

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Agriculture

The meeting was called to order by Senator Allen at
Chairperson

10:00 a.m./~~XX~~ on February 11, 1985 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Gannon (E)
Senator Karr (E)
Senator Kerr (E)
Senator Norvell(E)

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes Department

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ernie Carney, Society for Safer Agriculture
Dick Jepson, Society for Safer Agriculture
Lois Cook, Kansas Medical Technicians Assoc.
Delbert Ekart, Kansas Farm Bureau
Hank Ernst, Kansas Farmer Magazine
Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas Trial Lawyers Assoc.

Senator Allen called the Senate Agriculture meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Senator Doyen moved the minutes of the February 6 meeting be approved. Senator Arasmith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Senator Allen announced the meeting was planned so all could hear about the Society for Safer Agriculture. Ernie Carney, President, of the Society for Safer Agriculture introduced Dick Jepson. Mr. Jepson, President, explained the formation, ideas, purposes, and goals of the society which has been formed through Kansas State University with a grant. (see attachment A) Questions and discussion followed.

Have you proposed this program to be managed through Kansas State University? No, KSU President does not have this program on his priority list and does not see it included on the list in the near future. The President does know we are presenting this program to this committee.

Are you asking the legislature to fund this program, if so, this committee makes no appropriations. Maybe this program should be presented to the Ways and Means Committee? This is a starting point as an interest in this program has to be developed first.

Is this program included in the teaching field at KSU and do you have a proposed budget for this program? Safety needs to be taught so management learns to be involved in safety and so they will put safety and safety programs into work areas. Estimated cost of the total program, to include Production Ag Program, Ag Industry Program, and work with handicapped farmers, is \$150,000 to \$160,000 yearly.

Is this safety program a duplicate of other safety programs? No, this program is geared to help small employers that do not have safety personnel.

Senator Allen ask if anyone else had any comments.

Lois Cook, Kansas Medical Technicians Association, stated this program had helped the EMTs of Kansas learn emergency procedures for farm and farm machinery accidents. She urged the committee to consider this proposed safety program.

Delbert Ekart, Director of Safety, for Kansas Farm Bureau reported the Farm Bureau has a number of safety programs available concerning tractor, home, poison and farm safety. There is a safety committee in each county of the state; their responsibility is to promote and put on safety programs. Eight out of ten farmers are members of Farm Bureau so they have safety programs available to them.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Agriculture,
room 423-S, Statehouse, at 10:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on February 11, 1985.

Hank Ernst, Editor, Kansas Farmer Magazine reported he has worked with the Society for Safer Agriculture and the Farm Bureau. His magazine carries agriculture safety related editorials and stories. (see attachment B). Mr. Ernst ask support for Jepson's program to provide ongoing safety programs for the state of Kansas.

Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, reported using statistical information available only from Jepson's program, in preparing presentations for legislative matters. She encouraged support for Jepson's program.

Senator Allen announced the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

farm accident survey to identify the types and numbers of ag accidents occurring in Kansas. We did one study of swine confinement housing to determine the amounts of four important gases in these houses.

Our teaching function began this semester. Our engineer, agricultural and business management graduates are being hired by employers who because of ethical, moral and legal reasons, more and more need individuals with knowledge about hazards and safety practices. Without a basic knowledge of safety these graduates have to learn the subject on the job - not a satisfactory method for satisfying company responsibilities.

When the ASH Center was established there were very few ag safety educational resources available at KSU. The federal grant provided sufficient funds to develop publications and slide sets to help us and other safety leaders to inform workers in production agriculture and the small ag related industries. Many of these have been sold to safety specialists in other states and Canada. The daily and weekly news media, the farm press and attorneys have used the ag-accident statistical data developed at the Center.

What I believe to be the most significant change since the ASH Center was established has been the sharp reduction in fatal farm accidents. The dashed line on Chart 1 identifies the number of fatal accidents each year since 1978. The solid line indicates the amount of funds received. Notice that the number of accidents dropped dramatically beginning in 1980 - a year after the Center began operations. They continued to drop for a couple of years. But when federal funds were cut back the numbers of accidents began to increase.

It is impossible to prove that our efforts were the result of this decline. But one cannot prove that the decline was not a result of our activities. The Kansas Farm Bureau has a farm safety program for its members. I think the addition of our efforts to that of the Farm Bureau achieved a synergistic effect whereby the total overall results were better than the total of each programs if done separately.

Need to Continue

Why do we need to maintain the activities of the KSU Agricultural Safety and Health Center?

Production agriculture is the number one industry in the state and has the highest fatal accident rate.

The costs of accidents are very high. These costs are even more devastating when an industry is in economic difficulty. We at the Center have estimated agricultural work injury accidents to cost over 15 million dollars a year. This figure is very conservative and includes days work lost, medical, property damage and hired labor costs. It does not include lost productivity, home and farm modifications, rehabilitation, relocation costs or legal fees. Non work injury farm accidents add another eight million dollars to the total cost.

Fatal farm accidents are also costly. The average age of those involved in fatal farm accidents over the past nine years was about 43.

Assuming these individuals would have had 19 productive remaining work years the ASH Center conservatively estimates the income loss of each fatality to be \$380,000. This does not include medical costs, property loss, legal fees, burial fees or relocation costs that might occur. Fatal farm accidents have averaged over 31 farm people killed per year over the past five years. The Center estimates the income cost of these accidents at \$11,780,000. The total monetary cost of farm injury and fatal accidents is in excess of 35 million dollars per year. And this does not include the omitted costs previously mentioned.

Social Security disability payments average over \$10,200 per year, for each person on disability. For the estimated 230 permanently injured farmers, this totals \$2,346,000 each year.

In short agricultural safety education is needed to reduce the loss of human life, human suffering and monetary costs of accidents.

