

Liaison CASA

February 2009

Word from the Chairman

There is always much more to do –

Every year, the optimism most of us feel as we move from winter into spring is tinged with the dreaded news of injuries and even deaths in our industry. The data from CAISP we highlight in this issue does give us reason to believe our efforts to help Canadian producers manage risk in their workplace are working but there is much to do.

You'll also read in this issue that most Canadian farmers are concerned about farm safety but very few are using tools to help them assess risks in their operations. You'll see that most farmers want to keep their families and workers safe, but that most push themselves to "finish that field tonight even if it kills me".

As safety professionals, we want to make the maximum difference and I can say confidently, we are committed to working together for "a Canada where no one is hurt farming".

That's why we worked so hard at CASA's Safety Summit this past October. Many of us committed to specific projects and directions provincially and nationally. CASA is committed to coming up with a flexible national direction for us all. And I can report that we are very close.

Over the past few months, CASA's board and staff have worked to prepare a four year plan. We have established priorities – farm safety plans, hazard management, risk management plus an evaluative research component. Our focus will be on development and delivery of programs to youth, new entrants, grower/operators, suppliers and manufacturers. Watch for the outline of CASA's new 4-year plan on the website at www.casa-acsa.ca in late March.

Also this March, watch for the launch in Ontario and Newfoundland of the 2009 Canadian Agricultural Safety Week. This year's theme of "PPE only works if you use it!" is supported by new CASA resources on hearing loss prevention and respiratory protection plus a new photo gallery on the CASA website.

We hope you'll check them out and use them in your continuing and increasingly effective efforts to decrease injury and death in Canadian agriculture.



Bruce Johnson
CASA Chair



Did you know?

CASA's new Communications and Education Officer

David Vielfaure joined CASA January 5th, 2009 in the new position of Communications and Education Officer. David is the 'go-to' for member relations, ag safety resources and Progressive Agriculture Safety Days® held in Canada. He recently completed a bachelor's degree in agriculture at the University of Manitoba. David has worked on hog and dairy farms and was an insect control technician for the City of Winnipeg. He is fluent in French and English. Contact David Vielfaure at 204-275-8870 or dvielfaure@casa-acsa.ca.

You can find On-line Farm Safety Photo Gallery

An on-line farm safety photo gallery has been created on www.casa-acsa.ca with more than 80 photos showing the safe way to work on farms or ranches. The project was launched by CASA in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited. If you have photos you'd like us to post in the gallery, send them to Diane at dwreford@casa-acsa.ca.

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News

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week launches year-long PPE theme

"PPE only works if you use it!" is the theme of this year's Canadian Agricultural Safety Week campaign with a focus on the use, fit and access of personal protective equipment (PPE) in agriculture. The year-long campaign will be launched with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), March 11 to 17, 2009.

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) deliver Safety Week in partnership with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

Provincial launches are set for Thursday, March 12 in both Newfoundland/Labrador and Ontario-at the NL Federation of Agriculture annual meeting in Gander and the Kitchener-Waterloo Farm Safety Rally in Woolrich. Each of the launch programs will feature presentations by producers who strongly believe in managing the risk in their workplace to keep themselves, their families and workers safe.

In Gander, Paul and Shirley Lomond of Steadybrook, NL, will tell their story. They operate under the Lomond Farms brand growing strawberries, raspberries, sea buckthorn, plums, high bush blueberries, cranberries, carrots, cabbage, pumpkins, sweet corn, broccoli and tomatoes. Their produce is sold as pick-your-own at two on-farm markets and in local supermarkets.

"Safety is an important part of everything we do here," says Paul Lomond. "I tell my workers that they came here with two good eyes, two good hands and two good feet – and that's the way I want them to go home."

He makes it a practice to review with his workers how a machine operates and the hazards to watch out for before they get back into their seasonal routines. "The

powers and operation of the machine are one thing, and the other important thing is to be aware of who and what else is around," says Lomond.

All field labourers and equipment operators have First Aid and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training and there is a first aid kit at every location. Pickers are required to wear a hat and have sunscreen and water in their possession. Pickers also use ergonomically designed baskets that are strapped-on over the shoulders to give an even weight distribution. Berries are picked into 12 or eight-quart trays so that workers can more easily lift them.

