

YOUR SAFETY YOUR WAY

AgSafe Alberta is a collaboration of crop and livestock producer groups that have come together to work on a project to develop and deliver farm safety management tools, resources and programs for farmers and ranchers in the province of Alberta.

The overall goal of AgSafe Alberta is to empower farmers and ranchers to integrate practical safety management programs into everyday operations of the farm, in order to prevent illness and injury for everyone involved on the farm.



Volume 1 Issue 2 October 2017

AGSAFE ALBERTA ON-FARM PILOT

The AgSafe Alberta Advisors have been out in the farming community delivering farm safety programming at the level defined by each producer.

AgSafe Alberta Advisor Updates

Sherri Marthaller has been working with Alberta feedlots, reviewing their existing programs and supplementing their safety programs with additional hazard assessments and standard operating procedures specific to the operation. Her extensive experience working in the cattle industry has helped Sherri customize practical programs that fit the operation. Sherri has also been working with seed growers, chicken producers, grain producers and farmers growing specialty crops.

Maria Champagne met with producers who wanted guidance building programs outlined in the AgSafe Alberta QuickStart guides. Some of the producers chose to start with development of an Emergency Response Plan or hazard assessment program. Others wanted an Advisor to look at their operation with a fresh set of eyes, looking for issues they may have overlooked or that they may have become complacent with from working with them for so many years.

Dan Trottier is tailoring farm safety programs for an egg producer, a couple of dairy farms, and a potato producer. Dan is working with ranchers who have a few employees. These ranchers want to ensure that they have the farm safety programs in place to protect their employees and families working on the farm. He has been working with Alberta Pork field staff to train them on farm safety principles, that the staff will discuss with producers during their regular visits to the farms. Dan will also be assessing the quality and effectiveness of farm safety management programs already in place on a few farms.

Extension Coordinator, Donna Trottier and the AgSafe Advisors will be attending multiple agricultural events over the next few months to share AgSafe Alberta resources with farmers across Alberta. See page 4 of this newsletter for a schedule of events. Please contact Donna Trottier if you would like help with the safety management on your farm. 403.348.9321, donna@agsafeab.ca or sign up via the website www.agsafeab.ca.



WEEKLY SAFETY TIP

How do you take your "COMMON SENSE" and transfer that wisdom to another farm worker? One way is to set up a hazard management program for your farm and capture that knowledge to be shared. Check out the AgSafe Alberta QuickStart Guide for Hazard Management to get started.



Speaking from Experience...

Third degree burns on hands

Many of us have burning piles on our farms to deal with brush and waste. "Louise" had such a burn pile and even went to the effort to get a permit before lighting the pile to burn. The fire got away on Louise and she ended up with severe burns on her hands that required skin grafts to repair. She said "It didn't look like it was going to be dangerous, but it was." When asked what she would do different next time, she indicated that she should have been better prepared, with a water tank readily available to put out the fire before it got away. Louise also said she was working alone and wished she would have had someone there to help her before the fire got out of control. We can learn from Louise's misfortune by thinking about the hazards and what could go wrong during every-day tasks, and then putting measures in place to control the hazard and protect the people completing the task. Louise did not anticipate any harm from this common farm activity but was not prepared and was drastically injured due to the lack of preparation and prevention.



Electrocution

Bert was moving the auger to another bin in the yard so that he could unload the next load of grain coming in during harvest. Usually Bert used the tractor to move the auger around but on this fall day he was manually pushing the auger into place. This auger was bigger than their old auger and this was the first time he used the auger around the bin near the power line in the yard. As Bert maneuvered the auger it struck the nearby power line. Bert was electrocuted but the jolt of the power threw Bert back away from the auger. Luckily he didn't keep holding onto the auger. Bert is not certain what caused him to let go of the auger. Perhaps the auger jumped and shook him free, but whatever it was, it was a good thing because he was thrown away from the auger and the electrocution ended. Bert does not remember exactly what occurred but said that when he came to, he had smoke coming out of his back.

