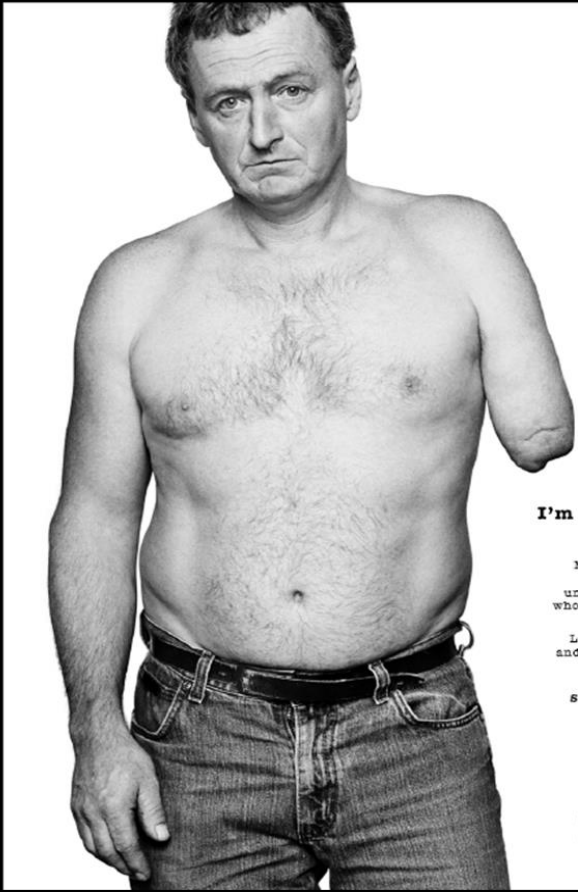


Preventing Injury and Ill Health in Agriculture

Francis Bligh
Teagasc
Health and Safety

Consequences of Injury and Ill Health




I'm the lucky one.

My farm accident
didn't kill me,
unlike the 22 people
who died on Irish farms
last year.

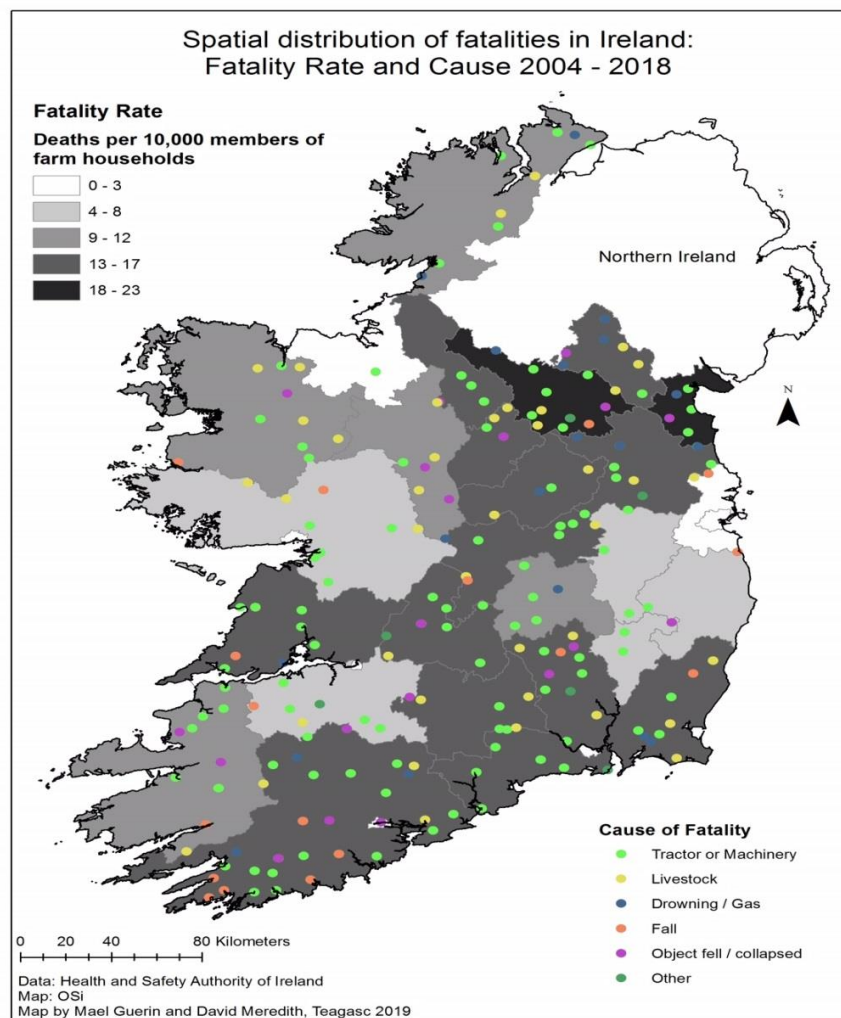
Life goes on for me
and my family, but you
might not be
so lucky.