Occupational health and safety experts agree that when a workplace hazard is identified there are several ways to correct it such as: redesigning the set-up; using less dangerous materials; changing the work process or practices; changing the equipment; and establishing administrative controls or safety rules for workers. When all else fails to eliminate the hazard then personal protective equipment is used to reduce the hazard to acceptable levels.

the barnders by gord.coulthart



I never thought I would need safety goggles inside the house!

"Most people think of personal protective equipment as being work boots, goggles and hard-hats. In fact, it can be anything that makes doing a job safer," says Lomond. "And I think the most important personal protective equipment is a person's attitude. For both the worker and the business – good safety makes good sense."

In Woolrich the same day, Ed Taylor of Grand Valley, Ontario, is sharing his story of surviving farm incident that changed his life and his family's in an instant.

"I remember like it was yesterday", he says. "The freezing rain was stinging my face and I was lying there in the mud - so cold - with the horses sniffing and milling around above me. I could feel a painful heat and numbness rising up my body

from my legs – like boiling water. All I could think was, 'Holy smokes! Maybe I'm dying here!'"

It was November 16, 1990 and Ed, then 36, was going about his morning chores. A fence needed mending before the frost set in, but first he'd put out a round bale of hay for the horses. After getting the bale and opening and closing the gate, Ed got back on his 674 IH tractor with a 2250 loader to put the hay in the feeder. There was a swale causing a bit of a dip in the landscape and the loader was admittedly higher than it needed to be. "I guess I must have popped the clutch a bit starting up – and then it was coming at me, end over end," recalls Ed.

The 1100 pound, 4' x 6' round bale had dislodged from the bucket and rolled down the front-end loader toward the driver's seat. With only a split second to react, Ed leaned over to the side and toward the area under the steering wheel for protection. The bale rolled right over his back and continued off the rear of the tractor. Check http://www.casa-acsa.ca/english/res_caswmedia.html for what happened next.

Ed is running an agricultural operation today but he was very lucky. He says this year's "farm safety theme 'PPE only works if you use it!' struck home because the hay spear was the safe and proper loader attachment that I should have used to feed the hay. I had a perfectly good hay spear right there, all I had to do was use it."

There's an extensive media kit posted at www.casa-acsa.ca and www.cfa-fca.ca. Topics include: Now hear this, Keep an eye on safety, Put your best foot forward, Safety is in the air – all focusing on PPE of course. And don't forget to check out the Barnders safety cartoons created by Gord Coulthart to augment the posted stories!

- **How does your farm safety knowledge rate?**
- **Try taking the FCC Farm Safety Quiz at www.fccfarmsafety.ca**



Canadian farm fatalities decreasing but still high

Fatal agricultural injury data from 1990 to 2005 show the safety record on Canadian farms is improving. Based on the most recent report from the Canadian Agricultural Surveillance Program (CAISP), the number of people killed on farms in Canada has declined during the past 16 years.

According to CAISP data, there were fewer fatal injuries among children in Canada aged one to 14 and among adults 15 to 59. But there was no significant change in the rolling average of fatal injuries for adults over 60 – an indication that older adults may face an increasing risk on farms.

Marcel Hacault is the executive director of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association that oversees CAISP. He says the data show that agricultural injuries are not due to random or isolated “accidents”. Instead, there are many recurrent patterns of injury – with agricultural machinery involved most often.

In the sixteen years from 1990-2005, 1,769 people were killed in agricultural injury events in Canada. Hacault points out that agricultural machines were involved in 71% of the fatalities. Adults aged 60 and over had the highest

percentage of machine related deaths (74%), whereas children aged 1 to 14 had the lowest percentage of deaths involving agricultural machines (64%).

He says that overall, more than half the agricultural fatalities were due to four machine-related causes: machine rollovers (21%), machine runovers (19%), machine entanglements (8%) and traffic collisions (7%).

Nine out of 10 of those fatally injured as a result of agricultural work were male. Hacault says over 95% of those were 65 years of age or older.

In total, 99 children under age five were killed on Canadian farms from 1990 through 2005. Hacault notes the only “light” in the CAISP report is that “fatality rates were lowest for adults of normal working age, though they had the greatest exposure to the hazards of agricultural work”.

The complete report *Agricultural Fatalities in Canada 1990 – 2005* from the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program, will be posted at www.casa-acsa.ca in march.

