

Canadian
Agricultural
Safety Week
Mar. 14-20, 2007

FACT SHEET #5

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Operational Symbols

When using machines there may be a time when an operator must reach over, under, around or through the machine. Any hazards that can be contacted by these movements must have appropriate guarding put in place. Unfortunately, the presence of shields alone does not remove all possible hazards.

Fingers and hands are the parts of the body most often involved in farm incidents, accounting for about 26 per cent of all farm injuries. Feet and toes are involved in about 11 per cent of all farm incidents thereby making extremities account for approximately one-third of all farm injuries. Often, a finger or toe will be caught initially, followed by a limb and possibly the entire body being drawn into a piece of machinery.

“Protect your moving parts!” is the theme of this year’s Canadian Agricultural Safety Campaign with a focus on pinch points, crushes, entanglements, and the importance of guarding. The yearlong campaign will be launched with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), March 14-20, 2007, when farmers across Canada will be encouraged to check and repair all the guards and shields on their machinery. The CASW campaign is delivered by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) in partnership with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

“As producers prepare their machinery for the upcoming planting season they can also prepare their workers for a safe workplace,” said Bob Friesen, CFA President. “Part of that preparation is machinery inspection, workplace readiness, and operator training.”

A little machinery maintenance can go a long way in preventing costly breakdowns, lost production time and injuries. It is also a great opportunity to show workers how a machine works while replacing worn-out parts, ensuring guards and shields are in place, and discussing the hazards to watch out for when it is in operation.

Many of these hazards are marked with an operational symbol decal such as pinch points, wrap points, shear points, crush points, pull-in points and thrown objects. These industry standard symbols are meant to be a reminder of the caution needed when operating equipment. Additional decals of these symbols and others can be purchased from your local farm machinery dealer.

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Operational Symbols ...2.

Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited is distributing a poster highlighting the operational symbols for these and other hazards in support of the CASW campaign. To request your free poster, e-mail farmsafety@cfafca.ca or call (613) 731-7321.

What can you do to prevent an injury or death on your farm?

1. Keep all guards and shields in place. If they must be removed for service or a repair, take the time to put them back on. A couple of minutes could save a couple of fingers.
2. Wear personal protective equipment, such as steel-toed shoes when handling animals and leather gloves when welding or cutting.
3. Shut off machinery before attending to service, repairs, or plugs. The extra time it takes to shut down and start up the machinery could mean the difference between life and death.
4. Always be aware of your machinery's capabilities. Flesh and bones are no match for machines that are designed to move, cut, chop, smash, and pulverize plant material.

The CFA along with FCC, CASA, and AAFC want to remind Canadian farmers to “*Protect your moving parts!*” means that you are responsible for your safety and that of your workers. More information on Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is available at www.cfa-fca.ca or www.casa-acsa.ca.

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For more information call:

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