

The

FARSHA



Guardian

Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association

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Christmas Wishes to the Agriculture Industry

On behalf of the Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association, it is my pleasure to bring you greetings and well wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.



As the year draws to a close, it's a time to reflect on FARSHA's past achievements and look ahead to further accomplishments. With a spirit of determination FARSHA will continue to provide the utmost in education and training to BC's primary agricultural employers and workers in the year ahead.

We at FARSHA wish you all the joy and goodwill of the season.

Bruce Johnson, Executive Director

Ready for Launch

FARSHA is launching the Certificate of Recognition (COR) program this January following a "train the trainer" session that took place at the Langley office.

FARSHA's Regional Safety Consultants (RSCs) and Agricultural Health and Safety Specialists (AHSSs) attended the three day train the trainer session on the recently developed Large and Small Employer Internal Auditor Training Programs. FARSHA's consultants and specialists were educated on the COR program and provided with the tools and know-how to conduct baseline audits and train internal auditors on how to conduct certification and maintenance audits.

Starting in the new year, RSCs and AHSSs will conduct baseline audits for those employers who feel their health and safety program meets OHSR and COR standards. FARSHA can further assist with the development of an action plan to resolve any deficiencies identified in the baseline audit, help with the overall implementation of a health and safety program, and provide hands-on assistance and training at the workplace.

Once baseline audits have been completed and a passing score achieved, employers are ready to have their health and safety program audited for COR certification. Those employers with a "large" operation must have an external auditor conduct a certification audit. Certification is good for three years; however, in the two years following certification, the employer is required to complete maintenance audits. Maintenance audits can be conducted by an employee as long as they have taken FARSHA's "large" internal auditor training. FARSHA's RSCs and AHSSs will train the employee to conduct maintenance audits on their employer's health and safety program free of charge and onsite.

Those employers with a "small" operation can choose to have an employee conduct both the certification and maintenance audits provided they have taken FARSHA's "small" internal auditor training. FARSHA's RSCs and AHSSs will train the employee to conduct certification and maintenance audits on their employer's health and safety program free of charge and onsite.

For any questions regarding COR baseline audits, auditor training, or the Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program for agriculture please contact your FARSHA RSC, AHSS, or the FARSHA office.



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Kris Johnson
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Christmas Suggestions to Farm Families

With the holiday season fast approaching, farm families are preparing for the hustle and bustle associated with this festive time. Unfortunately, farm safety often takes a back seat to the items on everyone's "to do" list.

We at FARSHA suggest making farm safety a part of your holiday giving. Here are some gift ideas for your loved ones and employees in this issue of the FARSHA Guardian.

According to the Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety in Canada, approximately 60,000 workers become injured each year due to slips and falls. Given the nature of agricultural worksites, farmyards often develop icy, uneven ground conditions that increase the risk of slips and falls. Why not fit outside workers with a nifty pair of "Boot Chains". No more slipping and sliding on icy patches - just attach the chains over the boot and you're ready to go



With the shortened days of winter upon us, the tendency is to leave our sunglasses at home. Even though the sun is lower on the horizon and sunny days seem rare, the UV rays are just as potent in the winter as they are in July. Fortunately, companies are manufacturing safety sunglasses, so now you can protect your eyes from flying debris as well as from harmful UV rays, all at the same time.



In an effort to address the Working Alone policy requirements, many small farm operations and businesses find establishing a protocol challenging. In many parts of the Kootenays, for example, cell phone service is unavailable and/or poorly accessed, so the concept of using a cell phone to solicit aid can often be impossible. Check out "SPOT". This personal tracker is easily incorporated into any organization's Working Alone procedure, and provides a sure-fire way to stay in touch with the home-base, no matter where you might find yourself. For pricing and more information go to www.findmespot.ca.



Spot Personal Tracker

Many businesses and companies are handing out "Pocket Calendars" this time of year, and while one is usually all we need, might I suggest you look towards these holiday give aways as a great addition to your Health and Safety Program. Once you establish a daily inspection checklist for your tractor, tape a copy on the inside cover of your calendar, and place it in the glovebox or toolbox in the tractor. Before every use simply pull out the calendar, review the checklist, initial the date in the calendar, (assuming everything checks out) and put it back.

As a result, at the end of the year you have all your checks in one handy little booklet. Always remember to note and address any repairs needed prior to using the equipment.

