

# connection

Vol. 1 Issue 3 May 2016

## CASW Workshop a Success

In recognition of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, which ran March 13 to 19, Farm Safety Nova Scotia hosted an event, **Get in the Know: Fueling your safety culture**, at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville. The event featured the local launch of CASW and a series of information sessions for farmers, their families and their employees, as well as industry partners.

The event brought together over 55 farmers and industry partners, and covered a variety of topics including the basics of occupational health and safety, safe application of pesticides, rules of the road, and protecting your farm. The workshop provided attendees with information needed to help improve safety practices on the farm.

“Canadian Agricultural Safety Week helps to raise awareness in the farming community about the importance of being safe,” said Trevor Forbes, the President of Farm Safety Nova Scotia. “It’s our job to make farmers aware of the requirements and regulations that help make them safe.”

The variety of topics covered ensured the workshop was relevant to farmers across all commodities and regions.

“No matter your farm commodity or geography, all farmers and farm employees need to work safely,” said Kimberly Stokdijk, First Vice-President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

“Promoting safe farming practices on farms is a key factor in long-term profitability.”

Keith Irving, MLA Kings South, on behalf of Agriculture Minister Keith Colwell said, “A strong agriculture sector is critical to Nova Scotia’s future. We need to continue education and awareness activities to support farmers and their families with the information and resources they need to make their farms safer.”

Farm Safety Nova Scotia also announced that a number of farm equipment dealers across the province supported CASW by offering discounts on safety-related items during the month of March. Blueline New Holland, Central Equipment Inc., Green Diamond Equipment Ltd., and VanOostrum Farm Equipment Ltd. all participated in this initiative.

“We’re happy to have the support of industry partners on this,” said Trevor



March 13–19, 2016 was proclaimed Canadian Agricultural Safety Week in Nova Scotia. (above:) Keith Irving (MLA Kings South, on behalf of Agriculture Minister Keith Colwell), Trevor Forbes (President, Farm Safety Nova Scotia) and Kimberly Stokdijk (First-Vice President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture)

Forbes, “It shows their support of our farming community.”

Farm Safety Nova Scotia advocates for farmers on health and safety matters, and provides training and education opportunities to improve safety on the farm. Farm Safety Nova Scotia continues to work to achieve safe farming, safe families and safe employees by establishing a culture of health and safety within our farming community. 🌱

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# Training Schedule

Each course requires a minimum number of participants and Farm Safety Nova Scotia reserves the right to cancel courses due to low enrollment.

Members may also request training to be hosted in their community or at a farm. Contact FSNS to schedule a training course in your area.

## Tractor Safety

Objective: to increase awareness and test competency of tractor operators on the safe operation and use of farm tractors and implements.

### Who should attend?

- 14–16 year olds with a valid NS Class 8 driver's license who want to be able to haul equipment on Nova Scotia roads, and
- Others who have a valid class 5 driver's license and want to increase their tractor safety knowledge and skills.

**Cost: \$225 + HST**

May 14 – 15 Dalhousie AC, Truro

Register with Extended Learning, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture at [extended.learning@dal.ca](mailto:extended.learning@dal.ca)

## Spanish Emergency First Aid

**Cost: \$90 FSNS Member Cost: \$65**

May 18	Berwick	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
May 25	Truro	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
June 23	Berwick	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
July 26	Truro	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
August 23	Berwick	8:30 am – 4:30 pm

*Delivered in partnership with St. John Ambulance*

To register, contact: [info@farmsafetyns.ca](mailto:info@farmsafetyns.ca) or (902) 893-2293

## Introduction to Blueberry Harvester Operation

Objective: to increase awareness of safe and efficient harvester operation.

**Cost: \$200**

July 11—Theory; July 12 & 13—Practical (group will be split between the two practical days)

To register, contact [info@nswildblueberries.com](mailto:info@nswildblueberries.com)

*Delivered in partnership with Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia, Doug Bragg Enterprises, and Perennia*

## Online Training

There are also a number of **online training courses** available on the FSNS website. Cost per course varies.

