

Media Release

For Immediate Release
September 16th, 2007



It's Easier to Bury a Tradition than a Child

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) would like to remind all agricultural workers that farm safety should be constantly be on their minds at this busy time of year. As the United States launches their National Farm Safety and Health Week from September 16th – 22nd we would like to take this opportunity to remind Canadian agricultural producers that we need to ensure safe practices are being followed on our farms every day.

This year's US Farm Safety and Health week message, *It's Easier to Bury a Tradition than a Child* was developed by the Children's Agricultural Safety Network (CASN). Glen Blahey, a member of CASN and Chair of CASA's Board of Director explains "We wanted to develop a message that was clear and to the point. If your children are younger than 12 years of age, they should NEVER be on or near tractors or other machinery. Taking young children for tractor rides or permitting them to help operate a piece of equipment is not a rite of passage; it is an opportunity for tragedy."

"Over 80% of agricultural deaths of Canadian children are machinery-related" said Holly Brownlee, CASA Programs Coordinator. "These child deaths are preventable. It is imperative that anyone doing agricultural work know who is around them and that they not allow children to be around or on tractors or other machinery."

CASA is committed to having a safe and healthy agricultural work environment in Canada. Through co-operative and supportive work we can achieve this goal. Television and radio PSAs and visual posters have been developed and are free to use. Please visit www.childagsafety.org.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association is a non-profit organization funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Renewal chapter. Our mission is to have Canadian agriculture free of workplace injuries and illnesses.

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Backgrounder

The Children's Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) is made up of child safety advocates that have come together to make the agricultural community and those who serve that community aware of the positive steps they can take to make the agricultural industry safer and protect our next generation of producers. The 2006-2007 campaign is geared towards Youth and Tractor Safety with the message that children younger than 12 years should NEVER be on or near tractors.

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