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## Upcoming Issue Forum important for farms and families

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COCHRANVILLE, Pa.—There are many different kinds of hazards on the farm. Working with large animals and machinery every day, it is easy to become accustomed to these hazards and, without even realizing it, less vigilant.

Safety reminders are often circulated during the cropping season, but safety is a year-round commitment. With the fall harvest nearly complete, the upcoming Nov. 6th PDMP Issue Forum on Farm Safety is an excellent opportunity to renew the commitment to evaluating hazards on the farm and taking steps to stay safe and keep our families safe.

The Forum will start out at the Cochranville Fire Hall, Chester County, Pa., at 8:00 a.m. with registration, a PDMP membership meeting and 2008 Corn Silage Research Project report.

The program “Farm Safety: It’s About Protecting Your Farm and Loved Ones” will begin at 9:30 a.m. After lunch, attendees are invited to Duane and Marilyn Hershey’s nearby Ar-Joy Farm, Cochranville, for a tour and question and answer session.

Everyone should be involved in creating a safe farm environment, including every farm woman—mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, daughters. That’s why PDMP is encouraging women to join the men of the farm at this Nov. 6 Forum about how to protect the children we love, as well as husbands, fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and sons.

Over the years, the ag community has taken many positive steps toward continually improving farm safety. But there is always more to be done as agriculture is now ranked by the National Safety Council as the number one most dangerous industry with 29.2 deaths per 100,000 adult workers, nationwide, according to the Council’s 2005-06 “Injury Facts.”

In 1999, agriculture ranked second most dangerous (after mining) with 22 deaths per 100,000 adult workers. By comparison, the all-industry average is 3.8 deaths per 100,000 adult workers.

In Pennsylvania, farm and agricultural injury deaths have declined from a yearly average of 7.6 per 10,000 farms in 1990-1994, to 4.6 per 10,000 farms in the most recent five-year report for 2000-04. This is a 39% improvement. Nevertheless, farm safety is a job that requires constant attention and continued improvement.

Because there are steps every farm can take to make it a safer place, the Nov. 6 Issue Forum will provide excellent resources for fine-tuning safety skills, developing emergency plans, and for teaching children how to stay safe on the farm.

“Farm Safety Isn’t Something for Other People,” will be the topic discussed by Dr. Charles E. Gardner, DVM, MBA, Cargill Animal Nutrition Consulting Services.

Penn State Cooperative Extension Educator Kay Moyer will discuss: “Our Most At-Risk Population—Our Children.” Moyer also represents the Lancaster Chapter of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids.

Dave Yeager, of Westfield Insurance (representing Bernard C. Morrissey Insurance, Inc.) will discuss “How Farm Safety Practices Affect Your Insurance.”

Duane Hershey, Ar-Joy Farm, Cochranville, will give Forum attendees a walk through of “What I Learned and What We Changed After Our Farm Safety Audit.”

The morning session will conclude with Robby Sebright’s discussion: “Accidents Do Happen: A Personal Experience.”

This will be followed by a question and answer session with the panel and lunch at the Cochranville Fire Hall before departing for the afternoon tour at Ar-Joy Farm.

Whether the farm is large or small, this program will heighten awareness of safety issues that can affect the family, workers, and all who come in contact with the farm.

PDMP worked with consultants at Cargill to develop this program, which is also sponsored in part by other Premier Partners: AgChoice Farm Credit, Land O’Lakes, Pioneer, Monsanto and Lancaster Dairy Farm Automation. The cost is \$25 for members, \$75 for non-members. However, non-members may attend one meeting per year at the member cost. For information or to register for this Forum on Farm Safety, call 1-877-326-5993 or visit [www.pdmp.org](http://www.pdmp.org).

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