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**HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE (HSE)
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)**

Overview of 2015/16 cattle related incidents investigated by HSE

Summary

1. This paper presents summarised details of cattle related incidents investigated by HSE during the period 01 April 2015 – 31 March 2016. It gives a breakdown of specific details extracted from operational data gathered during the investigation or follow up of incidents reported to HSE.

Background

2. Incidents involving cattle are a significant feature in the causes of fatal and non-fatal injury in the agricultural sector. At the November 2014 AIAC meeting members requested an analysis of livestock accidents. [AIAC paper 15/06/01](#) on current trends in accidents involving cattle was presented at the June 2015 meeting. This paper gives an overview of cattle incidents investigated by HSE during 2015/2016.
3. Since early 2015, HSE has endeavoured to be more consistent in the collection of data gathered during the investigation of cattle related incidents¹ and to share that data with AIAC each year to enable consideration of possible trends relating to such incidents and to seek to identify areas that require further attention to reduce the number of cattle related incidents.
4. The incidents addressed in this paper include those investigated by field based officers and concerns followed up in line with HSE's complaints handling investigation procedure. The incidents covered in this analysis, includes those involving farmers, workers and members of the public.
5. The operational data used in this analysis includes cattle incidents and concerns and therefore figures may vary from other published data that calls on different information sources.

Summary of incidents.

6. There have been a total of 32 cattle related incidents followed up by HSE (by either an Inspector, Visiting officer or Concern Officer) in the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 – see annex 1 for further details.
7. Incidents that are noted as “investigated” were followed up by a field based officer and will have included a field visit. Concerns noted as “followed up” may not have involved a site visit by HSE.

¹ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/og/og-00058.htm>

8. There were three fatal accidents to farmers (all aged over 75 years). These included: whilst loading a bull onto a trailer; knocked over by a cow whilst moving cattle; and dragged in the field by a stubborn heifer.
9. There were three non-fatal incidents which involved employees, and a further two which involved TB testing/ear tagging.
10. Nine non-fatal incidents involving members of the public were investigated all occurred when a dog was present. Two thirds of these involved cows with young calves.
11. Of the concerns followed up, nine involved Members of the Public in fields with footpaths. Of those, six involved cows with young and at least 5, involved dogs. At least 4 incidents involved less than 2 walkers.
12. A range of cattle breeds were involved in these incidents as reported in annex 1.

Conclusions

13. The overall picture is familiar i.e. cattle incidents to workers involve some form of husbandry procedure, and those to members of the public generally occur in fields with footpaths with a dog present and often involve cows with calves.
14. Farmers involved in the fatal incidents are all over 75, and reflects information considered in the previous AIAC paper.
15. HSE's instructions to assist inspectors investigating cattle incidents are relatively new and do not yet appear to be followed consistently; as such some data fields are not recorded in a few investigations.
16. The data samples involve small numbers and are not yet likely to give any reliable trends.

Recommendations

17. AIAC members are invited to consider this information and advise whether
 - a) They agree this data does not show anything unexpected and the circumstances of incidents are as reported in the previous paper.
 - b) They agree there are no identifiable trends in this data, and that a detailed analysis is not appropriate without a wide range of industry data to provide more meaningful conclusions.
 - c) They agree this topic should be considered annually as the data set increases.
18. AIAC members are invited to set out how their organisations can assist in encouraging farmers to follow existing HSE and industry guidance to minimise incidents involving cattle.
19. HSE's Agriculture Sector should continue to support field investigation and concern follow up to ensure consistent HSE action and data collection.

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