**Stop taking risks.
Farm safely.**

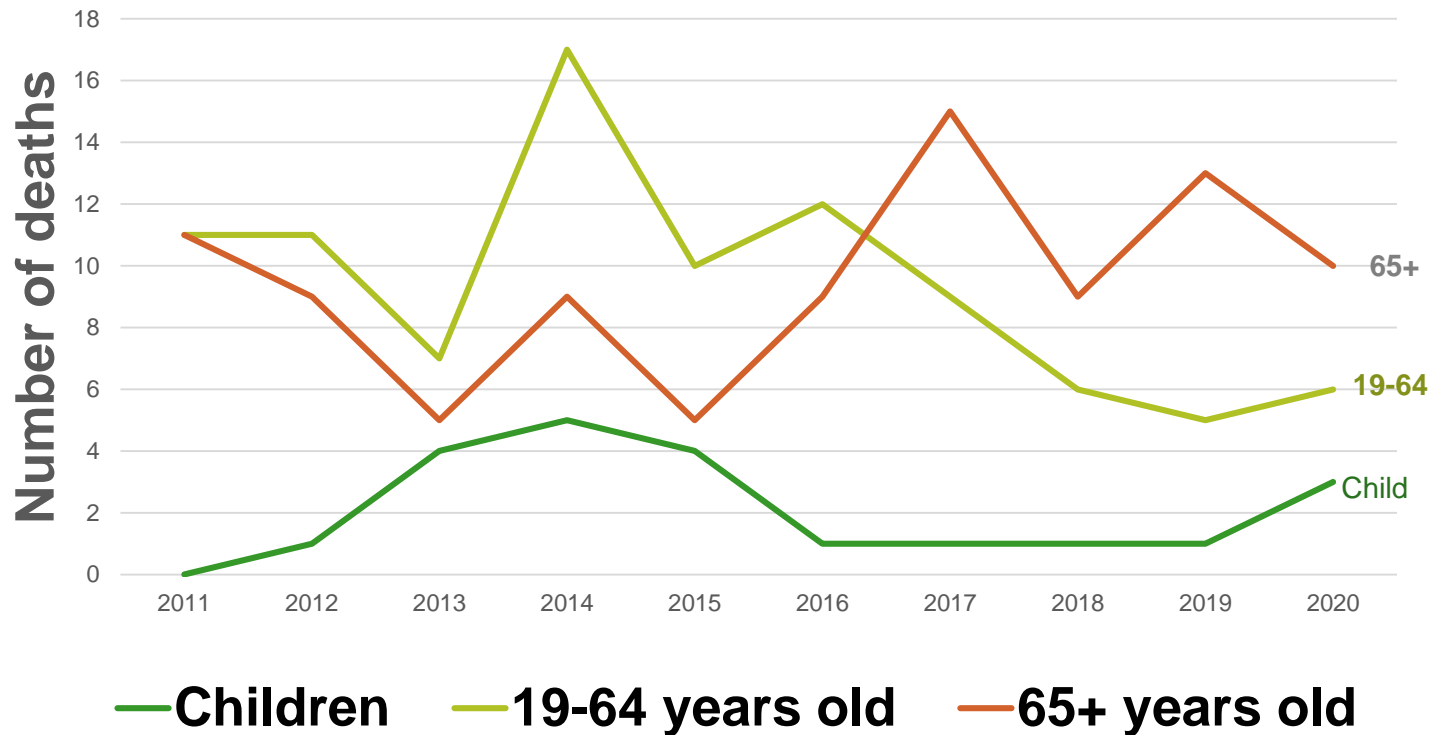


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