

# Liaison CASA



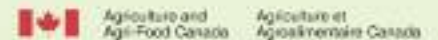
June 2009

## Word from the Chairman

As farms spring to life across the country, we're already counting the dead – 11 reported this year to the end of May, including one three year-old boy. Even though we are working hard to keep farmers safe, we're on track again for a hundred plus farm fatalities this year. It's simply not acceptable.

That's why CASA is committed to broadening its involvement and reach through provincial and commodity groups. It's why CASA's putting even more resources toward interpretation of national injury data to better understand the cause and nature of these tragedies. It's also why CASA is pursuing charitable status to build a sustainable funding base for projects such as Safety Days® for Canada's rural kids.

CASA, including its staff, directors, the CASA Council and other interested individuals, have worked hard to prepare a four-year strategic plan to support the Growing Forward policy framework developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The plan outlines CASA's overall objectives to 2013:



**Canadian Agricultural Safety  
Association (CASA)**

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### Leverage **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT** for action –

1. To develop, maintain, support and utilize the collection of data on farm health, economic cost and safety issues
2. To remodel existing resources and training programs to address worker shortages
3. To identify, translate and disseminate safety research results leading to practical innovations

### Lead **RISK MANAGEMENT** for change & innovation –

1. To facilitate industry innovation, adaptation and package best practices guidelines for farm safety management
2. To pilot test and evaluate safety management practices and safety plans
3. To develop targeted capacity building strategies and partnerships across producer, stakeholder, and commodity groups (e.g. YOUTH, FIRST NATIONS, producers, manufacturers and suppliers)

### Guide **HAZARD MANAGEMENT** for reach & impact –

1. To increase adoption of evidence-based safety management practices
2. To promote, facilitate and integrate the use of agricultural safety planning as a key component of Food Safety, Risk Management, Environmental and Human Resources programs
3. To increase the impact of partner, stakeholder, and regional outreach of Ag Safety initiatives

I know this is an aggressive program but it is one that we must start now if we are to change the status quo. I look forward to working with you to achieve CASA's goal that we believe will ultimately help ensure the sustainability of Canada's agricultural industry.

Bruce Johnson  
CASA Chair

# From the **Executive Director**



Spring is here for most of us, and everyone is itching to get on with the new season. We're ramping up activities – cleaning seed, preparing pastures or emptying manure (nutrients).

Similarly, activities are ramping up at the CASA office. The new work plans and budgets are being finalized and we're very close to transitioning the

injury surveillance program to a new home. Jonas is refining CASHP guidelines and wrapping up last year's paperwork. David is working closely with Safety Day coordinators and Diane just organized a meeting of farm safety communications staff to follow up on the Summit directions.

Our March awareness activities of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, plus the release of the latest fatality reports ensured that agricultural safety was front and centre in most farm papers, TV and the Occupational Health and Safety magazine. The message was that most of us are very interested in farm safety, but there is still a long way to go. As Barack Obama has said, "Some are to blame, but all are responsible".

## So here's what you can do to help:

- Send us news tidbits of what is happening in your community so Diane can include them in our weekly CASAcommuniqué,
- Sign up to host a PAF Safety Day® in your community during 2010,
- Let us know if there are resources CASA should carry in its "CASA Store". We are developing a Store on our website where members can purchase, rent or borrow safety demonstration resources,
- Let us know if we should be contacting someone to help us build our Safe Farms charitable foundation that's now under development.

Steve Mahoney, chair of the WSIB in Ontario, in addressing the Farm Safety Association's annual meeting in late March said "We don't need more laws, we just need new attitudes". With your support, we can continue to change attitudes to work toward CASA's vision of "a Canada where no one is hurt farming".

Enjoy spring,  
Marcel Hacault



**Save the date:** November 12-13, 2009 for **CASA's 2009 conference and AGM at the Delta Fredericton in Fredericton, New Brunswick.** Check the program and register online this summer at [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca).

## Introducing **CASA Director** Billy Woods



Billy Woods is a slight, unassuming man with a Newfie twang and twinkling eye. He's also passionate about "preaching" farm safety. He doesn't want anybody else to go through anything like the evening that changed his life forever.

It was a quarter to eight the evening of April 10, 1996. The wind was picking up and Billy was just about ready to turn off the stationary manure pump. Suddenly, a gust of wind blew a bootlace

into the machine's Power Take Off.

