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PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Preventing Farm Injuries One Program at a Time

Mechanicsburg, Pa. – As of the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Pennsylvania (PA) has 53,157 farms, covering more than 7.2 million acres. “National Farm Safety Week” is September 20-26, 2020 and works to promote safe practices on farms. This year’s theme is “Every Farmer Counts.”

The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) is committed to preventing trauma through education and meaningful trauma prevention programs. Through ATSPA board president, Michael J. Reihart, DO, FACEP, FAEMS and partnerships with Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health and the Amish Safety Committee, ATSPA has been able to offer multiple safety programs to rural and Plain Communities throughout PA.

One of the most effective programs is the installation of a rear-view monitor on heavy farming equipment. These monitors are offered free of charge to the recipients and many are installed by a Lancaster equipment company, Binkley and Hurst. Throughout the course of this program, ATSPA has installed 145 rear view monitors, with an additional 18 monitors scheduled to be installed before the end of the year. A recipient in Lancaster County reported “I almost back[ed] into my five-year-old son the other day. I received the camera and then a few days later I almost backed into him. The camera helped me a lot.” Another recipient from Berks County stated, “It should be standard on all skid steers.” This program is funded by the Psalm 103 Foundation.

ATSPA also offers a hay hole cover program. A fall through a hay hole in a barn can be two stories or more, leading to serious injury and in some cases, death. The covers offered by ATSPA are hand crafted, easily mounted and include netting to prevent falls. Kay Moyer, of Lancaster County, helps ATSPA to distribute these covers to Plain Community members in that area. This program has also been funded by the Psalm 103 Foundation.

Rural and Plain Community members are also offered reflective tape for their horse drawn equipment as well as reflective vests. ATSPA provides materials such as informational rack cards, brochures, infographics and even a puzzle on farm safety.

For more information on National Farm Safety Week please visit www.necasag.org. For more information on the programs offered by ATSPA, visit www.atspa.org or call (717)766-1616.

The American Trauma Society, PA Division (ATSPA) is a non-profit trauma prevention education organization dedicated to reducing suffering, disability and death due to trauma. The ATSPA strives to help all Pennsylvanians survive and lead healthier lives through its trauma prevention education programs. For information, call 717-766-1616 and visit www.atspa.org.

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