

Conservationists Outline Farm Pond Safety Rules

The State Conservation Commission and the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are concerned with the increasing number of farm pond drownings and have come up with a set of rules which, if followed, should do away with such needless loss of life and its resultant grief.

A farm pond, whether used for recreation or not, is a body of water in which drownings may occur. Kids will swim and wade in them with or without permission. Men fall into them while mowing or otherwise working the shores. When boats are used, anything can

happen unless proper precautions are taken.

Safety measures around farm ponds include:

1. Evenly grading the borrow areas below pond level to avoid steep slopes and holes in the pond and removing snags, large rocks and trash that could be a hazard to swimmers and boats.

2. LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE PLACED NEAR THE POND where it can be easily seen and used in an emergency. Even a youngster will throw out a life preserver to a drowning person, practically without thinking. A long pole

placed where it can be seen and used may save the life of a loved one. A rope can pull out a helpless swimmer.

3. WARNING SIGNS SHOULD BE PLACED:

- near specific danger areas
- near the pond telling its extreme depth
- what and where life saving equipment is available
- where the nearest telephone is located

4. IF YOU GO BOATING

—use a boat that is in GOOD SHAPE

—never overload the boat

—there should be one approved life preserver for each person aboard

—STAY WITH THE BOAT IN CASE IT OVERTURNS because it will not sink and if you'll hang on, help is sure to come

—NEVER STAND UP IN A BOAT