

# CANFARMSAFE

The Voice of the Canadian Agriculture Safety Program

Issue No. 10

Spring 2001

A silhouette of a farmer wearing a cap and safety glasses, operating a tractor. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow behind the farmer and the tractor. The farmer's hands are on the steering wheel, and the tractor's controls are visible.

**Preventing a run over  
on your farm**

**Farm safety innovations**

**The voice of experience**

Supplement to Farm Focus, La Terre de Chez Nous, Ontario Farmer, Manitoba Cooperator, Western Producer & Agri Digest

**what's NEW. . .**

✓ Letters to the Editor	p	2
✓ Farm Safety Innovations	p	4
✓ She's a Farmer!	p	6
✓ From the Research Desk	p	6
✓ CCASRH 6th Annual Conference	p	7
✓ CASP Project Reports	p	8
✓ The Voice of Experience	p	11
✓ Kids' Korner	p	15

*CANFARMSAFE is available in French and English.*

**ABOUT CASP**

The primary objective of the Canadian Agriculture Safety Program (CASP) is to decrease the number of farm injuries and fatalities across Canada. By increasing safety awareness and promoting healthy attitudes, CASP aims to create a safe environment for farmers and farm workers, their families and communities. The program is administered by the Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health and sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

# Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I wish to report a near fatality of some years ago when my father was helping to move a house. The mover and his son were present. The son was labouring on a bar, turning a screw-jack to raise the house and the mover suggested that he and my father could assist on an 18-foot pry. The house was going up but the mover told his son to put a block under the house in case something slipped.

My father and the mover were out on the end of the pry to assist the screw-jack when the threads gave way. Down came the house and the two men would have been thrown over the house, only for the block the house mover had instructed his son to put under the framework. The pry could have turned into a catapult if the block had not been installed. The men were thrown high in the air but came down

unhurt. Hydraulic jacks are used more now but they also can get into trouble. Raymond Hart, Claresholm, AB

*The Editor replies:*

*Thanks, Ray, for an excellent safety story. Working safely is like defensive driving - you need to think ahead and picture the worst case scenario. Then, plan how to protect yourself in case it happens.*

To the Editor:

We live on a farm with a lot of traffic in and out of our driveway and are also located on a very busy road close to an elevator. Semi trucks barrel down our road, and we would like to try to get them to slow down. Especially when children are standing by the road waiting for the bus. We are looking for the large yellow, gold

**from the EDITOR**

We welcome questions, comments and submissions. Contact:

The Editor  
**CANFARMSAFE**  
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 103 Hospital Drive  
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 Fax: (306)966-8799  
 E-mail: bidwellj@sask.usask.ca  
 Deadline for submissions for the  
 Fall 2001 CANFARMSAFE issue is  
 June 15, 2001.

Go Slowly Children signs that show a design of children walking. We see them around here quite a bit. Might you have these signs? If not, could tell us where they are available? I would like to obtain three of them.

Rob and Lisa Koppert, Norwich, ON

*The Editor replies:*

*Posting warning signs to alert drivers to children in the area sounds like a good plan. Here is the name of a supplier you might try. The suppliers catalogue shows a black and yellow sign, 18 by 24 inches, that reads either CAUTION... CHILDREN or CAUTION... CHILDREN AT PLAY.*

*Both signs show a graphic of a running child. The cost for 1 to 5 signs is \$39 per unit (non-reflective) or \$83.20 per unit (reflective).*

Seton Safety and Identification Solutions Tel: 1.800.263.1623 or (905) 764.4210 Fax: 1.800.663.3425 Website (to order on line): www.seton.ca



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# 2001 Farm Safety Theme Focuses on Run Over Prevention

## RUNOVERS ARE PREVENTABLE

Each year tractor run overs account for one in four of all agricultural deaths and one in eight hospitalizations. To address this issue, Canadian Agricultural Safety Week will focus on the theme "Run Overs Are Preventable." Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, formerly known as National Farm Safety Week, is set to run from March 14 to 21, 2001.



**FACT:** Run overs by agricultural equipment, primarily tractors, account for one in four deaths and one in eight hospitalizations of work-related farm injuries.

To help raise awareness, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), Farm Credit Corporation (FCC), the Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health (CCASRH) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) have teamed up to develop educational materials outlining ways of preventing tractor run overs.

Canadian farmers will be receiving the "Run Overs Are Preventable" message from both the media and from their local farm organizations. As part of the National Media Campaign, press kits that include a news release, bulletins, contacts and Web site information, along with promotional posters and a decal have been distributed to weekly newspapers, farm publications and farm organizations.

Farm organizations across Canada are helping to spread the Farm Safety message by distributing a promotional poster that farmers are encouraged to hang in their work area as a safety reminder. The poster emphasizes how to prevent three of the leading causes of run overs, including being watchful of co-workers and using hand signals to communicate; ensuring there is a fenced-in play area for children; and turning off the ignition before dismounting the tractor. Along with these posters, "No Riders" decals are being distributed throughout the farming community to be placed on tractors as a reminder of the dangers of having extra riders.

