

# 2007-08 Annual Report



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada



# Message from the Executive Director



## What a whirlwind year it has been!

This year was Year Four of our agreement with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The personal challenge for me was to ensure that CASA wrapped up all the commitments, gathered support for and developed a five-year strategy that we would present to AAFC, and ramped up on our lofty goals identified in the plan.

It seemed that the office was building a sidewalk as we were walking on it. A tough job, but in hindsight, it looks pretty straight and level.

In this report, you will see short vignettes of the projects funded by CASA with the financial support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. I want to recognize our point man in Ottawa, Stephen Keough. He has been a strong supporter of CASA and is always finding ways for us to be more effective.

As many of you know, CASA is evolving and we have big plans for the future. I want to thank Jonas Johnson, who manages the CASHP granting program and handles many of the financial reporting requirements. My thanks to Monique Choiselat, who manages the front office and coordinates many of the meetings. New to CASA on a fulltime basis is Holly Brownlee who manages the logistics of Progressive Agriculture Safety Days and handles the resource requests and the member functions. Helping us out with many of our day to day translation needs is Geneviève Faucher, a student in the Certified Translators Program at the College St. Boniface.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Haney".

# Letter from the Chair



## What an exciting year as Chair of CASA!

The CASA Board went through a major renewal as Glen Blahey, Dr. Judith Guernsey, Chris Kletke and Jim Wasserman stepped down. I assumed the role of Chair and was supported by new Board members Dean Anderson, Laurel Aitken, Lauranne Sanderson and Pamela Fuselli.

I want to thank the Board and CASA Council members for providing feedback for our 5 year strategic direction that we have submitted to AAFC for consideration. CASA is committed to supporting the “Growing Forward” framework that encompasses all sectors of agriculture. I feel confident that CASA has an important role to play as part of the framework.

As part of our new strategic direction we have modified our vision and refined our mission statement to focus more on helping producers. CASA, originally created in 1995, is committed to continually improving and meeting the needs of the families who work and live in the agricultural workplace.

CASA has undergone most of the governance changes put in place by Judy Guernsey and implemented by Glen Blahey. An area that I want to focus on is the role of the CASA Sector Councils. CASA has access to tremendous resources within its Sector Council members, and I want to engage them in positioning and advancing the policies and direction of CASA.

I want to personally thank all the organizations who have sent in letters of support as CASA secures its place in the next generation national agricultural policy framework. In addition, I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all the safety champions across Canada.

To quote Bill Clinton “There is nothing more precious to a parent than a child, and nothing more important to our future than the safety of all our children.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Johnson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

**Bruce Johnson**  
Chair, Board of Directors

# A Canada Where No One is Hurt Farming

## CASA growing forward 2008-2013

The proposed approach is based on an overarching vision of an agricultural sector that is innovative, responds to society's objectives, and is proactive in managing risks. The following vision is one that will support the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada policy framework "Growing Forward":

**Vision:** A Canada where no one is hurt farming.

**Mission:** To make the agricultural sector a safe place to work and live by helping producers see and manage risk in their workplace.

CASA, with partners across Canada, will protect a generation of farmers. We will do this by:

1. Managing the intervention life cycle of national injury and illness interventions.
2. Enabling producer groups and farmers to see and manage the risk of their workplace.
3. Increasing the awareness of managing the risk of the workplace.
4. Work collaboratively with existing farm safety groups across Canada.
5. Increasing our financial independence

### Principles

In implementing the vision and mission, CASA will be guided by the following principles:

- All parts of the agricultural community, be they government, private, research or other, have a role to play to ensure that the agricultural sector is a safe place to work and live.
- CASA will continually solicit feedback on CASA activities.
- Collaboration and partnerships are key factors in ensuring success.
- Whenever possible, CASA will allow for provincial flexibility in supporting the national initiatives.
- CASA will be transparent and endeavour to supply services efficiently with minimum administrative burden for participants.

- CASA will treat producers equitably across commodities and regions.
- CASA believes that prevention is the most effective means-in time, money and human capital-of addressing safety in agriculture.
- Success will not happen by chance. CASA will pursue our vision and fulfill our objectives with dedication and commitment.

## Building on the Past

### FORMATION – 1993

The Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health (CCASRH), a private non-profit corporation duly incorporated under the laws of Canada, was established in 1993 in response to an identified need for a national agricultural safety networking and coordinating agency that addressed problems of illness, injury, and fatalities in agricultural operations. A coalition of agencies including the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, non-profit safety associations, provincial agricultural organizations, industry, the university health and injury research community, and provincial agriculture departments agreed to name representatives to serve in an advisory capacity as the CCASRH board of directors. In May of 2002, CCASRH was renamed the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) in order to identify itself as a more inclusive, open association that allowed involvement of all those interested to work towards agricultural safety and health in Canada.