"It pulled my foot up and I tumbled onto the shaft," Billy says. "I was actually whirled around the PTO at 540 rpms. I remember thinking I'm done."

Billy thinks he blanked out for a moment but the next thing he remembers he's walking up to the barn holding his mangled left arm. "I put on a tourniquet myself and about an hour later, I was in hospital."

"I was really lucky," Billy admits. "I should be dead. My size – or lack of it – probably saved me as I was pulled under the shaft and not through it." He has to remind himself of that luck some days. Those are the days when the continuous phantom pain really gets to him. Those are the days he renews the promise he made to himself to "never take farm safety lightly".

His advice to other farmers? "Know when to say when. Don't work until you're totally exhausted. Take breaks. And take safety precautions."

There's a metal shield over the PTO cover on the manure pump these days. But even so, Billy knows that shaft is just three inches away and he's super careful. He takes that approach to safety to his new position as a director of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association.

It's the second time he's served in this capacity but he's even more determined to make a difference this time. "I want to help out", he says. "I want people to understand it can happen to them. I want to influence as many people as possible to think safety first."

Billy does his best to make a difference in people's lives. He's a tireless speaker at farm and youth safety meetings around the Maritimes and right across Canada. He combines his love for his family with his passion for five-pin bowling. Billy's competed in national, singles, men's and mixed tournaments all over Canada. This June, he's coaching the Nova Scotia team in the Canadian 5-Pin Opens in Saskatoon.

Billy grins and sums up his farm safety approach this way. "I teach by bad example," he says. "And I'm lucky to be here to do it."

# New guidelines for Canadian Agricultural Safety and Health Program (CASHP) Apply soon!

The Canadian Agricultural Safety and Health Program (CASHP) has set new guidelines for funding ag safety initiatives that support CASA's mission to make the ag sector a safe place to work and live by helping producers see and manage risk in their workplace.

**CASA project manager Jonas Johnson says projects should fit one of four priority areas – research and development; safe farm operations and management; communications; building sector capacity to implement safety on farms.**

CASHP's selection committee may consider allocating funds to projects outside the priority area if they make a significant contribution to increasing ag safety and health.

The next application deadline July 24 this year. Eligible projects must be completed by March 2010. Funding availability for 2009-10 is subject to funding by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Applications may come from: individuals; producer organizations; non-profit organizations; agricultural service/supply associations; academia and research. Provincial and municipal governments, crown corporations and government agencies are eligible only if they are acting as delivery agents of the CASHP funds to an eligible recipient.

**For CASHP details and application forms, check [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca), email [info@casa-acsa.ca](mailto:info@casa-acsa.ca) or call 1-877-452-2272.**

## FARSHA focuses on learner centered education. Uses CASHP funds to develop narrative simulation exercises

Narrative simulations aren't new. Henry Cole of the University of Kentucky has been using the technique effectively for years in workplace safety and health training. But until now, developing appropriate narrative simulations based on Canadian situations wasn't particularly straightforward. FARSHA is working to make it easier.

Bruce Johnson is FARSHA's executive director. He'd always been impressed with the sticking power of lessons learned through narrative simulations and he wanted to use the technique more often in FARSHA's training programs. So in 2008, FARSHA applied for and received CASHP funding to develop templates for narrative simulations.

Johnson has them all ready to go now and he's very excited about the new tool. He says FARSHA's next step is to form a team to develop stories, work them into the templates, pilot them in group safety training and train FARSHA consultants to use the new technique.

Johnson says using narrative simulation is an exciting new beginning for farm safety training in BC and he says there's no reason to think the template won't be just as appropriate for use anywhere in Canada.

He explains that narrative simulations unfold a story to teach lessons that can change attitudes and even behavior. The problems discussed are authentic, but they are NOT case studies. He says the groups discuss realistic decision alternatives and evaluate the consequences.

Johnson adds that the templates work for several different presentation formats. For instance, using a computer, participants could enter answers and receive instant feedback. Or they could use graphics on paper while the facilitator tells the story via PowerPoint. Participants might even choose courses of action using latent image paper that then displays a hidden message or comment.

The newly developed narrative simulation templates include guidance notes and a template to develop each exercise as well as facilitator's notes to deliver the program.

