



IRSHC Safety Harvest

Winter 2002

NEW BEGINNINGS

The Indiana Rural Safety and Health Council (IRSHC) is an important part of the effort to reduce incidence of injuries and occupational illnesses in the rural community. The awareness and prevention of such incidences are continually improving, but there is always a need for more. There is also a need for involvement and awareness by every individual. IRSHC wants to keep you updated on what's happening in this area. That's why IRSHC is again send-

ing out its Safety Harvest Newsletter. **CURRENT OFFICERS**
The current president of IRSHC is Dr. Roger Tormoehlen, Professor of 4-H Youth and Mechanical Sciences at Purdue University. Dennis Meredith, Safety Manager at Precision Alliance is the vice president. The permanent secretary is Dr. William E. Field, Professor of Agricultural Health and Safety at Purdue. Dr. Ernest Sheldon, Assistant Professor of Health and Safety at Indi-

ana State University is the current treasurer. Shane Beer, a graduate assistant working for Purdue Agricultural Safety and Health, and Ed Kirkpatrick, an extension assistant for Breaking New Ground, are the new editors.

PTO RESEARCH UNDER WAY

Once again, power take-off entanglement research is under way at Purdue University. The mission of the current research project is to develop an informative database of PTO incidents occurring over the past twenty years. IRSHC is currently collecting information about any PTO entanglement cases that have occurred in this time frame.

If you know anyone who has been caught in a PTO or any implement driveline in the past twenty years, please give Shane Beer a call any weekday afternoon at (765) 494-5013.

Other means of contact are:

Fax: (765) 496-1356

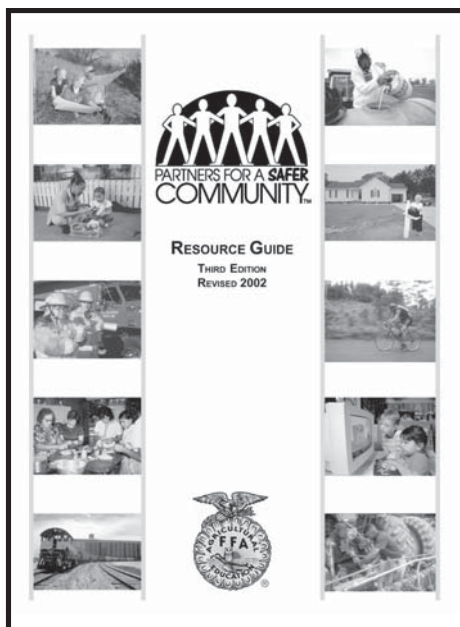
Email: sbeer1@purdue.edu



IRSHC AGAIN PARTNERS IN 'PARTNERS' PRODUCTION

IRSHC recently assisted the National FFA Organization in producing the third

edition of the Partners for a Safer Community Resource Guide.



This 58-page publication is a directory of safety resources covering a wide range of topics including agricultural, electrical, firearm, mower, recreational, animal/livestock, ATV, bicycle, and automobile safety. Listed are printed materials, audiovisual resources, kits, internet sites and more.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the *Partners* directory, please contact Purdue's Agricultural Safety and Health Program at (765) 494-5013.

Partners is also available on the web at www.farmsafety.org.

IRSHC UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 5: IRSHC meeting

Indiana Farm Bureau, Indianapolis, IN

Feb. 12-15: National Farm Machinery Show

Kentucky State Fairgrounds, Louisville, KY

THE "WRAP" ON PTO

Power take-off entanglements can cause some of the most painful and lasting farm injuries that occur in the rural area. When someone becomes caught in a PTO driveline, they have very little time to react. Even when the tractor is at idle speed, a person doesn't have enough time to free him or herself. Occasionally, one's clothes will tear and free the victim from entanglement without serious injury; however, most often their entangled clothes pull their limbs into the rotating shaft. This can break arms and legs and beat their body against the ground and implement, resulting in severe injury, amputation, and sometimes, death.

With cold weather approaching, farmers and farm workers will be wearing more clothes. Cold weather clothes that are bulky and more durable have an in-

creased danger of causing injury if caught in a PTO driveline. Be aware of this possibility and warn anyone working around PTO drivelines to be more cautious in cold weather

Here are a few tips to keep in mind when working around PTO drivelines:

1. Above all, make sure all guards and shields are in place.
2. Make sure no loose strings or threads are hanging from clothing.
3. Do not step over, lean on, or crawl under an operating PTO driveline under any circumstance.
4. Make sure long hair is kept up or under a cap. Loose hair can get caught just as clothing can.
5. Wear close-fitting clothes.
6. Remind family members and employees of the hazards of a PTO driveline.
7. Remember that bolts, spring loaded pins, and other protrusions are good places for your clothing to get caught.
8. Be on the look out for others using dangerous practices around PTO drivelines.



COMING SOON: GEARING UP FOR SAFETY CD

Purdue Professors Roger Tormoehlen and Bill Field are at it again! They and their team of computer and curriculum experts have taken the often boring subject of tractor and agricultural machinery safety and livened it up with the aid of technology.



Based on the Federal guidelines for youth employment certification, ***Gearing up for Safety: Production Agricultural Safety Training for Youth*** uses high quality pictures, colorful graphics, video clips, and 3-D animations to teach the subject of tractor and agricultural machinery safety. Users of the program can learn tractor and agricultural machinery safety, general farm safety, and general first aid tips in the CD-ROM's eleven interactive chapters.

Though designed for middle school and high school aged youth, the program can be used with a variety of other audiences. Plans for a low literacy version of the curriculum are also in the works which will increase the audience the program can reach.

The program is currently being tested by Robbie Ortega in a handful of high school agricultural classrooms, geographically disbursed throughout the state of Indiana. Preliminary findings of the testing show that the program is comparable to traditional teaching methods in effectively relaying concepts in agricultural safety.

Release of the program is scheduled for the late spring or early summer of 2003. The price of the CD is yet to be determined. For a preview of this new curriculum, check out **www.gearingup.info** on the worldwide web.