

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



September 23, 2013



*Safety Tips: Traits  
of a Good Employee*



A company or farming entity with good employees is the first step to a successful operation. Good employees in a farming operation closely resemble the success of good athletic teams.

You have to have good managers for the farms and good coaches for athletic teams. Those managers and/or coaches must recruit or hire the best folks available and pure ability is only one of the needed traits.

There are other factors that are needed to have a good work team or athletic team. We want to discuss these:

- ✓ **Communicator** – Employers love to hire folks that have the ability to express themselves, on paper and verbally. Inaccurate or the lack of communication skills makes it hard to have a line of communication that can be reliable.
- ✓ **Self-Motivator** – A person with this character trait doesn't shun responsibility. They will work to do that little extra, if the job calls for it, even though it probably isn't a part of their regular job description. A little more "lagniappe" (a little extra effort) to help solve a problem or complete a task is part of their makeup as a self-motivator.
- ✓ **Hard worker** – In any area, manual or with clerical types, diligent work ethics is always noticed by management. Employees never consciously think about hard work, as this is an innate trait of their make-up to do a "good job."
- ✓ **Adaptable/Decisive/ Effective** – This trait is descriptive of the person that is flexible by easily adjusting to variations on job assignments, learns quickly and likes to learn different things. They are always positive thinkers, which goes along with adaptability.
- ✓ **Team Player** – A trait of a "team player" is one who follows the old anecdote that "credit for the success isn't as important as success of the task." "Team players" go with the flow - whatever it takes to do the job.
- ✓ **Helping Others** – We all appreciate a helping hand occasionally. Besides the point of helping someone with their task, this trait offers the opportunity to develop good employee relationships and contributes to a smooth operating atmosphere.
- ✓ **Honesty** – A trait that, in my opinion, is one of the most important with an employee. They are honest in their job qualifications, their work ethics and accept criticism and praise with the same level of demeanor.
- ✓ **Ethical** – Rules of the farm or department are respected, followed and serve as an example for other workers to follow as well.
- ✓ **Give Credit where it is Due** – The credit goes to the one who does the work and gets recognized by the management. The good employee will be sure to pass the credit to the one who is deserving, in case there was a misconception of the right person. They still "keep on keeping on" to get the project completed.
- ✓ **Politeness** – A trait recognizable by others with a friendly "good morning," a "thank you" for assistance or small favors and a "you are welcome." These small courteous acts of kindness seem insignificant, but are very positive in the eyes of other employees.
- ✓ **Disciplined & Punctual** – Having spent the majority of my working years in a labor intensive environment, this is a trait that can't be over emphasized. Punctual attendance in any job is critical. A disciplined and punctual employee is easily recognized by the management and is a very positive trait in their eyes.
- ✓ **Avoid Gossip** – In the army there was a saying that if you don't hear a rumor by 9:00 am – start one! That wasn't totally true. It has no play in a work atmosphere, it takes away from regular work, usually discredits one not deserving and generally is a trait unbecoming of a good employee.

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**A LABORER IS READY TO WORK  
WHEN THE WORK IS  
READY!**  
\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*  
**WORK IS THE PRICE OF  
SUCCESS**