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EC56-2102 Farm and Home Safety

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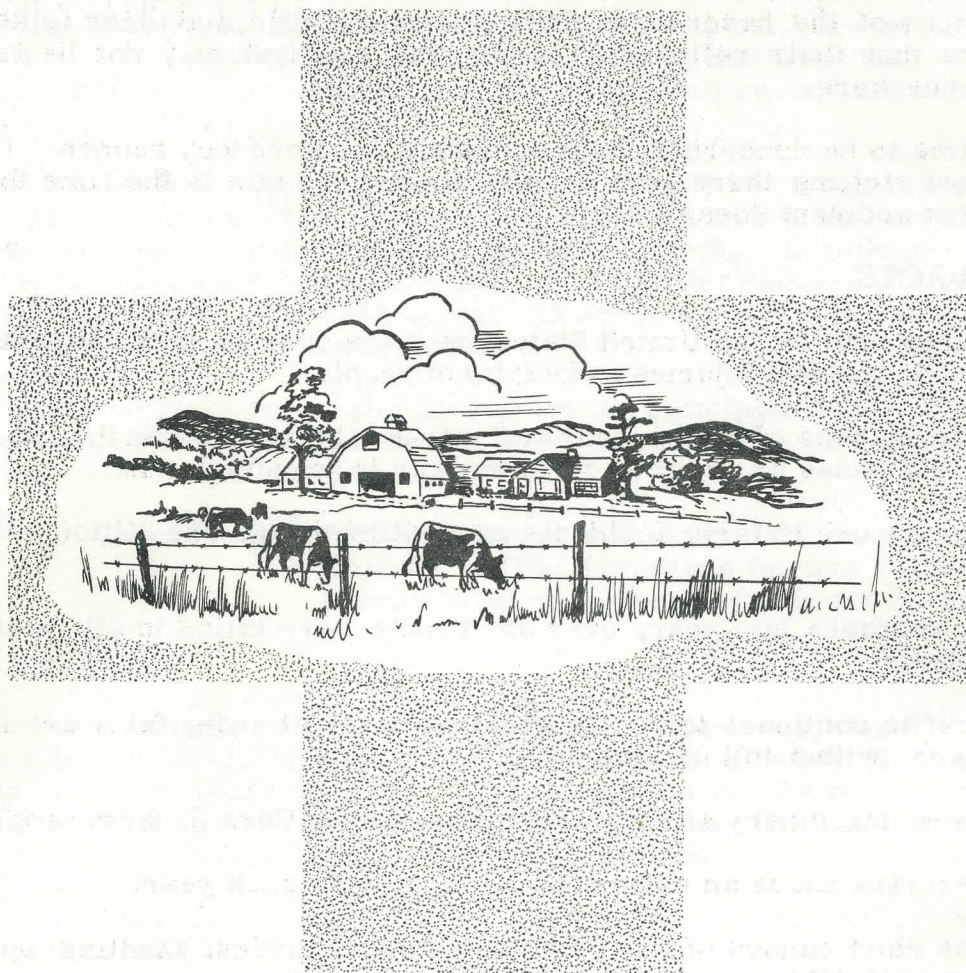
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Farm and Home SAFETY



Discussion Guide

EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
W. V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR

FARM AND HOME SAFETY

William D. Lutes

HOW CAN WE LEARN TO LIVE LONGER?

Many of the accidents that cause suffering and death to farm people can be prevented. If fewer chances had been taken and greater care used, many of the 876 people who were killed in accidents in Nebraska last year would be living today. Only ignorance, carelessness, and inefficiency prevent us from living safely in our modern world.

We need to give special thought to the safety of children and older folks who have more than their share of accidents. Children are not easily made conscious of the hazards to their health and life and older folks may not realize that their reflexes, hearing and eyesight may not be as good as they once were.

The time to be concerned about accidents is before they happen. For many accident victims there is only one chance, so now is the time to see that the first accident doesn't happen.

