

# Kids Korner

## Farm Safety 4-Just Kids Begins In Maryland

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**Maryland Correspondent**

**JEFFERSON, Md** - A national farm safety organization has its first chapter in Maryland, thanks to the efforts of a Frederick County woman Jane Smith, of Jefferson, announced the official start of the Frederick County Farm Bureau chapter of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids at the annual Frederick County farm safety camp, held at the 4-H Camp Center Smith is the representative for the chapter

An internationally recognized organization, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids was started in Iowa in 1987 by Marilyn Adams after she lost her son in a tragic accident in a gravity flow wagon of corn. The organization has grown since that time until it now has more than 3000 members, and 79 chapters around the country. The mission of the non-profit organization is to prevent farm-related childhood injuries, health risks, and fatalities. Their motto is: "Nothing raised on a farm is more valuable than children."

As chairperson of the 18-member Frederick County Farm Bureau Safety committee, Smith has had a leadership role in organizing the annual safety camp that Farm Bureau has sponsored for the last five years. She has served as director of the safety camp, lined up well-respected speakers, and coordinated all the various activities that go along with the overnight youth camp and the volunteers it takes to make it run smoothly.

Her care and concern for the children who live on farms, not only in her Frederick County community, but throughout the state, prompted her to look into the possibility of starting the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids chapter to further her mission. Hearing about tragic local accidents and others in nearby counties involving children on farms has moti-

vated her to crusade for family farm safety. "There were no chapters in our state, this is the first one", she explained.

"We have many persons we can call on to provide support to the Maryland chapter," said Smith. "It seems as if the local community was really receptive to the idea of the chapter." And, indeed, the community has rallied, with 15 members already pledging their support for the chapter, including both local families and ag related businesses.

The focus of the chapter will be on increasing public awareness of farm safety hazards, and providing educational opportunities. To this end, they have identified four goals. First, the chapter will hold a safety camp yearly or at least every other year for the young people. Second, the members will set up displays at the county and state fairs, at Ag Week at the Mall, and at local ag businesses. They will publicize their business news articles. And finally, they will give talks and send speakers wherever they can to help set up new safety camps or chapters. Fifteen groups have already pledged donations to help the chapter achieve these goals.

In fact, Smith and other members of the Frederick County Farm Bureau safety committee have already been doing some of these things. They have helped Progressive Farmer magazine start their own safety program by providing them with information, and have set up displays and given talks around the area. Groups from neighboring counties have started attending the Frederick County safety camp to get ideas on starting their own camps.

Anyone interested in more information or in joining the Maryland chapter of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids can contact Jane Smith at (301) 473-8259.



Merhl Ramsburg, left, and Charlie Seraydian are both survivors of farm accidents. The two men joined together to give children at the farm safety camp a lesson in PTO safety.



Steven O'Hara, on the left, and Richard O'Hara demonstrated lawn mower safety at the farm safety camp.



Richard Yinger, of the Frederick County Dive Team, demonstrated water safety techniques at the farm safety camp.



These children at the farm safety camp were involved in a role-playing activity designed to make them think about what it would be like to be in a wheelchair and have no use of their arms.



Charles Smith demonstrates the power of a PTO to children attending the farm safety camp recently.