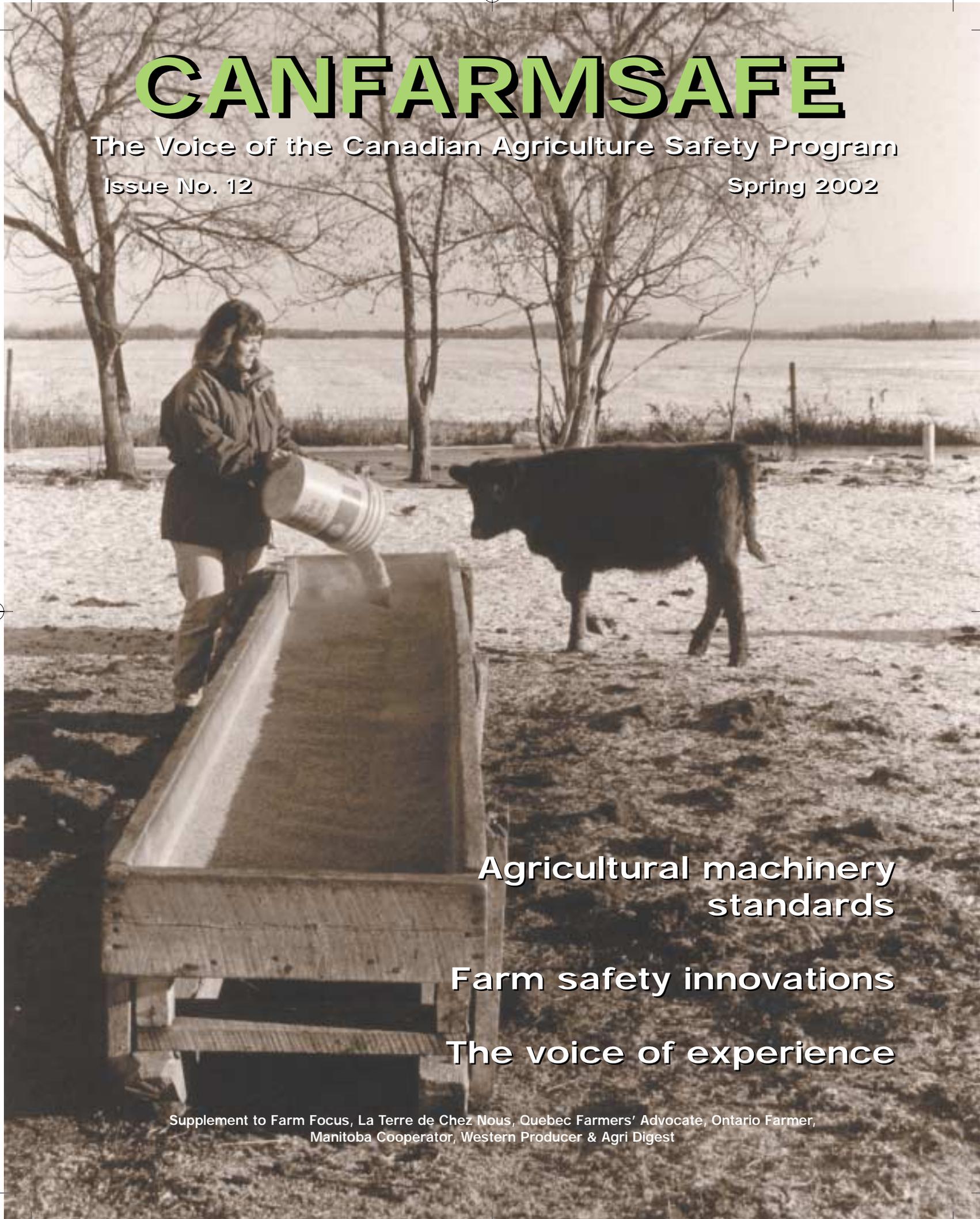


CANFARMSAFE

The Voice of the Canadian Agriculture Safety Program

Issue No. 12

Spring 2002



**Agricultural machinery
standards**

Farm safety innovations

The voice of experience

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

what's NEW. . .

