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Ontario Agriculture Worker Safety and Awareness Certificate

2021 Syllabus

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Ontario Agriculture Worker Safety and Awareness Certificate

Course Overview

Ontario farm families rely on their workforce to help provide a safe and secure farm environment to raise livestock and produce food, in order to maintain a strong and reliable food supply. These e-learning modules are designed to help educate and train potential new employees or workers returning to the agriculture, food and agri-business sectors.

Course Description

This online certificate includes several e-learning modules designed to provide:

- a broad overview of health and safety on a farm;
- an introduction to farm equipment operation and safety; and
- an introduction to both crop farm operations and livestock farm operations.

The online modules are for individuals in Ontario that are new to the agriculture industry or in need of a refresher course. No previous education in the agri-food industry is necessary. These modules will give you more confidence in your abilities and knowledge of agriculture to prepare you for success.

Course Format

- The course will take approximately 8-10 hours to complete
- Online modules can be completed individually at any time, at your own pace
- Quizzes are placed throughout the modules to test your progress
- All modules must be completed to obtain the certificate
- Modules will be available for one year from the registration date

Course Registration

- Enrollment is easy through an online registration process
- The certificate is valued at \$299, but until June 30, 2021, it will be offered for only \$49 for up to 5 employees of an organization or business

Online Modules

- Introduction: Careers in the Agricultural Sector
- Introduction to Agricultural Worker Health and Safety Regulations
- Introduction to Agricultural Workplace Hazards
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Pandemic Protocols
- Farm Equipment Operation and Safety
- Introduction to Livestock Operations
- Introduction to Crop Operations

Course Providers

This training was developed by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in collaboration with the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus and the Ontario Agricultural College, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services, the University of Manitoba, AgCareers.com, and the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council. The training is part of a workforce development initiative, [Feeding Your Future: Connecting Ontario's Agri-Food Workforce](#). This project was funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

Introduction Module: Careers in the Agricultural Sector

This module provides a brief overview of some of the careers available in the agricultural sector and the resources available to learn more about career options.

Time to complete: 10 minutes

Learning Outcomes:

- Explore various opportunities to work in the agri-food sector
- Understand the modules offered in the course

Module 1: Introduction to Agricultural Worker Health and Safety Regulations

This module provides an overview of the health and safety regulations outlined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), as well as identifying workplace hazards and how to work safely.

Time to complete: 60-90 minutes

Learning Outcomes:

- Describe why it is important to understand workplace health and safety:
 - The three fundamental rights of workers in the health and safety legislation
 - The general rights and duties of employers and workers
 - The basic elements of an occupational health and safety program
 - Who to ask for help with health and safety matters
- Understand employer responsibilities under the OHSA:
 - Employers must provide information, training and supervision for employees to perform their jobs safely
 - Employers must develop an occupational health and safety policy and program for workplaces with six or more regularly employed workers
- Understand employee rights and duties under the OHSA:
 - The right to be informed of known or foreseeable hazards in the workplace
 - The right to participate in decisions about health and safety in the workplace
 - The right to refuse unsafe work
 - The duty to use all protective materials, equipment, devices, and clothing
 - The duty to follow procedures and instructions provided by employers
 - The duty to report any potential hazards, or injuries that have occurred
- Understand the internal responsibility system (IRS)
- Provide an official definition of a worker, new worker, vulnerable worker, and workplace
- Understand how to recognize hazards in the workplace
- Understand employer and supervisor responsibilities according to the OHSA related to hazards in the workplace that could cause injury or illness to employees

Resources

- Farm Safety Legislation: www.wsps.ca/Farm-Safety-Legislation/OH-and-S-Act.aspx
- Farm Safety Training: www.wsps.ca/farm-safety-training/farm-safety.aspx
- Vulnerable Workers Safety Awareness: www.wsps.ca/Information-Resources/Topics/Vulnerable-Workers.aspx

Module 2: Introduction to Agricultural Workplace Hazards

This module provides an overview of hazards defined under the Ontario Health and Safety Act (OHSA), how to identify them, and how to address situations where they may exist.

Time to complete: 60-90 minutes

Learning Outcomes:

- Describe hazardous materials
 - The OHSA definition of a hazard with specific examples for workers to reference
 - The significance and protocols of safe use, safe handling, proper storage and proper disposal of hazardous material
- Understand the rights and duties of everyone in the workplace
 - The roles and responsibilities of working with hazardous materials for employers, supervisors and workers
 - The responsibilities of everyone to promote health and safety and to help the workplace be in compliance with the statutory requirements set out under the Act
 - The rights of workers to ensure employers are abiding by all regulations under the Act
- Identify hazardous materials and recognize when they are present
 - How to recognize hazards in your workplace by asking others, reading product labels and signs, and staying attentive during health and safety training
 - The four general ways to identify hazards on the farm
- Describe the six types of hazards and how to work safe in a hazardous environment
 - Categories of hazards include: biological, chemical, safety, physical (e.g. noise, heat, cold), musculoskeletal disorder and psychosocial
- Explain the procedure for dealing with workplace hazards
 - Understanding Job Safety Analysis: the process to stop and think about what hazards may be present when a job is new or unfamiliar

Resources

- WHMIS 2015: www.wsps.ca/information-resources/topics/WHMIS-2015.aspx
- Occupational Health and Safety Practices: www.wsps.ca/information-resources/research/occupational-h-s-practices.aspx
- Health Hazards in Agriculture: <https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/mycas/section-3-%E2%80%93-occupational-health/chapter-3-health-hazards-agriculture>

Module 3: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Pandemic Protocols

This module highlights the importance of using proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and outlines COVID-19 protocols to keep you and your workplace safe.

