

2019/2020

AgSafe  
ALBERTA



# PROGRESS IN A **PANDEMIC**

AgSafe Alberta Annual Report

“ This year’s events have strengthened the need for an organization like ours and reminded everyone that we should always be mindful of how we can strengthen our safety practices to keep ourselves, and the people around us, safe and healthy. ”

— Kent Erickson, Chair of AgSafe Alberta’s Board of Directors



## Spreading Farm Safety Culture

*A message from the Chair of AgSafe Alberta's Board of Directors*

Well, I think it's safe to say none of us saw this year coming. When COVID-19 regulations were put in place this past spring, essentially shutting down much of our day-to-day-lives and making us all focus on the risks involved with every action we took, it was a huge adjustment. But it was also an eye-opener. It really drove home just how vulnerable we, as people, are. And how easily issues can get completely out of hand. Although we would never wish a world pandemic on anyone, these are good reminders, especially in our world, which exists around the threat of things going terribly wrong. In light of this, our plans this past year at AgSafe Alberta shifted to help farmers and ranchers adjust to the new realities of farming in COVID times.

In June, the Government of Alberta's agriculture branch launched a Training Support Program to help employers in the food supply chain provide necessary training to new Alberta employees. The program intended to offset costs for COVID-19 safety and training, including the costs for personal protective equipment and to remove any barriers to get Albertans safely working.

We helped promote this program and its resources to our members and are continuing to educate our members now on safe practices around COVID regulations. We are continuing to help farmers and ranchers understand and enact COVID safety practices on their farms now, fielding their questions through our AgSafe hotline, covering these topics in our newsletters and webinars, and having our advisors available for farm visits.

We did this on top of all the other, regular programming we delivered this year (see within for more details on that). So while this has been a challenging year for so many people, I am grateful for one thing:

This year's events have strengthened the need for an organization like ours and reminded everyone that we should always be mindful of how we can strengthen our safety practices to keep ourselves, and the people around us, safe and healthy.



Kent Erickson, AgSafe Alberta Chair

## Working Together During a Year of Growth

### *A message from AgSafe Alberta's Executive Director*

While this has been a very challenging year for so many of us, I am grateful for one thing:

Collectively, people are thinking more and more about safety. Safety has been our entire focus here at AgSafe Alberta, since our inception in 2018, and this past year was dedicated once again to reminding farmers and ranchers how and why to stay safe on their farms.

In the past year, we did this in a couple ways.

First of all we are consistently in touch with our members, through channels such as our newsletter, which is sent out every 30 days and boasts a readership rate of over 55%, which is nearly 20% higher than the industry rate for a newsletter of a similar size and audience.

In our newsletter this past year we covered some of the most important safety issues for farmers and ranchers today, such as changes to safety legislation through the Farm Freedom and Safety Act, farm safety plans, safe practices for harvest, emergency response and recruitment, orientation and training, safety inspections, incident investigations, safe animal handling, and much more.

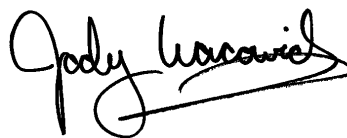
In January we launched the revised FarmSafe plan and workshop along with an e-learning portal. During the spring we redesigned our FarmSafe workshops to be able to present them in an online webinar format (to make them more accessible, especially in COVID times). We were happy to see consistent numbers of registrants for the series, which continued throughout the summer and are now available in a new e-learning portal.

Also this year, we heavily promoted our AgSafe 1-800 hotline, a 24/7 farm safety resource available to members anytime to answer safety questions, provide support and guidance before, after or during on-farm incidents, and more.

Finally, we worked on further developing our team this past year. We further developed the role of our newest staff member Kaia Fossheim, who joined us last August as Safety Manager. Having grown up on a farm North of Edson, Alberta, she understands the realities and dangers of modern farming. With previous experience as a business owner, responsible for the safety of her employees, and a first responder, Kaia brings great experience to our team and we are happy to have her.

