

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE FARMING SAFER

Stop... think... stay safe on your farm
Top tips to make your farm a safer place to work



**PARTNERIAETH
DIOGELWCH AR
FFERMYDD CYMRU**
//
**WALES
FARM SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
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SAFE STOP



HANDBRAKE



NEUTRAL



ENGINE OFF



KEY OUT



Foreword



41 lives lost in 2020/21
farmers, family members and farm workers...

A tragic 41 deaths occurred on British farms in 2020/21. Of those, seven were in Wales. This is a shocking statistic and one which is compounded by thousands more individuals who suffer life-changing injuries or ill-health while working on or visiting farms.

The Wales Farm Safety Partnership is a collaboration of some of the key agricultural stakeholder organisations in Wales. **With your help and by working together, we can reduce the risks, we can change behaviours. We can and must save lives and livelihoods on Welsh farms.**

If you make a commitment **TODAY** to put in place the necessary safeguards and procedures recommended in this booklet, which highlights some of the most common and preventable causes of farm incidents, you will be helping reduce the risk of death or serious injuries to you, your family members and your workers.



Alun Elidyr
Ambassador
Wales Farm Safety Partnership



Glyn Davies
Ambassador
Wales Farm Safety Partnership



Please don't ignore farm safety!

Help us to help you make your farm a safer place to work.

Moving vehicles



- Ensure your vehicle is well maintained, especially brakes on railers. Check tyre pressures routinely and regularly.
- Keep people and moving vehicles well apart
- Never carry passengers
- Always wear a seatbelt
- All drivers must be trained and competent
- Keep all mirrors and cab windows clean
- Ensure mirrors are correctly fitted, properly adjusted and always repaired promptly if damaged
- Ensure all loads are stable and secure
- Always check for people on the ground when driving – many vehicles, such as telescopic handlers have blind-spots
- Always follow ***Safe Stop** (see page 2)

DO NOT...

- Move off in any direction until you've checked all the above
- Forget to check regularly that the vehicle is in good and safe working order

Overturned vehicles

...ATVs and tractors present significant risks



- All drivers must be trained and competent
- Never carry passengers
- Always wear a seatbelt if the vehicle provides one
- All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) drivers must wear a suitable and approved ATV helmet
- Always maintain vehicles, trailers and any trailed implements or attachments in good order – routinely and regularly check tyre pressure, brakes and throttle
- Always secure any loads and make sure they are evenly balanced
- Always follow ***Safe Stop**

DO NOT...

- Drive or operate an ATV unless you are fully trained and competent
- Take risks on uneven or sloping ground which can lead to overturning

Machinery



- All drivers/operators must be trained and competent
- Only operate controls from the safe driving or operating position and make sure all drivers/operators know how to use them correctly
- Always ensure the vehicle or machine is in ***Safe Stop** mode before undertaking any maintenance tasks or checks, either in the field or the workshop
- Check all necessary guards are in position and in good order. Make sure you know what guards should be there and check they are securely in-position and in safe working order
- Regularly inspect all vehicles/machines to ensure they are properly maintained
- Always follow ***Safe Stop** guidance

DO NOT...

- Operate powered equipment unless the Power Take-Off (PTO) drive shaft is fully protected by properly designed guards which are secured by chain to prevent the guard rotating
- Operate a machine if you are not trained and competent to use it

Handling livestock



- All those handling livestock must be trained and competent
- Always use proper handling facilities, kept in good working order
- Always use a properly designed race and crush suitable for the animals you work with and the tasks you are completing
- Ensure a rigorous culling policy for temperamental animals
- Never underestimate the instincts of a recently calved cow – always consider handling equipment and escape routes
- Try to avoid working alone with large animals and keep away people, children or dogs that risk alarming them

DO NOT...

- Work with unrestrained cattle/stock without suitable handling facilities
- Under-estimate the risk from cattle, even with good precautions in place

Working at heights



- Avoid or minimise the time spent working at heights – plan ahead, avoid wet or icy conditions and always use safety equipment such as mobile elevating work platforms, scaffolds and fall prevention devices
- Reduce the risk of falls from large machinery such as combines by always using the access ladders, steps and/or standing platforms provided by the manufacturer
- All those working at heights must be trained, competent and use appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE)
- If you are not trained or don't know what equipment to use, you should engage a specialist roofing contractor

DO NOT...

- Work on top of or walk within two meters of any uncovered fragile roof areas without using platforms with full guard rails, suitable safety harnesses, safety netting or other fall prevention or mitigation systems
- Work on any open-ended floors or platforms if they are not protected with suitable guard rails

Keep children and youngsters safe on the farm



- Create a dedicated safe and secure fenced play area for younger children who must be kept off the farm
- Ensure children are fully supervised at all times by a responsible adult whose focus is only on them, not undertaking farm work at the same time
- You need a risk assessment if you employ young people under the age of 18 and must take full account of their inexperience, immaturity and lack of awareness of relevant risks
- Keep chemicals and tools properly stored, locked away and out of reach

DO NOT....

- Allow any child under 13 to drive or ride on any agricultural self-propelled machines such as tractors and ATVs or use any farm machinery
- Allow unsupervised children access to any dangerous areas including heights, farm machinery and equipment, moving vehicles or livestock

Make your farm a safer place to work



One-to-one mentoring

Farming Connect's fully funded mentoring service provides eligible farmers and foresters with up to 15 hours of one-to-one, confidential guidance on a wide range of topics, including farm health and safety. Chat informally over the phone, online or arrange a farm visit to help you identify risks, avoid or eliminate hazards and reduce the risk of accidents to you, your family and workers.

To select an approved mentor from Farming Connect's online mentor directory visit **www.gov.wales/farmingconnect**. A filter tool will help you narrow your search.



Training

Farming Connect provides a wide range of short courses, both face-to-face and online. Subsidised by up to 80% for registered individuals, you can select from a wide range of safety-related topics, broadly categorised under 'Business', 'Livestock' and 'Land'. These include courses on first aid, stress management, working at heights, driving farm vehicles safely, handling machinery and livestock safely, safe use of dangerous substances and much more.





E-learning

Farming Connect provides more than 80 fully-funded e-learning interactive courses, which can help you develop new and existing skills, acquire more knowledge and improve working practices within your business. These include courses on working safely with telescopic lift trucks, All Terrain Vehicles; pesticides; handling livestock and more.

NB The Health & Safety e-module is a pre-requisite if you plan to apply for machinery and equipment training.

For further information visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect or alternatively, call the Farming Connect Service Centre on **08456 000 813** or contact your local development officer.

Stay safe on your farm

For more comprehensive advice on farm health and safety visit:

Wales Farm Safety Partnership

 @farmsafetywales

 Farm Safety Wales

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/business/health-and-safety>

Farm Safety Foundation

www.yellowwellies.org

Health and Safety Executive

www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture



Mental health and wellbeing

