

LESSON 10 – CASE STUDIES

10.1 Man dies in tractor accident

Gearing Up Daily News

Breckenridge – A farm accident claimed the life of a Breckenridge County man this weekend. Robert Cannon, 19, of Breckenridge, died at about 11:25 a.m. Saturday.

Brad Barnes, Breckenridge County coroner, said Cannon died of traumatic asphyxia -- not able to breathe because of pressure on his chest.

Barnes said Cannon also suffered a fractured neck and cuts and bruises.

He said it appeared that Cannon was operating a front-loader that was in the raised position, and reached from the ground on the right side of the loader and hit one of the controls, bringing the loader down on top of himself.

Cannon was alone at the time, Barnes said, but even if another person had been there, they probably couldn't have helped.

"There's so much weight involved that it would have been pretty close to instantaneous," Barnes said.

He said the front-loader was an older model and did not have some of the safety devices found on newer models.

Cannon's brother, Zack Cannon, called the Sheriff's department and reported his brother had been involved in an accident, and he believed he was dead.

He was pronounced dead on the scene.

10.2 Local boy killed by loader

Gearing Up Daily News

Hebron - A 4-year-old rural Hebron boy was killed Saturday night when he was struck and dragged by a skid-steer loader that his father was using to level gravel.

Justin Patel was watching Preteesh Patel spread gravel in the family's driveway on Road 500 N. east of US 231 about 7:30 p.m., said Tarrant County Sheriff Weston Hughes. Preteesh Patel had told the boy to move away from the area, Hughes said.

An investigation revealed the boy had been dragged about 60 feet before his father realized the boy had been struck.

The cause of death was believed to be a head injury, Hughes said.

10.3 Injury to youth leads to large fine for local farm

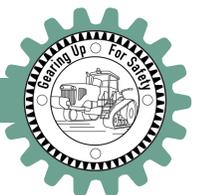
Gearing Up Daily News

Davis – A minor injury to a 15-year-old youth employed on the Davis Hill Poultry Farm resulted in a citation and fine from the State Wage and Hour Enforcement Office for violation of a federal child protection law.

On July 10, Davis Hill manager, Steve Jones, transported an unidentified youth to a local hospital for treatment of a minor ankle injury received while operating a forklift to move pallets of egg cases. At some point, the Wage and House Office was informed and an inspection took place.

The citations and fines were related to violation of the Hazardous Occupation Order for Agriculture that prohibits the employment of youth to operate certain hazardous equipment such as forklifts.

The unidentified minor was treated and released.



10.4 Young farm worker crushed in skid steer loader

Gearing Up Daily News

Salem - A 15-year old FFA member working part time on a dairy farm owned by the VerPland family was crushed between the arms of a skid steer loader he was using to scrap manure from the dairy feed lot. He was apparently attempting to exit the loader with the scraper bucket in the raised position. While climbing out he must have accidentally contacted the hydraulic lever used to raise and lower the bucket causing the bucket to come down on him. He was working alone at the time and was not found for some period of time. He apparently asphyxiated due to the weight of the loader arms and bucket on his chest. The Monon Fire Department arrived on the scene and extricated the young man from the loader.

The incident is being investigated by the Salem County Sheriff's Office, and because of the age of the victim, investigators from the State Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Office have been on the scene. According to the Fair Labor Standards Act, a federal law, youth under the age of 16 are limited in the tasks they are allowed to perform, including operating tractors over 20 horsepower. There has been no statement released by the farm owner at this time and calls to the farm have not been returned.

10.5 Teenager crushed under large square bale

Gearing Up Daily News

Toledo - Eighteen-year-old Alfred (Al) Butler was crushed under an 800-pound bale that was being loaded onto a semi-truck trailer for transport. Butler was working on one side of the trailer untangling straps to be used to secure the load. Another employee of the farm was using a forklift to transfer the large bales from storage onto the truck. He failed to raise the bale on the loader high enough but proceeded to push the bale onto the load. The bale immediately below the bale being loaded was pushed across the bed of the truck and off the opposite side unto Butler.

The forklift operator told investigators from the County Sheriff's Office that he didn't realize that the bale had fallen off the truck onto his co-worker until he backed away to get another bale. He was unable to lift the bale off the victim and had to use the loader to remove the bale off the victim. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene by M.U. Lively, the County Medical Examiner.