"Almost all run over tragedies are



preventable," explains CFA president, Bob Friesen. "That's the reason we're targeting our efforts at urging farmers to make safety and prevention a priority on their farms."

Studies done by the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program reveal that run overs by farm vehicles are most often the result of: children playing in work areas, chil-



**FACT:** Almost half (44%) of child fatalities on farms are caused by run overs.

dren as extra riders, co-workers near the farm vehicle, farmers working on equipment from the ground while the tractor is running, and by-pass or "jump-starting" a tractor. "We have to make it clear that safety is a choice,

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not an act of fate," says Friesen. "Certain activities have predictable consequences and, if something is predictable, then it's also preventable."

Each year, on average, 118 people are killed and another 1,727 are seriously injured by farm-related incidents in Canada; and there are countless minor injuries that are never even



**FACT:** Vibrations from an idling tractor can slip the transmission into gear and cause a run over.

reported. Incidents involving tractors and other self-propelled equipment remain the number one cause of death and injury to Canadian farmers.

"As the time for spring field work nears," says Cathy Vanstone, Chair of CCASRH, "this campaign brings to the forefront the importance of following safe farming practices - not just during Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, but all year long.

This point of view is shared by all partners involved. "We believe the long-term strength of the agricultural industry depends on a safer workplace for Canadian farmers," says John Ryan, FCC President and CEO. "We're proud to support Canadian Agricultural Safety Week 2001. If we can help prevent one injury or fatality, we will have made a difference."

For more information and downloadable resources, please visit the CFA Web site at [www.cfa-fca.ca](http://www.cfa-fca.ca) or call CFA Farm Safety Coordinator, Theresa Whalen-Ruiter. Tel/Fax: (613) 731-7321 E-mail: [twr@magma.ca](mailto:twr@magma.ca). 🌟

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## Farm Safety Innovations

*Farmers have a reputation for being innovative problem-solvers. They keep equipment up and running and find easier, less expensive ways of doing things. If you know a farmer whose innovation enhances safety or health, please alert the Editor. Publishing product information does not constitute endorsement.*

**D**ave Stoneman of Fisher Branch, Manitoba is a cattleman with years of experience. Like any seasoned cowboy, he knows cattle don't always cooperate.

"It's a sorry sight," he says "to see a 200 pound man trying to win an argument with a 1400 pound cow."

Stoneman has spent the better part of a lifetime freeze-branding, trimming hooves, testing blood and operating an artificial insemination business. Procedures

like those, and the regular spring and fall processing of cattle, require having animals move single file down an alley and through a head-gate. "Problems arise," he says, "when an animal gets spooked and won't enter the chute or decides to back out, due to human distractions."

Four years ago, he enlisted the help

of local welder, Todd Mazur, to create a device that simplifies cattle movement through an alleyway. Corral work typically involves several people,



*Dave Stoneman and Todd Mazur of Fisher Branch, MB*

with one assistant holding cattle in the chute using a fencepost to prevent them from backing up. Stoneman and Mazur's device eliminates the need for that person. The Livestock Tailgate®, is a rubber-covered, U-shaped loop that acts like a one-way

valve. The first tailgate is set up one animal-length back from the squeeze and the second is mounted three to four feet inside the beginning of the alley. The unit swings up and rests on the animal's back until it passes through, then falls into place, preventing the animal from backing up. Counter-balancing applies pressure to the cow's tailhead,

encouraging the animal to move forward.

The Livestock Tailgate® eliminates the need for an assistant and reduces the human and animal stress of chute work.

"The device is see-through and silent in operation," Stoneman explains, "so it doesn't intimidate the cattle. And they can't get stuck in it even if they slip while passing underneath." He points out that the tailgates can be locked in the open position if cattle need to be backed through the alley.

By eliminating the need for an assistant, who may wield an electric prod as well as a post to prevent cattle backing up, the Livestock Tailgate® reduces the livestock stress normally associated with chute work. The result is improved livestock flow through the system.

The Livestock Tailgate® fits any type of wood or metal chute that is 20 to 36 inches (51 to 91 centimetres) wide. With a powder-coat finish, the device is durable and maintenance free, and comes with a replacement guarantee in the event of breakage, provided it was installed correctly. There are sixteen possible combinations for mounting the tailgate to an existing cattle handling facility, with mounting brackets that swivel for placement on either a verti-

cal or a horizontal surface.

Stoneman reports that use of the



*The Livestock Tailgate® in action*

The Livestock Tailgate® eliminates the need for an assistant and reduces the human and animal stress of chute work.

device outside the typical corral setting is growing. Dairy farmers are installing the Livestock Tailgate® in alleys that lead to the housing barn from the milking parlour. And in the sport of team roping, it can replace the

manual cage gate that is used to hold freshly roped steers until the header is able to remove his lariat from the animal's head.

