

Kids Korner

Farm Safety Day Camp

BEAVER SPRINGS (Snyder Co.) — According to the West Snyder FFA Chapter, more than 100 community children recently learned how to identify and deal with hazards on the farm. Held at the Beaver Community Fairgrounds in Beaver Springs, West Snyder FFA Chapter's Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp drew children between the ages of three to 12 from throughout the community for the day-long event.

Children learned how to take responsibility for their own safety, respect parents' safety rules, and share safety tips with their family and friends, said Cynthia Shaffer, West Snyder FFA co-advisor and coordinator for the event.

A highlight of the day came over the lunch hour when a special visit was made by the Life Flight helicopter from Geisinger Medical Center. The crew from Life Flight landed in the West Snyder Baseball field and explained what they do in an emergency. Campers learned that by wearing their seat belts and the bicycle helmets they received at camp, they would greatly reduce their chances of ever needing Life Flight. After answering questions from the camp participants, the Life Flight visit was cut short by an emergency.

Hands-on experience led by members of the West Snyder FFA Chapter taught camp participants lifetime farm safety lessons. Shaffer said that she hopes that by sharing and applying the lessons learned at camp, participants will help reduce the number of rural children who die or are injured in farm accidents.

Throughout the day, the camp participants rotated throughout 10 safety stations. Each group was led to the stations by members of the West Snyder Jr. High FFA Chapter, Sr. High FFA Chapter, Middleburg Boy Scouts, and local 4-H clubs. The West Snyder Sr. High FFA members conducted the safety presentations for all the safety sessions.

At the Basic First Aid station, FFA members Tiffany Esbenschade and Jenna Briggs explained how to bandage a wound. Each camp participant assembled their own first aid for them to keep. Jenna and Tiffany explained how to use the kit.

At the Chemical Safety station, FFA members Jessica Walter and Elizabeth Hollenbach explained the similarities between household chemicals and certain food and candy products. Camp participants received emergency cards and stickers promoting safety.

At the Gun Safety station, FFA members Hannah Etzler and Daphne Wagner with the assistance of Jeff Mock, Mifflin County Wildlife Conservation Officer from the PA Game Commission taught gun safety. Using the Eddie Eagle curriculum from the National Rifle Association, campers were taught to "stop, don't touch, leave the area, tell an adult," when they see a gun. Mock also explained how to safely handle a gun for the older children. Campers received Eddie Eagle stickers and booklets.

Campers made their own ear plug key chain at the Personal Protective Device station. Chapter members Luke Zerby and Chuck Kessler demonstrated the value of wearing safety glasses, steel-toed shoes, and a hard hat. Each camp participant also received a "Best of Country Music" cassette tape.

At the Bicycle Safety Station, each camper was professionally fitted for their own bicycle helmet. The helmets were donated by the Snyder County Chapter of Lutheran Brotherhood and Selinsgrove Wal-Mart. The North Central Highway Safety Network, Inc. sent a team of three members to fit the bike helmets for each child. Chapter members Derek Fetterolf and Victoria Adams explained bike safety. Each child also had their picture taken with a digital camera and a bike license printed and laminated for them.



The West Snyder FFA and Progressive Farmer Magazine Farm Safety Day Camp was host to a public relations presentation by Life Flight from Geisinger Medical Center. Camp participants were able to ask questions about the use of Life Flight and see what takes place aboard the helicopter.

nated for them.

Chapter members Travis Catherman and Andrew Kreamer conducted the ATV and Lawn Mower safety session. The participants were able to view the safe and unsafe parts of the equipment. Participants received brochures, erasers, and a Progressive Farmer bag at this station.

The Water and Sun Safety station was taught by FFA members Heather Hollenbach and Melissa McWilliams. Campers learned to wear life jackets and when to apply sunscreen. They received beach balls, sunscreen samples, and coloring books at this station.

