

Advisory Updates

January 2015

Prioritise safety for 2015

Have you ever considered the devastating impact that a farm accident could have on your family? Have you ever had a near miss and thought afterwards that you should have done things differently? How often have you completed a task that really required two people to complete? Too often we don't learn from our near misses and we don't take action. Act now.

Thirty people lost their lives in 2014 due to farm accidents. This is 30 too many and represents over half of all workplace deaths. What is even more alarming is that the level of fatal accidents to children doubled in 2014. In 2014 the major increase in accidents was due to being struck or crushed by a farm vehicle or machine, which happened mainly in the farmyard. Collapse of weights such as big bales, and livestock handling, were other major causes. As these occurrences caused 67% of all farm deaths they should be prioritised for attention in 2015.

There is no better time than now for you to take a hard look at safety on your farm. Your personal commitment to managing safety on your farm is crucial.



Take a hard look at safety on your farm. Your commitment is crucial for the safety of everyone on your farm.

Continued overleaf

How can I make my farm a safer place?

Safety management hinges on implementing sound controls and adopting safe behaviours to prevent accidents. Everyone on the farm must be actively involved in accident prevention. Particular attention must be given to the safety of children and elderly farmers. Safety management must be ongoing and active; if a dangerous activity is taking place, have it stopped immediately and institute safe procedures. Work organisation has a major impact on farm accident rates so it is vital to plan work to avoid rushing. Having adequate facilities for the farm is necessary to operate a well organised farm.

Carry out a farm safety risk assessment today

Every farm has been supplied with a farm risk assessment document, which allows you to fully

assess your farm for safety issues. Examine the farm, identify all hazards and put a plan in place to address all hazards. It is a legal requirement to complete and renew this document. This document can be filled out electronically at www.farm.safely.com or can be downloaded from www.hsa.ie. Hard copies are also available at Teagasc offices.

Teagasc provides short half-day training courses to farmers on completion of the risk assessment document and these courses can be booked at your local Teagasc office. Teagasc wishes to assist farmers to actively manage farm safety and health and will be actively including the topic in discussion groups and farm demonstrations in 2015.

Let's make 2015 a year to remember for all the right reasons. Make safety the number one priority on your farm this year.

Dairy Levy Update Series – managing through 2015

Teagasc is organising a series of events in January and early February at nine venues to provide dairy farmers with strategies to manage through 2015. Teagasc Moorepark researchers

will present relevant research findings and Teagasc dairy advisers will facilitate a workshop on cash flow budgeting at each event. All seminars run from 7.00pm – 10.00pm.

Venue	Date
GAA Complex, Carrigoon, Mallow, Co. Cork	Tues, Jan 20
Ballyroe Heights Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	Thurs, Jan 22
Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny	Mon, Jan 26
Inchydoney Island Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Tues, Jan 27
Ardboyne Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath	Wed, Jan 28
Ballykisteen Hotel, Tipperary, Co. Tipperary	Thurs, Jan 29
Errigal House Hotel, Cootehill, Co. Cavan	Tues, Feb 3
McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris, Co. Mayo	Wed, Feb 4
Country Arms Hotel, Birr, Co. Offaly	Thurs, Feb 5



For further information on any issues raised in this newsletter, or to access other enterprise newsletters, please contact your local Teagasc adviser or see www.teagasc.ie.