Download new PPE resources for hearing and breathing protection

CASA has developed three Hearing Protection posters and a Respiratory Equipment factsheet to support the 2009 theme “PPE only works if you use it!”. Download them all at www.casa-acsa.ca.

The Hearing Protection posters feature pictorial tips for choosing and wearing the proper earplugs - no-roll foam, roll-down foam, multiple-use and banded - and earmuffs – head-band, folding, multiple-position, cap-mounted and neckband.



A third poster outlining The Four C's of Hearing Protection could round out a display suitable for the farm shop wall. The Four C's are Comfort, Convenience, Communication and Care.

The Respiratory Equipment factsheet provides purchase guidelines, wearing tips and proper care for air-purifying – quarter, half and full-face - and supplied air respirators – self-contained and airlines.



The Canadian Guidebook for Safe Implement Hitching

Don't leave the yard without one!

If you can't find the operator manual for the old tractor or the instructions for some of your implements are so out of date with current regulations that they're virtually useless, you need the soon-to-be released **Canadian Guidebook for Safe Implement Hitching**.

The new guidebook will outline standards, regulations and best practices related to tractor hitch ratings and connections, implement hitch types, ratings and connections, safety chains, PTO connections, hitch jacks, brakes, and safe travel speeds.

The project is directed by the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute in Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Patricia Lung is the lead engineer. And Jim Wasserman of PAMI says “there's a great team of advisors from across North America working on this new book” which he expects it to be ready this spring for printing and posting online.

Wasserman says “it will complement existing tractor and implement manuals and will fill gaps related to older equipment and equipment manufactured outside North America”.

He says farm groups across Canada have been asking for something like this guide to help solve everyday situations such as how to deal with high-speed tractors pulling incompatible implements. “This guidebook will definitely provide some solutions needed to help reduce safety risks,” Wasserman adds.

PAMI's major financial partner in the development of the guidebook is the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, the largest machinery association in North America. CASA is also supporting the project through CASHP. Other stakeholders include the Canadian Standards Association, the Agricultural Manufacturers of Canada, provincial producer associations and provincial farm safety organizations.

Child safety is priority, says new farm safety study

A new farm safety study says that although most Canadian primary producers believe farm safety is important (83 percent), very few actually have a formal safety plan in place (15 percent). Although producers report that safety is important, they may not practise all safety measures regularly.

"Farm Credit Canada partnered with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) to conduct a study of Canadian producers to find out how safe producers are when working," says Greg Stewart, FCC President and CEO. "We found out what's going well and what could be improved. We also discovered what is preventing producers from implementing safety measures."

"It makes sense that producers say they make the safety of their children their top priority," says Marcel Hacault, Executive Director of CASA. "But we have work ahead of us to convince producers to include their own safety as a priority. We definitely see a gap between intention and action."

What's going well?

Taking precautions for children is the general safety measure most frequently practised (93 percent). More than eight out of ten respondents state that they practise safe equipment handling (89 percent), safe livestock handling (85 percent) and training family members (83 percent) on a regular basis.

What's not going well?

Only half of the respondents (51 percent) say that they order additional safety options, such as ladders and monitors. Two-thirds of respondents (66 percent) report that they regularly work when tired, and only one-third manage stress (32 percent). Working tired and working under stress increase the chance of injury.

Why is safety important?

Producers explain that safety is a priority on their farms for three key reasons: safekeeping of their family members; the potential for financial loss due to accidents, largely through lost productivity; and the impact of first-hand exposure to farm accidents.

What prevents producers from taking safety measures?

Respondents report that the key barriers to practising safety measures are old habits (35 percent) and time constraints (31 percent). In short, producers take shortcuts to get the job done.

For more information regarding the study findings, log on to www.casa-acsa.ca or www.fccvision.ca.

Get to know a new Director

John R. Gordon is the Director of the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA) based in Saskatoon and a member of CASA's Board. He spent 17 years at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine as a professor of immunology, but he is now in the College of Medicine (Respirology & Critical Care Med).



"I had spent some 5 years as an informal immunology consultant for Jim Dosman's lung studies, so that they were familiar with my work. When Jim retired the university held an international competition to find a replacement, and the search was run by a head-hunter organization out of Vancouver. They called my out of the blue and asked if I would be willing to let my name stand, and I agreed to that. I was happy to take on a new challenge, particularly in an area as important as ag health and safety."

