CYBER SECURITY RISKS AND RESOURCES:

Safeguarding Canadian agriculture and agri-food

As agricultural and agri-food businesses become more digitized and connected online, the need to safeguard against cybercrime increases. Precision agriculture, automation and smart farming technologies contribute to efficiency and productivity, but without proper safeguards, the door opens to cyber vulnerabilities that can range from disruptive to devastating effects, including paralyzing business and impacting profitability and consumer trust.

In this digital landscape, it's critical to **understand and guard against cyber risks.**

What is cyber security?

Cyber security is the practice of safeguarding computer systems, networks and data from digital disruptions. Examples of cyber incidents affecting the agriculture and agri-food industry include **fraudulent texts, phishing emails that seek to gain private info and access to systems, and ransomware demands**, to name just a few.

What agricultural systems are at risk?

Targets can include production, financial, customer and other data, wireless sensors, automated and robotic machinery, autonomous and semi-autonomous vehicles and equipment, and heating, refrigeration, lighting and ventilation controls and systems.

Quick tips to minimize your risk

- **Have different passwords for each account**, preferably 12 characters-long, including 1 upper and 1 lower case letter, and 1 special character. **Change passwords frequently.**

- **Enable multi-factor authentication** on all your accounts, wherever possible.

- **Back up vital information regularly,** including vendor and client data and information. Store backup information offline or in an external drive.

- **Don't open unknown emails, and don't click on links or attachments** unless you're sure of their origin and legitimacy.

- **Don't save personal or financial data on browsers** if prompted and avoid auto-fill features.

- Access more tips at **agriculture.canada.ca/cyber-security-farming-business.**

Get started today with these tools and resources

Canadian Centre for Cyber Security

A go-to resource for expert advice, guidance, services and support, and to report cyber incidents

cyber.gc.ca

Public Safety Canada

Access the Canadian cyber security tool assessments. Select "National Security" then "Cyber Security".

publicsafety.gc.ca

Community Safety Knowledge Alliance

Access targeted resources to help protect your farming business.

cskacanada.ca/projects/strengthening-the-cyber-security-capacity-of-canadas-agricultural-sector

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada