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National Farm Safety And Health Week Begins Sunday

Course To Teach Fire, Rescue Personnel About Farm Dangers

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Lancaster Farming Staff

IRISHTOWN (Adams Co.) — When do you start to “play it safe”? For Larry Feeser, Jr., it began the day when, as a 14 year-old, his tractor almost completely overturned. Luckily, he jumped off the back of it unharmed.

When do you learn to play it safe? Ask Larry's mother, Jean. In August, 1972, her husband, Larry, Sr., was working alone, loading

Farmers Risk Silo Fires From Dry Corn Plants

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — This summer's weather has made corn plants drier than usual, posing fire risks for farmers who wish to ensile the plants for animal feed.

At least five Pennsylvania farms have been hit by silo fires in recent weeks, and the conditions are perfect for more silo fires to start, warn experts in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Why does lack of corn moisture increase the risk of silo fires? “When you ferment corn plants in a silo, the fermentation process generates heat,” said farm safety specialist and professor of agricul-

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silage. He was standing up against the trough. For some reason, he slipped, and his foot was caught in the auger and started to draw his leg in. Luckily, he grabbed onto a corn fork and pushed the off switch to stop the auger.

But it was some time — many agonizing minutes later — until Jean, who was milking cows, found him and was able to use a telephone in the barn to call neighbors and the fire department.

Somehow, the rescue people were able to work the foot out. Fortunately, the damage wasn't severe — but Jean knows it could have been a lot worse.

“His foot was mangled pretty badly,” said Jean. After several months, Larry was able to regain use of the foot.

When do you finally play it safe? Larry recalls recently, when, at a tractor pull at the South Mountain Fair, several weights were sent flying in the air. Fortunately, the driver escaped serious harm. No bystanders were hurt in the incident. But it has the Feesers worried that something far more catastrophic could occur, and how much are fire companies and rescue people prepared?

“The fire service does care, and we're out there for farmers, as well as anybody involved in a vehicle accident,” said Larry Jr. “We basically want to learn as much as we

possibly can about the different styles and different types of farm machinery and how to handle the farm accident if it occurs.”

As a seven-year member of the Irishtown Fire Department, Larry cooperated with the Adams Coun-

ty Farm Bureau when they paid for a special course to learn about farm accident rescue and recovery. In mid-April this year, Larry attended a 4½ day course at Alfred State College to teach and train rescue personnel in the tactics of farm

rescue.

The course, called FARMEDIC, instructed 22 fire company representatives from Pennsylvania and other states in the tactics and strategies used to rescue and

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“I could talk to 200 farmers and all 200 farmers could give me a farm-related accident,” said Feeser. “Fire fighters are no different. They've seen things, they have done things, in the past, and they can insert at any time in a situation to handle it.”

Pennsylvania DHIA Brings New Technology, Latest Management Tool Online

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — “The best handle on nutrition and reproduction management can be summed up in one number

on the DHIA monthly report to farmers.”

This is what officials of Pennsylvania DHIA are calling the new milk urea nitrogen (MUN) testing capabilities they are introducing to

the state dairy industry starting on October 1.

“Milk urea testing gives us the opportunity to have an on-going method of consulting directly with the cow to take a look at the link between reproduction and nutrition management,” said Dave Slusser, manager. Urea nitrogen is the waste product from excess protein in the feed. But the test will also show if you are underfeeding the cow. My prediction is that the MUN test will end up affecting the dairy more than somatic cell counts have.”

While scientific research on MUN tests is limited, a Cornell

University video presented to a group of veterinarians and DHIA personnel last week confirmed that the new testing technology gives a direct way to analyze the relationship between protein and energy in the ration for dairy cows. Excess protein costs extra money and puts stress on the cow. It can hurt performance and hurt the environment when excess nutrients pass through the cow and enter the air as ammonia or enter the streams and underground water supplies as nitrates.

At the same time if the cow is underfed, production suffers and the cow becomes thin. MUN testing gives dairy farmers a new to

“fine tune” their nutrition programs to meet each cow's needs.

In test herds, researchers have determined that following recommendations based on MUN tests have substantial returns on investment to get the milk sample tested. In examples given in the video, reduced days open and increased milk production gave a 10 to 1 return on investment in the 100 cow herd used in the example. At Pennsylvania DHIA the program to members will be introduced initially at .15 per cow provided the entire herd is done, and the member's herd is being tested for fat,

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Gov. Ridge Announces New Export Emphasis At 1996 Pennsylvania Farm Show

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — To help reach a goal to increase exports of farm and agribusiness products produced in Pennsylvania, Gov. Tom Ridge announced a new international day as part of the 1996 Farm Show in January. Ridge made the announcement in an appearance at the monthly Ag Issues Forum usually held in Lancaster County but moved to the Pennsylvania Depart-

ment of Agriculture (PDA) building to accommodate Gov. Ridge and provide an opportunity for interaction with PDA representatives.

“We have decided as part of our marketing and export efforts to introduce an International Day as part of the Farm Show,” Ridge said. “We want to welcome these international visitors and provide the opportunity for these international visitors to meet with appropriate agricultural leaders in the

setting of excitement that is part of the farm show. I feel strongly that the PDA must be aggressive in exporting our goods.

“We need to make agriculture more profitable. You can hear all the speeches about the demise of the family farm. But if we just help farming to be more profitable, you will not need to worry about this demise.

“What do we need to do in Pennsylvania to make production agri-

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The York Fair supreme champion breeding sheep were named Monday evening. With the champion ram are from Tim Hall, judge; Thelma Kitzmiller; Julie Kern, York County Lamb and Wool Queen; and Paul Kitzmiller. The Kitzmillers are from Woolley Breezes farm. See story page A20.