

Engineering for safety in agriculture

ALAN PLOM explains how IAgRE Council has created a Safe Project award for students

NEW statistics from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show that 38 people died working in agriculture last year (2009-10).

Around one in five of all work-related deaths occur in agriculture, yet only 1.5 percent of the population work in the industry. The fatal injury rates are higher for agriculture than any of the other main industrial sectors, including construction.

Workplace transport and contact with machinery are two of the main causes of fatal and major injuries in farming each year. Other common causes include falls from height, and being struck by moving objects and livestock.

HSE has been working to reduce this tragic toll and has called on the industry to play an active role in improving safety.

Agricultural engineers obviously have an important part to play in the future design or supply of machinery to farmers, reflecting the many key roles they hold - in manufacturing, machinery sales, research and many others.

HSE is working closely with AEA, BAGMA, IAgRE and others through its 'Equipment Supply Chain Project' to identify how we can all do our bit.

For example, colleges have a

key role to play not only in educating students but also in spreading good practice to the farming community as a whole. IAgRE Council has created the Safe Project award for students and HSE is encouraging all colleges to put forward work that shows how improvements in health and safety could be achieved.

This is not just about coming up with the next big idea in machine design, but looking at how equipment is used in practice, adapting and developing techniques and processes, and managing operations. Suitable projects could involve improvements in livestock handling or manual handling, avoiding hazards such as steep slopes and overhead power lines or any other activity which could reduce the risk of injury or ill health.

A wide range of information about agricultural safety is freely available on HSE's website, including a new page intended for those involved in design, manufacture and supply of machinery. It provides links to relevant guidance and other key documents, so should be an essential source of reference for



college lecturers, students, farmers and other users. See: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/machinery/index.htm>

The poignant human stories about why improving farm safety is so important are told on the *Make the Promise* page on HSE's website.

A series of farming families tell the tragic consequences of accidents from their perspective, either as bereaved relatives or horribly injured survivors.

The moving story of a young farmer killed by his tractor and the struggles of a farmer whose

arm was torn off by an unguarded PTO shaft have been turned into videos at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/makethepromise/index.htm>

The *Make the Promise* page also invites individuals and organisations to become 'Promise Partners', which provides access to additional resources.

If you want further information or know farmers who have their own safety story to tell, please contact IAgRE Council member Alan Plom on alan.plom@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Bali launches 'Bali 2011 - The Landscaping Show'

THE British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) has joined forces with professional event organisers Brintex, organisers of the PlayFair children's play equipment exhibition, to launch a major new landscaping event for landscape architects and designers, contractors, specifiers and procurement professionals: *BALI 2011 - The Landscaping Show*.

Taking place on a three acre open space in front of BALI's headquarters Landscape House at Stoneleigh Park near Coventry on 14th and 15th

June 2011, this new annual event will comprise three key elements: an exhibition for suppliers to showcase their products and services to an exclusively professional audience; demonstration areas for machinery, product installations and landscaping skills; and a two-day seminar programme with CPD-accredited sessions delivered by key industry speakers in the adjacent Warwick Conference Centre.

The decision to launch this new annual event was taken following consultation with BALI Affiliate (supplier)

members who felt there was a genuine need for a focused event for the professional landscape industry. A major objective of the event is to provide opportunities to increase visitors' skills and knowledge base and an additional highlight of the event will be the finals of the WorldSkills UK Landscape Gardening Competition where teams of trainee landscapers will construct identical gardens to be judged by a team of industry specialists.

The opportunity to exhibit will be available to BALI members and, space permit-



ting, to established, reputable suppliers who are not currently members.

The event is free to attend for all landscape industry professionals.

For further information Ray Baxter at Brintex on 020 7973 4695 or email r.baxter@hgluk.com. Visit www.brintex.com or www.bali.org.uk.