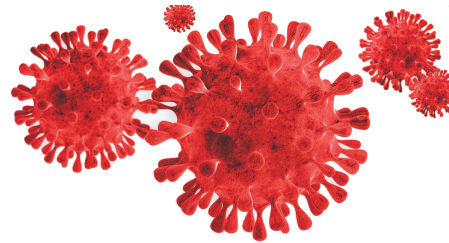
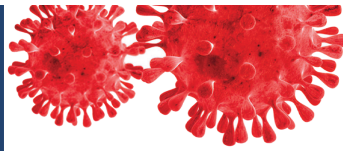


[View this email in your browser](#)



September 2020

COVID Harvest Guidelines



COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR HARVEST CHECKLIST

Hazards need to be assessed daily as they can change depending on the number of employees, proximity between employees, new workers, etc. It's everyone's responsibility to participate and enforce proper health and safety in the workplace.

CLEANING & DISINFECTING



1

Wipe down all surfaces that an operator would touch, including buttons and switches



2

Do not use a cleaner or disinfectant that can pool on the tool, equipment, or machinery



3

Wipe down commonly touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches, hand/power tools, ladders, gates, etc.



4

Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting hard and soft surfaces



5

Sanitize all harvest equipment and vehicles before and after each shift



6

If possible, assign one vehicle or piece of equipment to one or two operators as opposed to everyone

PERSONAL HYGIENE



1

Wash your hands for 20 seconds after touching any public surface



2

Stay 2 metres (or 6 feet) apart when possible



3

Wear a mask when you need to be closer than 2m to other workers.

SCREENING



4

Have a supervisor screen employees at the start of every shift for COVID symptoms

OR



5

Have employees fill out a self assessment 'COVID Screening Form' before starting their shift

Keep these steps in mind throughout your day, to ensure everyone on your farm team stays safe and healthy.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

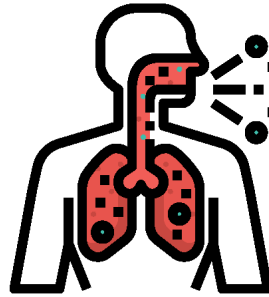
Can you isolate people to one piece of equipment? How are you serving meals?
Is there hand sanitizer or disinfectant in all your buildings and equipment?

CONTACT US info@agsafeab.ca | 403.219.7901

agsafeab.ca

WHAT TO WATCH FOR THIS HARVEST

COVID-19 Symptoms* may include
but are not limited to:



- Fever or chills
- Fatigue
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**This list does not include all possible symptoms*



If you have any of the above symptoms, have been traveling outside of Canada in the last 14 days, or have been in contact with someone who has been confirmed with having COVID-19 please **STAY HOME** and notify your employer as soon as possible.



Many of these symptoms are similar to the common cold or flu. Managing your employees to ensure that they stay healthy this season can prevent unwanted illnesses like the cold or flu that might be mistaken with COVID-19.

info@agsafeab.ca | 403.219.7901 | agsafeab.ca

Find more COVID resources here

**HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT HARVEST AND COVID-19?
GIVE US A CALL AND WE CAN HELP YOU MAKE
PLANS FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY HARVEST.**

1-833-9AG-SAFE (24-7233)

Safe Handling Around Animals



Background

Cows, horses, sheep, pigs, and dogs are common fixtures on many farms and ranches in Alberta. The hazards associated with these animals come in all shapes and sizes, as do the animals themselves. Being struck-by the animal is a common hazard and can easily occur if you're working near livestock and not focused on the task at hand. Animals will react to changes in their environment, so it is important to pay attention to animal behaviors. Some animals may perceive danger and attempt to escape or run, while other animals may become nervous or agitated and kick-out or even attack. These reactions may worsen if the animal is sick or injured or nursing her young. Even animals with a mild temperament can become dangerous under the right circumstances. But behaviors are not the only problem when it comes to animal safety. Some other hazards include being struck by or pinned against gates, tripping or slipping on uneven ground or slippery work surfaces, pinch points on gates, equipment or tools being used and handling or administering medications. Let's not forget about biosecurity concerns, and the potential for spread of disease or bacteria. There is a lot to think about. And we can agree there is a considerable level of risk when working around or handling livestock or farm animals.

