

company is building a second "Farm of Hazards," and next year will have two demonstrations on the road.

"Is Your Farm Safe From Fire?" This is the question posed by "Farm of Hazards" demonstrator Art Henderson.

Following this question, Henderson distributes to his audience a check sheet of some 40 questions covering farm fire hazards.

Random samples: Is the attic free of

trash? . . . Does anyone smoke in the barn? . . . Is there a fused safety switch (in the corn crib)? . . . Are the heat lamps (in the hog house) properly protected? . . . Has your family discussed the fire fighting technique they would use in case a fire breaks out? On most farms, answering 40 such questions as these will uncover at least one serious hazard.

We believe farm fires can be prevented if farm residents will take the time to—*inspect and be sure.*

Industry's Stake in Farm Safety

By IRVING A. DUFFY

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"Industry's Stake in Farm Safety" is a title which has a much deeper meaning than simply the concern of industrialists that measures be taken to keep their customers alive. Customers not only are a prime asset to any successful business—they are a downright necessity.

To me, "Industry's Stake in Farm Safety" means *people—the people* of industry, for industry is composed of people, not buildings and machines alone—*people* filled with a genuine concern for the welfare, productivity and happiness of their fellow man.

The eminent scientist and humanitarian, the late Albert Einstein, once said, "Concern for man himself and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavor. Never forget this in the midst of your diagrams and equations."

Today, a vast majority of American industry is acting on the advice of this wise man. Never before have manufacturers of the products which make our economy great backed up their deep concern for the safety of their customers with such extensive research programs and new manufacturing processes aimed specifically at producing greater margins of safety in their products.

Last September, in Dearborn, Michigan, Ford Motor Company held a National Safety Forum. Attending were leaders in many fields of safety research. The purposes of this Forum were to focus attention on progress being made in highway safety, and to

present a new concept of injury prevention in automobile accidents.

From the reports that have come in since that Forum—many from safety specialists participating in this National Safety Congress—the Forum not only helped increase public awareness of the problem, but also highlighted some very definite progress toward its solution.

It is to the everlasting credit of enlightened industry that life-saving research, where applicable, now is an integral part of the program of every major industrial firm of which I have personal knowledge.

Call it humanitarianism, call it human engineering, call it acceptance of a moral responsibility on the part of industry. No matter by which name you call it—let me assure you that industry as a whole is keenly aware of its stake in safety. Let me assure you also that you who count it one of your prime missions in life to save the lives of others have a sympathetic, able and energetic ally in industry.

I am confident that everyone in this room is well aware of the size of our mutual problem. You know that the accidental death rate in farming has a grim standing of third highest among the major industries of this country. It is behind only mining and construction in the hazard parade.

You know that accidents kill approximately 14,500 farm residents and injure 1,250,000

annually. You know that motor vehicle accidents account for about 6,200 deaths to farm residents each year, and work accidents account for another 3,800 deaths.

You know, too, that statistics show farmers are involved in fatal traffic accidents more frequently than other drivers.

That is a rough outline of the gruesome problem we face.

It seems to me that safety can be promoted with "E's". I don't refer to the word *ease*—spelled *e-a-s-e*. Few things that are worth while are done with ease. I refer to two letter "E's". One of these "E's" through which safety can be promoted is *Education*—a field in which many of you people here in this room and others have made some spectacular gains in recent years.

The other "E" stands for *Engineering*—engineering danger out and safety into the products of our mechanical age.

I have heard some criticism directed toward industry. The charge has been that some industrialists refuse to admit that their products are not up to safety standards. Let me say that I know of no reputable industry today which stands aloof and claims that its products are blameless, and that any death and injury which may result during their use stems solely from the ignorance or carelessness of the user.

Statistics show that active Americans are so ingenious at discovering new ways in which to be injured or killed that no manufacturer can afford to relax his vigilance and his emphasis on safety engineering.

Children still drown in a shallow basin of water. Grown-ups still injure themselves seriously falling out of bed.

You have every right to expect industry to lend a strong hand in both safety education and in safety engineering.

Others will join me in pointing with pride to the progress made in safety education and in safety engineering by the farm equipment industry since 1938, when the Farm Equipment Institute appointed a Farm Safety Committee and its Advisory Engineering Committee. Since that time, uniform safety first signs have been used at specific points on all power-driven machines; power take-off shafts have been more effectively shielded; standard dimensions have been adopted for the location of the power take-

off shaft and draw bar hitch point to make it unnecessary for farmers to resort to make-shift methods of hitching tractors and implements which were not originally designed to work together.

I won't attempt to get into the discussion of any specific problems in farm machinery safety. But I would like to point out for you some of the broad concepts of safety engineering which are gaining considerable favor in the farm equipment industry.

The first broad concept—and it's an old standby—is that the safest equipment is the equipment which gives the farmer the most trouble-free service. Farming, being a seasonal business, has its periods of high activity in which machines and men alike bear an extra burden. When a machine breakdown occurs, it is not mere happenstance that the breakdown often comes during a heavy work period, such as at harvest time.

We like to think that farm equipment dealers are ever ready to rise to such emergencies. Yet we know that all too often the dealer never is called in, and the farmer resorts to baling wire and other expedients to keep equipment running. Make-shift repairs and expedients often spell danger.

Thus we say that the most dependable equipment is the safest equipment.

You may well ask—just what steps is the farm equipment industry taking to build added dependability into their machines and avoid the dangers of make-shift repairs?

As an example, let me tell you that we have just this fall completed two new facilities at Birmingham, Michigan, where a major emphasis is on safety engineering. I refer to a new, indoor Farm Machinery Research and Engineering Center and an outdoor Evaluation Center, or proving ground for farm equipment.

The indoor Research Center is manned by 500 engineering personnel equipped with the very latest facilities for research in hydraulics, plastics, electronics and other modern sciences having a relationship with farm equipment. Five dynamometers ranging from 250 horsepower to 400 horsepower test engines, transmissions and differentials.

Here, under one roof, engineering techniques that have proven effective in the automotive and aircraft industries are being applied—some of them for the first time—to the farm equipment industry.