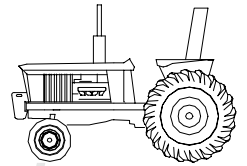




# CU Safe



## R<sub>x</sub> for Ag Safety & Health

Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering

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### Youth Day Camps Reminder Once Again

One measure that has been implemented to educate our youth on the safety precautions required around the farm are farm safety day camps — a one-day, hands-on workshop that teaches farm children and their parent's safe farm practices.

One such camp that is available is the *Progressive Farmer* Farm Safety Day Camp. They have reached hundreds of thousands of farm families across the country. *Progressive Farmer* is taking applications for 2004 Camps. For more information, call 1-888-257-3529 or go to: <http://kea.ae.iastate.edu/about/default.asp>.

Go to: [http://kea.ae.iastate.edu/about/7\\_2004Application.pdf](http://kea.ae.iastate.edu/about/7_2004Application.pdf) for 2004 applications. These applications need to be turned in by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

We have already had two of the seven camps scheduled for this year. Two camps are coming up in June (Beaufort and York).

Charles V Privette, III

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**CLEMSON  
EXTENSION**

### Farm Safety Mini-Grants Deadline Extension

Proposals will be accepted until **June 30, 2003**.

Proposals will be accepted that address new farm safety programming efforts and those that support current on-going programs. These proposals can be on the county or multi-county level.

Questions or inquiries may be directed to Charles Privette, [privett@clemson.edu](mailto:privett@clemson.edu) or 864.656.6247 or if you are attending the SCACAA summer meeting in Sumter, we can discuss then.

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# Lawn Mower Safety

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The National Safety Council estimates that last year over 60,000 people in the US were injured from using lawn mowers. Injuries are due to several circumstances: rollovers, thrown objects, lacerations, and burns. With proper maintenance and safe operation, these injuries can be eliminated.

## Mower

*Always read and follow owner's manual.*

*Inspect mower and check safety devices before mowing; operator presence switch and discharge chute.*



The *operator presence switch*, or dead-mans switch, is the switch that must be held in place to keep mower running. This switch can be located under the seat or as a handle bar. The operator must be on the seat or holding the handle bar in a fixed position to keep the mower running. This prevents the operator from being able to come in contact with the blade while the mower is running.

The *discharge chute* keeps objects that are expelled from the mower at low trajectories.



## Inspect Yard

*Inspect yard for foreign objects* which may be run over by mower such as balls, toys, sticks, rocks, etc.

*Make sure grass is dry.*

## Proper Operation

*No extra riders.*

*Never unclog a mower while it is running, always shut it off* - With blade speeds approaching 200 m.p.h., a person can be cut many times before they can respond.

For steep slopes: *Riding mowers should be driven downhill.* By driving down hills, you eliminate the chance of a side rollover. *Push mowers should be pushed across the hill.* If a person pushes a mower down a hill and slips, he/she can end up under the mower. The opposite is the case if he/she pushes the mower up a hill. If a slip occurred, the mower could end up on top of him/her.

*Keep bystanders away* - Objects can be expelled at 200 m.p.h. from a mower.

*Never leave an unattended mower running.*

## Maintenance

*When fueling mower, make sure mower is off and engine has cooled down.* A muffler and engine heat up to high temperatures while in operation. These high temperatures can cause severe burns. The other concern with a hot engine is fueling. Gasoline can be explosive and cause severe burns.

Note: Fuel should be stored in appropriate containers with labels.

*Always disconnect the sparkplug when working on mower.* When a person is working on a mower and turns the blades, an engine can possibly crank. If this occurs, you are near the blades and can be severely injured.



***Lawn Mower, Continued on Page 4***

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# Heat/Sun Safety

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## SKIN CANCER

Skin cancer is the result of overexposure of the unprotected skin to the invisible, ultraviolet (UV) rays of the sun. The head, neck, forearms and hands are the most common sites of skin cancer. More than 90% of all skin cancers occur in these locations.

**Cancer Warning Signs:** See your physician if you notice a new growth, mole or discoloration or a sudden change in an existing mole. Early detection of skin cancer is the first step for a successful cure.

### **Prevention of Skin Cancer**

Wear protective hats to shield the head and neck from direct sun exposure. Baseball caps only provide protection to the forehead. Wide brim hats will provide protection to most of the face as well as to the ears and back of the neck.

Use a sunscreen product on unprotected skin. Select a sunscreen with a skin protection factor (SPF) of at least 15, which is also water resistant, to avoid dilution from sweat. Apply the sunscreen at least 30 minutes prior to exposure.

Wear protective clothing consisting of long-sleeve shirts and trousers.

Limit exposure if possible. The sun's rays are more intense between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you have a previous history of skin cancer, try to avoid direct exposure to the sun during these times.

## HEAT ILLNESS

Heat illness is much easier to prevent than to treat, but it takes time and preparation.

**Step I: Respect the heat.** Allow yourself frequent short breaks for cooling and thirst quenching.

**Step II: Drink one third more liquids than your thirst dictates.** Natural juices, milk, soups, diluted thirst-quenchers (mixed half with water) and frequent small sips of water will do the job.

**Step III: Nutrition.** A well-balanced diet supplies essential protein, calories, vitamins, and minerals for muscle wear and tear. A handful of raisins have more energy and minerals than a salt tablet or a quart of thirst quenchers.

**Step IV: Protective clothing.** A light-colored loose long-sleeved shirt and trousers reduce solar burn. A wide brim, open-weave hat will help to keep the entire head cool.

**Step V: Look for early signs and symptoms of heat illness.** Headaches, dizziness, confusion, slowed speech or reflexes, unusual irritability, lack of concentration, hot dry skin or lips, and dark concentrated urine are all early warning signs.

***Heat/Sun, Continued on Page 4***

## **Lawn Mower, Cont. from Page 2.**

### **Personal Protection Equipment**

Eyes - Safety glasses or goggles.

Ears - Ear plugs or ear muffs.

Hands - Gloves.

Feet - Closed-toe leather shoes or boots - No flip-flops or sandals.

Legs - Long pants (especially w/push mower).



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## **Heat/Sun, Cont. from Page 3.**

**Step VI: Stop, rest, and cool off.** If any of the early signs develop, don't take any chances! Learn to respect the heat and live with it. No one is immune to heat illness.

This information was made available from the Agromedicine Program at MUSC.

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This publication can be found at [www.clemson.edu/safety/newslett.htm](http://www.clemson.edu/safety/newslett.htm).

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