

Kids Korner

Somerset County Holds Farm Safety Day

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SOMERSET (Somerset Co.) —

When visitors to First-on-the-Scene for Farm Families was held Sept. 30 at Scheffel Equipment on the Red Goose Road, their attention to Bill Blough's presentation was rapt.

With Jim Harvey, Blough was targeting the issue of PTO Entanglement during the workshops held at different times.

That is because Blough, who got out of farming a few years ago, has a complete left arm but only a part of his right arm. Blough comfortably removed the prosthesis with its hook end that has enabled him to perform any task he wants to do and spoke about his own accident 32 years ago.

"When I pass this around, they look at this old stub and it makes an impression," he said, of the visible right appendage, explaining he has worn out six hooks and now possesses a new kind. It is constructed of plastic and stainless steel. Its designer guarantees it won't wear out.

Blough's experience found him caught in a manure spreader. He spent seven weeks in the hospital — ample time to meet a nurse named Jane. She obviously, was an angel of mercy because she became his bride in 1970.

"I married my nurse," Blough says, with a wide grin.

Ultimately, as Blough's injuries mended and he adapted to wearing a prosthesis, he was able to farm about 500 acres and milk 110 cows, pick up bulky milk cans, and wield bales of hay with the hook.

New Centerville Rural Fire Company used dummies and farm machinery to demonstrate the steps of action in entanglement emergency.

The event began with Dorothy Bromley, director of the Somerset County Cooperative Extension, talking about a "Wake-up Call." This was followed by Scott Kovach from Somerset County 911 talking about reporting accidents.

Other workshops included: Farm Chemicals by Barry Blake and Doug Walker; Manure and Silo Safety by Jill Stull and Jay Shaffer; Machinery Entanglement by Jim Saylor and Jim Leer.

Additionally, Jessica Lynch covered Animal Safety; Larry Shober and Reed Miller from Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative demonstrated Electrical Safety; Smoke House, Kevin and Stacey; Hay and Tractor Rollover, Paul Treimeloni. Pennsylvania State Police also dealt with highway safety.

"Don't panic," is about the hardest thing to not do, but the most important thing to remem-

ber, when an accident happens whether chemical poisoning, entanglement or whatever.

Next, the person who is first on the scene must remember to not endanger himself, while aiding the person who originally sustained an injury.

Barry Blake said a person who panics will worsen the situation. "Don't let yourself get hurt. Don't become a victim yourself," he said.

Reactions can be from inhaling or ingesting or touching, depending on the type of chemical involved.

Jill Stull from Conemaugh Health Systems/Conemaugh Med-Star assisted by giving potential life-saving tips about dealing with accidents in manure lagoons.

"Very deep liquid will suck you in," she said, and warned that there can be a crust over the top and unidentified gases lurking below it. "You never know what is under it," Stull said.

Jay Shaffer talked about silos. He, himself was gased in 1990 while about midway to the top of a silo. He opted in a split second to go down rather than up, but, soon after was found unconscious still standing.

He said silos are a very economical way of storing feed but there needs to be a fan at the bottom to blow and rid the air of noxious gas. He highly recommends wearing a harness that allows the person to keep a voice activated head set with him. If there is trouble in the silo another person will immediately know about it.

More people are realizing, too, that cellular telephones or two-way communication devices are indispensable to farm families. These can help to save lives.

Stephanie Hartman, 16, a member of the Berlin-Brother-svalley FFA said she was convinced the first thing you do in an emergency is call 911.

"I came today and didn't realize all the stuff I didn't know. I learned you take care of the patient first, and that many little details are really important." She commented that depending on the location of the emergency, you have to ensure rescue teams will have an access to the area where the victim awaits help.

Besides that, she learned that a turnover emergency would require a different response from an emergency involving a manure pit. Knowing what to do first is critical.

"We are very much concerned about farm safety and want to help the farmers anyway we can," commented host Jonas Scheffel, the owner of Scheffel Equipment. "We enjoy our customers and don't want to lose



Bill Blough had a farm accident 32 years ago. At Farm Safety Day in Somerset, he spoke from experience and showed how a prosthesis helps him do his work.



Some presenters at Farm Safety Day are pictured with coordinators, host Jonas Scheffel and youngsters. Standing from left rear, Dennis Scheffel, Barry Blake, Paul Treimeloni, Marvin Thomas, Jonas Scheffel, Jill Stull, Dottie Bromley, and Joel Romesberg. In the foreground are Miguel Saviroff, Bill Blough, Gabriel Saviroff, Michael Saviroff, Jeylan Romesberg, Janee Romesberg and Julia Romesberg.

them in accidents," he said.

Those who attended were rewarded with gorgeous fall weather and enjoyed the complimentary picnic style lunch on lawn chairs, the grass and picnic ta-

bles.

The event was coordinated by the Somerset County Cooperative Extension, Somerset County Farm Bureau, Conemaugh Health System, Penn State Uni-

versity with funding support from the PA Dept. of Agriculture.

Auction To Benefit Boy In Farming Accident

MIFFLINBURG (Union Co.) — A benefit auction to help defray costs associated with the farm accident of Merle Hoover

will be conducted at the Buffalo Valley Produce Auction, Tues. Oct. 31.

The 13-year-old boy from

Union County lost his arm from a recent farm accident.

All proceeds from donated items will be given to the Hoover

family. Items to be served include tools, building materials, quilts, crafts, produce, baked goods, livestock, hay, and straw.

To donate items, or to request more information, call Buffalo Valley Produce Auction at (570) 966-1151.