

Kids Korner

Farm Safety Is No Accident

Register Now To Attend Family Farm Safety Day

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PARADISE (Lancaster Co.) — Five children died from farm accidents last year in Lancaster County.

"Even if only one had died, it's sad," said Don Ranck, who farms in Paradise.

Sometimes children are run over by machinery and equipment. Sometimes they get in animal pens, or play in barns and fall through hayloft openings. Sometimes smaller children wander away and fall into ponds or manure pits.

Ranck believes that most farm accidents are preventable. He works with Dr. Albert Price, pediatrician, on planning Lancaster County's annual Family Farm Safety Day. Workshops geared to children between the ages of 8-13 years point out potential dangers and demonstrate safe ways to perform necessary tasks on the farm. Actually there are activities for the whole family.

This year the event is scheduled for June 21, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Bart Fire Company, Bart.

"I grew up on a farm, where safety was always number one (priority)," Ranck said. Since



Don Ranck explains why his refrigerator door is tied shut to Jared Coleman, 8.

then he and his wife Ginny have taught their four children (now adults) the importance of always being careful. The Rancks operate a bed and breakfast on their farm, which is visited by hundreds of children. Ranck's children grew up teaching farm safety to tourists of all ages.

"No one was ever hurt, but I don't say that arrogantly," Ranck said. "Accidents can happen anywhere."

oped to make farming safer.

Some Amish farmers have designed equipment with safety features that many other farmers aren't aware of, according to Ranck.

Ranck and other farmers teach safety workshops during the day pertaining to power take-off motors, mowers, chemicals, fire, gases, water, buggy rides, and hidden hazards.

Because the classes are taught by farmers, they are more aware of the dangers, the practicality of safety features, and the need to train children how to help on the farm.

"Matching chores to children's development is important," said Dennis Murphy, Penn State professor of agricultural engineering. "Injuries may occur because parents overestimate their child's physical size and age without taking into account the ability to perform the job. You have to consider balance, strength, reaction time, coordination, attention span, and memory."

As children grow older, they need to learn how to drive tractors and operate other equipment. They must learn to drive tractors by watching. But there are right and wrong ways to ride along on the tractor. These concepts are taught at the workshops.

"Parents can tell their children (about safety rules) but the safety demonstrations really make an impression on children," Ranck said of the educational event.

As a pediatrician, Dr. Price saw some devastating cases of children hurt on the farm. He started the free Family Farm Safety Day to teach the importance of making the farm a safer place.

Family Farm Safety Day is free for the family, but you must register early. Deadline for registration is June 9. To register, call (717) 290-5945.

Family Farm Safety Day is scheduled at the Bart Fire Company June 21. Families are encouraged to attend. Free snacks, lunch, surprises, fun — and prizes!

Despite their best efforts, his own family had several "close calls."

It's difficult to enforce safety rules at all times on a farm where parents are often busy with so many chores. One of the most difficult rules to enforce is to teach children never to run toward tractors. It's difficult for children to realize that a tractor operator cannot hear them or see them.

"Children must be closely supervised at all times," Ranck said.

Rotary mowers and all-terrain vehicles also pose many dangers.

Even if all the rules are followed, accidents can happen. Ranck said that when he was 12 years old, he was hauling manure. The universal joint pin on the steering column fell out. The steering column came loose, causing the tractor to upset on an embankment and pinning Ranch beneath it. He was rescued just in time.

Last year, the annual Family Farm Safety Day attracted 150 children between the ages of 6-18. But the event isn't only for children. Families are encouraged to attend.

The event offers opportunities for adults to see some of the safety features other farmers devel-

Prepare Children For Financial Responsibility

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — Would you like for your children to be money smart? Do you hope they won't make some of the same mistakes you've made with money? Money is a complicated subject with lots of emotional ties. It is easy to pick up bad money habits like spending more money than you have and not saving any money.

Children learn money responsibility day-by-day. Their money education requires parental time, energy, supervision, some money, and the ability to let the child experience the consequence of a poor decision. Children who are taught early about money learn independence; they also acquire the money skills needed for developing self-discipline and confidence. Teaching about money can be tricky, however, because you do not want to overemphasize money and materialism.

According to Kay Zimka, Colorado State Cooperative Extension even young children may learn about consumerism by watching their parents.

She offers these steps to help you teach your child about money:

1. Analyze your own attitudes about money.

2. Involve the child in the family's financial planning. A short and not-too-boring family meeting might include a talk about what good things happened during the week, what is happening regarding the plans for a family vacation or what decisions need to be made about money. You may even let the kids be in charge of the meeting. The idea is not to make the children worry about family finances, but to educate them about how the household runs or the limits of the family budget.

3. Communicate an attitude that budgeting is serious, but not frightening. Children can learn that savings, rent, house payments, and utilities are paid first, that allowances fit within the family budget and that when one expense increases, another must decrease. The importance of having a financial plan becomes more vivid.

4. Give each child over five years of age an allowance — enough to teach how to make decisions, but not so much that it's wasteful. An allowance is given because the child is a member of the family and is not dependent upon doing chores or getting good grades. Doing chores is the child's contribution to the family. You can provide opportunities to earn extra income when the child needs money for a special occasion or wants to save for a special purchase.

5. Encourage long-term saving. Open a savings account and help your children chart their savings. This is a positive way to develop financial responsibility.

6. If your child wants to borrow money from you, use this loan as an opportunity to teach about using credit wisely. You can have a written contract stating interest charges, a repayment schedule and what happens when payments are not made. Explain that late fees can be charged if payments are not made on time.



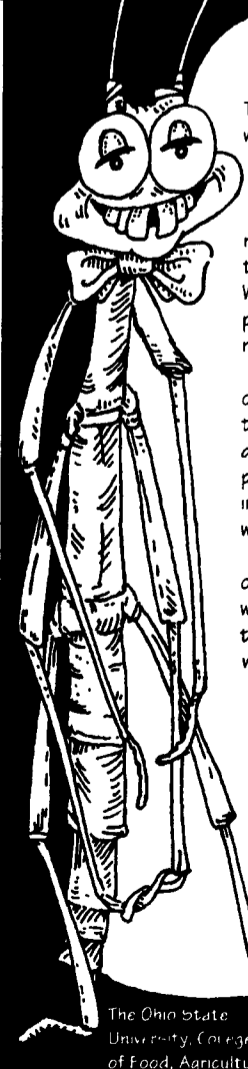
"Don't climb on anything unless an adult is present and gives permission," Ranck tells visitors on his farm.



Don Ranck, Paradise farmer, explains the danger of a hayloft opening and the need to keep openings closed to Dylan Coleman, 5.

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



Dear Twig: You said cougars used to live in Ohio. I find that hard to believe.

Two hundred years ago, Ohio was still mostly wilderness. Forest, swamp, even prairie covered the land. The human residents were Native Americans and about 60,000 European settlers who were still in the process of getting settled. The animal residents included cougars and other wild creatures that you won't find wild in Ohio today. Elk and bison. Wolves and ravens. Prairie chickens and passenger pigeons. Which made getting to the outhouse at night an adventure "Is that you, Billy? Billy?"

Then more people came, and more land was cleared for farms and cities. Those animals lost their homes or were killed as pests or for food. They disappeared from Ohio or, in the case of the passenger pigeon, became extinct. Other animals increased in their places — coyotes instead of wolves, crows instead of ravens.

Most other states have seen wildlife changes. So have most other countries. It comes with development, for better or worse. The secret, I think, is to learn from those losses and to use what we know to stop even more.

It's late. I'm off to the outhouse.

Sprightly,

Twig