



**AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AIAC)
LIVESTOCK WORKING GROUP
NOTES of 2nd MEETING**

Date	3 December 2009	Location	Drayton Experimental Farm, Stratford	Taken by	Alan Plom Tony Mitchell
	Present				
	<p>Tony Mitchell (Chair, HSE Agriculture & Food Sector) Alan Plom (Head of Safety Section, HSE Agriculture & Food Sector) David Owen (Lantra Awards) Ian Beeby (Unite; AIAC member) John Royle (NFU Snr Policy Advisor, Livestock) Pat Stanley (NFU/Livestock farmer/AIAC member) Adam Quinney (Farmer) James Brown (Farmer (Scotland)/NFU Scotland/AIAC member) Michael Britten (NFU Policy Advisor, Health, Safety, Skills & Education) Charles Baines (BPEX) Philip Canning (ADAS Livestock Team/IOSH) Rob Jones (Defra, Animal Health Div) Tony Makin (HSE Inspector, Field Operations Division, South West) Andrew Praill (BCVA) Alastair Mitchell (HSE Agriculture and Food Sector)</p> <p>Speakers: Ian Jamieson (NFU Mutual) Barry Gain (NFU Mutual) Dale Shaw (Ritchie) Jim Harcombe (Ritchie)</p>				
	Apologies				
	<p>Kim Hayward (National Beef Association) Serena Cooke (Defra – papers only) Mark Needham (HCC)</p>				
Item	Key Points and Actions				
1	<p>Introduction – Review of previous actions</p> <p>1.1 Tony Mitchell welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Working Group and thanked ADAS for hosting the meeting again at Drayton Experimental Farm. The agenda was left flexible to try and ensure particular interests were covered within members' time constraints. The aim of the meeting was to provide members with further information and views on the issues around cattle handling, particularly from the perspective of vets and equipment manufacturers, and to make sure that the messages given by HSE are realistic and appropriate to the needs of the industry.</p> <p>1.2 Alan Plom reviewed the notes and actions from the last meeting and restated the agreed messages terms of reference, aims and objectives. He reminded members that the Group had decided to initially focus on the causes of fatalities and serious injuries during cattle handling, rather than incidents related</p>				

	<p>to generic hazards (such as transport) and occupational diseases. It was also agreed to exclude risks to the public, e.g. on footpaths, as this area was considered to be adequately covered by specific legislation and existing guidance, This approach supported the current 'Agriculture Revisited' initiative and as such had been accepted (and welcomed) by the AIAC. Group members agreed the notes and actions from the last meeting.</p> <p>1.3 Alan was pleased to see the wider range of interests represented at this second meeting. This would help to deliver on the key themes of HSE's new Strategy. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging the industry to provide strong leadership; • promoting worker involvement; • increasing competence, and • developing approaches (and guidance) to help SMEs. <p>ACTION: TM – The aims and objectives, meeting notes, agenda and presentations to be made available on the HSE AIAC Livestock Group webpage at: http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/aiac/index.htm#subcommittee</p>
2	<p>Cattle Handling Systems – The Manufacturers Perspective</p> <p>2.1 Dale Shaw and Jim Harcombe from David Ritchie (Implements) Ltd gave a presentation of the development and thinking behind Ritchie's handling systems. They described some of the key features that made systems operate more efficiently and safely, and explained how they had translated this into a key set of components that could be arranged to provide a bespoke solution for many different situations. This enabled costs, to both manufacturer and customer, to be kept as low as possible.</p> <p>2.2 Scale models were used to illustrate key features and Jim demonstrated how they used computer design software to provide planning and design solutions on-farm, in direct consultation with customers. This improves customer choice by enabling options to be discussed, safety features to be highlighted and greatly reduced time spent redrafting specifications.</p> <p>2.3 A Plom pointed out that this area is also relevant to the 'Equipment Supply Chain' project he was leading as part of Agriculture Revisited'. This is intended to deliver improvements through designers, manufacturers and suppliers, and HSE are working closely with the AEA and BAGMA. He would seek to raise it within their committees.</p> <p>2.4 The position regarding BS5502 'Specifications for Farm Buildings' was also discussed. The BSI Committee is currently without a Chairman so no review work was progressing. Alan recalled that Jim Loynes, from the Agricultural Engineering Dept at Harper Adams, was a member of the 'CIGR Working Group 14' on Cattle Housing and had been involved in revising the Dairy Handbook. This might provide another route to raise awareness and improve design of handling facilities.</p> <p>ACTIONS: DS to provide TM with copy of presentation suitable for HSE's AIAC website. TM to send note of thanks to Ritchie for their contribution. AP/HSE to contact J Loynes/Harper Adams. AP To contact AEA and BAGMA to raise awareness of this work through their committees.</p>
3	<p>Cattle Handling Systems – The Vets & Insurers perspective</p> <p>3.1 Barry Gain and Ian Jamieson from NFU Mutual Risk Management Services gave a presentation on a project they carried out for a large veterinary group. They had initially reviewed current systems of work and facilities available and carried out a thorough task analysis. This then led to the development of specific task related risk assessments and systems of work that would help to</p>

