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

Overview of 2018/19 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 2018 – 31 March 2019. 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 fifth 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](#); [2016/17](#) and [2017/18](#).
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 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 2018/19 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 data.
6. HSE's [operational guidance](#) to assist 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 will continue to work with colleagues to obtain consistent data.

Summary of incidents (2018/19 and 2015-18 combined)

7. There has been a total of 43 cattle related incidents followed up by HSE (by either an Inspector, Visiting Officer or Concerns Team Handler) during the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 – see annex 1 for further details. This compares to 45 incidents in 2017/18.

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

8. Of the 43 incidents, 24 were RIDDOR reports and 19 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, 9 people were killed, 21 received non-fatal injuries and 13 people were put at risk but escaped injury.
10. Of these incidents, 30 involved members of the public (MOP) and in 17 cases a MOP had been injured or killed. Eight involved the self-employed and 5 involved employees.
11. Nine people were killed (five self-employed, one employee and three members of the public) six of these incidents involved cows and calves. Details of each death are published in HSE's [2018/19 Agriculture fatal injuries report](#). Injuries from cattle were the second biggest cause of fatal injury on farms in 2018/19.
12. A dog was present in 18 of the 43 incidents reported (mainly with members of the public on footpaths). In 8 cases the dog was reported to be on a lead.
13. Of the 43 incidents, twenty-three (23) involved cows with young calves
14. A range of cattle breeds were involved in all the incidents examined and there are no clear trends to identify any particular breed or breeds, see annex 1.
15. Over the four years (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2019) of detailed data presented to AIAC, there have been 155 cattle incidents (accidents and concerns), see data table 1.
16. Twenty-two (14%) incidents resulted in a fatal injury: Four (4) were to a MOP and 18 to workers (16 self-employed and two employees).
17. 104 incidents (67%) involved a MOP (4 fatalities, 65 major injuries and 35 concerns).

Conclusions

18. The overall picture of incidents in 2018/19 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.
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. Previously agreed approach in summary is as follows:
 - a. Members agree that the circumstances of incidents are generally in line with those reported in previous papers.
 - b. Members agree that detailed analysis is still not appropriate and would not yet provide any meaningful conclusions.
 - c. Members agree this topic should 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.
- e. Members agree HSE's Agriculture Sector should continue to support field investigation and concern follow up 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 FSP to promote livestock safety in line with the agreed FSP plans.

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Data Table: Number of incidents reported

Year		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Self-employed	Fatalities	3	1	7	5	16
	Non-fatal injuries		3	2	3	8
Employees	Fatalities			1	1	2
	Non-fatal injuries	5	10	6	4	25
Members of public	Fatalities		1		3	4
	Non-fatal injuries	18	15	18	14	65
	No injuries	7	4	11	13	35
Total number of incidents		33	34	45	43	155