



# NOTES OF MEETING

Date: 11 November 2008	Location: Lantra, Builth Wells, Powys	Taken by: Nick Sangha	
Subject: AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC) MEETING			
<b>Present (HSE)</b>		<b>AIAC Members</b>	
Judith Donovan (Chair)	Sandy Blair	Andrew Clark	Charlie Clutterbuck
Marcia Davies	Terry Rose	Marcus Themans	James Brown
Samantha Peace	Steve Coppel	Pat Stanley	Madge Moore
Alan Plom	Chris Ward	Ivan Monckton	Geoff Gregory
Alastair Mitchell	Nick O'Connor	Ian Beeby	Phillip Canning
Rachel Russell	Nick Sangha		
Item No.	Description		
1	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>Judith Donovan welcomed members and guests to the open meeting held at Lantra, Builth Wells, Powys. She explained that she had stepped in to chair the meeting during a period of staff changes and that future meetings would be chaired by Marcia Davies, Head of Injuries Reduction Programme.</p>		
2	<p><b>Agriculture in Wales and overview</b></p> <p>(1) Terry Rose, HSE Director for Wales gave a presentation on agriculture in Wales. This included an overview of farming in Wales and a brief summary of fatal and non-fatal injury statistics. He highlighted the significance of forestry and farming activities to the Welsh economy, the number of large government and public sector employers in Wales and HSE's engagement with public and private sector stakeholders. Terry also described HSE's Field Operational Divisional (FOD) team structure in Wales and flexible warrant arrangements currently in place with local authorities.</p> <p>(2) Bob Merriman, Environment Agency (EA) outlined joint farm events delivered in partnership with Lantra. The events provided advice to farmers on issues such as pollution, sheep dipping and pesticide use including the law, good practice and using alternative methods. The sessions helped farmers think about their personal health and safety as well as efficient use of sheep dips and pesticides, including what personal protective equipment should be used and safe handling of chemicals. The events were interactive, practical and encouraged farmers to be involved in the demonstrations. There was general support for more events of this type and an opportunity to include health and safety messages into sessions run by stakeholders.</p>		
3	<p><b>Lantra: working in the land based sector</b></p> <p>Madge Moore, Lantra National Director for England gave a presentation on Lantra's work with the land based sector. The presentation included: Lantra's vision and strategy dealing with the seventeen environments and land-based industries. She described Lantra's research on national qualifications and stressed the difference between Lantra (the Sector Skills Council) and the awarding body (Lantra Awards). See presentation for further information.</p> <p>There was a discussion on competence, including interfacing with higher education establishments, funding, national occupational standards, vocational qualifications and working with land based colleges.</p>		

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4	<p><b>Agriculture Revisited Initiative</b></p> <p>Rachel Russell introduced AIAC paper 08/11/01 describing progress since the last AIAC meeting and next steps. The workstreams/projects included:</p> <p><b>(1) The integrated publicity campaign</b></p> <p>A new advertising campaign to raise awareness of farming fatalities seeking to encourage safer behaviours had been developed. This was themed 'Make the Promise. Come Home Safe'. The previous evening members had been shown a short film preview of the campaign. The initial campaign would run from late December to early February and advertising would begin in a number of key publications. This would be followed up by a direct mailshot of materials to farmers. The first stage of the campaign would then be evaluated to help inform decisions about the way forward.</p> <p><b>(2) Safety Health and Awareness Days (SHADs)</b></p> <p>Samantha Peace explained that three pilot farming SHADs were planned to be delivered using the new model invitation process and that three different delivery mechanisms would be tested. The purpose of the exercise was to increase the number of events delivered in a cost effective manner. The pilots would then be evaluated. Concerns were raised that SHADs should relate to local farming issues. Members were advised that there is some flexibility in selecting relevant topics and local issues as long as the SHAD was delivered to a minimum quality standard and dealt with the 'priority' topics, which caused most deaths and ill health. For SHADs falling outside the scope of the project consideration would be given to joint working with other agencies. Some difficulties had been experienced by both HSE and the Environment Agency in encouraging farmers to attend SHADs particularly during busy times such as lambing. Attendance was also hampered due to other farming / business pressures. It was generally felt that lessons could be learned from the joint Lantra and Environment Agency method adopted in Wales to interact with farmers.</p> <p><b>(3) Machinery, equipment and suppliers</b></p> <p>Alan Plom reported that work had begun with the main stakeholders in the machinery supply chain (AEA and BAGMA) to identify ways to influence manufacturers/designers, suppliers/sales people and purchasers/users. Awards for safe design features and competitions amongst engineering students had been proposed. Media opportunities at shows and related trade opportunities had also been explored. Existing guidance will also be reviewed. AIAC members had concerns on the number of manufactures going out of business or been taken over by mergers leaving machinery in use or being sold on to farmers without any manuals/operating instructions. It was suggested that a library (or some sort of repository) of instruction manuals should be created for all machinery, so that instructions can be easily accessible even after a manufacturer had ceased trading. Alan explained that this would be difficult and expensive to collate and maintain, and many were already available via the internet or local dealers. Members thought that this problem was more widespread, particularly on the second hand market where auction houses were selling machinery/kit which was not fit for purpose. It was suggested that auctioneers should play a more predominant role to ensure the goods they sell are satisfactory and sold with proper maintenance records etc. This would enable farmers to buy products with some history and help build confidence. Alan commented that it was proposed to engage with auctioneers as part of this workstream. It was suggested that AEA and BAGMA should be asked to see if they could archive some of their member's manuals.</p> <p><b>(4) Vocational Qualifications (VQs) and training</b></p> <p>Alastair Mitchell presented AIAC paper 08/11/02: stocktake on VQs and training. The paper reviewed progress with work on training and competences. Funding and uptake of VQs has been on AIAC's agenda for sometime and views on uptake were sought from members. Alastair described the 'SWOT' analysis undertaken on potential strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. There was a need to develop further incentives to encourage uptake. Given that HSE had limited resource, leverage or time to drive the project forward, there was more need for stakeholders to drive project forward. The proposals were summarised as: uptake, further develop and promote existing VQS; explore financial support; explore potential to develop Open Learning and Distance learning material; and potential for developing virtual academic institutes of farm safety and qualifications. Further details on threats and challenges can be found in the paper.</p>