So overall we have had another busy and productive year this year. And while the pandemic has been terrible for so many of us, it has also done one positive thing for our industry: highlighted the importance of taking precautions and having a plan to keep the people we work with safe.

Thanks for another great year.



Jody Wacowich, Executive Director of AgSafe Alberta



“With a dedicated team keen to spread the organization’s vision, we were able to begin expanding our resources, services, e-learning tools, and programs this year. This will help us reach even more farms and ranches in the province.”

— Jody Wacowich, Executive  
Director of AgSafe Alberta

# STATS ON AGSAFE'S YEAR AT A GLANCE

## Our Vision

Safer farms and ranches across Alberta.

## Our Mission

To support a culture of safety on farms and ranches in Alberta through information, education and training.

“I think customers, both in Canada and around the world, need to know that I am taking care of my people. I’m doing everything possible to make sure that my farm is a safe place, both to work and to live.”

— Elaine Bellamy, Owner of Wills Farm Ltd.

## BY THE NUMBERS

A Year of Safety on  
Alberta's Farms  
and Ranches

11



The number of e-learning  
courses launched by  
AgSafe Alberta.

Quotes lifted from AgSafe Alberta testimonial videos From the Field



633

Downloads of our AgSafe Alberta FarmSafe Plan Manual. Our goal was to make it easy to understand and apply on farms

899

Downloads of our AgSafe Alberta FarmSafe Plan Workbook. Our goal was to make the tools and templates for building your safety management plan more accessible.



1

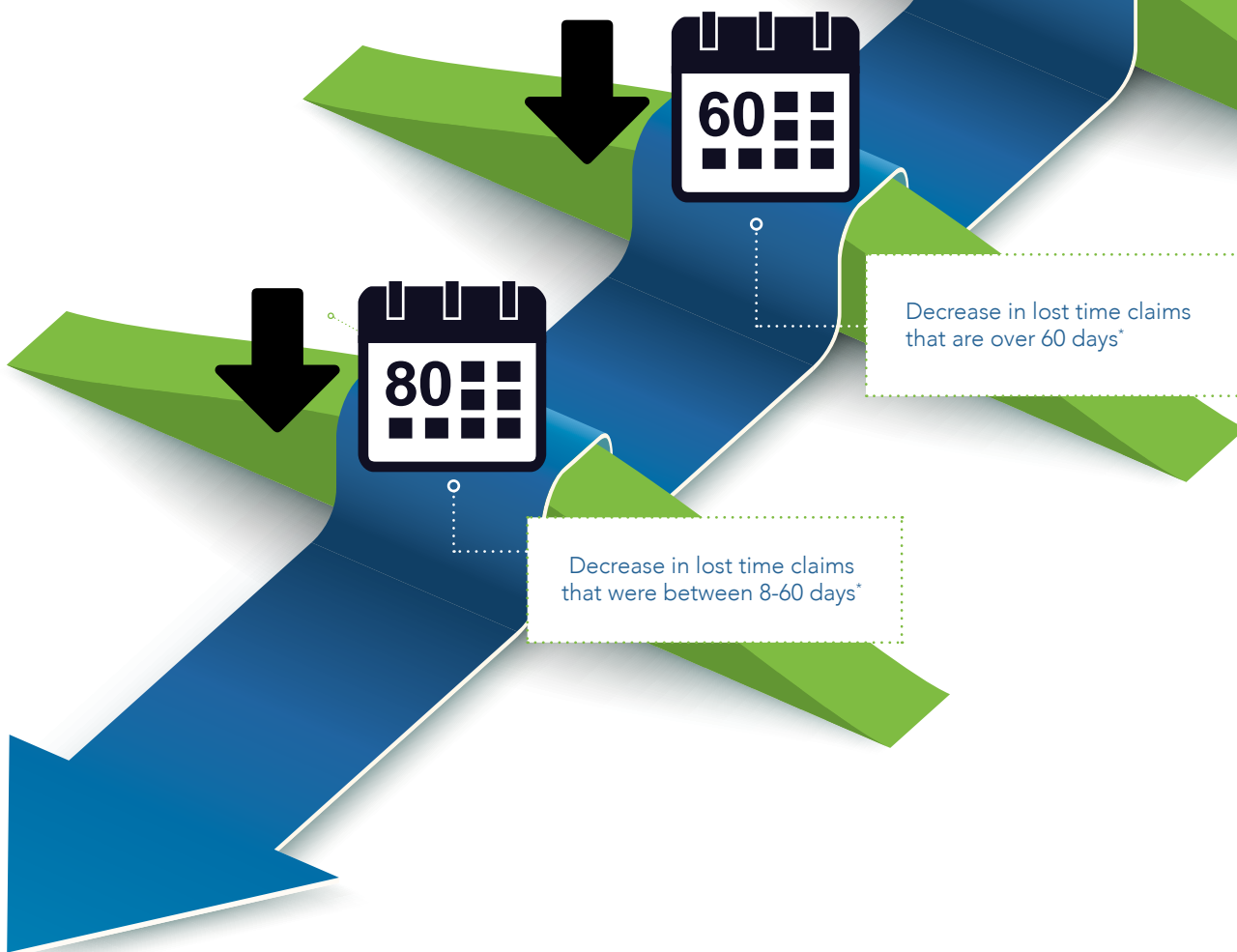
YouTube webinar provided for producer training around COVID-19 safety and prevention.