Finally, this holiday season is a great time to refresh the First Aid Kit in vehicles and buildings around the farm. Recently, I had the experience of needing a sterile wipe and band aid while out in the field. Fortunately, my kit seldom gets used, but it doesn't get checked often either. I discovered that the wipes had all dried up and the band aids had lost their stickiness. Often the temperature and weather extremes render some items useless. This has been a lesson learned; just because we don't use First Aid Kits all the time, doesn't mean the kit doesn't require maintenance from time to time.

Wishing all a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season

Kevin Paterson
FARSHA Kootenay Regional Safety Consultant

Advancing the Ranch Horse: Working Effectively, Efficiently, and Safely!

In conjunction with the BC Cattlemen's Association and the Horn Levy fund, FARSHA was instrumental in providing a horse training workshop to over 120 participants in three BC locations.

The program was designed to increase awareness of the number and type of injuries sustained in ranching caused by horse and livestock incidents.



Featured instructor Mark Grafton, horseman and Manager of the Bar K Ranch guided the ranchers from Taylor, Quesnel, and Nukko through a series of tasks associated with cattle handling and ranch work performed on horseback, efficiently and safely.

FARSHA would like to recognize the support and assistance from their Regional Safety Consultants Reg Steward, Provincial Ranching Safety Consultant, Mike Burzek of the Peace Region and Trevor Tapp of the Central Interior. A special thank you is extended to instructor Mark Grafton, Joy Gammie and the Clinton Cattlemen's Association for their active participation in the program.



Reg Steward

Reg Steward
FARSHA Cariboo-Chilcotin and
Provincial Ranching Safety Consultant

Ensuring Worker Safety on Your Mushroom Farm

Workers are essential to the successful operation of a mushroom farm. Preventing incident and injury must be a top priority for all mushroom farmers. This fact sheet will provide mushroom farmers with information regarding the top health and safety hazards found on mushroom farms. Topics listed in this fact sheet, in no particular order, are based on common safety issues identified by WorkSafeBC during farm inspections. Please note, this fact sheet only mentions safety issues for mushroom growing operations and is not inclusive of mushroom composting operations.

Mushroom farmers in the province of British Columbia, who require further assistance or information with any of the following safety topics, can contact David Nguyen, Agricultural Health and Safety Specialist, Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association (FARSHA), Suite 311 - 9440 - 202 Street, Langley, BC, V1M 4A6. Telephone: 604-996-0927 or email david.nguyen@farsha.bc.ca.



David Nguyen

- **New Worker Orientation:**
 - Provide safety orientation to all new and young workers.
- **Fall Prevention on Picking Platforms:**
 - Install guardrails on picking platforms to prevent falls from heights
 - Provide safety training to employees who work at heights, on picking platforms
 - Inspect and maintain picking platforms on a regular basis.
- **Exposure Control Plan For Atmospheric Hazards In Mushroom Production:**
 - Implement an exposure control plan to prevent accidental exposure to high carbon monoxide/carbon dioxide and low oxygen present during the mushroom growing process.
- **Chemical Safety:**
 - Provide Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) training for workers who handle or are exposed to hazardous materials
 - Ensure workers who handle or apply restricted pesticides or pesticides rated moderately to severely hazardous to health, possess a valid BC Pesticide Applicators Certificate
 - Ensure chemical storage meets minimum safety requirements including but not limited to, locks on doors, exhaust ventilation, danger signage, and secondary spill confinement
 - Fit test workers who are required to use respirators and provide training on selection, use, and care of respirators.
- **Equipment and Machine Safety:**
 - Ensure workers who operate mobile equipment receive proper training, including Forklifts, Bobcat Skid Steer Loader, Powered Pallet Jack, etc.
 - Provide lock-out training to workers
 - Lock-out equipment and machinery prior to performing maintenance or repairs
 - Install guarding on equipment and machinery parts that can cause injury due to contact or getting caught in.
- **Emergency preparedness:**
 - Ensure first aid attendant certification and first aid kit satisfies minimum criteria for distance from hospital, number of workers on site during shift and hazard rating
 - Install emergency wash stations on farm where there is a risk of accidental contact with hazardous chemicals.
- **Occupation Health and Safety program**
 - Establish a Joint Health Safety Committee, or safety representative depending on the number of workers on site
 - Hold regular health and safety meetings
 - Conduct regular safety inspections
 - Ensure managers and supervisors are trained on their responsibilities
 - Review the effectiveness of the health and safety program annually.

David Nguyen
FARSHA Agricultural Health and Safety Specialist

**FARSHA's Board of Directors
and Office Staff wish**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**to the
Agricultural Industry of BC.**



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