

Kids Korner

Get Ready For Farm Show



Get ready for the Pennsylvania Farm Show. From Jan. 10-15, the annual event held in Harrisburg offers lots of fun for children of all ages.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Is salt the only way to make icy roads safe?
 Not necessarily.
 Salt is a cheap way to melt ice. It melts the first layer of ice into a salt-and-water mixture. The water doesn't refreeze because the salt lowers the temperature it has to be for water to freeze. That lets the salt melt the rest of the ice. But the excess salt can kill plants and winter wildlife along the road, and it causes rust damage to cars. So some places have begun melting ice with a product made out of corn.

This special deicer is called Calcium Magnesium Acetate, or CMA. It's made with the minerals calcium and magnesium that are taken from corn or other natural materials, like coal.

Massachusetts is one state using CMA. The corn deicer protects its wetlands, cranberry bogs and natural wildlife habitat from the effects of road salt.

More than nature benefits from CMA, though; it also helps keep cars and bridges in good shape. The white powder you see along the bottom of cars and trucks in the winter is salt from the roads. If it stays on the car for a long time, it can damage the paint and metal. The same thing happens to metal bridges. Because CMA is non-corrosive, it will cut through ice and snow — but it won't cause rust!

Scientifically yours,
Twig

Have questions? Send them to Twig@agcex.aafaf.state.edu

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
 COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The Adventures Of READY ROOSTER™



SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD TO BE A CHICKEN



There's nothing chicken about wearing a seatbelt.

Connect the dots and you'll see how to make a ROPS even more valuable.