# STATS ON AGRICULTURE ACCIDENTS IN ALBERTA

\*Stats from WCB-Alberta



There was a  
decrease in the total  
number of lost time claims  
this fiscal year.\*



## Creating a Culture of Safety

Being aware of safety risks and implementing precautionary measures reduces the risk of accidents to everyone who sets foot on the property.

**Simply, safety protects what's important:  
staff, visitors, and the business!**



## Our Goals

**Over the last fiscal year, AgSafe Alberta worked toward the following goals in its daily work:**

- The adoption of a systemic comprehensive safety program/system that addresses the context of working in farming and ranching operations with wide-ranging job scopes. The program will incorporate guideline documents that inform safe work procedures or similar practical safety guidance for work tasks and the jobs related to working on a farm and ranch.
- The promotion and provision for industry-wide incident reporting to gauge safety performance and the expected improvements for the Alberta agricultural industry. This will include supporting farms and ranches when complaints or incidents occur, by providing services to assist the farm in meeting OHS investigation requirements.
- Development of a communications plan that works to leverage resources most efficiently in both the delivery and subsequent implementation of leading safety practices on farms and ranches. This will include the development of a Public Awareness campaign that explains and promotes the support that AgSafe will make available to build on existing safety performance.
- AgSafe Alberta Society will seek to collaborate and build on the good work of other safety supportive initiatives/programs/agencies already operating in the agricultural sector. This is achieved through providing a province-wide coordinating capacity that takes advantage of existing good safety work, aligns it with strategic safety initiatives, and builds on its delivery and reach to engage wider populations on farms and ranches.



## Guideline Documents

The adoption of a systemic comprehensive safety program/system that addresses the context of working in farming and ranching operations with wide-ranging job scopes. The program will incorporate guideline documents that inform safe work procedures or similar practical safety guidance for work tasks and the jobs related to working on a farm and ranch.

- FarmSafe Plan revision – *Launched Jan 2020*
- AgSafe Certification Levels – *Launched Jan 2020*
- Online training portal – *Launched Jan 2020*
- Courses added to the portal – *PPE added March 2020*
- Commodity specific materials – *COVID-19 tools were developed*
- Materials in other languages – *PPE Module produced in French*

## Incident Reporting

The promotion and provision for industry-wide incident reporting to gauge safety performance and the expected improvements for the Alberta agricultural industry. This will include supporting farms and ranches when complaints or incidents occur, by providing services to assist the farm in meeting OHS investigation requirements.

