

# Annual Report 2024-2025



#### Message from the CASA Chair



It's been my pleasure to serve as Chair of CASA's Board of Directors over the past year. It's incredible to see the impact of the work we do across Canada.

This past year was not easy for Canadian farmers, farm families, and farm workers.

With trade threats and uncertainty, underscored by a Federal Election, offering mental health support to the agricultural community was more important than ever. Our Mental Health Hub serves as a central location for mental health

Safety remains at the heart of everything we do.

support, and remains one of our key programs.

CASA's core programs continue to deliver essential resources, training, and support that help prevent injuries and save lives in agricultural communities.

2024 marked a significant moment of transition for the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), as we bid farewell to our CEO, Andrea Lear, who had led the organization since 2021. Under Andrea's guidance, CASA navigated change, strengthened partnerships, and entered the 2020s with renewed confidence and clarity of purpose.

Following a thorough hiring process, we were thrilled to announce that Sandy Miller has taken on the role of Executive Director. Sandy brings strong leadership, deep sector experience, and a shared passion for agricultural safety that aligns with CASA's mission and future goals.

I'd like to personally thank both Andrea and Sandy for their leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to CASA and the farming communities we serve.

On behalf of the board, I extend our heartfelt thanks to the generous supporters, sponsors, partners, and donors whose financial contributions, time, and in-kind support make our work possible. Your commitment plays a vital role in CASA's continued success. I would also like to recognize the entire CASA team for their unwavering dedication to protecting the safety and well-being of Canada's agricultural community.

Peter Sykanda Chair, CASA

#### Message from the FarmSafe Foundation Chair

Since its founding in 2012, the FarmSafe Foundation has helped bring critical safety programming to farms across Canada. With more than \$260,000 raised to date, the support of our donors has made it possible to expand awareness and training around grain safety, youth education, and safety for women in agriculture, along with other integral farm safety programming.

This past year, your contributions have continued to make a real difference. Whether you gave a one-time gift, supported us monthly, donated in memory of someone, or participated in employee giving—thank you. Your generosity helps create safer farms and stronger rural communities.

Donating is simple through our website or CanadaHelps, and every dollar truly counts. Every dollar helps keep people safe on farms—and makes a lasting impact on Canadian agriculture.

As we look ahead, I want to thank the Foundation board for their time and commitment, and CASA's board and staff for their continued partnership in this work.

**Dean Anderson** 

Chair, FarmSafe Foundation

Every dollar helps keep people safe on farms— and makes a lasting impact on Canadian agriculture.

#### Message from the Executive Director



I joined CASA as Executive Director near the end of this program year, and I'm excited to begin my tenure with an organization that has already achieved so much.

Over the past year, CASA has celebrated key accomplishments and continued to grow core programs including Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, BeGrainSafe, the Mental Health Hub, Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting, Progressive Agriculture Safety Days®, teaching kits, online courses and collaboration with Provincial Partners.

New in 2024/25, was the first ever Kids FarmSafe

Week, a positive campaign focused on helping farm families navigate hazards and risks found on the farm. I look forward to celebrating farm children each year in May during this important week!

CASA also teamed up with our friends at Farm Management Canada to host AgEx in Abbotsford. It was a great opportunity to reach new audiences, hear from a variety of experts and collaborate and network with passionate agricultural advocates. Congratulations to the planning committee for a job well done.

This is a small sample of everything CASA accomplished in the last year, I encourage you to take the time to read through the annual report to learn more.

At every step along the way, CASA's partners and sponsors have been, and continue to be, instrumental to our success. I am truly grateful for their support. It is through these relationships and a shared dedication to agricultural safety that CASA continues to grow as a national association responding to the evolving needs of the Canada's agricultural sector.

I am honoured to lead such a dedicated CASA staff team, with the support of our esteemed CASA Board of Directors. By working together, we continue to support a safe and sustainable agriculture where healthy Canadian farm communities thrive.

By working together, we continue to support a safe and sustainable agriculture where healthy Canadian farm communities thrive.

Sandra Miller

Executive Director, CASA

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### **Board of Directors**

CASA is led by a Board of Directors elected from its membership representing various sectors of the agricultural community.