Kansas is the second ranking state in the number of farm equipment manufacturers and ranks high in the number of grain dealers and handlers, agricultural product processors and agricultural service industries. These industries have accident rates above the national average, high employee turnover and insufficient funds to employ a full-time safety specialist

Workers compensation costs for the four industries identified above was \$7,000,000 in 1979. Social Security payments to those disabled in these industrial accidents are also very high.

Workers must be periodically reminded about the hazards they face if a program is to be effective.

Visits with management personnel at several representative small businesses indicate a strong desire for assistance to establish safety programs.

A population of handicapped, disabled or physically hindered farmers of undetermined size, exists in the state. This group and its problems need to be identified to provide proper assistance. The handicapped ag worker needs help to locate information and assistance devices to improve his working ability. Other segments of our society have this benefit, and farmers should be able to participate without changing their occupation.

There is a continuing need to conduct research and short term studies to identify potential hazards, types of accidents and their causes and the protective devices to prevent accidents. These data are used by many different people to inform people about the occurrence of different types of accidents.

Our university graduates need to be prepared on the subject of occupational safety because laws and regulations are adding more emphasis on safety and health; responsibility for safety is extending to the design engineer and supervisor; good safety and health records are being included in job ratings; and, accidents are too expensive in today's economic climate.

Other major industries have management and labor support for safety programs as well as considerable input from government in the form of money and enforcement measures. Unlike these industries there are few supervisors on Kansas farms or in our small ag related industries to provide safety training, develop training materials or to insist that workers follow known safety practices.

A high risk population in agriculture are the young people who work with hazardous farm equipment from their early teens. Are we wise in our thinking when we expose young men and women to these ag work hazards and not provide them with knowledge about hazards and training to avoid them? Workers must be over 18 to be allowed to work in other hazardous industries. Are we saying in effect that it is all right to expose young ag workers to serious injury or death but don't expose the urban youth to such hazards?

Farm wives have been extremely interested in ag safety programs. They are fully aware of the hardships the ag worker's family must go through if the breadwinner is seriously injured or killed. Not only is loss of income and a lowered standard of living a possibility but if the breadwinner is killed, the family may not have sufficient management skills and labor to continue farming. They are forced to leave the farm and relocate.

There are no state funds appropriated for ag safety education. And, until the recent organization of the Society for a Safer Agriculture there was not a foundation organized for the purpose of promoting agricultural safety education.

In agriculture there are check off programs to promote use of Kansas grown grain and livestock. I believe I read about tax check off program to protect the chick-a-dee. There are fees and taxes to support wild life conservation. There is even a national organization collecting funds to save the bald eagle.

These are good programs and I have no intention of degrading anyone's effort in these endeavors. But I wonder if we might not have our priorities a little mixed up when money is made available to protect birds but none to protect our workers in the agricultural industry?

Our entire population shares in the good things we have as a result of our agricultural industry. I think we all must share in the responsibilities for ensuring that these good things are not produced at the expense of some ag worker's disability or life. Agricultural safety needs help if the fatal accidents are to be reduced.

Chart 1 provides information on our total budget. The funding has allowed us to develop materials and expertise that were otherwise unavailable. The large fluctuations however made it difficult to develop consistent, effective education programs with the small ag related industries and with handicapped farmers. What is needed is a budget at the \$150,000 to \$160,000 level to provide continuity and to effectively conduct these programs. Note also that my presentation is to provide you with the basic information concerning the need for agricultural safety education. A proposal for this funding has not gone through University channels or the Board of Regents.

I think supporting agricultural safety education at a level twice this size makes good business sense. Private insurance companies and larger industries believe safety education pays because they have specific safety programs for their clientele.

Another analogy is to look at the money spent to attract industries. Our state and local communities work hard to bring in an industry for the payroll and tax benefits involved. Can't we do the same for agricultural safety to increase ag income? A ten percent reduction in the number of accidents would result in a minimum of \$3,500,000 saved. To paraphrase Ben Franklin - three and a half million dollars saved is three and a half million dollars earned, and the cost is minimal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you.

KANSAS
FUNDING LEVELS - 1978-1983 (FISCAL YEARS)
FATAL ACCIDENTS - 1979-1984 (CALENDAR YEARS)