- Receipt of reports from WCB – *Continued to receive and review*
- Receipt of OHS investigation reports from Alberta Labour – *Regular updates on number of inspections and investigations*
- 1-800 number set up – *3 calls received*

## Communications/Public Awareness

Development of a communications plan that works to leverage resources most efficiently in both the delivery and subsequent implementation of leading safety practices on farms and ranches. This will include the development of a Public Awareness campaign that explains and promotes the support that AgSafe will make available to build on existing safety performance.

- Canadian Agricultural Safety Week Campaign – *Completed an online scavenger hunt in March*
- Editorial Calendar with a Safety Topic each month – *Ongoing*
- Events – *10 Presentations at conferences or meetings at 18 events*

## Coordinating Capacity

AgSafe Alberta Society will seek to collaborate and build on the good work of other safety supportive initiatives/programs/agencies already operating in the agricultural sector. This is achieved through providing a province-wide coordinating capacity that takes advantage of existing good safety work, aligns it with strategic safety initiatives, and builds on its delivery and reach to engage wider populations on farms and ranches.

- Develop a database for reporting – *Started with training portal information*
- Advisor visits – *Ongoing: 25 Visits*
- Workshops – *2 workshops with new manuals, workshop structure, 9 webinars produced to align with the workshops during COVID, 1 YouTube webinar provided for producer training around COVID-19 safety and prevention.*



# FINANCIALS

# **Ag Safe Alberta Society**

## **Financial Statements**

*July 31, 2020*

# INDEPENDENT

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Ag Safe Alberta Society:

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ag Safe Alberta Society (the "Society"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2020, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at July 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

## Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Calgary, Alberta

January 6, 2021

A stylized, handwritten signature of 'MNP LLP' in black ink, with the letters being bold and slightly slanted.

Chartered Professional Accountants

# Ag Safe Alberta Society


## Statement of Financial Position

As at July 31, 2020

	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	1,127,465	645,573
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	110,485	-
Marketable securities (Note 3)	1,505,000	1,505,000
Prepaid expenses and deposits	850	2,439
	<b>2,743,800</b>	<b>2,153,012</b>
<b>Capital assets (Note 5)</b>	<b>2,879</b>	<b>3,599</b>
	<b>2,746,679</b>	<b>2,156,611</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 4)	29,489	135,509
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	2,342,189	1,646,101
	<b>2,371,678</b>	<b>1,781,610</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	<b>375,001</b>	<b>375,001</b>
	<b>2,746,679</b>	<b>2,156,611</b>

Approved on behalf of the Board

  
Director

  
Director

**Ag Safe Alberta Society**  
**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets**

*For the year ended July 31, 2020*

	2020	2019
<b>Revenue</b>		
Memberships	375,000	380,000
Government of Alberta Grant (Note 6)	366,147	353,899
Interest	35,177	1,941
	<b>776,324</b>	<b>735,840</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Documents and programming	231,878	258,664
Advertising and promotion	190,157	64,938
Salaries and benefits	168,484	179,187
Travel	73,919	161,124
Office supplies	29,588	18,820
Office rent	25,000	20,917
Training and education	23,827	4,266
Professional fees	14,029	16,674
Postage	7,513	489
Bank charges and interest	6,517	5,216
Insurance	2,604	3,400
Telephone	2,088	2,084
Amortization	720	61
	<b>776,324</b>	<b>735,840</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net assets beginning of year</b>	<b>375,001</b>	<b>375,001</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>375,001</b>	<b>375,001</b>