- WHMIS
- Joint OHS Committee Orientation
- Worker Health and Safety Orientation
- and more...

Visit [www.farmsafetyns.ca](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca)

# Workers' Compensation Coverage for Family Members and Business Partners

*The following is a summary of an OEA NS presentation to Farm Safety Nova Scotia members.*

The OEA NS provides leadership and expertise in the disciplines of workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, disability case management, workplace practices and associated employment issues.

Workers' compensation is a form of insurance that provides wage replacement and medical aid benefits to workers where an injury by accident is arising out of and in the course of employment.

An employer must register with WCB when it conducts business in a mandatory industry, as set out in the Workers' Compensation General Regulations, **and** it meets the three worker rule. The three worker rule is that every business is excluded from the application of the Act until at least three workers are at the same time employed.

With a few exceptions, agriculture is not a mandatory industry; this means

that most employers engaged in the business of farming are not required to have workers' compensation coverage. However, you may volunteer for coverage.

If you determine that voluntary coverage is the right insurance protection for your workers, it is important to keep in mind that there are two steps to insure coverage for family members or business partners.

The first step is to apply for voluntary coverage. Voluntary coverage is for employers who are not required to have coverage under the Act. You may notice that the payroll of a family member or a business partner is assessed by WCB for the purpose of voluntary coverage and this is where the confusion often begins.

**There are different rules at WCB for the purpose of collecting assessments and for the purpose of receiving compensation.**

The second step is to apply for "special protection coverage." In the event of a workplace injury, family members and partners must have "special protection coverage" to be eligible for compensation. To be eligible for special protection coverage, a family member of an employer must: (a) work for the business; and (b) live in the household.

Please remember that your injured worker who is a sole proprietor/partner **or** a family member may only be eligible for compensation if you have both of the following: (1) voluntary coverage for the business; and (2) special protection coverage for the partner or family member. 🌱

*This is a general description of the special protection rule and should not be taken as advice. If you require further assistance please contact the OEA NS at 902-442-9366 or WCB NS at 1-877-211-9267.*

# Road Safety Reminders

Farmers have been traveling on the roads with tractors for years but traffic has gotten much heavier and has increased the risks when traveling on public roads with farm equipment. Spring time is a great time to review safety procedures and regulations before hitting the road for another busy, productive cropping season.

## General Tractor Safety

- Make sure your tractor is equipped with proper safety guards and devices. Check equipment (e.g. hydraulics, tires, and lights) before leaving.
- Tractors manufactured after 1974 must be equipped with a roll-over protective structure (ROPS) and a seatbelt, which must be worn at all times.
- Lock tractor brakes together when traveling on the road.
- Always travel on the road, never the shoulder. When safe, pull off the road to allow vehicles to pass.
- When towing implements, be sure to use proper hitching techniques with safety chains. All implements should be locked in the “travel” position when on public roads.
- All loads must be secured.

## Warning Light and Signage Requirements

- Slow moving vehicle signs must be on the back of the following:
  - Farm tractors
  - Trailers and equipment being towed by farm tractors

**Vehicles and equipment displaying a slow-moving vehicle sign must NOT travel faster than 40 km/hr.**

- When traveling with wide equipment:
  - **Wider than 2.6 m (8'6")**, put fluorescent flags or flashing lights on the sides AND an amber warning light on the top of the farm vehicle.
  - **Wider than 4.3 m (14')**, use a pilot vehicle.
- When traveling with long equipment:
  - **More than 7.5 m (24'6")** long, must have a white marker light or reflector on both sides.
  - **A Combination of vehicles that is more than 6 m (20')** long, must have white marker lights or reflectors on both sides, every 6 m.

License Requirements for Towing		
What license you need	What you can tow	Total vehicle weight
Class 3	4500 kg or LESS	14 000 kg or MORE
Class 3 + Condition 15	MORE than 4500 kg	14 000 kg or MORE
Class 5 license	4500 kg or LESS	14 000 kg or LESS
Class 5 + Condition 15	Up to 14 000 kg minus the weight of towing vehicle	14 000 kg or LESS
Condition 23 * applicable to tractor combination only	More than 4500 kg	14 000 kg or MORE
Class 8	Nothing	14 000 kg or LESS
Class 8 + passed tractor safety course	Up to 14 000 kg minus the weight of towing vehicle	14 000 kg or LESS

Safe farming. Safe families. Safe employees.