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5	<p><b>Agriculture Statistics Update</b></p> <p>a) Samantha Peace presented the agriculture statistics for 2007/08, including the headline figures, causation and rates over a 20 year period.</p> <p>b) Samantha also tabled AIAC paper 08/11/03 on an ageing agriculture industry.</p> <p>Further details can be found in the AIAC paper and presentation.</p>
6	<p><b>Working with Welsh Stakeholders</b></p> <p>(1) Chris Ward (FOD Wales) introduced the session on working with Welsh stakeholders. Gary Dowclever from the Welsh Assembly Rural Affairs Department provided an overview on: farming development in Wales; programme of funding and budgets; the 'Farming Connect initiative and other rural support mechanisms including the Farm Advisory Service developed for famers and their families.</p> <p>(2) Chris Ward described how the Advisory Service helped farmers meet cross compliance requirements and occupational health needs by providing free advice. Part of the Rural Payment Agency also helps farmers with their paperwork. Members were interested in the level of detail and service available to farmers in Wales and to see what lessons could be learned for England.</p> <p>(3) Bob Merriman (Environment Agency) outlined his proposals to develop a further programme of farming events for which he would welcome some HSE support. Evaluation showed that farmers knowledge had increased from 30% to 70%. The Environment Agency and Lantra plan to jointly deliver five more events inviting approximately 40/50 farmers to each. These events would be delivered by advisors and not enforcers, demonstrating best environmental practices.</p> <p>(4) Terry Rose reiterated how well HSE worked with stakeholders in Wales and the high level of funding, support and advice made available to Welsh farmers by the Welsh Government compared with other parts of the British Isles.</p>
7	<p><b>Key achievements of AIAC and its project groups</b></p> <p><b>a) AFAG</b></p> <p>Alan Plom reported back on the last meeting of AFAG and progress made by its various project groups. Several new projects had been started, such as working near to overhead power lines (OHPLs) and producing guidance on managing sites and lone working, which had been previously endorsed by AIAC. James Brown mentioned the meeting he had attended in Brussels on behalf of AFAG to discuss new proposals for common standards for chainsaw operator training across Europe. It was essential to maintain UK's standards, but this was also an opportunity to ease the difficulties employers assessing competence of foreign workers. He thanked HSE and Lantra for joint sponsoring his visit together with the Forestry Contractors Association.</p> <p><b>b) Transport</b></p> <p>Alan also reported on the forthcoming Transport Group workshop to be held at AEA's HQ on 10 December. This would cover the findings of new research on tractor trailer braking, avoiding contact with OHPLs and safety at rail crossings.</p> <p><b>c) Casual, Temporary and Migrant Workers</b></p> <p>Samantha Peace presented AIAC paper 08/11/04 on the Vulnerable Workers Project Group. The paper proposed that the existing 'Casual, Temporary and Migrant Workers Project Group' to be replaced by a 'Vulnerable Workers Project Group' with new terms of reference. Members were invited to consider whether they wish to participate in the group or nominate a representative to Madge Moore.</p> <p><b>d) Child Safety Working Group</b></p> <p>A suggestion had been made to merge this group with the Vulnerable Workers group but this was not considered to be feasible because of the different age groups. Chair advised that this group should continue in its current format and further meetings should be arranged to explore projects and new initiatives. A project to develop a DVD for schools requiring funding and joined up working with FACE had been suggested.</p>

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8	<p><b>Other business and closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Chair informed members that a major conference was to be arranged in 2009 with a focus on agriculture to help identify new stakeholders who could contribute to the 'Agriculture Revisited Initiative'. Interaction would be made with key players and representation from contacts was suggested.</li> <li>(2) Chair mentioned that HSE's new Strategy was due to be launched soon for consultation and that stakeholder's view would be welcomed.</li> <li>(3) Marcia Davies advised members that the AIAC's workplan for 2009/10 needed to be developed and invited members to volunteer to attend a separate planning meeting.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Summary of actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Machinery, equipment and suppliers item 4(3): AEA and BAGMA to see if they could archive some of their members manuals.</li> <li>(2) Vocational Qualifications (VQs) and training item 4(4): Given that HSE had limited resource, leverage or time to drive the project forward, there was more need for stakeholders to drive project forward.</li> <li>(3) Working with Welsh Stakeholders item 6(3): Environment Agency to develop a further programme of farming events with some HSE support.</li> <li>(4) Casual, Temporary and Migrant Workers item 7(d): Members to consider whether they wish to participate in the group or nominate a representative to Madge Moore.</li> <li>(5) Other Business and closing remarks item 8(2): Stakeholder view on HSE's new strategy welcomed.</li> <li>(6) Item 8(3): Members were invited to a separate planning meeting.</li> <li>(7) Secretariat to contact members and arrange next AIAC meeting at NFU HQ, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.</li> </ul>