

# LESSON 1 – CASE STUDIES

## 1.1 Mechanicsville man pinned under tractor, survives

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Mechanicsville* – Mechanicsville resident Walter Hines, 25, is lucky to be alive after a mishap Monday afternoon in which he became pinned underneath his tractor. Smithville firefighters, Rescue Squad 51 and Mechanics County EMS were alerted about 3:00 p.m. that Hines' tractor had turned over and he was pinned beneath it.

Firefighter Clint Robertson said the only thing that saved Hines was the tractor's front-end loader which kept the tractor from crushing him. Robertson said it appeared Hines was backing up the tractor when one wheel went up a stack of tires causing the tractor to topple over.

Robertson and other rescue workers used a combination of rescue air bags and hydraulic rescue tools to lift the 7,000 pound tractor off Hines while emergency medical personnel tried to stabilize him. One of Hines' legs and his left shoulder were pinned by the tractor.

It took nearly 45 minutes to free Hines. He was airlifted to St. Thomas Hospital by helicopter.

Robertson said it was unofficial, but he was told Hines suffered broken ribs and a dislocated shoulder. Tuesday evening, a representative of St. Thomas Hospital said that Hines is listed in good condition.

## 1.2 13-year-old injured in farm accident

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Farmworkersville* – A 13-year-old boy was still in critical condition Tuesday night after he was caught in a piece of farm equipment and seriously injured.

Johnny Peters was airlifted to Memorial Hospital in Mechanicsville on Monday evening and remained in the intensive care unit until late Tuesday.

He was working by himself at the time, unloading corn from a gravity box wagon using a PTO- operated auger, on the Johnson farm at 234 Clover Road, town of Farmworkersville. His employer, Bob Johnson, had finished his chores and went to check on the teen. He found Johnny entangled in the PTO shaft of the auger. He switched off the tractor, pulled him from the tractor's power take- off shaft, and then called 911 at 5:51 p.m.

Johnny Peters' clothing had become entangled in the rotating shaft. All of his clothing except his underwear was wrapped around the still-turning shaft that provided the power to operate the auger.

Across the state, three other children have been seriously hurt on farms in the past month – one of them killed, according the State Extension Safety Specialist.

## 1.3 Man loses arm in accident

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Smithville* – An Indiana man on a mission of mercy was injured Saturday. An Indiana truck driver was severely injured when he became entangled in a tractor PTO shaft on a farm owned by Bill Jones of Smithville.

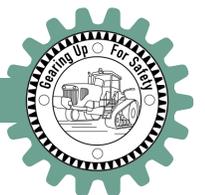
Jones said Jimmy Penrod, 30, of Cloverdale, never screamed while much of Penrod's left arm was being twisted off, after becoming caught in the unguarded power takeoff shaft. Jones was a couple of feet away from Penrod, his back to him, when he heard thrashing sounds and rushed to turn off the tractor.

"He never said a word," Jones said.

And then, Jones said, Penrod who was then lying on the ground, began apologizing to Jones for the trouble he was causing, and that he didn't know how he could let this happen – that he'd worked around machinery all of his life.

Jones said Penrod, who seemed to be in a lot of pain, also kept his head enough to locate the bleeding blood vessel and hold it to try to stop the bleeding. White County Sheriff's Department personnel arrived at the scene, in the 4500 block of 53rd Street Northwest about five minutes after being called.

Penrod is in the Hospital's Intensive Care Unit in critical condition. Jones said he was told, after six hours of surgery, Penrod's arm had been reattached.



Jones said he met Penrod only 10 minutes before the accident. Penrod, a truck driver, was there to pick up hay that Jones was donating to a Farm Bureau program, which distributes free hay to farmers in need.

Soon after Penrod arrived, Jones' tractor got stuck. Jones was attaching one end of a chain to his four-wheel truck to pull it out, and Penrod, who was attempting to hook the other end of the chain to the tractor, reached over the unguarded PTO shaft and his jacket got caught in the shaft.

Jones called to his wife, a registered nurse, who was about 200 yards away from the accident scene, to bring a tourniquet and other supplies. After emergency personnel arrived, the severed arm was placed in a bag of ice and snow and transported to the hospital with Penrod.

## 1.4 Fewer farmers mean fewer farm-related injuries

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Brownstown* - According to a recent report from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the decline in the number of farmers and ranchers over the past decade has resulted in fewer farm-related injuries and fatalities. The report attributes the decline in farm population to increased mechanization and new production practices that require fewer farms and fewer workers. This positive finding, however, was partially off-set by the finding that the rate of injuries for farm and ranch workers has not declined nearly as fast as it has for other occupations. Farm and ranch workers are still over five times more likely to be killed in a work-related incident than workers in all other industries.

Recent studies have also found that:

- Tractors contribute to the largest number of fatal farm injuries.
- Tractor overturns are the leading cause of work-related deaths on farms and ranches.
- Farmers over age 60 account for over one-third of all farm and ranch-related fatalities.