Stoneman and Mazur have sold about 1,000 units since 1997. With 20 years of North American patent protection, they are attracting dealers in both Canada and the US but will also sell directly to the customer when there is no dealer nearby. The Livestock Tailgate® retails at \$320 per set or \$166 per single unit.

*For further information, contact: Dave Stoneman, Box 121 Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0 Tel: (204) 372-8481 or Todd Mazur, Mazur Welding, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0 Tel/Fax: (204) 372-6558* 🍁

**CANADIAN  
AGRICULTURAL  
SAFETY WEEK  
2001  
MARCH 14-21**

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# She is a Farmer



Proverbs 31:10 asks the question, 'Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies,' and the answer follows, 'She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth food from afar. She riseth up while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens, She considereth a field and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night She layeth her hands to the spindle and her hands hold the distaff She stretcheth out her hand to the poor: yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates,

when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also and he praiseth her.

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

Give her the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

"Who is this virtuous woman?"

She is a farmer!

An entrepreneur!

A merchant!

A landowner!

A manufacturer!

A community social worker!

A household manager!

A wise, honourable and dignified woman!

A woman noted for her kindness and hardworking character!!"

She is a woman like many of you."\*

\* Reproduced with the permission of Carolyn Van Dine from her presidential address at the November 1999 conference of the Canadian Farm Women's Network. ❁

## From the Research Desk



It should come as no surprise to farmers that exposure to grain farming is associated with an increased prevalence of asthma and chronic bronchitis. In an attempt to determine why, seasonal changes in lung function in a farming population were recently studied by the members of the Prairie Ecosystem Study Team, which included several researchers associated with the University of Saskatchewan.

People who lived on a farm and engaged in farming had the greatest decline in two lung function test parameters from winter (February, March) to summer (June, July) compared to other rural residents. People who lived in town and were not engaged in farming saw improvements in the corresponding measurements of lung function from winter to summer. Factors accounting for these changes could include grain dust, grain dust mites, pollen, fungal spores, animal products and pesticides.

Further study is needed to identify more precisely which factors are associated with changes in lung function among farm residents, to determine the causal mechanisms involved and to determine whether decline in lung function over one season contributes to long term loss of lung function.

• A Senthilselvan, JA Dosman, KM Semchuk et al. Seasonal changes in lung function in a farming population. *Canadian Respiratory Journal* 2000; 7(4): 320-325. ❁

# Across Canada: CASP Project Report

*The Canadian Agriculture Safety Program funds national and provincial projects. For information, contact: CASP Officer, Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health, 103 Hospital Drive, PO Box 76, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W8 Tel: (306) 966-8499 Fax: (306) 966-8891 E-mail: ccasrh@sask.usask.ca Website: www.ccasrh.org*

## National Projects

### Sixth Annual Canadian Farm Safety and Rural Health Conference



*Dr. Robert Conn*  
**SMART RISK FOUNDATION**

**T**he 6th Canadian Farm Safety and Rural Health Conference took place October 22 to 24, 2000 with a difference. Located in Ottawa, Ontario, the national conference was held in collaboration with a meeting of the Rural Health Research Consortium, a group of university-based researchers who study farm safety and rural health issues.


The joint conference was attended by over 150 participants representing every province in Canada as well as the United States and Europe. There were scientific presentations on Health and Safety Promotion, Health Care Organization, Policy and Resource Allocation, Occupational Health and Safety Issues, Rural and Remote Health and Population Health.

A conference highlight was the keynote address by Dr. Robert Conn of the SMART RISK Foundation, a national organization founded with the goal of preventing injuries to children and youth. The SMART RISK message, developed to appeal to teenagers who think they are immortal, is based on the understanding that we all take risks. Some risks are "smart" and some are "stupid," and you need to know where to draw your "stupid line". Dr. Conn challenged the audience to change their thinking in order to stem the current

epidemic of farm accidents.

Other keynote speakers included Dr. John May from the New York Centre for Agricultural Medicine and Health, who discussed research data on farm stress; and Dr. Valentina Forestieri of the International Labour Organization, who discussed the development process for international agricultural safety standards.

The conference featured workshops for the first time, one on Communications and one on Canadian Agriculture Safety Program (CASP) Project Evaluation, both of which were well attended.

Exciting news is that the 2001 Farm Safety and Rural Health Conference will be held in Edmonton, AB in cooperation with the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research, November 4 to 6, 2001. It is anticipated that 300 delegates from across Canada will attend. Mark your calendar now! 

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## Canadian Farmers With Disabilities

When Carl Palmer pulls into the yard in his half ton truck, rolls down the window and calls out a greeting, he looks every bit the wind-burned, 60 year old farmer that he is. The twinkle in his eye and the accompanying grin suggest that he's about to say something funny - and if you've heard about Carl's legendary sense of humour, you suspect it may be at your expense.