It's cropping season.  
**Share the road** with farm equipment.



Use caution and slow down as you approach farm equipment. **We all stay safe when we share the road.**

[www.farmsafetyns.ca](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca)








# Progressive Agriculture Safety Days

A fun-filled day of learning for children aged 9–13.

Registration fee is \$10/child or \$20/family. Pre-registration required.



**10am – 2pm (Drop-off 9:30 to 10 am)**

## Bridgewater

**Saturday, May 14** (Register by **APRIL 29**)

with colin.hirtle@novascotia.ca

or (902) 634-7575

## Antigonish

**Saturday, May 28** (Register by **MAY 13**) with

Dawn.Barrington-Hodgson@novascotia.ca

or (902) 863-7501

These Safety Days includes lunch, snacks and a T-shirt!

## Demonstration & discussion topics:

Tractor Safety    Chemical Safety  
ATV Safety        Fire Safety  
Animal Safety    Food Safety ...and more!

## For application forms visit

[www.farmsafetyns.ca/progagsafety](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca/progagsafety)

*Agriculture Safety Day is a program delivered by the Progressive Agriculture Foundation to provide education, training and resources to make farm and ranch life safer and healthier for children and their communities. For more information visit [www.progressiveag.org](http://www.progressiveag.org)*

# Sun Safety at Work Canada

Agricultural workers have a higher risk of developing heat stress, skin cancer, sun burn, skin damage, cataracts, and other eye conditions because of their exposure to sun on the job. In fact, they experience among the highest rates of sun exposure of any industry in Canada. CAREX Canada estimates that there are 264,000 workers in farming who are exposed to the sun. Almost all of these workers are in the highest risk category for sun exposure, spending over 75% of their work day in the sun. The good news is that health risks from sun exposure are largely preventable.

Sun Safety at Work Canada wants to enhance sun safety in Canadian workplaces. This project is developing a range of resources to support workplaces to integrate sun safety into workplace occupational health and safety management systems or programs. These

resources include tips for developing your sun safety policy or policy statement, engineering and administrative controls, personal protective equipment, and educational fact sheets, presentations, and safety talks targeted to both supervisors and workers.

To enhance sun safety in your workplace and protect workers from the harmful effects of the sun, visit [cancercare.ns.ca/sunsafetyatwork](http://cancercare.ns.ca/sunsafetyatwork) for a few examples of resources that are available now. Watch out for the launch of the project website with all resources and a stepwise approach to implementing sun safety in summer 2016. 🌿

*Sun Safety at Work Canada is funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and Health Canada. Contact Sun Safety Advisor Tracy Burgess for more information: [tracy.burgess@ns.cancer.ca](mailto:tracy.burgess@ns.cancer.ca)*



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## Let us help

Access your Member Assistance Program (MAP)  
24/7 by phone, web or mobile app

Access support related to:  
Mental health, Finances, Legal and much more

Farmers and their families have access to up to 3 hours of service at no cost.






**1.844.880.9142**

TTY 1.877.338.0275

[workhealthlife.com](http://workhealthlife.com)

## Prevention Strategies for Occupational Solar UV & Heat Exposure



-  **Policy:** develop and implement a sun and heat safety workplace policy that is integrated with the broader occupational health and safety policy at the workplace
-  **Engineering:** portable shade structures, shade equipment on vehicles, UV protective films on windows, air conditioned rest areas and vehicles
-  **Administrative:** schedule work to minimize exposure, conduct regular risk assessments, post daily UV index, acclimatization policy, frequent water and rest breaks in high heat
-  **Personal Protective Equipment:** hat with wide brim and neck flap, long sleeve shirt and pants, safety glasses with UV protection, sunscreen (min SPF 30), loose and breathable fabrics
-  **Education:** sun and heat safety training, presentations, resources and reminders