

Friday 14 October 2011

## Getting hooked on Farm safety

Parents can now feel safer with their children around the farm, thanks to the release of a DVD aimed at raising awareness of Farm Safety for children. Marion Rak, President of the Australian Women in Agriculture, will launch the *Farm Safety is Fun* DVD on 2 November at the Beechworth Town Hall from 1pm.

*Farm Safety is Fun* has been produced by Safety Around Farms Education Ltd (SAFE), and with the help of Scallywag the Scarecrow from Yackandandah, will help teachers and parents show children how to be safe around farms and their homes.

SAFE Director, Vicki Connell of Beechworth said that the DVD is made for children, their parents and teachers. "This DVD has been made to help save young lives around the farm. Many parents who have seen the show have commented to us that they assume their children know what to do in dangerous situations. This is a big step forward towards making farms and homes safer for children," Mrs Connell said.

"*Farm Safety is Fun* teaches children messages like 'play in short grass because you can't see snakes in the long grass', which many adults take for granted and assume that children are aware of the danger. Accidents happen so quickly on the farm because people believe that 'it won't happen to me' - 22% of people injured or killed on farms from January to March were children," Mrs Connell said.

The messages included in the DVD are safety around water, fire, machinery, animals, poisons, grain silos, long grass and the importance of wearing protective equipment when riding a horse and motorbike/four wheeler and the number to phone in an emergency.

The Launch will include a screening of the DVD from 1pm – 2.30pm, followed by a teacher's workshop on farm safety from 3.30pm – 5.30pm.

SAFE's Scallywag Scarecrow Show has been shown to over 20,000 pre-school and early primary aged children across Australia over the past nine years with the support of John Deere Ltd for the past three.

"Now we have made the Scallywag the Scarecrow Show into a DVD it will be easier to spread the farm safety message across the country," Mrs Connell said.

Mrs Connell has developed the program over many years, beginning when she was a pre-school teacher in Yackandandah.

For more information or to make an order, please contact Vicki Connell on 5728 1694, 0432 171 492, email [vickicon@westnet.com.au](mailto:vickicon@westnet.com.au) or visit [www.safetyaroundfarmeducation.com](http://www.safetyaroundfarmeducation.com).

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**Caption: Cr Ali Pockley and Director of Safety Around Farms Education Ltd (SAFE) Beechworth's Vicki Connell are encouraging farm safety messages be passed onto children.**