

Equipment safety: check it all

HHEY, it's the peak of the growing season. And I'll bet you're already starting to think about soybean and corn harvest, and getting at least one more cutting of hay.

But before you think too far ahead, take a good long look at your harvesting equipment. I mean really look at it from a safety point of view.

Working around farm machinery is dangerous. You've probably already banged or smashed a finger, nicked your hand, dropped something on your foot, tripped over something or cracked your noggin.

But I'm talking about potential real injuries. You can be pinched, crushed, burned, entangled and pulled into equipment that's not properly shielded. This kind of thing can ruin summer ... and a life!

Do a 'once-over'

Take some time right now to do a "once-over" of your equipment. Make sure that:

- All guards/shields over moving parts are in place.
- Power takeoff shields are intact.
- Hydraulic lines are securely fastened and in good condition.
- Tractor cabs are free of objects that could cause the operator to trip.
- Steps on self-propelled equipment are in good condition

While you're checking:

- Are all lights on tractors and equipment working?



OFFSET EASE: Kuhn's new mower boasts a free-floating head.

New mower has high capacity

KUHN North America Inc. expanded its line of mowers and hay and forage equipment with the new 6-foot offset RSM 180 mower.

Aimed at medium-duty uses, it features a mower head that can free-float, or be hydraulically controlled and adjusted, from 55 degrees down to 90 degrees vertically — allowing mowing into ditches, and up embankments. The 180 is recommended for dikes, levies, building perimeters with small clearances and open space.

Mechanical breakaway features protect the mower from obstructions, and a rear roller provides height control for use on irregular surfaces. The machine's articulated hammer knives are specifically designed to mow in areas where rocks are present.

For more information, call 608-897-2131, ext. 2259, or visit www.kuhnnorthamerica.com.



**I.T. Hurtz
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- Are all slow-moving-vehicle emblems clearly visible and not damaged?
- Are machine parts clean of old

crop debris?

Don't forget safety training

Whether it's a refresher course or orienting a newbie:

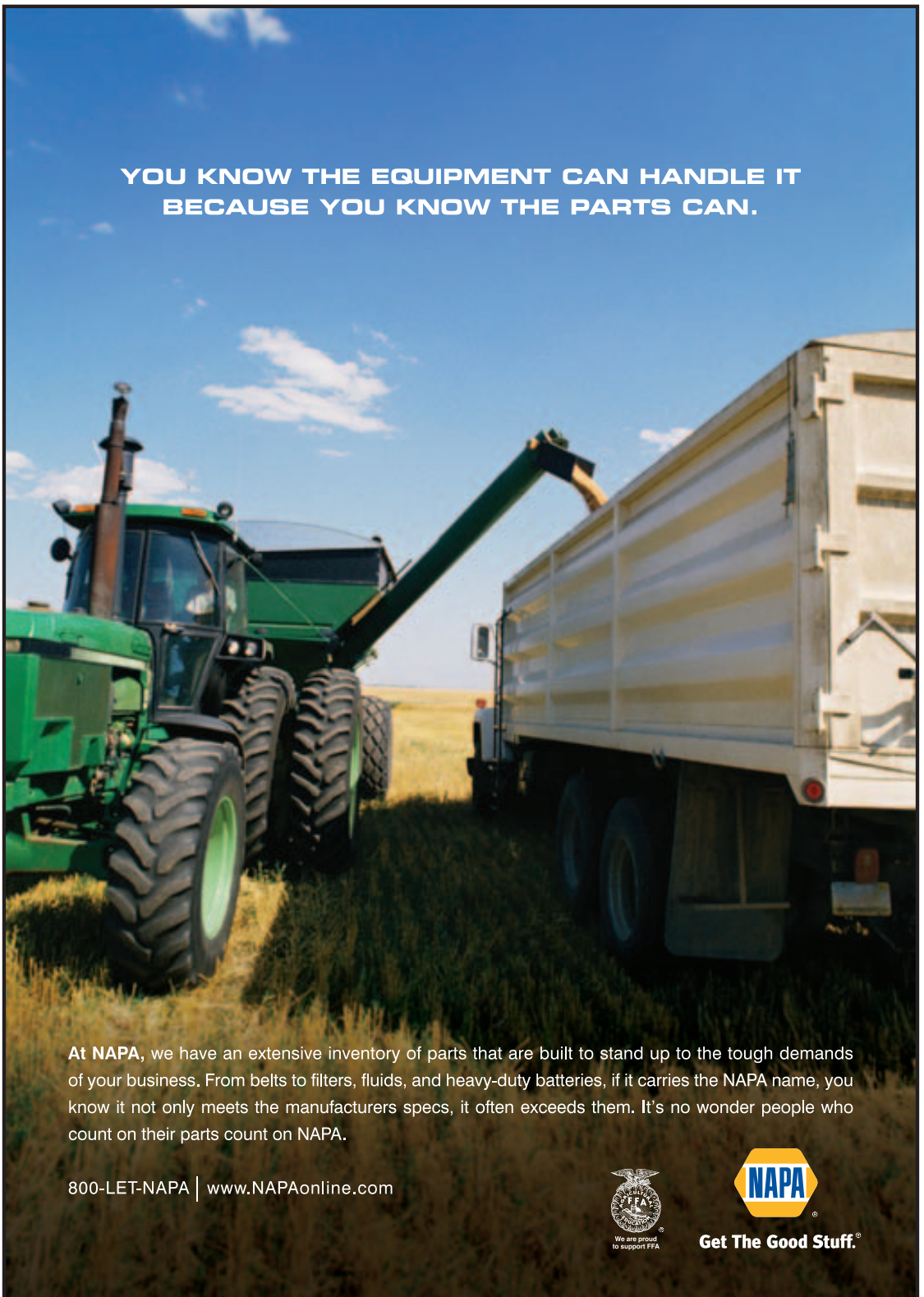
- Are all employees trained in safe equipment operation?
- Does everyone shut machinery off to unplug it?

■ Are all workers (yourself included) keeping hydrated, and taking frequent breaks, as part of daily procedures?

These things really can mean the difference between life and death. And on your farm, the latter is far more than an inconvenience.

Dr. I.T. Hurtz is brought to you by Cornell University's farm safety program.

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