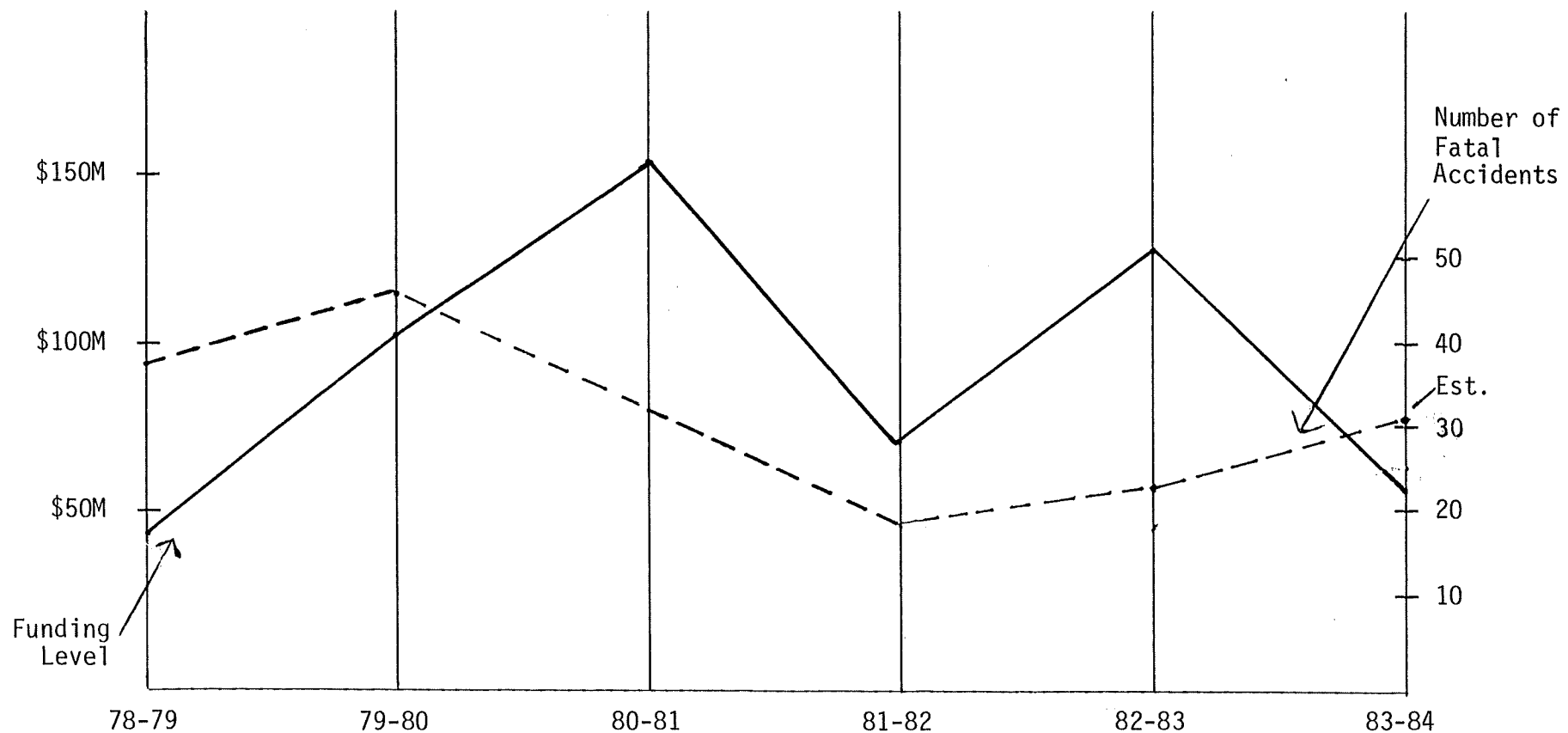


Chart 1

Kansas Farmer



3310 S.W. Harrison
Topeka, Kansas 66611
Phone: 913-267-4080

Feb. 11, 1985

Safety is one of the most underplayed facets of farm life today. Unlike most other industries, where safety specialists are hired fulltime, the farmer has to be employer, employee and safety specialist rolled up in one.

From a journalist's vantage point, safety is one of the most difficult subjects to write about. No one wants to believe that accidents can happen to him. But they do.

In a safety blitz in 1982, Kansas Farmer told the story of a farmwife who turned a tragic accident into a moving campaign for safety. She drafted the idea of safety hearts bearing the words "Please be careful. We Love You. Your Family."

Kansas Farmer and its sister publication, Missouri Ruralist, promoted the campaign. We distributed some 16,000 hearts to farm families. Letters following our announcement of the campaign supported the effort. Families shared their personal tragedies and appreciation for the reminders.

Anything which can be done to keep safety foremost in the minds of farm families is worthwhile. It's particularly important when emotional and financial stress may make one less careful than normal.

Hank Ernst
Editor

attachment B
2/11/85

KSU Agricultural Safety and Health Center

A Concept for a Coordinated State Agricultural Safety Program

What is the KSU Agricultural Safety and Health Center?

The Center serves as a mechanism for coordinating and utilizing all the resources of the University to focus on agricultural safety and health issues that affect workers in production agriculture and in small ag-related industries.

What are the Purposes of the Center?

The purposes of the Center are to identify, evaluate and suggest solutions to Agricultural Safety and Health (ASH) problems through public education, research, and formal education programs. The purposes are accomplished by assisting with ASH program planning, obtaining accident statistics, conducting safety and health training, and developing resources to support this training.

pr **What Activities are Conducted by the Center?**

* Safety programs are conducted for farm youth, women and men, for Emergency Medical Technicians and for safety leaders. Subjects include safe operation of trucks, tractors and agricultural machinery, handling of chemicals and fertilizers, working in storage areas and extricating an accident victim.

* Safety programs are planned for small agricultural industry managers, supervisors and workers. Subjects include safety management and technical areas as needed.

* Educational materials and agricultural accident statistical data are made available to safety specialists, media, attorneys and others nationwide.

What is the Need for Agricultural Safety and Health Education?

* Production agriculture is the number one industry in Kansas and has one of the highest fatal accident rates in Kansas and in the nation.

* The KSU Agricultural Safety & Health (ASH) Center estimates one farm work-related accident to average \$2,035.

* Farm accident surveys indicate there are approximately 7,575 farm work related injury accidents each year in Kansas.

* These accidents are estimated to cost the victims \$15,415,000 which includes days work lost, medical, property damage and hired labor costs. Does not include lost productivity, home and farm modifications, rehabilitation, relocation costs and legal fees. Including non-work related accidents would add another \$8,000,000 to the cost.

* Fatal farm accidents have averaged over 31 farmers killed per year over the past five years.

* The KSU ASH Center estimates the income loss for each fatal farm work related accident to be \$380,000 in Kansas. The estimated total cost of fatal farm accidents is \$11,780,000 which does not include legal fees, medical costs, burial fees, and relocation costs that might occur.

* The total monetary cost of all farm injury and fatal accidents in Kansas is over 35 million dollars *per year*.

* Kansas is the second ranking state in the number of farm equipment manufacturers and ranks high in the number of grain dealers and handlers, agricultural product processors and agricultural service industries.

