

A Farm Safety Site Visit

You have been assigned to do a farm safety site visit. The following information is provided to assist you and give an overview of farm operations in Alberta.

First, Let us start with a brief description of the workplace safety and health legislation as it applies to farms. Farms in Alberta are except from this legislation. You will not find the usual things found in an industrial worksite that you may have visited while setting up other work sites. The approximately 50,000 farms are unique and there are no two the same.

Your visit is about to begin...

Make an appointment and indicate the time you will arrive. This will give the farm family a chance to make sure someone will be there when you arrive. Make sure you are dressed appropriately to walk around outside. A good pair of rubber/winter boots, jeans and a warm coat and a hat.

You drive up into the farmyard. The direction to the farm allowed you to find the farm easily. You have already started your visit as you drove out to the farm, Would and emergency crew have the same experience finding the farm if called? If you had a problem, so will the emergency crew.

In the yard, were you able to park and were greeted by someone who will show you around. Remember, the first impression you get as you are greeted and start to look around will be a measuring point as the site visit begins.

You should have the green certificate training outline that the student and farmer will be using to sign off the tasks to be carried out. Take a look at where the student will be working for most of the time; let the farm family member explain the process and the site to you. Do they seem comfortable explaining in the process and does the site look orderly to you. Questions to ask:

Are regular comfort breaks set up?

What safe guards are taken during instruction?

Are personal protective clothing and equipment provided?

What is the plan if there is an accident?

You should let your common sense guide you.

Farm odors are common and should not hinder your conclusion. Pig farms, cattle operations, dairy farms, and others have their own distinct odors, and to you, may be unbearable. Do not hurry your visit because of this factor.

Farmers are busy doing a lot of chores and daily tasks that might be ongoing during your visit. Sometimes, you might arrive during a hurried time when things seem to be in disarray. The best thing to do, if you are unsure of what is going on, is to ask. The farm producers in Alberta are open and do have a sense of humor even at the busiest times.

Carrying a checklist is not recommended as it indicates that an inspection is being conducted, if you need to refer to a checklist, do so the day before and reinforce your

decision after you leave. You could make the family uneasy and set up a barrier from free expression, conversation and exchange of information. You will learn more through discussions and impressions. During your visit, it is Okay to jot down a few key points on a note pad. If you leave having any feelings of being unsure that the site is safe, in your opinion, then you should reject the site. You will know when you are uncomfortable and have a sense of uneasiness.

Let common sense be your guide and you will not go wrong. Surprisingly, after a few visits, you will become more comfortable with your decisions.



OFF-CAMPUS EDUCATION Green Certificate Farm Tour

School Division _____ Date _____

School _____ School Year _____

Address _____

School Green Certificate Coordinator _____

Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

1. The farm site inspection **must** occur prior to trainee placement.
2. A farm site, the specific off-campus location at which the trainee is involved in off-campus learning activities (Work Experience, RAP, Green Certificate, etc.), requires inspection and *annual* approval by the superintendent of schools or designate. After a safety incident or injury, the farm site requires a subsequent inspection before re-approval. (Reference: *Off-Campus Education Handbook*)
3. Parental or guardian consent shall be obtained on the Green Certificate Registration Form. That document shall be signed by the trainee, trainer, parent/guardian and school coordinator.
4. This inspection record shall be on file at the school attended by the trainee and copies sent as required by local policy before the trainee is placed at the farm site.
5. Trainees and parents signing the Green Certificate Registration Form are considered to have signed the WCB deeming order for Workers' Compensation coverage.

Farm/Training Site

Farm/Company Name _____	
Farm Site Location (legal land description and/or rural street address) _____	
Mailing Address _____	
City/Town _____	Province _____ Postal Code _____
Farm Contact Person _____	Phone _____
Cell _____	Email _____
Green Certificate Specialization _____	
Supervisor on site (if different than above) _____	Phone _____
Cell _____	Email _____
More than one farm site involved <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	More than one supervisor involved <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Location of other site(s) (please list) _____	

Number of trainees to be placed at farming training site _____ Driver's License required yes no

Inspecting Teacher/Coordinator (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____
Inspecting Teacher

Superintendent of Schools, or Designate (please print): _____

Signature _____ Date _____
Superintendent of Schools, or designate

**Off-Campus Education
 Green Certificate Farm Tour Checklist**

Farm Name _____ Date of Tour _____

Farm Site Location (legal land description and/or rural street address)

Trainee Name: _____

1. Following the directions provided to you (the inspector), was the farm easy to find? yes no

2. Does the farm have a written health and safety program? yes no

3. Is job related health and safety training or orientation provided to trainees? yes no

4. Briefly, what tools, materials and equipment will the trainee be handling? Please list.

5. Will the trainee be exposed to hazards in the following categories? Discuss.

Psychological yes no
 e.g. _____

Chemical yes no
 e.g. _____

Physical yes no
 e.g. _____

Biological yes no
 e.g. _____

Ergonomic yes no
 e.g. _____

6. Will the trainee be made aware of these hazards/dangers? yes no
 How? _____

7. Will the trainer be directly supervising the trainee? yes no
 If no, who? _____

8. Are regular comfort breaks/rest periods set up? yes no

9. Is the trainer aware of the process for reporting a trainee injury? yes no
 (If no, see Alberta Education's Off-Campus Education Guide.)

