



FARM SAFETY CODE OF PRACTICE RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT



www.hsa.ie

FOR FARMS WITH THREE OR LESS EMPLOYEES

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Doctor	
On-call Doctor	
Vet	
Agriculture Advisor	
Fire Brigade	
Garda Station, Priest or Minister	
Emergency Services	999 or 112
ESB Networks	1850 372 999
Health and Safety Authority	1890 289 389
National Poison Centre	01- 8379963

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RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

FOR

FARMS WITH THREE OR LESS EMPLOYEES

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

FARM ENTREPRISES: _____

Completing and implementing the findings of this Farm Safety Risk Assessment document will help you to meet your duties under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.

CODE OF PRACTICE – RISK ASSESSMENT

This is my programme in writing for managing health and safety. It is aimed at protecting myself and others who live on, work on, or visit the farm from accidents and ill health.

I undertake to,

- Provide a safe place of work.
- Advise all who work or are present on the farm of the hazards identified in this risk assessment and the controls in place to protect them from injury.
- Use safe systems of work.
- Provide all machine guards, protective equipment, information, training, and supervision necessary to protect those at risk.
- Review health and safety on my farm and this document on a regular basis.
- If a dangerous situation arises, I undertake to stop work immediately, until the hazard is controlled.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS DOCUMENT

Tractors, Farm Vehicles and ATV's.

STEP 1.

Read the information about the hazard.

STEP 2.

Complete this list.

STEP 3.

Read the Control Measures.

Tractor, Vehicle and ATV Risk Assessment <i>I will ensure that:</i>	LIST ALL VEHICLES USED ON THE FARM				
	Ford	Zetor	ATV	Loader	Loader
The Cab/Roll bar is in good condition.	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓
The U guard is in place to cover the PTO stub	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
All controls are in working order and are clearly marked/ understood.	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
The brakes are in good working order and adequate for the work undertaken.					
The handbrake 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. (list defects on control sheet)					
Safety Practices					
The vehicle is only operated by competent drivers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Where the operator handbook is available it will be consulted.	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓
The vehicle is always started and operated from the correct position.					
Passengers are only carried where the manufacturer has designed the vehicle for this purpose.					
When starting and operating any vehicle, bystanders will not be endangered.					
Travel speed will be suitable to the ground or road conditions.					
When a vehicle is stopped, the SAFE parking procedure is used.					
Additional vehicle controls used.					

STEP 4.

Check that Safety Control Measures are in place for each item listed. Answer ✓, X or N/A.

STEP 5.

List additional controls that are in place.

STEP 6.

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

This document provides you with a means of identifying the hazards on your farm. It highlights what control measures you need to put in place to make your farm a safer place for you, your family, visitors and those who work on it from time to time.

MAJOR RISKS IN FARMING

THE OVERALL SITUATION

- Farming is one of the most dangerous occupations in Ireland. Over one third of all workplace fatalities in Ireland occur in farming.
- Children and the elderly are particularly at risk. 50% of all farm deaths now involve over 65s and 20% of fatalities are to children.
- 182 people have been killed on Irish farms in the last 10 years. Over 3,000 serious injuries occur every year.
- The chart below gives the main causes of farm fatalities since 1996.

