

INVITATION TO HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE (HSE) FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH EVENT

Attendance is free and will assure HSE that you are a low priority for inspection

We are inviting you to attend a farm Safety and Health event at

Welshpool Livestock Sales, The New Smithfield, Buttington Cross, Buttington, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8SR, on 21st January 2010

The am session starts at 0915 finishes at 1215.

The pm session starts at 1230 finishes at 1530.

The event lasts just half day to ensure you can also complete essential work on your farm. Details of the session and an explanation of why you should attend are enclosed. There is no charge and free refreshments will be provided.

The event will remind you about the actions you need to take to avoid people being killed, injured or made ill on your farm. Qualified instructors will give practical demonstrations on how to avoid the most common causes of farming related accidents and ill health. These are simple and cheap precautions which will protect you, your family, employees and others from harm.

On the day we'll give you a free information pack of key HSE guidance. But this is also a chance for you to ask questions in the company of other farmers and growers, so you understand more about your legal duties.

Please complete and return the reply slip. Or register to attend by e-mail to doug.galvin@hse.gsi.gov.uk. Or fax to 02920 263068. Please reply by **14 January 2010** at the latest as we need to pre-book adequate facilities at the venue, caterers and instructors.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Batten
Health and Safety Awareness Officer

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE SAFETY AND HEALTH EVENT

Why should I worry about health and safety on my farm?

Farming is one of the most dangerous occupations. Someone is killed in a farm accident nearly every week and around 1,500 people are seriously injured each year. Many thousands more suffer other injuries or ill health which prevent them carrying out their normal work. This can have a significant impact on businesses.

What happens at the event?

The Health and Safety Executive is concerned about the number of deaths and injuries and the effect this has on the agricultural industry. We are therefore inviting you to attend this free Safety and Health event.

The separate sessions (either morning or afternoon) last about 3 hours. Up to six practical demonstrations will be presented by qualified instructors from Lantra Awards (many are farmers themselves) who will show you how to avoid the most common causes of accidents and ill health which arise from agricultural activities and building maintenance. These include transport and vehicle/machinery maintenance, working at height and safe access (e.g. to roofs), manual handling and other topics relevant to the typical farming activities in the area.

What do other farmers say about these events?

In recent years the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has run a number of these practical demonstrations around the country, to help farmers make their workplaces and work activities safer and healthier. As a consequence, businesses can also be more profitable. Farmers who have attended previous events told us that they have found them helpful and worthwhile and would recommend them to other farmers. 95% said they would attend a similar event.

What are the benefits to me of attending an event?

We recognise that many farmers prefer receiving practical advice delivered by people from the farming industry without feeling there is a threat of enforcement hanging over them.

Attending an event shows your commitment to dealing with risks and will assure HSE that you are a lower priority for inspection. HSE expects you to put into practice the safe systems of work demonstrated at the event when you get back to your farm.

Apart from helping you to identify common hazards and precautions relevant to your own farms (or refreshing your memory of them), you can ask any questions about your legal duties, in the company of other farmers and growers. You will also receive a free pack containing a copy of HSE's

comprehensive guidance booklet 'Farmwise', a 'self-assessment' CD and a selection of other relevant HSE guidance leaflets.

What if I've been to an awareness event before?

The topics covered are continually changing and being updated, so if you have attended before, we are sure you would learn more. If you enjoyed a previous event and thought it worth while, then please encourage other farmers to come along with you. If you did not attend, then please tell us why, so we can improve them in future.

Please note that we need to know numbers attending, so please ask others to confirm to us that they will be coming.

What do I wear?

You will need to wear suitable footwear and clothing as some demonstrations are held outside and conditions may be wet, cold etc.

What if I really can't come on this date?

We recognise that the chosen date may not be convenient because of other pressures, but I sincerely hope that this letter has persuaded you to attend. If you are unable to join us on the day but would like advice from HSE on any work-related health and safety issue, please contact your local Health and Safety Awareness Officer at the addresses on the letter. Further information is also available on HSE's website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

