



# Farm Insight

Your timely source for farm business information and ideas

## Focus on Safety

*A recent accident at an Ontario chicken farm resulted in the tragic death of a farm worker. Our condolences go out to the family, friends and anyone directly impacted by this event.*

*Regrettably, when something like this happens, we are all reminded of the critical importance of farm safety and we are challenged to take a look at how we can improve safety on our own farms.*

*We wanted to take this opportunity to reinforce some of the information and resources available to help farmers ensure they are providing a safe work environment. We also look forward to our upcoming regional meetings where we can get into this topic further.*

CFO Board and staff

### Occupational Health and Safety Act

Since 2006, farm operations with paid workers must comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHS Act). The OHS Act sets out the rights and duties of all workplace parties and it gives inspectors with the Ministry of Labour (MOL) the authority to inspect the workplace to ensure compliance with the OHS Act, and to investigate complaints, critical injuries and fatalities.

#### **As an employer your key responsibilities under the OHS Act are:**

- Provide information, instruction and supervision to workers; advise workers and supervisors about hazards in the workplace;
- Notify the Ministry of Labour of workplace fatalities and critical injuries;
- Cooperate with the workplace joint health and safety committee or the worker health and safety representative; and
- Take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect workers.

Detailed information about your responsibilities as an employee is available from the Farm Safety Association (FSA), the MOL and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

### Farm Safety Association Your resource for understanding and reducing farm hazards.

The Farm Safety Association (FSA) has health and safety literature and videos on a full range of farm hazards. You can use these to provide the appropriate information to your workers. Or, if you prefer, the FSA can carry out on-site worker training programs for you.

If you need help identifying the hazards on your farm, you can get a copy of the Agricultural Safety Audit Program, a handbook from the FSA, that will help you identify any hazards in your operation, assess the risks and take corrective action. You can reach the FSA at 1-800-361-8855 or, [www.farmsafety.ca](http://www.farmsafety.ca).

## Learn more about farm safety at Insight 2009

### CFO's fall farmer meetings

Al Dam, OMAFRA Poultry Specialist and Dan Ward, OMAFRA Poultry Engineer will review farm worker safety and guidelines under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. They will also introduce upcoming changes to Farm Standards for worker safety during catching and loading. Changes include:

- Passing chickens from the 3rd story of a barn through the floor opening to a catcher on the 2nd floor as opposed to using the loading platform located outside of the 3rd story.
- Equipping 2nd story loading platforms with railings on each side.
- Ensuring any elevated platform being used during ground floor loading adheres to specific guidelines to ensure it is stable and secure.

### Regional Meetings Dates and Locations

**Sept. 28 Trenton** – Holiday Inn, 99 Glen Miller Rd.

**Sept. 30 Elora** – Legion Hall, 110 Metcalfe St.

**Oct. 5 Mount Hope** – Warplane Museum, 9280 Airport Rd.

**Oct. 7 Stratford** – Rotary Club, 353 McCarthy Rd.

Farmers can RSVP to Genevieve Bryant at 289.288.4233 or email [Genevieve.bryant@ontariochicken.ca](mailto:Genevieve.bryant@ontariochicken.ca)

Insight 2009 is focused on providing farmers with information about best production practices and upcoming farm programs. For this reason and due to limited space available, we're limiting the invitations to farmers only.

For additional information about on-farm safety visit:

#### Information on Occupational Health and Safety Act

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/ohsa.htm>

#### Occupational Health and Safety Act Frequently asked questions

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/qandaohsa.htm>

#### Ministry of Labour - Farming Operations Information Bulletins

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/farming/>

OR

Contact Al Dam, Provincial Poultry Specialist, Ministry of Food and Rural Affairs at 519.824.4120 Ext 54326 or [al.dam@ontario.ca](mailto:al.dam@ontario.ca)

## Managing the risks of working alone

Working alone is sometimes a necessity on a chicken farm and it's important to consider how your work environment is different when you are working alone and the risks that come along with it. There are several steps you can take that can help protect you, your family and your employees when working alone. Control measures should include:

- A clear and concise working alone policy
- Instruction and training on working alone practices to all family and staff
- Appropriate supervision
- Proper communication equipment such as cell phones or two-way radios

### When working alone is the only option, ask yourself these questions

- Are there safe working arrangements for lone workers?
- Can one person adequately control the risks of the job?
- Is the person medically fit and suitable to work alone? Too old or too young?
- What training is required to ensure competency of staff?
- How will the person be supervised?
- What happens if a person becomes ill, has an accident, or there is an emergency?
- Are emergency numbers and 911 property numbers and road names posted by a phone?

### IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY CALL

**1.877.SOS.BYRD or 1.877.767.2973**



Email: [info@ontariochicken.ca](mailto:info@ontariochicken.ca)  
Phone: 905-637-0025  
[www.ontariochicken.ca](http://www.ontariochicken.ca)

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