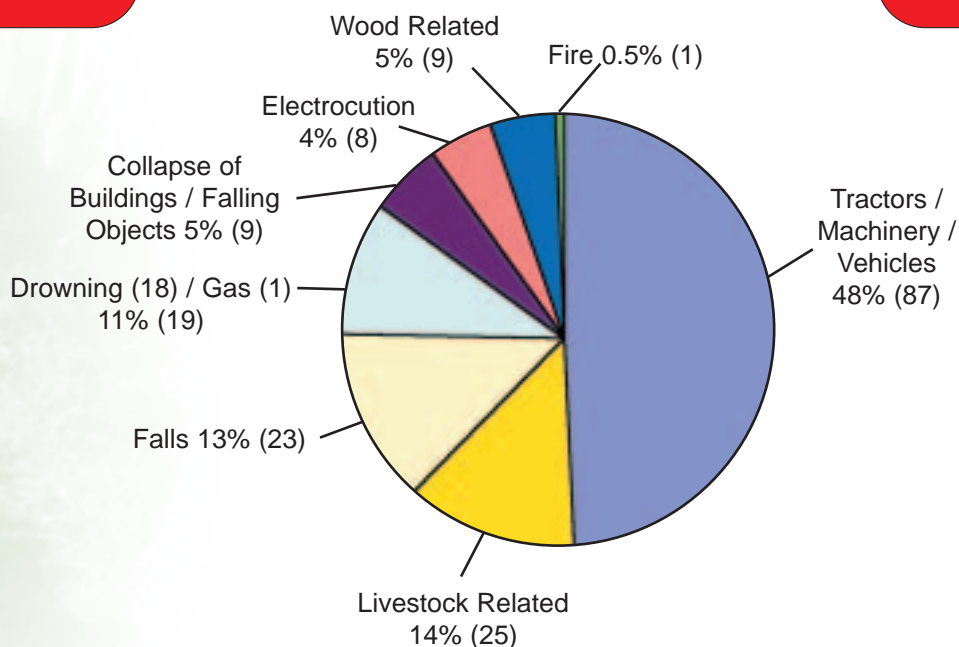


A farm accident left this farmer paralysed

**FIGURE 1: MAJOR CAUSES OF FARM DEATHS
(1996 - 2005)**

• **Beware of
Tractor/Machinery
Movement**

• **Take care near
Livestock**

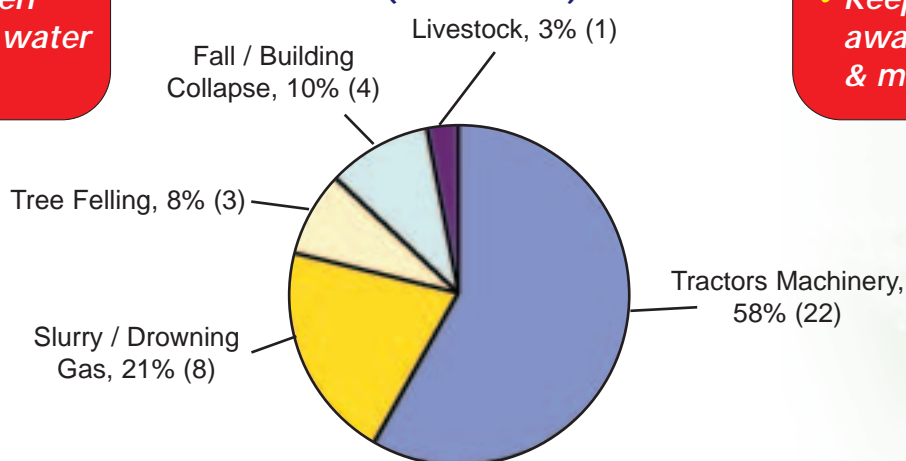


Children

Since 1996, over 21% (38) of fatal farm accidents involved children. Practically all involved family members. The major causes of childhood accidents are tractors and machinery (58%), and drowning (21%).

Farms are a high risk environment for children, young persons and visiting children. There is therefore a major responsibility on the farmer to ensure that the risks posed to children on the farm are assessed and controls are put in place.

**FIGURE 2: CHILDHOOD DEATHS.
(1996 - 2005)**



• *Keep children away from water & heights*

• *Keep children away from tractors & machinery*



Safe play area



Supervise children



Seat and seat-belt



Prevent Climbing



Supervise children



Keep children away

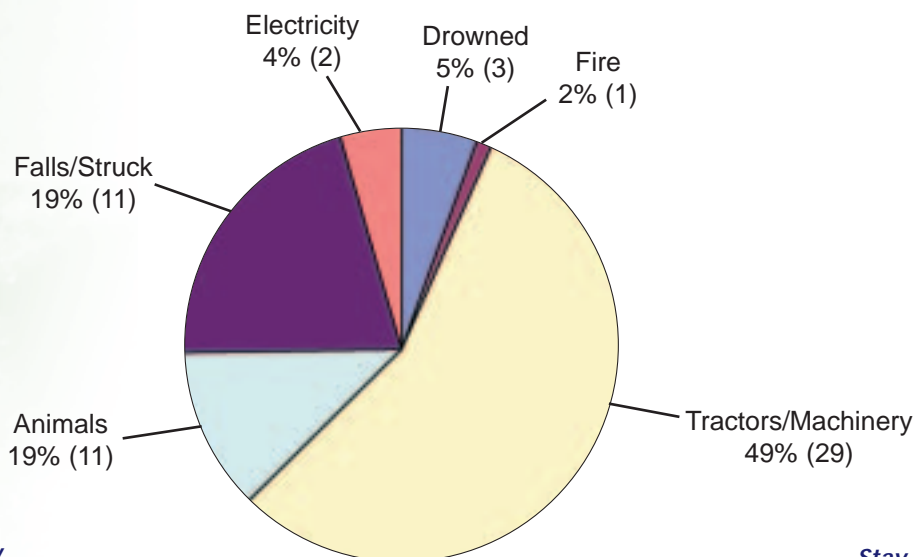
Older Farmers

A major trend in fatal accidents among older farmers has emerged in the last three years with 50 % of all farm deaths involving farmers aged 65 or over. The majority of these accidents are associated with tractor and machinery usage, livestock particularly bulls and falling from heights. The clear message is that older farmers must take greater care and before doing any work, must consider their limitations.

**FIGURE 3: DEATHS AMONG OLDER FARMERS
(1996 - 2006)**

- *Consider your speed of movement*
- *Discuss tasks*

- *Dangers with elderly*
- *Watch out for the elderly*



Safety with machinery



Stay clear of livestock



Plan for safety



Discuss issues

Children and Older Farmers

<h2>Children and Older Farmer Safety Assessment</h2> <p><i>I will ensure that:</i></p>	
<h3>CHILDREN</h3>	
A safe and secure play area for children is provided away from all work activities or children are supervised.	
The dangers to children on the farm are explained to all children and young persons.	
A high level of supervision will be in place when children are present on the farm.	
Children under 14 are not allowed operate tractors or self-propelled machines.	
Children over 14 will only be allowed to drive a tractor or self propelled vehicle in line with legal requirements.	
Particular dangers to children on my farm are identified and controlled (e.g. tractor operation, slurry pits, falls).	
Contractors will be made aware of the possible presence of children.	
<h3>OLDER FARM HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS</h3>	
Particular dangers to older farmers are identified, including working with machinery, livestock and accessing heights.	
Particular care will be taken when older farmers are present when work is in progress.	
Make sure that the older farmer is physically fit to carry out the work at hand.	
<h3>List additional controls</h3>	