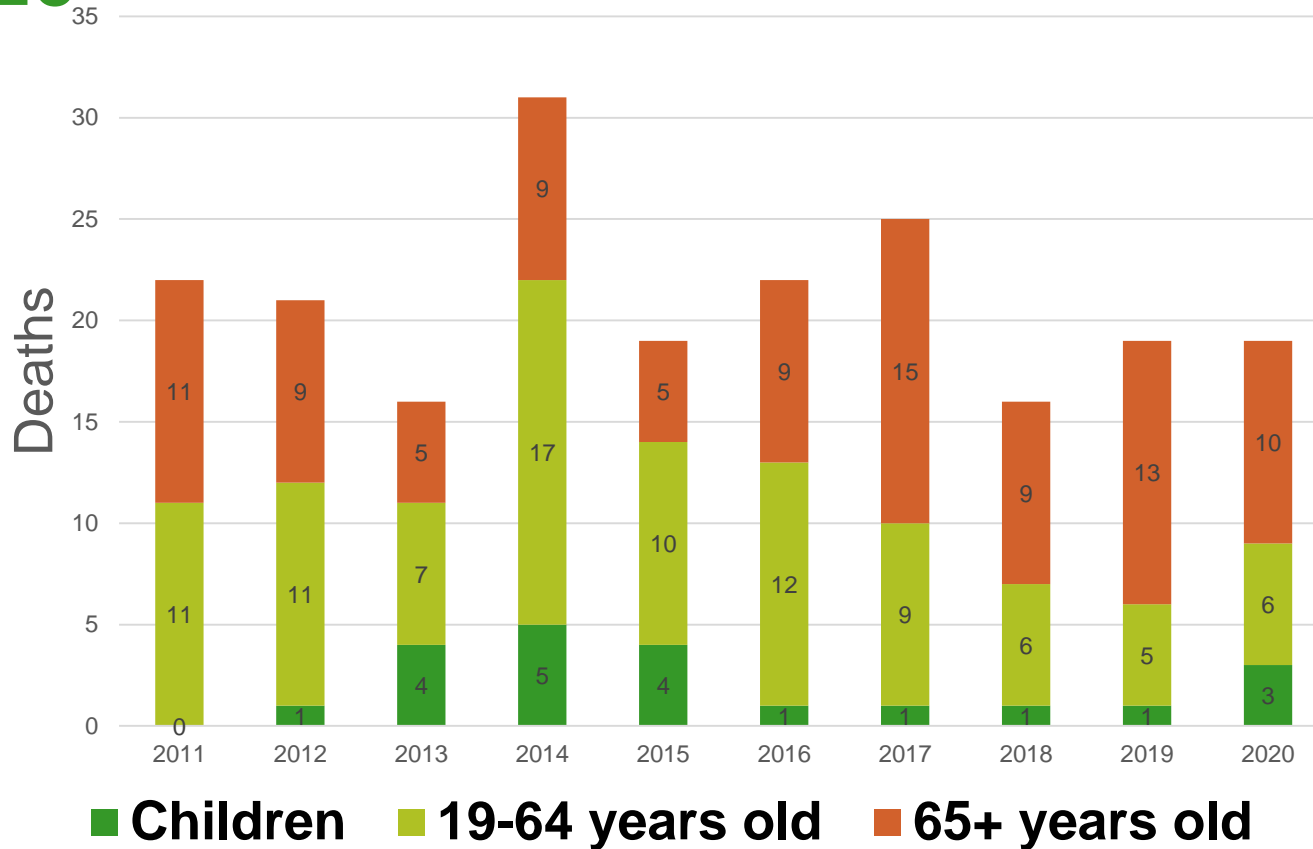
Farm Deaths- Spatial Analysis: 2004-2018)



