

National Farm Safety Week, July 24 to 30

THE PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL
PAGE FOUR
Monday, July 25, 1949

4,300 Killed In Farm Accidents Last Year

The farmer fills the bread basket for the nation every year. It is vitally important therefore to the Nation as well as to himself that the farmer be and keep in tip-top working condition at all times.

But, unfortunately, the farmers of America are not always in this tip-top condition. Accidents—most of them avoidable—are an ever present danger, whittling away great chunks of farm man power and farm income. According to statistics, more people are killed in farm accidents than in any other industry. Over 4,300 are killed in work accidents each year, and over 9,000,000 farm people are injured. These startling figures come to us from the National Safety Council. More than \$150,000,000 is lost, not taking into account the many indirect costs which invariably accompany injury and death.

It is up to the individual

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farmer to curb his own losses, to conserve the human resources of agriculture, and so contribute to the total national economy. July 24 to 30—Farm Safety Week, is designed to give the farmer an understanding of the problem and to suggest specific measures toward its solution.

There are two basic kinds of accidents: (1) Those resulting from mechanical causes such as unguarded machinery, defective and worn rope or wire, tools, and other equipment, holes in platforms and floorings, etc.; and (2) those resulting from personal causes such as carelessness, thoughtlessness, ignorance, stupidity, recklessness, insubordination, "horseplay," and other such human failings. But all of these accidents can and should be brought under control by the intelligent farmer. It is the farmer's duty to study his farm in regards to preventing accidents. If hazards exist, it is his sole duty to take all appropriate steps to eliminate such and make them harmless.

Much unlike the city worker, the farmer lives at his place of work and is exposed to the hazards of his occupation for longer hours. Safety rules and regulations enforced by systems of inspections, fines and arrests for violations protect the city worker. On the farm the rules of safety must be enforced by the farmer himself, for on the farm there are no inspectors or policemen from the outside to "lay down the law."

Again we reiterate, the farmer is responsible for his own safety as well as the safety of his helpers and members of his family. All together they must make the farm a safe place in which to work and live.

The true wealth of our great nation lies not in its natural resources but in its human resources. Therefore, safeguarding these priceless human resources is the soundest possible investment for the farmer, for his family, and for his community.

The Gutenberg Bible first book printed with movable type, was given the appearance of a hand-copied manuscript by the printers so that their invention would not be discovered.

Avoid Accidents All Around The Farm

**United States Department
Of Agriculture Safety Council
MACHINERY**—treads and cogs, fans, belts and bolts—can either be friend or foe, according to its master.

Service and efficiency, as in other relationships, are largely products of respect, care and intelligent handling. A little thought or a bit less haste may prevent a mangled hand, a crushed leg, a nasty slash. It is worth while to remind yourself—

Stop that motor before coupling the tractor to implement or trailer.

Yield not to the temptation or dismount while the machine is moving.

Put those brakes on before cranking, and be sure the machine is not in gear.

Operating on steep slopes? **CAUTION** is the cue.

Yes, and taking chances with mowers, binders and combines does not jibe with common sense. What may happen possibly means work for the garage or for the hospital. Would it not pay to remember that—

"Jack be nimble, jack be quick" is a tip for an acrobat but hardly for a sober-minded farmer with a bit of oiling to be done or adjustments to be made in front of a cutter bar.

It is far sounder tactics for a farmer to raise the cutter bar before the tractor is attached to the mower, or before the team is hitched. Tractor—or team—should be stopped before anything steps in front.

A driver should ride a harrow or drag only when a sturdy seat is provided. If a team is used, he should walk behind the implement.

A tip on silage cutters: Danger lurks in unguarded drives; do not relax the watch on them, any more than on the cutters themselves.

Threshing machinery can also be murderous; do not trust it too far. Do not, literally for the life of you, attempt to put a belt on a pulley while the thing is going. Repairs and adjustments, no matter how trivial, call for stopping operations long enough to make them.

