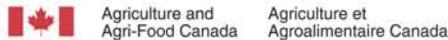


Liaison CASA

July-August Edition 2007

Word from the Chairman



Did You Know ?

- CASA memberships are due in September. You must have a currently membership to run for the CASA Council and Board. Keep an eye out for your renewal letter. If you wish to become a CASA member, please visit our website at www.casa-acsa.ca.
- CASA has safety resources that can be borrowed to use to help demonstrate potential dangers on the farm to an audience. These items include a Gravity Flow Wagon, Chemical-Look-A-Like Display, and a PTO Display. Please contact the CASA office if you are interested in using one of these items.
- CASA Board members attended the National Institute for Farm Safety Conference "Applying What We Know" in Penticton BC. Participants came from all over Canada and the United States to learn about the farm safety programs and projects that is being implemented all over the world.
- CASA is looking for dynamic individuals with an interest in farm safety to self-nominate or to nominate others for a 2-year term on the CASA Council and Board. Only individuals who are Council members are eligible to be on CASA's Board.
- CASA's Conference will take place in conjunction with the 2007 Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference. This conference is taking place at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto Ontario from November 11th - 13th. Please visit www.injurypreventionconference.ca to learn more about this conference.

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Congratulations and thank you to the Farm and Ranch Safety Association for hosting the National Institute for Farm Safety's annual conference in Penticton, BC. This conference provided an excellent opportunity for CASA members and other Canadians interested in farm safety to learn from and network with safety and health professionals from five other countries.

The theme was Applying What We Know, the reality is we do know a lot about farm safety, the challenge is getting the industry to accept that knowledge and apply it.

To that end, CASA Council and the Board of Directors did meet in Penticton to review and approve CASA's strategic directional plan for the next four years. The finalized plan will be presented to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada shortly.

I strongly encourage all CASA members, as well as those who have vested interests in Canada's agricultural industry to contact a CASA Council member, Board member or the CASA office to work with CASA and its partners to make a positive change in agricultural safety and health in Canada. And as a reminder, CASA will be holding its annual general meeting and conference in conjunction with the Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference in Toronto, ON, November 11 - 13, 2007. Plan to attend.

Have a nice and safe summer.

Glen G. Blahey

Chairman

News

Agricultural Fatalities in Canada 1990 - 2000: Focus on Older Farmers and Workers:

The Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program (CAISP) is a national program of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). CAISP was established in 1995 in response to the need for better information about fatal and hospitalized agricultural injuries. CAISP have developed several reports on agricultural injuries within Canada. Their recent published report "Agricultural Fatalities in Canada 1990 - 2000: Focus on Older Farmers and Workers:" stated that there were 440 persons aged 60 or over who died in an agricultural injury event. This number represents over a third of all agricultural fatalities in Canada from 1990-2000, even though older adults comprise only of 13% of the national farm population.



This report also found that the percentage of older persons were killed due to contact with animals was 2.5 times higher (30.8%) than for an individual aged 15-59. The data illustrates that the percentage of older person who died due to machine-related falls between the younger and older age group was even larger. The percentage of older persons falling from a moving machine was 10.5%, 2.8 times greater than individuals age 15-59.

To learn more about this report, please visit CASA's website and follow the links.

CASHP - Reminder : Next Deadline August 17th, 2007

A reminder that request for proposals for the Canadian Agriculture Safety and Health Program (CASHP) has been developed to support the CASA mission of having Canadian Agriculture free of workplace injuries and illness. The next Deadline for proposals is August 17th, 2007.

More information on CASA Website: <http://www.casa-acsa.ca/english/index.html>

National Institute for Farm Safety annual conference

The National Institute for Farm Safety annual conference was held in Penticton, British Columbia from June 24th-28th, 2007. Hosted by the Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association in the Okanagan Valley, the city of Penticton is located in the south central interior of the province.

Farm Safety on Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island

Birth place of the Confederation Prince Edward Island is Canada's smallest and greenest province. Cradled on the waves of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Island is known for the vivid colours of its gently rolling landscape. Prince Edward Island has 135,851 residents. 5,683.91 square kilometres (2,194.57 sq mi) in size, it is the 104th largest island in the world.

Agriculture on PEI

With a total land area of 1.4 million acres, P.E.I. has approximately 620,000 acres cleared for farm use. Agriculture is very important to the rural way of life with 4.5 percent of the population living on farms compared with 3 percent in the rest of Canada. The latest census figures (2006) show that there are 1700 farms primarily engaged in growing crops and raising livestock on PEI. Prince Edward Island's total farm cash receipts were \$380 million in 2006. Potatoes alone contributed more than 53 percent of total farm cash receipts. Most operations are involved in the production of one or more of Prince Edward Island's major agricultural commodities: potatoes, dairy, hogs, beef, vegetables and small fruit crops.

