



# AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH NEWS

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### Managing Agricultural Emergencies

I have mentioned this initiative in a previous newsletter, indicating that we would eventually have program materials to share. That time has arrived. As the name implies, this initiative focuses on teaching how to manage emergencies on the farm. Most of this newsletter is devoted to the recently released Farm Family Emergency Response Program (FFERP) Instructor Tutorial. The instructor tutorial is set up as a self-tutorial. The self-tutorial teaches interested persons how to coordinate and/or be an instructor for the program. We include a video of an actual program so that you can see how this program is conducted.

This program is our attempt to increase the number of people delivering and receiving potentially life-saving information. We are offering the program in a variety of formats for your convenience. See the details below and on the following pages. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions or comments.

**Dennis J. Murphy**

**Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering**

## Farm Family Emergency Response Program

The Farm Family Emergency Response Program (formerly First-On-The Scene for Farm Families) is designed to help farmers make critical decisions when they discover an injury emergency on their farm. Normally, when an emergency happens someone from the farm will be the first to discover the incident. This usually results when the injured person does not show up when expected, and someone goes out and looks for them.

Anyone can make a valuable contribution to their community by helping to implement the Farm Family Emergency Response Program. With proper training, those first on the scene of injury emergencies will not only recognize potential dangerous situations, but will know what to do and what not to do to help the injured victim — who is often a family member.

Typical instructors for this program include Cooperative Extension Educators, hospital personnel, agricultural teachers, and emergency service instructors. Educators with a strong knowledge of agricultural practices as well as rescue and patient care procedures make ideal instructors.

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## Farm Family Emergency Response Program

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The program uses various scenes that depict common farm injury incidents and the instructor leads a discussion asking various “key questions” to the participants, who respond with appropriate “key points.” Skilled instructors keep asking appropriate questions to arrive at the correct key points.

The following modules are currently available: tractor overturns, PTO entanglements, machinery entanglements, grain bin emergencies, silo emergencies, manure storage emergencies, electrical emergencies and chemical emergencies. Modules under development and available later this year will be livestock emergencies, skid steer emergencies, logging emergencies and post-hole digger emergencies.



Figure 1. Approaching the scene



Figure 2. Checking for vital signs

### Ordering Information

#### System Requirements:

VHS Format: VCR, TV and computer with Word and Power Point programs.

DVD Format: PC with DVD drive and Power DVD, Windows Media Player (recommended) or Realplayer. Mac computers should have 450/g4 with a DVD drive. DVD's will also play in most home DVD players to view on a TV.

CD Format: PC with CD drive and Windows Media Player. 500 mhz/64 meg ram is suggested. All CD's are cross-platform and will play in Apple Mac or Windows. Mac computers will require Windows Media Player to play the tutorial and demonstration.

#### Available Formats:

Three separate media formats are available: VHS, DVD, or CD. The CD format is recommended if viewing on a computer monitor only. If being viewed on a TV monitor, choose the VHS or DVD media.

All formats come with the following:

- The Instructor Tutorial
- The demonstration presentation
- A CD with PowerPoint presentations and reproducible class materials
- An instructor notebook that contains instructional materials and module narratives

#### Prices:

VHS: \$30      DVD: \$50      CD: \$25

To order, send a check for the format you want to:

Managing Agricultural Emergencies Program  
The Pennsylvania State University  
205 Ag Engineering Building  
University Park PA 16802

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# Youth Safety

## Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camps

Are you looking for a safe, educational, fun community project to teach farm safety? If so, your community could be one of the more than 300 throughout the U.S. and Canada who participate each year in the *Progressive Farmer* Farm Safety Day Camp® program.

The *Progressive Farmer* Farm Safety Day Camp® program trains and provides resources for local community volunteers to conduct one-day, hands-on, educational farm safety day camps for children. Communities chosen to participate in the program, receive one and one-half days of training for the lead coordinator; an in-depth, step-by-step manual;



liability and excess medical insurance; publicity; welcome banners; copier-ready posters and certificates; take-home bags; and a t-shirt for each camper and volunteer.

The program is run by the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, with funding provided by numerous national, state, and regional businesses and organizations. Applications for camps that will be held during the spring, summer and fall of 2005 are due on July 15, 2004. To apply or for more information, call 1-888-257-3529 or log onto: <http://farmsafetyday.ae.iastate.edu>

## Poison Experts Say Farewell to Syrup of Ipecac

In 2003, the American Academy of Pediatrics urged parents to skip the Syrup of Ipecac if their children ingest toxic substances, and call a poison control center instead.

"Ipecac used to be the foundation of our poison prevention program," explains Dr. Edward P. Krenzlow, director of the Pittsburgh Poison Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. "But now we're really in an evidence-based era," Krenzlow added.

When Dr. Krenzlow and other clinical toxicologists examined data regarding Ipecac's effectiveness, they concluded that the syrup was of no value.

"Ipecac wasn't what it was cracked up to be," Krenzlow continued. "Often it was used in situations in which it didn't need to be used. Poison experts haven't recommended it for years."

It isn't only Ipecac that has fallen out of favor as a poison antidote, but any one-size-fits-all remedy. "Poison

centers are able to individualize treatment needs," said Rose Ann Soloway, Associate Director of the American Association of Poison Control Centers in Washington, DC.

"The poison center can take into account not just the substance, but information about the patient: age, weight, medical condition. All of these factors are taken into account as far as recommending a treatment," Soloway added.

While the information about Ipecac itself may seem complex, child safety advocates should focus on a few simple messages when communicating with parents, says Dr. Krenzlow.

"First, prevent poisoning in the first place by keeping poisonous products out of reach of children," Krenzlow said. "Second, make sure that everyone knows the 800 number of the Poison Control Center, 1-800-222-1222."

No matter where you are, calling that 800 number will connect you to the center nearest you, Krenzlow added.

(This article adapted from the *Pennsylvania Safe Kids NEWZ*, Spring 2004)

**Poison Control  
Center  
1-800-222-1222**

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For more information on this and other program efforts under Managing Agricultural Emergencies, visit <http://agemergencies.cas.psu.edu> or contact Davis Hill at (814) 865-2808 or by e-mail at [deh27@psu.edu](mailto:deh27@psu.edu).



Figure 3. Responding to a pesticide related accident

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AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH NEWS is written and designed by Rob Carson under the direction of Dr. Dennis J. Murphy. Please send any ideas you have for articles in future editions to Dr. Dennis J. Murphy, 246 Agricultural Engineering Building, University Park, PA 16802 or call (814) 865-7686.

This publication is available on alternative media on request.

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