

Farm

Tribune

Safety is a vital phase of farming

In talking to Harold Wright, Provincial Farm Safety specialist, one begins to realize that accident prevention is not a feature of factories and the highways alone, but is, and should increasingly be made, a programme in the farming industry.

Although one seldom hears of farming accidents in the regular press, they are quite widespread and involve injuries, fatalities and property loss just as accidents in urban areas do.

One of the most common accidents in farming areas are tractor overturns. Mr. Wright, who works in the extension farming engineering department at the University of Guelph, explained that tractors themselves are safely built but as in so many cases of accidents improper handling brings about the unexpected event.

Tractors are built with a high wheel base out of necessity for clearance. This brings the center of gravity up and in the event of a sharp turn the tractor will overturn.

"Even if it only travels at 8 mph on smooth level ground, the tractor would flip right over," Mr. Wright said. On more rugged ground where the wheels may catch in a furrow this type of thing can happen even faster.

"Occasionally the operator is thrown clear," Mr.

Wright said, "but unfortunately many times he is not."

Another thing that accounts for many farm accidents, Mr. Wright explained, were the Power Take-Off shafts attached to tractors to drive pull type combines, mowers, hay balers, forage harvesters etc.

The Take-Off shafts are attached to the tractor back and again the design is safe but if the farmer takes off the shield and anyone gets near it with his clothing, the result could be disastrous.

In a pamphlet called "Safety in Tractor Operation" Mr. Wright states that "a farmer whose clothing becomes entangled in an unshielded P.T.O. shaft seldom escapes without at least some broken bones."

Another hazard has come about with new methods and techniques of storing manure. "Liquid manure storage," says Mr. Wright, "results in the production of various gases that do not require oxygen. These gases are methane carbon dioxide, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide." "Methane," an article of Mr. Wright's says "when in a concentration of five to fourteen percent by volume with air is highly explosive."

Most accidents occur when the liquid manure tank is being emptied. Some tips for farmers us-

ing this new system are: (1) Do not enter a liquid manure tank that is being emptied unless you have a special breathing apparatus. In addition, a rope should be tied around the waist and held by a person outside the danger area so that if the person is overcome by poisonous gases, or from lack of oxygen, he may be pulled to safety without his rescuers also being overcome. (2) If an operator does feel faint get him out into the fresh air and give artificial respiration if required.

(3) Use portable fans to expel the carbon dioxide and poisonous gases and replace them with the oxygen in the air. (4) Reduce possible danger to livestock by using a two fan system of ventilation. (5) A permanent ladder should not be installed in a liquid manure pit since this might encourage one man to enter the pit without the second man being available in case of an emergency.

Several operators have already been killed through not taking these precautions the Farm Safety Council reports.

Another hazard, although not too common in Ontario, is suffocation due to silage gases. "Silage gases can kill you," reads a Farm Safety Council poster.

In order to eliminate this hazard says Mr. Wright, an

oxygen or fresh air mask should be used." Farmers who do not have information on the subject can get in touch with the Farm Safety Council.

"Pesticides too could present a problem, but we've never had any problems when materials are used as the manufacturer has directed," added Mr. Wright.

Lastly it should not be forgotten that many acci-

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Champion riders

Two riders who stole some of the limelight at the Whitechurch Community Centre Equestrian Show on Sunday were (left) Wendy Davidson (15, who picked up two 1st's, a 3rd and 4th and Marion Birch, 15, who was awarded a 1st and two 2nd places. Both riders came from the Post and Rail Stables, Newmarket.

Drinking Under Age youth, Raymond King, R.R. 3, Stouffville, was fined \$20 and costs or 4 days for drinking under age by Judge Russell Pearse in Richmond Hill Court

York farmers Attend sunrise tour

A. A. Wall

This is Sunrise Tour week for York County farmers. It's on Thursday, July 24th, and there are lots of interesting things to see this year.

People are often intrigued by the name Sunrise Tour. They envisage hundreds of farmers congregating in the murky dawn, ready to take off the moment the sun breaks over the horizon.

Moff Cockburn gets credit for devising the name back in 1953. He may have had a very early start in mind originally, but over the years we have

slipped back to starting at 9 o'clock.

The tour assembles at the Shickendanz Farm on the fifth of Markham, east of Victoria Square. Harvey Brown's on highway 48 is the next stop, and from there we go to the Bales farm at Newmarket.

We visit the York County Forest at Vivian and use this as a lunch stop as well. Bill Shillinglaw's near Mt. Albert, is next, and a special attraction here is his collection of old-time farm tractors. The last two stops are at Richard Mehl's, Udora, and Jack Critten-

den's, Keswick. Although crops are the main item on each farm, good new ideas on beef cattle, swine, machinery, materials handling equipment and buildings, are of value too.

Corn is the main attraction in crops, but barley and soy-beans are right in there too. Visitors are especially welcome on the tour.

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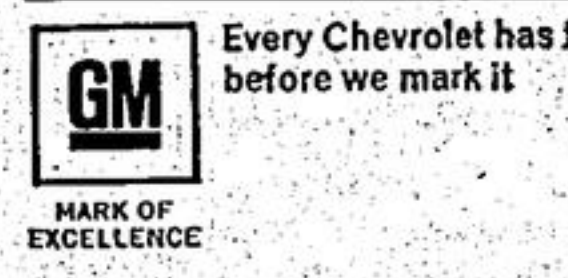
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