Then Palmer opens the truck door and dismounts jerkily, using two canes and you realize this individual is not your typical farmer. In September 1979, he had both legs severed above the knee in a PTO entanglement incident, and he now walks with the aid of bilateral, custom fit legs and canes. Contrary to advice received during his rehabilitation, Palmer and his wife Evelyn have continued to operate their farm in King's County, Nova Scotia while raising five children, all of whom are now grown and working off the farm. With the help of a part-time hired man, the Palmers currently run a cow calf operation with 35 head of cattle on 300 acres.

Palmer is the president of Canadian Farmers with Disabilities, a national lead agency of the Canadian Agriculture Safety Program. There is no cost to join the group, which was established in 1997 and currently has 125 members. The organization has produced a video, "Not Worth the Cost," featuring the stories of disabled farmers from eight Canadian provinces, available for \$20.

Carl Palmer lists the advantages of disabled farmers joining together. "We have a stronger voice when we lobby government and loan agencies such as the Farm Credit Corporation. At our meetings, members have a chance to share ideas on machinery modifications and farming tech-

niques. And, last but not least, the group provides support for family members, as well as for the disabled farmer."

*For further information, to join the CFD Registry or to order a copy of "Not Worth The Cost", contact your provincial representative on the CFD Board:*

- |     |  |                      |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| PEI | Sylbert Rayner<br>RR #3 Coleman, PB<br>COB 1H0                                   | Tel: (902) 859-3037  |
| NS  | Carl & Evelyn Palmer<br>1657 Harmony Rd<br>RR #1 Aylesford, NS<br>BOP 1C0        | Tel: (902) 847-9420  |
| NB  | Wilbur Lutwick<br>546 Route 122<br>Dow Settlement, NB<br>E6H 1C2                 | Tel: (506) 279-2150  |
| PQ  | Claude Daigneault<br>481 Haute Concession<br>Ormstown, PQ<br>JOS 1K0             | Tel: (450) 829-3358  |
| ON  | Pat Morgan<br>RR #2 Codrington, ON<br>KOK 1R0                                    | Tel: (613) 475-3175  |
| MB  | Neil & Berneice Enns<br>RR #2 Elm Creek, MB<br>ROG 0N0                           | Tel: (204) 436-2554  |
| SK  | Betty Abrey<br>P O Box 176<br>Imperial, SK<br>SOG 2J0                            | Tel: (306) 963-2153  |
| AB  | Darrell & Korry-Lynn Elkow<br>55 Wood Garden Estate<br>Vegreville, AB<br>T9C 1E8 | Tel: (780) 632- 2696 |
| BC  | Wayne Raine<br>RR #3, 3175 Farrar Rd.<br>Ladysmith<br>Vancouver, BC<br>VOR 2E0   | Tel: (250) 722-3720  |

## THANK YOU

CANFARMSAFE wishes to thank the following publications for their support in distributing this magazine to Canadian farm families:

**Farm Focus**  
of Atlantic Canada

**LA TERRE**  
DE CHEZ NOUS

**ONTARIO  
Farmer**  
Ontario Farmer Publications

**MANITOBA  
CO-OPERATOR**

**THE Western Producer**

AGRI  
**DIGEST**

**OLDS COLLEGE, OLDS, AB**

**Congratulations!**

on being the first college in Alberta to achieve a Certificate of Recognition from the Alberta Safety Council for excellence in health and safety practices.

*For further information, contact:  
Gary Gough, Acting Vice President  
Tel: 1-800-661-6537 or (403) 556-8302*

# Provincial Projects

## Saskatchewan: North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks

Every year, Saskatchewan children are injured or tragically killed in farm accidents that, in most cases, could have been prevented. Agriculture, our largest industry, is unfortunately also one that experiences the most serious injuries.



Increased awareness of the dangers that children may face on the farm, and knowing how to avoid those dangers, can help prevent these accidents and their tragic results. The North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), developed by experts across North America, can help prevent farm-related child injuries by providing parents

with information about the ages at which children can most appropriately take on farm tasks. The guidelines provide accepted safety practices for 62 different jobs that farm children from seven to 16 years of age typically perform.

Manitoba Labour has acquired distribution rights for the NAGCAT guidelines and the accompanying professional resource manual and is pleased to offer it, at no cost, to anyone wishing to reproduce and distribute these materials. In cooperation with the Saskatchewan Alliance for Agricultural Health and Safety, Saskatchewan Labour will reproduce two of the guidelines, "Tractor Fundamentals" and "Animal Care,"

The Poster titled Working With Large Animals

- Details a number of specific responsibilities of adults to ensure child safety (eg: Ensure all guards and shields are in place on feed conveyor system)
- Outlines the main hazards faced by children in this task
- Outlines the training required by children to perform the job safely (eg: Has the child shown he or she can do the job safely 4 or 5 times under close supervision?)
- Asks questions about the child's ability/maturity in the context of the task (eg: How quickly can the child react?)

and distribute them to more than 30,000 rural families across Saskatchewan. The guidelines will be distributed through The Western Producer around the time of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week in March.

