

Media release

- **Ontario farm safety leader is new chair of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association Board**

Winnipeg, November 24, 2009: Dean Anderson is the new chair of the seven-person Board of Directors for the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association. Anderson is chief operating officer and general manager of the Farm Safety Association in Ontario. He previously served as CASA's vice-chair and replaces Bruce Johnson, executive director of BC's Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association, who served as Chair for the past two years.

Anderson was re-elected to the Board by CASA Council members during the Association's annual meeting held November 12 in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Lauranne Sanderson, associate professor at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, was also re-elected to the Board and re-appointed as treasurer.

Other CASA Board members are: Vice-Chair, John Gordon, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety; Laurel Aitken, farm safety co-ordinator, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development; Denis Bilodeau, deuxième vice-président general, L'union des producteurs agricoles (UPA); Bruce Johnson, executive director of BC's Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association; and Billy Woods, a farmer from Torbay, Newfoundland.

CASA's 15th annual meeting was held during a conference FARM SAFETY: *growing the plan forward* held in Fredericton November 11 – 13, 2009. Approximately 70 farm safety professionals, researchers and farmers from across Canada took part in discussions and workshops to develop techniques to positively change the country's safety culture.

CASA executive director Marcel Hacault says his organization welcomes continued support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's *Growing Forward* initiative. At the Fredericton meeting, Parliamentary Secretary Pierre Lemieux announced on behalf of federal Agricultural Minister Gerry Ritz, that the Government of Canada is investing more than \$5 million over the next four years in improving the safety of farmers and farm workers by funding CASA.

Hacault says CASA will use the funds to help producers recognize and manage risk in their workplace through safety exhibits, web resources, training materials focusing on farm safety plans. It will annually deliver almost \$300,000 to researchers and farm and health organizations who apply for funding to CASA's CASHP program. Funding will also be used to support the 2010 Canadian Agricultural Safety Week focusing on PLAN. FARM. SAFETY. and to expand Progressive Agricultural Safety days for rural youth.

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association is a non-profit national organization which receives funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through *Growing Forward* – a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

For more information about CASA and to access the 2008-09 Annual Report, go to www.casa-acsa.ca.

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