



AgSafe Alberta Launches On-farm Advisor Services Program

ALBERTA, August 2, 2017 – AgSafe Alberta hired three Advisors to deliver on-farm safety consulting services to the province’s farmers and ranchers, as part of a seven-month farm safety consultation pilot project.

Farm and ranch safety has always been a top priority for the agriculture community in Alberta. Farmers and ranchers take the safety of their farms, their families and their employees very seriously. Though all farms have some degree of safety measures in place, many farm managers recognize there may be room for improvement. Some producers are looking for guidance to get started with on-farm safety programming, while others want to establish more formal safety management systems on their farms.

“We’re moving into an exciting time for farm safety in Alberta.” says AgSafe Alberta Extension Coordinator, Donna Trottier. “We’re changing the acceptance of safety principles on the farm and opening the doors to a farm safety culture that includes farm families, farm employees and farm managers alike, adopting safety as a part of everyday farm life.”

To help producers customize safety programming to match the needs of their operations, AgSafe Alberta hired three farm safety Advisors with experience in agriculture and expertise in safety management planning.

All the AgSafe Alberta Advisors have tools and resources to guide farmers, farm families and employees through an introduction to farm safety. Trottier explains, “farm safety can start with a small step, using one of the QuickStart guides, and building into a full safety management program over time. If there are farmers who want to go the extra mile and establish a full farm safety management system, the AgSafe Alberta Advisors are available to provide the required technical expertise and guidance”.

Alberta farmers and ranchers are advised to take advantage of this great opportunity to receive guidance and assistance in building their own farm safety programs. AgSafe Alberta is committed to tailoring farm safety programming to individual operations and to the level of complexity chosen by the producer.

“We are thrilled to embark upon this journey of providing exemplary farm safety services, and enhancing the culture of safety alongside the remarkable farmers and ranchers in Alberta. Our tag line is “YOUR SAFETY, YOUR WAY” and we want to deliver services with that mandate,” explains Trottier.

AgSafe Alberta Advisors

The team of AgSafe Alberta Advisors include Maria Champagne, Sherri Marthaller and Dan Trottier. “These Advisors are eager to assist farmers and ranchers in building right-sized safety programming that will facilitate the adoption of farm safety practices on the farm,” explains Donna Trottier. “Let’s put them to work!”



Maria Champagne has extensive experience working in a broad array of agricultural environments. Champagne has seen first hand, the risks and dangers involved on the farm and understands the unique environment presented when working on a farm. "As an advisor, I hope to help producers integrate a strong safety culture on their farms and ranches, in a practical, affordable way, keeping in mind the specific requirements of each operation," states Champagne, AgSafe Alberta Advisor. Champagne aims to assist farmers in managing risk by changing the way we go about our daily chores and making safety part of the routine.

Growing up on a family ranch, Sherri Marthaller has an appreciation for the hard work that goes into running a successful operation. Sherri also understands that risk is a part of the everyday business, often with factors that are out of the producer's control, such as weather and market prices. "I once believed exposure to hazards on the ranch was just part of the norm. However, after working in the health and safety field in a number industries, I began to understand the risks to many of the hazards in agriculture could be managed or reduced to an acceptable level. Protecting the people we care about is my reason for getting involved in the AgSafe Alberta project," states Marthaller, AgSafe Alberta Advisor.

Dan Trottier draws on his farm background and years of agricultural industry experience to help Alberta farmers "right size" safety programs to the farm-gate needs. "I feel that safety programs can actually contribute to the agri-business bottom line," explains Dan. "We have a great opportunity to support farmers who want to grow their existing safety initiatives to further protect family and workers on the farm." As a Canadian Registered Safety Professional and Professional Agrologist, Dan brings a unique skillset to the Agriculture industry and promotes farm safety as a fundamental component to the sustainability of farms and the agriculture industry.

Why have a farm safety management program? The obvious benefit to implementing a safety program on the farm is the prevention of injuries, illnesses and fatalities. A successful farm safety system helps incorporate a safety philosophy into the operation, reduces risk-taking activities and helps prevent incidents. Farm safety does not have to be complicated and AgSafe Alberta will provide the guidance and tools to help get you started. A few simple preventative measures can go a long way towards a safe working environment on the farm.

About AgSafe Alberta

Interest in industry-led farm safety programming on Alberta farms prompted the formation of the AgSafe Alberta Working Group. AgSafe Alberta is a collaboration of crop and livestock sector producer groups that have come together to develop and deliver industry-led farm safety management tools, resources and programs for farmers and ranchers in the province of Alberta. AgSafe Alberta has developed practical farm safety education and awareness resources and has now launched the AgSafe Alberta Advisor program to deliver tools, training and farm safety services at the farm gate.



For more information visit www.agsafeab.ca. To arrange consultation services with one of our AgSafe Alberta Advisors please contact Extension Coordinator Donna Trottier, 403-348-9321 or donna@agsafeab.ca.

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