

Canadian  
Agricultural  
Safety Week  
Mar. 14-20, 2007

# FACT SHEET #7

THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE  
1101-75 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E7  
Tel: (613) 236-3633 Fax: (613) 236-5749 farmsafety@cfafca.ca

## Preventing pinch points

The instant pain followed by a few days of discomfort after catching your finger in a closing door doesn't compare to the destructive force of farm machinery. A pinch-point injury can be seriously disabling and can cause amputation, or even death.

*"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).

Pinch points are found where a part of the body can get caught between two objects. There are countless places where this can occur on a farm as pinch points can happen any place where equipment is transmitting energy.

"Guards and shields are an essential part of farm safety," says John Ryan, FCC President and CEO. "Using them, and applying common sense and safe work practices, prevents injuries and losses, resulting in safer and more successful agriculture operations."

### Shortcuts Lead to Danger

Often pinch-point injuries are the result of workers who are not properly trained, don't realize the dangers of machinery, or who take shortcuts to get the work done more quickly, but end up injuring themselves instead. Never perform a task without proper training, by taking shortcuts, or bypassing procedures – the consequences could be serious.

### Keep Your Guard Up

Ensure equipment is properly guarded to keep operators away from hazardous areas. Keep in mind when purchasing equipment that all guards should be installed. Unfortunately, removing guards is a fairly common practice. In some cases, guards can be missing for such a long time that new employees are not aware a guard is required. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that all moving parts on equipment and machinery are properly guarded.

*more...*

## *Preventing pinch points ...2.*

### **Lockout / Tagout**

Because pinch-point injuries often occur when a machine is being stopped temporarily for service or cleaning, it is extremely important that workers follow necessary procedures for lockout and tagout. Workers can follow guard policies for when the machine is running, but when it's stopped and the guard is removed, if the equipment is not de-energized, workers are not safe.

### **Safety is Everyone's Responsibility**

The best protection from pinch-point hazards comes not from procedures, but from the personal attention of employers and workers to potential hazards.

- Review the dangers of pinch points and the procedures for working safely on a regular basis.
- Perform frequent, targeted inspections to ensure that guards are not missing and procedures are being followed.
- Reward employees for identifying and reporting hazards and quickly resolve those hazards.

Safety is everyone's responsibility and should not be learned after an incident.

The CFA along with FCC, CASA, and AAFC want to remind Canadian farmers to "*Protect your moving parts!*" by being responsible for your own safety and that of your workers.

- 30 -

### **For more information call:**

Theresa Whalen-Ruiter, CFA Farm Safety Coordinator

Tel/Fax: (613) 731-7321 E-mail: [farmsafety@cfafca.ca](mailto:farmsafety@cfafca.ca)

To download a copy of this article visit web sites [www.cfa-fca.ca](http://www.cfa-fca.ca) or [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca)