

# National Plan For Agricultural Safety Research Announced

AMES, Iowa — The culmination of two years work by agricultural safety specialists from across the country has resulted in the recently released "The National Agenda for Action, National Land Grant Research and Extension Agenda for Agricultural Safety and Health."

The report outlines the 12 key areas where land grant institutions and agricultural experiment stations should focus future safety research. It was created by the NCR-197 Committee on Agricultural Safe Health Research and Extension.

The group's members come from 18 land grant institutions, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Charles V. Schwab, associate professor, Ag and Biosystems Engineering, Iowa State University and chair, NCR-197 committee, said "This historical document marks the first published national agricultural safety and health agenda for action by the land grant system since 1943, when the first cooperative extension specialist for safety was appointed in Wisconsin."

Agricultural production in the U.S. has historically been recognized as one of the most hazardous of all industrial categories. Most other industries have benefited from enhanced workplace safety and expanded workplace safety regulations. However, farms and ranches have experienced little reduction in the rate

of workplace deaths and injuries over the past decade.

The fatality rate for agricultural workers is estimated to more than six times that of other industries (22.5 per 100,000 versus 3.8 per 100,000). Currently an average of 740 people lose their lives and another 130,000 workers are temporarily or permanently disabled each year doing farm and ranch work.

About 75 percent of farm-related fatalities involve tractors and machinery, with the single most significant cause of death being tractor overturns. The remaining workplace fatalities are distributed over a wide variety of causes ranging from livestock-related injuries to suffocation in flowing material.

In addition, farm and ranch families face increased hazards of rural transportation and the intersection of work, recreation, and home that results in broad exposure to workplace hazards that don't exist in most other industries.

The entire report may be found at the following Web address: <http://www.tmvc.iastate.edu/NCR197>.

## Hempt Cup Polo Match Rescheduled to August 16

MECHANICSBURG (Cumberland Co.) — Harrisburg Opera's biggest annual fundraiser, the Hempt Cup Polo Classic, will take place Saturday, August 16 at Hempt Field, Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg.

Originally planned for June 14, the event was rescheduled after vandalism and the wet weather made the field unplayable.

Also new is a tailgating competition open to all, with celebrity judges and prizes for the most original theme, most elegant tailgate, best pavilion, and best hat.

The day opens with canine relay races featuring the Jetset Flyball Dogs. Flyball features relay teams of four dogs that race over hurdles, jump on a spring-loaded box which releases a tennis ball, catch the ball and race back to start.

The day continues with the start of the Hempt Cup Polo Classic, which pits the West Shore Polo Club team against the visiting Lancaster Polo Club. In polo, teams of four mounted players hit a hard white ball 3½-inches in diameter with 4½-foot long mallets from the backs of their 1,000 pound thoroughbreds, while galloping 20 to 35 miles an hour. The goal is to

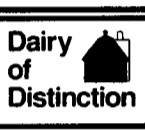
score by hitting the ball between the uprights at each end of the field, which is the size of ten football fields. Defensive plays include hooking an opposing player's mallet, bumping a player's galloping horse at up to a 45 degree angle with one's own, and "riding off," or pushing a player's horse off the line of the ball with one's own mount.

Audience participation continues at halftime. Rodney Owens, "The Celtic Piper," will provide bagpipe music for the traditional halftime divot stomp. The divot stomp gives spectators an opportunity to help maintain safe field conditions for players and ponies.

The gates open at 1 p.m. and the match begins at 3 p.m.

