



**Farm
Safety
Partnership**

*working together
to save lives*

Safety Essentials

**Farm Safety Action Plan
April 2020 - March 2023**

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Foreword



This is the fourth Farm Safety Action Plan produced since the Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) was established in 2012. This plan sets out a range of actions, some new and some carried over from the previous plan which are designed to reduce the number of incidents and improve the health and safety of those involved in farming in Northern Ireland.

Over the past eight years much progress has been made, and I have no doubt that lives have been saved as a result of the hard work of the partners and affiliates alike. Unfortunately however, incidents continue to occur, and if we are to reach the goal of zero fatalities in the sector we must continue to raise awareness and encourage all working on our farms to protect themselves and their families. Often it is simple, basic steps which will make all the difference and protect not only the lives but also peoples livelihoods and with that this plan aims to introduce and target “**Safety Essentials**”. The partnership also recognises the health challenges facing farmers and their families and the plan sets out measures to address both physical and mental health.

Harry Sinclair, Chair of the Farm Safety Partnership



The Farm Safety Partnership have been instrumental in ensuring that the issue of farm safety remains a top priority for all farmers and their families in Northern Ireland.

However, even one death is one too many and I would encourage all farmers and farm workers alike to ensure that they follow the principles of the ‘SAFE’ message when completing any task on the farm. Under this new action plan, there are important aims and objectives to be fulfilled and attainment of these aims and objectives will be pivotal in ensuring that farm safety remains a key priority for everyone involved in Northern Ireland’s Agricultural sector. I send my very best wishes to all the organisations which make up the membership of the Farm Safety Partnership and indeed membership of the Farm Safety Partnership Affiliate Scheme as they continue with raising the awareness of safety on farms under the life of this new action plan.

Victor Chestnutt, President, Ulster Farmers Union

Introduction

Directly and indirectly, farming is fundamental to the Northern Ireland economy, with around 24,827 farm businesses employing just under 50,000¹ people, producing a wide variety of raw materials and products. In most cases, farming is not just a job, it is a lifestyle, a vocation and very much an integral part of all aspects of a farming families' life.

Regrettably the agriculture industry has held a very poor safety record with statistics showing 50 fatalities occurring in the seven year period between 2006-2012 prior to the formation of the Farm Safety Partnership (FSP).

The Partnership was launched in May 2012 by Ministers Foster and O'Neill to tackle the rising numbers of farm deaths. It brings together key stakeholders with an interest in farm safety in Northern Ireland (See Appendix 1). Since its formation the FSP has undertaken three action plans designed to address the continuing numbers of injuries and deaths occurring on farms across our province.

Following the creation of the partnership there have been 41 fatalities (from 2013 to 2019), with an average of six deaths each year. Whilst the numbers have fallen there are still too many tragic incidents with farming remaining the highest

risk industry sector within Northern Ireland.

Due to lack of reporting in the sector, the number of life changing injuries impacting severely on the farmer and his/her family can only be estimated. From information collated in the Farm Safety Partnership Survey 2019 it is estimated that annually over 2,400 farm workers suffer injuries requiring medical attention; of these 2,400 around 200 persons each year suffer severe injuries and over 1,000 are estimated to have suffered lesser injuries which, none-the-less, may have resulted in a stay in hospital or a period of time off work. These types of incidents continue to occur daily on our farms.

Since its inception the FSP has endeavoured to raise awareness and improve safety standards and encourage behavioural change in the industry through promotion, education, advice, support and enforcement based on the four SAFE topics (Slurry, Animals, Falls and Equipment). Survey results and research indicates that whilst there is widespread knowledge of the key SAFE messages, simple basic precautions are still not being taken and dangerous shortcuts are sometimes employed.

In some instances these have resulted in a high number of fatal and serious incidents, for example there have been three fatalities in the last six years related to incorrectly maintained, adjusted or applied parking brakes.

To address this, the partnership will be focusing on a number of **Safety Essentials** – key actions which every farmer should employ to protect themselves and others from the situations which have tragically led to death and serious injury.

The aim of **Safety Essentials** is to reduce the number of serious incidents and fatalities resulting from frequently occurring causes. To encourage those working on farms to take simple precautions to prevent injury and death and to embed that behaviour in future working practices.

Safety Essentials will be integral to all aspects of the plan with the aim that they become as familiar as the current SAFE messages (Slurry, Animals, Falls and Equipment) and the advice provided will be taken on board and become the norm for the majority of farmers.

