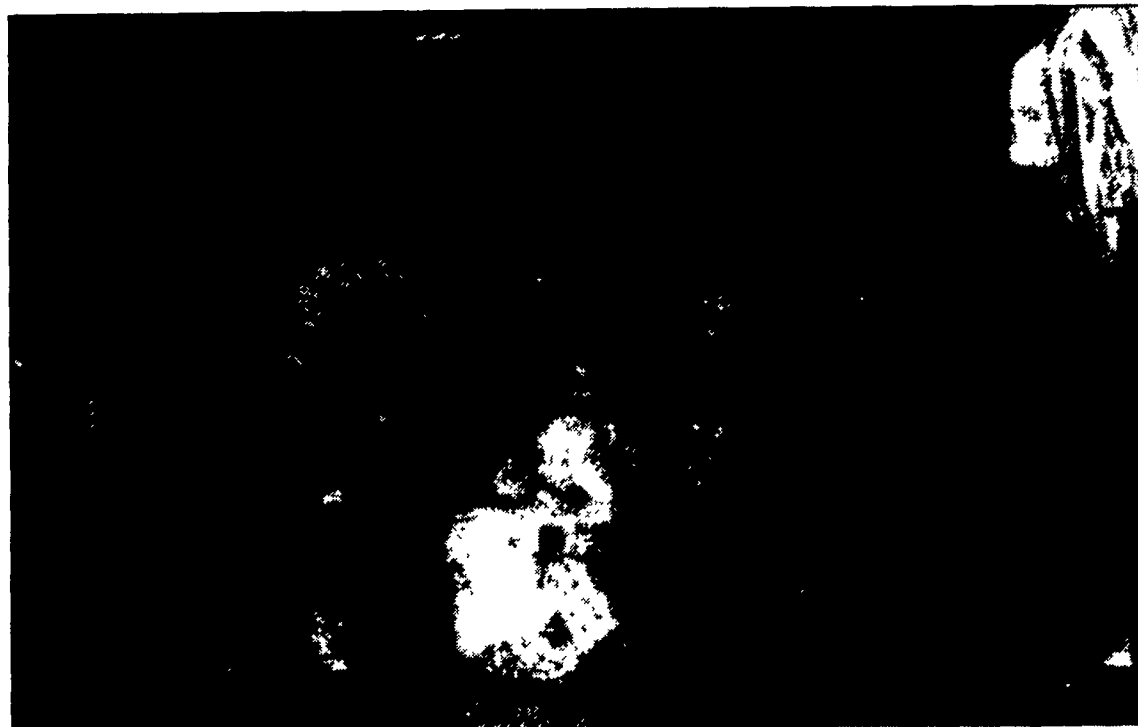


Before Planting Season, Lebanon 4-H Club Practices Farm Safety



Leon Stump demonstrates safety around silos at the Lebanon Expo Center.



These children attentively watch a rollover protective structure safety demonstration at the Lebanon Expo Center.

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safety; John Lehman, Lebanon, on rollover protection and road safety; silo safety, by Leon Stump, Upper Lawn; and Drew Pausher, Lebanon, on grain bin safety.

Also speaking were Jesse Stump, on a rollover protection system (ROPS) for tractors and Joe Mills, Lebanon, fire extinguisher facts.

Said Jesse Stump, "On any kind of tractor, even if it's big, if there is no ROPS, the tractor could roll over and you could die."

Two representatives of Cedar Crest FFA spoke about a farm

“...72 percent of the areas have non-functional fire extinguishers. Of those that do, the extinguishers are inadequate or not charged.”

— Beth Kreider
Cedar Crest FFA

fire extinguisher survey conducted on 10 farms in the area. Carl Eisenhauer and Beth Kreider, Cedar Crest FFA members, spoke about the need for fire extinguishers on the farm.

Said Kreider, only a “third of the areas on average farms had fire extinguishers. There’s a tremendous need, because 72 percent of the areas have nonfunctional fire extinguishers. Of those that do, the extinguishers are inadequate or not charged.”

Working with Penn State extension, the Cedar Crest FFA was able to obtain Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture grant money to purchase a limited number of extinguishers for some farms. They will be available from extension on a first-come, first-serve basis.

An average farm, to be adequately protected, may need more than two dozen extinguishers, charged and fully functional.

Kreider noted that on equip-

ment, combines should have two, including one in front and in back. Each floor of a farmhouse should have one. Extinguishers should be placed “near hazardous areas on the farm,” she said.

In the tractor driving contest competition conducted by the club last Saturday, top driver awards were presented to Jerry Musser and Clark Zimmerman.

For more information about the club, contact Del Voight at the extension, (717) 270-4391.

Farm Health And Safety Checklist

Editor's Note: This is adapted from the Farm Health and Safety Project by the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture from the Canadian Agricultural Safety Program (CASP) and the Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods.

The Importance Of Farm Safety
Farming is a demanding business which exposes farmers, farm workers and farm families to a wide range of safety hazards on a daily basis. It involves, for example, the extensive use of:

- Heavy machinery and moving equipment which can cause serious personal injury or death.

