



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2010/03/17

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WorkSafeNB Promotes *Farm Safety Guide*

Grand Falls, NB: Spring is in the air and with farmers gearing up for another growing season, WorkSafeNB and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) want them to avoid injuries on the farm by participating in National Farm Safety Week, March 14 - 20, 2010.

The statistics are sobering. The Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting program (CAIR) reports that each year in Canada, an average of 115 people are killed and at least 1,500 are hospitalized from farm related incidents. While farming may be a way of life in New Brunswick, the fatalities and serious injuries that go with it don't have to be.

To help solve the problem, WorkSafeNB presented "Farm Safety – Plan For It!" at the NB Potato Conference in February. Angela Acott-Smith, assistant director for the Northwest region, said the key is identifying hazards and putting control measures in place to ensure injuries are prevented. She shared the *Farm Safety Guide* with nearly 100 growers from the region and explained how the booklet's checklists are used to identify hazards on farms. Farmers can use the guide to create a health & safety plan to prioritize hazards so they can be addressed quickly.

In January, health & safety officers from the Northwest region visited a small number of farms and worked through the guide with local growers to show them how useful the tool can be. As a result, three main areas of concern were noted; electrical safety – specifically ground fault protection in wet environments, guarding (Roll-over protection on tractors, lockout, and guards on power take-offs), and the handling and storage of hazardous materials with regards to WHMIS guidelines.

For more information on how to identify the hazards on your farm, or to receive your free copy of WorkSafeNB's *Farm Safety Guide*, contact the Northwest office at 506 475-2550. It is also available online by clicking [here](#).

About WorkSafeNB

WorkSafeNB administers no-fault workplace accident and disability insurance for employers and their workers, funded solely through employer assessments. WorkSafeNB is committed to preventing workplace injuries and illness through education and the enforcement of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.