



Why promote farm safety?

Why promote farm safety? According to Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting statistics, an average of 104 people die in agriculture related incidents in Canada every year. The third most common location for these fatalities having occurred was on roads or highways. Who is touched by farm fatalities? 47 per cent of all agricultural fatalities in

Canada involve farm owners and operators. But the remaining fatal injuries are suffered by their relatives or other individuals who work, live, or even visit the farm sometimes. So farm safety clearly isn't important for farmers alone. When you promote the importance of safety on the farm in your community, you're making a difference for anyone who ever frequents a farm in your neighbourhood.

Drive Safely. Many agriculture-related fatalities occur in road traffic crashes and driving around agricultural machinery poses unique challenges. When approaching tractors or other types of farm machinery, slow down, give it space and assess the situation. Scan the roadside for farm lanes, fields or agribusinesses that the farm machinery operator could be preparing to access. Remember that the turn signals and brake lights on farm vehicles and machinery can become covered in dust or mud during field operations, so be sure to assess the visibility of these indicators. Some machinery may not be equipped with lights and reflective signage so always err on the side of caution. If you've slowed down to pass a large piece of machinery, remember that faster-moving vehicles could be approaching from the rear, and check your mirrors and blind spot before changing lanes. Make sure that the operator of the agricultural equipment is aware of your intentions. Always signal your intention.

During the evening and night hours, visibility drops. A great indicator that there is a tractor or farm machinery ahead is a lot of lights. If you see these lights, it's important to slow down and pay extra attention to the road and your surroundings.

Left-turn collisions are especially dangerous for motorists. You might think that a large piece of farm machinery is pulling over to the right to allow you to pass, but often, the operator is allowing for extra room to make a left-hand turn. It is, therefore, incredibly important to pay attention to signals and to any lanes or access points to a field. When in doubt, slow down. A small delay might cost you seconds, but a mistake could cost your life.



Be Aware at Harvest Time.

Almost half of all collisions with farm vehicles and equipment occur during the peak harvest season from July to September, so use extra caution during these times and anticipate a higher volume of agricultural traffic. Remember that these are busy periods for farmers who may be putting in long hours or working urgently to finish a weather-dependent task. Be patient and extend the same courtesy you would want to receive if your positions were reversed.

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Show Respect for Livestock.

Remember that livestock are not just big pets. Any animal can be unpredictable, impulsive, and potentially dangerous, so you should never engage these animals alone. Avoid making physical contact with even the most harmless looking animal without permission, since they could become aggressive. If you encounter livestock on the road, proceed with extreme caution and follow the directions of their owners. If the animals are unattended, they pose a hazard to anyone using the road, make every attempt to alert the owners or someone with the necessary experience as soon as possible.

Be a Leader. Remember that your community is yours. If you see something that you know is unsafe, speak up. Farms are workplaces, and anyone who works or volunteers on one should be made aware of any hazards. If you are concerned that someone you know may be unaware of the risks involved in their work, don't be shy about suggesting a safer practice. Promoting safety is not only the responsibility of employers and their employees, but of the entire community.

Promote Municipal Safety Initiatives.

There are many steps that local governments take to support safe practices in the community. Whether you are an elected official or a concerned citizen, you can help ensure that rural safety is a local government priority. Enquire about the status, location, frequency and advertisement of hazardous waste depots. Advocate for safety programs in your community. Volunteer to sit on your local agricultural boards. Report gravel roads in need of maintenance, as well as obscured or missing road signs that are designed to caution drivers about farm vehicles or animal crossings.

Be Prepared. Empower yourself so that you'll be able to help out in an emergency. For example, you could take a first aid course or learn about your region's emergency plans. Preparing for an emergency can be as simple as always carrying jumper cables and other tools in your vehicle, or as involved as becoming a volunteer firefighter or first responder. Remember that when it comes to safety, every little bit helps.



Take Responsibility for Products you Sell. If you are selling either a new or used product to someone in the agricultural sector, make sure that it's safe. That means informing the buyer of any defects or issues that you've experienced with the product. Whether it's a truck, a chainsaw or something as simple as a ladder, ensure that the buyer understands the risks involved. Make sure to give them all the safety information you have. Give them any manuals and instructions you might have or refer them to additional resources, such as the manufacturer's website.



Organize an Event. Hosting an Agriculture Safety Day is a great way to spread knowledge about farm safety in your community. It could be aimed at children, youth, or adults, or have something for everyone. Plan engaging, age-appropriate activities, such as games, presentations, and contests. In addition to farmers, invite experts from other fields to talk about their specialties. Veterinarians, municipal workers, or equipment dealers could all be informative speakers. You could also add a safety-themed component to other rural events. Trade shows and fairs are opportune venues to promote farm safety. It's good practice to make sure that any community event has safety policies for attendees, volunteers, and organizers.



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Resources

BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia
Agriculture Council
bcac.bc.ca

Farm and Ranch Safety
and Health Association
farsha.bc.ca

WorkSafe BC
worksafebc.com

ALBERTA

Alberta Federation
of Agriculture
afaonline.ca

Alberta Farm Safety
Program
[www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet623](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet623)

Alberta Farm Safety
Centre
abfarmsafety.com

Workers' Compensation
Board of Alberta
wcb.ab.ca

SASKATCHEWAN

Agricultural Producers
Association of
Saskatchewan
apas.ca

Saskatchewan
Abilities Council
abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

The Agricultural Health
and Safety Network
aghealth.usask.ca

Workers' Compensation
Board of Saskatchewan
wcbask.com

Government of
Saskatchewan –
Labour Relations
and Workplace Safety
sasklabourrelationsboard.com

MANITOBA

Keystone Agricultural
Producers
kap.mb.ca

Workplace Safety
and Health
gov.mb.ca/labour/safety

Workers Compensation
Board of Manitoba
wcb.mb.ca

SafeWork
safemanitoba.com

ONTARIO

Ontario Federation
of Agriculture
ofa.on.ca

Workplace Safety &
Prevention Services
healthandsafetyontario.ca

Ontario Ministry of Labour
labour.gov.on.ca

Workplace Safety
and Insurance Board
of Ontario
wsib.on.ca

QUEBEC

L'Union des producteurs
agricoles
upa.qc.ca

Commission de la santé
et de la sécurité du travail
du Québec
csst.qc.ca

NEW BRUNSWICK

Agricultural Alliance
of New Brunswick
fermenbfarm.ca

Safety Services
New Brunswick
safetyservicesnb.ca

WorkSafeNB
worksafenb.ca

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Newfoundland and
Labrador Federation
of Agriculture
nlfa.ca

Service Newfoundland
and Labrador –
Occupational Health
and Safety
servicenl.gov.nl.ca/ohs

Workplace Health,
Safety and Compensation
Commission of
Newfoundland and
Labrador
whscc.nl.ca

NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia Federation
of Agriculture
nsfa-fane.ca

Society of Farm Safety
Nova Scotia
farmsafetyns.ca

Workers' Compensation
Board of Nova Scotia
wcb.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Labour
and Advanced Education
– Health and Safety
gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Prince Edward Island
Federation of Agriculture
peifa.ca

Workers Compensation
Board of Prince Edward
Island
wcb.pe.ca

Prince Edward
Island Public Service
Commission –
Occupational Health
and Safety
gov.pe.ca/psc/ohs