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Cover photo by Naomi Friesen

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 am the Adult Organizational Leader for the Irishtown 4-H Club and am also the leader for our farm safety project. I recently reviewed the CANFARMSAFE insert in Farm Focus and am very interested in using it for our farm safety project. I have questions regarding the membership as on page 16 of Issue 11. What does membership provide? Also, what would it cost to subscribe to CANFARMSAFE if my members/leaders were interested? Kim Renton (E-mail from NB)

The Editor replies:

As a member of the Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health, the coordinating body for all farm safety organizations in Canada, you will receive: CANFARMSAFE Magazine, reduced rates to attend the annual Canadian Farm Safety and Rural Health Conference, access to a wealth of agricultural safety and health resources, and information about Canadian Agriculture Safety Program

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grants to help fund local farm safety projects. CANFARMSAFE magazine itself is free of charge. If you supply a mailing address, we'll forward copies for your 4-H Club members and leaders.

To the Editor:

The aeration of ponds for the purpose of improving the water quality has grown in popularity of recent years. Most common, I believe, are the windmill-driven air pumps which sit beside a dug-out or pond, or directly on the body of water. Then there are electrical pump units, as well. Some, or perhaps all of these, when operated in winter, create thin ice conditions. The hazard is due, I believe, to warmer lower water being circulated up against the ice on the surface. I have seen some of these windmills with "Danger - Thin Ice" signs on them, but I wonder if more warning should be given to those who might venture out onto the ice. Perhaps if more signs were required to be placed around the perimeter of the pond, it might do. I

from the EDITOR

We welcome questions, comments and submissions. Contact:

The Editor

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Deadline for submissions for the
Fall 2002 CANFARMSAFE issue
is June 14, 2002.

think it is an ingenious water treatment system, but hope it remains a safe one. I would like to know if there have been any accidents reported in this area.

Howard Boldt, Saskatoon SK

The Editor replies:

Timely comments given our exceptionally mild winter! Signposting bodies of water is a good precaution for adults. When children live on a farm or visit often, it's safest to fence dugouts and ponds. To answer your question, we consulted Louise Hagel, MSc., injury epidemiologist and member of the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program team. She reports: "In Canada from 1990 to 1998, three drownings occurred in farm ponds or dugouts where aeration was noted. All three took place in the months of December and January. Two were children, less than ten years old; one was an adult of over 80 years. Three other drownings occurred in the winter months but there was no mention of aeration of the water sources." 🌿

CSA's Agricultural Machinery Standards Program

Since 1990, the Agricultural Machinery Technical Committee of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has been developing standards for farm equipment used in Canada.

Dave Shanahan, project manager of the Agricultural Machinery Standards Program explains that CSA is a not-for-profit, non-governmental technical standards association. Without the valuable contribution of its volunteer members, the association's work would not be possible. A network of 9,000 consumer volunteers provides input toward CSA standards and activities. Roughly one-third of the volunteers work directly on standards development committees. Others provide input through surveys, forums, and other outreach activities.

The Agricultural Machinery Technical Committee is comprised of twenty-five volunteers from machinery manufacturers, government authorities, various farm groups and agricultural colleges/institutions who provide the broad range of technical knowledge, experience and expertise required to develop standards as well as funds to help support standards development. The committee is chaired by Earle Morton of AGCO Corporation and vice-chaired by Ted Whitworth of Ontario's Farm Safety Association. Most recently, the committee's activities have been supported by the Canadian Agriculture Safety Program.

How are standards developed?

Anyone can come forward and request a standard. Often it is a consumer organization, trade/industry association or a government department, which has observed a need. CSA then evaluates the usefulness of a potential standard in meeting the need, and



assesses the level of support in the community and industry.

The focus of most CSA farm machinery standards has been safety - both in the design and operation of equipment. Once developed, the standards are living documents, reviewed at least every five years.

The committee works alongside similar standards committees in the U. S. (under the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, ASAE) and in Europe (under the International Organization for Standardization, ISO) to coordinate the adoption of standards between countries.

Revised Standard on Tractor Braking Systems

CSA is soon to publish the latest edition of the M675 Standard, "Braking System Performance Criteria for Agricultural Field Equipment." The standard covers braking systems for both tractors and some types of towed vehicles and implements. It provides engineers with criteria for calculating the brake performance requirements-

for various sizes of tractors and weights of towed equipment. It also sets out the test methods for ensuring that brakes are designed properly with safe capacity for the loads expected, are durable and reliable for the intended use, and are easy for farmers to use and maintain.

The revised standard updates the requirements for tractor parking brakes and the test procedures for the evaluation of several classes of braking systems. Some 36 agricultural machinery standards are currently available. Although these standards are aimed at equipment manufacturers and testing agencies, they are available for purchase by any individual or group.

Want to know more?

