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Alberta Farm Safety Centre
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Newsletter

Chairman's Message

Jim Paxman

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.

We are now in the 12th year of our "Safety Smarts" school program. It is exciting to see this program expand to include the whole province. We gratefully acknowledge all of those companies, organizations, and individuals who have supported, funded, and sponsored us over the years. Without them none of this would have been possible. To all of them we say..... thank you.

What's New?

WEBSITE – check out our new and updated web-site at: abfarmsafety.com

CALENDARS– we have just completed the calendars from our 2008/2009 school contest. Two calendars feature all winning entries. They can be seen on our website.

BOOKMARKS – a new addition to "Safety Smarts" participating students will receive a bookmark with safety reminders to take home.

BOOKLETS - our "Safety Smarts" booklets have been updated. These are available to download from our website.

DVD FOR RURAL YOUTH – work on this project is progressing well. It will be released March 2011.

ATV Safety

Laura Nelson

Whether you call them OHV, quad or ATV most farms, ranches and feedlots use one every day.



Four wheel all-terrain vehicles are regular workhorses in rural Alberta. In 2008 there were over 90,000 ATV registrations in the province.

In Canada, we are the number one province for new ATV sales as well.

From 2002 to 2008, 100 Albertans died in ATV-related events with the leading cause being rolls or flips.

Head injuries account for more than 60% of ATV-related injuries and are the leading cause of death. In Alberta head injuries account for 44% of all ATV-related deaths and 80% of those who died were not wearing a helmet when the injury occurred. All terrain vehicles can weigh up to 600 lbs (272 kilograms) and can easily reach speeds of 100 kilometers per hour.

Anyone operating an ATV should be wearing a well fitting, approved helmet with face and eye protection.

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ATV Safety - continued

Four wheel all-terrain vehicles are very useful workhorses, but they demand respect. Ridden with care and attention they can be used safely for many work applications on the farm, ranch or feedlot.

In Memory

The Alberta Farm Safety Centre has received a number of donations totaling \$1365.00 in memory of Tammy Sewall.

Tammy and her family were devoted to farm safety education. She and her Mom attended a Standing Policy Committee in Edmonton and told the story of their personal loss. Their willingness to share a very painful, personal experience put a face on loss of life statistics in Alberta and was instrumental in the Alberta Farm Safety Centre receiving funding to expand our school-based farm safety program "Safety Smarts".

We are grateful for the donations we have received in memory of Tammy.

Rural Municipality Support

In February 2010 Laura Nelson, the centre's Executive Director, made a presentation at the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference in Edmonton.

The history of our "Safety Smarts" program was given and a request for support was made to all ASB's asking each to fund this program with an annual pledge of \$3.50 per child taught in their County.

To date \$4,413.00 has been received with \$9,244.50 committed.

We sincerely appreciate this financial support.

It's The Little Things...

As we are preparing to start a new farming season here are some tips that we can all use.

Take a moment to read over these reminders and..... may we all work a little smarter and a little safer.

- **One Seat One Rider rule**
Applies to ALL vehicles or machinery.
If there is not a seat and a seatbelt for you - you should not be there.
- **ATV/Quad Safety**
Personal protective equipment only works if worn. Any ATV is large enough to crush.
Remember..... no extra riders.
- **Horse Safety**
Helmet and heeled boot is important..... every time you ride.
- **Livestock Handling**
Always have an escape route planned.
- **Hearing Safety**
Sound is invisible but can cause permanent damage.
- **Working Alone**
Let others know where you are working.
Why not plan to have someone check to see if you are okay?
Have a cell phone and call in every couple of hours.
- **Machinery**
Stay off the auger intake when shoveling grain.

Safety Smarts Update

Expansion

In January of 2009 our "Safety Smarts" school program expanded to include all of Alberta. We now have 7 regional instructors, offering farm safety lessons to rural elementary students throughout the province.

Program Totals

From September 2009 through the end of February 2010 our instructors have visited 269 schools and been in 1304 classrooms, teaching a total of 25,611 rural students.

Instructors

We have absolutely the best instructors! Each of them brings amazing talent, passion, and enthusiasm for sharing our messages of farm safety with the rural elementary students of Alberta.

New Instructor

We are excited to welcome Priscilla Tames to our wonderful team of instructors. Priscilla will be taking over the South Western Region in September.

Upcoming Events

Friday July 9, 2010
Board Social
6:00pm

Ag. Barn in Raymond
This event includes:
Board of Directors,
Regional Instructors,
Office Staff, Media,
Major Sponsors, and
Dignitaries.

