

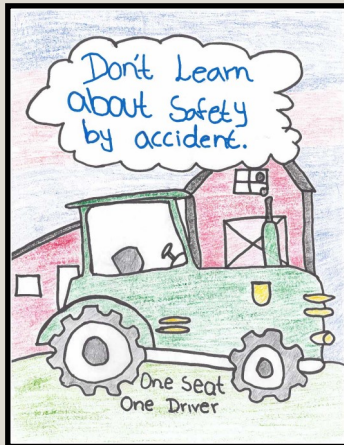
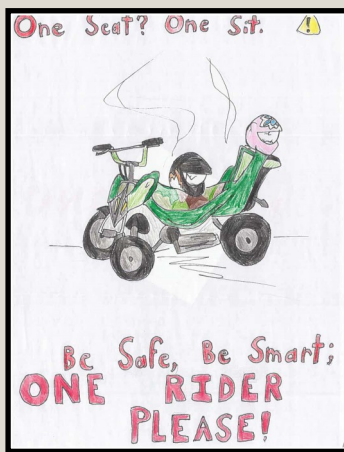
Healthy Horizons

Publication of the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health & Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety

"One Seat, One Rider"

Farm Safety Art Contest Winners

This year's theme emphasized the importance of not allowing extra riders on agricultural and recreational equipment. We received 48 entries in print and digital categories.



See digital category winners on page 2, and the full story with larger artwork on our website:



Left to Right: Tonya Van Slyke (NEDPA), Julie Sorensen, Duane Martin

Northeast Dairy Producers Association Executive Director named NYCAMH Hero

NYCAMH is proud announce the recipient of our seventh annual Hero Award: **Tonya Van Slyke of the Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA)**. Van Slyke has been a longtime and passionate advocate for improving health and safety on New York dairy farms. She supports the industry by focusing on emerging issues, and promotes safety training and workforce management efforts.

In the past, Van Slyke worked at NYCAMH as a safety educator and also worked with the Cornell Agricultural Safety and Health Program. When OSHA launched a Local Emphasis Program for New York dairy farms in 2013, Van Slyke was a primary catalyst behind the creation of the New York OSHA Dairy Workgroup.

Continued on page 3



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**NORTHEAST
CENTER**
FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Introducing our new Chainsaw Safety Workshops: Feel empowered, safe, and confident!

This class is ideal for beginners or as a refresher for experienced users, featuring a combination of classroom learning and hands-on demonstration. In this two hour class, we will cover the following:

- Safety components of a modern saw
- Basic maintenance
- Kickback prevention
- Best ergonomic practices
- Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) use

Each participant will learn how to replace a chain, have the opportunity to try on different PPE, and safely start up, throttle up, and turn off a saw. There is no cutting in this class.

To learn more or to schedule a workshop call 800-343-7527 or email chainsawsafety@bassett.org



Join us for *Fields of Knowledge* series: Discussions on Farmer Health and Safety

This virtual webinar series will provide a collaborative space to discuss key issues that are impacting farmer health, well-being, and safety. Each discussion will feature input from farmers, agricultural service providers, and researchers, making for well-rounded and productive conversations.

To express interest in any of the sessions below, contact Madeleine Zenir at madeleine.zenir@bassett.org

3/27

Transitioning Out of (Dairy) Farming

Examining the emotional, psychological, and financial aspects of stepping away from dairy farming

4/29

Succession and Transition to the Next Generation

Discussing family tension and communication barriers during farm succession

5/29

Health & Safety on Farms

Exploring occupational risks in farming, including physical safety, accident prevention, and healthcare access

More Art Contest Winners

Farm Safety 2024

On a one rider piece of equipment you should only have one person on it for many reasons!

ATVs and other equipment on farms are NOT toys!

You should ride a one rider piece of equipment when the tag says one rider only because it's very unsafe if you don't! In a tractor there may be a small seat next to the driver because there might be an instructor with you. It's not for children, it's for instructors only! Anything that you want to ride, check this little tab to the right!

How can you see if it's a one rider or two? You can check the tag labeled by the foot rest!