Peter Sykanda Chair ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE GUELPH, ON



**Dean Anderson** Vice Chair GUELPH, ON



Bruce James Treasurer AGI SASKATOON, SK



Shelley Kirychuk Secretary CANADIAN CENTRE FOR RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL HEALTH SASKATOON, SK



Trevor Whalley
AGSAFE
LANGLEY, BC



Cassandra Driedger BASF CANADA AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS CALGARY, AB

# FarmSafe Foundation Board of Directors

The FarmSafe Foundation is led by a Board of Directors composed of a cross-section of the agricultural industry. Board members are appointed by the CASA Board to represent CASA's charitable wing.



**Dean Anderson** Chair



Erin McGregor
Vice Chair
STEWARDSHIP AND POLICY
MANAGER FOR SYNGENTA
CANADA



**Andrea Lear** Secretary/Treasurer



Tabetha Boot
HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS
& INDUSTRY RELATIONS BASE
CANADA, AGRICULTURAL
SOLUTIONS



Stéphan Paillé INDUSTRY RELATIONS MANAGER WITH FARM CREDIT CANADA (FCC)



Sandra Miller
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL
SAFETY ASSOCIATION

### Staff



Sandra Miller Executive Director



**Robin Anderson**Director of Programs and Communications



Meaghan Trachsel
Director of
Development



Sheena LaBossiere Executive and Accounting Assistant

Christine Maynard Balcaen
Administrative Manager (on leave)

**Dan Braun** Bookkeeper

Abbigail Fehr

**Communications Contractor** 

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and safety of farmers, their families and agricultural workers.

#### **VISION**

Safe and sustainable agriculture where healthy Canadian farm communities thrive.

#### **MISSION**

To engage with community partners to promote safety and health in agriculture by providing leadership, support and resources.

#### **VALUES**

- 1. We believe safety and health in agriculture is a priority.
- 2. We believe in respect and integrity.
- 3. We believe in sustainability.
- 4. We believe in collaboration and consultation.
- 5. We believe in accountability and transparency.

# Commitment to Inclusion, Equity, Diversity, and Accessibility

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) operates on the traditional territory of First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples from coast to coast to coast and acknowledges the inherent Indigenous Rights and Treaty Rights of all Indigenous Peoples across these lands.

CASA believes that health and safety includes fostering an inclusive environment, where everyone is welcomed. CASA's vision for a safe and sustainable agriculture where healthy Canadian farm communities thrive includes diversity, equity, and inclusion to promote the representation and participation of persons of different ages, races and ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, genders, cultures, sexual orientations, and religion. We support a learning culture that raises awareness and takes action to support the industry against prejudice and discrimination in all its forms

CASA believes that having leaders who reflect diversity in life experiences and cultural backgrounds contributes to more balanced Board deliberations and better decision-making. Creating an inclusive culture that embraces differences also best positions CASA to address evolving member needs.







## **Canadian Agricultural** Safety Week 2025

In 2025, the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) introduced a fresh format for Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), focusing on key safety and health challenges currently affecting the farming community. Each day of the campaign spotlighted a different issue faced by those working in agriculture—from mental health and emergency preparedness to rail and road safety and women in ag. The goal? To share



The Ribbon campaign continues to be a success. In 2025, CASA distributed over 4,510 physical ribbons!

practical, relevant information that encourages safer, healthier behaviours on farms and ranches across the country. By addressing real-life challenges and promoting a culture of safety, CASA continues to call on Canadians to commit to #FarmSafetyEveryday.

#### **Media Kit Items**

- 1 Social Media Guide
- 5 Public Service **Announcements**
- 1 National Press Release
- 3 Feature Articles
- 3 Safety Advice Articles
- 4 Cartoons
- Graphics

#### **Organic Social Reach**

- Instagram/Facebook Reach: 28,375 users
- Post impressions: 55,153











#### the barnders

by gord.coulthart



Sometimes the best investments aren't in crops or cattle.

