

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Lack of Health and Safety Training for Agricultural industry.

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) commissioned the George Morris Centre to undertake a comprehensive review of existing agricultural education programs across Canada. The purpose was to develop an understanding of the availability and basic content of health and safety training available to those planning a career in agriculture and agribusiness.

Significant findings from the analysis revealed that the majority of health and safety training are offered in college programs as opposed to university programs. Privately-led courses are essentially continuing education courses and focus on business management, including human resources management.

"The lack of formal Occupational Health and Safety training in the University setting concerns me", said Glen G. Blahey, chair of CASA. "Everyone learns about business risk management from a financial perspective but few recognize the implications that sick or injured workers can cost the business as much or more than an uninformed business decision. Managing the safety of a workplace is as important as the business itself."

The report noted that farm health and safety was becoming a larger issue as farm operations increase in size and the numbers of employees increase. The analysis did not determine if there is enough training to meet the needs of the industry, but noted that there is an opportunity to provide continuing education in the area of the legislative and regulatory responsibilities of farm employers and farm workers.

Interested parties are invited to visit the website www.casa-acsa.ca or phone 1-204-452-2272 for more information.

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Canadian Agricultural Safety Association is a non-profit organization funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Renewal chapter. Our mission is to have Canadian agriculture free of workplace injuries and illnesses.

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Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

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Backgrounder

Health and Safety Training Available in Agricultural Education Programs

	College # (% of total programs)	University # (% of total programs)	Private/ Government # (% of total programs)
Total Number of Courses Offered	118 (100%)	62 (100%)	25 (100%)
Health and Safety Training Offered	82 (69.5%)	18 (29.0%)	10 (40.0%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers a Dedicated Health and Safety Course • Health and Safety Integrated in Curriculum • Offers both a Dedicated H&S Course and H&S Integrated in Curriculum • First Aid Training • Pesticide/Chemical Training (incl. WHMIS) 	55 (46.6%)	5 (8.1%)	4 (16.0%)
	57 (48.3%)	13 (20.9%)	6 (24.0%)
	30 (25.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
	30 (25.4%)	4 (6.4%)	6 (24.0%)
	61 (51.7%)	10 (16.1%)	5 (20.0%)
Human Resources Management Offered	34 (28.8 %)	11 (17.7%)	12 (48.0%)

Significant findings from the analysis revealed:

The majority of health and safety training is offered in the college programs and this may be because college programs tend to be more hands-on than university-level programs. Of the college programs that provide health and safety training, 30% (25 out of 82) provide it solely through dedicated courses, 33% (27 out of 82) integrate it into other curriculum and 37% (30 out of 82) provide both a dedicated course and integrate it into other curriculum as well. With respect to health and safety curriculum provided through non college and university programs, other than the courses offered through farm safety associations, not a lot exists. On the other hand, these privately-led courses are essentially continuing education courses for those already in the industry and focus more on business management, including human resources management.