Time to complete: 60-90 minutes

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand what personal protective equipment (PPE) is and the components of a PPE program
 - Specific examples of PPE and their use
 - Every workplace with hazards should have a PPE program, actively used by employers, supervisors and workers
 - Identifying risk hazards and conducting a risk assessment
 - Understanding the steps involved in selecting the proper PPE for a workplace
- Understand how to control hazards
 - The hierarchy of control, including: elimination, engineering controls, administrative controls and PPE
 - Understand that PPE should not be the only method to reduce exposure
- Understand the role of PPE
 - Control of hazards are usually at the source (where the hazard comes from), along the path (where the hazard travels) and at the worker
 - PPE is used to reduce the exposure to injurious physical, chemical, ergonomic or biological agents
- Understand the impacts of a pandemic and safety protocols needed to keep you and your workplace safe
 - Raise awareness of the issues to consider during a pandemic
 - Understand the relevance of the COVID-19 pandemic to a workplace
 - Monitoring your health to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in your workplace
 - Awareness of COVID-19 protocols and proper sanitation measures
 - Actions to take if you or someone in the workforce may have COVID-19
 - How to safely interact with visitors to the farm, including screening and PPE
- Mental health
 - Understanding that a hazard is more than a physical barrier
 - Resources available to support mental health

Resources:

- Coronavirus disease: prevention and risks: www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html
- Customer service/retail protocols: www.ccohs.ca/images/products/pandemiccovid19/pdf/retail.pdf
- Mental Health and Wellness: ofa.on.ca/issues/mental-health/

Module 4: Introduction to Livestock Operations

This module provides information on the risks of working with livestock, how to approach and manage animals, as well as the differences across Ontario livestock farms.

Time to complete: 60 minutes

Learning Outcomes:

- Define the animal handling and safety Codes of Practice
 - The Codes of Practice are nationally developed guidelines for the welfare of farm animals
 - The importance of being on guard, especially when working with large animals
- Understand animal handling hazards and employer and worker responsibilities
- Understand animal characteristics and behaviour and best handling practices
 - How to read animals
 - Visual limitations that may spook an animal
 - The dangers of maternal instincts and territorial behaviours
- Understand the process of approaching and moving animals
 - Approaching animals safely
 - Moving the herd in the pasture and through chutes
- Describe animal health and management basics
 - Sick and injured animals, zoonotic diseases, medical treatments

Resources:

- Codes of Practice for the handling of farm animals: www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice
- Ontario government large animal handling: www.ontario.ca/document/health-and-safety-farming-operations/large-animal-handling
- Flight Zone and Point of Balance www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/flight.zone.html

Module 5: Introduction to Crop Operations

This module provides information on the various types of crops grown in Ontario and the climatic and soil conditions needed to grow these crops.

Time to complete: 60 minutes

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify the crops grown in Ontario
 - The role Ontario crops have in producing many consumer goods
 - The 7 categories of crops that can be grown in Ontario
 - Understand what a plant variety is and the biological and chemical make-up
- Describe the weather and seasonality that heavily impact crops
 - When Ontario crops are planted and harvested and how they are stored
 - The role of rainfall and appropriate temperatures to grow crops
 - The definition of a cash crop farmer
- Understand the importance of soil health and climate change impacts
 - The significance of soil health and the role of Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - The link between agriculture and climate change
- Describe pesticides and fertilizers
 - The definition of pesticides, types of pesticides and why they are used
 - Following pesticide labels for safety and that each label is different
 - The role of fertilizers to provide nutrients for crop growth

Resources:

- Ontario crops: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/stats/census/summary.htm
- Crop production: www.ic.gc.ca/app/scr/app/cis/gdp-pid/111;jsessionid=0001biyNkKB-6IYHSU8DdudwOQs:-219PGL
- Crop uses: www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/industrial-energy-and-non-food-crops

Module 6: Farm Equipment Operation and Safety

This module improves understanding of how to operate farm equipment and raises awareness of the risks and hazards surrounding farm equipment.

Time to complete: 60 minutes

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand employer responsibilities related to farm equipment
 - The obligations of employers to protect worker safety with proper supervision
 - While the employer takes primary responsibility for safety in the workplace, workers are also responsible for reporting hazards and maintaining safety
- Understand the precautions to use when operating a tractor
 - The role of lockout procedures and the significance of cutting off power to equipment before maintenance checks
- Describe hazards associated with farm equipment
 - The specific safety steps of parking and powering down large equipment, including hitched attachments
- Describe how to safely operate tractors and other self-propelled farm equipment
 - Basic traffic considerations when operating equipment on public roads

Resources:

- Lockout procedures, farming operations: www.ontario.ca/document/health-and-safety-farming-operations/lockout-procedures-farming-operations
- Highway Traffic Act: www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90h08
- Farm Implements Act: www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90f04

Course Collaborators

