

# **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"> <li>1. If practicable, relocate wires higher or along edge of paddocks</li> <li>2. Warn all operators including contractors of the low wire hazard</li> <li>3. Do not operate machinery in these paddocks at night time, in fog/mist or at twilight times</li> </ol>
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"> <li>1. This wire should be at a much lower height above the gully floor. Reroute it via a fence or other structure.</li> <li>2. Continue the markers using flags, drums etc.,</li> </ol>

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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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