# New Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) resources online

CASA has produced several practical guides to help producers choose the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect both hearing and breathing. So - go to your computer right now, type in [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca) and download posters and a factsheet with diagrams and clear instructions to help you choose and fit hearing and respiratory protective equipment. Marcel Hacault, CASA's executive director, says the posters are designed to clearly demonstrate proper installation of earplugs and earmuffs appropriate to every farm job.

Hacault says the respiratory factsheet explains what to look for when purchasing a mask or filter and how to fit and care for the equipment. "The posters would be great on the wall of a farm shop or barn," he says, "and we expect ag suppliers will also find both the posters and the factsheets useful to give to customers."

"We know most producers want to wear and provide proper hearing and breathing protection," he adds, "but they may not know exactly what to purchase or how to use it. Our new resources answer those questions."



The hearing protection posters are available in several sizes to print from CASA's website. The respiratory protection factsheet prints as two pages.

Canada's horticulture newspaper - The Grower - reprinted the respiratory factsheet in its March edition and will distribute the hearing posters in the paper later this year. Several other farm publications are also planning to print and distribute the new resources in the fall.

# Latest CAISP report shows Canadian farm fatalities are decreasing

Fatal agricultural injury data from 1990 to 2005 show the safety record on Canadian farms is improving. Based on the most recent report from the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program (CAISP), the number of people killed on farms in Canada has declined during the past 16 years. According to CAISP data, there were fewer fatal injuries among children in Canada aged one to 14 and among adults 15 to 59.

Marcel Hacault is executive director of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association that oversees CAISP. He says “the statistics are evidence of a safety culture changing for the better within Canadian agriculture – except in adults over 60”.

The CAISP data showed no change in the rolling average of fatal injuries for farmers over 60. “That”, he says, “is an indication that older adults are actually at increased risk on farms.”

Hacault also points out that the data show agricultural injuries are not due to random or isolated “accidents”. Instead, there are many recurrent patterns of injury – with agricultural machinery involved most often.

In the sixteen years from 1990-2005, 1,769 people were killed in agricultural injury events in Canada. Hacault points out that agricultural machines were involved in 71% of the fatalities with rollovers accounting for almost a quarter of the deaths and machine runovers just slightly behind.

Nine out of 10 of those fatally injured as a result of agricultural work were boys and men. Hacault says over 95% of those were 65 years of age or older. Fatality rates were lowest for adults of normal working age, though they had the greatest exposure to the hazards of agricultural work.

Hacault says if more producers made sure all their tractors had Roll Over Protection and seatbelts, it would go along way toward making farm work safer. He also advises parents to keep all children under 12 from operating tractors of any size.

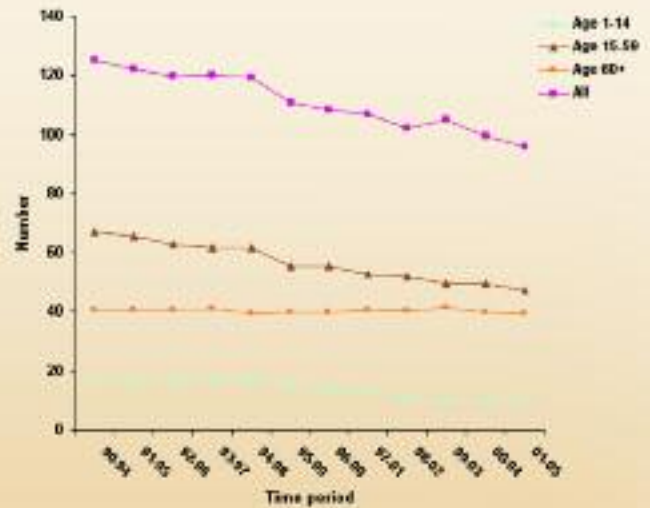
For the complete report Agricultural Fatalities in Canada 1990 – 2005 from the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program, go to [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca).