### CASP GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR – 1994-2004

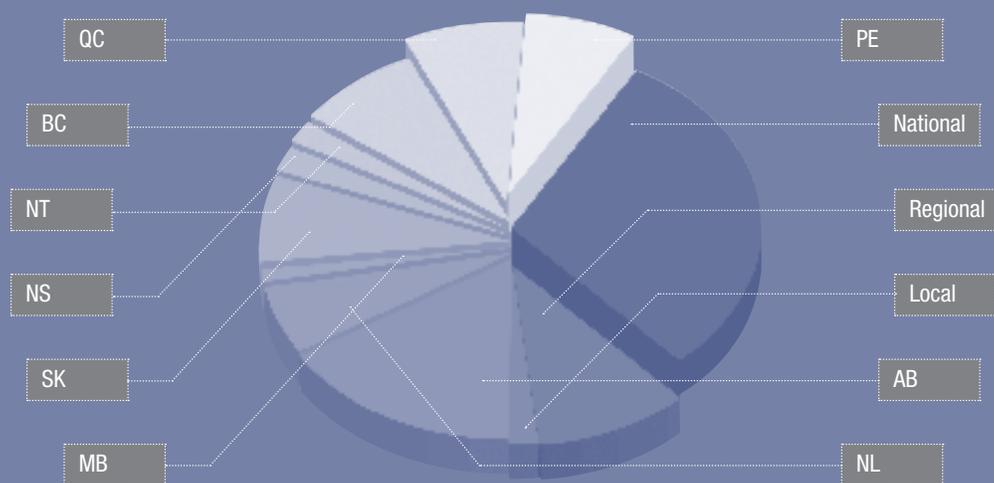
In 1994, a Joint Federal-Provincial Ministers of Agriculture decision was signed that led to the establishment of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Program (CASP). Through federal and provincial collaboration, these commitments facilitated the funding and development of community-based agricultural prevention activities throughout Canada. From 1994 to 2004, CASA administered AAFC funds for the Canadian Agricultural Safety Program.

### STRATEGIC MANAGER – 2004-2008

CASA's role has evolved from being a grant program administrator to one of initiating projects and acting as a national coordinating body for groups across Canada. Since 2004, CASA has been funded through the Renewal pillar of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF). The leadership and direction settings activities met the APF Renewal goals:

- A successful farm is a safe farm. Through the implementation of best management practises, new worker training, awareness and mitigation of current safety hazards, employer liability is reduced.
- Access to better mental health services helps to manage the stressors unique to farming.
- CASA's national network allows it to advocate for some fundamental needs of safe agriculture – assisting the disabled farmers' network, raising the awareness of the need for affordable and appropriate childcare, and injury surveillance information.

## CASA Project Funding Distribution 2007-08



- Raising the awareness of the higher risks associated with older farmers and youth allows targeted messaging. In turn the increased media coverage and additional resources change and influence attitudes.

## Successes

Supporting the new Growing Forward Policy Outcomes-

### Competitive and Innovative Sector:

- Return on investment (Every dollar allocated to CASA is matched in cash or in-kind).
- Credible central source of agricultural safety (e.g. Discovery Channel).
- Agricultural Injury/Fatality data collected and compiled. Reports produced.
- Contact list has grown to over 840 people and organizations.
- Two research centres now have a rural/agricultural component as part of their mandate and producing reports and recommendations.
- Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute has developed guarding retrofits for augers and machines and refined a pot-lifting device to improve ergonomics in greenhouses. Funding for a pilot program to retrofit tractors without Roll Over Protective Structures (ROPS) is underway.
- Successful projects developed in one province modified for national reach. (e.g.: Confined spaces training by the Union des producteurs agricoles, Work Horse training by Institute for Agricultural and Rural Environmental Health).
- US farm foundation is considering the creation of a CASA-like organization in the US.

### Sector that Contributes to Society's Priorities:

- Funding of Canadian Farmers with Disabilities Registry (CFWDR) has permitted networking for disabled farmers.
- Partnership with the Progressive Agriculture Safety Days™ allows CASA to reach over 7,000 rural youth and volunteers annually.
- CASA regularly receives media requests and e-mail requests for information.
- Website statistics continue to show increased traffic and downloads.
- Producer organizations are actively involved in Canadian Agricultural Safety Week launches. The campaign was awarded an International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Ottawa Excel Award in the Public Relations category.

### Sector that is Proactive in Managing Risks:

- Trend data indicates decrease in tractor and child-related injuries.
- CASA has influenced editorial content of publications such as Farm Business Communications.
- Requests for funding of CASHP projects have increased to over \$1.2M.
- Farmers are supporting safety initiatives with resolutions at AGM's (Dairy Farmers, KAP).
- Farm machinery manufacturers are involved in CSA standards updates.

# CASA in Your Community

## 1. Influencing Government and Industry Policy on Agricultural Safety and Health in Canada

### **CASA: Building and Promoting the Components of a National Agricultural Risk Management Strategy**

Safe farms are successful farms and CASA wants Canadian producers to make that connection. “Amongst us all, we can give Canadian farmers less to worry about as they leave the breakfast table and head for their machine sheds,” says Marcel Hacault, executive director of CASA.

Every year in Canada, approximately 122 people are killed in farm mishaps and 1200 are injured. That's personal pain and anguish plus a loss to the Canadian economy of between \$200 and \$300 million. These facts inspired CASA to sit down with people from similar organizations to create the National Agricultural Safety Strategy, a plan for making the family farm a safer place to live and work.

At the table were: CASA's Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program (CAISP) that collects data, crunches the numbers and brings to light the size and scope of farm injuries: the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA) in Saskatchewan and the Atlantic RURAL in the Maritimes who use this data to create best management practises for use on the farm: the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) who sets the bar and maintains performance levels for machines and procedures: the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) that gets into the guts of the machinery, makes sure it works the way it should and looks for ways to make it work better. CASA relies on the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to act as an advocate for farmers in the area of policy.

**“These days it really takes many different people in many different disciplines to build policy, establish standards and write guidelines,” Hacault says. “In the end, it's all about protecting generations of farm families.”**

### **CASA: Providing logistical support for Progressive Agriculture Safety Days**

Progressive Agricultural Safety Days – a safety day from the Progressive Agricultural Foundation – provides a one day forum where farm kids and volunteers spend quality time together learning important lessons about farm safety.

**“This Safety Day brings new knowledge and understanding for farm children.”** says Patty Williams, the Safety Day coordinator for Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. **“Not only does it give young children the knowledge to act safely on the farm, it gives them information to use at home to influence their families.”**

PAF provides the curriculum and training for coordinators as well as the take-home material such as brochures, booklets, bags and t-shirts. All of the distribution of material is coordinated through CASA. CASA also arranges translation of literature into French to make Progressive Agriculture Safety Days truly accessible across Canada.

CASA actively supports Progressive Agricultural Safety Days with staff time and financial input this year of \$76,000.00, an amount Progressive Agriculture more than doubles to fund the program in Canada. It's a whole day of interactive sessions where students are divided into groups of 10 to 12 depending on their age. They go to different safety stations where they get lessons on proper safe behaviour on the farm.

Last year, 36 progressive Agriculture Safety Days were held in Canada including two French sessions, one in Quebec and one in New Brunswick. There are 48 scheduled for 2008. A total of 5,865 children attended last year's sessions which were staged by 1,469 volunteers.

**"It's a kinder, gentler way to promote safety, education rather than legislation," Williams says. "It's not the only thing you can do to make a change but it's a good strategy to have in the mix."**

### **CASA: Increasing the Profile of Agricultural Safety**

Try this at home. Put the cap on a two litre pop bottle, turn it upside down and cut off the bottom. Fill it with grain and you have something that looks like a miniature grain bin. Put a small figurine on the grain and remove the bottle cap. As the grain pours out, the figurine slips below and disappears. That happens all too often – in real life.

Grain acts like a solid when it's at rest but when it's in motion, it's a fluid so if you're standing on it as it starts to move, you could drown. CASA used a small grain hopper and a tiny figurine to demonstrate the danger at several workshops this past year, including the National Institute of Farm Safety conference in Penticton, BC, and the Canadian Injury Prevention Conference in Toronto, ON.

**"We're all involved in injury prevention but CASA's focus is on agriculture," says CASA Chair Bruce Johnson. "A lot of these people have different audiences but it's still injury prevention so we're all basically headed the same way."**

**"We can learn about injury prevention techniques that they're doing in other industries or other sectors that we might be able to look at" Johnson says. "We learn to look at some of the other aspects of injury such as the psycho-social influences."**

CASA was also at Agribition in Regina, SK, and a Canadian Farm Business Council workshop in Kamloops, BC. CASA presented to the annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and staffed displays at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair in Brandon.

CASA's displays such as the PTO display, the chemical look-alike and flowing grain displays proved to be very popular and helped to strengthen basic farm safety information and practises. All three are loaned at no charge through CASA's website [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca).

## **2. Fostering Collaboration with and among Provinces and Partners**

### **CASA: Strategically Funding Canadian Farmers with Disabilities Registry**

Some will say that farmers aren't made, they're born to their trade and are often reluctant to leave it, even when a major injury leads to a lifelong disability. That was the case when Carl Palmer tangled with a PTO shaft.

**"I had five children at home at the time and they had to be fed and clothed," says Carl Palmer, chairman of the Canadian Farmers with Disabilities Registry.**

The Canadian Farmers with Disabilities Registry began in 1997. Registry volunteers encourage injured producers and their families to stay farming, if at all possible. Many disabled farmers continue practising effectively once they've

conquered three major hurdles – the disability itself, the financial cost of retooling the farm to accommodate the disability and the psychological pressure that comes from coping.



**L to R:** Louis Bourassa, Executive Director of the War Amps; Carl Palmer, Chairman of CFWDR; Reg Steward, British Columbia FARSHA; Clint Sira, Saskatchewan rep to CFWDR; and Rev. Margo MacDougall, guest speaker at the 2007 annual meeting of CFWDR.

Palmer had to come up with a substitute for two good legs. He was fitted with prosthetic legs which he uses with two canes and he keeps a wheel chair in the house.