Note:If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

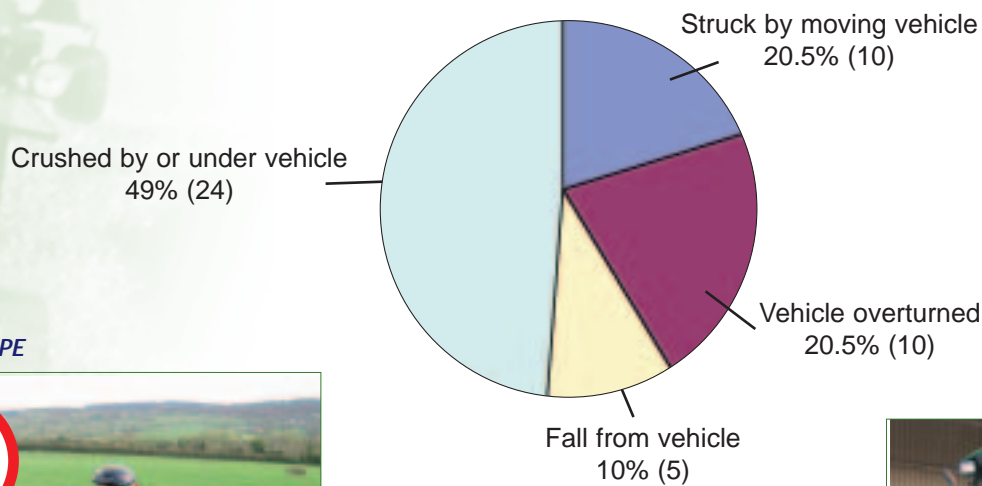
Tractors, Farm Vehicles and ATV's

Tractor and vehicle use is potentially lethal. Tractors account for the highest proportion of fatalities and accidents each year. Vehicle operation accounts for 56% of all deaths with vehicles and machinery. Being crushed (49%), struck (20%), pinned under (20%) or falling from the vehicle are the causes of vehicle accidents. Those at risk include persons using the tractor and those who may be in the area where the tractor is operating. Poor operation of vehicles particularly when reversing is another main cause of fatalities.

**FIGURE 4: DEATHS DUE TO VEHICLES
(1996 - 2006)**

- *Driver awareness*
- *Maintenance - particularly brakes*

- *Guards in place*
- *No seat no passengers*



Training & PPE



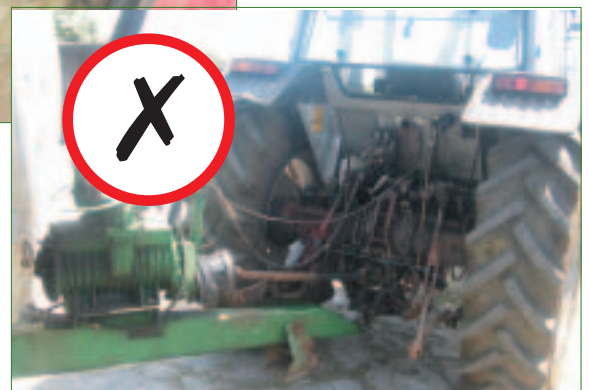
Check controls and brakes



Step down, don't jump



Keep clear of crush zones



Keep PTO Covered

Tractors, Farm Vehicles and ATV's.

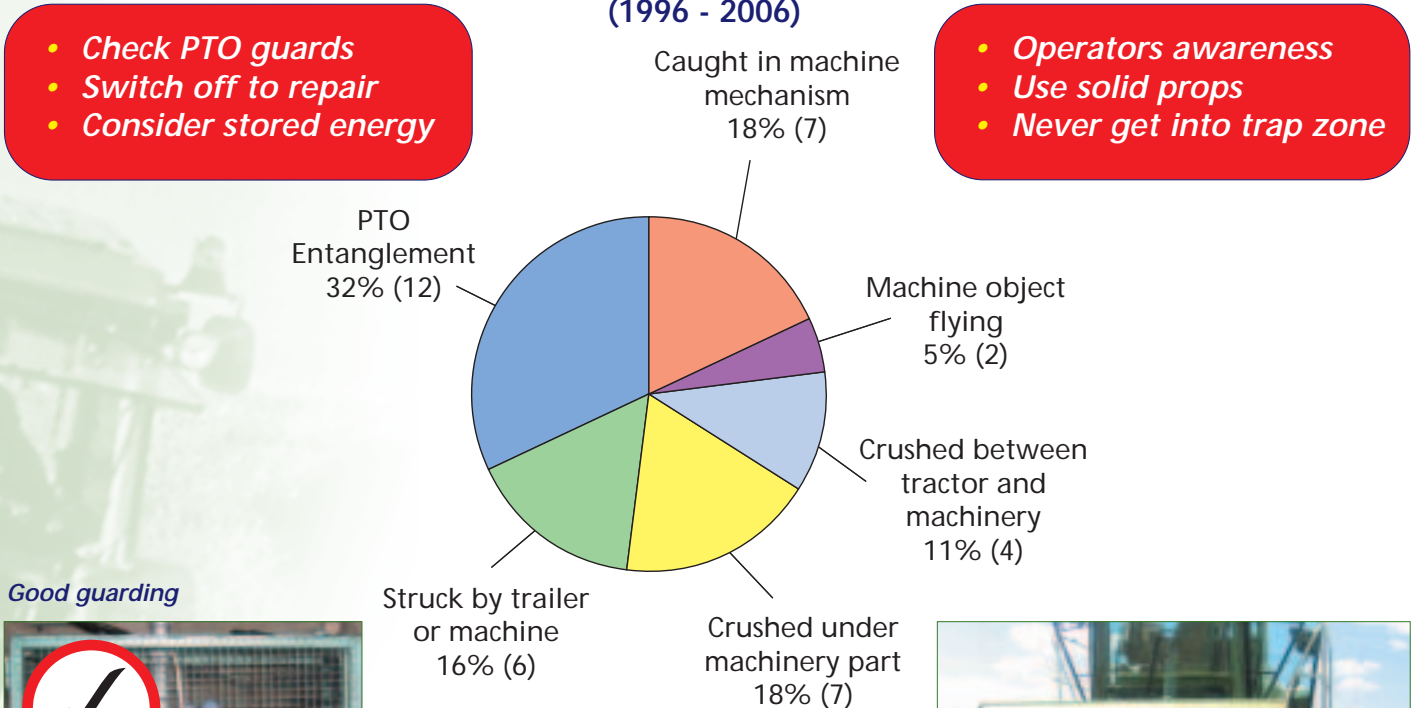
Tractor, Vehicle and ATV Risk Assessment <i>I will ensure that:</i>	LIST ALL VEHICLES USED ON THE FARM				
The Cab/Roll bar is in good condition.					
The U guard is in place to cover the PTO stub					
All controls are in working order and are clearly marked/ understood.					
The brakes are in good working order and adequate for the work undertaken.					
The handbrake 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. (list defects on control sheet)					
Safety Practices					
The vehicle is only operated by competent drivers.					
Where the operator handbook is available it will be consulted.					
The vehicle is always started and operated from the correct position.					
Passengers are only carried where the manufacturer has provided a seat for this purpose.					
When starting and operating any vehicle, bystanders will not be endangered.					
Travel speed will be suitable to the ground or road conditions.					
When a vehicle is stopped, the SAFE parking procedure is used.					
Additional vehicle controls used.					

