**Augers**

There many types of augers used on the farm to include: post hole augers, grain augers, silo augers and other portable augers to name a few. Augers can cause a fatality or very serious injury if the safety features of the equipment and the best practices and procedures for the particular auger in use are not followed. This meeting will highlight the best practices for the use, servicing and transportation of augers.

Dangers of Augurs:

1. Electric Shock
2. Entanglement
3. Amputation
4. Laceration
5. Poor Housekeeping

Personal Protective Equipment:

Personal protective equipment should be selected, inspected, worn, serviced, maintained and stored as per the manufacturer’s specifications as well as CSA Standards.

Consider wearing the following personal protective equipment when working with or near augers:

* Steel-toe footwear
* Hearing protection
* High visibility clothing
* Close fitting clothing
* Contain long hair & beards
* Safety glasses

Best Practice when using and maintaining Augers:

**Grain/Silage/Sweep/Portable Augers**

1. Read and follow the operator’s manual for the auger and equipment used in conjunction with the auger.
2. Ensure the implement and tractor are appropriately matched. An implement that is too large for the tractor could cause a serious incident.
3. Check the area for hazards and implement controls.
4. Create a safe work area around the active auger.
5. Perform a pre-operational of the auger and associated equipment.
6. Ensure all proper safeguards and safety devices are in place and in working condition.
7. Avoid contact with the auger.
8. Ensure all equipment is turned off, de-energized before cleaning or conducting maintenance or servicing the auger.
9. Follow the lock out procedure to ensure equipment is deenergized correctly.
10. Keep the work area at and near the auger clean of soil, silage and grain to avoid slipping or falling towards the auger.
11. Do not climb, step on, or use the auger as a ladder.
12. Ensure augers are lowered to their transport position to avoid contact with powerlines.
13. When raising and lowering the auger check for overhead powerlines & other overhead objects that it could come in contact.
14. When transporting an auger, plan the path to be travelled by walking or driving the path without the equipment first to identify any unforeseen hazards.
15. Keep a minimum of a least 3 meters or 10 feet of clearance from the highest point of the auger and any overhead hazard especially powerlines.
16. Keep the auger in the lowest possible travel position to avoid tipping or having an unbalanced load.
17. Train workers on what to do if there is contact to high voltage powerlines.
18. Use a spotter when moving the auger under overhead powerlines or other overhead hazards.
19. If the auger has wheels, chock wheels once parked or in position for use.
20. Keep away and avoid entering areas where there are open ends of the auger. Block/guard these areas.

**Post Hole Auger**

1. Keep the area of the auger clear when the implement is operating either in or out of the ground.
2. When pounder is used, only use a “V” stick to straighten a post, never your hands.
3. Never replace the shear bolt OR auger retaining bolt with any length other than what is specified in this manual. A longer, or protruding fastener is more likely to grab loose clothing or gloves which can result in serious injury or death.
4. Do not operate on steep hillsides. When digging on uneven or hilly terrain, position the tractor with the post hole digger uphill.
5. Never position the auger point by hand or with any tool when the tractor is running.
6. To prevent rapid wear of u-joints and possible failure of drivelines, never lift auger point more than 12" off the ground with PTO operating.
7. To prevent possible instantaneous driveline failure, never move digger from hole-to-hole or transport while auger is rotating.
8. Do not shovel dirt away from a rotating auger as the shovel can be caught and thrown by the auger

**AUGERS – DISCUSSION RECORD**

**Agenda:**

* Discuss the types of Augers used on Farm.
* Are the owner’s manuals available for training?
* Have workers received on the job training?

Comments or safety concerns as a result of the discussion or observed since the last rally?

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Follow-up to concerns raised at previous rally?  
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Action Items?  
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Near Miss/Incidents/Unsafe Acts/Conditions to Report?

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Topics recommended for future Rallies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank the rally members for their participation.**

**Quiz Answers:** 1. T, 2. T, 3. e, 4. T, 5. T

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

1. Augers can cause a fatality or very serious injury if the safety features of the equipment and the best practices and procedures for the particular auger in use are not followed. True or False

2. Dangers associated with the use of augers for farming work include entanglement, amputation, lacerations and electrical shock. True or False

3. PPE to wear while using an auger may include:

1. Steel toed boots
2. Hearing protection
3. Close fitting clothing
4. Safety glasses
5. All of the Above

4. Ensure all equipment is turned off, de-energized before cleaning or conducting maintenance or servicing the auger. True or False

5.Keep a minimum of a least 3 meters or 10 feet of clearance from the highest point of the auger and any overhead hazard especially powerlines.

True or False

**Attendance RECORD**

\*This is to acknowledge that I understand and agree to actively participate in the safety meeting.

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