## Ag Safe Alberta Society Statement of Cash Flows

*For the year ended July 31, 2020*

	2020	2019
<b>Cash provided by (used for) the following activities</b>		
<b>Operating</b>		
Cash received from grants	1,062,235	2,105,896
Cash received from memberships	264,515	408,840
Cash paid for program service expenses	(705,034)	(470,281)
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(168,484)	(179,187)
Cash paid for bank charges	(6,517)	(5,216)
Cash receipts from interest	35,177	1,941
	<b>481,892</b>	<b>1,861,993</b>
<b>Investing</b>		
Purchase of marketable securities	-	(1,505,000)
Purchase of capital asset	-	(3,660)
	-	(1,508,660)
<b>Increase in cash resources</b>	<b>481,892</b>	<b>353,333</b>
<b>Cash resources, beginning of year</b>	<b>645,573</b>	<b>292,240</b>
<b>Cash resources, end of year</b>	<b>1,127,465</b>	<b>645,573</b>

**1. Incorporation and nature of the organization**

Ag Safe Alberta Society (the "Society") was incorporated on May 4, 2017 under the authority of the Societies Act of Alberta and thus is exempt from income taxes under section 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act ("the Act"). In order to maintain its status as a registered not-for-profit organization under the Act, the Society must meet certain requirements within the Act. In the opinion of management these requirements have been met.

The Society's objective is the promotion and improvement of occupational health and safety in agriculture in Alberta.

**2. Significant accounting policies**

***Basis of accounting***

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

***Cash and cash equivalents***

Cash and cash equivalents include balances with banks.

***Revenue recognition***

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

***Capital assets***

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution if fair value can be reasonably determined.

	<b>Method</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Computer equipment	declining balance	20 %

***Financial instruments***

The Society recognizes its financial instruments when the Society becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. All financial instruments are initially recorded at their fair value, including financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in a related party transaction with management. Financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in all other related party transactions are initially measured at their carrying or exchange amount in accordance with Section 3840 *Related Party Transactions*.

At initial recognition, the Society may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any financial instrument at fair value. The Society has not made such an election during the year.

The Society's financial assets and liabilities are subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

**2. Significant accounting policies** *(Continued from previous page)*

**Financial asset impairment**

The Society assesses impairment of all of its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. An impairment of financial assets carried at amortized cost is recognized in the excess of revenue over expenses when the asset's carrying amount exceeds the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate of return for a similar financial asset.

The Society reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. Where an impairment charge is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment charge been recognized in previous periods. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the excess of revenue over expenses in the year the reversal occurs.

**Measurement uncertainty (use of estimates)**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period.

Accounts receivable are stated after evaluation as to their collectability and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary. Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess of revenue over expenses in the periods in which they become known.

**3. Marketable securities**

Marketable securities are held in guaranteed investment certificates.

**4. Amounts due to and from Alberta Wheat Commission**

Included in accounts receivable is \$52,235 (2019 - \$53,661 due to the Alberta Wheat Commission in accounts payable) due from the Alberta Wheat Commission for expenses paid by the Alberta Wheat Commission on behalf of the Society.

**5. Capital assets**

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated amortization</b>	<b>2020 Net book value</b>	<b>2019 Net book value</b>
Computer equipment	3,660	781	2,879	3,599

**Ag Safe Alberta Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
*For the year ended July 31, 2020*

**6. Deferred contributions**

Deferred contributions consist of unspent contributions externally restricted under an agreement with the Government of Alberta. Recognition of these amounts as revenue is deferred to periods when the specified expenditures are made. Changes in the deferred contribution balance are as follows:

	2020	2019
Balance, beginning of year	1,646,101	-
Amount received or receivable during the year	1,062,235	2,000,000
Less: Amount recognized as revenue during the year	(366,147)	(353,899)
Balance, end of year	2,342,189	1,646,101

**7. Financial instruments**

The Society, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

**8. Significant event**

During the year, there was a global outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), which has had a significant impact on businesses through the restrictions put in place by the Canadian, provincial and municipal governments regarding travel, business operations and isolation/quarantine orders. At this time, it is unknown as to the extent of the impact the COVID-19 outbreak may have on the Society as this will depend on future developments that are highly uncertain and that cannot be predicted with confidence. These uncertainties arise from the inability to predict the ultimate geographic spread of the disease, and the duration of the outbreak, including the duration of travel restrictions, business closures or disruptions, and quarantine/isolation measures that are currently, or may be put, in place by Canada and other countries to fight the virus.

