

Ohio event teaches kids about farm safety

Kids can learn about farm safety while their parents learn about new farming innovations at the Farm Science Review at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center near London, Ohio, Sept. 22-24.

There's not much at the Review that's just for children, says Dee Jepsen, youth safety coordinator at Ohio State University. The half-day minicamps on farm safety, being offered all three days, help fill that void.

Most people attending the Review live on a farm or have direct ties to one, Jepsen explains, so it's logical to teach the children with them to avoid a farm's everyday dangers. Each year about 300 children die and more than 24,000 are seriously injured on U.S. farms.

At each minicamp, children learn about tractor, equipment and electrical safety; chemicals; poisons; livestock handling; and drowning in water and grain. The minicamps are scaled-down versions of daylong camps, called Farm Safety Roundups, being conducted in nine Ohio communities.

Hands-on activities and demonstrations increase children's awareness of farm hazards, Jepsen says. For example, a remote-controlled tractor with a rag-doll rider demonstrates how quickly a tractor can roll over and pin the rider. Children learn why they shouldn't play in a wagon filled with seed from witnessing a doll "drowning" in a plexiglass-sided miniature gravity wagon.

Children ages 5- 12 can register for the free minicamps on-site. Each session is limited to 100 children, and parents must sign a release form.

Farm Safety Roundups are sponsored by Nationwide Insurance, Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio 4-H Foundation.



*Limited number of recipients
available for fall program.*

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