

NEWS RELEASE

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Farm safety: PPE only works if you use it!

Ottawa— “*PPE only works if you use it!*” is the theme of this year’s Canadian Agricultural Safety campaign with a focus on the use, fit and access of personal protective equipment (PPE) in agriculture. The yearlong campaign will be launched with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), from March 11 to 17, 2009. The 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).

“The idea behind the campaign theme “*PPE only works if you use it!*” is two-fold,” says Marcel Hacault, Executive Director of CASA. “The first part encourages producers to think through their work before starting so they can anticipate and correct any hazards that may occur. The second part encourages producers to ensure the correct access, use, and fit of personal protective equipment, if needed.”

When a hazard is identified there are several things you should do to correct it such as: redesigning the set-up; use less dangerous materials; change the work process or practices; change the equipment; and establish administrative controls or safety rules for workers. When all else fails to eliminate the hazard then personal protective equipment is used to reduce the hazard to acceptable levels.

An acceptable level of hazard is different for each person. Among other things, it will depend on the training, work experience, and physical capabilities. That’s why it is so important to ensure that workers are properly trained to do their job and that the training is documented. PPE is the last line of defense for safety.

“Farmers and farm workers have a dual role in risk management,” explains Laurent Pellerin, CFA First VP. “They can be a source of risk when they do things carelessly; and they are also the most important part of the strategy for dealing with risk. That’s why it is so important for owner-operators to lead by example and always insist that work is done safely.”

“FCC believes in motivating farm owners, their families and employees to work and play safe on their farms,” says Greg Stewart, FCC President and CEO. “Focusing on farm safety and helping our customers avoid dangerous situations is one of our goals. We see safety as an investment in people – those who work and live on farms.”

How does *your* farm safety knowledge rate? Try taking the FCC Farm Safety Quiz at www.fccfarmsafety.ca .

More information on Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is available at www.casa-acsa.ca or www.cfa-fca.ca .

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*** **Free photos and cartoons** are available to accompany this news release at www.casa-acsa.ca .