**“I could do my fencing and herd cattle into the barn with a four wheeler.” he says. “It takes me a few minutes longer to jump on a tractor and I had to install hand brakes and a hand clutch. But that’s all doable.”**

Palmer has been farming this way now for almost 30 years and he’s been chairman of the CFWDR since it began. The organization has offices in most provinces where volunteers provide books, brochures and information sessions to farmers who need their help.

They also provide peer counseling and training. CASA administers funding for CFWDR – \$80 thousand this year to continue regular services as well as help to establish new offices in provinces where it previously had no presence.

**“Think farm safety” is our motto,”**  
Palmer says. **“And we feel there’s no better way to promote that then through Disabled Farmers.”**

### **CASA: Strategically Funding CSA Standards Updates**

There are two big differences between a vintage combine of the 1950s and a brand new one right off the lot. The new one is bigger of course and it has a lot more power and much greater capacity. It also has smoother lines, nicer design and most importantly – no big exposed pulleys or belts. Both combines perform the same task, however, the new one is safer to work around because it’s built to modern safety standards.

**“Safety is one of the primary objectives of standards and a lot of good things have happened in the design of farm machinery,”**  
says Jim Wasserman of the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute.

A standard is basically an engineering contract, developed through the efforts of a number of different people whose job it is to improve machine performance. Engineering standards deal with performance and compatibility. If a farmer buys one brand of tractor, it should hitch to a different brand of air seeder. The electric plugs or hydraulic couplings should all line up. Unlike a legal contract, however, manufacturers are not actually bound by them. Compliance is voluntary but it’s also sensible.

Safety standards deal with injury prevention through effective design and this is never more evident than when you stand a modern combine beside its distant ancestor – the old PTO threshing machine. Gone are the claws that grasp and drag the stooks that farmers hand-shoveled onto the belt. The old belts, pulleys and shafts that ran the machine from the outside are all contained behind metal molding that keeps people separated from the mechanism. Anywhere crop meets a collector, an auger or a belt, there is now a guard in place.

**“CASA works with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) who brings in stakeholders to help develop then review,”** Wasserman says. **“The CSA arrives with a guiding document to address safety concerns without comprising the effectiveness of the machinery.”**

There are 39 CSA standards dealing with safe design of farm machinery. Standards come up for review approximately every five years. CASA provides a representative to participate in the updates. This year, we granted \$15,000.00 to maintain the evolution toward even safer agricultural equipment.

**“What it means to the Canadian farmer is that the machinery designers have a common template to design safer and more effective machines.”** Wasserman says. **“It means farmers are definitely getting safer and more efficient machines.”**

### **CASA: Strategically Funding for Knowledge Translation and Exchange – CCHSA**

Sometimes health and safety is as much about what you eat, drink and breathe as it is about what you drive or operate. Getting the word out on those basics is the job of the Knowledge Translation staff at the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA).

**“CASA makes our national Knowledge Translation Program possible through financial support,”**

says Joanne Asselin of the CCHSA in Saskatoon, SK. “That means we can develop material related to health and safety in agriculture.”

The information age has given rise to the popular “Dummy” series where technical material on a variety of subjects is rewritten in popular language so anyone with a high school education can read and understand the basics. This is the same principle behind the Knowledge Translation Program where the latest research out of the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture can be repackaged into booklets, brochures or newsletters so that all can read and profit from it.

The Centre has several accessible pieces of literature covering the description of acute, chronic and degenerative health problems that are cropping up on the farm. The Centre covers other subjects too, such as the nature of risk, what it really is and how to talk about it. CASA provided \$30 thousand into the program this year to make information available to the wider public and translate the material generated into French so it’s useful throughout Canada.

The Centre also provided research literature reviews from the CCHSA and health and safety experts all across Canada. There were also articles released based on studies of aging farmers, herbicides and air quality in pig barns. Several CCHSA research translations are posted on CASA’s website under Online Resources.

“It’s putting the research into practise.” Asselin says. “It’s to convert the findings the scientists find related to health and safety in agriculture into practical information for farmers.”

### **CASA: Strategically Funding for Knowledge Translation and Exchange – Atlantic RURAL Centre**

Although we often think of fishing rather than farming as the prime resource enterprise in the Maritimes, those from Down Home also practise agriculture whether it’s PEI potatoes, Nova Scotia apples or the dark, plump blueberries that grow throughout the region. The health of rural Maritimers concerns the people of RURAL, Research toward Understanding Rural Health in Atlantic Canadian Landscapes.

“We represent researchers in all four Atlantic provinces,” says RURAL administrative director Geoff Strople. “The purpose of the Rural Centre is to bring people together from across different agricultural sectors and get them looking at health issues.”

Atlantic farms tend to be smaller than those of their western cousins. They tend to be mixed farms where apple orchards thrive alongside small stock operations. Growing forage for sheep and cattle is important, as are fruit and potato production.

This year, CASA contributed \$8 thousand to help the people of RURAL look at the agricultural safety concerns of Maritimers.

A team of 20 researchers and 40 affiliates based out of 10 Atlantic universities generated research on a broad variety of topics from safety audits for farms to proper tractor operation through the forested hills.

