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Before Planting Season, Lebanon 4-H Club Practices Farm Safety

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — John Donmoyer really knew how to drive home a point.

Using a simple towel, John, from Harpers, and his assistant Chris Seaman, Grantville, showed what really could happen if children work around engaged power takeoffs (PTOs) on tractors.

Quick as a bee, the shaft took hold of the towel, twisting it haphazardly and winding it as tight as a noose. If that would have been a kid's shirt or baggy pants, who knows what could have happened?

Most likely, the child would have been badly injured, dismembered, or killed.

Dave Rittle, with his PTO demonstration graphic, said that most accidents occurred when the equipment was left running "100 percent of the time," he said.

Family and friends of the Lebanon County 4-H Farm Safety Club — about

100 altogether — witnessed the hands-on demonstrations at the Expo Center Tuesday evening.

Other 4-H'ers, such as Drew Pausher, also drove home a point about not playing around grain bins. His demo showed how a young child could easily suffocate when the bin is unloaded.

More than two dozen youth demonstrated potential hazards around the farm and spoke about the impor-

tance of care around equipment and animals at the Lebanon Countywide Farm Safety Evening Tuesday at the Lebanon Expo Center.

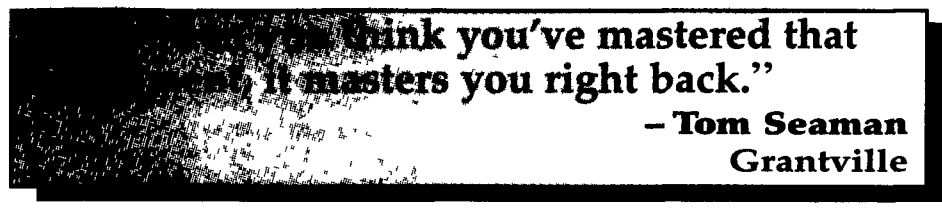
Two age groups were present. Speakers included Jim Dice, leader of the 9-11 year-old youth group, and the SMV, if the tractor goes onto a public road, police will cite you. Seaman also spoke about his own experience with wagons that literally got away from him, because they didn't have the locking chuck to stop the wheels, and the dangers of a runaway, upside-down and running diesel engine.

The overturned diesel engine can literally run on its own crankcase oil. The only way to stop it is to shove a heavy block of wood against the air intake to deprive the engine of oxygen.

Seaman said, "Just when you think you've mastered that equipment, it masters you right back."

Other youth who addressed the countywide safety night included Joel Crouse, Myerstown, on "Tractor Safety On The Road"; David Rittle and Joe Mills, both of Lebanon, who spoke about power takeoffs or PTOs; Matt McFeaters, Annville, on hydraulic system

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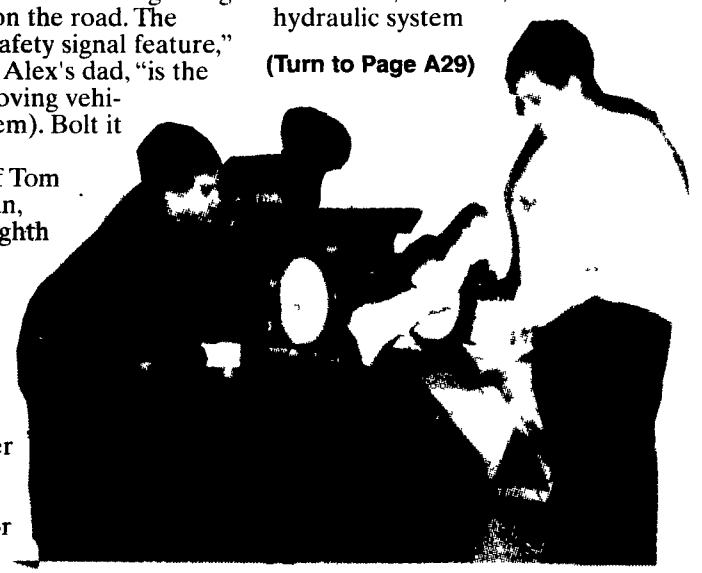
Alex Seaman, 13, left, and Kean Richards, 14, demonstrate equipment signaling safety with this rig at the Lebanon Countywide Farm Safety Evening Tuesday at the Lebanon Expo Center.

Pete Hanson, 13-15 year-old group leader.

Alex Seaman, with fellow 4-H member Kean Richards, demonstrated how important it was to have signaling on tractors when on the road. The "most important safety signal feature," said Tom Seaman, Alex's dad, "is the reflective (slow moving vehicle, or SMV, emblem). Bolt it fast."

Alex, 13, son of Tom and Donna Seaman, Grantville, is an eighth grader along with friend Kean Richards at North Lebanon School. Kean, 14, son of Jim and Lyndell Conrad, Annville, has been a member of the Lebanon Farm Safety Club along with Alex for about two years.

Tom Seaman said that without



Chris Seaman, Grantville, left, and John Donmoyer, Harper Tavern, demonstrate the dangers of power takeoffs at the farm safety evening in Lebanon. Photos by Andy Andrews, editor

Lambs, Goats From 24 States Sell At Local Auction Sales Set Holiday Record

MILLIE BUNTING
Market Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — "Baa baa black sheep..." That nursery rhyme always comes to mind at the Easter lamb sales. (Yes, I know there are not many black sheep,

but the sound still applies — baa baa!)

This year, by sale time Monday, the baa-baaing seemed louder than ever. Perhaps it was the cold temperatures and Easter being so early.

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Happy Easter

All the best wishes for a wonderful Easter from all of us here at Lancaster Farming



Tunis ewes, soon due to lamb, take their fill of orchard grass/ alfalfa hay on the farm of Don and Miki Schrider, Antrim Township, Franklin County. The dog, Roxy, is purebred Maremma, an Italian breed noted for guarding livestock. Read about the Schrider's operation and the unique history and characteristics of Tunis sheep on page B12. Photo by Dave Lefever