

AgSafe BC
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So You Think You Can Be An Ag Safety Advisor????

A safety professional venturing into the world of agriculture presents many unanticipated challenges. Cows and manure are hazards that many who are involved in safety are completely unfamiliar with. We will look at the professional's leap from classrooms and urban sites to cranberry bogs and manure pits.

Learning to ask the 'right' questions at the correct opportunities became the key to being granted an invitation to review safety on the farm. Explaining to farmers that I was not trying to make extra work for them by adding safety to their already full day but that I wanted to help them incorporate it into their tasks allowed me to ask the questions. In being the 'expert' on safety and acknowledging the farmer as the expert in everything they do, it was clear that I was there to learn. When you ask a dairy farmer "what's a heifer?" they know you are likely not going to tell them how to go about their business.

Farmers are eager to share their stories and are proud of their farms - by encouraging this and providing insight into how things can be done with a focus on the safest way, the path of least resistance can be found.