“One of our projects looks at the ergonomics of fruit harvesting,” Strople explains. “We’ve had a student study the safety concerns of apple pickers.”

Many Maritime apples are still picked by hand and the worker puts them in a bag suspended from his or her body. It’s a labour-intensive process and the idea was that it can be made better and less demanding with changes to the harness. Instead of suspending the bag from the back or neck, the new design hangs the bag around the hips. Results are promising.

One of the top downloads at CASA’s website is the report *Blueberry Manual Harvest Guideline and Curriculum Materials for Worker Safety in Atlantic Canada*. This program developed by RURAL proposed the development of an ergonomic safety guideline and curriculum materials to reduce and prevent muscle pain and strain among Newfoundland and Labrador blueberry harvesters.

## 3. Raising the Importance of Farm Safety and Health

### **CASA: Canadian Agricultural Safety Week – March 12-18, 2008**

In mid-March 2008, CASA once again partnered with the Farm Credit Corporation and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture plus provincial sponsors to launch Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, a celebration of farm safety and good health across Canada.

Agricultural Safety Week, CASA's longest running regular event, ran from March 12 through 18 with two provincial launches. One was held in Saskatchewan in conjunction with the convention for the Saskatchewan Association for Rural Municipalities. The other was held in Nova Scotia at the Agricultural College in Truro.

Farming is still one of the most potentially hazardous occupations in Canada because farms are unlike other workplaces.

**“It's the only industry where people live and work in a worksite,” says CFA Safety Coordinator Theresa Whelan-Ruiter. “Two thirds of them are individual owner-operators so the safety they're taking care of is their own or their loved ones. They definitely have a personal interest in it.”**

This year's theme was “Manage More Than Just Your Back” and it was about sprains, strains and falls. All of these are occupational hazards of heavy physical labour as well as working with large machines and animals. CASA contributed \$40 thousand to underwrite half the costs of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week.

Planning began well before March and several ideas for promoting farm safety were put into play. Media kits were prepared and distributed and information was posted for immediate access on the CASA website. There was a blitz on community media and several of them were inspired to run special safety editions. CASA's media contact list increased to 637 and the event generated a total of 283 media articles. Three major public service announcements were produced and run on AgVision Television starting in January and running until March.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is an effective annual reminder that farmers must always be mindful of safety.

Always walk around a vehicle before getting in. Keep all machines in good working order with all guards are in place. And always know where everybody is before turning on any ignition key. Safety must be a farmer's first thought – not an afterthought.

### **CASA: Liaison Newsletter and Website Improvements**

At the heart of the new global village sits a computer screen where new generations of people are comfortable in the boundless realm of the cybersphere. If anyone in this new village wants to contact or contract the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, they can do that through the website.

**“You can actually book our training displays through the website,” says executive director Marcel Hacout. “And we now accept credit card payments. That means our members can renew online.”**

This year, CASA began an upgrade of web services and initiated media monitoring. This has made a number of things possible beyond the convenience of updating memberships. Even the Proceedings of the past annual general meeting are available through the website.

For instance, there are three CASA displays that may be booked over the web. The first is the chemical look-alike, a small workshop on farm chemistry. There is also a model of a PTO shaft that connects a tractor engine directly to a machine such as a seeder or sprayer. The third is the flowing grain display where you can get a first-hand view of where not to be in an active grain bin.

CASA's electronic newsletter, Liaison, still keeps members informed of developments in farm safety and apprised of local events from province to province. Liaison is published six times a year and issues from as far back as 2006 are available over the web.

Overall, downloads at CASA's site [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca) have more than doubled to 5,500 a month from 2,600. Eight hundred contacts have direct access to Liaison but more than seven times that number are moving into the computers of friends, colleagues and clients by means of the improved CASA website.

In addition, CISION, an international media monitoring company, has been engaged to keep track of any mention of farm safety in the Canadian media. In this way, CASA has a better picture of how much people hear about farm safety and how to help them learn more. The media information also helps validate CAISP's injury database.

### **CASA: National Conference and Professional Development**

On November 11, 2007, CASA convened its conference and annual general meeting in conjunction with the Canadian Injury Prevention Conference in Toronto. CASA members not only had a great opportunity to talk about farm safety with each other but they also learned from 300 other people with similar safety interests.

**“Generally when we get together it’s just the ag safety people.” says CASA executive director Marcel Hacault. “But this time, we were involved with a larger crowd. We really learned a lot about the successful campaigns, programs and strategies that other injury prevention groups have used.”**

There was a wide variety of topics presented by an equally varied group of people. There were panels and presentations ranging from recreational vehicle safety, to suicide prevention in aboriginal communities. In the middle of all this were several presentations on farm safety.

**“Another thing we contributed as a side benefit was to bring the bilingual component to the conference,” Hacault says. “We were actually able to increase access to the entire conference for other Francophones across Canada. Francophones could participate because we were there.”**

Proceedings are available to anyone via the CASA website. CASA's Board of Directors got a glimpse into the world of public health and safety from many other vantage points and they raised the profile of agricultural safety. This is important when you consider what a small portion of the overall population farmers make up and yet farming is the fourth most hazardous occupation in Canada behind logging, mining and fishing.

