



# Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, March 14 – 20, 2010

## FACT SHEET #1

### PEI a model for Farm Safety Code of Practice

In February 2006, Prince Edward Island released its Farm Safety Code of Practice – a first for Canada and a model for the other provinces. The need for a Farm Safety Code of Practice stems from agriculture's continued ranking as one of the most dangerous occupations in Canada.

*"Plan • Farm • Safety"* is the theme of this three-year Canadian Agricultural Safety campaign. Each aspect of the theme will be promoted over the next three years. This year the campaign will promote "Plan" with safety walkabouts and planning for safety. In the second year, the focus will be on "Farm" including implementation, documentation and training. In the third year, emphasis will be on "Safety" including assessment, improvement and further development of safety systems.

The year-long "Plan" campaign will be launched with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), from March 14 to 20. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) deliver CASW in partnership with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Each year in Canada, there are on average 115 deaths and 1500 hospitalizations that occur as a result of farm work. Health and safety on farms is important not just for farm workers but also for the owner and his/her family. According to studies by the Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting program (CAIR), two out of three farm fatalities (60%) tend to be the owner-operator. The remaining farm fatalities tend to be: a child of the owner-operator (15%); a hired worker (12%); a relative – perhaps a brother or parent (8%); or the owner-operator's spouse (3%); with the remaining (2%) being other visitors.

"The idea behind the Farm Safety Code of Practice is to promote safety as part of every day work on farms," says Laurent Pellerin, CFA President. "For farm owners, one of the most powerful things they can do when it comes to safety is to lead by example. Make the message clear to workers – if you work here, you work safely."

The Code of Practice was developed by the P.E.I. Workers Compensation Board in cooperation with the PEI Federation of Agriculture – a member organization of the CFA, and the National Farmers Union. Its purpose is to provide practical guidance for farm employers and workers to meet their requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act.

"Agriculture is a very diverse industry," explains Pellerin. "The Farm Safety Code of Practice helps to bridge the knowledge gap and clarifies expectations in the workplace."

The Code covers a variety of farm-related topics including first aid, personal protective equipment, machinery, ATVs, chemicals, livestock handling, storage equipment, electrical safety and fall and fire prevention, among others. A free copy can be downloaded at [http://www.wcb.pe.ca/photos/original/wcb\\_fs\\_cop.pdf](http://www.wcb.pe.ca/photos/original/wcb_fs_cop.pdf).

The revised Prince Edward Island OHS Act took effect as of January 1, 2007, and applies to all workplaces, including farm operations. It was developed to address specific occupational health and safety issues on Island farms, and well as to assist farm employers and workers to meet legal requirements of the OHS Act.

The CFA, CASA, FCC and AAFC want to remind Canadian farmers to “*Plan • Farm • Safety*” and make safety part of everything you do.

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\*\*\* Free photos and cartoons are available to accompany this article at [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca).

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