



Fred Rayfield of the University of Georgia Extension tells children to respect and to be cautious around all animals. "Most will hurt you out of fear," he says.

A Camp That May SAVE Your Kids

Many think farm accidents are inevitable. But prevention can be taught. A farm safety camp is a good way to reach children.

Elaine Rish's description of her son's accident is bone chilling. Brandon, then 12, was unhooking their 16-rack reinforced tobacco trailer on an incline.

"The trailer hit him in the back of the



Now completely recovered, Brandon Rish of Snipesville, Ga., is luckier than most. He was not expected to live after a tobacco trailer smashed his face and caused other injuries. His mother, Elaine, lifted the trailer off her son. She kept him from going into shock and, later, on life support by continuously talking to him. PHOTO: VANN CLEVELAND

crete slab," the Snipesville, Ga., mother says. "It crushed his face, broke all his ribs on the left side, cracked some vertebrae in his neck, and burst his left lung."

Then, she graphically describes her son's injuries: "His eyes were literally popped out [of their sockets] on his cheek," she says. "The teeth were hanging out."

Today, three years and seven operations later, the only telltale evidence on Brandon's smiling face is tiny scars

facial structure had to be rebuilt, the husky young man suffered no permanent damage.

Not all farm kids are as lucky. Between 200 and 300 children in the nation die each year in farm-related accidents, says Sam Steel of the National Safety Council. More than 20,000 are injured annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Livestock mishaps and falls from heights provoke the most injuries. Accidents involving tractors and other equipment prove the most lethal.

You can do a lot to protect your children, including keeping their farm work within their abilities. You might also consider organizing a farm safety camp for children in your area.

To give you some ideas, *Progressive Farmer* tagged along as kids at a camp at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga., trooped from one safety workshop to another. The camp was sponsored by the Georgia Healthy Farmers Project.

Equipment Safety

"How many of you have ridden on the fender of a tractor?" asks Jerry Davis, an ag engineer at Abraham Baldwin. All the children raise their hands.

"When you fall off, the tire may not kill you. Unfortunately, [the trailing equipment] kills you in a whole variety of pieces when it runs over you," he says bluntly.

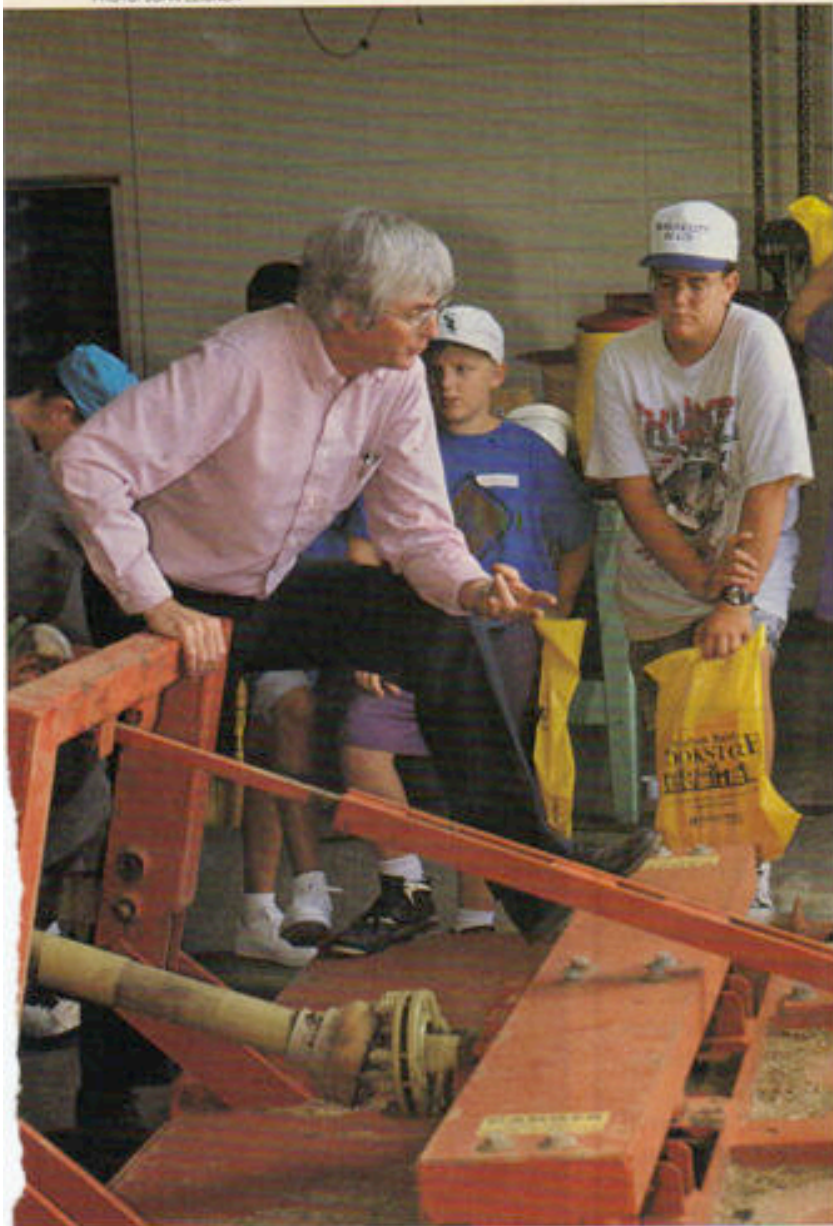
Davis has grabbed their attention now, like the grip of a power-take-off shaft. He quickly moves on, hitting the highlights of equipment safety. Removing a rollover protective system is a huge mistake, he adds, as is bypass starting a tractor. Shields for pto's and drive shafts should always be used. "Even with a shield, stay away from the thing," he adds.

