FACTS FOR THE FARM

Spring and Summer in Alberta

Did you know?

Alberta enjoys the highest number of sunny days in Canada with more than 2,300 hours of sunshine each year! No wonder crops loving growing here![1]

We're #1

Alberta is ranked number one by Environment Canada for having the most comfortable overall weather in Canada. [1]

Our Busy Bees

Alberta beekeepers reported the highest number of honeybee colonies in Canada, with 235,951 colonies in 2011 – more than 40% of Canada's total. [3] I guess they heard the buzz about how great our weather is!

So much sun!

In June, daylight hours can reach 16 to 18 hours per day. [1] Be sure to stock up on sunscreen!

This blows me away!

Southern Alberta is one of the windiest regions in Canada. Second only to St. John's Newfoundland, Lethbridge gets more days with strong winds than any city in Canada.[2]

Water can be a problem, sometimes!

Floods are the most frequent natural hazard in Canada. They can occur at any time of the year and are most often caused by heavy rainfall, rapid melting of a thick snow pack, ice jams, or more rarely, the failure of a natural or man-made dam. [4] Does your family have a plan in case of emergency?

[1] From: http://www.albertacanada.com/immigration/choosing/province-climate-geography.aspx
[2] From: http://www.climate.weatheroffice.gc.ca/winners/intro_e.html
[3] From: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/95-640-x/2012002/prov/48-eng.htm
[4] From: http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/flds-eng.aspx

Contact information

The **Safety Wrangler** Newsletter is published two times a year. If you wish to have your name added or removed from our distribution list, please contact the Alberta Farm Safety Program. We're on the web at **www.agriculture.alberta.ca/farmsafety**.

In regards to this Spring/Summer 2013 issue, please contact (403) 948-8524 or e-mail Nicole.Hornett@gov.ab.ca.

Canada

Alberta Government

Growing Forward
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

SAFETY WRANGLERS

Farm Safety Star would like you to meet the Safety Wranglers!

Hi everyone! I'm Farm Safety Star. You might recognize me as the shining star in activity booklets and newsletters from the Alberta Farm Safety Program. I've been helping kids learn to identify hazards on the farm for many years.

Last year, I thought of something ... you're not little kids anymore. You're all growing up so fast! *sniff* So, I decided to recruit some help and that's when I found Blake and Jenna! They've agreed to start the **Safety Wranglers Club** for everyone between the ages of 9 to 14. This lets me return back to the kids, under the age of 8, in the Farm Safety Kids Club.

So... if you're receiving this newsletter, you're now in the capable hands of Blake, Jenna and their trusty side-kicks! Together, as Safety Wranglers, you will discover even more about farm safety as you learn along with Blake and Jenna!

Even though you're a Safety Wrangler now, don't forget that you'll always be bright, shiny, safety stars in my books!

Farm Safety Star

Alberta Farm Safety Program

Newsletter #1

Spring/Summer 2013

INTRODUCTION

Hello! I'm Blake and this is my twin sister, Jenna!

We live on our family farm with our parents. Since we have started taking on more chores around the farm, we decided to start the Safety Wranglers as a way to explore what it means to **learn safe**, **work safe** and **play safe**. We love our farm. We know there are hazards—but there are also ways to control those hazards, which our parents help us with all the time.

At first, the Safety Wranglers was just Jenna and myself, but soon other kids in our school and community wanted to know more about our farm safety observations, experiments and hands on experience. With Farm Safety Star's encouragement, we agreed to invite other Alberta tweens to join us!

Name: Blake
Gender: Male
Birthday: April 29
Age: 12
Favourite Dinner: Spaghetti and Meatballs
Favourite Dessert: S'mores
Favourite Colour: Blue
Interests: Fixing small engines, swimming, camping, 4-H, photography and helping around the farm.

Name: Jenna
Gender: Female
Birthday: April 29
Age: 12
Favourite Dinner: Tacos
Favourite Dessert: Grandma's Caramel Apple Pie
Favourite colour: Lime Green
Interests: Horses, gardening, swimming, playing the guitar and helping around the farm.

SEASONAL OBSERVATIONS

The farm is full of changes!

Hey, Safety Wranglers! Jenna here, with a chart activity my dad showed Blake and I how to do last year. It's really easy to do, and sure gets me thinking about how much the farm can change from month to month and season to season!

This season, mom and dad want us to think about the dugout.
Can you help me fill out the rest of this chart?
What does your dugout look like? What about your local lake or irrigation supply?

DUGOUT	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Observation or Prediction	Thin ice on surface Open water becoming more common		Thin ice shows up late fall Still some open water	Generally has solid ice Snow on surface
Water Level	**Water level is:** _____	**Water level is:** _____	**Water level is:** fairly low	**Water level is:** low, frozen
Condition of Embankment			Looks dry, but there is thick mud down below	Frozen mud, snowy
What could happen?			We could get stuck, slip on the steep sides or slide into the water	If the ice is not thick enough, we could fall in
Why would we be there?			No reason to be near the dugout	Might go skating if mom & dad check the ice first
Safety Thoughts & Solutions			If we were down there, we might get stuck. Best plan is to not be down there at all.	Only go skating if mom and dad say it's okay Go skating at the outdoor rink in town instead

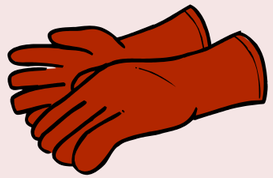
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

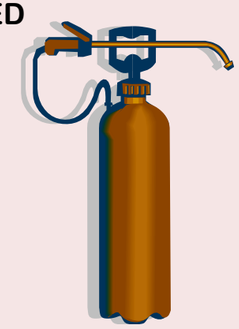
Puzzle Time!

