

A&M To Host Traffic Safety Workshop

A&M will host one of eight regional workshops to be held throughout the United States for college-level traffic safety education instructors this summer.

Dr. Jack Weaver, associate professor of industrial education at A&M, is director of the Aug. 19-29 workshop.

The workshops are sponsored by the Motorcycle Industry Council Safety and Education Foundation, Inc. (MICSEF), and represent the first attempt on a national scale to train teachers in motorcycle education.

Dr. Charles Hartman, MICSEF director, will be at A&M Aug. 19 for a banquet opening the workshop. Hartman has served as deputy administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and was recently

honored by Wisconsin traffic safety educators for leadership in the traffic safety field.

Kent Jessee, A&M research associate who will assist Dr. Weaver, said 20 college safety instructors have been invited to participate in the program. He explained that it is hoped that graduates of the course will be able to design improved programs in motorcycle safety education which will filter down to the secondary school level.

The workshop will be divided into three phases—basic instruction in motorcycle riding, traffic mix of two-wheeled and four-wheeled vehicles and a look at administrative details and curriculum development.

Jessee explained that programs will be conducted in both class-

room and laboratory conditions; the classroom instruction consisting primarily of lecture and discussion, the laboratory phase involving teaching techniques in riding and operating motorcycles.

Jeff Wheeler Motorcycles, Inc. and Central Cycle and Supply of Bryan have supplied equipment for the workshop.

MICSEF was created in 1972 with the objectives of promoting,

fostering and encouraging motorcycle safety and education, in the public interest as well as in the interest of safety and education in two-wheeled motor vehicle operation.

Food Costs To Stay High

Food prices will stay relatively high because of three factors, according to Mrs. Gwendolyn Clyatt, consumer marketing information specialist, A&M's Texas Agricultural Extension Service. She cited "increased production costs, strong consumer buying and the general inflation we are experiencing" as food-cost boosters. "Fryer chickens and eggs, released from the price freeze, will undoubtedly have price increases in order to reach a better balance between production and marketing these items," the specialist predicted.

"Egg prices already have increased—and in most instances, best values will be found on medium and small-sized eggs.

"Avoid buying buying eggs stacked several inches above the top of coolers or displayed on

tables—the quality of these eggs will drop rapidly."

Turning to meats, Mrs. Clyatt noted that they are selling at or near ceiling prices.

"Generally best beef values will be chuck roast and steaks, round steaks, ground beef and beef liver. Some markets offer ground beef with soy protein at attractive prices.

"Pork is scarce.

"Smoked cuts getting special attention are boneless hams—both whole and portion, the semi-bone-

less ham half, and the five-pound canned ham."

The specialist said prices will fluctuate on fresh fruits and vegetables, but most will be on the high side.

Items in best supply at the most reasonable prices include bananas, cantaloupes, watermelons, plums, peaches, grapes, nectarines, pineapples and cherries.

Also cabbage, carrots, hard shell squash, corn, purple hull peas, Southern varieties of peas, radishes, okra and green onions.

Study Reveals Oil Relatively Harmless

Oil spilled into the ocean has no significant longterm effect on marine life, reveals a new study conducted through the A&M Research Foundation.

The two-year research project by Dr. J. G. Mackin, A&M professor emeritus in biology, shows the principal ecological damage of an oil spill is to birds.

Dr. Mackin states in his study that "no one has documented significant damage to marine bottom communities in deep or shallow water as the result of an oil spill." Damage to marine communities "is quite small" even if heavy concentrations of oil reach shore, he adds.

"Recovery from damage caused by spills is rapid and complete so far as the marine communities are concerned," Dr. Mackin concludes. "And in some cases," he says, "these communities may be stimulated to higher productivity by the process."

He also explains that "no sig-

nificant damage to plankton has been observed in the case of oil spills or brine discharge."

Dr. Mackin's study included a literature search centered on oil spills and their effects. It is entitled "A Review of Significant Papers on Effects of Oil Spills and Oilfield Brine Discharges on Marine Biotic Communities."

"The best researches were found in the often voluminous reports of major oil spills," he notes. Among the spills studied were those at Tampico Maru, Torrey Canyon, Santa Barbara, and West Falmouth.

Dr. Mackin concludes that the popular laboratory acute toxicity tests are "greatly overrated as a tool for measurement of effect on natural communities of organisms."

The A&M biologist also concludes that media and laymen accounts of oil spills tend to be "emotional and more likely to contain propaganda than factual analysis."

Flood Victims Get Assistance

Disaster unemployment assistance will be paid to those unemployed as a result of storms and flooding in Jefferson, Orange, Red River and Upshur counties last March 23-April 30.

Governor Dolph Briscoe advised those who think they are eligible to apply to their nearest Texas Employment Commission office. Applications must be filed within 30 days of July 24 when Briscoe made his announcement of the assistance offer.

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