* These industries have accident rates above the national average, high employee turnover and insufficient funds to employ a full-time safety specialist.

* Social Security disability payments average over \$10,200, per year for each person on disability. For the estimated 230 permanently injured farmers, this totals \$2,346,000 each year.

* Total annual cost of production agricultural accidents is estimated to be \$29,541,000.

* Workers compensation costs for the four industries identified above was \$7,000,000 in 1979. Social Security payments to those disabled in these industrial accidents are also very high.

A population of handicapped, disabled or physically hindered farmer of undertermined size, exists in the state. This group and its problems need to be identified to provide proper assistance.

It is obvious from the above information that agricultural safety education is needed to reduce the loss of human life, human suffering and monetary costs of these accidents.

Visits with management personnel at several representative small businesses indicate a strong desire for assistance to establish safety programs.

Workers must be periodically reminded about the hazards they face if a program is to be effective.

The demand for production agriculture safety information indicates a strong need for these programs.

There is a continuing need to identify types of accidents and to analyze their causes to develop safety programs and devices to prevent the accidents.

The handicapped farmer needs help to locate information and assistance devices to improve his working ability.

What has been accomplished by the Center?

* The KSU ASH Center was established in 1979 as a result of an OSHA New Directions Grant.

* The KSU Agricultural Safety and Health (ASH) Center was established in 1978 as a result of an OSHA New Directions Grant.

* The Center has developed 25 agricultural safety publications, 12 agricultural safety and rescue procedure slide sets, presented over 300 radio and TV programs, written many press articles and conducted training for over 11,000 safety leaders and the general agricultural public in Kansas since its inception.

The Center has answered over 2,400 technical services requests for information and conducted several

What) assist small ag-related industries in the state to develop new or improve old safety programs.

* The number of fatal agricultural accidents for the last nine years is listed below:

1976-45	1979-39	1982-19
1977-36	1980-46	1983-24
1978-45	1981-33	1984 (Est.) 30

* Note that the number of total agricultural accidents dropped significantly starting the second year after the Center began operation. We can't measure exactly how much the Center contributed to this decline but we know the rate was lower. Our work paid off. However, as funding decreased and fewer safety workers were involved the number of fatal accidents began to rise.

* The Agricultural Safety and Health Resource Center has over 100 films and slide sets and over 50 publications on agricultural safety and health available for distribution to interested persons.

* Center personnel have conducted many program planning meetings involving citizens from across the state. One major national symposium on safety "Methods of the Future" and one Governor's Conference on Agricultural Safety and Physical Rehabilitation have been conducted by the Center.

What are the Future Plans of the Center?

* We plan to continue our excellent production agricultural safety and health education program, expand and conduct similar programs for farm equipment manufacturers, ag product processors, grain handlers and ag service industries and to do special research and safety and health education programs for disabled farmers. We plan to establish safety courses for KSU students in Engineering, Agriculture and other appropriate curricula. We also plan to conduct research to identify hazards of new equipment and operations early in their development and to develop equipment and devices to assist handicapped farmers in their chosen occupation. We plan to work with other safety organizations to coordinate a state-wide agricultural safety program.



ASH CENTER

Professionals acting together
for safer and healthier working
conditions in agriculture and
related industries.

AGRICULTURAL SAFETY & HEALTH CENTER

For farmers and ranchers since 1863

Volume 110 Number 1 1982

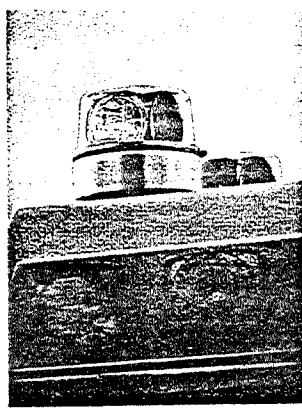
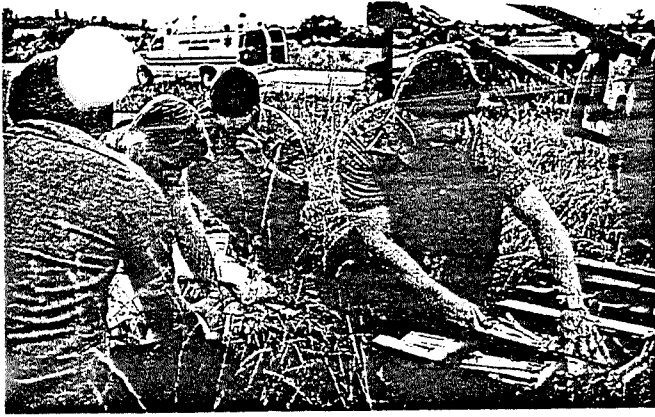
Kansas Farmer

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a small circular tag. The tag contains the text: "Please Be Careful We Love You Your Family". The background is dark and textured.