At the Animal Safety station, Jennifer McWilliams taught campers about how to safely approach an animal and how to handle them. Each participant practiced their new skills on a live cow. They received Got Milk stickers, pencils, and cow erasers. At the Fire Safety Station, FFA member Phaedra Wray and the Beavertown Volunteer Fire Company taught campers about what

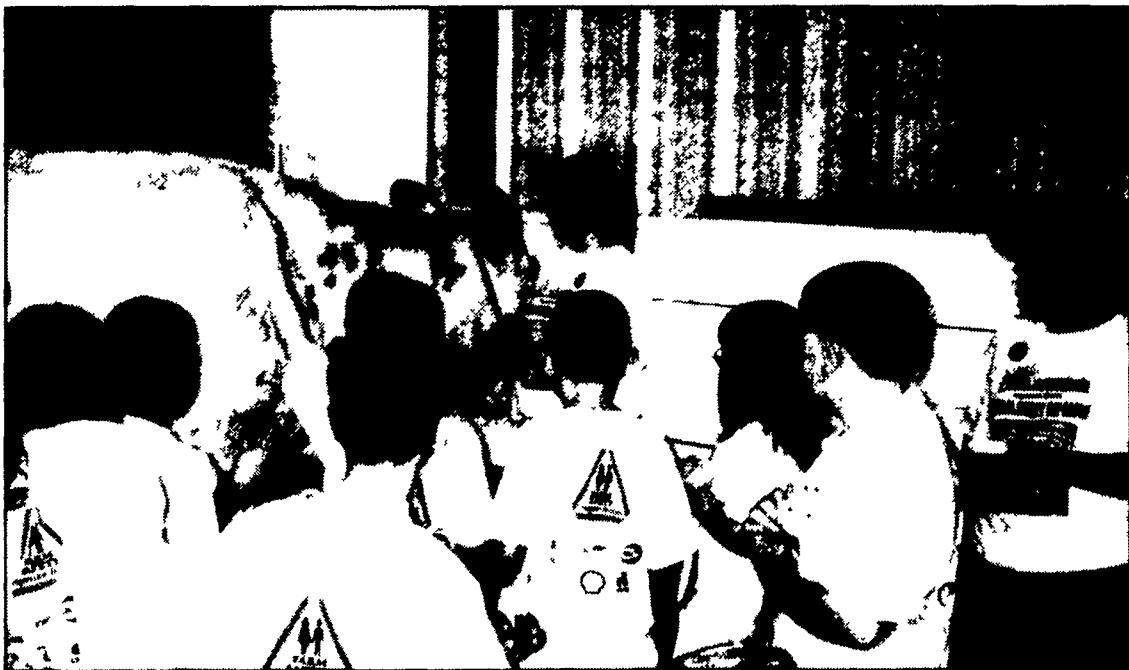
to do in case of a fire. Campers practiced their "stop, drop, and roll" techniques and learned to crawl under smoke. They received coloring books, pencils, and a safety folder.

FFA members Brandon Herman and Daniel Renninger taught the Farm Equipment Station. Using a tractor and hay baler, campers were able to see

how difficult it is to see around a tractor when driving. They also learned about safety around the PTO and farm implements. They received a free International Toy Tractor compliments of CB Hooper, Inc. and John Deere Coloring Books, pencils, and lollipops from Deerfield Ag and Turf and Lost Creek Implements.



Luke Zerby, former West Snyder and Pa. FFA association president, demonstrates the importance of wearing personal protective devices at the West Snyder FFA and Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp recently. Campers saw how their head, hands, and feet could be crushed without proper protection. They also learned the importance of wearing safety glasses.



Jennifer McWilliams, 1999-2000 West Snyder and SUN Area FFA President demonstrated animal safety at the West Snyder FFA and Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp. Campers learned how to safely approach an animal and how to handle one.



Phaedra Wray, West Snyder FFA member taught the fire safety session at the West Snyder FFA and Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp recently. Campers learned how to "stop, drop, and roll" if they were on fire and were able to practice their skill. They also learned to crawl under smoke if their House was on fire.

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