

**ANNEXES 8A - 8C: – PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN AGRICULTURE
AND ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES**

Annex 8 is in 3 parts, covering past, current and future activities and influences. There is no clear breakpoint between each 'period' as the work is a continuum but essentially:

- Annex 8A highlights HSE activity, prior to the review of the Strategy for Agriculture i.e. when agriculture was a "priority sector" following publication of the Government's/HSC' "Revitalising Health and Safety: Strategy Statement (published June2000...
- Annex 8B lists 'current' activities based on the 10 Point Strategy for Agriculture introduced at or about the time "FIT3" and other Strategic Programmes were implemented; and
- Annex 8C lists potential future activities and 'over the horizon' influences for agriculture and associated industries.

PAST ACTIVITY

Most interventions generally delivered by 'Sector' and inspectors in Field Operations Division, working closely together to develop and deliver an annual programme of activity. This also provided effective feedback and better sharing of knowledge and intelligence.

Targeted inspection-based approach

Prioritised by previous inspection and accident history augmented by national industry and seasonal inspection campaigns plus sector-led special projects supported by local initiatives and local/industry specific knowledge (by experienced agricultural inspectors).

National publicity campaigns

"Killing Fields", "Shock Horror", Child Safety ("Crucial Crew"), augmented by attendance at local/county shows plus technical events and lectures to stakeholder groups e.g. NFU, TGWU, YFC, WI, County Safety Groups, agriculture colleges etc.

Investigation

of accidents, ill health and pesticide incidents (including environmental issues). Where it is practicable after an investigation, inspectors have carried out an inspection of work activities so as to assess the dutyholder's abilities to manage, and standards of managing health and safety.

Visits to manufacturers, importers and suppliers of machinery

proactive and reactive local contacts + national/international standards work by Sector staff. For example, tractor cabs, PPE (chainsaws and pesticides), machinery safety (eg power harrows).

Stakeholder work

Principally with:

- The Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) and its working groups on machinery safety, occupational health and forestry.
- Social partner organisations e.g. the National Farmers Union and the Transport & General Workers Union (TGWU)
- Other Government Departments including MAFF/Defra etc. ; and
- Stakeholders identified prior and subsequent to HSE's Oxford Agriculture Conference in January 2004 consolidated into the Sector's Stakeholder Engagement Programme.
- Initiatives in fish farming - delivered through Sector-led UK Aquaculture Health and Safety Group and supported by PHASS in Scotland. HSE web community site for the aquaculture industry launched.

Research

Commissioned by HSE/Sector on a wide range of high profile/political topics. The following list is not exhaustive but illustrates the wide range of studies undertaken:

- Work-related Stress

- Health risks associated with organosphosphorous (OP) sheep dip treatments
- Modelling drift from on-farm pesticide applications
- Developing a baseline on occupational ill health data for agricultural
- A range of research projects on mechanical safety issues
- Social science research e.g. into understanding and influencing the attitudes of farmers and their families; and
- The use of influence networking modelling and triangulation studies using farmer focus groups

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Following the implementation of 'Fit3/Programme' working in 2005/06, HSE's strategy for the industry has been largely communications-led; delivered by the Sector and supplemented by a limited number of 3-year Projects originally planned for delivery by FOD. A number of these novel and innovative approaches e.g. Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs) were developed by the Sector and first used in agriculture.

Projects

Contributing to the Injuries Reduction Programme (Business Group Delivery Plans) targeting workplace transport; falls from height; self employed/ family farmers; arboriculture contractors and clients; forestry sector and casual, temporary and migrant workers.

SHADs

Development, further refinement and delivery of a programme of SHADs specifically targeted at :

- the self-employed and family farms, demonstrating common health and safety risks and solutions, including tractors, telehandlers and all terrain vehicles (ATV's); working at height; health issues, e.g. manual handling, dust and pesticides
- Forestry – targeted at managers and contractors
- Arboriculture - targeted at clients (including local authorities); and
- Machinery dealers in support of the workplace transport programme.

Investigation

of accidents, ill health and pesticide incidents (including environmental issues). Where it is practicable after an investigation, inspectors have carried out an inspection of work activities so as to assess the dutyholder's abilities to manage, and standards of managing health and safety.

Targeted inspection-based approach

Prioritised by previous inspection and accident history augmented by national industry and seasonal inspection campaigns plus sector-led special projects (see above) supported by local initiatives and local/industry specific knowledge.

Visits to manufacturers, importers and suppliers of machinery

proactive and reactive local contacts + national/international standards work by Sector staff. For example, tractor cabs, PPE (chainsaws and pesticides), machinery safety (eg power harrows).

Website

Including:

- HSE's "Agriculture e-bulletin" and "Arb/Treework News" - free regular bulletins of news and information, keeping the industry informed of the latest industry issues.
- The development of a migrant workers website to capture the increasing amount of information and guidance translated into other languages.

Risk-assessment

Development and promotion of an interactive, downloadable software package, available from the HSE website, which simplifies the process of risk assessment for farmers. The software available for downloading from the HSE website and in CD-Rom format has been widely disseminated in the industry with the support of the trade press e.g. Farmers Weekly

Research

Including:

- Evaluation e.g. development with lead indicator evaluation tool - a “barometer of culture change in agriculture” to better relate activity to outcome. Other studies include review and accident causation and cost of alternative interventions; and
- Technical/standards research into noise and vibration, respiratory sensitisers etc.

