


MESSENGER-INQUIRER

 Cooperative
Extension Service



Farm Update

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION

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Farm Safety and Health Week

Harvest season is one of the busiest and most dangerous times of the year for the agriculture industry. That is why the third week of September is recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week. This annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. National Farm Safety and Health Week is led by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council.

No other time of year requires the level of highway use as the tens of thousands of loads of grain that will be moving on rural and state roads in the coming months. The largest machines on the farm, combines and grain carts, will be driving on these heavily traveled roads. The most common injury and property damage accidents are road collisions involving farm trucks and equipment. Warning and headlight use do increase machine visibility to motorists, especially in the late afternoon when trees may shade roads, making machines even less noticeable.

Fire prevention and control are critical, especially during harvest. Every combine and header are subject to fire potential. Every hot pickup exhaust system is a fire potential in crop residue. The first fire defense mechanism is your nose. If you detect a hot smell, it's time to stop and look to see what's going on. I see more farms keeping a water nurse wagon in the field

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where they are harvesting. Fire extinguishers are imperative but supporting them with 1,000 gallons of water close by may be the difference between a fire kept under control and a field fire plus combine loss.

Grain storage facilities are another dangerous site during harvest season. Always be cautious around running augers and moving grain. Never enter a grain bin without a second person on the outside in case of an emergency. You should never enter a bin or climb a leg without a safety harness. Taking time to be safe around grain bins, even waiting for a second person to get on site, can save your life.

In addition to the physical risks and dangers of harvest season, internal health and wellbeing are important aspects for yourself and family. Some harvest days are more stressful than others. Hopefully, there will be many more good days than bad, but the stress caused in bad days can buildup the hormone cortisol. You don't want too much cortisol, it increases blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and triglycerides. These are all common risk factors for heart disease. Cortisol also increases appetite and storage of unused nutrients as fat. Bottom line: Enjoy the great days ahead in the next couple of months and don't let the bad ones get you down.

LLC Farm Businesses – Read This

In 2021, Congress passed the Corporate Transparency Act, requiring certain entities to report information on their owners referred to as Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI). This law became effective January 1, 2024. For businesses created or registered BEFORE January 1, 2024, the deadline for initial reporting is December 31, 2024. For businesses created or registered AFTER January 1, 2024, the deadline for reporting is 90 days after registration. Current penalties for non-compliance include a \$591 per day fine and/or potential jail time.

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Entities registered with the Secretary of State are required to report their BOI. For example, LLCs, both multi-member and single-member, are required to report. Corporations, both S-and C- are required to report. General Partnerships are not required to report their BOI, as they do not register with the Secretary of State. A beneficial owner is an individual who owns at least 25% of the business or exercises substantial control over the business.

To complete the reporting, you will need the company information as well as all information, including the driver's license (of which a photocopy will have to submitted), for all beneficial owners. After the initial registration, if there are changes to the information you provided, such as a name change, new address, or updated driver's license, you have 30 days to report the changes.

You may want to consult with your tax preparer or attorney to help address your entity's specific reporting requirements. For more information, please visit www.fincen.gov

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