



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (275 words)**  
**December 11, 2009**

### **Farm Safety: Don't listen to it!**

**Ottawa**– Don't listen to sounds over 85 decibels (db) – it's not safe! That is the key message in support of this year's farm safety theme, along with free earplugs to be given away to the farming community.

*"Personal Protective Equipment only works if you use it!"* is the 2009 Canadian Agricultural Safety campaign theme with a focus on the use, fit and access of personal protective equipment (PPE) in agriculture. The yearlong campaign was launched last March with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week.

"Hearing damage is permanent so hearing protection is a very important part of farm safety," says Marcel Hacault, Executive Director of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). "There are all kinds of very loud machines and other noises in agriculture, so it is imperative that producers do all they can to protect their hearing while they have it."

CASA has partnered with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, 3M Canada, and Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited to offer free earplugs to farms, agri-businesses and organizations across Canada. Organizations and large agri-businesses can get up to 100 pairs for free and farmers and smaller businesses can get 20 pairs. Additional earplugs are available on a cost recovery basis for \$6 per fifty pairs, including S&H, GST extra. Anyone interested in ordering should email [farmsafety@cfafca.ca](mailto:farmsafety@cfafca.ca) or call 613-822-0016 while quantities last.

So how loud is too loud? As a rule of thumb, if you feel the need to shout in order to be heard one metre away, the noise levels are probably 85 decibels or more and hearing protectors are recommended.

A downloadable poster on earplug fitting instructions is available at <http://www.casa-acsa.ca/english/PDF/Hearing%20Posters.pdf> or go to the CASA [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca) .

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