### **CASA Communications**

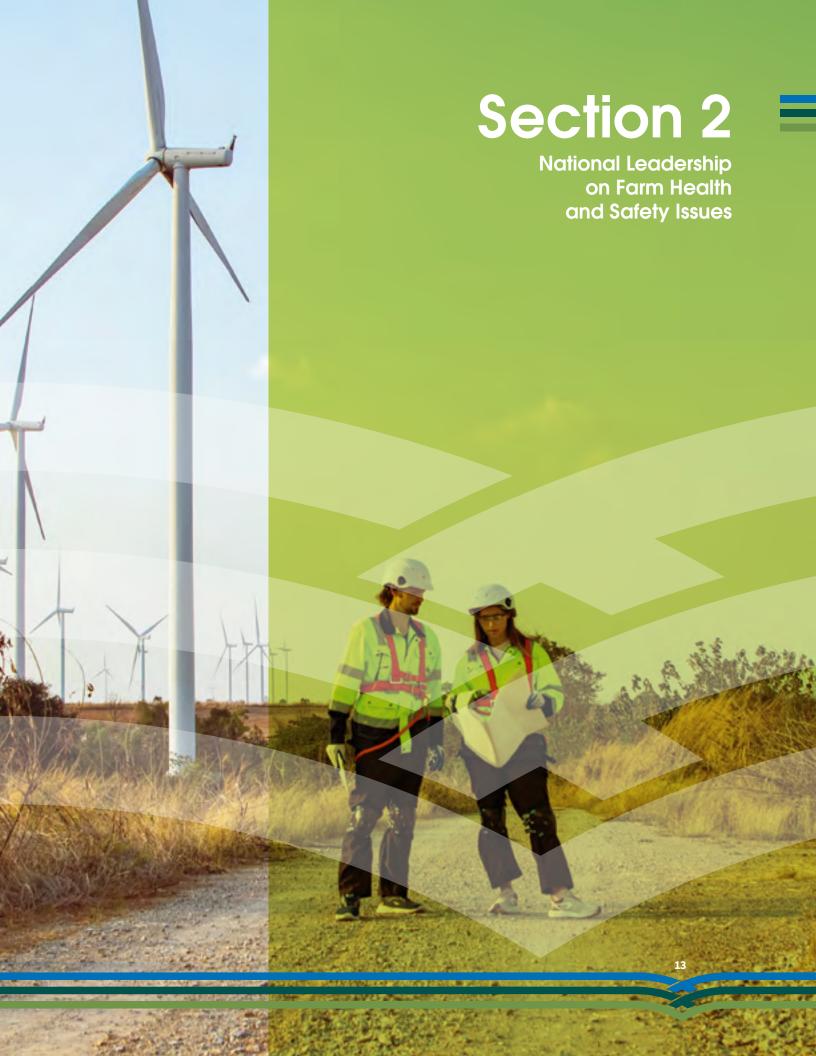
CASA is active on a variety of social media platforms. In 2025 we left X (formerly known as Twitter) and have replaced it with Threads. You can now find CASA on Instagram, Threads, and YouTube @planfarmsafety, and Facebook as the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association.



CASA also sends out Bulletin on the first Monday of each month. Each issue shares CASA news and events, partner links, resources, and other information. With over 800 subscribers, CASA's Bulletin is available to anyone.

→ Sign up here: <u>casa-acsa.ca/en/media</u>





### **CASA's Online Forums**

CASA, as a national leader and as a hub for agricultural health and safety knowledge works to create connections and to help share information and knowledge to impact the agricultural industry. In 2024/25, CASA facilitated and participated in online free forums, connecting with individuals and organizations by raising awareness and sharing knowledge on emerging topics, highlighting best practices, the latest research, programs and initiatives in farm health and safety issues affecting the agricultural community.

#### 2024/25 Online Forums Included:

- Experiences of Farm Mothers: Safety, Work and Children on the Farm
- · Agricultural Equipment Safety and the Right to Repair
- Celebrating BeGrainSafe Week: Grain Entrapment Hazards, Risk and Prevention
- Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting: Multidisciplinary Death Investigation Rounds 2024 (Office of the Chief Coroner, Ontario)
- What's New in CSA Group Occupational Health and Safety and Agriculture and Agri-food Standards
- The Impact of Extreme Weather on Farmers' Mental Health and Resilience





# Together Towards Tomorrow: AgEx 2024

Canadian Agricultural Safety
Association joins forces with Farm
Management Canada and the BC
Agriculture Council for the 2024
Agricultural Excellence Conference

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), Farm Management Canada (FMC-GAC) and BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) co-hosted the Agricultural Excellence Conference (AgEx) in Abbotsford & Chilliwack, BC from November 19-21.

