



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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For Immediate Release March 14, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

Reminder to Ranchers: Work Smart & Be Safe *Farm Safety Week, March 13-19*

Ranching is considered to be one of the highest risk groups in the agriculture industry.

March 13 -19 is Canadian Farm Safety Week and the BC Cattlemen's Association would like to remind all ranchers to work smart and be safe.

While ranching as an occupation and lifestyle is both satisfying and rewarding, injuries and illnesses on the job can have a lasting effect on everyone involved.

"Most accidents are preventable and predictable," says Kevin Boon, BC Cattlemen's Association General Manager.

Boon knows firsthand how quickly accidents can happen. Years ago, while hooking up his tractor to the PTO shaft, his rain slicker became entangled. "Doctors gave me a 20% chance to keep my arm," explains Boon. "It is only through sheer stubbornness, and the extraordinary efforts of my doctor that I have the full use my arm today," explains Boon.

The cost to ranch workers and their families can be devastating not only physically and financially, but emotionally and socially as well. No amount of compensation can make up for lost health, lost peace of mind or, worse, loss of life.

The BC Cattlemen's Association asks ranchers and farmers to slow down, take the time to think about the task at hand.

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A thirty second Public Service Announcement is available to download on our website www.cattlemen.bc.ca

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*FARM SAFETY WEEK
March 13-19, 2011*

Most Common Accidents

WorkSafeBC trends measured over multiple years show the most common causes of accidents in agriculture and ranching are:

- Overexertion while lifting boxes, crates, bags, bundles, etc.
- Overexertion while pulling/pushing carts, boxes, crates
- Struck by cattle, horses
- Struck by knives
- Struck by doors, gates
- Falling from ladder
- Falling or jumping from a nonmoving cart, tractor or vehicle
- Tripping over skids, ropes, pipes, pallets, platforms, blocks, etc.
- Slipping on ice or water
- Falling while carrying a heavy object
- "Hurriedness"

For more information about Ranch Safety, visit Farm and Ranch Safety & Health Association's website www.farsha.bc.ca