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Government and industry work together to improve farm safety

Edmonton... A new advisory council, including members from industry and government, will be formed to work together on ways to reduce injuries on farms and ranches.

A Farm Safety Advisory Council, co-chaired by government and industry, will be formed in response to recommendations from industry stakeholder consultations. The Council will advise the government on how to enhance farm safety education and training.

“This Council will bring industry and government together to find ways to reduce farm injuries without increasing the regulatory and financial burden on our producers,” said Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Jack Hayden. “We need to work together to find solutions.”

In 2009 and 2010, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and Employment and Immigration consulted with more than 20 stakeholder groups to get their input on how to enhance the health and safety of people working on farms and ranches in Alberta. All of the major commodity groups were included in the consultation, representing approximately 50,000 producers. The consultation report, *Stakeholder Consultation: Occupational Health and Safety*, is available on the Agriculture and Rural Development website.

The co-chairs and Council members will be announced in the new year. Members will include representatives from farm safety organizations, municipalities, agricultural organizations, and farm workers. Individuals selected will have diverse backgrounds and a strong commitment to improving farm safety in Alberta.

Once established, the Council will develop a joint industry-government action plan on farm safety, addressing the coordination and communication needs identified by industry in recent consultations. The plan will be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for government consideration.

For more information on Alberta’s Farm Safety Program, the Farm Safety Advisory Council, and the stakeholder consultation, please visit agriculture.alberta.ca/farmsafety.

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