



Maryland FSA Educates Children in Farm Safety

More than 70 children between the ages of 6 and 13 learned about animal safety, yard equipment safety, livestock safety, first aid/summer health, ATV safety and farm equipment safety at the 2005 Farm and Family Outdoor Safety Day held July 8, 2005, at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds in Leonardtown, Md. The event was sponsored nationally by Progressive Farmer and was co-sponsored locally by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service – St. Mary's and other local southern Maryland organizations.

The Maryland Farm Service Agency (FSA) donated FSA coloring books, FSA farm scene tattoos and FSA "Danger! Never Play Here" stickers. Also, employees Patrick Goode (Farm Loan Officer Trainee, FLOT) and Eliza Menchaca (Student Educational Experience Program Trainee, SEEP) helped Donna Sasscer (St. Mary's Agricultural & Seafood Commission) with the farm equipment safety demonstration.

In preparation, Patrick gathered old stuffed animals and developed a fake hand from a glove and insulation foam. During the demonstration, the stuffed animals were placed in dangerous areas on or near farm equipment, which consisted of a tractor, bush hog and front-end loader. The presentation began by asking the children what each stuffed animal was doing wrong. Following the children's response, Patrick, Eliza and Donna would reinforce their answers by providing additional information concerning the tractor and its implements. The stuffed animals helped explain bush hog safety, dangers, tractor blind spots, tractor seat belts and roll over protection. The fake hand was used to demonstrate the power of hydraulics and unknown tractor pinch points.



Donna Sasscer and Patrick Goode explain common highway problems with farm equipment as part of the 2005 Farm and Family Outdoor Safety Day.

Goode grew up on the family farm and says there was nothing more exciting than riding on the tractor or the day when his dad allowed him to drive the tractor. Soon after receiving this privilege, he found out there is nothing more fearful than allowing a tractor to free wheel, not knowing how to slow the tractor down and stop it from crashing.

"Thankfully, I was not hurt, nor anyone else in my mistake," said Goode. "If there was a Farm Safety Day around when I was growing up, my mistake may have been avoided."

Goode hopes that Farm Safety Days will help his younger brother and other kids in the farm community be safe and accident free.

"If you have a Farm Safety Day in your area, I encourage you and your children to attend," Goode added. "If there is none, please educate your children about farm dangers or start a Farm Safety Day. Accidents can be avoided, we just need to take the time for ourselves and others to address where they are hiding."



Eliza Menchaca enjoys the comfort of a farm tractor used in the demo.

The FSA Courier, subscribe today: <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/learn/fsaweeklynew.asp>

To [comment](#) on this page please contact [Stevin Westcott](#) at 720-4178