E D T I F S C E D T X C M E P
P A F G H B A B D U W L L R O
P R E S S U R I Z E D B R E I
D L O K A T Z F O Q A I I V S
X T H T O C R Q D M E N H I O
N P S G Z C S X M I O F Z S N
E Q M S Q G U A Q R E E O O O
H Y U Y Z F L U B Z Y C X R U
Y T R T D F R W Q L G T I R S
E V I T C A E R T J L I D O Q
C O M B U S T I B L E O I C N
P O O M S K S E L X F U Z V L
H I C C G P W W T C U S I K S
T I K E K T K N N A Y E N T W
A J G L O F L V N B E F G V Z

Chemical & hazardous material safety comes with some big words — can you start by finding them in this puzzle? Some may even be hiding backwards.

COMBUSTIBLE
CORROSIVE
FLAMMABLE
INFECTIOUS
OXIDIZING
POISONOUS
PRESSURIZED
REACTIVE





SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Is the farm really that dangerous?

We often hear that farming is the 3rd most dangerous occupation. But what does that mean?

The farm is unique from other types of businesses, such as oilfield or construction, in that the family lives and works on the same site. That means you live where powerful machines such as tractors, combines and augers may operate daily. There are also livestock, chemicals, bales, power lines, dugouts, manure pits, grain bins and much more!

What can you do?

Pack your bags and move to the city? No!

Wrap yourself in bubble-wrap? Oh, no!

Never leave the house? No way!

We all know that growing up on a farm is a great way to live, with many fantastic perks... but we have to be smart about how we manage our risks, follow safety rules and learn the right way to do chores to ensure everyone (including yourself!) doesn't get hurt.

The motto Jenna and Blake have adopted for the Safety Wranglers is:

Learn Safe, Work Safe, Play Safe.

When we do all three, great things happen. When we learn the proper way to do tasks, that helps us work safely. When we work safely, we don't have to worry about a chore or job-related injury holding us back from fun. When we play safely, we prove that we are responsible and safety-conscious, regardless of what we're doing! If everyone follows the same motto, then we all understand the reasons why we:

Learn Safe , Work Safe and Play Safe!

Role Models

Younger brothers and sisters often look up to their older siblings. Use this to be a positive leader and be the best role model you can be! What you say and do could save their life or prevent an injury. Now **that's** pretty cool.

MEET THE SIDEKICKS!

Puzzle Time!

You may be wondering who the cat and chicken are in the Safety Wrangler's logo!

Use this word puzzle to decipher their names!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
K	R	B	E	J	G	C	P	N	S

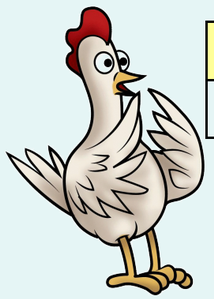
Place the corresponding letter from this master code into the boxes below to discover the message.

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
L	W	T	F	I	Y	H	O	M	A

7	20	11	11	15	4

is the

7	20	13



13	2	20	7	1	4	2

is the

7	17	15	7	1	4	9

A SAFETY EXPERIMENT

A simple transformation! Let's make SLIME!

Materials
Borax powder (not boric acid)
4 oz. glue (like Elmer's white or gel glue)
Food colouring
Water

Equipment
Medium-sized bowl*
Small bowl or cup
Measuring cups
Spatula*

Step 1: After getting your parent's permission: Read the instructions, gather your materials and wash your hands. Bowls and mixing equipment can become quite messy*, so disposable options are handy.

Step 2: Mix 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of Borax powder into 1 cup of water (250 ml), creating a *Borax solution*, and set to the side.

Step 3: Empty 4 oz. of glue into a bowl and mix in approximately 4 oz. or ½ a cup of water (~125 ml), creating a *diluted glue mixture*. You could also just refill the glue container to add the water. Put 1-2 drops of food colouring into this mixture, unless you want your slime to be colourless. (Keep your coloured slime away from surfaces that may absorb colour.)

Step 4: Slowly mix small portions of the *Borax solution* into the *diluted glue mixture*. You will be able to observe the change in consistency taking place. Your slime is polymerizing! Keep mixing! You can now pick up the slime mix and knead it with your hands. The more you play with the slime, the less sticky it will become.

Step 5: Clean up! Store your slime in a zipper-lock bag. Toss it out when it begins to look funky.

Note: Always wash your hands before and after playing with your slime. Don't eat the slime – it's not technically 'toxic or poisonous', but that doesn't mean it's good for you either! Be careful to only set your slime down on surfaces that won't absorb the food colouring you added!

(From About.com — Chemistry)

Learn Safe: What is this demonstrating?

This experiment stresses the importance of not mixing chemicals together, even if you think it might be safe or you've seen your parents do it before. In this case, two liquid solutions blended together to create an unfamiliar solid. Thankfully, for this experiment, we know this is a safe combination — but chemicals do not always mix so well! Burns, scalds, explosions, fire, poisonous gases and more can happen!

Learn Safe: Get the training! Ask your parents to explain your house and farm's chemical storage area to you, what each chemical does, what's off limits, what type of protective equipment they use and what to do in an emergency.

If you are old enough to do chores involving chemicals, ask your parents if you could complete the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) course.