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

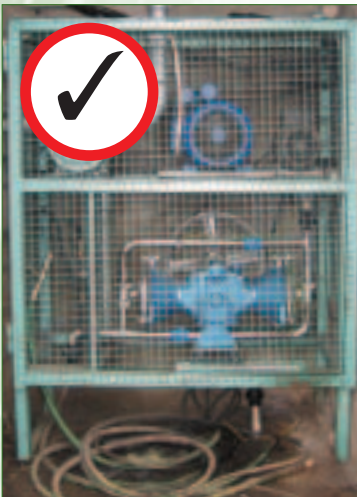
Machinery

Machinery is a significant source of fatalities and serious injuries in agriculture. Since 1995 machinery accounts for 22% (38) of farm fatalities. The primary causes of accidents involving machinery are crushing, being struck and entanglement. Those at risk of injury are persons operating the machinery and those in the vicinity when machinery is being operated.

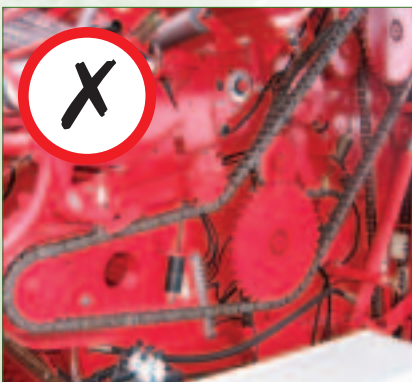
FIGURE 5: DEATHS DUE TO MACHINERY.
(1996 - 2006)



Good guarding



Don't operate without guard



Keep guarding in place



Trap zone



Switch off then unblock



Machinery

Machinery Risk Assessment	List all machinery used on the farm.				
<i>I will ensure that:</i>					
All safety guards/ devices are fitted					
The PTO "O" guards are present.					
The hydraulic systems and hoses are in good repair.					
All machinery defects are identified (list)					
Regular maintenance is carried out					
Safety Practices					
Machinery is only operated by competent operators.					
The operator handbook where available is read and understood					
Hydraulic equipment is supported with an adequate prop during maintenance or repair (e.g. jack stands).					
The PTO and moving parts are stopped before attempting to free any machine blockage					
Passengers are not carried on machines unless designed to do so.					
Loads are stable and well secured.					
Additional machinery controls used.					

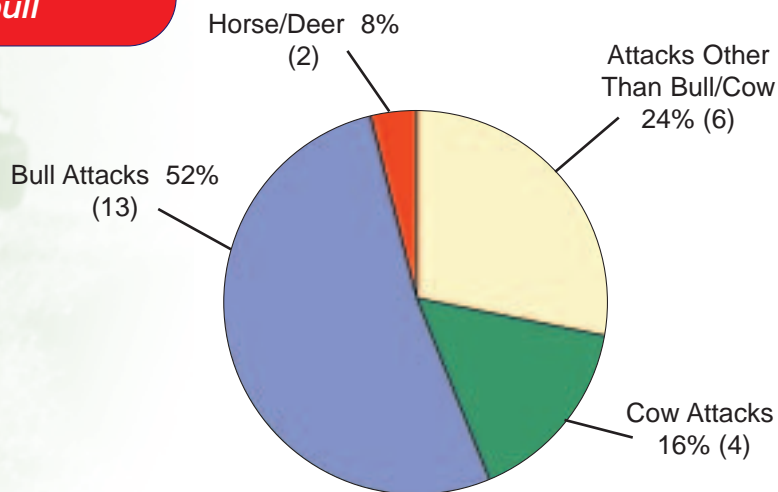
Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

Livestock

Since 1995 25 fatalities associated with livestock have occurred. About a quarter of all non fatal accidents are livestock related. Of primary concern are bulls, the risks with these animals include crushing, goring, when animals are being moved, separated or released. Animals with newborn young also pose a risk. Those at risk are the farmer and those who may gain access to farm animals.