The 2024 edition of the Conference highlighted a diverse range of topics including fostering economic resilience and prosperity, taking control of farm risk, navigating farm transition, attracting and retaining farm labour, emergency preparedness and planning, supporting on-farm health, safety and wellness, and achieving balance on the path to on-farm sustainability.

"The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association was proud to partner with FMC-GAC and BCAC to host a dynamic and robust Conference," says Meaghan Trachsel, CASA's Director of Development. "AgEx 2024 delivered on its promises to support Canadian agriculture by focusing on managing risks, including farm safety and health hazards and navigating farm business challenges, offering something for everyone."

Attendees had opportunities to attend farm tours at a biogas plant, and a greenhouse, hear highlights on safety and sustainability, natural hazards, women in agriculture, mental health, and low-cost roll-over-protective structure program.

CASA would like to thank conference sponsors Syngenta, AgSafe BC and WorkSafeBC.



Dicklands Biogas plant co-digests dairy manure, chicken manure and food waste to produce renewable natural gas, organic fertilizer pellets, and clean water



Women in Agriculture: Wellness, Safety and Leadership featuring Dr. Briana Hagen, Canadian Centre for Agriculture Wellbeing and Sandy Miller, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services



Rainbow Greenhouses has been providing quality annual potted plants, tropicals, indoor florals and cut flowers for the past 36 years



Rainbow Greenhouses grow poinsettias for retail customers

### Connecting with Stakeholders and Partners

CASA works to connect with stakeholders across the agricultural sector. In 2024/25, CASA attended six community-based events, connecting with farmers, farm families, farm workers, and the agricultural sector.

#### **Highlights**

#### June and July 2024: Russell, Manitoba; Altona, Manitoba and Hamilton, Ontario Bunge Demonstration

As an extension of the Grain Rescue Training program, CASA developed a separate demonstration event to educate producers and private sector companies about grain rescue. This event provided prevention awareness and allowed attendees to watch a grain rescue demonstration (through observation only).

### January 2025: Crop Production Show, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

CASA set up at Saskatoon's Crop Production Show, showcasing teaching kit items like the chemical look-a-like.

### March 2025: Ottawa Valley Farm Show, Ontario and Ontario Grain Farmer March Classic

CASA attended Ontario's longest-running agricultural trade show, the Ottawa Valley Farm Show and the Ontario Grain Farmer March Classic alongside CASA partner Workplace Safety & Prevention Services.

#### **Connecting with Partners**

CASA hosts a Provincial Partners Roundtable that meets each month. This roundtable features representatives from provincially-based agricultural health and safety organizations. Each month, members meet to discuss current issues in their region, share resources, and identify areas for collaboration.



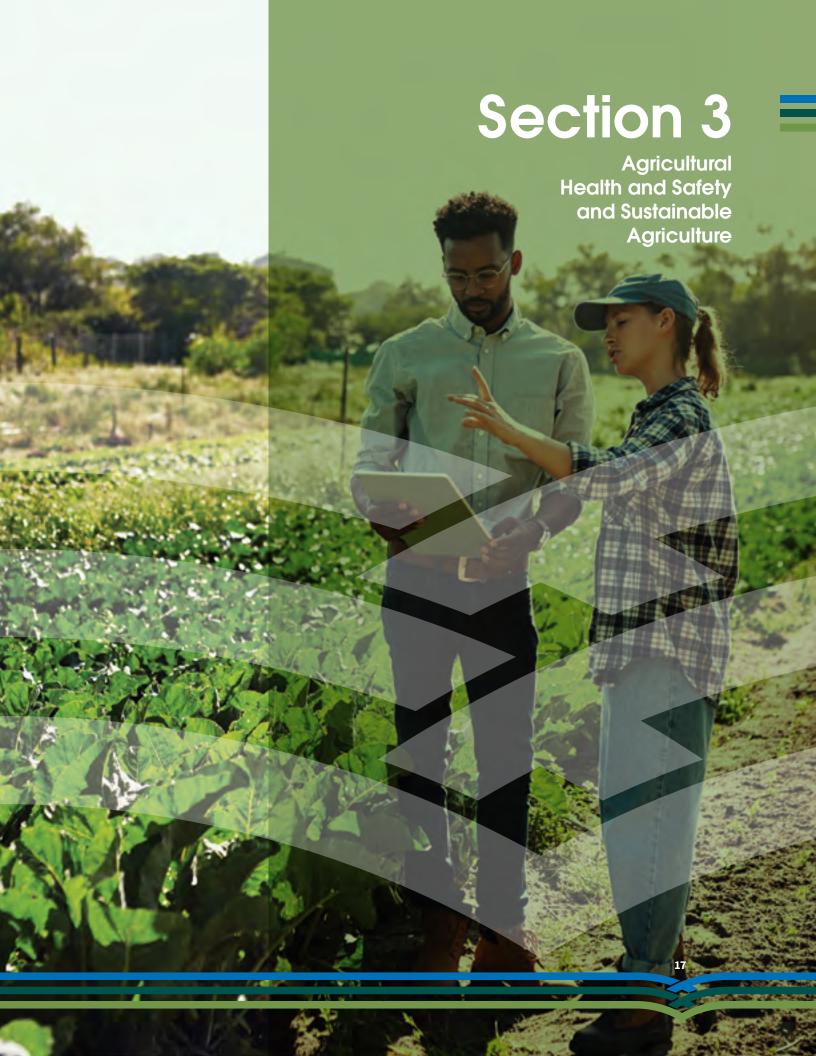
The BeGrainSafe Trailer made three stops at Bunge locations, including one in Altona, MB