In addition to a new perspective on agricultural safety, the Board of Directors hammered out new goals and priorities that will help steer CASA for the next four years.

Ultimately, this new plan will improve the level and quality of service that farmers and farm families will get from ag safety organizations such as CASA. When people get together like

this they come away with better ideas about how to prepare and present material that farmers need to make life and work on the farm safer.

### **CASA: National Ag Injury Surveillance Program – Ongoing Management and Transition Planning**

If a Manitoba farmer breaks an arm falling off a combine, we have an injury incident. If an Alberta farmer does the same thing at the same time, we have a coincidence. If farmers all across Canada wind up in emergency rooms with broken arms from slippery combines, we have a trend and the manufacturer may want to take a hard look at that combine.

Collecting this farm injury data and checking for trends is the job of the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program (CAISP). CAISP has been in place since 1995, administered at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.” explains Marcel Hacault. “Volunteers across Canada submit their provincial agricultural injury data. CAISP puts them together and sorts them out according to many different criteria.”

The data is broken down into several categories according to facts such as age, gender and type of injury. When you step back and look at how and where injuries take place, you start to get a feel for why they take place. This is the basis for any safety program whether it's best management practises or design standards for machines or facilities.

This data is crucial because not only does it indicate trends in injuries but it also measures the effectiveness of remedies over the long term.

This collection and analysis of farm safety incidents not only influences today's safety standards, it has a profound influence on tomorrow. It makes machines, farms and even health care and insurance more effective.

What started as a small project in epidemiology has matured and now it's ready to stand on its own feet. Up until now it's simply been a CASA project. However, information coming from CAISP is so useful that it's going through a transition from project to program.

**“CAISP has been funded by CASA as a project for a number of years,” says Kathy Belton, Associate Director of the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research School of Public Health. “What we’re doing now is establishing CAISP as a program to ensure its longevity.”**

In this way, agricultural injury data will be collected by the provinces and the data will be shared at the national level for many years to come.

## 4. Tangibly Impacting Farm Safety – New Techniques and Processes

### **CASHP: Developing Safety and Health Resources**

Caring for farm animals is often done by people under the age of 20 so it's no surprise that agricultural injuries to young people come from working with livestock. Jilleen Stafford of the Manitoba Farmers with Disabilities thought a working model of a safe corral could show the younger set the best way to look after both the animals and themselves. CASA agreed and contributed \$6,000.00 to her project.

**“We now have a farm machinery safety display which is very effective and children learn very quickly,” she explains.**

The display consists of two corrals in 1/16 scale. One is the model ‘safe corral’ where you see a truck backed up to the gates loading the animals in a safe way. There’s also a separate pen for cows and calves to keep them calm. On the other side, there’s the ‘unsafe corral’.

**“We tell kids to put on their thinking caps and investigate to find out what’s not safe,” Stafford says. “So you’ll see a horse rearing up, a cow lunging into the fence and there’s a dog in the corral. Dogs who follow kids around a corral become a potential source of danger.”**

Stafford says she set up this display at the Brandon Fair in Manitoba this year and was inundated with families telling her how wonderful their display is. She figures it’s been seen by upwards of 61,000 people in its first year. People in other provinces have been clamouring for copies.

This year, CASA reserved a total of \$348,732.80 for projects aimed at informing farm families about farm safety through developing information packages and displays. There were 10 applications, six were approved and completed for a total of \$140,798.09.

As a result, 15,000 farm safety information packages are now available for Newfoundland children ranging from kindergarten to grade 6 and 100 resource packages were produced in Alberta with potential to reach 90,000 children.

Via this funding, the Canadian Standards Association also produced a document that will become the basis for developing a consensus-based occupational health and safety management system for Canadian farms. Compliance will be voluntary but it will set the standard.

A DVD called Sleepless in Saskatchewan was produced to go along with the workshop of the same name. It will show the effects of sleep deprivation, a common affliction around seeding and harvest for anyone doing farm work. The new resource also provides tips to farmers on how to get a good night’s rest.

### **CASHP: Promoting On-Farm Best Management Safety Practises**

Farming is a knowledge trade. Yesterday’s reliable production and management customs gave rise to today’s Best Management Practises or BMPs dealing with production, environmental management and safety. What used to be good farming is now good agricultural risk management.

There are a number of ways to get the word out and CASA offered applicants \$115,786.99 to develop programs that encourage farmers to learn about Best Management Practises and adapt them to work on their farms. Training the trainers is a good way to get the ball rolling so anything that suggested training was listed as a priority. That was the spirit of a workshop given to 35 people by the Territorial Farmers Association in Hay River, Northwest Territories.

**“This was the first time we’d ever had a farm safety seminar in the Northwest Territories,” says Evellyn Coleman, Executive Director of the Territorial Farmers’ Association.**

“Most people farming in the Northwest Territories are using older equipment so we felt it was really important that we addressed those problems.”