- *Use ring and chain*
- *Keep a barrier between you and the bull*

FIGURE 6: DEATHS DUE TO LIVESTOCK (1996 - 2006)

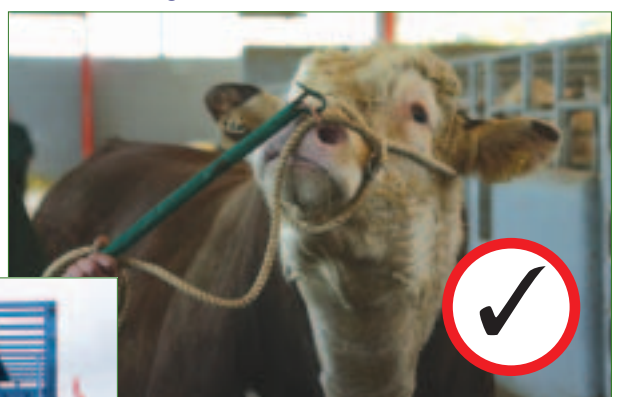


- *Good handling facilities*
- *Adequate loading facilities*

Any bull can attack



Good handling methods



Loading safety



Install good handling facilities



Check skulling gate

Livestock

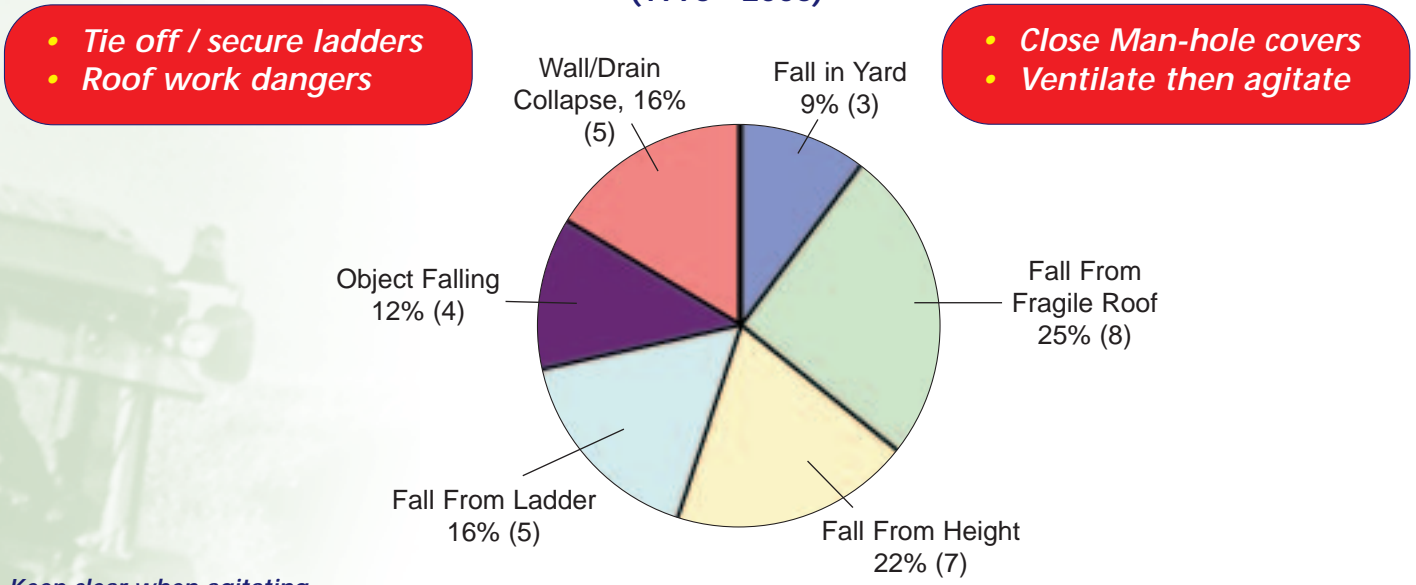
Livestock Risk Assessment	List the types of livestock (bulls, cows, rams etc.) on the farm.				
<i>I will ensure that:</i>					
Pens, fencing, crush(s) and skulling gates and other handling facilities are safe and allow safe animal handling.					
Gates can be securely closed					
Fencing is adequate.					
Facilities for loading and unloading of animals are adequate.					
A calving gate is used for calving cows.					
A pen which prevents direct contact with the bull is provided when the bull is housed.					
Bulls are ringed.					
All visible defects in livestock facilities are identified. (List defects on control sheet).					
Safety Practices					
When outdoors the bull has a chain attached to the ring					
Persons handling livestock, especially a bull, are competent and fit.					
A vehicle is used when herding if a bull is running with the herd.					
Signs warning of the presence of a bull are displayed beside public places.					
Aggressive animals are culled					
List additional livestock controls identified.					

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

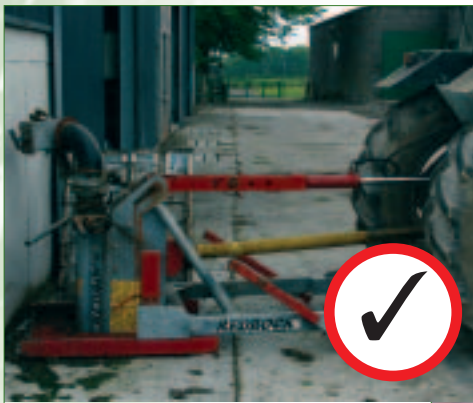
Farmyard and Buildings

In the 10 year period 1996-2005, 18% (32) of farm deaths were due to falls from height or collapse of farm buildings. Of particular concern is falling through fragile roofs or from ladders. Collapsing walls or earthen drains also cause many deaths. Drowning in slurry and water and gas poisoning have caused 18 (10%) of farm deaths over the ten year period under review.