What he hopes to accomplish through CASA?

"To help promote and optimize our collective efforts in Canadian agricultural safety."

Favorite hobby?

"Hiking (mountains preferably), camping/canoeing, riding my motorcycle (a large cruiser), carpentry (eg, renovations, cabinets)."

A place everybody should visit?

"Saskatoon, the Okanagan, the Oregon coastline, Quebec City, Halifax."



Dates to remember:

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week March 11 - 17, 2009

Safety Week launches March 12 at 10:00am in Gander, NL and 7:00pm in St. Jacobs, ON

Farm Safety Association 36th annual conference March 30 - 31, 2009, Niagara Falls, ON

POSTPONED TO 2011

Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference November 5 -6, 2009 in Vancouver, BC

News Grande Prairie

barn to raise farm safety awareness for thousands of kids

Imagine this – a 2000 square foot barn in the middle of a city in the centre of the Peace Country- where thousands of kids from kindergarten through grade four make friends with a fiberglass cow and stare at a simulated tractor rolling over and over.

That's the scene at Grand Prairie's Safety City – or it will be this fall if all goes according to plan.

Carla Shkwarok is the project coordinator for Safety City, a \$1.75 million project designed to give kids a chance to practise safety skills in a small city atmosphere – that includes a barn!

Shkwarok says her committee of community partners and volunteers is aiming to reduce child and youth injuries starting this fall as soon as the City opens. "We want to help kids stop and think before they put themselves in potentially unsafe situations. We want to be pro-active with fun activities that teach safe life-lessons."

Construction will start in April. The kiosks and streetscape will be finished first. Shkwarok hopes the barn will be ready in the fall as well. She's already ordering displays for the barn – including life-size fiberglass animals to help teach safe animal handling plus the gravity flow wagon, PTO and the chemical-look-alike teaching tools from CASA.

There'll be a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® held on site at the end of May or in early June. Shkwarok has funding for 150 kids from grades 3 through 6. "We can't hold the Day in our barn," she adds, "but we'll put up tents and give everyone a little taste of what this awesome site will be very soon!"

CASA is supporting the development of the farm safety barn through CASHP. So far, other Safety City donors include, Alberta Health Services - Peace Country Health; ATCO; City of Grande Prairie; County of Grande Prairie No. 1; Province of Alberta (CFEP); Swan City Rotary; Devon Canada Corporation; ConocoPhillips; Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce; GP Petroleum Association; Schlumberger; Talisman Energy Inc; Weyerhaeuser; AB Blue Cross.

And in case you're interested, \$150,000 will get your company's name on the Safety Barn in Safety City, Grande Prairie.

Check it out at www.gpsafecommunities.com.



Quebec Safety Week focus: Increase PPE use in farm shops

Agricultural safety leaders in Quebec got a head start on the 2009 Safety Week at a Partners of Health and Safety in Agriculture seminar in Ste-Foy, January 22nd.

Over a hundred farm safety professionals from across Quebec were updated on the proper selection and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on the farm with special emphasis on increasing its use in farm shops.

"Participants will now spread the word to producers in their areas by developing activities in collaboration with the Workers Compensation Board (CSST), the provincial health department (Health at Work) and several agricultural colleges and schools," says Diane Fortin, safety coordinator for the Union of Agricultural Producers (UPA).

Fortin says everyone at the January safety seminar left with activity outlines related to Personal Protective Equipment. "For example", she says, "we discussed every situation in the farm shop when PPE would be necessary – such as when using grinders, band saws, press drills and welding equipment."

At the seminar, the UPA introduced a new video in French produced with funds from the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association's CASHP. It spotlights Bernard Vincent, a milk producer who was injured while working with a grinder and Francois Verner, of Vert Nature Farms, who explains the safety features of his fully equipped farm shop.

The video and a farm shop safety poster will be posted in mid-March for download at www.casa-acsa.ca. There's also related material available on the Quebec Workers Compensation Board (CSST) website www.csst.qc.ca

The Partners of Health and Safety in Agriculture annual seminar is organized by the UPA, the CSST and the provincial health department who work together to promote farm safety in Québec.