

## School farm safety program stabilizing accident rate

By Heather Buchanan  
Emphasis on farm safety in schools is a major reason behind reduced accident rates throughout Ontario.

Oxford County Farm Safety Association (OCFSA) members were told farm accidents among younger age groups were becoming stable since the insertion of farm safety programs which emphasized rural community safety, during its annual meeting on February 5.

Steve Matisz, farm safety consultant for the Farm Safety Association Inc., said credit for the reduction rested with area boards such as Oxford for their work providing safety programs for schools throughout the county.

Past President Allan Bond said the association would continue to promote the safety program in schools.

Ontario Farm Safety Association President Jim Gibb, Oxford director, suggested it would be a positive step for Oxford to host an area spring workshop. The county association approved the suggestion and the

workshop has been planned for March 26 at Western Ontario Breeders Inc., just north of Woodstock.

The OCFSA 1986 executive are Past President Allan Bond, President Ed Butt, First Vice-President John Lansdale, Second Vice-President Norma Howe, Secretary-Treasurer Ruby Bulter, Directors George Dakin, Marg Klosch, David Woods and Brian Armstrong.

Featured speaker for the meeting was Marg Fleming, Women's Institute representative, discussing Agri-kits.

Mrs. Fleming said the kits, which were approved for use in both public and separate schools, were developed by Oxford Women's Institute and Women for Support of Agriculture members during the summer of 1985.

She said the Oxford kits were unique because six teachers, three each from separate and public school boards, prepared teaching guides to help integrate the kits into regular curriculum work.

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**AGRI-KIT DEMONSTRATION** -- Jean Christopher from Ingersoll, a part-time teacher at St. Joseph's Separate School in Thamesford, goes through different sections of the Oxford Women's Institute and Women for the Support of Agriculture sponsored Agri-Kits which have been approved for use in public and separate schools in the county. The Thamesford's school held an in-service workshop to

explain what agricultural related topics could be integrated into class curriculums. This was the first such workshop held in Oxford County. Judy Wilkinson, ROS specialist OMAF Woodstock, and pilot project representative Beth Deslippe, R.R. 4, Thamesford, led the workshop.

(Staff Photo - Heather Buchanan)