## Highlights Agricultural Fatalities in Canada for 1990-2005 from CAISP

1990 to 2005	All age groups	Children 1-14	Adults 15-59	Adults 60+
Age range	1-99	1-14	15-59	60-99
Number killed*	1,769	217	904	642
Percentage of all fatalities for all ages	100	12.3	51.1	36.3
Percentage of machine injuries	70.9	64.1	70.5	74.1
Percentage of non-machine injuries	29.1	35.9	29.5	25.9
Number and percentage of males	1,621 (91.6)	172 (79.3)	832 (92.0)	611 (95.2)
Number and percentage of females	148 (8.4)	45 (20.7)	72 (8.0)	31 (4.8)

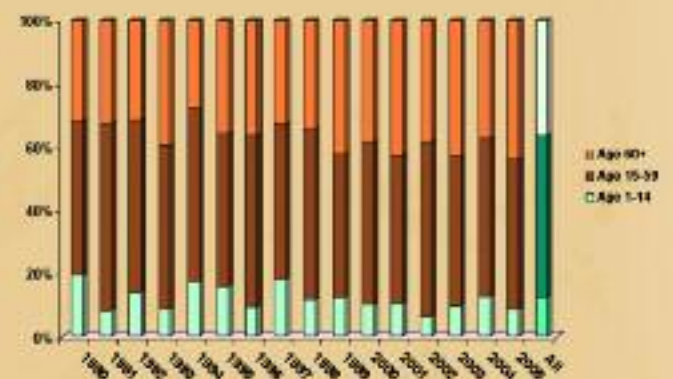
\*Age was not known in six cases.

## Rolling five year averages of fatal injuries by age group, 1990 to 2005



From 1990 to 2005, there was a linear decline in the overall five-year rolling average of fatal injuries. During the 16-year surveillance period there was also a linear decline in the five year rolling average of fatal injuries among adults aged 15 to 59 and among children aged 1 to 14. From 1990 to 2005 there was no significant change in the five-year rolling average of fatal injuries in adults aged 60 and over.

## Proportion of agricultural fatalities in each age group by year, 1990 to 2005



There were far more persons aged 60 and over killed in agricultural injury events than would be expected given their representation in the farm population.

## Leading causes of agricultural fatalities in Canada 1990-2005 all age groups

Rank	Mechanism of injury	Number	Percent
1	Machine rollover	363	20.5
2	Machine runover	329	18.6
3	Machine entanglement	147	8.3
4	Traffic collision	130	7.3
5	Pinned/struck by machine	124	7.0
6	Animal-related	104	5.9
7	Struck by object (non-machine)	93	5.3
8	Drowned	56	3.2
9	Fall from height	55	3.1
10	Struck by object (machine)	50	2.8
11	Toxic substance	47	2.7
12	Suffocated in grain or soil	37	2.1
13	Fall from machine	33	1.9
14	Fire/explosion	30	1.7
15	Exposure to electric current	23	1.3

Agricultural Fatalities in Canada For 1990-2005 includes an analysis of Canadian Agricultural Surveillance Program (CAISP) fatal agricultural injury data in Canada for the sixteen calendar years from 1990 to 2005. The purpose of this report is to describe the magnitude of the agricultural fatality problem in Canada and to determine age-related patterns of injury. A main objective of CAISP is to identify agricultural injury patterns in order to facilitate the design and targeting of specific prevention initiatives.

# CFA-CASA partnership makes farms safer

BY THERESA WHALEN-RUITER, CFA FARM SAFETY CONSULTANT

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) was pleased to partner with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association in the delivery of three key projects in 2008-09 including the online Farm Safety Photo Gallery, Canadian Agricultural Safety Week and four national radio public service announcements (PSAs).

The Farm Safety Photo Gallery was launched in January 2009 on the CASA website [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca). It consists of 80 images including photos, cartoons and line art. Careful consideration was given to depicting positive farm safety messages to illustrate the correct and safe way of doing things, not the disturbing consequences of doing something wrong. The high resolution photos are available in .jpg and .tiff formats and are free for anyone to use for non-commercial purposes. Likewise with the cartoons, which were developed by renowned Canadian cartoonist Gordon Coulthart, co-creator of the 'Farcus' cartoon series, who first created 'The Barnders' for the 2008 Canadian Agricultural Safety Week campaign. The online Farm Safety Photo Gallery was delivered by CFA in partnership with Pioneer Hi-Bred (Canada) Ltd. and CASA.

To lead into Canadian Agricultural Safety Week and keep farm safety in the spotlight throughout the year, radio public service announcements (PSAs) were produced and distributed nationally. Two messages of 15 and 30 seconds were produced in English and French (total of four) and made available for airing to Canada's 236 English and 86 French broadcasters. The message promotes the 2009 theme "PPE only works if you use it!"

