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# 2011 Newsletter

## New Chair Message

*Rina Motycka*

"The Alberta Farm Safety Centre is a not for profit society which promotes safe agricultural practices through development and delivery of educational materials throughout Alberta.

As the 13<sup>th</sup> year of our UFA "Safety Smarts" school program draws to a close, we are gratified to see statistics that show a decline in farm injury incidents across the province.

We are doing good work, and we look forward to doing more of the same with the help of everyone who has supported and sponsored us through the years.

A great big thank-you to those who have been there for us over the years.

A welcome and thank-you to our newest supporters as well."

## What's New?

### WEBSITE

New information is regularly added to our website.

Visit us at: [abfarmsafety.com](http://abfarmsafety.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR CHANGES

The past year has seen a number of board member changes. Welcome to: Jim Depew, new Town of Raymond representative and new director Robert Fraser, long-time local farmer. Both of these individuals are knowledgeable members of the agricultural sector and will be an asset to the board.

Grateful appreciation is offered to three board members who have moved on after years of dedicated service to the Alberta Farm Safety Centre:

James Paxman  
Ruth Nalder  
Marlin Hogg

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT GROWING

In 2010 AFSC received more than \$100,000.00 in grassroots financial support from across rural Alberta. We gratefully acknowledge each of you! A list of all our supporters can be accessed on our web-site.

### CASINO FUNDRAISER

In October 2010 our board members and their families volunteered at Lethbridge Casino. Proceeds of \$32,812.71 will support our UFA "Safety Smarts" program.

We thank all those who so generously donated their time for this event.

### FARM SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Laura Nelson, our executive director has been appointed to the Ministerial Farm Safety Advisory Council. This council will work to develop an action plan on farm safety, addressing the coordination and communication needs identified by industry in previous consultations. This plan will be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration. For more information please visit:

[agriculture.alberta.ca/farmsafety](http://agriculture.alberta.ca/farmsafety).

### SAFE THINK COACHES TRAINING

Two of our UFA "Safety Smarts" instructors participated in multi-day "Safe Think" coaches training sponsored by Alberta Agricultural and Rural Development. Thank you, Lori and Priscilla, for your commitment to safety.

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### **EQUIMANIA BOOKLETS AVAILABLE**

The University of Guelph, Equine department recently released a workbook called Danger Detective.

We have copies for distribution.

### **ACICR BROCHURE**

Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research is releasing a new ATV safety brochure. We will have copies for distribution.

### **PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

A comprehensive handbook has been developed for our regional instructors. Each grade presentation has been broken down into components, with best practice standards attached to each. This has been done to ensure UFA "Safety Smarts" program consistency across the province.

### **RURAL SCHOOL DATABASE**

We have used Microsoft Access to develop a database that includes specific information on each of the 650+ rural schools to which the UFA "Safety Smarts" program is offered each school year. This database will make accurate tracking of individual school contacts, presentations and student numbers much more efficient.

### **HOME EDUCATION CONVENTION & ALBERTA COLONY EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE**

A number of our instructors will be attending these conferences in an effort to ensure UFA "Safety Smarts" is offered to all rural children in Alberta. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in these events.

## **Farm Safety in Alberta**

In Alberta, over the twenty year period from 1990 to 2009 there were 309 farm-related deaths. This is an average of 15 deaths each year.

Residents in the 50 – 59 age category had the highest number of deaths with 55 over this twenty year period.

## **Upcoming Events**

Our regional instructors will be participating in community farm safety events throughout the province during the spring and summer. They have committed to the following: Clandonald, Smoky River, Red Deer, Warburg, Rocky Mountain House, Vermilion, Medicine Hat, Glendon, Holden, Brazeau County, Lomond and LaGlance. We appreciate our instructors and their willingness to participate in these events.

## ***UFA Safety Smarts Update***

### **Program Totals**

During the 2009/10 school year our instructors visited 468 schools were in 2620 classrooms, teaching a total of 52,420 rural students. To the end of March in the 2010/11 school year our instructors have visited 341 schools in 1741 classrooms, with a total of 35,147 students.

### **New Instructor**

We are excited to welcome Kim Leitch to our wonderful team of instructors. Kim took over the Central Region in November.

### **Pre & Post Testing**

UFA Safety Smarts program pre and post tests have been distributed to 25 schools throughout Alberta. Schools have been asked to administer these to their Grade 4 students. We anticipate participation of between 450-500 Grade 4 students in both public and colony schools. Measurable content retention is the purpose of this testing. The results will be available on our web-site.