**FIGURE 7: DEATHS DUE TO FALLS AND COLLAPSES.
(1996 - 2006)**



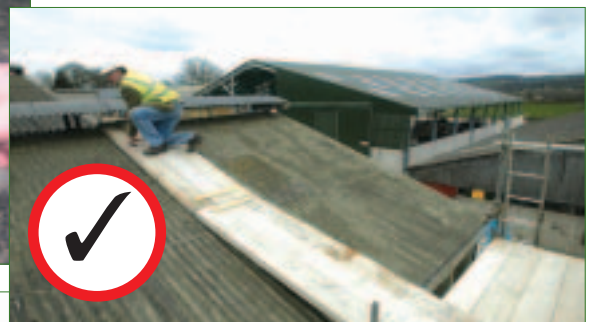
Keep clear when agitating



Secure Gates



Ladder ties / proper platform



Ladder footed and held



Fence off water and slurry

Keep manholes covered



Farmyard and Buildings

Farmyard, Buildings and Slurry Risk Assessment <i>I will ensure that:</i>	List Farmyards and Farm Buildings				
Farmyard and surfaces are tidy and in good repair.					
Buildings are tidy and in good repair					
Safety rails are in place where there is the possibility of a fall.					
A safe means of access to heights is used (e.g. stairs , work platform, ladder)					
Roof work is only undertaken with a proper roof ladder/crawling boards.					
Swinging doors can be secured.					
Suitable fire safety equipment is available					
Exits onto public roads are safe.					
All visible defects in the farmyard and buildings are identified. (List defects on control sheet).					
Slurry/water					
Open slurry/water tanks are fenced to a height of 1.9meters and secured (including gates) to prevent access.					
Access points to slatted tanks are kept secured.					
During slurry agitation open access points are guarded.					
Evacuation and ventilation takes place before agitation of slurry.					
Manhole covers are replaced.					
List additional farmyard and buildings controls identified.					

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

Workshop / Repairs / Timber

Farmers use an array of workshop tools and equipment for maintenance and repairs (e.g. welders, grinders, generator, chainsaws and power washers). This equipment may pose a risk due to entanglement in moving parts, heat, explosion, being struck by metal particles and sparks. These may cause injury to the person using the equipment or those who may be in the area.

Working with Timber

The major cause of timber related deaths is being struck by falling trees or branches. Bystanders, including children, have died in a number of cases. Since 1995, 9 fatalities involving working with timber have occurred. Chainsaw injuries involve cuts and lacerations to the limbs, neck, head and body so protective clothing is necessary. Chainsaws produce noise in excess of 100 decibels so hearing protection must be worn. If timber penetrates an eye it can lead to loss of an eye due to introducing an infection.

Training and PPE



- Tidiness
- Proper PPE
- Fixed support when working under machine

Prop raised equipment



Protect your eyes



Protect against crushing



Consider fire safety



Workshop / Repairs / Working with Timber

Portable and Fixed Equipment Safety Assessment (Examples: Portable equipment – angle grinder, welder, power washer; Fixed equipment -- air compressor, hoist) <i>I will ensure that:</i>	List the portable and fixed equipment used on the farm.				
The equipment is only operated by competent operators.					
All safety devices are in place and are in working order.					
Correct Personal Protective Equipment as specified by the manufacturer is used.					
Manufacturer's operation manuals are available and used.					
All visible defects in portable and fixed equipment are identified. (List defects on control sheet).					
Proper PPE is available and put on before using equipment or chainsaws.					
Chainsaws					
The chainsaw is fitted with a full range of safety devices including a chain brake and a safety chain.					
Timber to be cut is adequately secured and supported.					
Tree felling is carried out by a competent person.					
List additional portable and fixed equipment controls identified.					

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

Electricity

Since 1995, 8 farm fatalities were caused by electricity. Where electrical equipment is not to the correct standard or is not well maintained there is a risk of electrocution. Those at risk include the farmer and anyone entering the farm who may come in contact with faulty electrical equipment or overhead cables.

