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Head Off Infections

Every North Carolina farmer owes it to himself to provide adequate first aid materials and facilities for the treatment of minor injuries occurring on the farm and in the home that may save a life or prevent serious infection, says Prof. David S. Weaver, head of the Agricultural Engineering Department, State College.

Prof. Weaver suggests that a homemade first aid kit containing the essential medications and drugs may serve just as well as the costly prepared first aid kits. A tight box, preferably of metal and similar to a small cash box or fishing tackle box will serve as a suitable container for the kit.

Minimum requirements for the kit are: Rolls of adhesive tape of varying widths; sterile cotton, swabs and sticks; sterile white cloth for large bandages and tourniquets; matches; ointment for burns; tincture of iodine; boric acid; tincture of merthiolate; tincture of benzoin; liquid green soap; and rubbing alcohol

Suggestions for treatment are

as follows:

Bruises and scratches and after removal of splinters, apply an antiseptic, then a sterile bandage.

For puncture wounds — deep slivers or nail punctures—apply tincture of merthiolate, bandage wound and go to a doctor.

For small cuts—cleanse skin around the cut with liquid green soap or benzoin; then cleanse skin with alcohol and apply an antiseptic to the cut with a clean applicator.

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