For a catalogue of CSA standards and information products, telephone (800) 463-6727 or see the listing on line at www.csa.ca. If you'd like to get involved as a CSA consumer volunteer, you can apply by filling out an on-line application form. Go to www.consumer.services@csa.ca, then click on Consumer Information.

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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

Lance Matthews, inventor of the i-WALKFree™ Orthosis, talks a mile a minute and rarely answers questions with a word or two. Describing what he does for a living, he says, among other things, that he operates a "fifth generation, real old-fashioned family farm" with his father near Mansfield, Ontario, less than an hour's drive north of Toronto. "It's mainly pasture land, so we have a small cow-calf operation, we keep one cow to milk and we have chickens for eggs."

Matthews, 45, has also done carpentry and travelled extensively, working for periods in the Alberta oil patch and Italy. In his spare time, the former national Enduro motorcycle champion still competes in motorcycle events. It was an unintended flying leap four years ago - but not on a motorbike - that added "inventor" and "manufacturer" to the list of career hats he wears.

On November 18, 1997, a cool, windy day, Matthews was up on the barn roof without a safety line, replacing damaged shingles with tin sheeting. "I was ten minutes from being done and had both hands full," he says, "when I slipped." He fell about twenty feet, landing hard on frozen ground and seriously fracturing his



Lance Matthews, inventor of the i-WALK-free™ Walking Aid

left heel. It took four and a half hours of surgery to repair the fracture, he says, and the foot is still held together with nine screws.

Falls from a height are the third most common cause of serious injury on Canadian farms, trailing only animal-related incidents and machine entanglements. According to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program, falls from a height send 140 people who work on farms to hospital every year.

Three days after leaving hospital, Matthews was awkwardly hopping around in his kitchen, two crutches jammed under his underarms. "I remember thinking," he says, "'My whole body is being held hostage by my foot. Then, 'What are you doing with these two sticks?' Crutches haven't evolved much since ancient Egyptians who suffered a broken foot or a sprained ankle hobbled around on

them 5,000 years ago. No one likes crutches. They're tremendously impractical and uncomfortable and ridiculous."

"The second I made it and touched the ground, I was mobile."

Matthews headed to his basement workshop where, in less than an hour, he built a radically new kind of walking aid. "It was basically a stick with a shelf and a brace," he says. He crafted it out of five coopered pieces of cedar so it would fit around the thigh of his injured leg and added a shelf to support his flexed knee and Velcro straps to keep it fastened to his thigh. "The second I made it and touched the ground, I was mobile. And with my hands free, I could do what had to be done." He spent six weeks recovering from his broken heel, including a planned holiday where he used his walking aid in places like the Grand Canyon, Los Angeles and Tijuana, Mexico.

Matthews wore the device when he arrived for his checkup at Wellesley and Women's College Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. It so impressed the joint specialists and orthopedic technicians, they suggested he refine and patent the product.

The Health Sciences Centre began an immediate clinical trial of the device with twenty hand-made aluminum prototypes. The groundbreaking results were presented at the Canadian Orthopedic Association Meeting in June 2000. Medical benefits of the device include:

- improved motor function and mobility

- improved personal esteem through management of daily affairs
- a potential reduction in loss of muscle mass and strength
- a potential decrease in loss of bone density
- a potentially shortened rehabilitation time
- an improved ability to exercise
- improved personal safety.

After raising capital and seeking manufacturing advice, Matthews embarked on a new phase of development. The i-WALKfree™ Orthosis now consists of injection-molded plastic and extruded aluminum parts. Quick-release buckles let the user slip it off to sit or drive a vehicle. The device has won the prestigious Manning Innovation Award in Canada

and the Award of Distinction at MED-TRADE 2000, a major home healthcare trade show in Orlando, Florida. Canadian and US patent approvals are pending.

Matthews is optimistic about the potential benefits the device holds for victims of amputation and lower limb disease in third world countries. The first of what he hopes will be many foreign aid applications has started with a field study in El Salvador, done under the auspices of the Central American Landmine Survivors' Network.

iWALKfree™ is licenced as a Class 1 Medical Device in Canada with a suggested retail price of \$349. It can be purchased or rented from home healthcare equipment suppliers. That's money well spent, Matthews

points out, if you remain self-sufficient, can work, take care of family and exercise to stay fit. Through the Internet (www.iwalk-free.com), he has received orders from as far away as Japan and Australia.