Ever see those heavy clouds of dust stirred up by the shage cutter or the threshing? In that dust are likely to be barbs, spines, smut or other particles irritating to the eyes and organs of breathing. It is advisable, therefore, to wear goggles and approved respirators.

TRACTORS top the tragedy list in the modern farm factory. Within their clanking chain treads, their ordered tangle of gears and levers and moving parts, is the constant threat of injury and death.

Tractors, therefore, are to be managed with caution and deliberation. Many of the same rules apply to the safe handling of automobiles hold equally with regard to tractors, e.g., gear shifts in neutral before cranking, the even application of brakes for emergency stops, care in entering highways, reliance on gears rather than brakes when going down steep hills or grades.

Other pointers: Engage the clutch gently; start slowly rather than in jerks.

Wait for the tractor to stop before dismounting.

Do not fold while belts while pulleys are in motion. Remember that overturning is four times as likely when the speed is double—reduce the tractor's speed before making a turn or applying brakes. Rough ground and the nearness of ditches increase the hazards; slow down.

On hillsides, watch with hawk-eyes for a hole or ditch that may cause a calamitous upset.

A hot radiator should be refilled only with elaborate care, and refueling should never be done while the motor is running or when it is extremely hot.

When the tractor is hooked up to implements or other machines, the dangers multiply; keep the shield on the power take-off, use an iron hook to handle the drawbar; keep out of the space between tractor and drawn implement.

Do not take chances of any kind when using one of those powerful machines!

SAWS—Rip saws, cross-cut saws, band saws, many and painful are the injuries they inflict.

Study every installation with a view to preventing the accidental starting of motors, the inadvertent shoving or crowding of the operator by another person. Throw shields and screens and guards around every moving part and every cutting edge, to the full extent practicable. Do not rush the sawing job; take time to keep fingers and arms and clothing out of the way of those jagged teeth.

Small sawmills also entail elements of danger, and methods should be invoked to insure their safe operation.

TOOLS—Proper care of edged tools not only is a mark of efficiency but a first step toward accident prevention as well.

Corn knives, axes, hatchets should be equipped with shields for carrying, where practicable. Chisels, awls, punches, screw-drivers belong to portable tool boxes while being carried from place to place—not in overalls pockets.

And the proper use of hand tools, as well as their care and disposition, will do much to cut down the human-repair bill. Bulletins are available which tell of their use in timbering, wood cutting, brush clearing and building construction.

INSECT CONTROL—You want to kill INSECTS—NOT PEOPLE. Therefore, have a care in the employment of sprays or dust. Protective clothing and respirators, will help, and will the thorough cleaning and sterilization of vessels used in mixing and applying. The storage of unused chemicals is fraught with danger.

LIVESTOCK—Second in number only to accidents from machinery are the farm fatalities caused by animals.

One run-away can nullify years of training, ruin or injure a good team. A bull, and old boar or a sow with pigs, even a vicious goat or ram, can cause a serious injury.

A few practical hints: Handle young work stock gently but firmly before breaking and during training. A mean horse or mule sometimes behaves with docility when handling by a certain person in whom it has confidence.

Speak to an animal before entering the stall; then stroke

its neck or back, if it is not to nervous.

Keep gear and harness in good repair. Do not run the risk of a break.

Ring the nose of the bull; lead him with a leader. Use a safekeeper bull pen developed by the Bureau of Dairy Industry.

Human beings are susceptible to many animal diseases; use every precaution in the training of sick animals or disposal of dead ones.

WELLS, CISTERNS, PITS—Aside from the important item of health and sanitation, farm wells, cisterns, and pits are fraught with danger. From time of construction, through maintenance, to discontinuance of use, precaution is the watchword.

When digging is in progress, the sides of deep openings should be shored up, and the top should be conspicuously marked and railed off to prevent animals or human beings from falling into them. Many is the person who has been buried alive by cave-ins.

The cleaning or repair of the well, or initial construction, is not a job for one man working by himself. There should always be a companion at the top, ready to draw up the worker by the rope or to render any other needed assistance. A strong ladder should be provided for use in descending and ascending.

