

# Kids Korner

## Life Lion Helicopter Appears At Farm Safety Day

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 — "Almost every accident happens because someone has made a mistake," extension director Dave Filson began. "And to prevent accidents, everyone must learn how to make the right decisions."

Everyone included the 106 youngsters who attended Farm Safety Day in early April at the Port Royal Fairgrounds. They wanted to learn how to make the right decisions.

What if an unfriendly dog approaches you?

Should you mow if the guards aren't on the lawn mower?

Should you really climb as high as you want in that old Maple tree?

This Farm Safety Day continues to be a popular Cooperative Extension attraction, drawing participants, community specialists, and extension agents from Juniata, Perry, and Mifflin Counties. This year featured two new programs, a safety program geared specifically for children four to seven year olds and a CPR program for teens and adults.

At the end of the day, everyone gathered outside to watch a staged rescue scene, complete with ambulance and the Life Lion helicopter. The scene even attracted children and parents from the surrounding neighborhood who gathered to watch the Life Lion take off.

Here's a story about making the right decisions.

Johnny's farm adventure began when his mother gave him an important assignment. With serious consideration, he tied his shoe laces tightly, buttoned his jacket securely, pushed his cap down snugly, and turned his senses to full alert.

His mission? To go get milk for breakfast. Just 100 yards from here to the milkhouse, seven-year-old Johnny thought but the farm is just crawling with danger.

He stepped cautiously out of the house and immediately dodged a rake handle that came whizzing past his ear. He'd stepped on the upturned tines! Who had left the rake in that position? He placed the rake in the tool shed where it belonged.

Coming out of the tool shed, Johnny was tempted to inspect some broken glass in the flower bed beside the shed, but he knew he could get cut. He chose not to touch it. Then he spied the lawn mower in the middle of the yard. He used to love riding on it with his dad, but he won't be doing that anymore. He learned the "no seat - no riding" rule at the farm safety camp last week. If a riding mower, tractor, all terrain vehicle, or other piece of machinery has only one seat, only one person may be on it. He's always tempted to climb aboard as a passenger because it's so much fun, but he doesn't want to get hurt. No seat - no riding. That's how he's going to stay safe.

Johnny swung his milk container as he walked under the huge maple tree in his backyard. He smiled, thinking of these long hot summer



A pretend farm accident kept children's attention as an ambulance transported the "victim" to the Life Lion helicopter.



About 105 youngsters attend Farm Safety Day at the Port Royal Fairgrounds. To prevent accidents, you must learn how to make the right decisions, they were told.

days when he and his neighbor dared each other to climb higher. It sure was fun - until his friend fell out of the tree and broke his leg.

As Johnny rounded the end of the corn crib, he came face to muzzle with a stray dog! He stopped and stood perfectly still.

What did he learn at Farm Safety Camp?

Be a tree! If a strange dog gets too close, pretend to be a tree!

He'll chase you if you run, Johnny remembered. If I were playing on the ground, I'd lay face down, cover my head with my hands while protecting my ears with my elbows, and pretend to be a log. The stray dog sniffed Johnny's stinky, old barn shoes and slowly walked away.

Johnny entered the milkhouse and filled his milk pail. He felt proud that he'd made it safely through treacher-

ous territory. He'd made the right decisions and stayed safe. On his way back to the house, he'll cut through the barn in spite of the temptations - cute newborn calves with their dangerous, protective mothers and fun

but smothering grain in the gravity wagon. He planned to avoid these. His mother will be proud of him for getting the milk, but he was already proud of himself for keeping safe by making all the right decisions.

# Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

**Why does moss grow on the north side of trees?**

Mosses — the spongy green clumps you see growing on logs and trees — are related to some of the earliest plants on Earth.

A handful of mosses existed on Earth as long as 245 million years ago, and more than 100 species were around 66 million years ago. Today scientists have found about 15,000 different species of moss. They mostly vary in size — from microscopic to 40 inches long — and in how they reproduce.

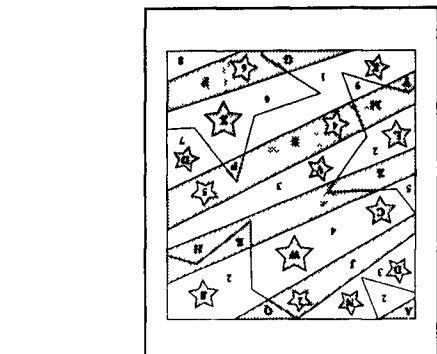
Plants that are more evolved make new plants through seeds. Mosses though still create more moss plants the same way they did millions of years ago. They spread spores, which are like tiny packets of cells. Each cell has the capability to grow into a new plant. Most mosses make spores in a capsule attached to a stalk. When the conditions are right, the capsule pops open, sending millions of spores out into the atmosphere. If the spore lands in a place with just the right amount of moisture and light, it will grow into a new moss plant. Water is really important for mosses. Because they don't have roots they absorb all their water through the plants' leaf-like surfaces.

Mossy green carpets thrive on the north sides of many trees and buildings — those spots usually don't dry out fast and they have a bit of shade. But don't try to find your way by the moss patterns in a woods. The heavy cover of leaves makes woods ideal places for moss to grow all over — not just north!

Scientifically yours, Twig

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# HIDDEN PICTURE

Color in each space that contains a letter.