The guidelines will also be distributed to health district professionals

and municipal government organizations so that they can provide the information to their clients through NAGCAT information sessions or other methods. In addition, developers of curriculum-based farm safety school resources in Saskatchewan intend to use the NAGCAT guidelines as one of the parent and community components of these school resources.

For further information on the Saskatchewan initiative, contact: Allan Reine, Saskatchewan Labour, 1870 Albert Street, Regina, SK S4P 3V7 Tel: (306) 787-Fax: (306) 787-0036 E-mail: <areine@lab.gov.sk.ca> For information on reproducing NAGCAT materials, contact: Glen Blahey, Workplace Safety and Health Division, Manitoba Labour, 200 - 401 York Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3C 0P8 Tel (204) 945-2315 Fax: (204) 945-4556 E-mail: gblahey@labour.gov.mb.ca. To view the illustrated NAGCAT guideline posters online, visit [www.nagcat.org](http://www.nagcat.org). 🍁

*cont'd from page 10*

A young boy saved his family from severe fire injuries or death because he knew what to do in a real life emergency. He was taught in the Edmonton Safety City program." Hay concludes, "How can you put a value on one life saved?"

For further information or for help getting a similar project underway, contact: Ms. Jaime Lauzon, Program Coordinator, Kiwanis Safety City, 3030-55 St. Red Deer, AB T4P 3S6 Tel: (403) 314-9914 Fax: (403) 342-6373 E-mail: [safetycity@telusplanet.net](mailto:safetycity@telusplanet.net) 🍁

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## Alberta: Red Deer's Kiwanis Safety City and Red Barn Farm Safety Interpretive Centre

Red Deer and District Community are the proud new proprietors of a Kiwanis Safety City, a "learn-while-you-play" centre that helps children gain important safety concepts and skills in a realistic setting. Stretching



over 3.5 acres, the complex includes a scaled-down city and farm buildings on paved streets and roads with signage and electronics to alert children to rail crossings, intersections, crosswalks and bicycle lanes.

The Safety City idea began in Danville, Illinois in 1972 when the local Kiwanis Club started a "traffic smart" training program for children aged five to eight in a setting they called "The Friendly Village." Children used tricycles or small cars on scaled-down, realistic streets to show their understanding of traffic safety rules and to practise real-life safety skills. The idea took root

and has flourished since then throughout the United States and Canada. Today, as well as alerting kids to traffic hazards, Kiwanis Safety Cities teach about fire, police and emergency safety.

Four other Alberta locations - Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat - have Safety Cities, but the Red Deer complex is unique. In fact upon completion, Kiwanis Safety City will be the first in North America to include a Red Barn Farm Safety Interpretive Centre. Currently under

construction and further fundraising underway, Safety City plans to offer programs for children in late April, with the Farm Safety Centre hoping to welcome visitors beginning in September 2001. About three busloads of school children per day are expected. The barn will house realistic, interactive visual and audio displays. Both static and operative farm equipment will demonstrate machinery hazards. An instructional centre will allow for presentations on augers, tractor rollovers, electrical hazards and water dugouts, just some of the 16 potential subjects in the Red Barn's farm safety program. The complex will operate from April until

October, depending on weather conditions. In the late fall and winter months, special weekend programs are planned for youngsters aged eight to twelve to learn about snowmobile, ATV and snowboarding safety.

Red Deer's Safety City came about only because of the commitment and partnering of many organizations. The Red Deer Safety City Society and the Red Deer Kiwanis Club joined forces to publicize the concept and attract funding. Ross Hay, Finance Chair of the Red Deer Safety City Society, reports that sponsorship by individuals, corporations, government agencies and foundations has been generous. The Canadian Agriculture Safety Program was one of the project's major donors.

Operating revenues will come from leases that permit local businesses to build a miniature building in Safety City to advertise their products or services, and rental of the complex on weekends or special occasions. Many groups donated time, labour and expertise. Local emergency services personnel will build and operate a Fire Safe House to teach home fire safety techniques. The Alberta Women's Institute, the Women of Uniform and the Director of Farm Safety for Alberta Agriculture were instrumental in helping create programs for the Red Barn Safety Centre.

Ross Hay has no doubt that ten years of hard work getting the project underway were justified. He points out that in the state of Illinois, USA, the program is mandatory within the school curriculum because its benefits are so well recognized. Citing a case closer to home, Hay says, "A graphic example of the value of this training was reported in the Edmonton Journal in January 1998.