Robin Anderson, CASA's Director of Programs and Communications, talks to an attendee at the Crop Production Show in Saskatoon



Jay Remsik, WSPS; Keith Currie, Canadian Federation of Agriculture and Sandy Miller, CASA's Executive Director at Ontario Grain Farmer March Classic



# Relevance of Agricultural Health and Safety in Sustainability

Sustainability includes Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices.

"People sustainability" refers to the practice of nurturing and maintaining the well-being, engagement, and development of individuals within an organization, including their health and safety. Organizations cannot be sustainable without protecting the safety, health, and welfare of their most vital resource: people.

In 2024, The Canadian
Agricultural Safety Association
(CASA) conducted initial
research to determine the
relevance of agricultural health
and safety in sustainability
initiatives.

→ To read the report and find out more, visit:
<u>casa-acsa.ca/en/</u>
resources/reports



# **Emergency Preparedness** on Farms



→ For more information, visit: <u>casa-acsa.ca/en/resources/reports</u>



# Mental Health Awareness and Resources

#### A Healthy Farm is a Safe Farm

Farming is a demanding occupation characterized by high levels of stress and physical labour. It's hard work – both physically and mentally. These factors contribute significantly to the mental health challenges faced by farmers, farm workers and farm families. The intricate connection between farm work and mental well-being has significant implications, not only for individuals but also for the safety and efficiency of farming operations.

#### **CASA's Mental Health Hub**

The Mental Health Hub is an easy-to-use online directory that connects users to mental wellness resources from experts and trusted organizations across Canada. Whether individuals are seeking help for themselves or a loved one, the hub is designed to guide them toward support that fits their needs.

#### Mental Health Matters: Keeping Safe and Well on the Farm

In 2024, CASA in collaboration with mental health advocate and psychologist Cynthia Beck, M. SC., developed a series highlighting the critical link between mental wellness and farm safety.

The series includes infographics and short informational resources that detail practical tips and information about safety behaviours and mental health; sleep and mental wellness; farming, life and stress; dehydration and its effects; and health outcomes and farming hazards.





# Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Program®

CASA supports the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day\* Program across Canada, recognized as the largest rural safety and health education program for children in North America. Safety Days provide age-appropriate, hands-on educational lessons primarily designed for children ages 4 to 13 years old.

Safety Day Coordinators partner within their community, using one of the four delivery modes, to customize their PAF Safety Day, selecting from more than 30 safety and health topics with hundreds of activities and demonstrations to meet the needs of the youth in their area.