Prince Edward Island has about 65 agri-food companies creating a strong agri-food processing industry. Food processing (both agriculture and fish) accounts for 66 percent of our manufacturing industry; this share raises to 78 per cent for value added. Primary agriculture and agri-food processing contributes 9.4 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) while the national average is 3.6 percent. The 2006 value of the products in the processing industry (including fish) was \$843 million.

Farm Safety on PEI

We asked Marilyn Affleck about their project Implementing the Farm Safety Code of Practice on PEI Farms: "The most significant accomplishment in the 2006 -07 project was the number of farmers and farm workers who took safety training in operating a forklift or some refer to it as a lift truck. A good percentage of participants had anywhere between 5 and 30 years experience operating forklifts. Our success was convincing the employer the importance of the training for himself/herself and as well training for their workers. Workers with lots of experience didn't really believe they required training but the positive part was they did in fact learn from the training and identified some of the things they will do differently now to prevent incidents."

Background information

As a result of an inquiry, following the death of an adolescent in a farm accident, it was ruled that farms should no longer be an exempt worksite from the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee met with representatives from the P.E.I. National Farmers Union and representatives from the P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture to receive industry input when moving forward with this ruling. Together, they determined that it would be more appropriate for the agriculture industry to develop their own Code of Practice rather than to follow the established regulations.



The project

The project was phase three of a project to introduce PEI farmers to the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Farm Safety Code of Practice (COP). Through communication they hoped to continue to implement an educational and awareness campaign through the media, farm newsletters and magazines.

Workshops were organized to implement the COP on PEI farms and encourage farmers to inspect their farm that would focus attention on farm hazards; and to promote the development of healthy and safe workplaces.

Project objectives

1. Communication: To implement an educational and awareness campaign through the media, farm newsletters and magazines was successful. Notices of Farm Safety Code of Practice workshops, Fork Lift Safety training; First Aid training; Fall Prevention training were advertised in this manner and as well on the Farm Safety Program's web site.

They communicated directly with the farmers and farm workers at the training workshops and with the farm safety booth at Annual General Meetings of Commodity Boards and Farm Organizations and at the semi annual Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show.

2. Implementation: To encourage due diligence on farms and encourage farmers to inspect their farms was accomplished mainly at training workshops through discussion and interaction with workers and employers.

3. Training: Farmers with more than 20 workers on their farm responded positively to the training initiatives offered by the Farm Health and Safety Program. 225 farmers and farm workers received Fork Lift Safety training. 80 farmers and farm workers received First Aid training. 25 farm owners and supervisors attended a workshop to learn how to prepare a Farm Safety Program for their operation. Farmers have requested additional training.

Farm Safety Code of Practice Workshops

Workshops were scheduled twice weekly alternating between the Farm Centre in Charlottetown and Access PEI in Summerside. Topics covered included *Farmer requirements *Mandatory or not? *How will it be enforced? *What changes are required on your farm? *Worker's responsibilities.

Forklift Training for Farmers and Farm Workers

The level of support from producers and farm machinery dealers greatly enhanced our efforts to provide farm health and safety training. Participants receive a Certificate of Recognition to certify their participation in the safety course. Information was posted on our web site www.peifa.ca/farmsafety to find out about training offered by the Farm Health and Safety Program.

Emergency First Aid Training

Emergency First Aid Training for farmer, farm family members and farm workers was delivered. 80 persons trained in Emergency First Aid Training.

Training to students

Safe Tractor Day is now in its seventh year. The training includes a safe operation of a tractor classroom presentation; a walk-around tractor check prior to operation practical presentation; and a classroom presentation on safe operation of farm vehicles on PEI highways.

General Farm Safety Training

Farm Safety Training Workshops were offered to youth employed or seeking employment on PEI farms and to farm employees (full time or seasonal). The training deals with Employer and Worker responsibilities under the OH&S Act; use of personal protective equipment; machinery and tool safety; tractor and harvesting equipment safety; farm chemicals, silos, bin and manure storage; electrical safety; fall protection and fire safety.

Dates to Remember:

- CASHP Application Deadline
August 17th
- CASA Council Call for Nominations
September 5th - 14th
- CASA Council Elections
September 25th - October 5th
- CASA Board Call for Nominations
October 8th- 17th
- CASA Board Elections
October 29th - November 8th
- CASA AGM and Conference
November 11th - 13th