Managing the Risk

Some control measures you might consider implementing on your farm or ranch include:

- Wear appropriate footwear. This might mean boots with adequate traction in mucky pens or uneven surfaces or steel toed footwear that will protect against trampling or puncture
- Wear appropriate head protection if you're at risk of a fall or strike. Helmets are a trendy accessory that have the potential to prevent serious head injuries
- Verify equipment is in good working order. The equipment you'll need will depend on what type of task you're performing and what type of livestock or farm animal you're dealing with. Some examples of equipment we use to work with, or handle livestock or farm animals might include a livestock chute or other types of enclosures, calving jacks, feeding spears or dispensers, ropes and halters, ear tags and applicators and the list goes on. All equipment should be visually inspected before use. If equipment is in good working condition, a malfunction resulting in an injury is less likely to occur
- If you're handling or administering medications, read the Safety Data Sheet provided by the manufacturer or your veterinarian
- Plan and designate an escape route, make sure that the escape route isn't obstructed and that it is accessible to everyone working in the area
- Come up with a work-alone check-in system if you need to be by yourself while working around livestock or farm animals. If you must work with an animal that is known to be aggressive, use the buddy system
- Always stay aware and alert, animal behavior can change in a matter of seconds. Anticipating and reacting to animal behavior can go a long way toward preventing injuries and incidents on the farm
- Be familiar with the biosecurity concerns surrounding the animals you're dealing with and how to protect the spread of disease or bacteria. This might include donning specific PPE and removing the PPE after your contact with animals
- Build safe habits. If you put on your gloves every time you handle an animal with a lead rope, your behavior becomes a habit. The act of donning the gloves becomes less difficult and more natural over time. When the animal tries to pull away or spooks, you have eliminated the chance of a rope burn injury. You've developed a safe habit

What else can I do?

- Perform a hazard assessment on the type of animals you're working with. This will help you think critically about specific hazards and how you can deal with them. Once complete, spend time reviewing the results of the hazard assessment with those who may be affected. People affected may include your family, staff or visitors
- Training should be provided to anyone who will work around or handle livestock or farm animals. Workshops or online material on working safely around livestock or low stress cattle handling can be a helpful tool
- All animals are unique and respond to stimuli differently. Don't believe that because you've worked with one animal that responded a certain way, that the next one will
- Don't let your guard down around the quiet animals in the herd, animals are unpredictable
- Of animal related deaths on farms and ranches in Alberta, horses and cows were most often involved. The average weight of a cow is 1390lbs. The average weight of a horse is 1000lbs. The average weight of a human is 137lbs
- Ensure children working near or with livestock or farm animals understand the safety measures in place on your farm. Children should know not to walk near the hind end of large animals, to

behave calmly and carefully around animals and to avoid playing in pastures or pens.

Keep learning

Safety Stories

Combine fires



As producers across the Prairies begin harvest, safety – especially when it comes to the risk of combine fires – should be a priority.

Jody Wacowich, the executive director with Ag Safe Alberta, shared several [tips](#) on how to prevent fires.

“The first and seemingly most obvious method is keeping your equipment clean. Blow the dust off at the end of the day. Remove any residue or combustibles that may have built up through the course of the day. If it’s particularly dusty, you should even stop partway through the day to do” this task, she told Farms.com.

Read the full article from farms.com here: <https://www.farms.com/ag-industry-news/prevent-combine-fires-during-harvest-524.aspx>

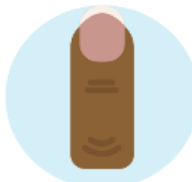
Hand injuries in the workplace



44%
of hand injuries are
cuts and lacerations



63%
are from being caught,
in contact or struck
with an object, tool or
equipment.



73%
of hand injuries occur
with fingers and
fingernails.



Corrective Actions



31%
changed policy



51%
provided training

Data Source: Potentially Serious Incidents Reported,
June 1, 2018 to August 20, 2020

Source: OHS eNews September 2020



**CAN YOUR
TRACTOR
HANDLE IT?**

Know the limitations of your
tractor when unloading and
stacking bales this fall.

AgSafe
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We want to hear from you!

Every month, we will be including a survey question for our subscribers about ag safety!

August's question is:

How are you implementing COVID safety protocols into your harvest plan this year?



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