NEVER CARRY MORE THAN 1 PASSENGER

This is a 1 seater!

This is a 2 seater!

One Seat One Rider
Riding Safety on Equipment

Wheeler Safety

Additional riders change the balance point

High possibility of rolling & neck injuries

Passengers can distract driver

Never ride without a helmet

Tractor Safety

Two riders for instructional purposes ONLY

ROPS improve survival zone

Have ROPS? - Secure your seat belt

No ROPS? - No seat belt

Have a 2nd rider, Have a factory installed Buddy Seat

If there is one seat, there can only be one rider! By: Graham VanOrmer

ONE SEAT, ONE RIDER

Hazards of one seat, TWO riders:

Falling: A rider can be thrown from the tractor by a bump, turn, or sudden stop.

Blocking the Driver: A rider can obstruct the drivers view or access to controls.

No Protection: Tractors are designed to protect the driver, not extra riders. Older tractors without a rollover protective structure offer no protection for anyone.

NYCAMH Happenings

2025 Farm Respirator Fit Testing

Our regional respirator fit testing clinics are scheduled and registration is open. Wearing a NIOSH-approved respirator can protect your lungs from harmful inhalants that compromise your respiratory health! Make sure your respirator fits properly with a respirator fit test. Call us at 800-343-7527 or email FitTest@bassett.org for more information.

Dr. Conor Hammersley Awarded Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Grant

This grant will support research about the impacts of dairy farm consolidation on farmer mental health in Upstate New York. The study will examine how structural changes in the dairy industry affect the well-being of farmers, and will aim to provide valuable insights that will inform policies and interventions to better support mental health of farmers in the region.

NYCAMH Hero Award (continued)

Over time, this group brought together the combined experience, expertise, and strengths of NEDPA, PRO-Dairy, Cornell Ag Workforce Development, New York Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYCAMH. Van Slyke has been a key partner in safety efforts throughout the state. As stated by NYCAMH director Julie Sorensen, "I have worked with Tonya for many years and have been consistently impressed by her dedication to the dairy industry. Her tireless efforts to identify safety solutions for farm owners and provide 24 hour support to farms in the event of an emergency speaks to her dedication to the industry and dairy workers. It has certainly been my privilege to work with her over many years on our common mission to support New York's dairy farms."

Thanks to her leadership and steadfast support, the New York dairy industry has undoubtedly improved the safety and wellbeing of dairy workers. Our Deputy Director, Erika Scott, summed up our sentiments towards our NYCAMH Hero best by stating "Thank you, Tonya, for all you do for workers, farmers, and agriculture!"

Hundreds of Flu Vaccines Administered this Flu Season

NYCAMH provided several hundred vaccinations for rural employers and workers through NYS Department of Health funding.

On-farm Flu and COVID vaccine clinics were hosted in Madison, Onondaga, Otsego and St. Lawrence Counties. Eighty-three farm workers received vaccines between October and December 2024.

HealthWorks provided flu clinics for educational institutions, manufacturers, local businesses and rural employers.



Judy Graham, RN, providing a vaccine at a clinic

Grant funding through the New York State Association for Rural Health made it possible to offer additional flu and COVID vaccine clinics at NYCAMH in January 2025.

Do you have an idea for tech, programs, tools, or practices that could improve safety and/or health for farmers, loggers, or commercial fishers?

SUBMIT YOUR IDEA BY MAY 30, 2025

- Bring your idea to life through a 2 year program, receiving \$10,000 per year
- Access mentorship and training



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-Damaged PTO shield
-Missing implement master shield



-Undamaged PTO shield
-Both master shields in place

Safety Spotlight: Power Take-Off (PTO) Safety

Spring planting season brings excitement and renewed hope that this year will be a successful one! As you perform maintenance on planting equipment, review these PTO safety tips:

Check PTO shields and master shield to ensure they are free of damage and in good working condition

Always walk around tractors and machinery instead of stepping over the PTO shaft

Avoid loose-fitting clothing to prevent clothes getting caught in moving parts

Wear long hair tied back or under a hat when working around the PTO

NYCAMH sells universal replacement PTO shields starting as low as \$59!