

4th Annual Saskatchewan Farm Injury Control Summit



Keynote speakers Dr. Lesley Day and Dr. Will Pickett

On November 20th in Saskatoon, over one hundred participants from farm operations, rural municipalities, regional health authorities, health and safety organizations and agri-business joined forces once again with a mission – the elimination of deaths and disabling injuries in Saskatchewan agriculture.

Keynote speakers and concurrent tracks for producers and health and safety professionals.

Dr. Lesley Day, an injury epidemiologist at Australia's Monash University Accident Research Centre, presented the recently developed STARS Safe Tractor Assessment Rating System. Tractors commonly in use on Australian farms were rated on the basis of six safety parameters. The STARS rating system can be downloaded at www.general.monash.edu.au/muarc. Dr. Day's travel was funded by the Agricultural Institute of Management in Saskatchewan (AIMS).

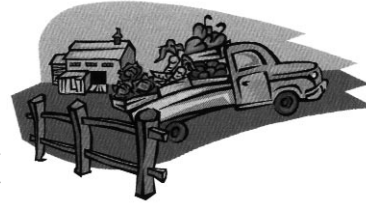
Dr. Will Pickett, co-investigator for the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program, described a research project to determine parental knowledge about child readiness to perform farm tasks. A farm parent and a rural physician responded with their personal perspectives on children and farm work.

I.A.R.E.H partners, SARM, Saskatchewan Agriculture Food and Rural Revitalization, and the Saskatchewan Alliance for Agricultural Health and Safety, co-sponsored the 2002 Saskatchewan Farm Injury Control Summit. Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation provided additional funding.

Thank you!

For support in publishing Network News, the Agricultural Health and Safety Network wishes to thank: **Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization**

Top Ten Reasons Farm Trucks Aren't Stolen



10. They have about 20 miles before they overheat, break down or need gas.
9. Only the owner knows how to operate the doors to get in or out.
8. It is hard to drive fast with all the fence tools, grease rags, ropes, chains, syringes, buckets, boots and loose papers in the cab.
7. It takes too long to start and the smoke coming up through the floorboards clouds your vision.
6. The Doberman on the toolbox looks mean.
5. They're too easy to spot. The description might go something like this: The driver's side door is red, the passenger side door is black, the right fender is green etc.
4. The large round bale in the back makes it hard to see whether you're being chased. You could use the mirrors if they weren't cracked and covered with duct tape.
3. Top speed is approximately 60 kph.
2. Who wants to steal a truck that needs a year's worth of maintenance, U-joints, \$3,000 in body work, tail lights and a windshield?
1. It's hard to commit a crime with everyone waving at you.

Moved? Retired? Not Farming?

To remove your name from our mailing list, please complete and send to the Editor.

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From the Editor

We welcome your comments and contributions. Send correspondence to:

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Chemical protection ... worth the bother and expense?

You may know it as Achieve Extra Gold, Buctril M, Compas 480EC, Hoegrass II, Horizon BTM, Pardner, Thumper or Unity - but the chemical common to each of those products is bromoxynil. It's a post-emergent herbicide commonly used for broad leaf weed control, mainly in cereals.

Herbicides and human health

Producers may hire a custom sprayer to apply insecticides, but they tend to consider herbicides relatively safe. Concern is growing, however, about the human health effects of herbicide exposure.

The World Health Organization rates bromoxynil at Class II in toxicity - or moderately hazardous to human health. Effects of over-exposure include skin and eye irritation, headache, dizziness, nausea and incoordination. The chemical can affect brain function, resulting in errors in judgment or drowsiness. Higher levels of exposure can cause unconsciousness. Swallowing or inhaling large amounts of the chemical can result in death.

Manufacturers warn users to wear suitable protective clothing, neoprene gloves, a pesticide respirator and eye protection when handling products that contain bromoxynil. They caution the chemical is combustible and decomposition products are hazardous. Manufacturers also state that bromoxynil is considered a developmental toxicant, potentially hazardous to a fetus or unborn child; and advise women of child-bearing age to avoid contact with it.

