

**HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION AND EXECUTIVE  
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Agriculture Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs)  
Programme 2007-08**

**Summary**

1 This paper updates AIAC members on progress with the current programme of farming, forestry and arboriculture SHADs in 2007-08.

**Background**

2 The series of SHADs targeting farming, forestry and arboriculture are now being delivered as part of a single 'Agricultural SHAD' project in this third year of the suite of 'Fit 3' agriculture projects devised for 2005-2008. The aim, format and organisation of the three types of SHADs were last outlined in AIAC paper 060603 which was discussed at the AIAC meeting in October 2006. Revision 1 of that paper subsequently circulated to Members provided the final list of SHADs for 2006-07. Members asked for an update on the 2007-2008 programme at this meeting.

3 The scenarios presented at farming SHADs in 2007-08 continue to focus mainly on 'Fit3' priority topics such as transport, working at height and musculo-skeletal disorders/manual handling. Scenarios are selected to reflect the predominant type of farming and equipment used in the area, eg use of telehandlers, ATVs and livestock handling are interchangeable. The demonstrations are mostly presented by Lantra Awards instructors, under the contract agreed with Lantra Awards to ensure quality and consistency of delivery. They have also been supported at a number of events by the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) where 'health' scenarios (including pesticides and dust) have been requested.

4 As previously discussed at AIAC, the content of the practical demonstrations have been updated by the Sector and Lantra Awards to include the latest available statistical information and current messages. For example, vehicle (brake) maintenance and child safety is emphasised more during relevant

demonstrations. New 'health' scenarios have also been developed by HSL to highlight practical precautions for skin and respiratory sensitisers.

5 Following the research by Bomel evaluating forestry SHADs and intervention methods in that industry, the current series of forestry SHADs are this year targeting contractors and those carrying out the role of Forest Site Safety Co-ordinator, as well as Forest Works Managers working in the private and 'public' sector. These SHADs accommodate up to 100 people per day in 2 sessions and are intended to improve the management of health and safety on forestry sites by presenting practical demonstrations based on typical operations in the local forests/woodland and highlight typical accidents. These events focus on transport, handling of trees and timber, protection of the public and this year will include health issues such as noise and vibration.

6 Arboriculture SHADs continue to be aimed at 'clients' (i.e. those placing contracts, as well as for those managing and supervising contractors and in-house arboricultural operations) in the local authority(LA) sector as well as other large 'clients' such as utility and construction companies highways maintenance, charities, Government Departments and other organisations, eg with premises accessed by the public. Arboriculture SHADs include lecture-based presentations highlighting the importance of employing competent (adequately trained) contractors as well as practical demonstrations of good climbing practice. Up to 80 people can be accommodated at these events.

7 Like the farming SHADs, the forestry and arboriculture SHADs are also delivered by professional trainers working in the industry, but with Sector staff more closely involved in their organisation and presentation.

### **Programme of Farming SHADs – 2007/08**

8 Details of all events notified by Field Operations Directorate (FOD) and confirmed so far are given in the attached Annex. This table also provides the relevant contact for each event. There has been some discussion with FOD regarding distribution and location of events.

9 18 farming SHADs were planned for 2007/08, allocated 3 per Division (excluding London). However, following discussion with East & South East Division, one of their events has been transferred to Scotland. 13 farming SHADs have been confirmed so far, of which one has been held and one has been postponed, due to Foot and Mouth precautions. The remaining 5 farming SHADs have yet to be notified and the Sector are currently pursuing this with FOD. [2 events outstanding in Wales & South West, 1 each in the Midlands and North West, and the additional event transferred from East & South East to Scotland].

10 However, in addition to uncertainties caused by the current restrictions to avoid spread of animal diseases (ie Blue Tongue as well as Foot and Mouth Disease), FOD have faced other difficulties preventing organisation of farming

SHADs in some areas. Some FOD Divisions have reduced Health and Safety Awareness Officer (HSAO) resources available, preventing organisation of SHADs and follow-up visits to 'non-responders'.

11 At the last AIAC, members endorsed the concept and effectiveness of SHADs, and advocated that they should be extended to employers and employees, rather than being limited to the self-employed. Both the NFU and Unite offered to work with HSE to deliver a pilot SHAD aimed at a wider audience. East & South East Division have offered to run their SHAD scheduled for 20 February as a pilot joint event and discussions have taken place with local officers of the NFU and Unite on what help they can provide. Unfortunately, this event has been arranged in Berkshire, within the current 'control zone' for Foot and Mouth, but it is hoped that restrictions will be lifted before the final deadline for committing to running this event.

### **Forestry and Arboriculture SHADs**

12 The 3 forestry events and 3 of the 4 arboriculture SHADs planned for 2007-08 will have been delivered by the end of October. The fourth arboriculture SHAD has still to be organised, probably in Feb/March, subject to availability of the preferred venue (Kew Gardens, London). It is intended to commission Bomel to evaluate the final Arboriculture SHAD.