Recommendations from the study included the need for ROPS on tractors being used in the field, increased emphasis on guarding and shielding of machinery components and more training for younger workers.

## 1.5 Co-op student hurt at local vegetable farm

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Gateway* - A Gateway High School student was injured Wednesday afternoon while working with an irrigation machine at the Green Thumb Farm Market.

Craig Jackson, 16, 1224 Windy Lane, Freedomville, was unreeling a 100-foot-long hose from a reel when a spoke from the reel caught his head. The slow turning reel then pinned his head against the frame of the machine.

Jackson suffered a skull fracture and was bleeding from the ears and nose when emergency personnel arrived after the 2:00 p.m. accident. He was taken to Shoreline Hospital where he was listed in satisfactory condition Wednesday night.

No one saw the accident, but another worker stopped the tractor that was pulling the reel when Jackson yelled, according to the farm owner, Pete Kowalski.

They were unreeling the hose to pump water from a lagoon into an alfalfa field.

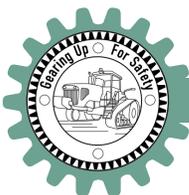
Jackson, a Gateway senior, works part-time at the farm, located on County Road 500 South, west of U.S. 18, as part of the co-op program at Gateway. He is the son of Bill Jackson of Freedomville.

## 1.6 Girl in hospital after tragic farm accident

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Hope* - A 14-year-old Comanche County girl was in serious condition Wednesday night after her hair became entangled in the rotating power take-off of the tractor she was working with.

Christa M. Gonzales, 14, Hope, was working on her neighbor's farm when the tractor she was working with got stuck. She and a fellow farm worker, Jason Marshall, 15, were attempting to get the tractor unstuck with a four-wheel-drive truck when the accident happened. Gonzales was attempting to connect the chain to her tractor when her hair became entangled in the short PTO shaft on the tractor's rear.



Marshall quickly called for help using a two-way radio that he and Gonzales were equipped with. Hope EMS arrived at the scene around 4:15 p.m. and transported Gonzales to Wheeler Ridge Medical Center.

“Her (Gonzales’) scalp had been removed from her eyebrows to the back of her neck,” reported Henry Lin, a representative from Wheeler Ridge Medical Center. “We were able to reattach the scalp but are still unsure of the damage that was caused by the injury.”

Gonzales is a freshman at Comanche Central High School.

## **1.7 Heat blamed in youth’s death**

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Terre Haute* – The heat wave that has hovered over southwest Indiana for the past several days claimed the life of a Vigo County boy Saturday morning.

Ronald Conrad Slocum, 15, of West Terre Haute, died at 4:30 a.m. Saturday at the Vigo County Medical Center in Terre Haute.

Slocum had reportedly been overcome by heat Friday while bailing hay.

Friday’s temperature in the Terre Haute area – near West Terre Haute – was approximately 98 degrees with a heat index of 125, according to the National Weather Service.

Slocum, 15, was taken to the hospital by ambulance at about 6:00 p.m. Friday for treatment of heat exhaustion. Slocum’s family residence is located just west of the Wabash River.

Several other people were treated at area hospitals Friday and Saturday for heat-related health problems, officials said.

## **1.8 Local farmer cited for violation of Federal Hazardous Occupations Order**

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

*Danforth* – Steve Deboy, owner of Rich Earth Farms, was recently cited for employing underage and uncertified youth to harvest vegetables on his farm. Inspectors from the Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Office in Danforth visited the farm this past week. They found eight youth under the age of 16 being employed to operate tractors and be in close proximity to other harvesting machinery in violation of the Federal Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture. The Order allows youth 14 and 15 to be employed to operate certain machines only if they have received approved training.

JoAnn Vorst of the Wage and Hour Office indicated that the inspection came as a result of a complaint and that the violations may result in substantial fines. She encouraged other growers who think that they may be in violation of the laws designed to protect children in the workforce to contact her office for information on how to come into compliance.

## **1.9 Agriculture again ranks as the most hazardous industry**

### *Gearing Up Daily News*

According to the National Safety Council, agriculture continues to be ranked as the most hazardous industry in the U.S. Based upon last year’s fatality data, a farmer or farm worker is five times more likely to be fatality injured than the average worker. Only mining and construction workers have comparable rates of fatalities.

Bill Aherin, the State Extension Safety Leader, indicates that agricultural workers are at special risk due to the following factors:

- Regular exposure to hazardous machinery
- Exposure to large and/or aggressive animals
- Regular use of toxic chemicals
- Few applicable safety regulations
- Isolated worksites
- Limited access to emergency services

Aherin strongly encourages all farm families to carefully consider the recent findings and to explore ways to reduce the risk of injury on their particular operation. He went on to say that there is nothing good about being number one in the work-related fatality competition.