When asked why it took a farmer to solve a centuries old problem that affects millions of people a year, Matthews says, "Farmers are tremendously inventive. They live in a three dimensional world. Anybody that lives any distance from town learns how to fix, replace, innovate and develop, to save miles and save money."

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E-mail: info@iwalk-free.com*



The i-WALK-Free™ Walking Aid

From the Research Desk



GRAIN AUGER INJURY STUDY

A spate of injuries

During four months in the spring and summer of 2000, ten serious grain auger injuries occurred in one health region of southern Alberta. That spate of injuries attracted well deserved attention, but Alberta is not unique in this experience. The Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program (CAISP) reports that grain auger incidents kill two people and seriously injure another fifty every year across Canada.

Study undertaken

The Alberta tragedies prompted a year-long Grain Auger Injury Study, begun in March 2001, conducted by the North American Farm and Environmental Safety Centre in Raymond, Alberta, approximately forty kilometres south of Lethbridge. Financial and technical support for the study were provided by the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research (ACICR), the Chinook Health region and the Alberta Agriculture Ag Tech Centre.

Project Coordinator, Laura Nelson, reports that 459 farmers in southern Alberta completed a grain auger usage survey through a person-to-person or telephone interview, or by mail-in questionnaire. The survey asked farmers specific questions about their use of grain augers and their history of grain auger injuries. Farmers were also asked for suggestions about how the design of grain augers could be changed to increase their safety and ease of use.

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Results confirm serious hazard

Surprisingly, 46 of the 459 study participants reported having experienced one or more auger injuries, representing an injury rate of 10%. The most common injury events involved contact with exposed auger blades or entanglement in exposed auger shafts. While the severity of injury varied widely, 25% of those injured required hospitalization. This figure likely corresponds with the 25% of respondents who experienced amputation of a hand, foot or fingers.

Study participants had an average of 27 years of farming experience. Eighty-three per cent of farmers injured in auger incidents were between 18 and 65 years of age at the time of injury. Incidents were equally prevalent in the following age groups: 18 - 30, 31 - 45, and 46 - 65.

Mechanical factors highlighted

While participants tended to list human factors such as carelessness (50%) and inattention (24%) as the cause of their incidents, mechanical factors were also implicated. In response to the question, "Was safety equipment in place at the time of your injury?" 80% of the injured farmers answered, "No." The most common reasons cited for missing safety equipment were:

- The shield restricts the flow of grain.
- With a shield in place, the auger doesn't fit into the grain bin.

- The auger (older model or purchased second-hand) was not equipped with a guard or shield.

Nelson says these are valid concerns that manufacturers need to consider. One way to improve auger safety may be as simple as making larger openings in grain bin doors. Study results including design changes suggested by study participants have been made available to the Alberta Agriculture Ag Tech Centre in Lethbridge. That organization has an on-going relationship with machinery manufacturers and promotes the development of equipment that is safer and easier to operate.

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Grain auger intake

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

CANADIAN COALITION FOR AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND RURAL HEALTH: Highlights

- The Canadian Agriculture Safety Program (CASP II) concludes on March 31, 2003.
- The Coalition has established a visioning committee to plan for the future beyond 2003.
- Watch for the announcement of an exciting new name and logo for the Coalition in April 2002.
- The 2002 Canadian Farm Safety and Rural Health Conference will take place November 3 - 5 at the Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Visit the Coalition's Website: www.CCASRH.org for information updates.

CFA: Canadian Agriculture Safety Week

Livestock Handling Safety: Put Your Best Foot Forward is the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) theme for 2001-02. On average, five Canadians are killed and over 300 are seriously injured every year in farm work-related incidents that involve animals. In fact, animal-related inci-

dents account for one in five farm injuries requiring hospitalization.

To highlight animal-handling safety, CFA has planned a number of projects and activities. Kicking off the campaign is Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, March 13 - 20. CFA has a long history of promoting Canadian Agricultural Safety Week with a two-fold approach aimed at farmers and the media. This year's campaign, sponsored by Farm Credit Canada, uses a variety of information tools from media kits and radio interviews to brochures and bulletins.

A poster launched during the summer of 2001, "Tips for Safe Livestock Handling," illustrates safe work practices when handling livestock. Producers are encouraged to hang the poster, created with the support of Pioneer-Bred Limited (Canada), in their barns and livestock-handling areas as a learning tool and frequent safety reminder.

