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

Overview of cattle related incidents investigated by HSE (2019/20)

Summary

1. This paper contains summarised details of cattle related incidents investigated by HSE during the period 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020. It gives details of operational data gathered during the investigation or follow up of incidents reported to HSE. It is the sixth paper, presented to the AIAC, on this topic.

Background

2. Incidents involving cattle are a significant cause 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](#); [2016/17](#); [2017/18](#) and [2018/19](#).
3. In 2015, HSE set an aim to be more consistent in the collection of data gathered during the investigation of cattle related incidents¹ and to share the data with AIAC each year to consider possible trends and to identify areas that require further attention. The aim is to reduce the number of incidents and improve levels of compliance within the industry.
4. This paper gives an overview of cattle incidents investigated by HSE during 2019/20 and summarises 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 statistical data.
6. HSE's [Operational Guidance](#) for inspectors investigating cattle incidents has been in place since 2015 and this had led to more consistency in identifying breeds and comparing circumstances. HSE's Agriculture Unit continues to work with colleagues to improve consistency.

Summary of incidents (2019/20, and 5 year period (2015-20))

7. There has been a total of 40 cattle related incidents followed up by HSE (by either an Inspector, Visiting Officer or Concerns Team Handler) during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 – see annex 1 for further details. This compares to 43 incidents in 2018/19.

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

8. Of the 40 incidents, 18 were [RIDDOR](#) injury reports and 22 were concerns received by HSE (8 of the 22 concerns included injury to a person). Note: 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 number of incidents, 2 people were killed, 24 received non-fatal injuries and 14 people were put at risk, but escaped injury.
10. Of these incidents, 27 involved members of the public (MOP) and in 14 cases a MOP had been injured. Five involved a self-employed person and 8 involved employees.
11. Two self-employed farmers were killed, one incident involved a bull and the other a cow and a newborn calf. Details of each death are published in HSE's [2019/20 Agriculture fatal injuries report](#). Over the last five years, on average cattle were the second biggest cause of fatal injury on farms (2015/16 - 2019/20(p)).
12. A dog was present in 16 of the 40 incidents reported (usually with members of the public on footpaths with Rights of Way). In 9 cases the dog was reported to be on a lead.
13. Of the 40 incidents, 20 involved cows with young calves. In 16 of these a person was injured and in a further 2 there was an attack by cattle and the people involved escaped injury.
14. A range of cattle breeds have been involved in the incidents. There is no clear picture pointing towards any particular breed or breeds being more hazardous, see annex 1.
15. Over five years (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2020), there have been a total of 195 cattle incidents (accidents and concerns), see data table 1.
16. Twenty-four (12%) incidents resulted in a fatal injury: Four (4) of these were to a MOP and 20 to workers (18 self-employed and two (2) employees).
17. Out of the total, 131 incidents (67%) involved a MOP (4 fatalities, 79 major injuries and 48 concerns).

Conclusions

18. The overall picture of incidents in 2019/20 is broadly similar to previous years, i.e. cattle incidents to workers and 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.
19. There are no discernible trends around breed of animal involved in the incidents.

Recommendations

20. AIAC members are invited to consider the information in this paper and agree that the approach adopted following previous discussions is still appropriate. The previously agreed approach was:
 - a. Members agree the circumstances of incidents are generally in line with those reported in previous papers.

- b. Members agree further detailed analysis is not appropriate and would not provide any additional meaningful conclusions. A pattern of risk, detailed in paragraph 18 above is clearer.
- c. Members agree this topic should continue to be considered annually as the data set increases.
- d. Members agree that wherever possible farmers should avoid keeping cows and calves in fields with public footpaths or should be encouraged to segregate cows and calves from public rights of way, where practicable to do so.
- e. Members agree HSE's Agriculture Sector should continue to support field investigation and concern follow up activity to ensure consistent HSE action and accurate data collection.
- f. Members are invited to set out how their organisations can assist in encouraging farmers to follow existing HSE and industry guidance to minimise incidents involving cattle.
- g. Members agree that they should continue to work through the Farm Safety Partnerships (FSPs) to promote livestock safety in line with the agreed FSP plans.

Contact

Dr Stephen Britton (Stephen.Britton@hse.gov.uk)
HSE's Agriculture Team, Engagement and Policy Division.

Data Table: Number of incidents reported

Year		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
Self-employed	Fatalities	3	1	7	5	2	18
	Non-fatal injuries		3	2	3	2	10
	No injuries					1	1
Employees	Fatalities			1	1	0	2
	Non-fatal injuries	5	10	6	4	8	33
Members of public	Fatalities		1		3	0	4
	Non-fatal injuries	18	15	18	14	14	79
	No injuries	7	4	11	13	13	48
Total number of incidents		33	34	45	43	40	195