# AGSAFE TEAM

## 2019-2020 AgSafe Alberta Board of Directors

**Kent Erickson**  
AgSafe Alberta Chair  
Alberta Wheat Commission

**Ian Chitwood**  
Alberta Canola Producers  
Commission

**Ruben Waldner**  
Alberta Pork

**Erna Ference**  
AgSafe Alberta Vice Chair  
Alberta Poultry Producers

**Charlie Christie**  
Alberta Beef Producers

**Martin Zuidhof**  
Alberta Cattle  
Feeders Association

**Kelisha Archer**  
Alberta Pulse Growers

**Shane DeBock**  
Alberta Barley

**Hanneke Camps**  
Potato Growers  
of Alberta

**Martin van Diemen**  
Alberta Milk

## 2019-2020 AgSafe Alberta Society Advisors

**Sherri Marthaller**  
AgSafe Alberta Advisor

**Rob Pedersen**  
AgSafe Alberta Advisor

**Maria Champagne**  
AgSafe Alberta Advisor

**Ellen Jabs**  
AgSafe Alberta Advisor

## 2019-2020 AgSafe Alberta Staff

**Jody Wacowich**  
Executive Director

**Kaia Fossheim**  
Safety Manager

# ALBERTA FARM FATALITY STATISTICS 2020

FATALITY NUMBERS								PROVINCIAL TOTAL WORKPLACE DEATHS
Year	Type	Male	Female	Adult	Youth	WCB	Total	Alberta
2014		19	2	20	1	-	21	158
2015		17	3	14	6	-	20	128
2016	Beef/Feedlot	15	2	16	1	3	17	144
2017	Beef/Feedlot/Elk-Bison/Apiaries/ Forage Processing	21	2	19	4	5	23	167
2018	Hay/Grain	11	0	11	0	1	11	126
2019	Dairy/Hay-Grain	15	1	14	2	2	16	-

**AgSafe**  
ALBERTA

Your safety – your way

## What does the Farm Freedom and Safety Act (FFSA) mean for your farm or ranch?

### Employment Standards

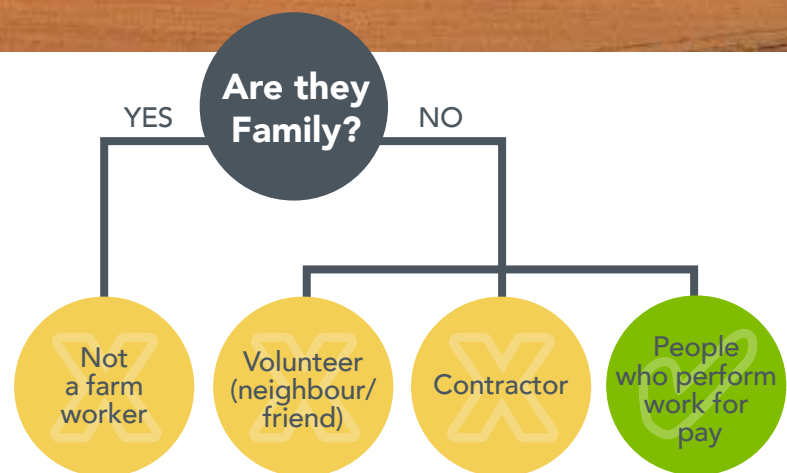
These will only apply to farms with over 5 employees.

### Insurance

Farms now have options to cover their employees, investigate these options to ensure they provide enough coverage for your employees.

### OHS Act

The Act applies to **ALL** farms and ranches with employees.



Changes come into effect January 31, 2020. Request a **FREE** advisory visit and find tools and resources for growing the safety culture on your farm at [agsafeab.ca](https://agsafeab.ca)