Trends in Farm Deaths 2011-20



Deaths in Agr by Age Group 2011-2020

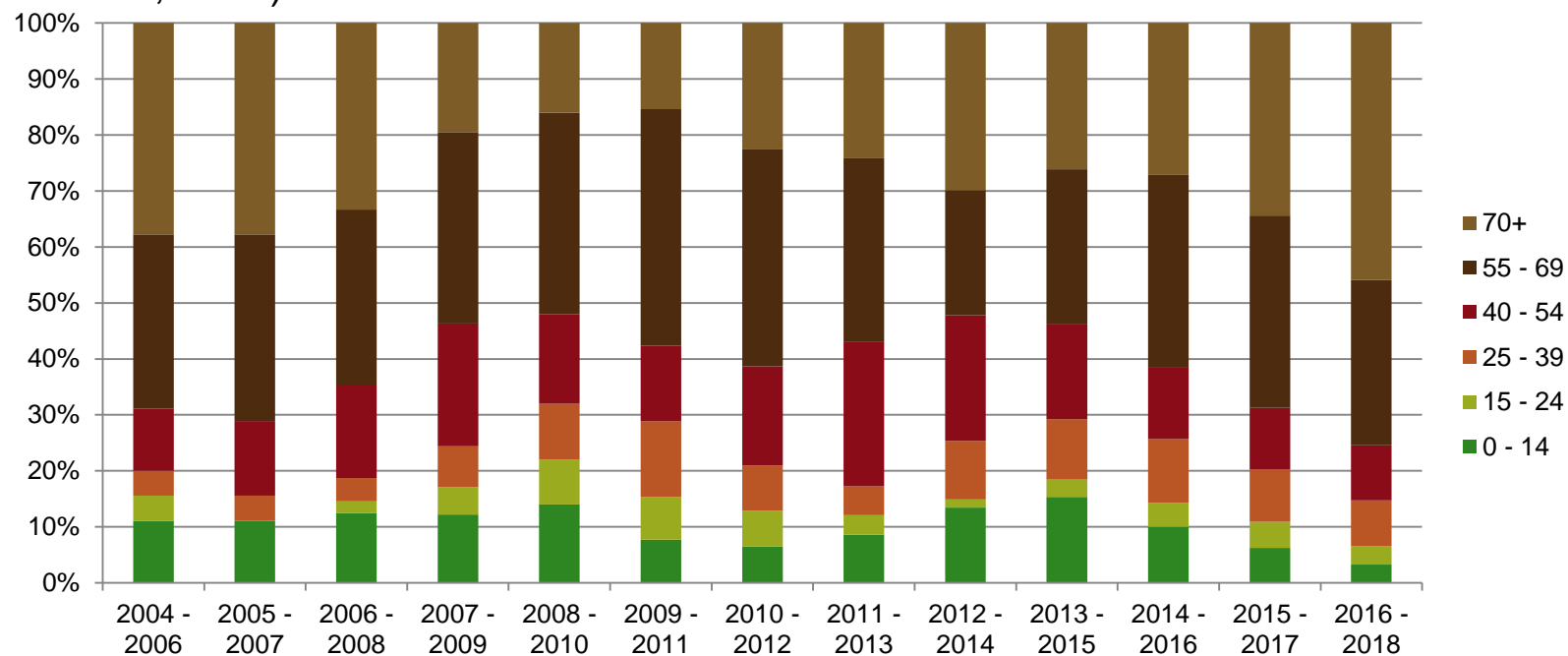


Fatality Trends and Rates – 3-year Rolling Averages

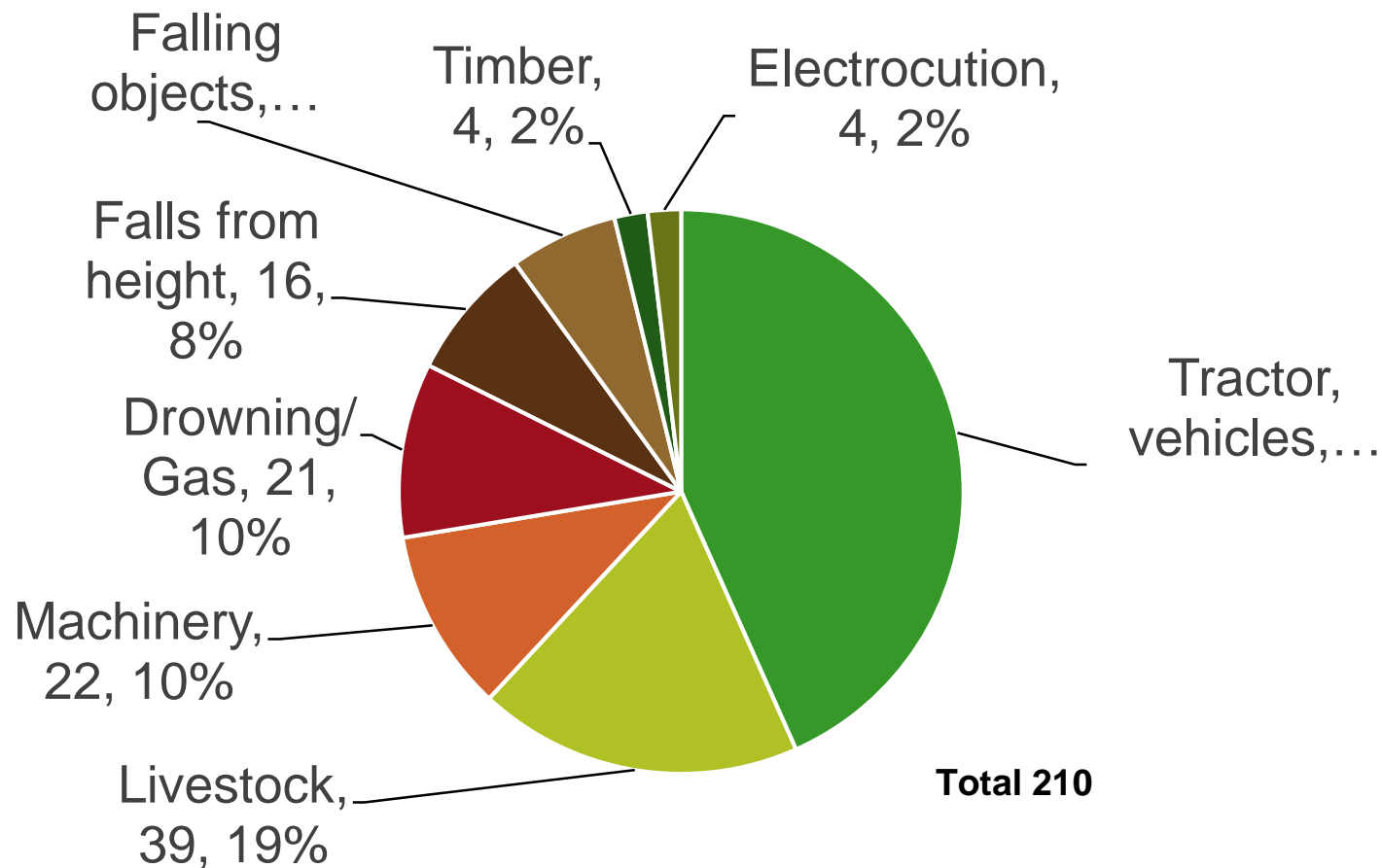
Understanding fatality trends is challenging

Those killed through fatal injuries comprise a variety of victims ranging from the young to the elderly, i.e. not just farmers or workers.