"It's an opportunity for kids to come together and our local businesses and local volunteers to help basically give an opportunity for kids to learn about various safety hazards and come away with some safety tips. There is a statistic out there that one child every three days dies from an ag-related fatality and so yeah, we're just trying to prevent that from happening in our community." - Stacy Koisor, Director of Education and Safety, Weyburn Agricultural Society and Safety Day Coordinator

#### **Fast Fact**

44 Safety Day events were held across Canada, impacting over 10,000 children and volunteers.

"Their level of retention is just fantastic," he said. "I presented for many years and, any time after in the summertime, I'd get a handful of kids stop me on the road and say, 'I remember you from Ag Safety Day. I remember you presented on this'. Kids have access to a lot of information nowadays and, at this point, they remember so very much. It's a perfect opportunity." - Brendan Funk, Altona Manitoba Safety Day Coordinator



Sun Safety is an important station at many Safety Days



Children learn about chemical safety using a chemical look-a-like kit



Safety Days would not be successful without community volunteers

# **Teaching Kits**

In 2024, CASA shipped 124 agricultural teaching kits to communities across Canada, reaching people of all ages at school and community events. The teaching kits are more than just teaching tools – they are interactive, hands-on experiences that make farm safety education fun, memorable and effective.

"I am very interested in borrowing the chemical look-a-like kit. I am the principal/teacher at Kyle [Hutterite] Colony School and we are learning overall safety in Health right now."

CASA's teaching kits are designed to create opportunities for conversation and learning and cover a wide range of common hazards, from chemical safety to grain safety.

Teaching kits are free to borrow, are suitable for all ages and locations.



NEW IN 2024! BASF Safety Scouts Journey
Through FarmLand In this dice/trivia game,
participants navigate their way across the
colorful game board, encountering both safe
spaces and perilous farm hazards along the way.



**Brain Mould:** The gelatin brain mould is a great way to demonstrate the importance of helmet use.

"I'm requesting this kit for a farm safety station to be delivered to grade 6 students during a Canada Foodgrains Bank ag awareness event... The intent of the day is to create awareness of agriculture practices, careers, and safety for middle school students."

"This has been a great tool we have used in the past and would appreciate borrowing it again."

→ For more information and to borrow a CASA teaching kit:



# Celebrating Kids FarmSafe Week

In 2024, the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) successfully launched its first annual Kids FarmSafe Week, held from May 13-19, 2024. This initiative marked a significant milestone in CASA's ongoing commitment to promoting safety in agriculture, with a specific focus on the risks children and youth face on farms. The week-long campaign, centered around the theme "Nurturing the Future of Agriculture," aimed to raise awareness within farming communities about the importance of farm safety for children and youth.

The campaign centered around the hashtag #KeepKidsFarmSafe, and its primary goal was to educate and encourage action to prevent agriculture-related incidents involving children. According to the latest Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) data, between 1990 and 2020, 435 children and youth were lost to farming-related accidents.

"One child or youth lost to an on-farm incident is one too many. Tragically, children and youth are often the victims of farming-related accidents," said Andrea Lear, CASA's Chief Executive Officer. "This was something that we, as an industry, need to change, which is why CASA launched Kids FarmSafe Week."

→ For more information, visit: kidsfarmsafe.ca

Kids FarmSafe Week was presented by BASF Canada Agricultural Solutions.

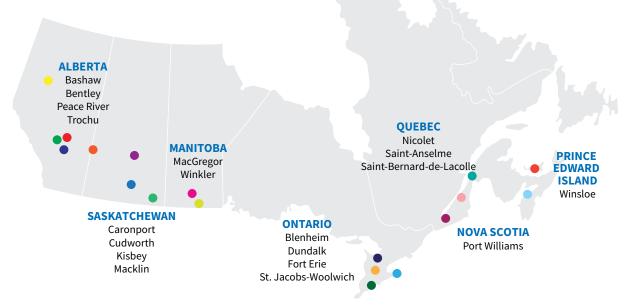






# **BeGrainSafe Firefighters**

In 2024, 492 firefighters in 19 locations were trained on how to respond to grain entrapment incidents through BeGrainSafe, CASA's grain safety program. This was the first year that the BeGrainSafe program visited the Maritime provinces.





Saint-Anselme, Quebec



MacGregor, Manitoba



Peace River, Alberta



Winkler, Manitoba

# CASA Celebrates the 4th Annual BeGrainSafe Week: Raising Awareness and Saving Lives

In August 2024, CASA proudly celebrated its fourth annual BeGrainSafe Week, held from August 12-18. This annual event was an important part of CASA's ongoing BeGrainSafe program, which was launched in 2017 in response to the growing concerns around grain entrapment fatalities.