- RCD's for sockets
- Proper IP rating

- Watch out for overhead lines
- Maintain electrics



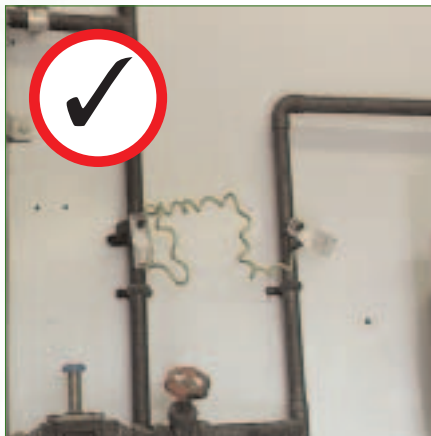
Check RCD



Appropriate I.P. rating



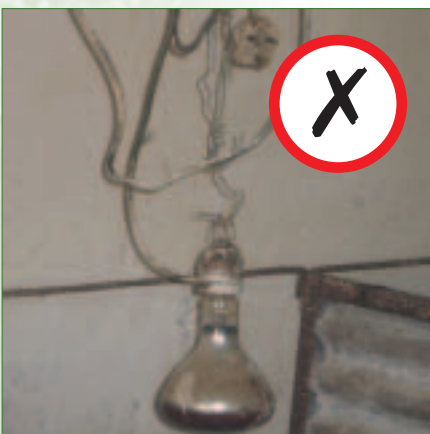
Keep clear of over head lines



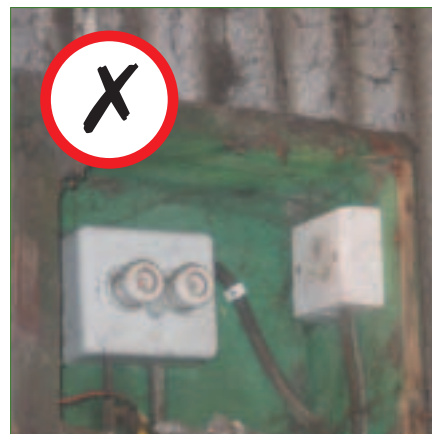
Good bonding



Waterproof switches



Proper wiring



Proper sockets



Overhead lines

Electricity

Electricity Safety Assessment <i>I will ensure that:</i>	List all the areas where electrical circuits are installed.				
Electrical installations are inspected and maintained by a competent electrician.					
Electrical fittings are of damp proof and dust proof standard where needed (I.P. Rated).					
All circuits are protected by an MCB or fuse of the correct rating.					
A main fuse protects the total electrical installation.					
All sockets are protected by a 30mA RCD on 220/380V circuits and checked monthly.					
110V portable electrical equipment is used in building work.					
An electrical welder is supplied by a 32A welding socket.					
Adequate lighting is provided in each area of the farmyard.					
All visible defects in electrical installations are identified. (List defects on control sheet).					
Electricity Networks					
Contractors and suppliers coming on the farm are made aware of overhead power lines and installations.					
High machinery and loads only travel under overhead power lines where there is adequate clearance					
List additional electrical controls identified.					

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

Chemicals

Chemicals pose a risk by different routes including inhalation, ingestion and absorption. The risk posed by the chemical depends on its chemical properties, particularly toxicity. The ill health effect caused ranges from irritation, allergy, poisoning or even death. Chemicals are at their most dangerous when in concentrated form. Those who are at risk are those who use the chemicals and those who may be exposed to the chemicals while they are on the farm.

- *Locked storage*
- *Proper PPE*
- *Trained Persons*
- *Equipment in working order*



Appropriate P.P.E.



Maintain machinery



Use automatic system



Lock away all chemicals

Know the symbols

E  Explosive	T  Toxic	Xi  Irritant	F+  Extremely flammable	Xn  Harmful
F  Highly flammable	C  Corrosive	O  Oxidizing	T+  Very Toxic	N  Dangerous for the environment

Chemical Safety Assessment

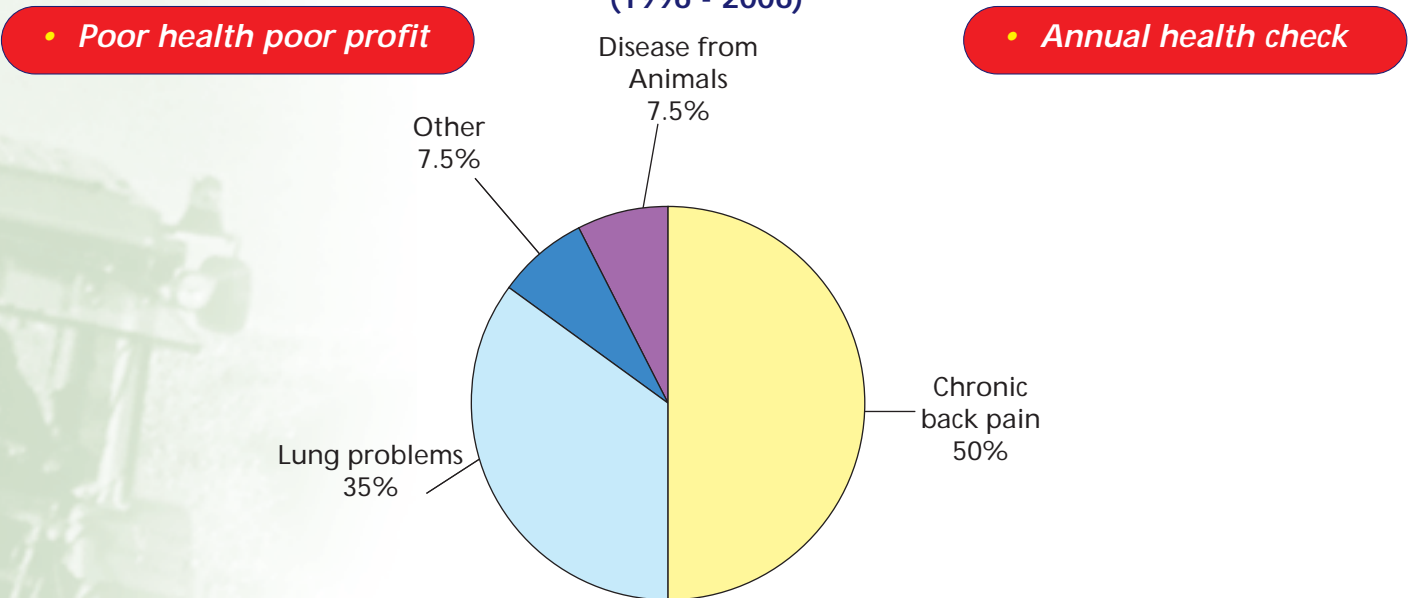
Chemical Safety Assessment <i>I will ensure that:</i>	List all the areas on the farm where chemicals are used (include veterinary products)			
All chemicals are kept in locked stores.				
All chemical containers are correctly labelled.				
Chemicals are handled and used by a competent person.				
All hazard warnings are read and understood.				
All controls recommended by the manufacturer are followed.				
All equipment using chemicals (e.g. sprayer, milking machine) are maintained in safe working order.				
Protective clothing and equipment recommended by the manufacturer is used.				
All PPE is cleaned and stored safely after use.				
Washing of skin takes place before eating, drinking or smoking.				
Safe disposal of all chemical containers takes place.				
Water available to wash chemicals off immediately				
Children are told the dangers of chemicals.				
Keep records of chemicals in stock.				
Know emergency action for very hazardous chemicals.				
List additional identified controls.				

