

WFU Presentation to AIAC

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Who are WFU

- Voluntary organisation
- Established to educate the general public about good local food
- Educational role: 120 WFU members are trained to give talks in schools
- Point of contact for FACE & Defra and other relevant organisations, including HSE

WFU & HSE

- WFU President & Roger Nourish met at the Oxford Conference in 2004 & agreed that there was scope for working together.
- Sector worked with WFU to establish pilot workshops to promote health and safety message through women in farming
- Workshops covered 5 areas : Risk assessment, child safety, work at height, transport safety and manual handling

How we are working together now

- The pilots were a great success, 150 attendees
- The pilots identified women willing to pass on what they'd learned in their own homes and to other WFU women & neighbours etc.
- The host of each cascade event is sent a toolkit and information packs by HSE.
- Each attendee must complete an anonymous feedback sheet to be returned by the host to Kate for reimbursement for their sundries by WFU
- WFU return these sheets to HSE for evaluation and payment for the cascade host.

Child Safety

- The first of these cascade events to be run was on child safety
- From the 150 women attending the original pilots, 24 cascade events have been undertaken and cascade feedback received from 192 women
- The WFU response to child safety in the cascade feedback has been considerable

Child Safety

- WFU women are keen to promote this message
- There is still some resistance to the idea that farms are workplaces rather than homes.
- There is some resistance to not carrying children in tractor cabs.
- Both of these attitudes were challenged and a better understanding of the legal view is now held

The Future

- WFU are keen to progress this interface with HSE.
- All women spoken to feel that HSE should be targeting rural schools
- All women spoken to felt HSE child safety video was overpriced. Should be free to schools.
- WFU will continue this work and would prefer to continue with child safety as their key interface with HSE
- WFU hopes that the funding of this work by HSE continues.