

Research Agenda Development Agriculture-Horticulture

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The Issue

Continued concerns about health and safety in agriculture and horticulture settings in Canada.

An Update

In 2012 Agrivita and the Canadian Center for Health and Safety In Agriculture hosted a national meeting of agriculture workers and rural residents, government officials, industry, agricultural associations and researchers to inform research funding priorities. From this process a research proposal to establish the Canadian Agrisafety Applied Research Program was submitted to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Funding was received for three projects and knowledge translation. See sidebar for more details.

In June 2016 a follow-up national Summit was held with over 80 participants to discuss priorities in 10 areas – machinery & work equipment, ergonomics & material handling, chemicals/dust/particulate & biological exposures, noise/vibration, agricultural installations, animal production, weather & environment, children, and seasonal workers. A report that summarizes current literature and Summit input is being finalized.

In September 2016 WSPS hosted a provincial meeting to build on the work from the national Summit with a specific prevention focus. Discussion themes included -

1. Awareness - Share information to raise awareness & culture of safety, leverage partnerships, ensure messaging is consistent
2. Research - Conduct root cause analyses, dive deeper into data already being collected, broaden jurisdictional & geographic perspectives
3. Education and Training - Build capacity, develop practical and customized tools by hazards, break down language and cultural barriers
4. Enforcement - Review incentives and legislation, seeking clearer guidance between farming operations and industrial inspections.

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The Canadian AgriSafety Applied Research Program

The program strives to improve health and safety among agricultural workers. Three nationally projects are underway with partial funding support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through *Growing Forward 2*.

1. Machinery Injury: Low Cost Roll-Over Protection Structures (ROPS) Intervention Pilot Project

Goal: to develop and test low-cost retrofit ROPS for older tractors that farmers can build and install on site.

2. Animal Housing Environments: a) reduction of airborne dust, gas and human pathogens in buildings and their environmental dispersion

Goal: to identify and optimize control or elimination of airborne contamination in swine production barns. b) Preventing Airborne Transmission of Disease in Swine: Development of an Air Filtration System for Animal Transport

Goal: to develop and build a livestock transport trainer that can control airborne pathogen contamination.

Knowledge translation is an integral component of the applied research program.

More information related to these three projects, including KT outputs, is available at:

<http://www.agrivita.ca/program/about.php>

