

Improving competencies and training: Seminar for Agricultural businesses

14 October 2009

Welcome

- Outline and purpose of the event
- Context
- Background to the Vocational Qualifications (VQs) on managing health and safety in agriculture
- Fundamental issues and challenges
- Agriculture Revisited: HSE Board's initiative on agriculture
- Links to HSE's New Strategy

Outline and purpose

- Summarise legal duties on directors/employers
- Provide information on HSE's approach to improving competencies/skills in agriculture
- Introduce the suite of vocational qualifications developed with and for the industry
- Explain how to go about getting staff trained and qualified
- Provide up to date industry guidance

Context

- Fatal accidents in agriculture
- Non-fatal accidents
- Occupational ill health – Actual + Self-reported
- Comparisons with other industries:
 - Fatals
 - Self-reported ill health
- Special features:
 - Micro businesses / Self-employed businesses
 - Elderly workers
 - Children
 - The public and rights of access

Background to the VQs

Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC)

- 2003 onwards
- Stakeholder involvement
 - AIAC
 - Training and Awarding bodies
 - QCA

Fundamental issues and challenges

- Aims and objectives
- Learning outcomes
- Structure and content
- Cost – time and money
- Learning materials
- Drivers for uptake

Agriculture Revisited (1)

- Board initiative based on:
 - Recognition of the industry's poor performance
 - Fundamental review of approach to agriculture
 - Informed by independent research - segmentation
 - Improved targeting
 - New strategy:
 - Fewer targets – specifically:
 - Small farming business
 - 35-45
 - 55+
 - The next generation

Agriculture Revisited (2)

Key workstreams:

- Direct Mailing Campaign – MTP
- Safety & Health Awareness Days (SHADs)
- Shows
- Machinery (incl. secondhand machinery) manufacturers and suppliers
- Stakeholder mapping
- Promoting education and competences
 - The existing workforce
 - The next generation

Links to HSE's New Strategy (May 2009)



Relevant Strategic goals include:

- Building competences
- Involving the workforce
- Creating healthier/safer workplaces
- Customising support for SMEs
- Leadership (and ownership)