*cont'd on page 9*

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# The Voice Of Experience

*If you have a story to tell about an accident or a near miss that could help others avoid a similar situation, please contact The Editor. Submissions may be edited to fit available space.*

## A Lot of Doors Close

*by Julie Bidwell and Roxanna Kaminski,  
Centre for Agricultural Medicine, Saskatoon SK*

Sunday April 25, 1999 dawned bright and mild with occasional gusts of wind in Cutknife, Saskatchewan. After celebrating with friends on Saturday night, Dayton Hewson, age 18, was sleeping in. His father woke him briefly to tell him that the rest of the family were going over to a neighbour's farm for a team event involving horses, and asked him if he'd take some bales out to the pasture for the cows later in the day. The Hewsons operate a beef cattle business with 40 head of pure bred Limousin cattle.

Dayton didn't get up until after noon, but when he saw the beautiful spring day, he couldn't wait to get outside. "I was looking forward to taking

bales out to the cows," he says. "I'd done it loads of times; in fact, I'd probably moved 400 bales in all, 100 of them that winter." Bales needed to be transported approximately once a week and, to do the job, the Hewsons



*photo by: Paula Reban*

used a cabless John Deere tractor equipped with a front end loader and spear, inherited from an uncle.

Dayton scooped the first bale from the bottom of the stack. It bounced off

the bucket so he speared it in order to carry it the mile or so out to the pasture. The second bale was located higher in the stack. Dayton decided to scoop it because the impact needed to spear it could have unsettled the stack,

which was in a confined space and near some prized trees. He pushed the bucket lever down to lift the bale up, put the tractor in gear and backed it up.

Then, Dayton recalls he looked at the bucket lever and realized it

*Dayton Hewson*

had failed. "When I looked up, I just saw this yellow blur coming at me and that's all I remember until I woke up a couple of minutes later. The tractor

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was doing donuts around in the little corral where we have the bales. So then, the normal reaction is just to put your foot on the brake and stop yourself, but it didn't work." Dayton says that from watching farm accident videos, he knew right away that he was paralyzed. He managed to shut off the tractor and sat there for a few minutes and thought about what to do.

His parents were away and he knew they wouldn't be back for several hours. He managed to slam the tractor into first gear and drove out the laneway and down the high-



way. "Vehicles were passing me and I was waving like crazy. It was really frustrating because four vehicles went by. Finally one of my dad's friends pulled up in his truck and said, "What's wrong?" and I said "A bale fell on me and I can't move my legs."

The friend called the emergency medical system. Dayton was taken into the local hospital for x-rays and then by ambulance to the emergency room at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, where he spent the night. Dayton remembers, "The next day was my nineteenth birthday and that morning at 9:00 o'clock the doctor came in and told me that I would never walk again."

The accident investigation revealed that the hydraulics for the lift arm of

the tractor bucket had a worn "O" ring which had made the lever stick. Normally, letting go of the bucket lever stops the action of the lift arm. In this case, the lever stuck and the bucket continued to rise to an unsafe height. Had the tractor rolled over, the result might have been a fatality since it was equipped with neither a rollover protective structure nor a seatbelt.

Today, the handsome six foot two inch young man is paraplegic and confined to a wheelchair. He misses working with the cattle, but can't stand the cold temperatures of winter. Poor circulation in his legs makes him extra prone to frostbite. He has completed high school and is working part time at the Saskatchewan Government Insurance and Liquor Board outlet in Cut Knife. Dayton doesn't know what the future will hold - but he knows that two of his former dreams, to be a policeman and to operate a livestock farm, likely aren't in the picture. "A lot of doors close when you lose your mobility."

Dayton hopes to marry and have a family "when I find the right person" and he wants his children to grow up

in a farm environment, "a quarter section or even an acreage." The eldest of three boys, he considers his own childhood the best possible way to grow up. He began helping with chores at age 10, about the same time he started going to 4-H meetings and livestock events. He has owned calves since then and currently has 14 pure-bred Limousins.

Describing how he learned to operate a tractor at age 13 or 14, Dayton says, "I'd ride with Dad and watch him. Then he'd ride with me and coach me. At

first, I'd just drive through the gates and out to the pasture because Dad didn't want me to knock anything over in the yard. After getting my driver's licence, I could drive the tractor in the yard. Gradually, you learn new stuff such as how to operate the front-end loader." Dayton estimates that he and his dad used the spear to transport round bales 60% of the time, and the bucket alone 40% of the time.

