



# IRSHC Safety Harvest

November/December, 2000

## Willsey and Van Holton/BNG Scholarships Now in Place

With support from across the State, two new scholarships have been established for students at Purdue. Almost \$40,000 has been raised for the two endowments. The Willsey Scholarship is intended to assist students who have lost a parent due to a farm-related accident. The first scholarship has already been dispersed. The Van Holton/BNG Scholarships are to assist students with disabilities pursuing a career in agriculture. At least five students have qualified for the scholarships, but funding was

available for only one last spring. If you would like to support this effort, please call 765-494-1191. The IRSHC is a proud sponsor of both of these scholarships



## Weeds In Our Garden a Success

Nearly 17,000 copies of 'Weeds In Our Garden', the Council's coloring and activity book to promote child safety in the Amish community, have been distributed throughout the United States and Canada. The only one of its kind, the publication addresses child safety within a biblical context for use in the Amish community. For ordering information, call 765-494-5013.

## Farm Rescue Receives National Award

The substantially revised and expanded 'Farm Rescue' publication edited by Bill Field at Purdue, recently received a Blue Ribbon from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in their educational materials competition. This 78 page resource provides the most up-to-date information for rural fire/rescue personnel on responding to agriculturally-related emergencies. Copies can be ordered by calling The Farm Building Plan Service at 765-494-1174. Ask for publication number NRAES - 10. The Service offers a 20% discount for orders of 5 or more.



## Council Begins Plans for 2001 Farm Progress Show

Discussions have been held and planning has begun to host another major health and safety exhibit at the 2001 Farm Progress Show planned for south of Lafayette. If you have ideas for promoting a safety and health message to the 250,000 farmers attending this event, please call 765-494-1191.

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*IRSHC Safety Harvest is published by:  
The Indiana Rural Safety and Health  
Council*

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# Machinery Fires: When You Least Expect Them

Harvest season is completed. This year was as hectic as any other, but successful with little downtime. The weather was favorable for combining and the crops dry. The combine performed flawlessly this year.

You decide to do some fall tillage. A few pumps of the grease gun, check the oil and fuel and the tractor is ready to go to the field.

You are making timely progress when you see gray smoke drift from under the hood, you smell acrid fumes. Upon exiting the cab, there are wisps of flames appearing from beneath the engine compartment. A serious fire is about to spoil your day.

The only available fire extinguisher is in the pickup truck parked near the road. Throwing dirt up underneath the hood isn't helping. There isn't a house, phone or two-way radio close by, either. You resign yourself to standing back and watching your expensive piece of equipment burn right in front of you.

Fires happen when you least expect them. "It won't happen to me!" is all too often the response; or "I've been farming for 30 years and haven't had a machinery fire." It can happen to anyone. Foresight

can mean the difference between a moderate repair or an expensive replacement for you and the insurance company.

There are two keys to preventing a disaster like the one described:

- Prevention
- Preparation

For a fire to occur, three things must be present: air, fuel (material

tion sources. Service the tractor at the end of the day to avoid overnight fires.

Be prepared. Mount at least one fully charged dry chemical fire exon tractors and 10:ABC on combines. Add a pressurized waterfire extinguisher with a rating of 5:ABC on the hay baler. Two extinguishers are even better. Keep one mounted in the cab and

another mounted on the exterior of the machine where it can be reached from the ground.

What if you have a fire? Shut off the engine, grab the extinguisher and get out. If you forget the extinguisher, don't go back in to get it.

**Call for help.** Carry a two-way radio or cell phone

to the field with you.

Fight the fire from a safe distance. Use extreme caution when opening hoods, shields and hatches; small fires can flare up. Aim the extinguisher at the base of the flames and use a sweeping motion side-to-side. Continue to blanket the flames to fully extinguish the fire and prevent another flare up.

If it is a safe season, it is truly a successful season.



that will burn) and heat.

Air is, naturally, going to be present. Remove flammable materials, such as oil, excess grease and any crop residues, such as stalks or leaves, from the machine with a high-pressure washer periodically.

Look for cracked or worn oil lines and hoses that might leak or spray onto the exhaust system. Inspect the wiring in the engine compartment for loose connections, breaks or fraying. Maintain the exhaust system and look for evidence of hot bearings- both common igni