Kudos go to CFA for an innovative, new project consisting of a Farm Safety Photo Library on CD-ROM. Approximately 80 photos, designed to meet the specific needs of media and farm safety and health organizations, will show farm hazards and illustrate

safe-work practices and equipment. Photos are being chosen from a collection submitted by agri-business and farm safety organizations. The CD-ROM, will be available in both PC and Mac formats. Three thousand CDs will be produced and distributed nationally.

Finally, CFA will continue to sponsor and assist in the development of the two-minute Farm Safety segments on "The Canadian Farm," Canada's only national agriculture and agri-food television program. The half-hour show is broadcast on all CTV affiliates and is available on satellite from Jan. 1 through Apr. 1. Look for "The Canadian Farm" website at www.canadianfarm.com.

For further information, or to order resources, contact: Theresa Whalen Ruiter, CFA Farm Safety Coordinator: Tel/Fax: (613) 731-7321, E-mail: twrmagma.ca, or visit www.cfa-fca.ca.



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Provincial Projects

NOVA SCOTIA: Gets Hooked on PTOs

Entanglement in operating equipment is the leading cause of permanently disabling injuries on Canadian farms. Recognizing the importance of Power Take Off (PTO) safety, the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee chose to focus on safe PTO practices with a recent project. Their goal was to increase farmers' awareness of the danger of entanglement when a PTO guard is not in

place.

To get the farm safety message out to as many farmers as possible, committee members make a point of attending exhibitions, fairs, workshops and trade shows. During the past year, they have attended a dozen such events with a PTO demonstration model and an informational backdrop.

The PTO demonstrator was constructed by Agriculture Diploma students at the Community College in Woodstock, New Brunswick. Powered by a battery operated drill, the device shows how quickly and forcefully the spinning shaft of a PTO can grab and wrap anything that contacts it. The 'victim' is a child's stuffed toy with a ribbon simulating loose clothing or long hair.

Liz Crouse, Chair of the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee says, "The display is an eye-catcher and usually attracts a

crowd. Viewers are all ages. They tell us they're not likely to forget what they saw."

Nova Scotia takes any available opportunity to promote farm safety, according to Crouse. Other recent committee initiatives include airing farm safety radio spots during peak seasons and promoting a Standards of Practice and Risk Management Tool developed for farmers in 2000. The document is a user-friendly guide to provincial Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines along with a farm operation safety checklist.

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*Committee members, Carl Palmer and Lloyd Evans with the PTO demonstrator.
Palmer survived a 1979 PTO incident that claimed both legs.*

MANITOBA:

Workplace Safety and Health Program for Hog Farmers

The hog production industry has grown dramatically in Manitoba in the past ten years. Deanne Miller, a safety consultant at the Manitoba Pork Council, estimates number of pigs in the province rose from 2.2 million in 1991 to 5.9 million in 2001. With that growth and the accompanying changes in the industry, workplace safety has become an important issue for hog producers.

Miller points out, "In the past, farmers who raised hogs did their chores and left the barn. Today, intensive hog barn workers are exposed to the barn environment for up to 10 hours at a time. They need to be fully aware of the hazards and know how to protect themselves from work-related illness and injury."

The Manitoba Pork Council has worked with Manitoba Labour, Workplace Safety and Health Division to develop a training manual for hog farmers. The user-friendly document identifies high-risk barn areas and tasks, and outlines protection strategies for workers. It also covers the employer's role in maintaining a safe workplace and lists a directory of safety-related contacts and emergency information. The manual functions as an educational tool to initiate new employees and as an on-going review for all workers. By late spring, Miller says, the training manual for hog farmers will be available in PDF format on the Manitoba Pork Council Website: www.manitobapork.com.

A Canadian Agriculture Safety Program grant is helping the Manitoba



Pork Council provide a Workplace Safety Training Program for hog producers. Initially, the Council distributed 1,500 copies of the training manual within the province. The next step is a series of local training workshops, delivered by Prairie Swine Centre staff to small groups of producers and hog barn workers.

The course targets hog barn managers and provides them with the knowledge they need to work safely in areas with high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide, a toxic gas that causes irritation, lung disease or death in humans and pigs.

Workshop participants identify hazardous locations in the barn and learn about the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). Small training groups make it easy to ask good questions and

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

QUEBEC FARMERS' ADVOCATE



Ontario Farmer
Ontario Farmer Publications

MANITOBA
CO-OPERATOR

THE Western Producer

AGRI
DIGEST

develop new skills. In the context of case studies, participants learn about specialized personal protective equipment and rescue techniques.