Effectiveness of personal protective equipment (PPE) studied

Dr. Allan Cessna, a scientist at Environment Canada's National Water Research Institute in Saskatoon, studied farmers' exposure to bromoxynil and the effectiveness of PPE in reducing absorption of the chemical. Fourteen spraying operations that involved tractor-drawn sprayers were examined.

The farmers studied all handled, transferred, mixed and applied the herbicide. Their exposure to bromoxynil was measured using several methods. The level of chemical in the bloodstream was assessed by analyzing 24 hour urine samples. Lung exposure to the chemical was assessed by sampling air in the farmer's breathing zone. Patch sampling and handwashing samples measured the chemical present on skin. Here are some of the study findings:

- Hands were the most affected skin area, likely because



they tend to be exposed during tank filling and mixing. Exposure to the hands generally exceeded that for the remainder of the body. *Gauntlet-style neoprene gloves decreased exposure of hands and forearms by 25 times.*

- Skin exposure for the remainder of the body decreased as the number of layers of clothing increased. *Two layers of laundered cotton* (T-shirt plus coverall) *protected the chest region by more than 15 times.*
- Tractors with enclosed cabs were used in nine of the fourteen spraying operations. Two of the enclosed cabs were equipped with carbon filters and five had dust filters. *Enclosed cabs decreased breathing exposure by approximately 10 times.*

Be informed

There are two easy ways to learn about the safe use of any agricultural chemical.

1. **Read the product or container label:**
The product or container label shows the name of the product and the company that manufactured it; a

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statement that a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is available; hazard symbols; brief risk information, precautionary measures and first aid measures.

2. Ask for the MSDS:

Chemical suppliers are required by law to provide this information sheet on request for any product they sell. An MSDS gives detailed information about the chemical and its ingredients, health hazards, first aid measures, fire fighting measures, accidental release measures, handling and storage instructions and recommended PPE.

Where to purchase PPE

Local farm supply dealers stock some personal protective equipment. For a full selection of equipment in a complete range of sizes, visit a safety supply dealer such as Acklands-Grainger Inc. Suppliers are listed under "Industrial Equipment and Supplies" or "Safety" in the yellow pages of your telephone directory. To order on line, type "Canadian suppliers of personal protective equipment" into your search engine's subject box.

When you're buying a chemical cartridge respirator, be sure to shop where there is a selection of models so you get a good facial fit and the right cartridge for the job you'll be doing.

What does PPE cost?

Gauntlet-style PVC gloves	\$3.50
Goggles	\$5.00
Chemical-resistant hard hat	\$11.00
Chemical-resistant PVC apron	\$5.00
Disposable Tyvek coverall	\$9.00
Chemical cartridge respirator	\$65.00 - \$80.00
Tractor cab-filter	\$250.00 - \$425.00

What to look for in a tractor cab-filter

The most effective cab filters use a 3-stage filtering system. Check your tractor specs to see which of the following you have:

- A pre-filter to remove large dust and mist particles.
- A high-efficiency, second stage filter to remove tiny particles, invisible to the naked eye.
- An activated carbon filter to remove pesticide fumes and other gases.

Dutch Industries Ltd. (1-800-663-8824) sells cab filters tested and proven effective by the National and Saskatchewan Research Councils. The supplier also sells replacement granules for existing cab filters and manufactures custom filters for special applications.

A word to the wise . . .

Chemical protection is worth the bother and expense when it helps avoid the short-term and more serious, long-term health problems ag chemicals can cause.

Hydraulics hazard alert!

A 68 year old farmer from the Moose Jaw area died in January 2002 as the result of an unwitnessed hydraulics incident. Saskatchewan Labour reports that an unsupported, raised front-end loader bucket fell as he repaired the hydraulics, crushing him against the front of the tractor.



It appears that the farmer raised the bucket to put the hydraulic system under load and find a leak. While inspecting the equipment, he moved under the raised bucket and tried to tighten a leaking metal hydraulic fitting hose. The fitting broke, allowing the hydraulic fluid to escape and the bucket to fall.

Prevention

- Lower the loader to the ground, if you can, to work on bucket parts or load.
- If you must work under raised mobile equipment, securely block or support it. Don't use car jacks for support as they can collapse suddenly. Wood blocks are more stable and don't crush or slip as easily as metal.
- Make sure, as operator, you do not do anything that could harm someone working on or near the equipment.