- Agricultural chemicals which are toxic to both humans and animals.

- A wide variety of tools, implements and equipment that can fall on farm workers, slip during use and take off a limb if used improperly or without adequate protective measures.

- Electrical, fuel-driven and propane-driven machinery and tools that can cause injury and property damage.

- Bulk commodities and supplies which can fall on workers or into which workers can fall.

- Scaling equipment such as ladders, scaffolding and overhead walkways which can become worn or slippery.

Less dramatic, perhaps, but equally important, are farm health hazards such as:

- Hearing loss from noisy machinery and tools.

- Back problems from lifting heavy loads.

- Breathing difficulties from inhaling respiratory irritants.

- Cuts and abrasions from sharp objects left in lumber piles.

This is just a brief illustration

of the potential dangers to which farmers and farm workers are routinely exposed.

Accident Prevention

- Have any farm workers (including family members) received instruction in safe working practices?

- Are emergency phone numbers listed and posted in prominent places (e.g. by telephones and in main work areas)?

Medical

- Is there a first aid kit available in the farmyard, house, barn or the main farm buildings? Is there a first aid kit available for when workers are not within easy access to the farmyard or farm buildings (e.g. in vehicles)?

- Is someone on the farm with formal training in first aid?

- Are guards and shields always kept in place when farm machinery is in use?

- Is the power always turned off before machinery is adjusted, repaired, or unclogged?

- Is it a standard rule on your farm to not allow extra riders on farm equipment?

- Do farm workers always check to ensure children and animals are not close by before starting up farm machinery and equipment?

- Are seatbelts always used on tractors equipped with Roll Over Protective Structures?

- Are drawbar loads always hitched to a drawbar rather than to the tractor's axle, frame or raised three-point hitch?

- Are manufacturers' recommendations for adding front-end weights always followed when using rear mounted implements on tractors?

- Are all tractors and self-propelled machines equipped with a dry chemical fire extin-

guisher?

- Are doors and windows in buildings always open when vehicles or equipment with internal combustion engines are started or run indoors?

- Are flashing lights mounted on all farm equipment transported on public roads?

- Do farm machinery operators at all times wear clothing which is tight-fitting and not torn or ragged when working near machinery?

- Are farm equipment instructional manuals readily available to operators?

- Are farm tractors and other self-propelled vehicles always kept in good working order (e.g. periodic brake adjustments, properly inflated tires, hydraulic hoses kept in good condition, etc.)?

- Do all farm equipment operators know how to stabilize a piece of farm equipment using jacks and blocks before repairing or servicing the equipment?

- Is all trailing equipment fitted with safety chains and locking devices to keep hitch pins from falling out?

- Are all steps, ladders and platforms on farm equipment kept clear of mud and other material which may cause slipping or falling?

Have all farm workers using agricultural chemicals taken a pesticides course?

- Are all agricultural chemicals stored in a locked room or building away from animal, feed, seeds and living quarters?

- Are signs posted next to all chemical storage areas to warn of the potential hazards inside?

- Are chemicals always stored in their original containers with the labels clearly intact?

- Are empty chemical con-

tainers always disposed of promptly and safely?

- Is your chemical mixing area either outside or in an open, well-ventilated area?

- Are noncompatible chemicals in storage always physically isolated from one another?

- Is personal protective equipment (including gloves, goggles, respirators, aprons and hard-shell hats) always used by farm workers when applying or handling farm chemicals?

- Are fuel storage tanks at least 40 feet from the nearest building?

- Are fuel storage tanks located where they will not be struck by vehicles and machinery?

- Is the condition of underground fuel storage tanks checked periodically to ensure there is no leakage?

- Are dry chemical fire extinguishers readily available in all fuel storage areas?

- Are fuel storage hoses, nozzles and pumps always kept in good condition, and vents kept clean and free of dirt?

- Are approved safety containers always used to store small quantities of gasoline, kerosene or diesel fuel?

- Are all bulk propane storage tanks located at least the minimum distance of 10 feet from the nearest building?

- Are all propane system regulators and gauges protected from weather and dirt?

- Are areas around fuel tanks and pumps always kept free of weeds, trash and other combustible materials?

- Are “no smoking” signs posted in all fuel storage and handling areas and other places where combustible materials are located?

Electricity

- Are all wiring, power cords, plugs and switches in farm buildings and around the farm kept in good condition?

- Does the electrical system



Joe Mills provides tips on fire extinguisher use at the countywide farm safety evening.

have ample capacity to handle all loads?

Hand, Power Tools

- Are all stationary power tools grounded and all portable power tools either double insulated or of the three-wire grounded type?

- Are portable power tools always disconnected when not in use?

- Are all stationary tools such as grinders and saws properly shielded and the shields always in place when in use?

- Are all hand tools (especially cutting tools like saws, axes and knives) properly stored so they cannot fall or be brushed against accidentally?

- Is your welding area well-ventilated?

- Are all work areas well lit?

Answers: All should be “yes.”