For further information, contact:
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SASKATCHEWAN: Interactive Website Tractor Safety Program

The Institute of Agricultural Rural and Environmental Health (I.ARE.H) at the University of Saskatchewan achieved a "first in Canada" with its interactive on-line learning program, *Tractor Rollovers and Run Overs: Can You Prevent One on Your Farm?* Funding from CASP and from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food assisted in the development of the resource.

The program had initially been developed as a PowerPoint Slide Talk Presentation for groups. It examines ten fatal tractor rollovers and run overs based on actual incidents that occurred on Canadian farms. In a group format, the audience plays the role of "accident investigator," identifying an immediate cause and contributing factors for each incident and recommending the safe work practice to prevent a similar tragedy.

"The timing was right," says Program Coordinator, Lori Lockinger, who adapted the material for the Internet. "A recent AgInfoNet survey showed that nearly half of all producers on the prairies own computers and a rapidly growing number use the Internet for farm-related business."

Putting farm safety information on the Internet, Lockinger says, is a cost-effective way to reach a larger audience. She points out that the program's user-friendly, interactive format



appeals to the 15 to 35 age group, who may lack the time or the inclination to read print materials or attend safety presentations.

A recent Web Server report for the I.ARE.H confirms that on-line learning is popular. From November to January, the Institute's website showed over 200 hits for the "Tractor Rollovers and Run Overs" on-line learning program and PowerPoint presentation.

To try out the Tractor Rollovers and Run Overs interactive on-line learning program, visit: www.usask.ca/medicine/aghealth/ag/quiz/quizF.htm
To view or to download the Tractor Rollovers and Run Overs PowerPoint presentation, visit: www.usask.ca/medicine/aghealth/ag/pres/trr.htm

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Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

*March
13th - 20th*

ALBERTA: Safe Livestock Handling Course

Livestock are the number one cause of farm work-related injuries in this province, reports Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. "This statistic does not surprise me," states Jennifer Woods, an Alberta animal handling expert, "but, most of these injuries are preventable."

Responding to what was clearly a need, the Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC) received CASP funding assistance to develop a Safe Livestock Handling course. Their goal was to develop an effective, hands-on program to help livestock producers and workers handle animals in all situations, especially those that are stressful such as treatment of sick or injured animals. Consultant, Jennifer Woods of Reflected J Livestock Consulting, will deliver the one-day workshop. She collaborated successfully with AFAC on a previous workshop, Livestock Emergency Response, that dealt with handling livestock in emergencies such as road accidents.

Factors that contribute to livestock incidents, Jennifer Woods says, are lack of experience and knowledge, over-confidence, poor facility design and behaviour changes in the livestock due to distress. "People tend to forget or not realize that an injured horse or a cow that has just calved will not behave in the way they would in a normal, low-stress situation. No matter how well you know your animals, they are still animals and are unpredictable."

The AFAC course and manual (provided only to workshop participants) will cover:

- Humane handling and behaviour of cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, poultry, bison, elk, llama and ostrich.
- Facility and workplace safety: design and renovation of facilities to promote handler and animal safety, and to decrease injury, stress and bruising of animals.
- Situations that cause distress in livestock (ie: weather, travel, calving, illness).
- Recognizing behavioural characteristics of distress, illness and injury in livestock.
- Human safety when handling distressed livestock.
- Means to calm, rescue or temporarily confine livestock.
- Livestock first aid: understanding medicine administration and treatments; and human precautions while treating.
- When to euthanise and when to try to salvage an animal. Proper and safe euthanasia.

- Disposal of dead stock: laws and safety.
- Laws, ethics and liabilities as they apply to animal handlers.
- Emergency contact sheet: who to call and when.

The program is targeted at producers and their families; 4 H groups; feedlot, auction mart, assembly yard and research station workers. Local availability of an animal-handling facility with livestock can add a practical, hands-on component to the course.

Workshops will be available beginning in April. If you're interested in participating, you need to approach a local group such as your agricultural society to arrange a course in your community.

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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.

How Much Time I Saved

by Julie Bidwell and Roxanna Kaminski
Institute of Agricultural Rural and Environmental Health

Almost eleven years after being run over by his John Deere 4020, Walter Jess says, "I still get a funny feeling when I get in front of a tractor wheel." The cattle farmer, former Saskatchewan Wheat Pool delegate and former Member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly is one of the rare individuals to have survived a tractor run over.

According to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program (CAISP), farm tractor run overs kill or seriously injure eighty-five persons per year and the numbers show no sign of decreasing.