On March 12, two Canadian Agricultural Safety Week launch events were held – one at the NL Federation of Agriculture AGM in Gander and the other at the Kitchener-Waterloo Farm Safety Rally in St. Jacob's, Ontario to kick off the 2009 farm safety theme "Personal protective equipment (PPE) only works if you use it!". The events and campaign materials were well received both locally and nationally earning three television news spots, 8 radio interviews, and almost 300 newspaper clippings across Canada by the end of March.

The CASW campaign has grown over the last few years and now has a network of over 700+ contacts and a reach of about one in three Canadian farmers. The success of the 2008 CASW campaign was recognized with a Bronze Award from the Canadian Farm Writer's Federation, press release division. CASW is delivered by CFA in partnership with the CASA, Farm Credit Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. For more information visit [www.cfa-fca.ca](http://www.cfa-fca.ca) or [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca). Working together, we can continue to make Canadian farms safer places to work and live.



Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is launched in Gander, Newfoundland on March 12 at the annual meeting of the Newfoundland Labrador Federation of Agriculture. (L-R) Billy Woods, CASA; Merv Wiseman, retiring president of the NL Federation of Agriculture; Harry Harding, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister Responsible for the NL Forestry and Agri-foods Agency; Christine Wheaton, Farm Credit Canada; and Paul Lomond,



Wingham, ON area farmer Chris Palmer shows what is left of the sweatshirt he was wearing when he got caught in a power take-off (PTO) shaft in June 2008. Palmer told his story of survival as part of the launch of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week launched March 12 at the Kitchener-Waterloo Farm Safety Rally in St. Jacobs, Ontario.



Steve Mahoney, Chair of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) in Ontario (on right with white shirt) addresses a crowd of approximately 125 farmers at the launch of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, March 12. The launch was hosted by Kitchener-Waterloo Volunteer Farm Safety Committee.



## Ontario's Farm Safety Association realigned on the "Road to Zero"

Ontario's Farm Safety Association (FSA) is changing. It will no longer be a stand-alone organization. Instead it will join with the IAPA (Industrial Accident Prevention Association) and OSSA (Ontario Service Safety Alliance) as part of a province-wide effort to consolidate all 12 health and safety associations into four new organizations focused on following the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) strategy "Road to Zero".

In a recent letter to FSA stakeholders, CEO Dean Anderson says the Farm Safety Association supports and is committed to the "Road to Zero". "We also support the need for change that has a strong customer focus based on the needs of our members and industry," he adds.

Anderson explains that under the leadership of the WSIB and the Executive Committee of the Occupational Health & Safety Council of Ontario (OHSCO), comprised of representatives from the 12 Ontario health and safety associations including the Farm Safety Association, the Workers' Health & Safety Centre, and the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers, a review of the health and safety system across the province is being undertaken. In doing so, barriers to the WSIB's strategic plan, called the "Road to Zero", have been identified including:

- insufficient resources at the front line
- a lack of coordinated use of current resources
- disproportionate services and outcomes
- a delay in responding to changes in customer needs

As a result, Anderson says a new model for service delivery has been proposed which would reduce the current number of health and safety associations from 12 to four and include a separate, integrated back office – a designated entity - supporting the four new organizations.

He adds that the rationale cited for the proposal is to:

- reinvest in front-line activities through a consolidated back office and FSA integration
- maintain highly specialized, sector-specific field operations and customer advisory group guidance
- highlight the needs of small business, public sector employees, and the under-served region of Northern Ontario
- delineate service providers using two categories based on commonality of risk, workplaces, and hazards

The WSIB has committed to change within the system and indicated support for the model. Anderson says the Farm Safety Association is and will remain active in this process to ensure that any changes will effectively meet the needs of its member firms to drive the elimination of injuries, deaths, and illness in Ontario workplaces.

As such, the FSA is seeking a solid business case for the proposed change including costing and other financial details crucial in the decision-making process. "We capitalize on every opportunity to provide input," Anderson adds, "and will continue to share further information on this important initiative with you our stakeholders as it becomes available."

**Further information including an overview of the proposed model will be available shortly on our website at [www.farmsafety.ca](http://www.farmsafety.ca). In the meantime, should you wish to learn more about the proposed changes or discuss this initiative further, please contact Dean Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Safety Association, via email at [danderson@farmsafety.ca](mailto:danderson@farmsafety.ca).**