Asked what advice he would pass on to other operators using a front-end loader to transport round bales, Dayton's reply is, "Use a spear or grapple hook every time you move a bale. That's your best protection." 🍁

<b>Farm Incidents Related to Handling Hay Bales, Canada, 1990 - 1995 *</b>		
<b>Type of Incident</b>	<b>Fatal Injuries (n = 12)</b>	<b>Hospitalized Injuries (n = 92)</b>
Tractor operator struck by bale and/or crushed in seat	<b>42%</b>	<b>81%</b>
Tractor rolled over while transporting bale	<b>42%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Bale fell from front end loader or truck, crushing person on ground	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Farm Injuries Related to Handling Large Hay Bales, Canada, 1990 - 1995*</b>	
<b>Nature of Injury</b>	<b>Hospitalized Injuries (n = 92)</b>
Fractures of spine and trunk	39%
Fractures of extremities	13%
Internal injuries (chest, abdomen, pelvis)	12%
Traumatic complication	10%
Crush injuries (unspecified)	5%
Head injuries (skull and intracranial)	4%
Other injuries	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program data

### **Round Baler Precautions**

- Read the operator's manual and follow the operating, maintenance and safety recommendations.
- Turn off the power before attempting to repair, adjust or unplug a baler.
- Position bales in a way that will prevent them from falling.
- Be sure the loader tractor is large enough and equipped with sufficient counter-weight to handle bales safely.
- When handling and transporting bales, use a tractor with a ROPS and seatbelt, and a loader with a grapple hook. Avoid sudden motions and travel at low speed.
- Carry bales as low as possible for greater stability.
- Keep bystanders and other workers a good distance from all big bale operations.

Source: Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Canfarmsafe

## Order farm safety and health resources from:

CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Box 120, 103 Hospital Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 0W8

Tel: (306) 966-6647 Fax: (306) 966-8799 E-mail: bidwellj@sask.usask.ca

Item	Description	Price	Quantity
<b>Fact Sheets</b>	Noise-Induced Hearing Loss	\$ .45	
	Clothing and Protective Equipment for Agricultural Chemical Application: Selection, Use and Laundering	\$ .45	
	Minimizing Health Risks of Hog Farming	\$ .45	
	Insecticides for Wheat Midge, Bertha Armyworm and Diamondback Moth	\$ .45	
	Respiratory Hazards on the Farm	\$ .45	
	Respiratory Hazards: Dusts	\$ .45	
	Respiratory Hazards: Molds and Fungi	\$ .45	
	Respiratory Hazards: Gases and Mists	\$ .45	
	Respiratory Hazards: Welding Fumes and Gases	\$ .45	
	Respiratory Hazards: Diseases Animals Transmit to Humans	\$ .45	
	Respiratory Hazards: Personal Protective Equipment	\$ .45	
	Health and Safety Practices for Grain Drying and Storage	\$ .45	
	Preventing Tractor Rollovers and Run Overs	\$ .45	
	Preventing Farm Machinery Entanglements	\$ .45	
	<b>Booklets</b>	Farm Safety Walkabout Package	\$ 2.00
Farm Safety Audit		\$ .70	
Safe Handling of Agrochemicals Package (English)		\$ 2.00	
Safe Handling of Agrochemicals Package (French)		\$ 2.00	
Farm Machinery Safety Package		\$ 1.00	
Hearing Conservation for Farm Families (English)		\$ .50	
Hearing Conservation for Farm Families (French)		\$ 1.00	
<b>Other</b>	A Rural Stress Toolbook	\$ .75	
	Video: "Breathe Easy"	\$ 10.00	
	Pesticide Posting Signs (30 or more)	\$ .10 ea	

No charge for single fact sheet/booklet.

Shipping/handling charged on orders over \$10. Invoice accompanies shipment.

### FACT SHEETS

#### Noise-Induced Hearing Loss

Describes sound and noise, human hearing and how it is measured, types and symptoms of noise-induced hearing loss, methods of noise control and when to use hearing protection

#### Clothing and Protective Equipment for Agricultural Chemical Application

What to wear during spraying, what to wear during handling and filling, preparing to launder contaminated clothing and laundering techniques

#### Minimizing Health Risks of Hog Farming

A summary of the hazards and associated health disorders, environmental control measures and when to use respiratory protection

#### Insecticides for Wheat Midge, Bertha Armyworm and Diamondback Moth

General pesticide safety recommendations, personal protective equipment for insecticides, signs and symptoms of poisoning and emergency procedures

#### Respiratory Series

Lung hazards on the farm, acute and chronic lung diseases, how to prioritize control measures, and recommendations about personal protective equipment

#### Health and Safety Practices for Grain Drying and Storage

Hazards inside and outside the bin: fans, heat source, electricity, noise, grain dust, flowing/crusted-over grain.

### BOOKLETS

#### Farm Safety Walkabout

Checklist activity to promote family safety awareness

#### Farm Safety Audit

Management tool to assist farm owners and operators to identify and correct hazards in their workplace

#### Safe Handling of Agrochemicals Package

Illustrated booklet, laminated guide showing personal protective equipment for pesticide handling, "Chemical Storage" warning sticker and "Pesticide" posting sign

#### Farm Machinery Safety Package

Illustrated booklet, "No Rider" and "Stop Engine" stickers, "Emergency Contacts" magnet and Roll-Over Protective Structure (ROPS) promotion poster

#### Hearing Conservation for Farm Families

Illustrated booklet describing how to protect yourself from noise-induced hearing loss (English or French)

#### A Rural Stress Toolbook

Interactive workbook teaches awareness, coping, acceptance and action skills for dealing with rural stress.