Fire Safety

"We had a chimney fire in our house in '77, and it burned the house down because we weren't home," says Barbara Ellison of the Georgia Fire Academy in Forsyth. Her compelling words draw the kids in like moths to a flame.

To one child, the concept of "stop, drop, and roll" to extinguish burning clothes is new. "Doesn't it hurt to press the fire against the skin?" the student asks.

"It's going to hurt a lot worse if it continues to burn," the teacher responds.



Can Your Child Answer These Questions?

1. A tractor has overturned in a field, and you are the first person to arrive at the scene. After making sure it is safe to approach, the first thing to do is:
 - (a) Call for help. (b) Turn off the tractor. (c) Stop any bleeding.
2. You are awakened at night and realize the house is quickly filling with smoke. You should:
 - (a) Run out of the house. (b) Crawl low under the smoke, get out, and stay out. (c) Hide in a closet.
3. You and a friend are walking by your neighbor's new pond. It is a hot day, and you decide to go for a swim. You should:
 - (a) Dive in. (b) Throw your friend in the pond. (c) Keep walking.
4. Your father has just completed spraying his fields. You need to enter the field just sprayed, where the pesticide is still wet on the plants. You should:
 - (a) Do your work immediately before fields dry. (b) Follow pesticide label directions for reentry. (c) Wait until it rains to reenter the field.
5. A 12-year-old friend is visiting and wants to ride on the tractor with you. You should:
 - (a) Let her ride with you. (b) Explain that driving a tractor is easy and let her drive. (c) Explain that the tractor has only one seat that is for an experienced driver since tractors are very powerful equipment.

ANSWERS: 1. b 2. b 3. c 4. b 5. c

A shield for a pto is crucial, says Jerry Davis of Abraham Baldwin. "Once it gets your clothes, it's probably going to get you," he says.

practiced getting out of the house if it catches on fire, painfully few hands are raised.

"If you hear a smoke detector go off in the middle of the night, just roll out of bed and crawl," Ellison emphasizes. Have two exits planned and practice, she says.

What if you're trapped?

"Should you get in the closet?" a child asks. Ellison seems to shudder at the question.

"Don't get in a closet," she implores. "And when you get out, don't go back in the house."

Pesticide Safety

Although children should never handle chemicals, young adults beginning to help with this hazardous chore should be aware of the dangers.

"If you spill [concentrated pesticides]

right out of the jug, get rid of the clothes," says Craig Kvien with the Coastal Plains Experiment Station in Tifton. A few children protest loudly at the thought of throwing away a good pair of jeans. But few argue that the cost of jeans would top the cost of a hospital stay.

Water Safety

Last year, drowning was the most common cause of death for Georgia farm kids in a six-county area, according to a survey by the Georgia Healthy Farmers Project.

"Even those farmers who had rescue equipment for their pools had nothing at their ponds," says Judy Hartley, coordinator of the camp.

Lucy Lowery, an American Red Cross water safety instructor, says: "You can help [someone who is drowning] even if

you can't swim. Reach, throw, but don't go; and if you have a boat, you can row."

One young fellow admits he swims alone.

"Why?" the teacher questions.

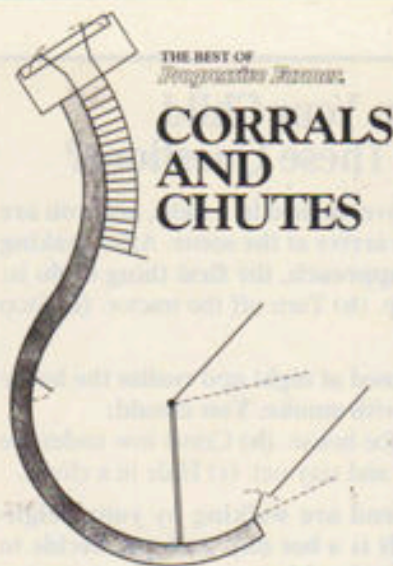
"Because I like the peace and quiet," he responds.

"Peace and quiet? What happens if you get in trouble?"

"If I get in trouble, my mom would spank me," the boy says. His response is calculated to get a laugh from his buddies, but it also hints at the notion young folks have that they are invincible.

"If you're on the bottom of the lake and they don't find you?" Lowery hammers at him, shaking her head. "Never swim alone," she tells the group.

