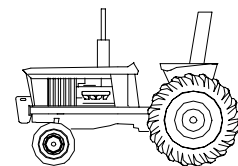




CU Safe



R_x for Ag Safety & Health

Call for Proposals Farm Safety Mini-Grant Program

Introduction:

Clemson University County Extension Staff are eligible to participate in the **New** Farm Safety Mini-Grant Program. Written proposals are invited that outline plans to develop farm safety programs. These programs can be on the county or multi-county level.

Purpose:

Proposals will be accepted which address new farm safety programming efforts and those which support current on-going programs. No specific group is targeted by this call for proposals. It is the goal of the project to solicit proposals with potential for a high degree of success.

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Charles V Privette III

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CLEMSON
EXTENSION

National Poison Prevention Week: March 16-22, 2003

Approximately 2.2 million phone calls are placed to Poison Control Centers annually by persons reporting poison exposure. Of these occurrences, 90% occur in the home. Fifty-three percent of the cases involve children less than 6 years of age.

One important phone number that should be posted by all phones, whether at home or on the farm, is the number for the Poison Control Center. That number is:

1-800-922-1117

Work Hazards

Occupational injury and disease risks associated with agriculture make it one of the most hazardous industries. Health and injury risk exposures can be attributed to animals, machinery, work environment, and chemicals. The US Department of Labor reported 740 job-related fatalities in agriculture/forestry/fishing industry for the year 2001.

In addition, data collected through the Traumatic Injury Surveillance of Farmers survey project conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reported 195,825 lost-time work injuries on US farms in 1995.

Farm operators and their family members accounted for most of the injuries, approximately 64 percent. Of the estimated 59,888 injuries among hired workers, Hispanics accounted for 51.9 percent. Twenty-five percent of the hired worker injuries occurred on beef, hog, or sheep operations.

Agricultural workers are also at risk for chronic health problems associated with work exposures. These health problems include: lung disease, joint and back problems associated with work ergonomics, hearing loss, and skin problems.

Youth are also exposed to these work hazards. Children who live on or visit farms are exposed to unique hazards and injury as a result of developmental immaturity, lack of experience, and failure to recognize injury risk.

In 1998, an estimated 1.2 million youth under the age of 20 lived on farms. An additional 666,500 youth who did not live on farms were directly hired to do farm labor. An estimated 104 fatalities occur on US farms/ranches to those younger than age 20, annually. Farm machinery is the leading cause of death, accounting for 36% of the fatalities. Among children less than age 16, 64% of work-related deaths occur to children working on family owned farms.

About 32,800 agriculture-related injuries occurred to these youth who lived, worked, or visited a farm in 1998. Fifty-two percent of all work related fatalities to children occur during crop production. However, livestock operations accounted for the most injuries.

Article appeared in AgConnections Vol.1No.1. NIOSH, 2003.

Youth Safety - Chemicals & Pesticides

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, agricultural chemical products may pose a greater risk to youth than adults. Youth differ in body mass, metabolic rate, and the ability to process chemical components. As a result, youth may be more vulnerable than adults to pesticide-induced illnesses.

Chemicals, whether they are for agricultural purposes or just household use, are dangers to children everyday. Parents must take responsibility to ensure that all chemicals are secured and locked in cabinets out of a child's reach.

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Pesticide Safety

Three important areas as it pertains to chemical safety are; proper use of personal protection equipment (PPE), proper handling procedures, and proper storage. The following are just a few of the precautions that one should follow when it comes to chemical safety. For additional information, you can contact the Department of Pesticide Regulation 864.646.2150 or Dr. Bob Bellinger, Clemson University Extension Pesticide Coordinator 864.656.5042.

PPE

Be sure to wear PPE as required by label.

Clean and maintain PPE correctly.

Respirator filters, cartridges, and canisters are replaced as often as required.

Make sure that PPE equipment is used for mixing, loading, transferring, or applying pesticides and is inspected and repaired or replaced as needed.

Storage

The storage building should be secure and dry.

The building should have a concrete floor that is not cracked or broken.

The building must have good ventilation to minimize the risk of explosion, fire, environmental contamination, and exposure to humans.

Enforce strict no-smoking rules whenever entering/working in your pesticide storage area.

Keep fire extinguishers handy in the storage unit, as well as in any nearby buildings.

Store chemicals in original containers with labels on it.

Handling

Always read the label. All crop protection chemicals include information on the proper use of the chemical, safe handling, storage and first aid information.

Open, mix, and dilute the pesticide outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.

Follow all directions carefully!

Be sure that cleanup equipment is on hand for spills.

Youth Safety, Continued from page 2

There are several educational programs available for teaching youth and parents the dangers of chemicals and pesticides.

There is a Spanish comic book (for parents) that targets migrant and seasonal farmworker families. The comic books are used to educate parents about children's risks to pesticide exposure and ways to minimize these risks.

Another source of information is the "Lock Onto Chemical Safety" curriculum. This

curriculum is broken into six lessons on: safety on the farm, chemicals and kids, exposure to chemicals, safe household chemical use, environmental issues, and chemical use.

These programs are available from Farm Safety 4 Just Kids. They can be contacted at 1-800-423-5437 or www.fs4jk.org.



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It is expected that upon successful completion of the mini-grant projects those grantees will provide a brief summary report. Sharing of project results with other state professionals is also expected as a way to multiply successful efforts and build improved farm safety programming efforts in the future.

Proposal Guidelines:

- Proposals must identify the project to be undertaken, key individuals responsible and contain a time frame for project completion.
- Summary budgets must be prepared to describe expense items covered by mini-grant funds.

- Proposals will be accepted until **April 30, 2003**, unless a time extension has been granted. Award announcements will be made within four weeks after the closing deadline.

Questions or inquiries may be directed to Charles Privette, privett@clemson.edu or 864.656.6247.

Submission:

Mail mini-grants and cover letter to:
Charles Privette
224 McAdams Hall
Clemson, SC 29634-0357

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This publication can be found at www.clemson.edu/safety/newslett.htm.

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