

Kids' Farm Safety Day-Camp slated for April 22

SOMETOWN, USA - Farm and rural safety will be the focus of a camp scheduled for 8:00 am to 3:30 pm April 22 on the County 4-H Fairgrounds. The Farm Safety Day-Camp will feature fun, hands-on learning activities, and is open to area youth between 6 and 14 years of age.

Susan Safaskanbe, chair of the camp planning committee, said "safety modules" at the camp will address such topics as livestock, farm machinery and tractors, grain entrapment, chemical safety, and ATV safety. Basic first aid, fire prevention, and lawn mower safety will also be taught. Instructors will include Sometown University safety specialists, Sometown Hospital emergency technicians, farm equipment dealers, veterinarians, and specialists in grain handling and electrical safety.

"The camp will cover a variety of safety concerns that really reach far beyond the farm gate. We wanted to put on a program that would benefit the entire rural community," said Safaskanbe.

She added that a free pizza lunch will be provided, and that each child attending the camp will receive a Farm Safety Day-Camp T-shirt, a Safety Coloring Book, a first aid kit, and other take-home materials. The event is sponsored by the County Farm Bureau, Fred's Farm Supply, and Big Vinny's Pizza.

Registration for the camp is \$5.00 per child, and families are encouraged to preregister by April 14. To register or find out more about the Farm Safety Day-Camp, call Sue Safaskanbe at _____.

Source: Your Name

Phone: _____

Public Service Announcements

In addition to providing publicity for your workshop, public service announcements (PSAs) are an excellent method of increasing public awareness about farm safety and health issues. Radio stations are encouraged to devote programming time to public service announcements, and are usually willing to work with community groups wishing to promote farm safety.

Most PSAs consist of 30-second (and sometimes 10-, 15-, or 60-second) “sound bites” that address a single issue. Normally, the text or script, for PSAs is provided to station officials to record. Many stations, however, encourage community members to record their own PSAs. Hearing a friend or neighbor on the radio will often generate more interest than a professionally produced announcement. A trip to the station for a short recording session may be required. This visit provides a great opportunity, particularly for children, to learn what happens behind the scenes at a radio station, and to be heard on the air in the local community.

The following section provides several sample 30-second PSAs addressing a variety of farm safety topics. These announcements, or similar PSAs on safety issues to be addressed in your workshop, can be used to “hook” your audience and announce your event. Portions of the following samples enclosed with a [bracket] may be replaced with brief messages about a safety workshop. Remember to maintain the basic 30-second or 60-second format when modifying PSA scripts. You may wish to consult your local radio station for additional assistance in producing effective PSAs for your event.

Sample Public Service Announcements

Farm Chemical Safety: (30 sec)
We at (your organization) want to remind you to protect yourself from exposure to agricultural chemicals. Always follow label directions when working with pesticides, and wear the proper personal protective equipment, such as gloves, goggles or respirator, as specified on the label. [Remember, your good health is important to your family, your friends, and all of us in (your county).]

Sample Public Service
Announcements

Farm Medical Emergencies: (30 sec)

Farming is a hazardous occupation, and serious farm injuries and accidents can occur at any time. Be prepared for farm emergencies by having at least one, if not all, family members trained in the basics of first aid and CPR. Develop a plan of action to follow in case an emergency happens on your farm. [And post emergency phone numbers and directions to your farm near every phone. Even young children can be taught to call for help. No one likes thinking about an accident occurring, but if the worst should happen, an emergency plan can save precious minutes—and even a life.]

Roll-Over Protection for Tractors: (30 sec)

Tractor rollovers account for more farm deaths than any other type of farm accident. Used properly, a tractor is a relatively stable machine, but if used improperly, a tractor can kill as quickly as a gun. [Guard yourself and your family from tractor rollovers—make sure your tractor has a rollover protective structure, and always wear your seat belt. This message provided by (your organization).]

Slow Moving Vehicle Emblems: (30 sec)

Each year, lives are lost due to rear end collisions involving farm equipment and passenger vehicles on our highways. In many of these cases, the Slow Moving Vehicle emblems used to warn oncoming vehicles were missing or faded. The cost of a slow moving vehicle sign is minor when compared to the lives it could save. [Check your slow moving vehicle signs today, and replace them if they are missing or faded. This message was provided by (your organization).]

Sample Public Service
Announcements

Unsafe Lifting Practices: (30 sec)

Unsafe lifting practices contribute to a large number of farm work injuries. Back injuries caused by unsafe lifting practices can lead to chronic pain and even permanent disability. To prevent back injuries when lifting, position the object between your feet, squat down, and lift straight up with your legs, not your back. [If the object is too heavy, get help. The next time you need to lift that bale of hay or bag of feed, think about your back, and lift safely. This "back-to-basics" message provided by (your organization).]

Check Your Electrical Wiring: (30 sec)

Electrical wiring is the backbone of a modern farm operation, but can be one of the most serious hazards on any farm. Improper wiring can cause devastating fires, resulting in severe loss and serious injury. Check farm buildings for exposed wires or faulty electrical components, and never overload electrical circuits. [If you're installing new electrical equipment, first check with an electrician to make certain your present wiring is adequate. This is _____ of _____, reminding you that electrical safety makes good sense.]

Noise on the Farm: (30 sec)

Sound can be pleasant, but sometimes sound can be irritating and damaging to our health. Unwanted sound is called noise. Prolonged exposure to noises on the farm, like those caused by tractors, chainsaws, or even baby pigs, can lead to significant hearing loss. Wearing appropriate hearing protection can help prevent this damage. [So please, use hearing protection whenever operating loud equipment, and save your ears for the finer things in life. This is _____ with _____, reminding you that hearing protection makes good sense.]

Sample Public Service
Announcements

Bulls: (30 sec)

Working with bulls can be a very dangerous part of running a beef or dairy operation. Because of their size, strength, and unpredictable nature, bulls can cause severe injuries, and even kill someone who may take the danger of working with these animals for granted. [Always use caution around bulls, know how to get away if necessary, and never turn your back on them. And please, never allow children in a pen or lot where bulls are kept. Assuming a bull is friendly is a gamble you can't afford to take. This safety reminder provided by _____.]

Attitude: (30 sec)

One of the most important aspects of farm safety is attitude. You, and every member of your family, must recognize potential hazards and avoid taking unnecessary risks when working or playing on the farm. [Remember, most farm injuries can be prevented. Accidents don't have to "come with the territory" of living and working on a farm. By maintaining a safety attitude you can reduce your risk of injury. After all, you're really only as safe as you want to be. This safety message provided by _____.]

Kids' Farm Safety Day-Camp: (30 sec)

Safety on the farm will be the focus of a day-camp for area youth ages 6- to 14-years old on April 22nd. The camp will be held from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm on the 4-H Fairgrounds, and will feature a variety of fun, hands-on learning activities. A pizza lunch will be provided, and campers will receive first aid kits, as well as farm-safety T-shirts, coloring books, and educational materials. The safety day-camp is sponsored by _____, _____, and _____. For registration information, call _____ at _____.