Even the buddy system is no guarantee against tragedy. A 12-year-old who attended the camp last year and an 11-year-old friend were swimming in a pond

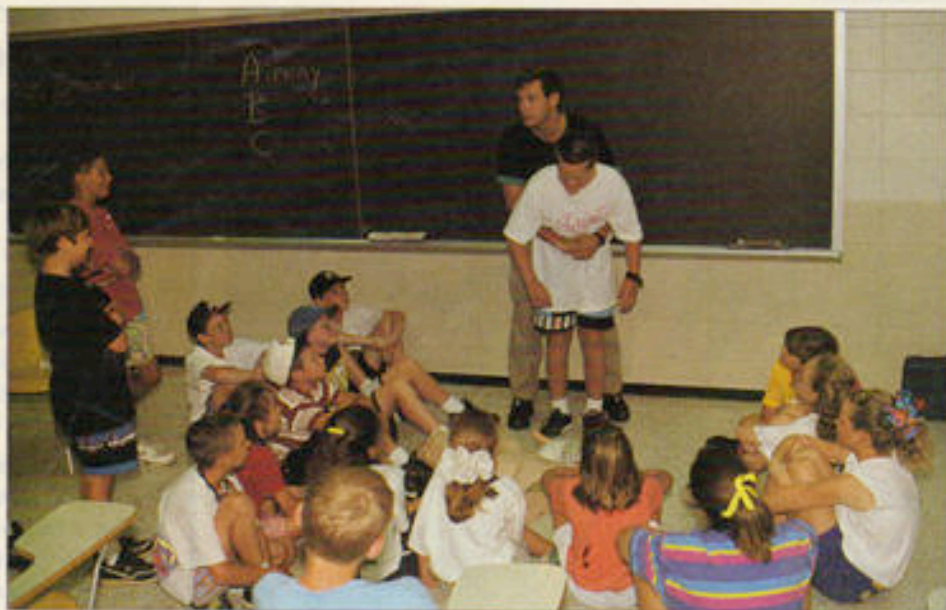


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Rick Braswell of Abraham Baldwin demonstrates the Heimlich maneuver on a giggling volunteer. The kids also learn the ABC's of cardiopulmonary resuscitation — airway, breathing, and circulation.

Host a Farm Safety Camp

1. Start planning at least six months ahead. Find out the most frequent causes of farm injuries and deaths in your area. Medical and law enforcement personnel, the media, and county agents are good sources.
2. Develop topics. Include discussions on accident prevention involving equipment, fire, water, electricity, and chemicals, and on CPR.
3. Have medical experts and civil service employees, county agents, university ag safety specialists, or experienced farmers address topics.
4. Confirm the campsite.
5. Talk to your county attorney about liability insurance.
6. Contact ag groups to target camp participants and chaperones.
7. Design a safety quiz for the kids to take before and after the camp. (See example on page 27.)

when the younger boy started to go under. "[The older boy] tried to rescue his friend but could not," Hartley says. "He almost drowned himself. He had to push his friend away to get out of the pond."

A Close Brush With Death

Gerry Barfield, 15, of Tifton, Ga., is one farm kid whose illusions of immortality are gone.

"See my side?" says Gerry, pointing to the ugly abrasions on his body. "That was just one trip around."



The phrase "the fabric of our lives" took on an entirely new meaning when Gerry Barfield's cotton shirt was ripped to pieces, freeing him from the deadly grip of an unshielded drive shaft.

The "trip" occurred when an unshielded drive shaft on a pivot irrigation rig grabbed his cotton shirt. Gerry's ride was cut short when the garment ripped to shreds.

The next day, Gerry and his father, Gerald, walked out to the rig. Gerry gingerly disentangled the shirt from the merciless drive shaft. He would keep it.

The elder Barfield wanted a more useful symbol of the lesson learned. Later that day, he had a shield fashioned from strong metal for the drive shaft — a protective barrier between man and machine, son and death.

By NANCY DORMAN-HICKSON

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SAFETY

States Selected For Farm Safety Camps

If we save one life or prevent one accident, our efforts will be worth it. And evidently, that's what you think too.

Since we proposed sponsoring the *Progressive Farmer* Farm Safety Day camps for kids, the response has been overwhelming. We've heard from folks all over the U.S. who are interested in keeping our next generation of farmers safe.

Eventually, we hope to have day camps in every location where there is interest. For this first year, we narrowed our selection to one or more locations in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas.

At least one person from each of these states will come to Birmingham, Ala., on Feb. 8 to discuss the best ways for local individuals and organizations to work together in teaching kids safe farming practices.

Help Us Prevent Farm Accidents

You can help teach safe farming practices to the next generation. Please help by sharing:

- Any experiences or close calls you or others have had with farming accidents.
- Safety tips you practice on your farm.
- Suggestions for what you think new farmers need to know.
- Names and sources of safety publications, equipment, or training demonstrations that would be useful to others.

Send any information that might help others to Susan Reynolds, *Progressive Farmer*, Box 523, Birmingham, AL 35209.