10. Is there personal protective equipment (PPE) used at this farm site? yes no
 PPE provided by trainer, OR yes no
 Trainees are responsible for bringing their own PPE. yes no
 Please list _____

11. What emergency plans and equipment are in place? Please list or attach.

Does any of the farm staff have valid, current first aid training? yes no
 Are fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and emergency phone numbers readily accessible? yes no
 Has the trainer discussed emergency procedures with the trainee (e.g., evacuation plan)? yes no

12. Farm site: Appears to provide an orderly, well-maintained, safe and caring environment.-- Approved
 Requires upgrades to be considered a safe and caring environment. -- Not Approved'
 *If not approved please attach rationale or required follow up.

Signature: _____
 (Inspecting Teacher, Coordinator, Specialist)

Green Certificate

Farm Visit #2

As a Green Certificate trainee, you started your farm safety training with the first farm tour that was conducted at the beginning of the program and your completion of the AGR 3000 pre-requisite. This visit allows you to explore some of your learning and focus on potential farm accident occurrences and prevention. While working on the farm you can assess your immediate work environment by asking yourself these five important questions: (acquired from SAFE THINK AGRICULTURE - ALBERTA)

- A. Does the work involve hazardous materials?
- B. Does the work involve objects, motion, or force that could cause harm?
- C. Does the work involve non – ambient hazards that could cause harm? (Ambient: “A physical environment within a range that promotes comfort, wellness and safety.” Examples may include temperature, amount of light, air quality and dust)
- D. Is current or static electricity a factor in doing the work?
- E. Could changes lead to or create a hazardous situation?

In each of the following cases, identify a task on your training site that provides a potential risk to your safety and identify at least one kind injury that could result when performing that task:

1. Hazardous materials come in many forms. Identify a hazardous material and describe how that material can cause injury to a worker.
2. There can be many moving objects (large animals and machinery for example) that are potential hazards. Identify a task that could cause injury as a result of motion or force from an animal or a piece of equipment? What kind of injury could result?
3. Ambient conditions can change suddenly and create added risk in completing a task on your training site. Name an ambient condition that can change and increase risk of injury. What kind of injury can result from this change in ambient condition?
4. What is the difference between static and current electricity? Describe a task where one of these forms of electricity can cause injury? What kind of injury could you experience?
5. Think of changes as unexpected conditions in your work environment. A flat tire could be a ‘change.’ A charging animal could be a ‘change.’ Identify a possible ‘change’ while performing a task on your training site that could injury. What kind of injury could you experience?

Green Certificate

Farm Visit #3

Our second farm visit in the Green Certificate Program focused on 5 categories of hazards that could cause injury while training at your worksite. Those five categories in summary are: A. Hazardous materials B. Objects, motion or force C. Non – ambient hazards D. Static or current electricity E. Changes in the workplace. For this third visit I will ask you to not only identify hazards but ask you what actions are/can be taken to avoid injury. Preventing accidents is a key strategy in our FARM SAFETY PROGRAM. Provide an answer to the following questions. You may use the same examples of possible hazards that were provided in the second visit. (questions acquired from SAFE THINK AGRICULTURE – ALBERTA)

- A. Identify a hazardous material. What type of harm does the material pose? (consequences) What conditions, actions, and events could expose me to the hazard? (hazardous situation) What can I do to prevent being harmed?(Controls)
- B. Identify objects, motion, or force that could cause harm? What conditions, actions, and events could cause the objects, motion, or force to harm me? What can I do to prevent from being harmed by the object, motion, or force: 1) before starting the task? 2) during the task? 3) After I've completed the task? (all three of these may not always be applicable)
- C. Identify a non – ambient hazards that could cause harm? (It could involve temperature, light, noise, hazardous emissions, oxygen deficiency or radiation). What type of harm does the non-ambient hazard pose? What conditions, actions, and events could expose me to the non-ambient hazard? What can I do to prevent being harmed by the non-ambient hazard: 1) before starting the task? 2) during the task? 3) After I've completed the task? (all three of these may not always be applicable)
- D. Identify a task where current or static electricity is a factor in doing the work? What conditions, actions, or events could cause me to come in contact with current electricity? What conditions, actions, and events could create an electrical spark that could cause a fire or explosion? What can I do to prevent being harmed by current and static electricity?
- E. Identify a change that could lead to or create a hazardous situation?(Change could be worker initiated, technology-initiated or other change such as a power failure). What are the possible consequences of the hazardous situation? What can I do to prevent or minimize the hazardous situation? How can I prevent being harmed?