Tools and materials should be kept well back from the opening, so that they cannot fall on the person below.

Fowl air or gas is frequently to be found in an old well or in a partially filled silo. It is easy to discover the presence of such fowl air or gas by lowering a lighted candle or a lantern attached to the end of a pole. If the flame is extinguished, or if it burns feebly, dangerous air is indicated. Ventilation is the answer—an answer which can be arrived at by the use of a blower discharging large quantities of fresh air into the silo at the bottom of the hole through a pipe for 10 minutes before entering. Or if a blower is unavailable, a generous quantity of fresh unslaked lime, upon which water has just been poured, will sometimes do the job; in a few hours the lime will have absorbed most of the carbonic acid gas (black damp). But before the opening is entered, the test

by lantern or candle should again be made.

Abandoned wells ought to be filled in or safely covered over and every precaution exercised to eliminate dangers to the young or the unwary.

Safety and sanitation have a close affinity in the matter of drinking water. Devices for safe guarding well, cisterns and springs against accident are often devices also for protecting the quality of the water supply. To the old oaken bucket, the moss-covered bucket, trace many losses of livestock and human lives.

Uncovered springs, or springs so located as to collect surface run-off, many times are starters of contagious disease. Springs ought to be closed several times a year. Shallow wells located near barnyards or out-houses are danger points. Dairy farms, to meet legal standards of sanitation, are usually subject to frequent inspection, but on many farms where such standards are not required carelessness creeps in. For the protection of the farm family as well as for the protection of the community, watch the water supply! Relocate it if necessary. And throw around it every protection against pollution. Remember too, that stagnant waters allowed to stand in undrained pools and in rain barrels constitute ideal breeding places for malarial mosquitoes.

TESTING—WATER ANALYSIS—Where a water supply is questionable it will be desirable to notify the State Board of Health in order that adequate tests and water analyses can be made. This is very important.

CUTS, BRUISES, INFECTIONS—The simplest abrasion may become infected. None should be regarded as "minor." People have died as the result of a scratch. It pays to stop work, no matter how important, long enough to give attention to every small accident. Hurry, worry, anxiety are cause contributory to numerous mishaps on the farm—the lifting of something heavy, the turning of an ankle or pulling of a ligament, the slipping of a dull instrument.

Here are some tips from those experienced in safety measures: Handle all tools and knives carefully. Store them properly; keep them out of reach of children unable to use them easily. Give the youngsters tools made

to their sizes and needs, and teach them how to use them.

Dispose promptly of tin cans, razor blades, broken glassware—out of harm's way. Light storage space well, have ample space for everything, and everything in its place.

Bend the knees and keep the back straight, when there is a heavy object to be lifted.

