Who We Are

According to the 2010 BLS Safety Statistics report, the “Farming, Fishing, and Forestry” industry showed an increase in fatal work injuries by 9 percent, while fatalities involving agriculture workers, including farm workers and laborers, rose from 127 in 2009 to 156 in 2010 (~19%). OSHA statistics show agricultural businesses have a national average which is high compared to general industry and construction. Even though Agriculture is viewed as a high-hazard industry, there are limited regulations or support available for these businesses.

The ASSE Ag Branch was formed in 2010 as a Branch of the Environmental Practice Specialty. The Ag Branch’s mission is to provide safety awareness and support for agricultural businesses in the United States in order to help increase safety cultural awareness, and reduce agricultural related injuries and accidents.

We Need Your Help

Even though there are over 120,000 commercial farms and ~1,000,000 agricultural businesses throughout the United States, we currently only have 200 members, and have been placed on probation. In order to maintain branch status we need to have over 300 Ag Branch members by July 2013.

We have struggled to build membership because we are a fairly new branch, and many ASSE members do not even know we exist, and because ASSE is not a well-known association in the agricultural community. It would be a significant loss for ASSE and agricultural businesses to lose this valuable resource when there is such an existing need for safety support and awareness. We are reaching out to current ASSE members for your help to keep the Ag Branch active and growing.

How You Can Participate

There are many ways you can help keep the Ag Branch alive including:

1. Join Us
   Contact ASSE and add the Ag Branch under the Environmental Practice Specialty to your membership (Register online @ http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/dapl.php)
   - If you are a member of the Environmental Practice Specialty already there is NO CHARGE to add the Ag Branch.
   - If you are not currently a member of the Environmental Practice Specialty ASSE has agreed to waive the $15 (?) fee

2. Spread the Word
   - Present membership literature and AG presentations at your local ASSE Chapter Meetings
   - Set up an Ag Branch membership booth at an upcoming ASSE, or Agricultural Function (PDC, FFA, Farm Bureau, etc.)
   - Send literature and booth requests to Mike Wolf (mike.wolf@exelisinc.com)

3. Start up an Ag Section under your local ASSE Chapter
   If you reside in an area that has a need for Agricultural safety awareness and support you can petition to form a local Ag Section affiliated with your current ASSE Chapter. You can begin the process of starting an Ag section if 10 or more ASSE members express interest. For additional information on how to start an Ag Section contact Tabitha Laser

4. Donate
   Starting up an ASSE Branch required financial support to develop meeting materials, purchase booths for events, etc. Donating to the Ag Branch is easy, and is tax deductible.

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