



Liaison  
CASA



December Edition 2006



 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada    Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

## Did you know?

- This year Canadian Agricultural Safety Week will be March 14-20, 2007. The theme is "Protect your moving parts!" with a special focus on pinch points, crushes, entanglements and the importance of guarding. Please contact Theresa Whalen-Ruiter, CFA Farm Safety Coordinator at (613) 731-7321 or [farmsafety@cfafca.ca](mailto:farmsafety@cfafca.ca) for additional information.
- Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is presented by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), Farm Credit Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, along with more than 500 farm safety advocate organizations across Canada.

## A word from the chairman

Our annual conference in Canmore, Alberta has been a success. Not only CASA has become more visible, but safety as part of the farm plan has gained recognition. CASA continues to see itself in the role of an enabler which alone cannot advance farm safety; it needs the support and cooperation of all relevant groups across Canada. The challenge for all members is to make agricultural safety a higher priority among the organizations you deal with. The more there are organizations with agricultural safety as part of their mandate, the more likely we are to influence the culture.

As you may be aware, AAFC will be working with agricultural groups to develop the "Next Generation Agriculture and Agri-Food Policy". Some of you have been invited to participate in a stakeholders meeting on December 13th in Regina, Saskatchewan under the Renewal theme. CASA would like to ask you to please voice your opinion during the meeting about the importance of agricultural safety within the agricultural industry.

Thank you for your continual support to CASA and your ongoing efforts to reduce agricultural injuries in Canada.

I would like to extend a big thanks to our conference sponsors, Rod Scarlett, Laurel Aitken and Denis Roy of the Conference planning committee. See you next year in Ontario.

On behalf of our Council Members, our employees and myself, I extend our Best Wishes for the Holidays and a Happy New Year to all.

Glen G. Blahey  
Chairman





## NEWS

### Great news!

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Week campaign has won an Award of Merit in the 2006 IABC Silver Leaf Awards program, Media Relations division!

### CASA annual conference

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) held its conference and Annual General Meeting in late November in Canmore, Alberta. The focus of the conference demonstrated why it makes sense to include farm safety as part of a good business strategy.

"Industries across Canada struggle to implement safety climates within their respective organizations. At this conference we highlighted some lessons learned from other industries, showcased a cross section of farmers, and identified some unique challenges to implementation of standard safety practices within the agricultural workplace." said Glen G. Blahey, Chair of the Board.

### Changing a Culture

"Safety has not always been a word in a farmer's vocabulary. Changes are imminent; we have to modify how we look at safety to reduce the occurrence of accidents and injuries in the agriculture industry. Safety is viewed as timely and expensive, which it can be if not administered appropriately. However, ignorance to the consequences of an unsafe work environment can be catastrophic. Safety needs to be apart of a farm's way of life; it needs to be part of its culture. Changing culture is a monumental task and will take patience and persistence. Scott Hyshka will go into some of the steps that were taken to change this culture within the Sunterra Farms organization."

Scott Hyshka, Sunterra Farms - conference summary CASA annual conference

### The Overlap between Agricultural Safety Culture & Manufacturing

Concluding comments to ponder from the CASA annual conference in Canmore, Alberta.

- Safety culture & climate can be monitored/measured
- Monitoring can result in a lasting impact on safety performance (What gets measured... gets attended to )
- Ultimately depends on a leader's commitment (Who leads the leaders?)
- It is normal to take risks in routine situations (Bounded rationality decision-making)
- Leaders are the key to change (i.e. leaders can affect the level of support for risk taking)
- Strategic leaders create culture down the line and use measurement as lever for change

David Stuewe, Dalhousie University, Halifax

Dov Zohar, Institute for Work & Health, Toronto & Technion University, Haifa

## Dates to remember

2007 Managing Excellence in Agriculture Conference

- **January 31-February 2, 2007**

Grand Okanagan Resort, Kelowna B.C.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

- **March 14-20, 2007**

- **June 24-28, 2007** The National Institute

for Farm Safety 2006 Annual conference

will be held in Penticton Lakeside Resort,

BC; Call for Papers and Presentations

deadline is Jan 15, 2007

### The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA)

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Glen G. Blahey,  
CASA Chairman



Banquet at Brewster's  
MountView BBQ



Judy Guemsey on the left and  
Sue Dosman on the right



Casa Council Meeting

## Provincial / Territorial / Federal Government

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Glen G. Blahey, CRSP (elected 09/05)  
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## Canadian Young Farmers Forum

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### **CASA Board of Directors:**

Chairman: Glen G. Blahey, Manitoba Labour, Workplace Safety & Health Branch

Vice Chairman: Bruce Johnson, Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association

Secretary: Lloyd Evans, Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee

Treasurer: Jim Wassermann, Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute

Denis Bilodeau, Union des producteurs agricoles

Judy Guernsey, Dalhousie University

Chris Kletke, Canadian Young Farmers Forum

### **2005-2006 CASA COUNCIL MEMBERS**

For your information, here is a list of the CASA Council Members for 2005-2006:

### **Academia and Research**

Ted Eastley (appointed 09-05)  
Assiniboine Community College (ACC)  
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Dr. Judy Guernsey (appointed 12-04)  
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### **Agricultural Service and Supply Industries (1 vacancy)**

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### **Non profit / Individuals**

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