5. Keep headlights and windshield clean. 6. Don't drive when you're drowsy. 7. Stop well off the road at night.

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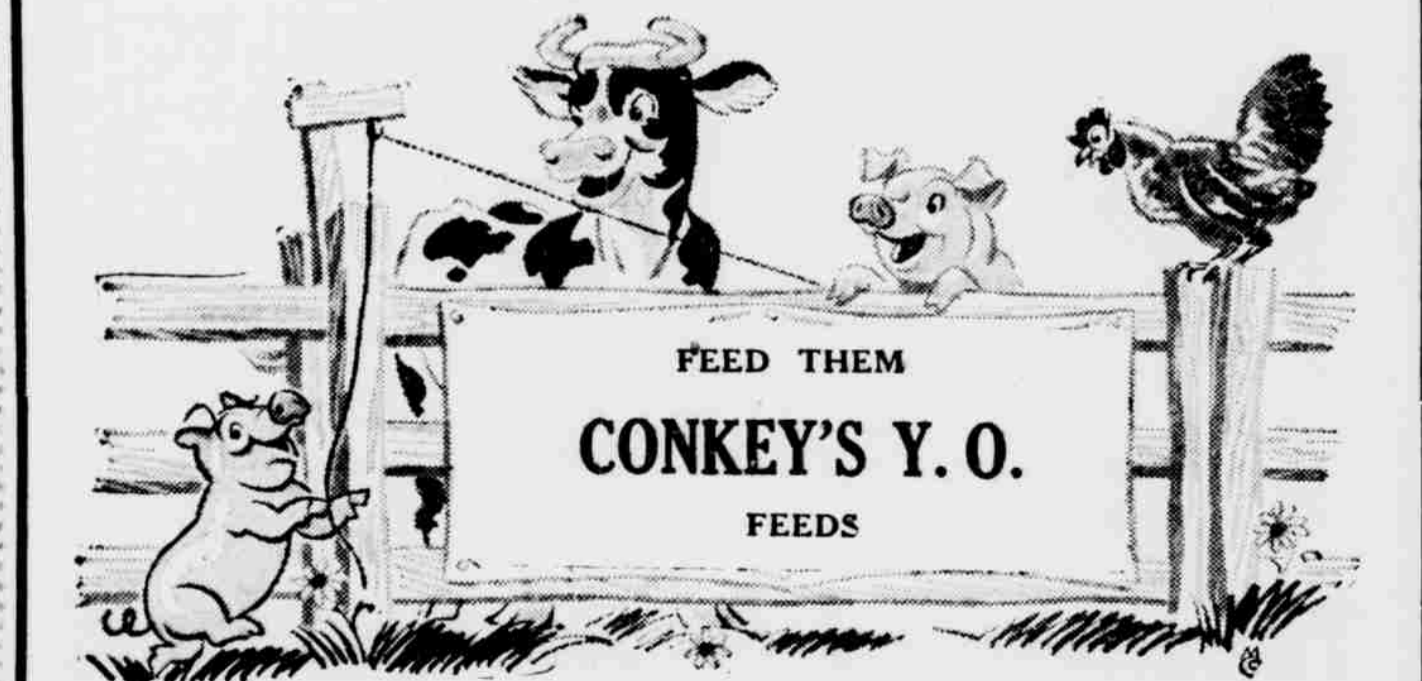
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The GOAL of National Safety Week Our GOAL

the elimination of 30,000,000 farm hazards. This goal can be reached easily if every farm family accepts responsibility for the elimination of at least one hazard for every member of the family.



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This is National
Farm Safety Week
Make These Checkups on Your Farm.

- Fire Hazards**
- Do you have an emergency water supply available? (Pond barrels in buildings, or hose attachment to water system).
 - Do you have boxes of sand in buildings to supplement other equipment in fighting oil or gasoline fires?
 - Do you avoid leaving oil-saturated or paint rags lying around?
 - Have you eliminated weeds, brush, old lumber, and other similar fire hazards from around buildings?
 - Are lanterns hung on convenient hooks or wires?
 - Is your gasoline in one of the following ways: out of doors, under ground, or in an isolated building? Are containers marked bright red? Do you stop tractor and truck engines before filling with gasoline?
 - Have you approved type of extinguishers at building entrances and are they checked at regular intervals?
 - Are brooder houses at least 100 feet from other buildings and from each other.
 - Do you avoid burning rubbish on a windy day or near buildings or hay stacks?
 - Do you avoid loose matches in your pockets?
 - Do you watch the temperature of newly stored hay?
- Electricity**
- Are all your circuits equipped with proper size fuses? (Branch fuses should generally not exceed 15 amperes).
 - Do you cut off current when working on an electrical conductor?
 - Do you use moisture proof cords for outside weather conditions; heavy rubber cords for motor driven appliances?
 - Are you using an approved commercial electric fence controller?
 - Are all electrical appliances in proper condition; are they being properly operated?
 - Do you know how to treat electric shock cases?
- Hand Tools**
- Are hammer and axe handles secure, handles in good condition?
 - Do you have a definite place for every tool when not in use?
 - Do you stroke from behind when whetting tools to avoid cutting the hand if blade moves too far forward?

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