	<p>reduce risks.</p> <p>3.2 A key aspect was that solutions had to be cost effective, practical and reflect the range of customers (i.e. farmers) needs.</p> <p>ACTIONS: TM to post anonymised presentation on HSE AIAC Livestock Group website. TM to send note of thanks to NFU Mutual for their contribution</p>
4	<p>HCC's 'Farm Connect' project in Wales – Sharing Ideas</p> <p>4.1 Unfortunately Mark Needham from HCC could not attend but he had provided a brief presentation outlining the work of Farm Connect. TM used this to highlight the work being carried out in Wales to promote better handling facilities through Demonstration Farms and local Discussion Groups. This would be a useful vehicle to disseminate any messages HSE could feed into them.</p> <p>ACTION: HSE/TM to develop this contact and identify suitable opportunities.</p>
5	<p>Bibliography and Case Studies</p> <p>5.1 The Group discussed the draft bibliography of guidance material compiled by TM following the last meeting and agreed to its publication on the HSE website, asap. Some minor edits and omissions were noted and an updated version will be circulated to members after the meeting for final comment before it is posted on the website in January.</p> <p>5.2 TM described the case studies he had completed so far and thanked those members who had suggested them. These were a good start in promoting the 'benefits to business' message and will be used as the basis for a forthcoming Farmers Weekly Academy Article. They will also be placed on the website.</p> <p>5.3 More examples are needed – particularly of beef rearing systems. A Plom suggested that an example showing the full cost of an injury to a vet would be useful to raise awareness of the wider implications for those in the profession as well as farmers.</p> <p>ACTIONS: TM to edit and circulate the amended bibliography ASAP and Members to comment before mid January. TM to circ copy or link to FW Academy article. A Prail to identify and compile a suitable case study involving a vet.</p>

6	<p>Set Action List</p> <p>6.1 The group discussed and agreed the key issues to focus on through forthcoming publicity. It was felt that prioritising and describing the elements of handling systems into musts, shoulds and coulds would be a good starting point. Pat Stanley reminded the group that we should not lose sight of the many very small businesses who may not be able to invest significantly.</p> <p>6.2 Three main issues identified from the last meeting were reiterated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responsibilities, • competence (of farmers and all visiting staff) and • design/suitability of handling facilities. <p>6.3 The key message proposed was confirmed, i.e. <i>“Suitable handling facilities save time, money and reduce harm to you and your animals”</i></p> <p>6.4 It was agreed that the messages on design of handling facilities need to be kept simple, e.g. list of the key features, prioritised with a simple diagram and possibly a floor-plan grid to aid design on site. A poster had also been suggested at the previous meeting. It needed to provide practical advice, highlight the benefits in terms of easier/safer handling, time-saving etc, with rough costings.</p> <p>6.5 Understanding the psychology of animals is essential – for designers, farmers and vets. This has been a focus of the training developed for Fire and Rescue Services, in Hants. It was suggested that the Scottish Colleges had also issued guidance to farmers. Guidance for designers and training etc, could be teased out of the reports into animal behavioural studies by Temple Grandin, Miriam Parker and others. This should be incorporated in a ‘Code of Practice’ - for vets and farmers – emphasising ‘dynamic risk assessment’. The project in the South West had also identified this as a priority need. This may require research or further guidance perhaps funded jointly with other industry bodies, but meanwhile the essential elements will be highlighted in HSE’s forthcoming publicity articles.</p> <p>6.6 Training and competence were also discussed. This extends beyond formal training, and contributes to business performance and efficiency as well as health and safety. Michael Britten referred to the ‘Skills Forum’ being convened by the NFU and the NFU are discussing this issue with the Defra Minister. The NFU are seeking/pushing to be able to demonstrate improvements and ‘professionalism’ within the industry and more economical and convenient ‘bite-size’ training was being advocated.</p> <p>6.7 Alastair Mitchell reported on recent discussions with the RCVS, which confirmed the need for further training, information and guidance for vets. He also described the role of the AIAC’s Training and Education Group and the potential for the new suite of VOs to promote improvements in health and safety management. and recognise learning and skills. Members agreed that that a system of verification for training and to demonstrate ‘competence’ is needed – knowledge transfer alone is not enough.</p> <p>6.8 The various regimes across England, Scotland and Wales for obtaining grant-aid and funding improvements in facilities were also discussed.</p> <p>ACTION: TM to discuss with HSE Communications and Creative Teams, etc. HSE/TM to consider scope for research A Prail to explore a bid to the RDA/RDPE for funding training courses</p>
7	<p>Future meetings/Consultation arrangements</p>

	<p>7.1 Members confirmed that they had found this second meeting interesting and helpful and agreed that another meeting would be useful to explore the issues further. Alan will inform the AIAC of the main points raised and proposed outputs of the Group at the AIAC Planning Meeting being held on 18 December.</p> <p>7.2 It was proposed to see if the next meeting, in about 6 months time, could be held at Harper Adams University College where they have recently installed new handling systems.</p> <p>Action: TM to pursue</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>8.1 MB reported that RIDBA had approached NFU expressing their concern about the withdrawal of BS5502. This was dealt with under item 2.4.</p>