

Kids Korner

Farm Safety Camp For Kids

OREGON (Lancaster Co.)—What do an unused steel cattle gate, a grain wagon and grain dust all have in common with children? These hidden dangers kill many farm children each year. Due in part to the high farm density and more hands on mechanization used here, Lancaster County has the highest farm accident rate in the state.

The Lancaster County Coalition of Safe Kids and Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, Cargill Inc. and Oregon Dairy teamed up together to do something about it. Earlier this month they held a day camp for 174 children ages eight to 13 on farm safety.

Maybe you think safety is boring, however, these kids were fascinated by the demonstrations.

The day started with registration where the kids divided into teams. These teams rotated through 12 demonstration stations. Some of the stations are what you would expect, like

showing what happens to a hand (artificial of course) when it gets caught in a drive chain. A strong emphasis was placed on hidden dangers. Consider the unused cattle gate leaning up against the barn...until your three-year-old brother decides to climb it and it falls over on him. To illustrate what would happen when a three-year-old climbed on it the instructors pulled a steel gate over and let it fall on top of a ripe cantaloupe. The kids got the idea.

Other demonstration areas were all terrain vehicles, animal handling, chemicals, electrical systems, fire prevention, first aid, flowing grain, hidden hazards, tractors, lawn mowers, pto roadway safety, and skid loaders.

Lunch was provided by Oregon Dairy Restaurant. Snack and distribution of farm safety books and participation certificates were given to conclude the camp. Each participant received a t-shirt and a door prize.



More than 50 volunteers helped to conduct the Farm Safety Day Camp. These included volunteers from Cargill Inc., PP&L, area doctors, nurses, firemen, and police, New Holland, Case Unloader, and FFA Chapters.



This demonstration shows what would happen if a toddler attempts to climb an unused cattle gate propped against the barn. Notice the busted cantaloupe.

CHECKLIST

FARM MACHINERY

Are keys removed from idle farm machinery?

yes no _____ date completed

Are riders not allowed on tractors, farm machinery and wagons?

yes no _____ date completed

Are all slow moving vehicle (SMV) signs in place and still reflective?

yes no _____ date completed

Are power take off (PTO) shields in place on all tractors?

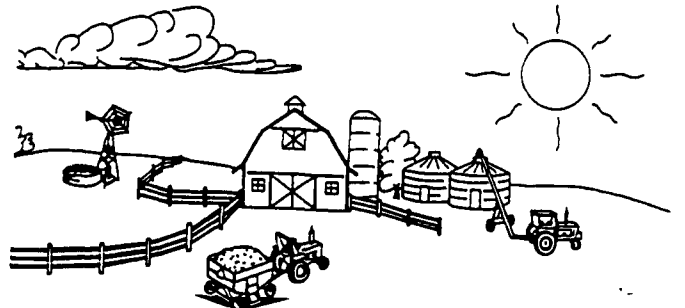
yes no _____ date completed

Is proper shielding in place on farm machinery?

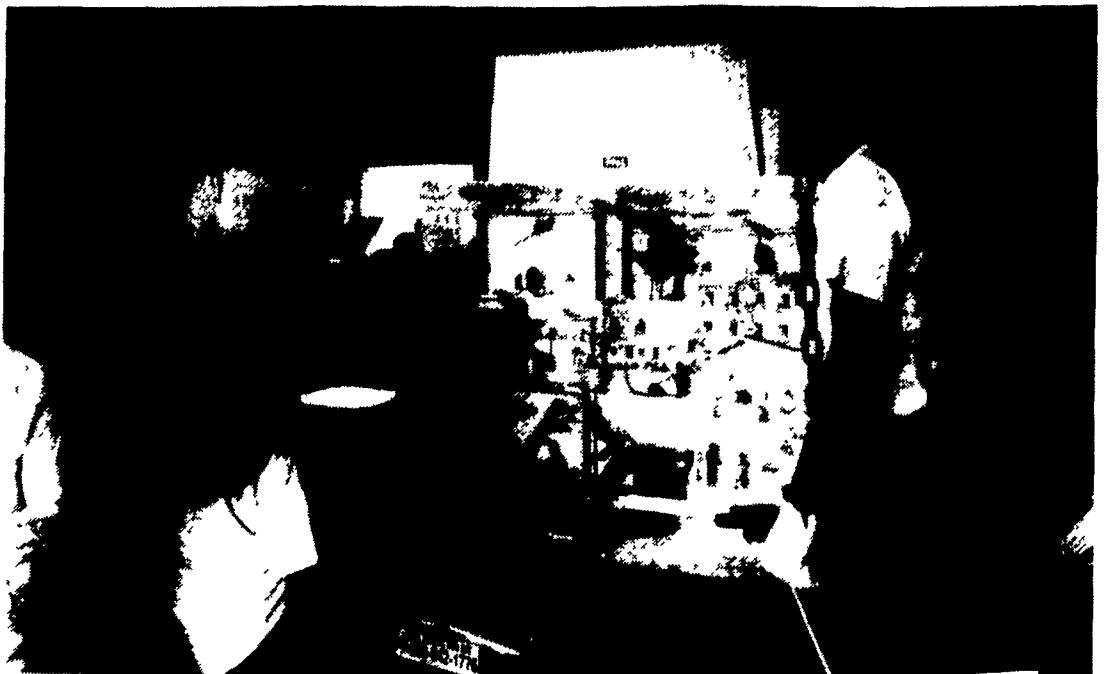
yes no _____ date completed

Do the driver and all passengers use seat belts or car seats in the farm truck?

yes no _____ date completed



Lancaster County has the highest farm accident rate in the state. The Farm Safety Day Camp was held to teach children safety precautions when working and playing on the farm.



Demonstrations show what happens when equipment is not handled safely.