



CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY WEEK MARCH 11-17

SEMAINE CANADIENNE DE LA SÉCURITÉ EN MILIEU AGRICOLE mars 11-17

Get hitched safely

A new resource has been developed to assist farm machinery owners and operators to avoid devastating injuries and costly equipment repairs. The 42-page booklet, *Safe Implement Hitching: A Guide for Safe Connection of Agricultural Tractors to Implements* is now available as a free download at www.planfarmsafety.ca.

The *Safe Implement Hitching* booklet supports the theme *Plan • Farm • Safety*, a three-year focus for the Canadian agricultural safety campaign. In 2012, emphasis is on "Safety" including assessment, improvement and further development of safety systems. Last year, the focus was on "Farm" including implementation, documentation and training. In 2010, the campaign promoted "Plan" featuring safety walkabouts and planning for safety.

The yearlong "Safety" campaign will be launched with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), March 11 to 17. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) deliver CASW in partnership with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through Growing Forward, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative.

"There are so many different types and sizes of machinery these days that we wanted to support consolidation of this important hitching information into one easy to use guide," says Marcel Hacault, executive director of CASA. "A team of engineers and safety specialists worked hard to come up with this great new resource."

The booklet highlights the basics of drawbar connections, three-point hitch connections, power-take-off (PTO) hook-ups, hydraulics and electrical connections, along with additional information on tractor stability and ballasting, braking systems, transport safety and hand signals.

"The information in this booklet has been compiled in such a way that you could take each topic and make a brief 'toolbox talk' out of it to share the information with other workers," says Hacault. "That way you'll ensure everyone knows how to hitch your specific farm implements safely."

Toolbox talks are notes for brief, informal talks or meetings about specific ag safety topics. These notes provide the content for a two to five minute, interactive discussion on working safely on the farm. When the *Talk* has been completed, talk leaders can fill-in the operation's name, location and date and each participant can sign the sheet to confirm they received the training. The *Talk* sheet is then filed with the operation's worker training records to document the training experience. Check out Toolbox Talks at <http://www.casa-acsa.ca/content/toolbox-talks>.

The *Safe Implement Hitching* booklet was prepared by the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute in partnership with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, CASA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

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