This makes the calculation of standardised rates (and comparison with other industries) difficult, e.g. deaths per 100,000 workers. (See HSA, 2021)



Main Causes of Farm Deaths (2011-2020)



National Average Fatality Rates

- Nationally all workers approx, 1.5 deaths for every 100,000 workers
- Construction workers approx, 6 deaths for every 100,000 workers
- Agriculture work approx, 18 deaths for every 100,000 persons working!

Agriculture has the Highest Rate of Fatal Injury of any major economic sector!

7 Times more likely to be Killed at Work in Farming

- HSA Data.

SHWW Legislation, 2005

- **Employer - predominant duty to manage**
- **Employee - must comply and co-operate**
- **Contractors and Farmer must co-operate**
- **Designers, manufacturers, suppliers.**
- **Requirement to prepare Risk Assessment.**
- **Regulations, Codes of Practice (COP) and Guidance for support.**

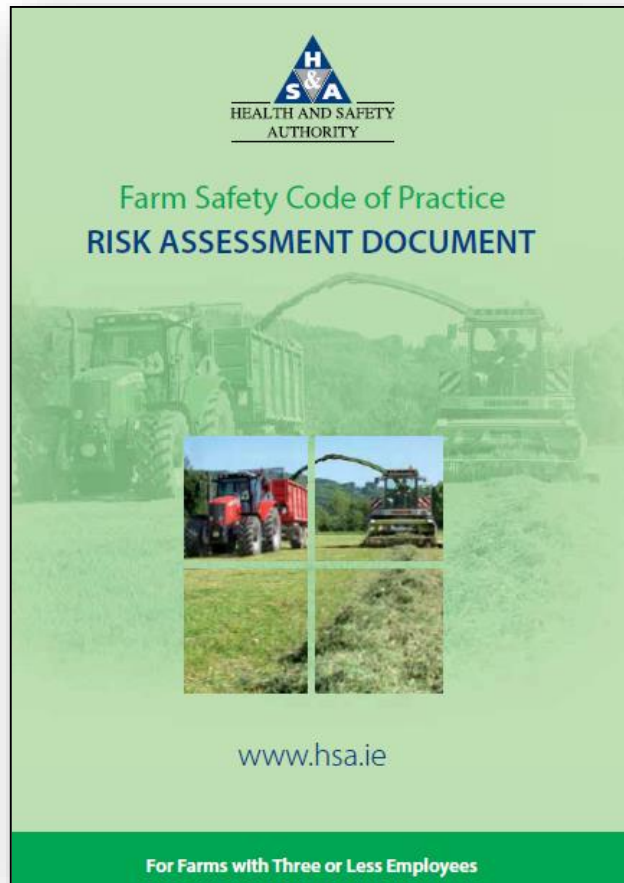
Key legal Requirements

- *‘Do everything ‘so far as is reasonably practicable’ .*
- *Require a Risk Assessment (3 or less employees) or a Safety Statement.*
- *Employer has the primary duty*
 - *provide a safe place and system of work etc*

What Action Needed ?



Risk Assessment Document – use as Guide for Standards.



Health of Farmers

Working on the farm can affect your health. In many cases the effects on health build up over time. Of particular significance in farming is the ill health caused by manual handling, dust or spores, infections and noise. Of farmers with occupational ill health 50% experience chronic back pain. Also one exposure to some dust and spores can cause severe health effects and sensitisation.

FIGURE 8: OCCUPATIONAL ILL HEALTH AMONG FARMERS (1996 - 2006)

• Poor health poor profit • Annual health check

Health Issue	Percentage
Chronic back pain	50%
Lung problems	35%
Disease from Animals	7.5%
Other	7.5%

Eliminate manual handling


Proper lifting techniques

Manual Handling

About a third of all reported accidents are due to poor manual handling. Most manual handling accidents result in back injury. Lifting heavy loads results in arthritis of joints, particularly hip and knee joints. Damage is also caused to tendons, ligaments and muscles. Injuries can result from manual handling due to the work itself, the load, the work environment, or the individual's ability. Twisting your spine while lifting or carrying a load is particularly dangerous.