Bert admitted that he was in a hurry because of the pressures of harvest. When asked what Bert would do differently, he indicated that his first choice would be to eliminate the power-lines from the yard. OR don't put the bins anywhere near the power-lines in the first place. He also said he could have shut the power off while working around the line with the new, bigger auger. Bert also suggested that he should have had a spotter with him to watch the lines but cautioned that sometimes the augers JUMP while you are moving them which could cause the auger to get too close to the power line and arc an electrocution occurrence. With this close call, and a shocking wakeup call, Bert has since moved the bins away from the power line. Be power line smart!



Share your story - if you have a story and lessons learned that could help prevent the same thing from happening to a fellow farmer please send in your story to donna@agsafeab.ca



We all seem to have a story to tell about a farm safety incident that happened to us or someone close to us on the farm. One of the most progressive things we can do is share the lessons-learned from the incident with others. There should be no shame in telling others what we did wrong, or what we would change next time to avoid the incident, as it may prevent someone else from meeting the same fate. Tell your story.

CONFINED SPACE ON THE FARM

Farms have a variety of confined spaces that can become very dangerous work environments. Work done in confined spaces are said to be 150 times more dangerous than work done outside of this space. Most injuries caused in confined spaces are due to workers not knowing the hazards involved in working in these high risk environments.

A confined space can present itself in many shapes and sizes. It is a restricted space with limited access or a steep climb up a ladder to get out. It is also a space that can be compromised in air quality. An atmospheric deficient environment can be caused by oxygen levels too high or too low, a flammable environment, mists, fumes or dust. It can also be a space with potential for injury or illness within this space such as slippery conditions or uneven surfaces. Lastly, it can be a space that can produce harmful consequences like grain and fertilizer entrapment or engulfment or potential for drowning. Some examples of confined spaces that could be present on farms are grain bins, manure pits, seed carts, well pit, manure evacuators, hoppers, fertilizer carts and sewers to name a few.

Confined spaces can also be very toxic. Decaying organic matter, fermenting legumes and grains off gas gases that can knock a person down quickly, even cause death within minutes. Many toxic gases are odourless and colorless so why take the chance assuming the air quality is adequate. For a nominal sum, you can purchase a gas monitoring hand held unit that tests air quality prior to entering this space. The dangers are real and we should treat them with the utmost respect.

Often times producers find themselves working alone in a number of situations, but best practices advise to work in confined spaces with a spotter also known as a monitor. The role of a monitor is to be your lifeline. That person is to be in constant communication with you and monitor your state of response. If the work conditions change and air quality becomes compromised altering the communication link, your monitor should ask you to exit the confined space for your safety. On that note, if for some reason you have injured yourself, your monitor can call for help.

Knowing that producers may have to enter these spaces to do maintenance work or repairs, how do we manage the risks and create a safer work environment? Allow me to point out a few easy steps to get you started. Creating a safety management system for your farm can be as simple or as complex as you wish it to be. Begin by walking around your farm and identifying potential confined spaces and write them down. Create awareness on the farm by posting signage saying do not enter, confined space. This allows workers and family members to spot danger. It also allows the worker performing work to stop and think about what he is about to do.

Create a code of practice for confined space work. These best practices address such things as; identifying hazards associated with working in confined spaces, testing of air quality, having a qualified person with adequate training to perform the work, having an emergency response plan in place and having a designated person to monitor the worker while he or she is performing confined work. Share this code of practice with everyone on the farm. It's knowledge everyone can benefit from.

Producers can incorporate safer practical on farm practices to help control hazards and help in the prevention of serious injury and death. Before entering any confined space, STOP-THINK-PREPARE.

For more information on the AgSafe Alberta Quick Start Guide -Confined Space Management visit www.agsafeab.ca or contact an AgSafe Alberta Advisor.