THE FACTS

1. Every year in the United States there are over 14,000 accidental deaths and 1,200,000 injuries among farm people.
2. The chances of our agricultural workers being killed on the job are more than 3 times as great as for a worker in manufacturing.
3. Losses due to farm accidents are estimated at one billion dollars per year.
4. In Nebraska last year, over 850 people were killed in all types of accidents.
5. Traffic continues to be the greatest hazard to life; falls are in second place, with a toll of over 200.
6. Farm machinery and power are the chief killers of farm people.
7. Tractors cause an estimated 250 accidents each year.
8. The chief causes of tractor accidents are careless handling, speed, improper hitching, and unshielded power shafts.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What can we do to prevent accidents in the home and on the farm?

SAFE AT HOME

Your home may be your castle, but the enemy is not entirely outside the walls. More accidents occur in and around the home than in any other place. Home is where safety is needed most and where it should begin.

By eliminating known hazards and learning to do things correctly at home, you will make your work easier and your home itself a more pleasant and more comfortable place in which to live. Learning and following safe habits at home will also encourage safety-consciousness at work, while driving a car, while playing, or while participating in other outside activities.

In Nebraska, accidents in the home ranked second as killers during 1954. The number, 246, was surpassed only by the number of traffic deaths. According to figures released by the State Department of Health, 128 of the deaths occurred in city homes and 118 in farm homes. The number of fatalities among the different age groups was as follows: 146 older adults, 48 young adults, 34 children and 18 infants.

The chief causes of home accidental deaths in 1954 were:

Falls	145	Poison	17
Fire	29	Tornado	13
Suffocation	20	Firearms	6

Of the home accidents, those involving falls are the most numerous. The 1953 survey of home accidents in Lancaster County indicated that 46% were the result of falls. "Striking against object" ranked second and accounted for 17% of the accidents.

Most home accidents (37%) occurred in the yard; 19% occurred in the kitchen; 10% in the bedroom; 11% in the living room; 8% in the basement; 7% on the stairs; 5% in the bathroom; and 4% on the porch. Eighteen of the 22 people killed were over 70 years of age. No fatalities occurred in the birth to 39-year age group. The 1952 accidental death count in Nebraska showed that 67% were men and 33% were women.

If you observe safety rules and if you try to anticipate hazards and take precautionary measures against them, home will be a safe place rather than a place of potential danger.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Why do more men have fatal accidents than women? Is the same true for home accidents? What can we do to reduce home accidents?

LIVE AND LEARN

Safety rules for handling of tractors, cornpicker, combines, and hay harvest machines are well established. Most machines have safety signs printed at the point of particular hazards. If accidents occur, the operator either does not read the safety signs or fails to follow them. He may not be convinced of the importance of following safe practices.

We have all seen the following safety tips for farmers, but a reminder again might prevent an accident.

1. Never grease, oil, unclog or adjust a machine that is in gear.
2. Keep tools in a safe place.
3. Don't wear floppy clothing that can catch in machinery.
4. Keep ladders and stairways in good repair.
5. Apply first aid promptly, even to minor injuries.
6. Keep all safety devices in place.
7. Don't smoke around the barn.
8. Be careful not to startle animals.

9. Use a staff when leading a bull and provide a safe pen for the bull.
10. Teach others safe practices.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: What accidents involving tractors and machines do you know about? What should have been done to prevent these accidents?

WHY DO ACCIDENTS HAPPEN?

We often think of an accident as something that can't be helped. The fact is that accidents don't just happen. Each one is caused by some individual. Someone makes an error in judgement, is careless, or commits some unsafe act. A study of fatal farm accidents showed that people 65 and older are most "accident prone," next comes the group up to 5 years, then the 5 to 15 year group. The safest is the 25 to 45 year group.

The most dangerous hours on the farm are from 2 to 6 p.m. Fatigue and hurry are the cause of many of the accidents at this time of day. Five out of ten fatal farm accidents are caused by machinery, two are due to falls, one is caused by livestock, one by fire and one by falling objects.

Some people are more careless than others. Many of us could be classed as careless, and many times the hurry of getting the job done causes us to take unnecessary chances. Why not take time now to analyze our practices and make certain that we do not become accident victims?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: What are some of the causes of careless habits that often lead to accidents? What can we do to build habits of safety?