### OTHER

#### Video: "Breathe Easy"

Filmed in Saskatchewan, farmers and health professionals talk about lung hazards on the farm and demonstrate how to reduce risk by managing hazards

#### Pesticide Posting Signs (minimum of 30)

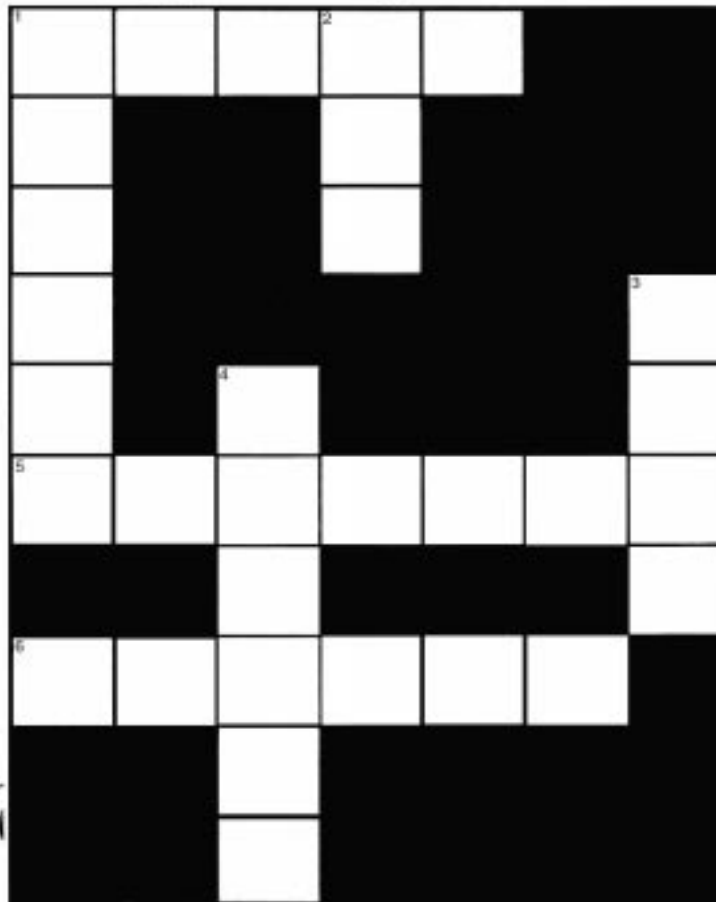
Plastic bag-style sign alerting workers and passers-by that an area has been sprayed with pesticide

# kids korner

## Try this Farm Picture Crossword ..

Fill in the crossword blanks using the picture clues.

Reprinted with permission of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids



### Down

1. protects the head
2. needed to grow crops
3. place to raise crops
4. groups of people



### Across

1. animals
5. large farms machine
3. protection on PTO

# Census Paints A Clear Picture Of Farming



On Tuesday, May 15, farm operators will be asked to update the profile of Canadian farm businesses by completing the 2002 Census of Agriculture questionnaire.

All persons responsible for the day-to-day management decisions of an agricultural operation should report themselves as agricultural operators.

In 2001, questions about organic farming and farmers' use of computers for business have been added to the standard questions on crops, livestock, agricultural labour, machinery and equipment, farm income and land management practices.

The Census of Agriculture puts the industry in focus for many groups,

including individual operators, farm organizations, agribusiness, governments and academics. Census data provide comprehensive information on the industry from the township or rural municipality level to the national level, and on topics ranging from crops to computers.

Census data are used to:

- portray the viewpoints of farm operators to legislators, the media and the public
- plan how and where to market agricultural products and services
- evaluate the impact on agriculture of floods, droughts or other natural disasters
- develop, implement and evaluate agricultural policies and programs, such as farm income safety nets or those pertaining to environmental sustainability or rural development

Information gathered by the census is so important, Statistics Canada is legally required to conduct a census every five years. By the same law, Statistics Canada is required to protect the information provided on Census of Agriculture forms.

On May 15, "count yourself in" as part of Canada's farm community. 

For more information about the Census of Agriculture, visit the Statistics Canada Web site at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)

During May, for questions about the form, contact the Census of Agriculture help line number: 1-800-216-2299

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health

Name: _____	Occupation: _____
Agency / Group: _____	
Address: _____	
Telephone: _____	Yearly Rate: Individual \$20.00
Fax: _____	NGO \$50.00
	Corporate / Gov't \$100.00

Mail to: Canadian Coalition for  
Agricultural Safety and  
Rural Health  
Box 76  
Royal University Hospital  
103 Hospital Drive,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7N 0W8

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Canadian Coalition for  
Agricultural Safety and Rural Health  
Coalition canadienne pour la sécurité  
agricole et la santé rurale

