



Did you know?

According to Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting statistics, an average of 13 children dies every year as a result of agricultural incidents in Canada. Between 1990 and 2008, 248 children under 15 years of age were killed in agricultural incidents.

Approximately 44 per cent of those children were under the age of five. The good news is children take home what they learn in school. When you bring the importance of safety into your class, you're not just making a difference for them but potentially any family they have that frequents a farm.

Be a Bridge. Teachers can be a point of contact between students and the adult community. Let your students know that they can talk to you about any concerns they have about safety in the workplace. If you become aware of a potential problem, take steps to address it, and refer the student to additional resources. Don't let dangerous situations persist. Be responsible and proactive.

Be Informed. If you're speaking to a class about farm safety, make sure you've done your homework. Even if you have farm experience from your youth, many things may have changed since then. Out of date information won't be helpful and could even be misleading or increase the risk of a farm injury. There are many free online farm safety resources, including lesson plans and age-appropriate activities. Educational videos and teaching kits are available from the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, for no charge.

Start a Conversation. Young people are often more willing to take advice from their peers than from their teachers, so a controlled group discussion about agricultural safety might be more effective than a lecture. Ask students who have farm experience to speak about how they perform farm activities safely. Brainstorm a list of potential hazards on the farm and what they can do about the risks those hazards pose. Remember to keep possible solutions age-appropriate and safe. Ask your students to share any stories of people they know who have experienced a farm injury. Discuss how the injury could have been avoided. Remind kids that a farm is no place for daredevils and show-offs.



Take Safe Field Trips. A field trip to a farm is a great opportunity to discuss farm safety. Have a thorough discussion of safety before leaving the school, and ensure that the person leading the tour reviews the appropriate precautions before you set off. Ask your guide to point out the safety systems that they have in place and explain their purpose. Remember that your goal is not to make the farm seem dangerous, but to demonstrate how increased awareness contributes to safe practices.

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Talk About Safe Work. If your students are living or working in the agricultural sector, talk to them about safety on the farm. Young workers can be most at risk of workplace injuries because they are often inexperienced, eager to please, over-confident, or shy. Make sure they know how to protect themselves, stress the importance of taking responsibility for their safety, and give them opportunities to practice discussing safety with adults.

Elementary School

Even very young children can learn to recognize hazard symbols such as “poison” and “corrosive”, and can be taught not to touch bottles and cans if they don’t know what’s in them. They can learn respect for livestock and heavy machinery, and that some areas are off-limits because they’re dangerous. Older children can learn the meaning of words like “corrosive” and can connect them to their corresponding hazard symbols. Older children can engage in discussions of the types of hazards found on the farm.

High School

Teaching a full unit on agricultural safety may not be practical, but it’s easy to work the concepts into lessons in a variety of subjects.

Science. When reviewing Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) symbols and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) include real-world examples of chemicals used on a farm. Use Material Safety Data Sheets as examples of how chemistry knowledge can be useful outside of school, or use the creation of silo gas as an example of a chemical reaction. During biology classes, talk about the effects of hazardous materials on the organs or cells. In physics, use lessons on energy and force to underline the importance of reduced speeds around agricultural equipment of great mass.

Physical Education. Stress the importance of taking breaks and staying hydrated during periods of physical exertion. Remind students that this is always important, whether playing sports or working outdoors. If your provincial curriculum includes a safety component, consider incorporating farm workplaces into your discussions as examples for students who can relate to these scenarios.

Social Sciences. Talk about labour laws and safety standards in the workplace. Describing the creation of modern labour laws as an achievement will help students appreciate their importance and make them more likely to assert themselves on the job. Be aware of any exceptions which apply to farm labour in your province.

Business. Stress the importance of health and safety for employees in any business, with examples from agriculture. Explain the legal risks that business owners face in regard to their employee’s safety and what the implications of a serious injury or fatality can be for a business’s viability. When offering examples, be sure to include both physical and psychological impacts which have resulted from unsafe work.



Resources

BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia
Agriculture Council
bcac.bc.ca

Farm and Ranch Safety
and Health Association
farsha.bc.ca

WorkSafe BC
worksafebc.com

ALBERTA

Alberta Federation
of Agriculture
afaonline.ca

Alberta Farm Safety
Program
[www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet623](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet623)

Alberta Farm Safety
Centre
abfarmsafety.com

Workers' Compensation
Board of Alberta
wcb.ab.ca

SASKATCHEWAN

Agricultural Producers
Association of
Saskatchewan
apas.ca

Saskatchewan
Abilities Council
abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

The Agricultural Health
and Safety Network
aghealth.usask.ca

Workers' Compensation
Board of Saskatchewan
wcbask.com

Government of
Saskatchewan –
Labour Relations
and Workplace Safety
sasklabourrelationsboard.com

MANITOBA

Keystone Agricultural
Producers
kap.mb.ca

Workplace Safety
and Health
gov.mb.ca/labour/safety

Workers Compensation
Board of Manitoba
wcb.mb.ca

SafeWork
safemanitoba.com

ONTARIO

Ontario Federation
of Agriculture
ofa.on.ca

Workplace Safety &
Prevention Services
healthandsafetyontario.ca

Ontario Ministry of Labour
labour.gov.on.ca

Workplace Safety
and Insurance Board
of Ontario
wsib.on.ca

QUEBEC

L'Union des producteurs
agricoles
upa.qc.ca

Commission de la santé
et de la sécurité du travail
du Québec
csst.qc.ca

NEW BRUNSWICK

Agricultural Alliance
of New Brunswick
fermenbfarm.ca

Safety Services
New Brunswick
safetyservicesnb.ca

WorkSafeNB
worksafenb.ca

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Newfoundland and
Labrador Federation
of Agriculture
nlfa.ca

Service Newfoundland
and Labrador –
Occupational Health
and Safety
servicenl.gov.nl.ca/ohs

Workplace Health,
Safety and Compensation
Commission of
Newfoundland and
Labrador
whscc.nl.ca

NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia Federation
of Agriculture
nsfa-fane.ca

Society of Farm Safety
Nova Scotia
farmsafetyns.ca

Workers' Compensation
Board of Nova Scotia
wcb.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Labour
and Advanced Education
– Health and Safety
gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Prince Edward Island
Federation of Agriculture
peifa.ca

Workers Compensation
Board of Prince Edward
Island
wcb.pe.ca

Prince Edward
Island Public Service
Commission –
Occupational Health
and Safety
gov.pe.ca/psc/ohs

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