### **Other 'SHADs'/Novel Interventions**

13 The Sector is aware of a number of other 'SHAD-type' events which have been organised by other organisations, with support from FOD locally. These include:

- (1) A series of practical demonstrations in the livestock judging ring at the Kent County Show. This was a local initiative under FOD's 'Fine-Tuning Review', which aims to identify 'new/effective ways of working'. Staff from East & South East Division were involved in organising and presenting the scenarios together with Lantra Awards' instructors. Topics covered included manual handling, working at heights, tractor/trailer maintenance and safe operation of quad bikes + trailers. It is estimated that 60-70 people watched the 4 demonstrations repeated on each of the 3 days of the Show. This format was judged to be successful by the Lantra Awards instructors and FOD inspector involved, and the Show organisers have asked for this to be repeated next year.
- (2) Following a successful event run last year by a large vegetable grower/packer in Cambridgeshire 'prompted by the agriculture and food sectors food chain project' for its farmer suppliers, contractors and others, this to be repeated on 17 October. Relevant 'Fit 3' priority topics were highlighted, in particular manual handling, working at height and transport, including use of lift trucks in packhouses and maintenance of vehicle brakes, hydraulics, etc for safe operation on and off-road. Accident scenarios were set up and

professional trainers demonstrated good practice. The Police, Fire Service, and local Environmental Health Officers from the Local Authority are also involved.

- (3) Another event held in October was aimed at equine establishments. This was run by a training organisation and St Albans District Council supported by HSE. This used a mix of 'classroom'-based lectures and a 'guided tour' of a typical livery yard to identify and discuss hazards to raise awareness and to promote training on animal welfare/licensing issues as well as health and safety precautions (including safe use of 'agricultural' equipment such as tractors/trailers and ATV's).

### **Support for future SHADs**

14 AIAC members have previously discussed and agreed that other drivers are needed to increase uptake, to encourage the remaining 90% of the target 'self-employed' audience to respond positively to invitations and attend farming SHADs. HSE was also asked to extend the approach to employers and employees, and NFU and 'Unite' offered help to target this audience for a pilot event.

15 Ideas suggested included local publicity and promotion by NFU and 'Unite' Branch Secretaries and other organisations promoting SHADs, eg through their local networks and using quotes from officials emphasising the benefits recognised by former attendees.

16 Following the financial support obtained last year for events in Scotland and in South-West England (eg from European Union funds and local business development/training bodies), the possibility of obtaining sponsorship from other sources was previously discussed by AIAC. NFU Mutual were hopeful of being able to assist, and this possibility is to be further explored with the NFU and other insurance companies during the next quarter following recent discussions between Sector staff and HSE's CDS Business Management Unit about the current ground rules and procedures relating to sponsorships.

### **Action/Recommendations**

17 AIAC members are invited to:

- (1) note and consider the information about the SHAD programme and venues arranged so far for 2007-08;
- (2) note the Sector's plans to deliver as full a programme as possible;
- (3) identify ways to identify the potential audience
- (4) identify what support they can provide for SHADs and ways to promote events locally and nationally;
- (5) *offer any further suggestions as to how sponsorship might be achieved.*

**Agriculture Safety & Health Awareness Days  
Programme 2007/2008 (at 5/10/07)**

<b>SHAD No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Division</b>
<b>Farming SHADs</b>				
1.	11/9/07 Completed	Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate	Bev Ward 0113 283 4389	Yorks & North East
2.	19/9/07 Postponed	Duchy College, Camborne Cornwall	Glenda Treneary 01752 276315	Wales & South West
3.	24/10/07	Orkney Auction Mart, Kirkwall	Nikki Jack 0131 247 2109	Scotland
4.	30/10/07	Wigfield Farm, Worsbrough, Barnsley	Sally Wade 01469 589649	Yorks & North East
5.	1/11/07	Moulton College, Northampton	Celia Flannigan 01604 738393	Midlands
6.	7/11/07	Caledonian Auction Mart, Stirling	Nikki Jack 0131 247 2109	Scotland
7.	8/11/07(pm) & 9/11/07(am)	Elmwood College Cuper, Fife	Nikki Jack 0131 247 2109	Scotland
8.	14/11/07	Hulme Park Farm Alnwick Castle Northumberland	Neelam Donnelly 0191 2026276	Yorks & North East
9.	16/11/07	Chelford Auction Mart, Macclesfield	Phil Redman 01772 836291	North West
10.	22/11/07	Hawes Auction Mart, Kirkby Stephen, N Yorks	Phil Redman 01772 836291	North West
11.	12/02/08	Pershore Horticulture College Worcestershire	Bernie Parry 01905 743617	Midlands
12.	14/02/08	Otley College Ipswich Suffolk	Sandra Crammond 01603 828053	East & South East
13.	20/02/08	Berkshire College Maidenhead	Colin Ryan 01582 444	East & South East

SHAD No.	Date	Venue	Contact	Division
<b>Forestry SHADs</b>				
1.	27/9/07	Inverness	Jason Liggins 0131 247 2087	Scotland
2.	23/10/07	Sherwood Forest Notts	“	Midlands
3.	25/10/07	Forest of Dean, Gloucs	“	Wales & South West
<b>Arboriculture SHADs</b>				
1.	22/5/07	Pitlochry	Frances Hirst 01604 738314	Scotland
2.	18/06/07	Norwich	“	East & South East
3.	10/10/07	Stafford	“	Midlands
4.	TBA	??Kew Gardens, London (prov)	“	East & South East

Contact

Alan Plom  
Agriculture & Food Sector  
01582 444219

NB all email contacts end ([name of individual](mailto:(name of individual)@hse.gsi.gov.uk))@hse.gsi.gov.uk