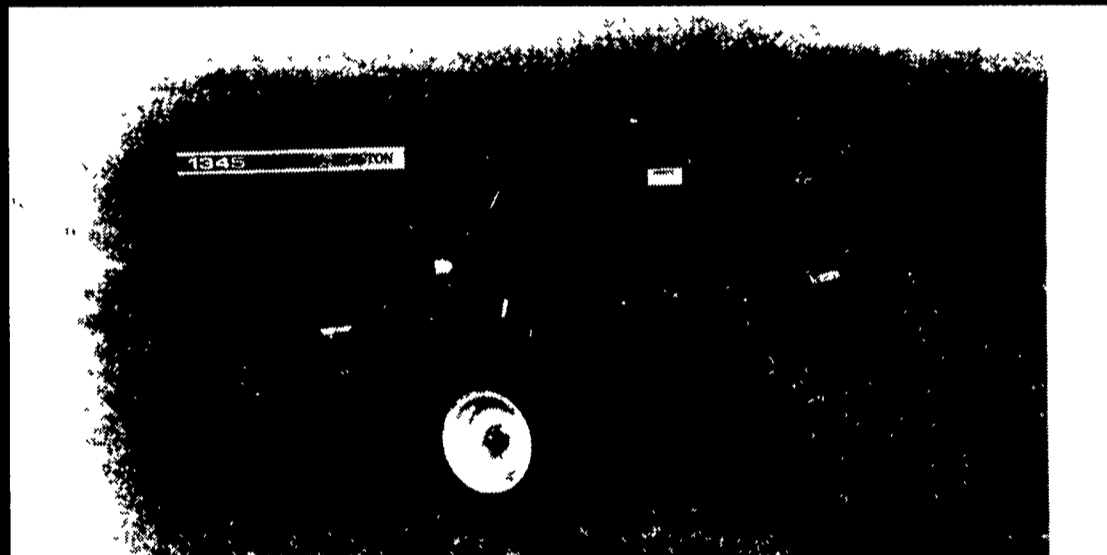
Fieldside patron parking spaces, including reserved sideline parking for one vehicle, four chairs, and four adult admissions, cost \$100. VIP admission including admission to the VIP tent, food, drink, and parking is \$30. General admission is \$10. Admission for children under age 12 and general admission parking is free. To reserve a sponsor or patron space, or for more information, phone (717) 506-2203.

Sixteen new dairy farms have been chosen as Dairies of Distinction in Pennsylvania this year. Be sure to check out these picturesque and well-managed farmsteads in *Lancaster Farming's* Dairy of Distinction issue July 26. Each farm will be shown in full color with a write-up describing the family and dairy operation.



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## Final Rule Issued On Common Crop Insurance Basic Provisions

WASHINGTON, D.C. — USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) last week announced the Common Crop Insurance Policy (Basic Provisions) final rule in accordance with the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA).

The Basic Provisions were recently published in the Federal Register and are effective for the 2004 crop year for crops with a contract change date of June 30, 2003, and later.

"ARPA charged the USDA and RMA to enhance the Federal crop insurance program to better serve our nation's agricultural producers," said Administrator Ross J. Davidson Jr. "RMA looks forward to working diligently with the insurance companies in accomplishing this goal and implementing these new rules."

The Basic Provisions provide general policy terms and conditions applicable to most crops insured under the Federal crop insurance program. These are used in conjunction with specific crop

provisions to provide producers with insurance coverage for their agricultural commodities. To comply with ARPA mandates, RMA made changes to select terms and conditions in the Basic Provisions. For example, the final rule includes limits on multiple insurance benefits on the same acreage in the same crop year; allows a second crop to be planted on acreage where a first crop was prevented from being planted; and adds an informal review process for determinations regarding "good farming practices."

A number of additional changes to the Basic Provision were proposed, but not carried forward in this final rule. These proposed changes will be addressed in a subsequent final rule and will not be effective until the 2005 crop year.

Interested producers should contact their agent regarding the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions. A list of crop insurance agents is available at local Farm Service Agency offices

or by using RMA's Agent Locator at: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

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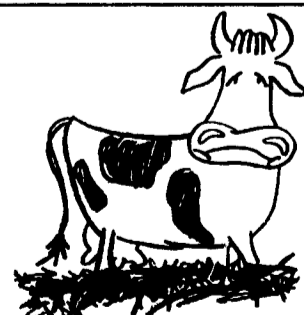
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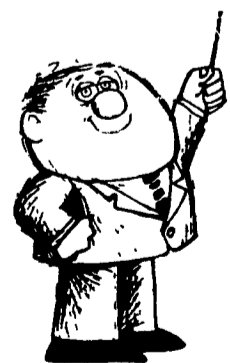
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