



Playing It Safe on the Farm

SANDY, Utah – September 21, 2008 – How safe are you on your farm or ranch? According to the National Safety Council, during the past year there were 715 deaths and 80,000 disabling injuries attributed to agriculture.

This year, the council will recognize National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 21-27. The week is dedicated to the well-being of America's farmers and ranchers.

The Farm Bureau Safety and Health Network sponsors a national safety week every spring. Its educational efforts, coupled with those of the National Safety Council each fall, reach farm and ranch families at two key times of the year—planting and harvest.

Since children especially are at risk for farm-related injuries, many Farm Bureaus are focusing on talking directly to school students about farm safety.

For example, the Uintah FFA Chapter recently hosted A.J. Ferguson, Utah Farm Bureau Director of Farm Safety, who came and shared messages with them about the importance of tractor safety on the farm and roadways. Ferguson also talked to kids about the need for operating other equipment safely and paying special attending compromising situations, such as being tired or otherwise impaired.

A similar training took place in Sanpete County, where elementary school students attended a Farm Field Day and learned about agriculture, in addition to ATV safety and the potential dangers of playing around tractors.

The Farm Safety program has also been active in the community, with the only state-wide bilingual safety program, aimed at helping migrant workers perform safe farm practices. Working with the Utah Labor Commission, the Utah Farm Bureau Farm Safety program visits Utah Farming operations to ensure worker safety and productivity in the agricultural community.

There are many factors to consider when it comes to farm safety, such as hearing, skin, lung and vision protection. Safeguarding measures like putting rollover bars on tractors, wearing goggles and applying sun block all play important roles in a producer's well-being on the farm.

The Farm, Bureau would like to encourage all to make safety a habit. Take the time to ensure your safety and the safety of others. To learn more about how you can play it safe on the farm, contact A.J. Ferguson at 801-233-3006 or check out the Farm Safety and Health Week Web site at: <http://www.nsc.org/necas/HealthWeek2008.aspx>.

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About the Utah Farm Bureau

The Utah Farm Bureau is the largest general farm and ranch organization in the state with more than 21,000 member families. Its mission is to improve the net income of the state's farmers and ranchers and the overall quality of life in the state and nation through political action, educational and informational means. The Farm Bureau is a non-partisan, voluntary organization, and its efforts are based on grassroots policies developed by members at the local, county, state and national levels. It is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the world's largest general farm organization, with more than 6.5 million family members in 50 states and Puerto Rico. For more information, go to the Utah Farm Bureau Web site at <http://utfb.fb.org>.