

January Edition 2007



CASA-ACSA
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association
Association canadienne de sécurité agricole



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Did you know?

- The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association was present at the Brandon Ag Day this past January 16-18 in Brandon, Manitoba.
- The 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, as well as over 500 farm safety advocate organizations from across Canada.
- The CASA website contains information on farm emergency situations

Contact us:

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Safety Association (CASA)**

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A Word From The President

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to express your opinions about the government consultation on the Next Generation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Policy www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen. I invite you to answer the seven questions in the discussion document to ensure that agricultural safety is given priority consideration in the Next Generation policy.

Glen G. Blahey
Chairman

News

A call to action

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is undergoing a series of consultations designed to allow stakeholders to provide input. The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) along with other organizations such as the Canadian Farm Business Management Council, Canadian 4-H Council, Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Canadian Young Producers Program and Canada's Outstanding Young Producers Program are funded through the existing Renewal program.

Among the proposed program objectives of the Renewal theme are:

- Assist agricultural sector/commodity groups in supporting innovation, diversification and transition activities within their industry.
- Help sectors to identify and address work force issues.

Farmers have had to make changes on their operations to comply with new food safety programs and environmental farm plans. Because of public pressure and the reality that the agricultural workplace continues to be one of the most hazardous workplaces in Canada, more and more provinces are enforcing the Occupational Health and Safety legislations at the farm level.

News

Compliance with increasing agricultural workplace regulations is costly, and another challenge to decreasing profit margins in primary agricultural. As part of the renewal strategy discussions you have an opportunity to highlight the need for a comprehensive strategy that will enable and encourage the agricultural workplace to improve its health and safety record.

Please participate in the public consultations to ensure Farm Safety is part of the next generation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Policy. Participation will give the opportunity for farmers to take charge and determine the direction you want the government to take in this area. Registration is now open for public consultations being held across the country between January 22 and February 29.

For more information visit our website: <http://www.casa-acsa.ca/english/index.html> or email us at: info@casa-acsa.ca

Protect your moving parts!

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Week will take place during the week of March 14 - 20, 2007 with the theme **"Protect your moving parts!"** CASA wishes to raise awareness among farming families about the seriousness of pinch points, crush injuries, entanglements and the importance of protection. For additional information on this subject, contact Marcel Hacault, CASA at 204-261-4948 or by email at farmsafety@cfafca.ca.

Let's Discover Quebec!

In Quebec, agriculture means...

- 43,400 farmers working at over 31,000 farming businesses
- the largest activity in the primary sector with sales of \$6.2 billion
- 58,000 direct jobs
- annual investment of over \$660 million in farms

Two-thirds of farm activities derive their profits mainly from animal production, the four most important areas being those of dairy, pork, poultry and beef products. Horticulture (edible and ornamental) accounts for 50% of plant cultivation revenue, followed by grain crops, oilseed crops and maple sugaring. Lumber producers annually cut down about 10 million cubic metres of timber amounting to some \$580 million, thus providing 18,000 jobs within the forest industry in the surrounding rural areas.

In Quebec, private forests mean...

- 129,000 lumber producers in possession of nearly 6.6 million hectares, or 71% of Quebec's rural land;
- annual production of 10 million cubic metres of lumber for an annual value of \$580 million;
- 20% of supplies for the forest industry;
- 18,000 jobs, mostly in rural areas.

In Quebec, the agri-food industry and private forests mean...

- some 467,762 jobs (12.6% of all jobs in Quebec);
- a 6.8% contribution to Quebec's gross domestic product (GDP);
- annual investment of over \$2.3 billion



PREVENTION: UPA's COMMITMENT

The Union des producteurs agricoles adheres to certain principles which have been developed over the years and which still guide us in our decisions regarding future undertakings. One of those 12 principles deals directly with prevention:

"The quality of life of farmers should always be a concern and thus, prevention of accidents and farming-related illnesses should be given utmost importance."

FARM SAFETY CONTEST

Each year, during the UPA general meeting, we recognize winners of the farm safety initiative contest. This contest is jointly organized by regional UPA associations, the Coopérative fédérée de Québec, Desjardins Sécurité financière and the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité au travail (workers' health and safety commission).

Gold Medal

Les SerresFrank Zyromski,
L'Annonciation, Fédération
d'Outaouais -the Laurentians

- Louise St-Arnaud and Julie Zyromski



PREVENTION MUTUAL GROUP

Created in 2003, the Mutuelle de prévention (a prevention mutual group) has 500 members and 13 safety consultants who visit them each year to help establish safe work methods. UPA's Mutuelle de prévention helps farmer members to save on the rate of their CSST contributions and at the same time become involved in the development of safer work methods. Within the group's program, safety consultants are provided with two days of training each year.



Visit to the Christian Lacasse farm, a dairy producer, during training in 2006

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM of health and safety advocates

Each January, we organize a symposium in preparation for Farm Safety Week. Some 70 to 100 people attend this event, including our CSST partners and those from the health network. This gives instructors an opportunity to prepare for the activities which are to take place during the Farm Safety Week. This annual symposium for advocates of farm health and safety took place on January 18 this year.

FARM SAFETY WEEK



The Farm Safety Week gives opportunity for UPA and the CSST to meet and, through a dozen of meetings, prepare the activities and material for this event.

Documents produced by UPA in collaboration with the Commission de santé et sécurité au travail du Québec (CSST).

60 regional workshops organized by several farm members, which are attended by their families. A number of tools are developed, such as videos showing accidents related to the annual theme. UPA is responsible for the preparation of activities and material for the 2007 Farm Safety Week, which will take place March 7-14.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS: WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT

For nearly a year now, and thanks to the financial backing by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), UPA has been developing tools to support regional associations in a broad information campaign on psychological distress. So far, they have produced a CD-ROM, published articles in the Terre de chez nous and other farming magazines, and an initiative to sensitize the governmental health resources to the problem in collaboration with the main unions and UPA's regional associations.



CD-ROM Moving Parts: Personal farm accident stories of 3 farmers

Dates to Remember

- 2007 Conference - Managing Excellence in Agriculture **January 31 - February 2, 2007**. Grand Okanagan Resort, Kelowna, B.C.
- CASA Conference a CASA safety day demonstrations, Kelowna BC. **February 2, 2007** (during the Managing Excellence in Agriculture 2007 conference)
- Canadian Agricultural Safety Week. **March 14 - 20, 2007**