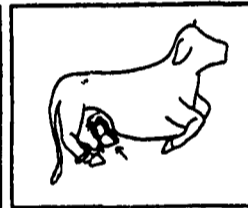
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