Healthy Workplaces Summit 2013
‘Working together for risk prevention’

Operation Lifesaver
West Offaly Dairy Discussion Group
John Hickey & Brendan Mc Garry
Our group

- We are a group of Dairy Farmers
- 14 members
- Formed 1998
- Average herd size: 81 cows
Why we took on H&S Project

• Agriculture: Highest fatality rate of any major economic sector
• 2011: **22 killed**; 2012: **21 killed**
• Farmers 10 times more likely to be killed at work because of its nature.
• **Project Objective:** Increase H&S awareness among members → Safer farms for all
Research and project scope

• First Step: Looked at HSA website
  www.hsa.ie  >  www.farmsafely.com
FARM RISK ASSESSMENT

Email: [insert]
Password: [insert]

If this is your first time, please click register below

REGISTER

Privacy Policy
Safety topics covered on site

1. Children & older Farmers
2. Tractors, Farm Vehicles and ATV's
3. Machinery
4. Livestock
5. Farmyard and Building
6. Workshop/Repairs/Working with Timber
7. Electricity
8. Chemical
9. Health of Farmer
HOW TO COMPLETE THIS RISK ASSESSMENT

TRACTORS, FARM VEHICLES AND ATV’S RISK ASSESSMENT

I will ensure that:

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)
The vehicle is only operated by competent drivers.

STEP 1:
Read information about the hazard.

STEP 2:
Complete the List – in this case your list of farm vehicles.

ADD MORE CONTROLS

STEP 5.
List additional controls that you think should be in place on your farm

STEP 3.
Read the Control Measures.

STEP 4:
Check that Safety Control Measures are in place for each item listed.

Click once to answer YES
Click twice to answer NO
Click 3 times if NOT APPLICABLE

Note – When all question sheets are completed an Action List will be generated.
Research and project scope

www.hsa.ie    www.farmsafely.com

• Contacted HSA officer
• Identified suitable training – FRS
• Financial costs – Teagasc Survey
Group activity/ involvement

- 30 minutes extra added to each group meeting
- 9 different safety topics allocated to 9 meetings
### APPENDIX 4 – Outline of 2012 Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (2nd Thursday of Month)</th>
<th>Venue (farm of)</th>
<th>Farm Safety - Duration</th>
<th>Farm Hazard Button/Tab on website</th>
<th>Description/Safety Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Ronan Feighery</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Brief outline to all group members of what project entails</td>
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<td>*March 8</td>
<td>Tech. Centre, Birr</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
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<td>Indoor group session - Farm Safe DVD + <a href="http://www.farmsafety.com">www.farmsafety.com</a></td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Padraig Minnock</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Paul Molloy</td>
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<td>Tractors, Farm Vehicles and ATV’s</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Tech. Centre, Birr</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>First Quarter Review of Project</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Jerry Glynn</td>
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<td>Machinery</td>
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<td>June 14</td>
<td>Sean Daly</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Livestock + Visit from HSA Inspector, Anthony Morahan</td>
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<td>July 10</td>
<td>Declan Heffernan</td>
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<td>Farmyard and Buildings</td>
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<td>August 21</td>
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<td>August 29</td>
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<td>Workshop/Repairs/Working with Timber</td>
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<td>Electricity</td>
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<td>November 8</td>
<td>Hugh Egan</td>
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<td>8 / 9</td>
<td>Chemical Safety Assessment / Health of Farmers</td>
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<td>November 15</td>
<td>Tech. Centre, Birr</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>End of year review of Project</td>
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</table>

* Indoor meetings shaded
Group activity/ involvement

- 30 minutes extra added to each group meeting
- 9 different safety topics allocated to 9 meetings
- All registered on www.farmsafely.com to complete each section in advance of meetings
Group activity/ involvement

- 30 minutes extra added to each group meeting
- 9 different safety topics allocated to 9 meetings
- All registered on www.farmsafely.com to complete each section in advance of meetings
- 3 mentors assigned to mentor 4 others
APPENDIX 5 – Group member Log-in details to complete Risk Assessment Tool on www.farmsafely.com + Mentor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Username</th>
<th>Password</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aidan Kenny</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kenny.annette@gmail.com">kenny.annette@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brendan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brendan McGarry</td>
<td><a href="mailto:b.mcgarry@hotmail.com">b.mcgarry@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Declan Heffernan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:deckyheffernan@hotmail.com">deckyheffernan@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Hugh Egan</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Casey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eithne.watkins@hotmail.com">eithne.watkins@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Glynn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremiahglynn@hotmail.com">jeremiahglynn@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Hickey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:agricom@eircom.net">agricom@eircom.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Shields</td>
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<tr>
<td>Padraig Minnock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Heavin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Molloy</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ronan Feighey</td>
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<tr>
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Group activity/ involvement