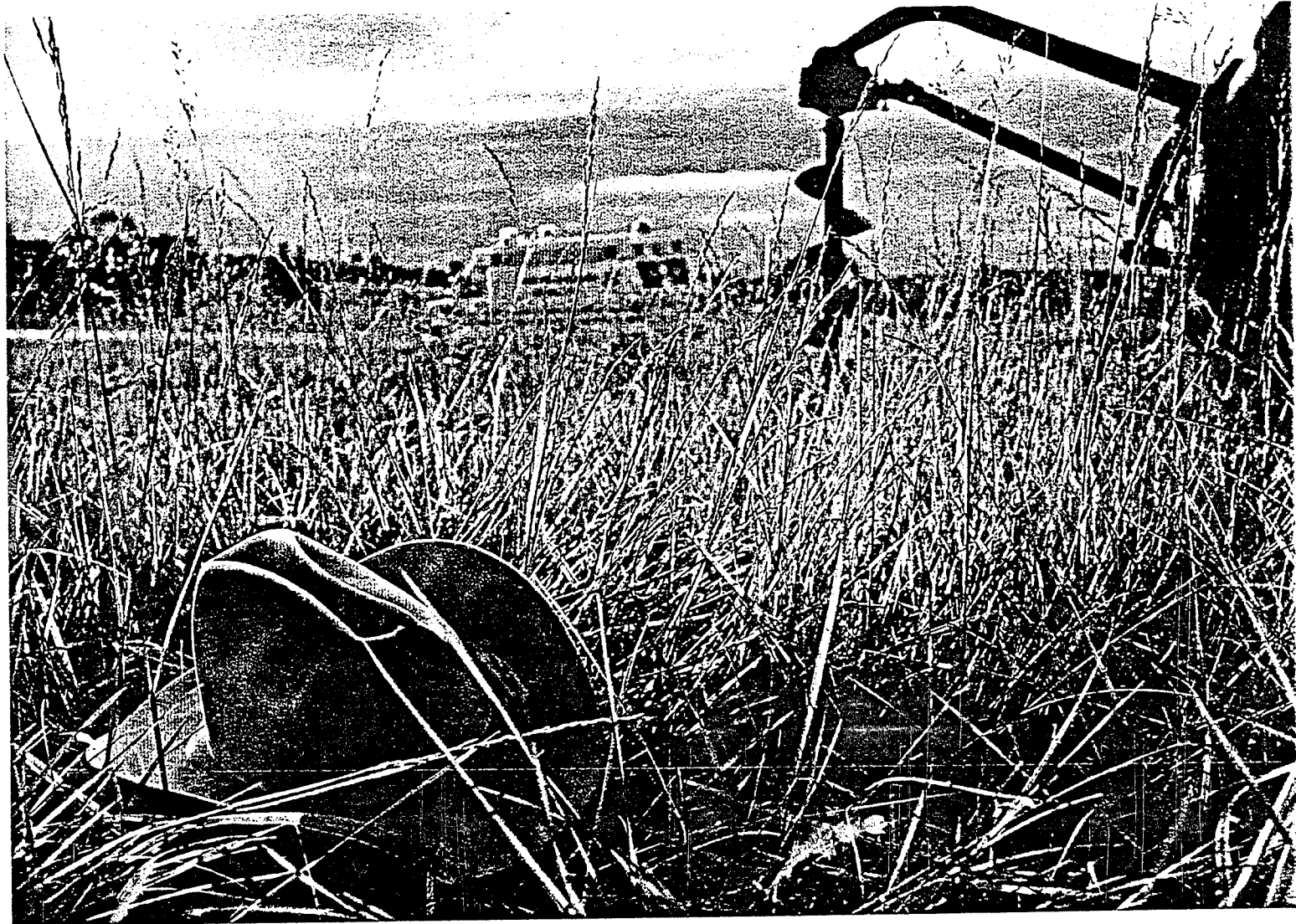
**Please Be Careful
We Love You
Your Family**

The cover story





Photos by Diana Putnam, Bob E. and Hank Ernst. Text by Leona Schalow as told to Nilah Rodgers, freelance writer from Littlefield, Texas. Various versions of Mrs. Schalow's touching story have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers. This version, first published in Farm Journal, was noted by KANSAS FARMER in a Canadian publication. Mrs. Schalow's story contains a message that knows no journalistic or geographic boundaries.



We love you

Safety is a foreword, not a postscript. When the importance of fieldwork is diminished by an accident. When red lights flash and sirens blare. When you or your family is blind with pain. It's no time for safety decals. No time for accident stories. To focus your attention on accident prevention, KANSAS FARMER photographed a simulated accident scene and repeats a tragic, but courageous story of a Minnesota farm wife.

I knew something was wrong the second I drove in the yard. Our three youngest children, Charles, 12, Sharon, 10, and Lenny, 7, were crying. Fourteen-year-old Georgia, more in control, ran to the car. Daddy's been hurt, he's stopped breathing, she said as she pointed to a grove of trees.

My legs turned to rubber and I couldn't breathe, but somehow I ran out to the tractor. My husband, Duane, was bent over the part where the blades chop the corn stalks into chowder. The sleeve of his old tattered jacket was down in the roller past his elbow. I looked and saw his arm was gone, chopped off halfway between the crook of his arm and his shoulder. I screamed.

"Duane?" I cried again and again. He didn't answer. I lifted his head. It

rested on a black plate over the opened shield which read: "Before opening, disengage power take-off." His head fell forward. Some green chopped stalks stuck on his mouth.

I beat on his back, listened for a heartbeat, felt for a pulse. Despite the lack of a response, I applied a towel as a tourniquet.

"He's dead," Charlie sobbed, "and it's my fault. I didn't go the first time he called."

Heart in my mouth, I raced to the house, Sharon and Georgia yelled something about the phone, but I didn't hear. I dialed, getting through to the rescue squad on my first try. But subsequent calls to the minister were not successful at first.

How ironic, I was training for life-saving the day Duane got his arm caught in the silage chopper and bled to death.

Safety, like charity, should begin at home. But, for us, that's a mute point now. Duane and I were both safety conscious. He was on the safety council at National Poly Products where he worked full time. He farmed our 160-acre farm evenings and weekends.

I was aware of the hazards involved when working with farm machinery. That's the reason I was active in our community rescue class.

That day, our rescue class was working on evacuation from burning buildings. I was nervous during the meeting and had to practice my rope descent a second time, remembering that Duane always got in a hurry when he was getting the corn in.

That night, I pieced the story together while we huddled in the darkened living room, crying. When Duane first yelled, Charlie, my 12-year-old son, thought it was one of our goats.

