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February Newsletter



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It Happened to One of Us

2021 Incident Summary

(Incident source: Alberta Occupational Health and Safety)

Description	Injury Type	Age Range	Sector	WCB Code
Fall from ladder	Hospitalization	50 to 59 Years	Poultry/Egg	01401

- Falls from height are one of the top 10 causes of fatalities on farms and ranches according to Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) reports.
- Falls are consistently the leading cause of lost time claims in Agriculture each year according to the Workers Compensation Board of Alberta.

Did someone teach you how to use a ladder correctly? Do you know that different types of ladders should be used differently and have different risks? Do you know what the differences in ladders are? Below are some resources to help you on your farm.

1. [Toolbox Talk: Ladder Types](#)
2. [Toolbox Talk: Ladder Best Practices](#)
3. [Fall from Heights Video](#)

CLICK HERE TO CONTACT US AT INFO@AGSAFEAB.CA

**WE CAN ANSWER QUESTIONS, OFFER SUPPORT,
AND PROVIDE YOU WITH RESOURCES THAT WILL
[MAKE SAFETY ON YOUR FARM PRACTICAL AND ACHIEVABLE.](#)**

2022 GROWING FARM SAFETY SERIES

[Click here for more details and to register.](#)

The Impact of One Decision with Amanda Oling

February 8, 2022, at 1:00 pm

Life is a sequence of one decisions, and every decision you make in your life can impact someone else. Using her personal story, Amanda shares just how far one decision truly can reach.

Back to Basics, A Focus on Personal Wellness with Kim Moffat

February 22, 2022, at 1:00 pm

If your emotional gas tank feels like it is running on empty, you are not alone! Having grown up on a farm and farming with her husband later in life, Kim is a counsellor who gets it and can help you learn new ways to manage stress while building your resilience.

Reducing the Risk of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes and Perinatal Illness for Female Ag Producers with Knesha Rose-Davison

March 8, 2022, at 1:00 pm

Pregnancy and fertility are often not considered when women assume farm tasks. Pesticide and other chemical exposures, zoonotic diseases, and heavy lifting particularly during childbearing years, present challenges. Learn more about these and how to better protect yourself, your daughters and the women working for you.

Waking Up to Fatigue Factors on the Farm with Kimberley Hobbs

March 22, 2022 at 1:00 pm

Fatigue is a common, serious and yet poorly recognized health and safety risk, especially in agriculture. Learn about the common myths and little-known facts about sleep, as well as some handy and practical strategies to help manage fatigue on your farm.

DON'T LET SOMETHING HAPPEN ON YOUR FARM

[CLICK HERE TO IDENTIFY COMMON AGRICULTURAL HAZARDS PRESENT
ON YOUR OPERATION AND FIND PRACTICAL WAYS TO
KEEP THE PEOPLE ON YOUR OPERATION SAFE](#)



Alberta OHS Activity in Agriculture

In 2021 we saw increased contact and activity on farms and ranches by Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). This included making contact with 55 different operations for such reasons as reportable incidents, health and safety complaints, and to deliver presentations.

Alberta OHS also issued 33 orders to farming and ranching operations, of these 2

were Stop Use Orders. OHS officers have the authority to stop the use of equipment that is observed to be unsafe or has the potential to seriously injure workers. This type of order is lifted when the requirements outlined in the order, such as repairs to critical parts, are met. Keeping equipment in safe working condition will help you avoid this type of order, or worse, a serious or fatal injury.

To learn more about the types of OHS Orders, click [here](#).

End a Dangerous Practice, Not a Life

When you grow up on a farm, work and play often intertwine. This can be both good and bad, as the fun part of it can lower our guard and we may not stop and think about what could go wrong before doing something. AgSafe Alberta is hearing concerns from producers that there are still a few in the agricultural community who allow children and adults to ride in loader buckets and on other attachments. Regardless of the reason why it is being done, this practice is incredibly dangerous. Ruts, bumps, sudden stops, equipment failure, operator error, and rider error can all easily occur, and the consequences are deadly.

These types of incidents occur more often than we think; in fact, the leading cause of death on Canadian farms are run overs, with the majority of these involving tractors. While most incidents don't make it into the local news and some don't even make the local coffee shop, there was one in 2020 that made national headlines. In this incident, three children and one adult in Quebec lost their lives and others were left seriously injured. The driver of the tractor received criminal charges and was reported to have received restrictions driving relating to operating vehicles and other equipment. One cannot even begin to imagine what the psychological and financial aftermath would be like in this situation.

It is never worth taking an unnecessary risk on the farm, especially one such as this. It is time to acknowledge how dangerous some old ways of doing things can be and end these practices before we end anymore lives by holding on to them.



SAFETY FIRST, LAST THOUGHTS

Not Having a Safety Program is Risky Business

Health and safety programs reduce the risk to you, your family, your employees, and your farm business. Think about it. How can you protect anyone from a hazard you have not recognized or done something about?

What are you risking by not having a health and safety program or having one that collects dust on a shelf somewhere?

Increased Risk of ...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fatalities and serious injuries to the people on your farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fines and penalties under Alberta OHS Legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Civil and criminal liabilities, fines, legal fees, and possibly even jail time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Damage to reputation, difficulty obtaining or keeping employees
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lost time costs from incidents, investigations, OHS visits, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-productive time due to being short-staffed, equipment downtime, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Higher private insurance rates and/or WCB costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Costly equipment repair and replacement

A health and safety program helps you to manage these things in systematic way that works for your specific operation. In many cases, you may already have elements of a program in place, such as by participating in the Environmental Farm Plan program.

Getting started is easier than you think and if progress has stalled out on your

current program, reach out to us today for help getting it back on track. For answers to your questions or support, email us at info@agsafeab.ca today!

CONTACT US

For general inquiries: info@agsafeab.ca /403-219-7901

For our hotline for incidence assistance: 1-833-9AGSAFE

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Your Safety, Your Way
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