Agriculture in the Northwest Territories is not very different from that in most of the southern areas of Canada. There's a shorter growing season but lots of sunlight makes the growing more intense. Agricultural enterprises include market gardening and forage and livestock production. Farms tend to be on the small side and are usually run on a part-time basis. Most northern producers get their safety training from their other jobs.

**“Another thing we know about farmers in the Northwest Territories is that most of them are working on their own,” Coleman says. “They're usually out where there's no cell phone service or any way to notify anybody.”**

Much of this new safety program dealt with safe operation of machinery and emergency first aid. There was also discussion of low stress animal handling for when you're loading or unloading them or doing basic hoof maintenance.

CASA funded another project that produced a book outlining standards of practise for farmers in Nova Scotia along with farm audit handouts. The two projects came in at \$25,428.20.

### **CASHP: Supporting Ag Safety Communication**

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is the longest running farm safety awareness event in Canada. The more people know about farm safety, the more likely they'll be to put it in practise and pass it on to subsequent generations.

This year, CASA earmarked \$132,093.00 for these sorts of communication activities. Three of the five applications received were approved for a total of \$92,437.21.

One of them was a series of 30-second public service announcements to augment Canadian Agricultural Safety Week on AgVision out of Ontario.

“We did the videos on sprains and strains,” says Theresa Whelan-Ruiters of For Your Information, the company that supervised the production. “We wanted something that looked like television commercials and we aired them on AgVision Television. It's the only agricultural television program that broadcasts nationally now.”

The spots reinforced this year's theme which was “Manage More Than Just Your Back”. Sprains and strains are joint and muscle injuries caused by sudden overloading. Joint sprains are ligament injuries, strains are overloading and tearing muscles. The idea is to think ahead and avoid these situations. The spots were shown several times between January and March.

“Of course, the repetition of a message is important,” Whelan-Ruiters says. “The more times it's repeated the more times it resonates with the viewer,”

Whelan-Ruiters also reprinted a series of decals she'd developed as maintenance reminders for tractors.

**“We did a second printing because there was so much demand for the first.” she says. “I was able to get some good deals and in the end, we produced 66 thousand English and seven thousand French decals.”**

Information packages on farm safety were also produced in Quebec and were distributed to 60 training workshops that reached 80 thousand people.

### **CASHP: Promoting Engineering Intervention and Innovations**

Because roll-over protection (ROP) has proven to be effective in keeping farmers safe in off-road machines, CASA put forward \$50,000.00 this year to look at retrofitting ROPs on older tractors.

“The purpose of this project was to look at all the different ways that a farmer would get ROPs installed,” according to Bruce Johnson of the Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association in BC. “The pilot project looked at three different ways you can install roll-over protection.”

Johnson explains that farmers can get ROPs for after-market tractors but it's a cumbersome and expensive process. Manufacturers and dealers don't like keeping ROPs in inventory because the demand is small and the item is large.

There are three companies that manufacture and sell ROPs as an after-market retrofit. One is in Australia, another is in the U.S. and the third is in Quebec. The units are fairly expensive and there's still the problem of installation.

The project funded by CASA involved building custom ROPs that would fit onto a rear axle. The idea would be a single design that could be made to fit a wide variety of older tractors and still be cost effective. Once the unit is installed, a tractor would roll onto its side but no further. A farmer belted into his seat with this protection would theoretically simply undo the belt and walk away.

“PAMI is going to design those for a variety of different tractors and then come to BC and help us source a manufacturer.” Johnson says. “We'll be looking for a certified welding shop that our farmers could phone to order an ROP very easily and at a very affordable price.”

There's been some testing in British Columbia, on Vancouver Island, Kelowna and in the Cariboo. If the project is successful, there's potential to take it nation-wide.

## **CASHP: Developing and Delivering Safety Training**

Even the most mundane farm work is potentially hazardous so farmers who have practical safety training and experience can help protect their families and employees.

Dawn Greene of Alberta's Strathcona County saw that people were concerned with their children's safety but they weren't aware of a set of guidelines generated by NAGCAT, the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks. She began a study to find out if her hunch was right. She hopes people could use the results to design awareness campaigns around farm safety for children and inexperienced farm workers, those most at risk on the farm.

“People just don't know that these guidelines are there because they're not using them,” Greene says. “The whole idea is to help parents become more aware of the risks their children face on a farm.”

Once completed, Greene's study has the potential to make a difference to 55,000 farm families in Alberta alone. It was funding from CASA that made it possible.

Altogether, CASA has provided funding for this and five other training projects this year. Safe tractor operation was the subject of farm safety training sessions in Prince Edward Island. In addition, several booklets, brochures, manuals, signs and decals were produced and distributed. Producers in Saskatchewan were consulted in order to create a planning document on the direction of farm safety there.

Manitoba farmers attended workshops on a variety of subjects such as animal handling, ATV and tractor operation and first-on-the-scene emergency training for farm families. This training has the potential to reach somewhere between 2,400 to 6,000 families in the Keystone province.

## 5. Administering Strategically and Cost Effectively

### **CASA: Administrative Management**

At the heart of every event, every initiative, every implementation is an office where people gather to ponder, deliberate and then make it all work. The CASA office has seen lot of action this year.