22

Excellent Information



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Tractors, Farm Vehicles and Quads

Tractor, Vehicle and Quad Risk Assessment	List all vehicles used on the farm			
<i>I will ensure that:</i>				
The Cab/Roll bar is in good condition.				
The U guard is in place to cover the PTO stub.				
All controls are in working order and are clearly marked/understood.				
The brakes are in good working order and adequate for the work undertaken.				
The handbrake/parking brake is fully operational.				
The mirrors, lights, indicators and wipers are all functioning, clean and visible.				
All hitching equipment is free of defects.				
All visible defects in the vehicle are identified and rectified before starting work. (List defects on control sheet)				
Safety Practices				
Pre-checks are carried out on tractors and vehicles before use.				
Regular maintenance will be carried out on all tractors and vehicles.				
The tractor/ farm vehicle is only operated by drivers who are trained and competent.				
Where the operator handbook is available it will be consulted.				
Lifting equipment (material) is examined annually.				
Lifting equipment (lifting people) is examined 6 monthly.				
The vehicle is always started and operated from the correct position.				
Passengers are only carried where the manufacturer has provided a seat and seat belt for this purpose.				
A helmet is worn by the operator when driving a quad bike.				
When starting and operating any vehicle, the driver looks out for bystanders.				
The speed of all vehicles will be suitable for the ground or road conditions.				
When a vehicle is stopped, the SAFE STOP procedure is used.				
The cab floor is kept clear to allow safe use of brakes & clutch.				
Where farmyard is close to farmhouse, traffic risks are assessed and controlled.				
Additional vehicle controls used				

[illegible]

Team Approach

- Encourage farmers to think about Safety and Health during every task.

Vehicle Knockdowns/ Faulty procedure



Cow Attacks



Calving Facilities



Silage pit size.



Machinery Safety – Not Just PTO'S



What could happen next ?



Fragile Roof



Height for Hire



Standard Mortality Ratio comparison for Farmers with 'White Collar'

(Dr Breda Smyth et al, M.D. 2012)

Cause	Farmers (15 - 64 years)
Circulatory Disease	5 times higher
Cancer	3 times higher
Injuries (inc poisoning).	7 times higher

Stress

- Farming as a lifestyle is mainly positive for well-being.
- However, Rural Dwellers have twice the 'stress' as urban.
- Stress can arise due to person or occupational sources.
- A key issue is to recognise "Stress Symptoms" and take action.
- Consult your Medical Doctor (G.P.) and share your worries with those you trust.
- The main stressors arising from farming include: financial worries, poor or dangerous working conditions, poor health, farm management and paperwork.
- Consult your Ag advisor/consultant about farming problems, don't leave it on the long finger.

Be SunSmart

Best Practice UV Protection

Follow the 5-S's approach



Slip on clothing: Cover skin as much as possible e.g. wear long sleeves, collared t-shirts, clothes made from close-woven material that does not allow sunlight through.



Slop on broad-spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30+ for adults and 50+ for children, with high UVA protection, and water resistant. Reapply regularly.



Slap on a hat with a wide brim: Protect your face, ears and neck.



Seek shade: Sit in cover of trees to avoid direct sunlight and use a sunshade on your buggy or pram. Keep babies and children out of direct sunlight.



Slide on sunglasses with UV protection: Guard your eyes from harm.

REDUCE YOUR RISK

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www.irishskinfoundation.ie

Schemes – Health and Safety

- TAMS11
- Accelerated **Capital** Allowances for Farm **Safety** Equipment
- Consult your Agricultural advisor.

How do you plan to manage Health and Safety ?

- Take on-going practical action.