

Investigation Report  
Fatality - All-Terrain Vehicle Incident  
April 20, 2016

## The contents of this report

This document reports Occupational Health and Safety's (OHS) investigation of a fatal all-terrain vehicle accident occurring on April 20, 2016. It begins with a summary of what happened. The rest of the report covers this same information in much greater detail.

## Incident summary

A worker was assigned the task of moving cattle to the processing unit and then to pens in accordance with their sorted weight. The work process required the worker to identify the home pen and proceed to position (open or close) gates in an alleyway and/or roadway to ensure that the cattle moved to the desired area. Movement of cattle could require the worker to physically enter a pen area and initiate the cattle's movement. Once the cattle were moving in the right direction, the worker used an all-terrain vehicle (ATV, also referred to as a "quad") to slowly push the cattle along the desired path.

The process of returning cattle to pens from the processing unit is often referred to as "homing cattle".

During the work process, the worker lost control and was ejected from the quad.

## Background information

### Namaka Farms Inc. (NFI)

NFI is family owned and operated, becoming an incorporated legal entity in Alberta effective its registration year of 1984. It is a combined mixed farm business that includes a feedlot for cows, calves and horses and cropping operations of wheat, barley and canola.

The feedlot business manages approximately 25 000 cattle as well as additional land for forage crop (barley) production. The company employs 20 paid workers and is a Workers Compensation Board (WCB) account holder.

The worker was 40 years old on the date of incident. The worker had experience in sales and operation of powered mobile equipment.

## Equipment and materials

### 2008 Honda ATV

The equipment involved in the incident was a four-wheel, quad-style all-terrain vehicle designed and manufactured for off-road use, recreational and utility purposes (Figure 1).

The tasks and activities associated with the incident, such as riding on gravel in an off road area, conformed to the manufacturer's intended use of the equipment.



*Figure 1. OHS photo of the ATV operated by the worker on the date of incident.*

### **Sequence of events**

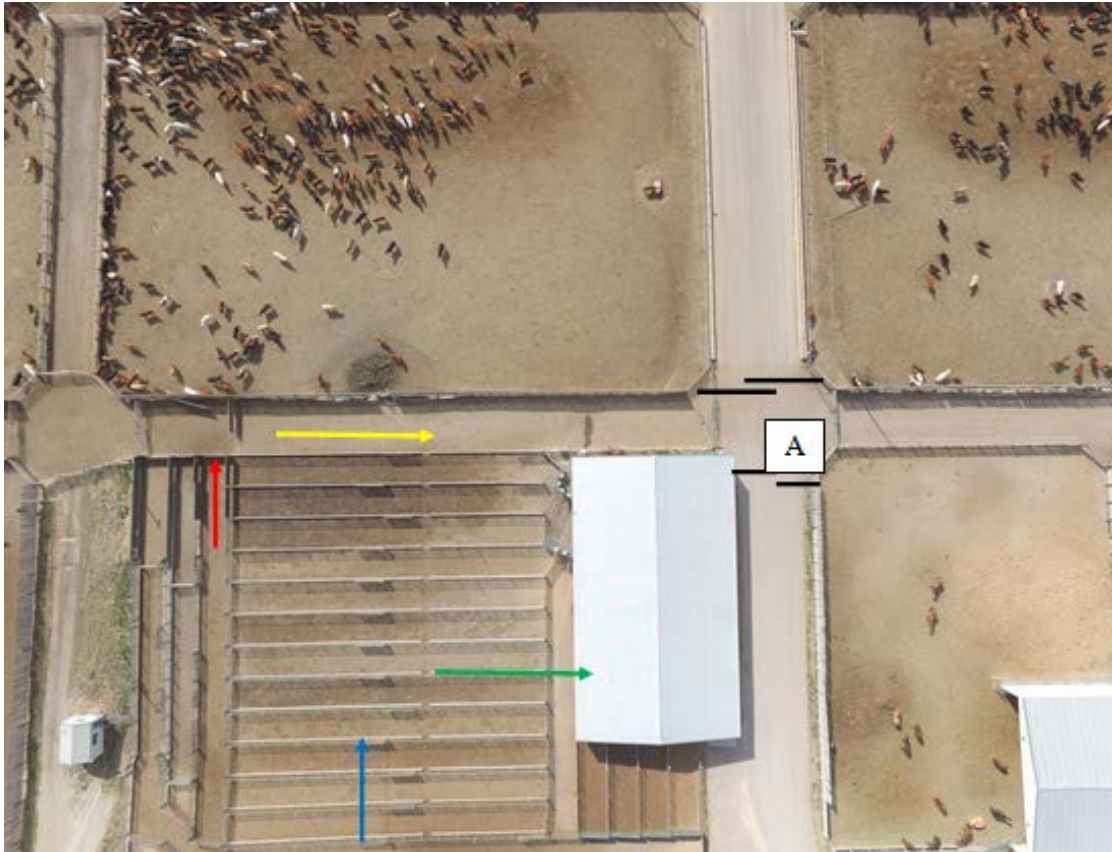
Work commenced in the processing unit at approximately 6:00 a.m., and included the sorting of cattle by weight. Processed cattle were then moved from the processing unit to temporary holding pens located next to the processing unit (Figure 2).

At 10:00 a.m., the worker became involved in the daily work processes. The worker was assigned the task of weighing incoming animals and then homing cattle from the processing unit's temporary holding area to assigned pens.

The worker initiated the task of homing the cattle (separating the cattle into the categories of light, medium and heavy) and moving each group to different pens.

The worker was observed by other workers to be operating the ATV and, at the time, was not wearing a helmet.

At around 12:00 p.m., the workers in the processing unit decided to work through lunch in order to make sure that they remained ahead of schedule.



*Figure 2. Overhead view of the incident location. The red arrow points to a gate opened by the worker for the purpose of moving cattle from the temporary holding area. The blue arrow points to the rows of temporary holding pens, and the green arrow points to the processing unit structure. The yellow arrow occupies the alleyway and points in the direction (north) cattle were to be moved and the direction the worker was last observed travelling on the quad at the time of the incident. The black lines represent a configuration of the roadway gates at the time of the incident. The letter “A” marks where the quad and the worker were located.*

At 12:20 p.m., the worker travelled to the southwest corner of the temporary holding pens, opening the pen gate to permit the transfer of cattle in the pen.

At 12:30 p.m., the worker was observed travelling north on the ATV in the alleyway in advance of the cattle. As the worker travelled north, the worker passed the processing unit and lost

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control of the ATV at the intersection of the alleyway and roadway adjacent to the north side of the processing unit. The worker was ejected from the ATV suffering fatal injuries.

**Completion**

A review for enforcement action was completed on April 24, 2017. It was determined that prosecution or an administrative penalty were not appropriate based on the circumstances surrounding this incident.

This file was closed on May 29, 2017.

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Signatures

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

June 23, 2017

Lead Investigator

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

June 23, 2017

Manager

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

August 2, 2017

Director

Date