

Open Government
Status:

OPEN

AIAC 17/11/02

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

Overview of 2016/17 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 2016 – 31 March 2017. It gives a breakdown of specific details extracted from operational data gathered during the investigation or follow up of incidents reported to HSE. It is the third paper, presented to the AIAC, summarising cattle incidents investigated by 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. Subsequently, [AIAC paper 15/06/01](#) was presented in June 2015, with a further update summarising the details of incidents in year 2015/16 presented to AIAC members in November 2016 ([AIAC paper 16/11/02](#)). This current paper gives an overview of cattle incidents investigated by HSE during 2016/2017.
3. In 2015, HSE set an aim 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 and improve compliance within the industry.
4. As with previous papers, the incidents addressed in this paper include those investigated by field based officers and reported concerns followed up in line with HSE's concerns handling procedure. The incidents covered include those to farmers, workers and members of the public.
5. The operational data used in this analysis includes cattle incidents and concerns. Therefore, the figures may vary from other published data, that relies on different information sources.

Summary of incidents.

6. There has been a total of 34 cattle related incidents followed up by HSE (by either an Inspector, Visiting officer or Concern Officer) in the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 – see annex 1 for further details. This compares to 33 incidents in 2015/16.

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

7. Incidents that are noted as “investigated” were followed up by a field based officer and will normally have included a field visit. Concerns “followed up” may not have involved a site visit by HSE. There were 19 RIDDOR investigations and 15 Concerns.
8. There were two fatal incidents:
A self-employed farmer, aged 69, was killed when struck by a falling gate after an animal tried to avoid entering handling equipment.
A MOP aged 61, was killed when butted and thrown by cattle being moved to grazing.
9. Nine of the non-fatal incidents involved employees and three involved a duty holder. A further incident on a farm involved person on a work experience placement.
10. There were 20 incidents involving members of the public (MOP) (Five RIDDOR’s and 15 Concerns). Nine had resulted in non-fatal injuries of which 6 were major injuries. There was one fatal, as mentioned above.
11. Nine incidents occurred when a dog was present. More than half of the incidents involved cows with young calves.
12. A range of cattle breeds were involved in these incidents and there are no clear trends, see annex 1.

Conclusions

13. The overall picture is broadly similar to previous years, i.e. cattle incidents to workers and self-employed involve some form of husbandry procedure and cattle handling, and those to members of the public generally occur in fields with footpaths with a dog present. They often involve cows with calves.
14. There have been two people killed in 16-17 – a farmer and a MOP. The age of the farmer is consistent with deaths of farmers considered in previous papers (over 65) and reflects information considered in the first AIAC paper and in the 16-17 fatal accident report published in July 17.
15. HSE’s instructions to assist inspectors investigating cattle incidents have been in place since 2015 and this had led to more consistency. However, there are still a number of investigations where information has not been collected. HSE Agriculture Sector will work with field teams to improve performance in this area.
16. Over the two years of detailed data presented to AIAC, there have been 67 cattle incidents (accidents and concerns). Due to the relatively short timescale and low numbers it isn’t yet appropriate to identify trends from the data.

Recommendations

17. AIAC members are invited to consider the information in this paper and annex and advise on whether they:
 - a) agree that the circumstances of incidents are generally in line with those reported in previous papers.
 - b) agree that detailed analysis is still not appropriate and would not yet provide any meaningful conclusions.

- c) agree this topic should continue be considered annually.
- 18. AIAC members are invited to set out how their organisations can influence farmers to follow existing HSE and industry guidance to minimise the prevalence of incidents and prevent people being killed - This was recommended in previous papers.
- 19. HSE's Agriculture Sector should continue to support field investigation and concern follow up to ensure consistent HSE action and accurate data collection.

Contact

Lyn Spooner (lyn.spooner@hse.gov.uk), HSE Crewe Office, Agriculture Health, Engagement, Livestock and Pesticides Team, Engagement and Policy Division.