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

**Overview of 2017/18 cattle related incidents investigated by HSE**

**Summary**

1. This paper presents summarised details of cattle related incidents investigated by HSE during the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018. 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 fourth paper, presented to the AIAC, on this topic.

**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 further updates summarising the details of incidents in year [2015/16](#) and [2016/17](#).
3. In 2015, HSE set an aim to be more consistent in the collection of data gathered during the investigation of cattle related incidents<sup>1</sup> 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. This paper gives an overview of cattle incidents investigated by HSE during 2017/18 and considers the combined data presented to AIAC since 2015. As with previous papers, the incidents addressed include those investigated by field-based officers and concerns followed up in line with HSE's concerns handling procedure. The incidents include those to farmers, workers and members of the public.
5. The operational data used in this analysis includes cattle incidents and concerns raised with HSE. Therefore, the figures may vary from other published data.
6. HSE's instructions to assist inspectors investigating cattle incidents have been in place since 2015 and this had led to more consistency in identifying breeds and comparing circumstances. HSE's Agriculture Unit will continue to work with colleagues to obtain consistent data.

**Summary of incidents (2017/18 and 2015-18 combined)**

7. There has been a total of 45 cattle related incidents followed up by HSE (by either an Inspector, Visiting Officer or Concerns Team Handler) during the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 – see annex 1 for further details. This compares to 34 incidents in 2016/17.

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

8. Of the 45 incidents, 24 were investigated and 21 were concerns received by HSE. Investigations are made by a field-based officer and normally include a visit to the farm or site. Concerns are followed up by a variety of means but may not have involved an officer visiting site.
9. Overall, looking at the total incidents, 8 people were killed, 26 received non-fatal injuries and 11 people were put at risk but escaped injury.
10. Of these incidents, 29 involved members of the public (MOP) and in 18 cases a MOP was injured. Nine involved the self-employed and 7 involved employees.
11. Eight people, all working in agriculture, were killed and three of these incidents involved cows and calves. Details of each death are published in HSE's ([2017/18 fatal accident report](#)). Injuries from cattle were the biggest cause of fatal injury on farms in 2017/18
12. A dog was present in 13 incidents (mainly involving members of the public on footpaths). Nine of these involved cows with young calves. In 8 cases the dog was reported to be on a lead.
13. A range of cattle breeds were involved in these incidents and there are no clear trends, see annex 1.
14. Over the three years (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2018) of detailed data presented to AIAC, there have been 111 cattle incidents (accidents and concerns). Thirteen resulted in a fatal injury. Of the 13 deaths, one was to a MOP and 12 were workers (11 self-employed and one employee).
15. Of the 111 incidents since 2015, 72 have involved a MOP (1 fatal). Approximately half involved dogs. Approximately half involved cows with calves.

## Conclusions

16. The overall picture of incidents in 2017/18 is broadly similar to previous years, i.e. cattle incidents to workers and self-employed farmers generally involve some form of husbandry procedure and cattle handling. Incidents to members of the public mostly occur on footpaths in fields containing cows and calves. It is common for a dog to be present.
17. There are no discernible trends around breed of animal involved in the incidents.

## Recommendations

18. AIAC members are invited to consider the information in this paper and agree that the approach adopted following previous discussions is still appropriate.
19. AIAC members should continue to work through the FSP to promote livestock safety in line with the agreed FSP plans.

## Contact

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