

Presentation by Steve Percival

Farm Safety Consultant for the Waikato and Bay of Plenty,

- 1. Ex Farmer after studying at Massey for Batch Ag. Farmer for a few seasons, started of as the boy ended as low order sharemilker. Then saw mill management then accident. Retrain**
- 2. Recently completed post grad diploma in H&S through Massey. Always had a passion in rural sector and safety**
- 3. I believe that safety should being practical/achievable, part of you every day work, not an extra**
- 4. Have a brief over view of H&S systems. More beneficial if it is run as an open discussion, feel free to ask questions at any time**



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YOUR SAFETY ON THE FARM MEANS

- 1. Being Able to Get Home Without Serious Injury.....Every Night**
- 2. Your Wider Health is Okay and You Live a Normal Life Span – with Hearing, Sight, Breathing etc.,**



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Are We That Bad?



- Simple answer is **YES** – maybe worse than we think
- Statistics for Farming:
 - 40% of New Zealand Work place deaths are on farms.
 - 1 in 5 pastoral workers claim for ACC every year.
 - Cost \$171 Million (08-13)



How Does This Apply to Me?

- All farmers already control safety in their day to day stuff - usually goes unrecognised

BUT

- Most farmers grossly downplay / underestimate effect of an accident
- Most farmers don't see all the major risks

AND

(see next slide)

How Does This Apply To Me? (2)

- Of course, with cattle we have to work in all weathers ...*plus*
- We work when we are dead tired – especially from calving to end of AI ... *plus*
- We work with sometimes unpredictable cattle – a few are crazy / outright dangerous ... *plus*
- We live on the job



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Where are the Costs of Accidents?

- Personal injury costs, medical etc., - ACC
- Time unable to work – hour lost is gone forever – can't regain time – insurable
- Reduced performance ability / capability
- Repair of things – fences, quads, buildings etc. insurable
- Legal / compensation costs – also insurable
- Fines / prison - not insurable

**REAL COST FARM ACCIDENTS FAR HIGHER
THAN MEDICAL COSTS**



Legal Side



- **Common Law** – Duty of Care to others
- **Statute Law** – presently 1992 Health and Safety Act – to be replaced on 4 April
- **Regulations** – presently have very few – do apply to asbestos and Adventure Tourism
- **Guidances** – best practice booklets – e.g., quad bike safety, cattle handling etc.,
- + **Coroner's Court** - advisory only, but influential



Why Is a Health and Safety Plan Needed?

- Legal requirement for all businesses to have a structured approach
- No-one is exempt



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What is in Health and Safety Plan?

- 1. Identification major hazards** and their controls
- 2. Emergencies plan** – fires, accidents, storms, floods, earthquakes etc.,
- 3. Policies** – statements of intent – must cover maintenance, communication, competence of staff, contractors, drugs/alcohol etc.,
- 4. Accidents / incidents register**
- 5. Training plan**

Your Health and Safety Plan

- **Must be farm specific**
(we usually put run-off in same plan)

- **No two farms are the same**



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Example from recent plan

Hazard	Type Harm	Significant ?	Control Method	Suggested Controls
Low Power Lines Over Paddocks Near House	Contact by machinery leading to electrocution	Yes	Eliminate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If practicable, relocate wires higher or along edge of paddocks 2. Warn all operators including contractors of the low wire hazard 3. Do not operate machinery in these paddocks at night time, in fog/mist or at twilight times
Electric Fence Lead Out Wire Across Gully	Collision by helicopter or plane that is not familiar with its position	Yes	Eliminate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This wire should be at a much lower height above the gully floor. Reroute it via a fence or other structure. 2. Continue the markers using flags, drums etc.,

So You Now Have a Decent Safety Plan!

- Great starting point ...
- Key is whether or not you implement it - that is entirely up to you ...
- Always a management responsibility = You
- Always a need for competent staff – includes you – training needs identified

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You Must Identify the Major Risks



**Ignoring Significant Risks is Not an
Option for You**



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Must then Control Hazards

- Eliminate them ... Or
- Minimise them



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Example

- Example, Slippery floor in Cow Shed
 - Eliminate, remove slippery section and install anti slip matting.
 - Minimise, provide staff with anti slip boots, and monitor for effectiveness of control.



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New H&S Legislation

- Comes into law from 4th April 2016.
- Principles still the same as in old Act.
- Owner Operators vs Managed (due diligence)
- More guidances in place (e.g. fuels on farms).
- Moves away from Significant Hazards, moving towards “Risk”.
 - In line with the rest of the developed world
 - Overall easier to manage (not controlling significant hazards very unlikely to occur)



New H&S Legislation (con't)

- WorkSafe have indicated they want to “raise the bar” with new Legislation – particularly with farming
- Term PCBU (Person Conducting Business or Undertaking) introduced. Possible to have multiple PCBUs in one situation.
- Employee and Contractor is replaced by Worker.
- Greater network of inspectors (250 from 120).



Contractors / Visitors

- You have obligation to provide safe environment for them. They not harm you and you not harm them.
- Means of communicating hazards to them, and recording this.
- Let them know hazards they are likely to be exposed to and controls in place (plan has form, separate between contractors and service providers).
- Contractors have specialised knowledge (that's why you getting them in) expect that they know what they are doing.



Contractors / Visitors (con't)

- Liability not 100% waived.
- Visitors under your 100% supervision do not have to be inducted.



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