For a free copy of the Hazard Alert, "Farmer Killed in Hydraulics Accident" with more prevention tips, contact: **Occupational Health and Safety Division, Saskatchewan Labour**, Toll free: 1-800-567-7233 (Regina); 1-800-667-5023 (Saskatoon).

Welcome new members!

The Agricultural Health and Safety Network is pleased to welcome the following new member:
R.M. of Enfield, #194

Currently, there are 124 Rural Municipalities in the Network, an increase of 30% since the Network's 10 year anniversary in 1998!

Dogs and kids

Did you know most children's dog bite injuries occur during play with a dog they know?

The vast majority of dogs are safe, reliable companions, but even a friendly dog can bite if threatened, angry, afraid or hurt – according to a new website, www.dogsandkids.ca sponsored by the Canada Safety Council, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Canadian Kennel Club, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the Pet Industry Advisory Council of Canada. Children, especially those 10 and under, are most at risk for dog bite injury.

By learning a few simple rules, your child can feel confident and be safe around dogs. Kids need to know how to safely approach a dog, how to retreat from a threatening dog and what situations to avoid.

Things to remember with dogs:

- Ask permission before patting someone else's dog.
- Leave mother animals and their young alone.
- Do not try to pat or hug dogs that are tied up, sleeping, eating, behind fences or in vehicles.
- Do not chase or tease dogs, or pull their ears or tail.
- Do not grab a dog's food, bones or toys.
- Do not try to stop a fight. Call an adult for help.
- Always act kindly and gently – animals have feelings too.

How to act around a stray or loose dog:

- Do not pat strays or dogs running loose.
- Stand still ("Stand like a tree.")
- Let the dog sniff you.
- Do not stare at the dog – dogs interpret this as aggressive behaviour.
- Do not turn your back and run.
- If the dog is barking or growling, slowly walk away, backwards or sideways, keeping the dog in view.

Owners' responsibilities:

By law, owners can be held liable for their dog's actions – including biting. Here's how you can reduce the likelihood of your dog biting someone:

- Socialize and train your puppy, starting when it's a puppy.
- Choose your dog carefully – select dogs from parents bred to be non-aggressive family dogs.
- Sterilize your dogs. The importance of this cannot be over-emphasized. A U.S. survey of over 200 fatal dog attacks showed that in all but two cases, the attacks were carried out by unneutered or unspayed dogs.



Parenting follow-up

Talk to your children about safe behaviour around dogs. Then, have them try the Dog Bite activity sheet for kids at www.dogsandkids.ca.

WANTED: Network Steering Committee Reps

Retirement and rural municipal elections have created two vacancies on the Agricultural Health and Safety Network Steering Committee. The committee meets twice a year to guide Network activities and recommend priorities for programming and resource development.

Dan West, former reeve of the R.M. of Pittville, #169 served as Division 3 representative on the Steering Committee since its formation in 1993. After many years of service as a councillor, reeve, member of the School Board, District Health Board, Co-op Board and Co-op Implement Board, Dan has retired from municipal office. MP for Cypress Hills Grasslands, David Anderson, presented Dan with a Queen's Commemorative Medal for Public Service in Swift Current on Nov. 30, 2002.

Bernard Bigoraj, former reeve of the R.M. of Buchanan, #304, served on the committee as Division 4 representative from 1999 to 2002. Bernard also appeared in OffGuard, the photographic exhibition of farmers injured in machinery incidents, scheduled to tour Saskatchewan during 2003-2004.

Thanks to Dan and Bernard for their valuable contribution to the Agricultural Health and Safety Network. Division 3 or 4 reeves or councillors interested in serving on the Network Steering Committee should contact Julie Bidwell, I.A.R.E.H, tel: 966-6647. Representatives are elected at the Network's annual meeting held in conjunction with the SARM convention in March.



2002 Steering Committee: Bernard Bigoraj, Div. 4; Dan West, Div. 3; Robert Banbury, Div. 1; Bill Martens, Chair, Div. 5; Vance Wensel, Div. 2; Garry Hoppe, Div. 6