

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Registrations surged the past week for this Saturday's Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, billed as a fun, learning day for children of the area.

Co-chairman Chris Tomky said on Wednesday there are 140 youths age six to 14 now registered.

And, they're expecting more because youths can register up until Saturday morning at 8 a.m. at the Chase County fairgrounds in Imperial.

Tomky said youngsters will have a full day of education on how to stay safe on the farm and at their homes.

In addition to the opening and closing sessions at 8:45 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., youngsters will rotate between nine different, 20-minute sessions on a variety of safety topics.

The rotating sessions will target the following topics: fire, chemicals, meth labs, lawn equipment/mowers, PTO's (power take-offs), all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), large animals, grain and electricity.

Instead of the meth lab session, the younger attendees will watch a farm safety skit, Tomky said.

The opening session at 8:45 a.m. in the grandstand will feature Kristi Ruth of Chariton, Iowa, who lost part of the use of one arm after it became entangled in a power-take-off shaft.

Ruth, who just graduated from high school, will speak about her experiences before and after the accident.

At the 3:30 p.m. closing session, also in the grandstand, the Nebraska State Patrol will demonstrate its vehicle roll-over simulator.

After the simulator demonstration, a medical helicopter is scheduled to land at the fairgrounds, weather permitting, about 4 p.m. Youths can tour the helicopter if interested.

Parents and others interested are invited to attend the 8:45 a.m. opening and 3:30 p.m. closing sessions in the grandstand area, Tomky said.

Saturday's day-long event is made possible with the assistance of the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, the Chase County All-Stars 4-H Club and other local businesses and organizations that provided financial support.

A rain date for the Safety Day is set for Saturday, June 27.

Registration details

Tomky said, while they will take registrations Saturday morning, they would like as many to register ahead of time if possible.

Cost is \$8 per child.

Registration forms are available online at the Chase County Schools website, or www.chase3000.com

The registration fee includes snacks, noon meal, a T-shirt and take-home bag.

Completed registrations ahead of Saturday can be taken to the Chase County Extension Office at 135 West 5th St.

All youngsters attending the Safety Day on Saturday will also receive a free ticket to the bullriding event later that night at 7:30 p.m. in Imperial, also at the fairgrounds.

The free bullriding tickets are being provided by the Chase County Fair Board.

Due to other events in the area on Saturday, anyone entering the fairgrounds for the Safety Day is asked to drive in from the northeast entry, Tomky said.

Parents who have difficulty getting their children to the Safety Day can utilize the county's

handibus, but they must make contact with the county by today (Thursday). Call 308-882-7520 or 883-0184.