This year saw meetings with many different people from many different organizations as CASA moved into something more than a third party funder. CASA now has a bigger hand in shaping projects such as the Canadian Injury Surveillance Program which, in this case, is growing from a project into a program. The result is more information gathered and ultimately greater service given to the Canadian farmer and the Canadian health care system.

CASA membership increased to 69, generating \$10,953 from memberships and corporate donations. Administratively, CASA has strengthened its capacity with as many as 60 contracts managed at any given time.

The four permanent staff members will still manage the CASHP granting program, administer the Agriculture and Agri-Food contracts, among others, and maintain logistical support for 43 Progressive Agriculture Foundation Agriculture Safety Days.

In November, CASA held Council elections filling 30 of 32 CASA Council member positions. There were eight Board meetings and two CASHP advisory committee meetings.

This year's plan includes continuing to widen CASA's reach and influence through increased collaboration with individuals and groups dedicated to health and safety in rural Canada. This will set the groundwork for even further improvement in the profile of agricultural health and safety and establish both Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association as national leaders in this area.

CASA's staff is committed to providing bilingual services, increasing the organization's profile at safety gatherings, spreading the word about CASA resources and consolidating CASA as the go-to source of national farm safety information for media. CASA staff members are passionate and devoted to the organization's vision of "a Canada where no one is hurt farming".



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## Auditors' Report

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**To the Board of Directors of the  
CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION**

The accompanying summarized statement of financial position and schedules of revenues and expenditures are derived from the complete financial statements of **CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION** as at March 31, 2008 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated April 29, 2008. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarized financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operation and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements available at the offices of the Association.

*BDO Dunwoody LLP*

Chartered Accountants  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
April 29, 2008

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**CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Financial Position**

March 31 2008 2007

**Assets**

**Current Assets**

Cash and bank	\$	56,931	\$	404,476
Short-term investments		60,847		15,980
Accounts receivable		60,791		97,388
Goods and Services Tax receivable		11,947		15,505
Prepaid expenses		1,585		1,405
		192,101		534,754

**Capital assets**

		3,964		4,486
		\$ 196,065		\$ 539,240

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**Current Liabilities**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	78,595	\$	31,128
Vacation pay accrual		9,689		8,743
Unexpended grants		40,349		438,432
		128,633		478,303

**Commitment**

**Net Assets**

Invested in capital assets		3,964		4,486
Internally restricted				
Canadian Agriculture Safety Association		55,996		48,979
Farm Credit Canada		6,493		6,493
Meeting Per Diem Offset		979		979
		67,432		60,937
		\$ 196,065		\$ 539,240

Approved on behalf of the Board:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CASA Chairperson

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CASA Treasurer

**CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION**  
**Schedule of Canadian Agricultural Safety**  
**Association Revenues and Expenditures**

<b>For the year ended March 31</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Investment income	\$ 1,911	\$ 687
Memberships	10,604	7,899
Miscellaneous income	-	1,224
	<b>12,515</b>	<b>9,810</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Office	2,710	3,116
Amortization	939	901
Travel	818	39
Consulting services	89	175
Printing	-	106
Miscellaneous	-	102
	<b>4,556</b>	<b>4,439</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenditures for the year</b>	<b>\$ 7,959</b>	<b>\$ 5,371</b>

**CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION**  
**Schedule of Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada**  
**Revenues and Expenditures**

<b>For the year ended March 31</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Conference revenue	\$ -	\$ 46,898
Grant - Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada	1,334,000	1,284,000
Interest	2,698	634
Miscellaneous	3,288	300
	<u>1,339,986</u>	<u>1,331,832</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Transfer to agencies		
Non-profit provincial	281,754	411,623
Non-profit national	229,699	23,095
Non-profit universities and colleges	131,783	-
Non-profit local	45,693	386,804
Consultants	43,191	3,250
Salaries, wages and benefits	265,206	234,958
Travel and accommodation	113,422	93,925
Translation	65,127	41,508
Safety promotion resources	46,999	12,598
Lease fees	17,909	20,723
Audio visual	17,520	17,136
Office	16,639	11,308
Professional fees	14,247	4,408
Utilities	13,881	11,540
Advertising and promotion	8,285	980
Postage	7,730	16,101
Annual general meeting and conference	7,362	37,308
Registration	6,994	1,170
Insurance	2,406	425
Miscellaneous	2,259	31
Interest and bank charges	2,186	1,530
Professional development	1,158	1,548
	<u>1,341,450</u>	<u>1,331,969</u>
<b>Deficiency of revenues over expenditures for the year</b>	<b>\$ (1,464)</b>	<b>\$ (137)</b>

# Contact Us

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## Our Board and Staff

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Denis Bilodeau

Laurel Aitken

Dean Anderson

Lauranne Sanderson

Pamela Fuselli

Bruce Johnson

Lloyd Evans



Staff:

Marcel Hacault

Jonas Johnson

Holly Brownlee

Monique Choiselat