

Hunsbergers To Host Farm Safety Day

SANDRA LEPLEY
Somerset Co. Correspondent
DAVIDSVILLE (Somerset Co.) — This year's Somerset County Farm Safety Day is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. next Saturday, April 26, here at the William Hunsberger Farm.

Hunsberger's farm was originally owned by the founder of Johnstown, Joseph Johns, who is buried on the farm's cemetery.

Last year Farm Safety Day was conducted at the Berlin Community Grove and focused on safety for children on farms. This year the emphasis is on "A Day That Could Save Your Life," which will encompass general farm safety for the whole family.

"Our primary purpose is to avoid accidents on the family

farm," said Miguel Saviroff, extension agent for Somerset County. "If we can help just one person, then the event was worthwhile."

The Somerset County Farm Safety Coalition and Penn State Cooperative Extension in Somerset are sponsoring the event.

During the day, different workshops will be held for children, including bike safety, fire safety, storm safety, PTO entanglement, and first aid.

The adult workshops will include PTO entanglement, a tractor rollover demonstration, chemical/sprayer safety, extrication from machinery, and first aid.

Special attractions are all-terrain vehicle safety from 10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and the Med-Star Helicopter from Conemaugh Hospi-

tal in Johnstown will be arriving sometime between 1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

Conemaugh Connection from Conemaugh Hospital will be doing hearing tests and blood pressure screenings in the afternoon.

Penn State continues to be an educator of farm safety issues, mainly through Dr. Dennis Murphy, who is known on an international basis, and also through strong interest from the state's department of agriculture. Penn State has several farm safety demonstrations to extension offices and ag high school classrooms every year.

For Bill Blough of the Jennerstown area, president of the Somerset County Farm Safety Coalition, a simple mistake on his family farm in 1967 radically

changed his life forever.

"It could have been worse, but the power takeoff shaft pulled my arm in up to the shoulder," said Blough. "It was a cold day, Dec. 16, and the shaft was frozen fast to the cover when I put my hand on it."

That simple mistake caused Blough to lose his right hand, and he now uses a hook to maneuver.

"It takes only a second," said Blough. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This year's farm safety day will include personal safety and family safety. Even if you don't get hurt, someone else in the family may, and it's important to keep the family together at that time."

Judy Rhoads, retired teacher from Maple Ridge Elementary School in the Somerset Area School District, will help coordinate this year's event. She is the wife of Allen Rhoads, a farmer in Jenner Township.

Lunch will be provided for registered participants. Registration is required. To register, contact Somerset County Cooperative Extension at (814) 445-8911.

"Accidents usually never happen on purpose," said Saviroff. "And, after they are over, most people realize how they could have been prevented. We want to create an awareness so farmers stop and think before they act."

Pa. Senate To Consider Nominee

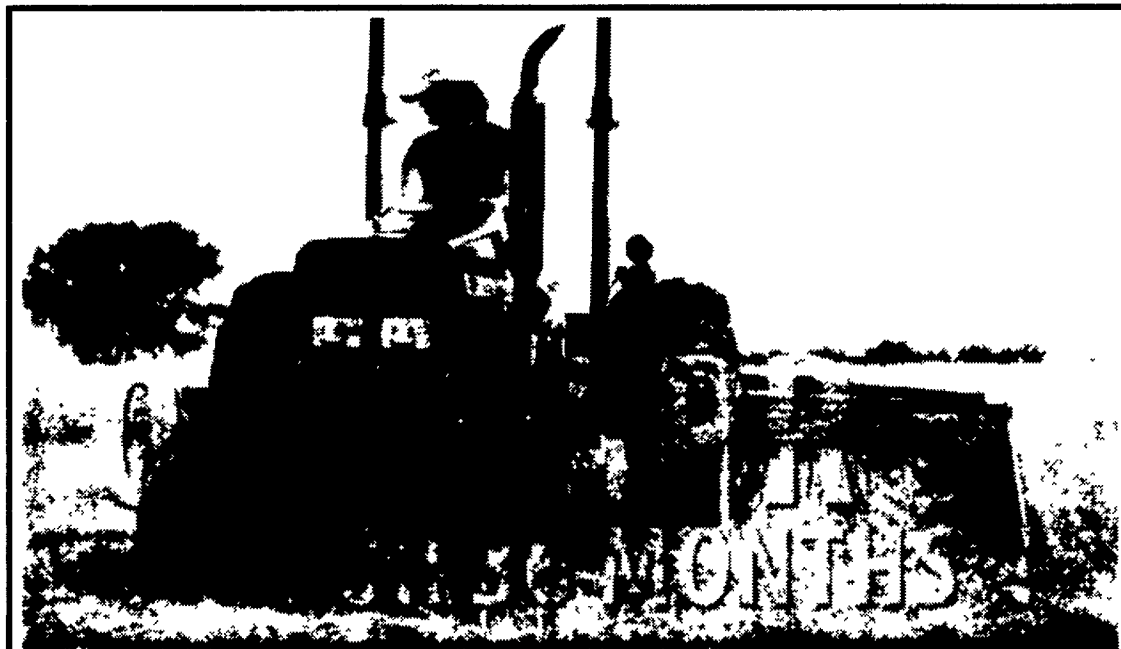
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will conduct a public hearing to consider the nomination of Boyd E. Wolff to the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB).

The hearing is scheduled for April 23 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 8EA of the Capitol Building in Harrisburg.

Administration Launches Website

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Bush Administration has launched EarthDay.gov, a Website that provides Americans a comprehensive guide to environmental service opportunities and Earth Day events sponsored by the federal government, including events hosted by USDA agencies.

The site is the first interagency effort to create a comprehensive federal resource for citizens who want to participate in Earth Day and other year-round environmental activities.



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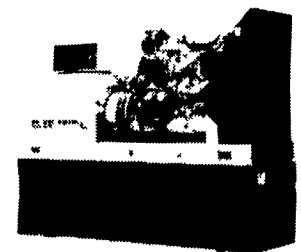
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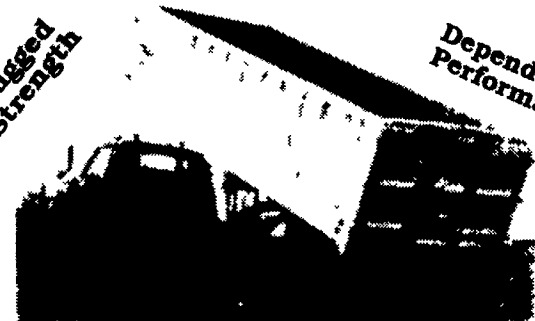
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