It was close to dark on the 26th of February, 1991 when Jess, 48, was feeding round bales to his cattle. When he lifted the front-end loader up over the feeder, he stalled the power shift tractor. He recalls, "I got off and started to cut the twines on the bale. The loader had settled a bit, jamming the bale against the feeder; so I just reached in with my left hand and turned the key on and hit the starter."

As soon as it fired, he says, everything just roared. He remembered that he had pulled the throttle open, then decided not to start up, before getting



Tractor runover survivor, Walter Jess

off. The tractor lurched forward, pulling his arm out of its socket and knocking him sideways; then the rear wheel went up and over his body. Jess credits the hay and snow on the ground with cushioning the tractor's weight and saving his life.

"It's strange how you react at a time like that," Jess says. "Many years ago, I had been hurt on construction and the doctor told me that if you punctured a major artery in your leg, you could bleed to death in three minutes. I felt it was my pelvis that was crushed and, as weird as it might sound, I took my watch off and looked at it. It was three minutes to seven, so

Farm Runover Fatalities by Circumstance and Age Group

CAISP: 1990 - 1994 (** = values less than 5)

Circumstance	Age Group			No.
	0 - 14	15 - 59	60+	
Rider Runover	19	16	12	47
Blind Runover	16	3	2	21
Unmanned Runover	**	**	8	16
Jumpstart	**	**	6	8
Unknown	**	**	**	7
Total	41	28	30	99

I set the watch on my chest and I just laid there trying to figure out what to do next. After three minutes were up and I was still around, I started to holler and timed it so that I would holler every minute or two."

When his wife stepped outside to check why he wasn't home for supper, she heard him shouting and headed out to the cattle. Jess told her to contact neighbours and the Emergency Medical System, and to bring blankets. He recalls, "I had a little collie dog and she came and laid between my arm and my chest and helped maintain the body heat, kind of sensed what was going on, I guess." He estimates he was on the ground for two and a half hours.

On arrival, the ambulance got stuck in the lane and neighbours had to dig it out. When they reached the local hospital, Jess was stabilized before being transported to an acute care centre in Saskatoon. His injuries included a dislocated shoulder, torn

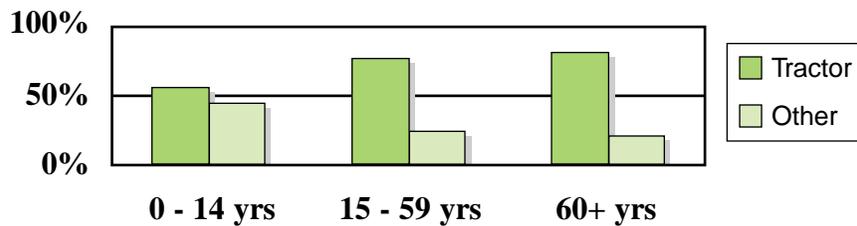
ligaments in both knees and a pelvis fractured in five places. After twenty-five days in the acute care centre and another twenty-five days in the local hospital, he was transferred to a third facility for three weeks of intensive rehabilitation. Once he was out of a wheelchair, learning to walk again involved crutches and finally a cane.

Jess continued to farm with his sons' help, but permanent disability limits what he can do. "I've let the last of my cattle go; I just don't move fast enough to work around cattle in the

loading chutes." Until recently, he reports, he has been able to handle a grain vacuum for cleaning bins, since he can't shovel effectively. His losses, even the minor ones, are frustrating and an added expense. "I don't bend very well," he says "so I have to get the oil in my car changed at the garage in town."

Asked what it would take to prevent a similar incident, he says, "If the safety feature had not been bypassed (by a previous owner), it wouldn't have happened. But, if I had had the

Farm Runover Incidents by Machinery Type CAISP: 1990 - 1994



What is a . . .

Rider Runover

The rider is run over by the tractor or other farm vehicle/machine after having fallen from the tractor, wagon, or other vehicle/machine.

Blind Runover

The victim is run over by the tractor and/or other farm vehicle/machine because the driver had no knowledge of the proximity of the victim to the equipment.

Unmanned Runover

The victim is run over by tractor or truck that was rolling without the driver operating it. Usual cause: failure to apply parking brake/chock wheels.

Jumpstart Runover

The operator is run over by the tractor and/or other farm vehicle or machine when the tractor is started from outside; also includes when the tractor is still in gear.