"**When I heard him yell** again, I said, 'Oh, God, no, don't let it be what I think it is,'" Charlie said. "I didn't know how to stop the power take-off, so I turned the tractor motor off. When I got up on the machine and tried to pull him out and saw the arm was gone, I froze. I prayed real hard and God didn't answer my prayers."

"Prayers aren't always answered the way we want," I said. "Maybe Daddy died so others wouldn't lose their lives the way he did."

These were just words of comfort. I knew Charlie suffered guilt feelings and that I mustn't let him blame himself for his dad's death.

Perhaps it was my fault. For weeks I'd been concentrating on life-saving, but my children did not have as much experience as needed in emergencies. Perhaps it was Duane's fault. How many times I'd told him not to wear that old, loose, tattered coat around moving equipment. Perhaps it was nobody's fault. With six children, seven to 17, God knew we'd have trouble enough surviving without a breadwinner, that we could do without a load of guilt.

Why hadn't Duane been more careful? How many times had I said to him as he walked out the door, "Be careful." He'd look at me with his head to one side. "Be careful," I'd repeat. "We love you." Then he'd tip his cap over his big nose, smile and walk out the door.

A few days later, I asked Charlie to return grace. He shook his head. One night I hugged him and said, "Want me to hear your prayers?"

"I don't pray anymore," he said. "Prayers aren't answered."

Twelve, and he'd lost his faith. That night, I couldn't sleep. If, somehow, I could make some meaning for Charlie out of what had happened. . . .

If only there had been some way to remind Duane to be careful, that we loved him, he would have slowed down, wouldn't have raised that shield without proper precautions.

When I said, "Be careful" he didn't pay much attention, but everytime I added, "we love you," he'd cock his head, grin and tip that cap. I finally dozed to a litany of "be careful we love you; be careful, we . . ."

While the oatmeal cooked and the children dressed, I picked up a pencil and wrote: "Be Careful We Love You." I turned the paper over and drew a heart. In the center, I printed "Please Be Careful. We Love You." Beneath the message, I scrawled the signature. "Your Family."

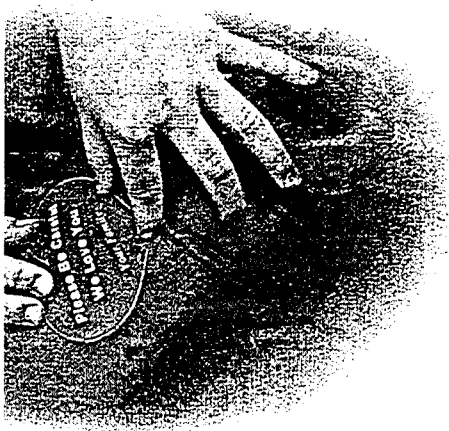
I picked up a marking pencil and colored the heart red. If something like this, with adhesive backing, was pasted over all those little black boxes that said, "Disengage pto before opening." Or if this message in red appeared near all dangerous areas, maybe lives would be saved. If just one family could be spared our tragedy.

"Be careful, we love you. I don't use stickers on my farm machinery," the Blue Earth County Farm Bureau president said when I presented my safety sticker idea to him.

"We'll see about that," his wife replied. One of those stickers is going on our door where it is the last thing you see when you leave."

It's hard to measure how many lives are saved with safety programs or "Be Careful" decals. You could say the impact of the stickers and the emergency program is intangible.

You can say that, but I can't. For, somewhere along the way, Charlie started praying again. □



*How many times
had I said to him
as he walked out
the door, be careful.
He'd look at me
with his head to
one side.
Be careful, I'd
repeat. We love you.*



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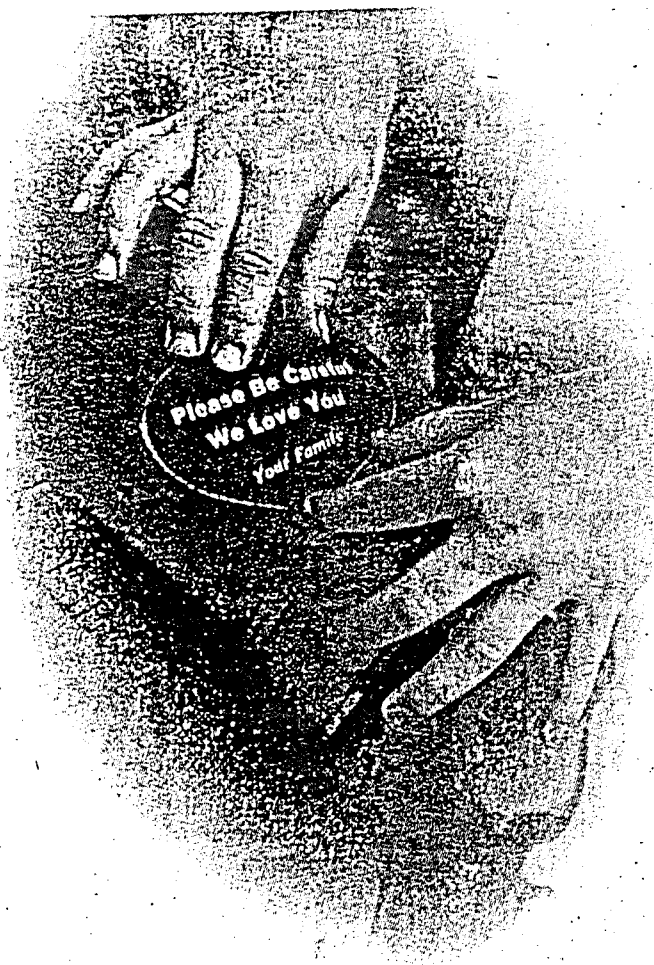
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Story touches hearts

Editor's note: Response has been overwhelming to the Heart safety campaign launched by KANSAS FARMER in the July issue. Letters have come in from throughout Kansas and from subscribers who have left the state, but still retain their Kansas farming interests.

