



Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, March 14 – 20, 2010

FACT SHEET #3

Be safe! Don't pay the price!

Insurance may offer you \$10,000 for a leg, \$6,000 for an arm, but fingers only net about \$900. What dollar value would assign to your body? How about your life? And what would the real costs of injury or death mean to you, your family and your business?

“*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.

“When it comes to safety on farms, a moment of carelessness can have tragic consequences,” says Marcel Hacault, CASA Executive Director. “Machines have no mercy and livestock have no conscience when it comes to dealing with humans. So it is up to each one of us to take responsibility for our own safety at all times – or it could cost dearly in many ways.”

Two of the leading causes of death on Canadian farms are machinery and livestock. For machinery – tractors are by far the worst with rollovers, runovers and entanglements being the most high-risk incidents. For non-machinery, the most risky activity is livestock handling – particularly bulls, horses, and cows with calves, says a study by the Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting program (CAIR).

On average, 115 people are killed and another 1,500 are seriously injured by farm-related incidents in Canada each year - and many more minor injuries are never even reported.

The CAIR study looked at hospitalized and non-hospitalized injuries, permanent disabilities and death and calculated estimations for direct costs including hospital care, physician services, drugs and rehabilitation. It also considered indirect costs such as loss of productivity and costs associated with living with a permanent disability as a result of injury.

The twelve-year study determined there was significant variation in the cost for each of these injury types. The cost for premature death was greatest at \$274,573, followed by a permanent disability injury

at \$142,553. The cost per hospitalized occurrence was \$10,144, and \$695 per non-hospitalized incident. In total, the cost to our economy for agricultural injuries is estimated at between \$200 and \$300 million annually.

The CFA, FCC, CASA, and AAFC want to remind Canadian farmers to “*Plan • Farm • Safety.*”

- 30 -

*** Free photos and cartoons are available to accompany this article at www.casa-acsa.ca .

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