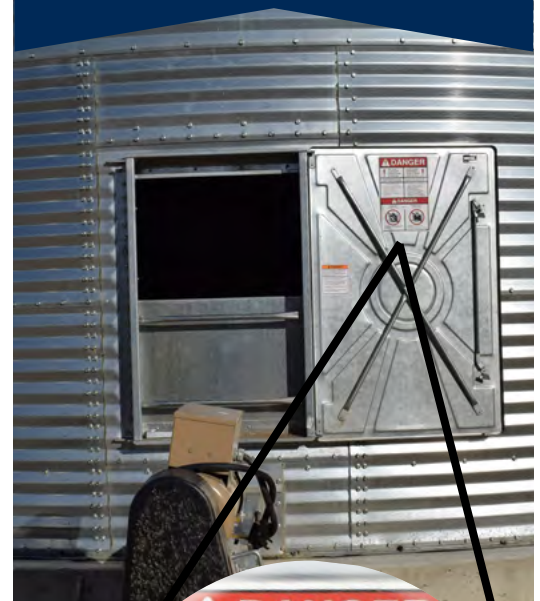
EXAMPLES OF CONFINED SPACES

Grain bins

Grain bins are considered a confined space because they are not meant for human occupancy and they can be difficult to get in and out of. If someone became engulfed in grain, rescue is extremely difficult.

Wells & Below Ground Structures

Wells, cisterns and other below ground structures are confined spaces. Dangerous gases can collect or oxygen can be missing in these areas making them very dangerous.



AgSafe Alberta Workshops & Extension Activities

AgSafe ALBERTA

NOV 15 2017

YOUR SAFETY - YOUR WAY

Intro to Farm & Ranch Safety Planning

WORKSHOP
Cardston County Office
5pm - 9pm

Hosted by:
Cardston County & AgSafe Alberta

WHO IS AGSAFE ALBERTA?
HAZARD ASSESSMENT ON THE FARM EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

Supper included. Registration is free. Please register by November 10th.

To register call Stephen at 403.653.4977. For more information on the seminar call or email Donna Trotter at Agsafe Alberta 403.348.9321 or donna@agsafeab.ca.

AgSafeAB.ca

Farm Safety Day

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

We all want to come home safe at the end of the day but emergencies can happen at any time and being prepared is the best bet to guarantee you and your families safety. Please join us:

October 27, 2017 at the Vilna Cultural Centre
10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

The day will cover:

- Dealing with mental stress to stay focused and safe
- Components of a Farm Safety Plan
- Tools and Resources Available
- Electrical Safety
- WCB, who shall be covered, the cost and upcoming changes
- Emergency Response Planning

FREE lunch sponsored by:

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Emergency Preparedness Checklist

AgSafe ALBERTA

SAFETY

Please register by October 25th
by calling LARA at 780-826-7260
or email sustainag.lara@mcsnet.ca

LARA

Watch for AgSafe Alberta at these upcoming ag events:

October 24 - Alberta Milk Producer meeting Lethbridge
 October 25 - Alberta Milk Producer meeting Barrhead
 October 26 - Alberta Milk Producer meeting Red Deer
 October 26 - Farming Smarter conference Medicine Hat
 October 27 - Alberta Milk Producer meeting Leduc
 October 27: Farm Safety Day Seminar, Lakeland Agricultural Research Assoc
 October 28: Farm Safety Day Hanna Agricultural Society - Stanmore
 October 31: Alberta Chicken Regional Meeting Edmonton
 November 1: Alberta Chicken Regional Meeting Red Deer
 November 1: Crops and Chops Edmonton
 November 2: Alberta Chicken Regional Meeting Lethbridge
 November 6&7: Synergy Alberta Leduc
 November 8 - 11: Agri-Trade Red Deer
 November 14-16: Potato Growers of Alberta Conference, RD

November 15: Cardston County Farm Safety Evening
 November 15: Next Level Farming, Acme
 November 16: Next Level Farming, Lacombe
 November 16: Alberta Canola Growers - Westlock
 November 20: Introduction to Farm Safety Management Planning, Saddle Hills
 November 21: Next Level Farming, Grande Prairie
 November 22: Next Level Farming, Westlock
 November 23: Next Level Farming, Viking
 December 4-7: InService Training AAAF - Grande Prairie
 January 17: Alberta Seed Processors AGM training
 January 16-18: Ag Service Board Conference - GP
 January 30-February 1: Farm Tech Edmonton
 February 14: Sugar Beet AGM Lethbridge
 February 22-23: Alberta Farm Fresh Conference Olds



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