The safety campaign was originated by a Minnesota farm wife who lost her husband in a farm accident. Her moving story appeared in the July issue accompanied by photos of the reenactment of a farm accident.

Many of the thoughtful letters received from our subscribers appear here. Most frequently asked question was how can I get additional hearts for family friends and farm groups. Details and additional readers' comments appear on page 31.

Hearts

Thank you for the very moving article about farm safety in your last issue. I read the story to my four sons and the youngest one had tears in his eyes, as did I. Please send us our "Be Careful, We Love You" stickers. I think this is an excellent way to remind children and adults how very precious life is and how very much they are loved as they go out into the world each day.

Mrs. Betsy Gilliland
Holton

Being a farmer's daughter, I have quite often seen my dad reach for a gear as it's still running. I feel the hearts are a good idea and wish every farm had these little reminders on them. Thanks for giving them so lives hopefully will be saved.

D. L'Ecuyer
Morrowville

What a wonderful idea to show our "farm dads" we do love them so very much!

Arlene Bengston
McPherson

My children and I were very touched by your article, on "We Love You." We want some hearts for "Daddy." Then the younger one said, "We need some for Grandad and Uncle Joel, too!" Could it be possible? If so, return them in the enclosed envelopes.

Mrs. Keith Tatkenhorst
Natoma

Please send my two free hearts. Enjoy your magazine more with each issue. Keep up the good work.

Mrs. Earl McBride
Lewis

Please make it possible to buy some of these stickers.

Not only farmers need them. My son is a railroad engineer. He also is a part-time roofer. There is no limit to the list.

H.E. Whaley
Wellington

After seeing your article in the KANSAS FARMER I want to send your stickers to my brother-in-laws and nephew. Everyone should be made more aware of the hazard of farm machinery accidents.

We farmed for 11 years, so I know some of the hazards.

Mary Fagg
Garnett

I appreciate your efforts to help prevent tragedies such as happened to the Schalow family. Several have happened with people I know, and it is heartbreaking.

Mrs. Pearl Stearns
Downs

Please mail me the two Heart decals. I think it's an excellent decal. Wheat harvest is 10-14 days late in Harper County as elsewhere. We have extra tension weighing on our bodies and minds. I think the decals would be thought provoking.

Barbara Pulliam
Freeport

Your story "We Love You" was surely a moving one. I'm hoping every farmer will take the time to really think about it. I lived on a farm all my life and we raised three sons. Accidents happened and always it was being careless. My prayers really go out for the Minnesota farm wife and her three children who suffered the loss of husband and father.

Bonnie L. Featherston Farris
Topeka

Thank you so much for a very touching article in your July issue. You wrote about a subject I'm sure all of us farm families think of often. I feel deeply for the family's loss. Thank you for reminding us again, especially during our busy season.

I'm asking for my 2 free decals and hope to receive them before too long as I want to put them on our machinery and hopefully remind all who use them that we, too, need them to be careful.

Please send two decals to each of my good friends who also farm near us and to my father-in-law who farms in southeast Kansas.

I know the article said free, but

here's a dollar for each extra envelope requested.

Joann George
Great Bend

Mrs. Schalow's story brings to reality a farm wife's fear.

Even my husband read the article.

Renee Faber
Brewster

We are enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for 2 "hearts" to use in our efforts to save lives and prevent farm accidents.

You, your staff and the two Shawnee County Rescue teams are to be

commended for your super photos and the article by Mrs. Leona Schalows.

Thank you for the two free hearts and again thanks to your staff.

Mrs. Mike Schroll
Greenleaf

Thank you for the feature on farm accidents. We've never had a serious farm accident—but one may be too many.

Mrs. Glenn Kennedy
Sawyer

I read the story "I Love You" about Duane Schalow's accident and I wish to have the two free stickers so

that I may remind my parents to be careful because we love them both. The story was very touching and moving.

Rita Wagner
Leavenworth

Our 4-H Club would like to promote the Heart Safety Sticker. Could we order about 24 stickers for our club members and their families? What a wonderful idea.

Mrs. Paul Schamberger
Collyer

The article "We Love You" was very good. My two oldest children (aged 7 and 10) read and understood it. I feel it brought home the importance of farm safety as well as anything I can say to them. They also understood it is as important for them as for my husband and I to practice safety around the machinery.

Thank you. We — as a family — enjoy "KANSAS FARMER" immensely. The cover picture gets the kids interested. They read an article, and that helps with their farm education.

Sharon Clark
Natoma

Just read the story "We Love You." I remember my mom always saying to Daddy and us kids "Please—Be Careful." Well now I'm on the other end saying—"Please—Be Careful."

Becky Poe
Sharon Springs

The feature story "We Love You," got us all to thinking of the many tractor injuries that occur.

Let's not say carelessly, but hurriedly, due to tension and our work.

God bless Leona Schalow and children.

It took a lot of courage to write about this accident.

Freida Clark
Fulton

I had an uncle killed by a power take-off a couple of years ago. And I know how much grief is felt when an accident like this occurs.

Your story of the Minnesota family was one of your finest. It is stories like this that make farmers be more careful.

