

THE CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION (COR)



R.C. Steward, B.C. Ranch Safety Consultant, Superintendent of Field Operations, AgSafe



Agriculture continues to rank among the most dangerous industries in North America with far too many fatalities and serious injuries recorded every year. It is an ongoing challenge to improve safety in any industry and agriculture is no exception. Among the many approaches to improve safety at a site is the WorkSafeBC Certificate of Recognition (COR) program. AgSafe is available to walk with you every step of the way in achieving COR.

While a program is required by regulation for most employers, participation in the COR program is voluntary. COR is a reward for creating, developing and maintaining a culture of safety documented and verifiable in an active and alive health and safety program. It is important to integrate your health and safety activities and the guiding program into all your business processes. Having an effective health and safety management system improves your ability to continuously identify hazards and control risks in your workplace. COR is an incentive program that recognizes and rewards employers for implementing an effective Occupational Health and Safety Program. Employers who successfully participate in the COR program will receive a 10% rebate off the base rate premiums paid to WorkSafeBC in the prior year. Those rates also are affected by your experience rating: the lower that rating, the lower your costs. Effective health and safety management systems have been shown to be an effective way to reduce your experience rating.

The benefits of having a successful COR program go far beyond the rebate. Management develop solid and ongoing insight into the requirements of a safety program. What it is, how it works, how it can be a valid part of your business

efforts affecting worker health, safety and well being and your bottom line. Workers participate in the program throughout its inception and development and play a key part in the ongoing culture of safety created. This involvement of workers

■ COR is an incentive program that recognizes and rewards employers for implementing an effective Occupational Health and Safety Program.

develops a greater respect and pride for good safety performance.

The program is self audited for small employers, those with 19 and fewer workers, and AgSafe will train your auditors. If you are a large employer, 20 and more workers, an external auditor is required to audit your safety program once every three years. A maintenance audit is performed by an AgSafe trained member of your team on the other two years.

Most producers who have achieved COR agree that there are three common and key benefits to achieving COR.:

1. It ensures that you have a safety program that meets the legislated requirements and all is done to ensure workers have a safe place to work.
2. It provides access to some financial

help to offset the investment of time to create and keep alive a safety program.

3. It attends to the issue of due diligence by ensuring that health and safety matters are well documented in case of a tragic event on the farm in the future

AgSafe Consultants and Advisors will help you fill the gaps in your safety program and help you through the process of preparing for a COR audit.

*Reg Steward, AgSafe Provincial
Ranch Safety Consultant
Superintendent of Field Operations
Cariboo-Chilcotin Regional Consultant
T: 1-877-533-1789 • reg@agsafebc.ca*



Congratulations

Certificate of Recognition



In 2016, more of our ranching leaders have participated in the effort to obtain their Certificate of Recognition (COR). Congratulations to Siphon Creek and Crystal Springs Ranches in the Peace and the Bar K ranch in the Central Interior. Other ranches are also well on their way to obtaining their COR and doing the tough work that makes it all happen. AgSafe is pleased to be able to work

with industry leading locations like this and accomplish this notable goal. Some participants have stated that COR is "just the next natural step to doing all that you are supposed to be doing anyway." If you are interested in pursuing COR or in just getting started with a viable, timely, doable safety program, give me or your regional AgSafe consultant a call.

Left to right: Taylor Grafton, Tom Houshen, Kayla Shaland, Rog Steward, Dylan Mass, Gerald Peterson

