



CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY WEEK MARCH 11-17

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

Farm Safety: Workers have responsibilities too

Health and safety is a shared responsibility. Farmers have an obligation to provide safety orientation, training and a safe workplace for their employees. But ultimately, it is up to each employee to work safely.

To help farm workers gain a better understanding of the importance and need for farm safety, Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) has developed a new farm management tool called the Canada FarmSafe Plan. A free download of the core Canada FarmSafe Plan is available at www.planfarmsafety.ca.

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

"Employees are a key element to the safe and successful running of a farm enterprise," says Ron Bonnett, CFA President. "The more they understand about the relationship between safety and the role they play, the better it will be for everyone working there and for the business itself."

It is the responsibility of employees to understand and follow health and safety standards set out by their employer or required by legislation, including following standard operating practices at all times. Workers should never operate machinery, tools, or handle chemicals or livestock without having completed appropriate training.

Knowing how things should be done is not enough – safety practices need to be implemented to reap the benefits of a more efficient, safer working environment. This includes using safety equipment, machine guards, safety devices and personal protective equipment whenever they are needed.

Likewise, employees need to make it their business to immediately report unsafe situations, tools, machinery, and gear to their supervisor so that corrective action can be taken.

If an incident or near miss occurs, these too should be immediately reported so that appropriate corrective or preventative action may be taken. Near misses are free warnings. By examining these types of incidents you can learn your safety lessons and prevent a tragedy before it happens.

"Employees play a key role in their own safety and the safety of others on the farm," says Bonnett. "By working together, we can ensure everyone returns home safe."

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