Communications

The communications strategy includes regular articles in the farming press, which research has shown to be one of the best ways of communicating with our target audiences.

Stakeholder engagement

Working with a diverse range of key industry organisations and individual leading business to exert influence on the industry generally e.g. through the food chain, and the Sector Skills Council for the land based sector (Lantra) and the AIAC’s Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG).

The Sector is continuing to work with key industry stakeholders e.g. the NFU, TGWU, the Women’s Food and Farming Union (WFU), the Agricultural Engineers’ Association etc. and many others. In the past year we have been working closely with stakeholders in the financial services (insurance) sector to develop and introduce more refined, risk-related premia into the industry; in an attempt to improve health and safety performance through a ‘recognition and reward’ approach.

Training and education

Including influencing the development of the national curriculum and national qualifications by the development and promotion of a suite of accredited competence qualifications targeting farming. The vocational qualifications at NVQ Levels 2, 3 and 4, marketed by training providers, focus attention on the management of health and safety in order to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and cases of ill health in the industry.

Working with other Government Departments and Agencies

HSE has been working closely with Defra and other partners in the development of a web-based Whole Farm Approach (WFA); effectively an electronic one-stop shop for farmers. The WFA addresses issues such as data sharing and the development of an electronic communication link between farmers and Government to minimise bureaucracy. Farm health and safety management will be part of the e-package

Additionally and in furtherance of ‘Hampton principles’ of better regulation, the Sector is engaged with departments and agencies on a range of topics, including:

TOPIC	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Whole Farm Approach	DEFRA/SEERAD
Human/animal health issues e.g. Avian Flue, West Nile Virus, Q-fever, Foot and Mouth Diseases etc.	National Contingency Planning (COBRA) incl. Defra, DoH, HPA
Other livestock issues	Rural Payments Agency – Cattle handling Countryside Agency/Scottish Heritage – cattle on footpaths, right to roam
Migrant, casual, temporary workers	GLA +JWEP incl Home Office, HMRC, DWP plus police
Pesticides and Biocides	PSD [plus ACP]
Sheep Dips	Veterinary Medicines Directorate plus Environment Agency plus SEPA (Scotland)
Vehicle Safety (theme Safe on Road/Safe off Road)	Dept of Transport (research and standards) VOSA joint roadside checks – stalled/suspended
Working with devolved administrations	Scottish Executive, PHASS Welsh Assembly
Education and skills	DfES, DEFRA Fresh Start, European Year of Farming
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS. Other joint work, e.g. producing guidance, training material, videos	AEA WFU/RASE/FACE/CEVAS – child safety. British Potato Council

'HORIZON SCANNING' AND FUTURE INITIATIVES

The following influences and issues require (or may require) future initiatives:

Insurance –

The development and promotion of insurance as a driver for health and safety uptake. Working with the insurance and financial services sector on initiatives to promote the uptake of risk assessment, the use of existing HSE tools/guidance, the recognition of competence and training and relating insurance premia to independent, objective assessment of risk.

Regional issues

Working with the devolved administrations focussing on their specific social and economic issues/priorities e.g. aquaculture and the health/rehabilitation agenda in Scotland and on hill farming in Wales.

Investigation

of accidents, ill health and pesticide incidents (including environmental issues) to continue.

Diversification

The increasing use of exotic crops/animals, the growth of biofuel production and the use of farm buildings and land for other (non-agricultural) purposes e.g. office accommodation, leisure and sporting activities and small-scale industrial usage.

Work in difficult environments/terrain

In particular on steep ground in the forestry sector.

Increasing leisure/amenity/public access to farming and forestry land

A consequence of increasing diversification in the industry following the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak (2001), of EU Agriculture Policy and of the 'right to roam' legislation enacted in recent years.

Increase in stakeholders/public concerns

Including concerns about assured produce, local production/delivery, organic farming etc.

Communications

Novel techniques/delivery methods under development include IT/website developments such as use of pod casts, discussion forums, video clips, photo library, hazard alerts. HSE is also working closely with others on provision of multi-lingual guidance.

SHADs

SHADs are continually being developed. Recent developments include greater emphasis on health issues, child safety and incorporation of the findings from evaluation to improve targetting and maximise impact. Further work (with HSL) is required to develop scenarios on dermatitis/skin protection and respiratory sensitisers.

We are also working with industry stakeholders to increasingly promote partnership in and/or sponsorship of events.

Aquaculture

Development of SHADs for aquacultural employees in 'hard-to-reach' rural areas" – to be resourced and delivered by key industry stakeholders.

Food Chain – involving companies (often non HSE enforced), developing and promoting health and safety issues that affect producers e.g. training, auditing.

Future influences:

- Training requirements
 - Internal - to address diminishing experience and knowledge in HSE/FOD.
 - External- significant lack of skilled workers in the industry (see Leitch Report - implications for employers to provide basic skills training).
 - Changes in vocational education/increasing demands for work experience.
- Government Policy changes
e.g. Single Farm Payment, EU funding arrangements
- Other Government Departments
e.g. conflicting agendas/priorities
- Emerging zoonotic/occupational and public health threats:
e.g. Avian 'Flu, Blue Tongue Disease, West Nile Virus, animal related MRSA, biosecurity issues and Genetically Modified Organisms
- Pesticides
Continuing and possibly increasing pressures on HSE to deliver existing commitments to Defra/Environment Agency/Pesticides Directorate to enforce plant protection legislation
- New technological advances
e.g. automation, remote control and the use GPS.