Grain entrapment is a significant risk on farms, and it can take only seconds for someone to become a victim. Sadly, many of these accidents are fatal. That's why the goal of BeGrainSafe Week was to draw attention to the hazards associated with grain handling and storage, educate farmers, farm families, farm workers and farming communities on how to stay safe, and ultimately help save lives.

"With BeGrainSafe Week, our objective is to highlight the significance of grain safety and to raise awareness among more Canadians about the hazards associated with grain handling and storage," said Andrea Lear, CASA's Chief Executive Officer.

In support of BeGrainSafe Week, CASA developed a variety of resources, including social media posts, public service announcements, and safety advice articles, filled with information on how to be safe around grain.

→ To access these resources and for more information,

visit: casa-acsa.ca/BeGrainSafe





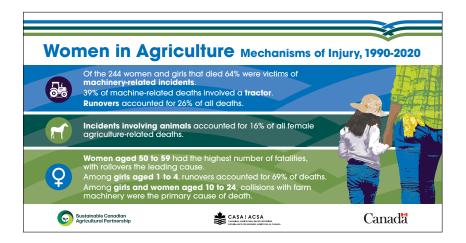


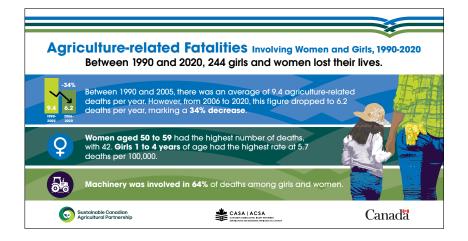
# Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting

The Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) is a national program that is funded by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). CAIR is a collaborative program involving various organizations from across Canada. It is coordinated from a national office at the Injury Prevention Centre in the School of Public Health, University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta. The people and organizations that contribute to CAIR include researchers, government agencies and the agricultural industry.

In 2024/25, a new CAIR chapter "Women in Agriculture: 1990 – 2020" was published. This CAIR chapter gives information on women and girls who were killed in an agriculture-related incident, including demographics and mechanism of fatal injury.

→ For more information on CAIR, visit: <u>casa-acsa.ca/cair/reports</u>







### Thank You!

There are many sponsors and partners who help CASA achieve great things. Thank you to the following official CASA sponsors and partners for 2024–2025!

#### **Safety Champions**





#### **Safety Partners**











#### **Safety Investors**





















#### **Safety Supporters**





#### **Safety Helpers**









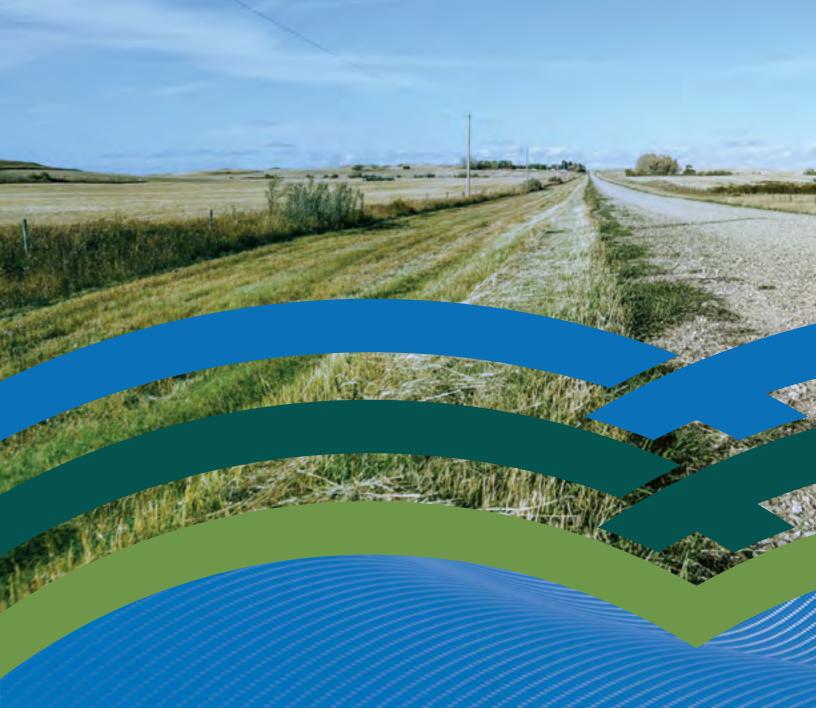




#### **In-Kind Supporters**









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