

NEWS RELEASE

FARM SAFETY MAKES \$ENSE

OTTAWA, February 28, 2004 – “*Farm safety makes \$ense*” is the theme of the 2004 Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), March 10-17, 2004.

This year’s campaign examines the real costs of agricultural injuries and fatalities, in terms of personal and business-related costs along with the less measurable costs of pain, suffering, coping with lifelong disabilities, and family grief.

“Farm safety planning is critically important because the farm is more than a workplace, it is the family home,” said Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Bob Speller. “Safe farm practices are as essential as financial planning to the well-being of Canadian farm families.”

“Every time a producer is injured or killed, it impacts the world around them: their family and their businesses, their communities,” said Bob Friesen, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA). I want Canadian producers to realize their health and safety is worth the time, cost and effort.”

A twelve-year study by the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program found that the total cost to the Canadian economy for agricultural injuries is estimated at between \$200 and \$300 million annually. These statistics underscore the importance of making agricultural workplace health and safety part of every producer’s business plan.

“The data clearly indicates that agricultural producers need to integrate safety into all aspect of their farm business plans and then follow through with implementing safe practices on the farm,” said Dr. Judy Guernsey, Chair of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association. “Safety is not only a moral responsibility, it’s also a sound business practice.”

The annual *Canadian Agricultural Safety Week* is delivered by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association through the generous sponsorship of Farm Credit Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) fund. As part of the campaign, magnetic photo frames with the reminder, “I farm safely because I love ...” are being distributed.

On average, 115 people are killed and another 1,500 seriously injured by farm-related incidents in Canada each year, and there are many minor injuries that are never reported.

For more information on *Canadian Agricultural Safety Week* please visit the CFA Web site at www.cfa-fca.ca or the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) website at www.casa-acsa.ca.

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