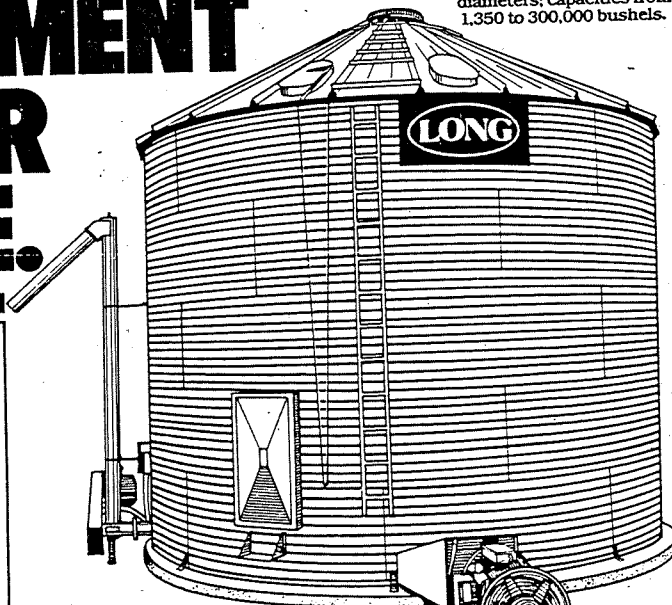
My Dad is a farmer and my mom is a homemaker. There are five children in our family: Charlotte, 16; Kevin, 15; Darrell, 13; Patty, 9; and Brian 8. We all help out as much as we can on the farm. Our equipment is small so we have to run more of it. We are happy and proud to be farmers.

I don't know what we would do if something happened to Dad. Thanks again for the stickers. You may be saving a life.

Charlotte Shippy
Woodbine

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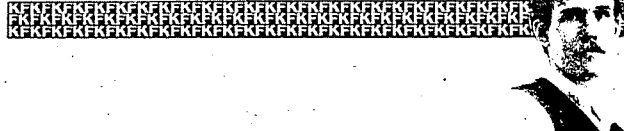
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As Kansas Farmer sees it



HANK ERNST

Heartfelt thanks

Anyone who dares say safety is a nonexistent concern for Kansas farm families is mistaken. If I had any personal doubts, they were whisked away with each day's delivery of the mail after KANSAS FARMER readers received their July issue.

With that issue, KANSAS FARMER launched a drive for farm safety which included an offer of two free heart-shaped decals, reminding farmers and their families to be careful. Response was gratifying. The first day, more than 60 letters were received and letters still are coming in.

While you expressed appreciation for the two free hearts, many of you wanted to know how to get more. It's simple. For each additional 10 hearts you need, forward \$1 and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Heart, KANSAS FARMER, 3310 S.W. Harrison, Topeka, Kan. 66611. Same rate applies to larger quantities. Some volume buyers plan to distribute the Hearts at area fairs. We're expecting total requests, both individual and group to number in the thousands.

The idea stemmed from a Minnesota farm wife who, despite the family's keen awareness of safety, lost her husband in a forage chopper accident. Mrs. Leona Schalow of Mankato, Minn., courageously turned a personal tragedy into a positive, caring program. Working through her local and state Farm Bureaus, she initiated a safety program which has been noted nationally and internationally. Her story, along with reenactment of a farm accident scene appeared in KANSAS FARMER.

Mrs. Schalow is not alone in her farm accident experience. Many of you included letters of how safety, or momentary lack of it, affected you.

One lady writes of how her husband almost died when he was caught in the shaft behind the header of a combine. He spent a month in the hospital and almost a year elapsed before use of his arm returned. The accident occurred despite precautions and awareness of what might happen.

In another instance, a farm wife became involved. She was helping pull her husband's tractor from the mud when her tractor overturned. She sustained severe injuries, but calls herself "one of the lucky ones."

Because of a fatal accident in her family, another farm wife writes that her husband is a little more careful, "but not as careful as I would like him to be." Despite training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid, she fears what might happen. Too often she is not on the farm.

For one farmer, his wife writes that the hearts will be an "extra reminder." He was involved in two farm accidents in his career.

Another writes, perhaps typifying the 1982 harvest season: "Accidents can happen so quickly and with everyone trying so hard to harvest in these muddy fields, everyone really is under stress."

A farm wife, who terms her husband a workaholic, says he got caught in the power take-off shaft on three occasions. Twice he freed himself, but the third time, he could not get loose. "It's only by God's grace that he's alive today to enjoy his... grandchildren. Farmers get in such a hurry that they forget everything else."

In less hurried times, more can be learned about safety from a variety of sources. The Kansas Farm Bureau Safety Division offers demonstrations and training sessions. The Kansas State University Agricultural Safety and Health Center organizes safety programs for families and emergency medical personnel. Trained emergency medical technicians, many of them volunteers, can give information in your own community.

Farm Bureau's Safety Division director, Delbert Ekart, says they too have been involved in a safety decal program. The KANSAS FARMER article is giving their program a boost, he notes, and to date, several thousand hearts have been distributed through local Farm Bureau offices and youth groups.

Safety is increasingly a family affair, according to Richard Jepsen, director of the KSU Agricultural Safety and Health Center. More men are involved today than 5 years ago. Community participation includes machinery dealers, emergency medical personnel and farm families. □



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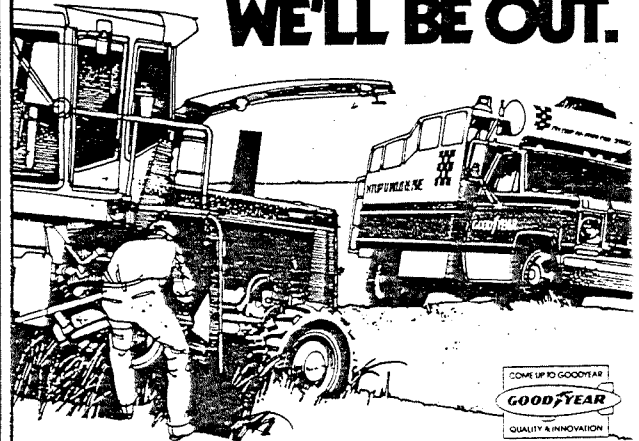
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