Source: Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program: "Farm Runover Injuries in Canada, 1990 - 1994"



Walter Jess with John Deere 4020

good sense to make sure that I was sitting on the tractor seat, it wouldn't have happened either. You should always be sitting on the seat when you start up. The extra time it takes to get on and off is well worthwhile."

"In most farm accidents, including mine" Walter Jess concedes, "there is no need to take the risk that you take. But we're always in a hurry - it's just, 'GO!' He adds ruefully, "I have had pretty nearly eleven years to think about how much time I saved by just reaching in there."

Aware of how his story could have ended, he reckons, "I have been very fortunate, you know. Most people run over by a tractor don't get to have this conversation."

Activating the Emergency Medical System

Do you know how?

Planning ahead makes it easier

Post emergency telephone number (or numbers) near all telephones.

- fire/rescue
- ambulance
- poison control centre
- power supply company
- RCMP or provincial police
- local police

If a 9-1-1 system is not available, you may need to call services separately. Make sure all family members and workers understand the purpose of each number.

Post land location numbers and clear directions by all phones. Include accurate milage distances in kilometres. Describe turns as "left" or "right" rather than N, E,

S or W. Include landmarks only if visible day and night and year-round (even in snow).

Tell the EMS dispatcher key details

- exact location of the accident scene
- telephone number from which you are calling
- nature of the accident (electrocution, entrapment under tractor etc.)
- number of victims
- condition of victims (level of consciousness, bleeding, etc.)
- type of aid being given to the victim (CPR, bandaging, etc.)
- whether someone will meet the

ambulance at the farm entrance and accompany it to the scene

- any special conditions that will hinder rescue efforts (snow, mud, confined space)
- other necessary information

DO NOT hang up the phone until the dispatcher tells you to do so



Due to stress and excitement, you may have forgotten a key detail. When your call is complete,

stay with and care for the victim until help arrives.

Kids Korner

Farm Safety Just Adds Up

adapted with permission from: *Farm Safety Season, Winter 2001*, published by Farm Safety 4 Just Kids



1. Farm safety is ____ ($20 \div 5$) everyone in a farm family.
2. ____ ($27 - 26$) is the safe number of riders on a tractor.
3. One in ____ ($20 - 15$) farm injuries involves a farm animal.
4. ____ % ($200 \div 5$) of animal-related farm injuries are caused by horses.
5. You need protection from the sun when its rays are strongest, ____ a.m. (no. of dimes in \$1.00) to ____ p.m. (no. of quarters in \$1.00)
6. A PTO spins at ____ (4×4) rotations per second.
7. Number of seat belts to be used when three people are in a vehicle ____ ($81 \div 27$).
8. ____ (4×9) Canadian children are admitted to hospital every year after a fall on a farm.
9. It takes ____ seconds (a baker's dozen) to be 'drowned' by grain being unloaded into a grain bin.
10. ____ ($8 - 8$) people can ride safely in the back of a pick-up truck.

Answers:

1) 4 2) 1 3) 5 4) 40 5) 10 am - 4 pm 6) 16 7) 3 8) 36 9) 13 10) 0

The Inventory of Canadian Farm Safety and Rural Health Programs and Research [click here](#)

Did you know . . .

- The Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health (CCASRH), a leader in sharing farm safety information and resources, has established an Inventory of Farm Safety and Rural Health Programs and Research. You can view the inventory at www.ccasrh.org.
- The inventory offers access to a wealth of information to help you develop new programs or enrich old ones.
- The inventory gives Canada an opportunity to showcase its farm safety and rural health programs and research to others across the world.
- As the inventory grows, together we will make rural Canada a safer place to work and live.

Count yourself in!

Your work is an important part of what's happening in Canada. By making sure it is included in the inventory, you can let others know you are a part of this great initiative. First, go to www.ccasrh.org and click on "English," then on the Inventory banner. Search the programs in your province to check whether your program is already listed. If not, or if you need to modify your information, click the "Questionnaire" button on the CCASRH homepage and follow the instructions. By taking a few minutes to add your program or research, you can help enrich this resource for others working in farm safety and rural health in Canada and around the world.

For other resources:

The Inventory links directly to the websites of participating programs and researchers. It provides contact information for the people and the organizations, with descriptions of and details about their programs and research. The Inventory complements the resource directory housed by the Farm Safety Association in Ontario at www.farmsafety.ca (look under products and services). Together, these two sites give you access to a wealth of information to build new programs or enrich old ones.

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
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Rural Health
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