• 30 minutes extra added to each group meeting
• 9 different safety topics allocated to 9 meetings
• All registered on www.farmsafely.com to complete each section in advance of meetings
• 3 mentors assigned to mentor 4 others
• Full day H&S workshop with FRS
Group activity/ involvement

- 30 minutes extra added to each group meeting
- 9 different safety topics allocated to 9 meetings
- All registered on www.farmsafely.com to complete each section in advance of meetings
- 3 mentors assigned to mentor 4 others
- Full day H&S with FRS
- Group bulk purchase of safety equipment
Impact of project

• Health & Safety to the fore every day of the year
• Saved a life or prevented a serious injury???
• All members now have safer farms & are much more safety conscious
• Group Case Study – Examples of Hazards identified & remedial actions taken
Farm Hazard – Children and Older Farmers

Hazard: Lack of Awareness for visitors and contractors of the possible presence of children

Action: Signage erected and visitors and contractors made aware of the possible presence of children
Farm Hazard – Workshop & Timber

Hazard: Highly dangerous using chainsaw without proper safety gear

Action: Proper way to use chainsaw is with protection trousers and helmet with face protection and muffs.
Impact of project

• Health & Safety to the fore every day of the year
• Saved a life or prevented a serious injury???
• All members now have safer farms & are much more safety conscious
• Group Case Study – Examples of Hazards identified & remedial actions
• Improvement in I.T. skills
• Extra workload → greater group bond
Benefit to other groups/industry

- Step by step guide for roll out to other groups
- Increase awareness of user friendly website www.hsa.ie & www.farmsafely.com
- Over 11,000 Irish farmers in discussion groups (DEP + BTAP)
Measures of progress

• 226 safety actions taken (aver. 16/member)
### APPENDIX 9 – Number of Actions completed both by group member & by Safety Topic

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Children &amp; Older Farmers</th>
<th>Tractors, Farm Vehicles and ATV’s</th>
<th>Machinery</th>
<th>Livestock</th>
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Hazard: “U” guard missing on tractor

Action: “U” guard bought and fitted to tractor
Measures of progress

- > €1,600 worth of safety equipment purchased
# APPENDIX 11 – List & Cost of Safety Equipment Purchased by Group Members

<table>
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<th>Safety Item</th>
<th>#3 PTO Shaft</th>
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<th>#6 PTO Shaft</th>
<th>#6 long PTO Shaft</th>
<th>T3 Earmuff</th>
<th>FFP 2 Dustmask (box of 10)</th>
<th>V-max poggles</th>
<th>Polygrip gloves</th>
<th>First Aid Kit</th>
<th>Blue Gloves</th>
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**Total** 3 7 1 1 5 7 5 6 8 12 21 1628
Measures of progress

- 226 safety actions taken (aver. 16/member)
- > €1,600 worth of safety equipment purchased
- All members now meeting legal obligation for Farm Safety Statement
- Irish nominee for European Good Practice Awards - ‘Working together for risk prevention’
Working together for risk prevention

The ultimate responsibility for managing occupational risk lies with employers and top management, but their efforts are bound to fail without active worker involvement. For these reasons, this campaign places special emphasis on the importance of leadership from top management working in tandem with active worker participation.

To help promote these core themes the Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2012–13 has the following strategic objectives:

- the promotion of the core message that workers and managers must work together to prevent risks for ethical, practical, legal, and economic reasons;
- the provision of clear and simple guidance for employers to manage specific work-related risks in partnership with workers and their representatives;
- the provision of practical guidance, information and tools to promote a risk prevention culture particularly within small and medium enterprises;
- fostering the inclusion of occupational safety and health management in organisations' corporate social responsibility policies;
- laying the foundations for a more sustainable risk prevention culture in Europe.

More information about the campaign can be found at www.healthy-workplaces.eu
Working together for risk prevention

West Offaly Dairy Discussion Group

Winner
European Good Practice Awards
in the area of
Management leadership and worker participation in occupational safety and health
Summary

• Farmers taking the initiative to tackle H&S
• Members bring ‘fresh pair of eyes’ to farm
• Members discussing different options for eliminating/reducing risks
• H&S on agenda at each meeting during the year
• Healthy group ‘peer pressure’ + Mentors ensured full participation
Thank you for listening