



KEEPING THE KIDS ALRIGHT

The second Progressive Agriculture Safety Day held at Varna teaches kids the dangers around a farm and what to do to stay safe.

Story and photos by Emily Manns



Transitioning to Farming Perennials

2 day, in-the-field open consultation in Waterloo in October 2014. Farmer, engineer and author Mark Shepard will be providing a A 2-day Workshop ~ October 3 & 4

principles for the past 18 years. Wisconsin where he has been farming 100+ acres using these design technique, will be included and demonstrated in the field. Mark joins us from alley crops and pastured livestock. Keyline design, a water management perennial system that integrates nut and fruit trees, fruiting bushes and vines, Mark will explain how to transition from a purely annual production to a

www.shepardworkshop.eventbrite.com For more information or to register please visit:



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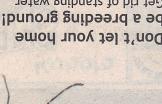
Tests show mosquitoes in Huron County can carry Home is where the heart, is.

West Nile virus.

around your home: These mosquitoes breed

- clogged eavestroughs
- flower pot saucers clogged drainage ditches
- small containers like cans or swimming pool covers
- old tires bird baths poffle caps
- wading pools
- containers unused children's toys or

www.huronhealthunit.ca Huron County Health Unit



and business. around your home, cottage, Get rid of standing water be a breeding ground! Don't let your home

with DEET. wear insect repellant For extra protection

Community Complex.

chanting the motto Think Safety sporting a safety day t-shirt while all over Huron County, each one the excitement of 150 children from The building was brimming with

the hard work was worth it for the entire year preparing for this day, but by their red t-shirts, had spent an The co-ordinators, easily identified

potential rewards.

"If we can prevent just one

lead co-ordinator Brenda Chuter. accident, then our day is done," said

were parents of the kids who were or three volunteers, most of whom different animal name and led by two groups of 17 to 20, each with a The children were divided into

to one of nine stations set up groups had made their way y 9:00 a.m., all of the participating.

someone who has been injured. kit, and how to perform first aid on tractor, what to put in an emergency where the danger zones are around a learning how to handle work tools, begin. It was a full morning of time for the fun and education to around the complex, and then it was

illustrate what can happen when straw dummy "Farmer John", to demonstration with the help of his Stanley Complex, put on a Farms, across the road from the Peter Rowntree, from Hill and Hill

operating manure spread. you're not careful around an

when it first started 19 years ago. much the program has evolved from life preserver, which just shows how when riding a bike or how to throw a general safety, like wearing a helmet with farming and more to do with Some of the lessons had less to do

involved young children. farm fatalities, the majority of which magazine. The article profiled 100 published in The Progressive Farmer flood of public responses to an article formed back in 1996, following a Agriculture Foundation (PAF) was It all began when the Progressive

such tragedies could be prevented in hopes that with the right education, Day Camp Program in 1995, in the was then known as the Farm Safety magazine, initiated the first of what Jack Odle, an editor for the

the future.

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STEVE CRONSBERRY (Owner)

After a great deal of success in the United States, the program started extending its reach into other regions, gradually making its way to Canada in 2002.

The name of the program was officially changed to Progressive Agriculture Safety Day (PASD) in 2006, and it has continued to grow, including topics that could be applied

beyond the boundaries of rural living.

"It's not just about farm safety," said Sandy Miller, a community coordinator for Workplace Safety and Prevention Services (WSPS). "It's about family

and community safety."

This is only the second year that the program has been hosted in Varna, and yet there has already been a great deal of positive feedback from both the kids taking part in the activities, and the parents who were volunteering.

"There are so many hazards for kids that they should be aware of."

Although it was designed to engage a younger audience, the program was as much of a learning experience for the adults as it was for the youth, .

"It's a really good event for kids,"

said Sherry Rollings, a volunteer

from London whose two children

were participating in the program.

The Mayor of Bluewater Bill Dowson made an appearance in the afternoon to say grace prior to the volunteers serving up the midday meal. He also came out to last year's safety day, which shows the amount of support the mun-

icipality has for the program.

"I'll support it as long as I'm sitting where I am," said Dowson.

At the end of the day, all of the children were gathered together to hear from a young woman who experienced first hand how quickly something that may seem like fun at first can completely change your life.

Darda Geiger, a gold medal paralympic swimmer and currently a member of the Women's National Wheelchair Basketball team, lost her right leg at the age of three after an accident with an operating auger.

Geiger has worn a prosthesis ever since, but that didn't stop her from breaking a world record in the 4x100 medley relay in Sydney and bringing home the gold.

"My story didn't start out too happy, but it ended pretty gold," said Geiger, holding up her Olympic gold medal for everyone to see.

As the safety day came to an end, the energy and excitement the children had brought with them that morning hadn't waned in the least as they shouted out the words *Think Safety First* before picking up their goody bags and heading home with a new appreciation for those simple, yet potentially life saving words.

For anyone interested in holding their own safety day in their community, or just wants to learn more about the program, visit www.progressiveag.org. \Diamond



Services (WSPS). Kids learn about tools at one of the stations at the safety day.

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