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

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)



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.

Dust and Spores

Dust and spores cause very severe illness. Sources of dust and spores include mouldy hay, straw or grain, compost used in mushroom growing, poultry feathers and droppings and dust in intensive livestock houses. Exposure to these materials can cause both short-term effects (including irritation, bronchitis and breathlessness), and long-term effects (including asthma chronic bronchitis, shortness of breath, weight loss, farmers lung and sensitisation). Sensitisation is very serious as any exposure in the future will cause a health effect. Always wear the proper PPE.



Prevent exposure to dust

Infection

A range of serious illnesses can be caught from animals and contaminated material. Bacteria, viruses and fungi can cause illness if exposure occurs. Infection can arise from swallowing or by penetrating the skin. Contamination through cuts or broken skin is the most likely source of infection. Contact with materials contaminated with rat's urine can cause Weils Disease, which is potentially fatal. Other examples of infections include, Leptospirosis, Brucellosis, Bovine TB, Orf, Lyme Disease and E.coli (including the potentially fatal O157). PPE, covering cuts and washing will protect you from infection.



Wash to protect

Noise

Exposure to noise above a certain level (80dB) over extended periods causes hearing damage. As a general rule, if the noise is such that it is difficult to hear someone talk in a normal voice, noise levels are at damaging levels. Tractors, animals, chain-saws, and machinery can all produce noise levels which can over time permanently damage your hearing. Ear muffs will protect you from hearing loss.



Protect your hearing

Stress/ Personal Health

Farming as a lifestyle in many ways is positive to well being, however, stress can arise. The main causes of stress among farmers are: uncertainties due to markets, farm prices and farm policies; financial worries, excessively long working hours, poor working conditions, poor health and isolation. Stress and poor health are associated with high accident levels. A recent Irish study showed that farmers have a poor health profile. Stress can lead to disease of the circulatory system. It is important to recognise signs of stress and ill health and to seek professional help.



Have an annual check-up

Health of Farmers

Health Risk Assessment <i>I will ensure that:</i>	List areas/activities where risk is high				
Preventing Back Injury.					
Mechanical aids are used to reduce manual handling.					
Where possible the size and weight of the load is reduced before manual handling.					
All loads are assessed before lifting.					
Dust and Spores.					
Generation of dust and spores is kept to a minimum.					
Adequate ventilation is provided.					
A suitable dust respirator (P2 or P3) is used where dust or spore levels cannot be fully controlled.					
Preventing Infection.					
Hand washing facilities with soap and towels are available in the farmyard.					
Suitable gloves are worn when handling potentially infectious material					
Cuts and abrasions are covered with a water proof plaster.					
A vermin control programme is in place.					
Noise. (List areas/activities where the risk is high)					
Ways of reducing noise exposure have been considered.					
Suitable hearing protection is always worn where there is exposure to high noise levels.					
Stress/ Personal Health					
A regular health check by a health professional is undertaken.					
Protection from the sun is used.					
Confidential advice is sought for health related conditions					
A First Aid Box is available on the farm					
Additional identified controls.					

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.

My Farm Safety Action List

Where your assessments have indicated safety controls that are missing you must show in the action list below what action you will take to put that control in place. This action should have a date for completion. When the control is in place the action should be signed off and the safety assessment changed to show that the control is now in place.


[illegible]

My Farm Safety Action List

Where your assessments have indicated safety controls that are missing you must show in the action list below what action you will take to put that control in place. This action should have a date for completion. When the control is in place the action should be signed off and the safety assessment changed to show that the control is now in place.

Safety Assessment	Safety Control Measures that are missing.	Action that I must take on my farm	Date	Sign
Sample: Machinery	PTO cover and 'O' guard missing on Vacuum tanker	Fit new cover and 'O'guard to PTO on Vacuum tanker (state the make)		J.Suttle

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HEALTH AND SAFETY
AUTHORITY

Where your assessments have indicated safety controls that are missing you must show in the action list below what action you will take to put that control in place. This action should have a date for completion. When the control is in place the action should be signed off and the safety assessment changed to show that the control is now in place.

[illegible]

Machinery (Additional)

Machinery Risk Assessment	List all machinery used on the farm.				
<i>I will ensure that:</i>					
All safety guards/ devices are fitted					
The PTO "O" guards are present.					
The hydraulic systems and hoses are in good repair.					
All machinery defects are identified (list)					
Regular maintenance is carried out					
Safety Practices					
Machinery is only operated by competent operators.					
The operator handbook where available is read and understood					
Hydraulic equipment is supported with an adequate prop during maintenance or repair (e.g. jack stands).					
The PTO and moving parts are stopped before attempting to free any machine blockage					
Passengers are not carried on machines unless designed to do so.					
Loads are stable and well secured.					
Additional machinery controls used.					

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 25.



There is a way to farm safely



Farm Safety Code of Practice Risk Assessment Document for Farms with three or less Employees

*Achieving a
Healthy
and Safe
Working Life
-Together*

HEALTH AND SAFETY
AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS

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