All incidents are avoidable and along with our stakeholders, influencers and the farming community as a whole we are committed to reducing farming incidents to zero.

The FSP also recognise the need to raise awareness of issues relating to occupational ill health. Along with a continued focus on mental health the new action plan looks to provide information and advice on a range of issues such as skin cancers, occupational lung diseases and musculo-skeletal disorders.

¹ DAERA Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector Key Statistics July 2019 Table 3.8

Progress on 2017- 2020 Action Plan

Over the past three years there has been considerable work done, by all partners, in order to achieve the objectives contained within the 2017-2020 action plan.

- Information and promotion;
- Training and research;
- Children and young people; and
- Developing behavioural change.

The targets set out under each of the 10 objectives have largely been met; there are some, however, which partners have struggled to achieve for a variety of reasons.

Some of the key actions which have been accomplished include:

Over 10,000 health and safety guides have been downloaded or distributed by partners over the period of the action plan. According to advertising tracking figures for 2018/19, awareness of the multimedia farm safety advertising campaign remains similar to that in the previous plan with 89% of farmers indicating awareness. The use of social media channels continue to develop through websites such as Facebook and Twitter. These platforms are being utilised regularly by all partners in order to try to influence behaviours, issue reminders at key periods in the year and target certain age groups within the farming community.

The Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster (YFCU), the Farm Safety Foundation (AKA Yellow Wellies), Ulster Farmers Union (UFU) and The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) combined reach a variety

of target age groups via social media, and each organisation regularly shares and re-tweets each organisations safety messages. On average there have been over 1,500 tweets viewed on twitter and over 1,200 posts viewed on facebook.

The farm safety talks and presentations have continued to be delivered right across the province in a variety of locations with five additional farm safety ambassadors being trained. HSENI and YFCU have delivered over 110 presentations within the period of the plan.

In May 2019 the advisory booklet *“Coping with the pressures of farming”* was launched at Balmoral Show by Rural Support and a news item was added to UFU, DAERA and HSENI’s websites with links

to this publication. Similarly in August 2019 UFU published *“Agriculture on the public roads”* booklet and again this has been shared by all partners on their websites and given out during farm visits and presentations.

There are now a total of 17 FSP Affiliate members. FSP Affiliate organisations support the aims of the Partnership through a range of activities such as promoting key messages, running events, supporting activities, delivering training and contributing to the development and production of resources. The work of the Affiliates has been hugely beneficial in furthering the aims of the Partnership. Recognising this the FSP has plans in place to invite further affiliates to the scheme and formalise a sub group and chair to structure the work of the scheme.



Pictured at the launch of the *Coping with Pressures in Farming* book Left to right are: Dr Denis McMahon, DAERA Permanent Secretary, John Thompson, Rural Support Chair, Jude McCann, Former Chief Executive and Bryan Monson, HSENI Deputy Chief Executive.

Since June 2017 there have been 13 safety spotlight weeks. These have consisted of:

- 1) Three International farm safety weeks delivered in July 2017, 2018 and 2019
- 2) Two weeks focusing on child safety in June 2017 and 2018
- 3) Spotlight weeks held in the October's and January's of 2017, 2018 and 2019 to highlight at these specific times to coincide with the closing and opening of the spreading period the dangers associated with slurry mixing.

DAERA and CAFRE in conjunction with NFU Mutual continue to strive to develop farmers and their families health and safety awareness through farm families key skills (FFKS) training. To date over 3,000 people have received both health and safety and first aid training. A further 2,119 people have also received health and safety training through DAERA business development groups (BDGs). 400 people have signed up to the BDG Programme and will attain a Level 3 agriculture qualification.

Three MSc dissertations have been completed on farm safety. One study was titled *"An exploratory study of farmers' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in relation to health and safety in Northern Ireland"*. These projects have been completed by students of CAFRE College in conjunction with Queen's University Belfast. The dissertations have been shared with relevant stakeholders.

HSENI's Child Safety on Farms campaign continued through the life of the action plan with a total of 265 primary schools having been visited,



Pictured at the launch of the "Avoid Harm on the Farm" Child Safety 2020 Calendar is (L-R) Paul Kelly, HSENI Inspector, Robert Kidd, Chief Executive HSENI, Caoilfhionn Mohan, St Joseph's PS, Mr Michael Grew, Principal St Joseph's PS.

with presentations and guidance given to foundation, key stage 1 and key stage 2 students. The Primary School campaign is always very well received by students and teachers alike and will hopefully continue in the coming years. 22 "BeeSafe" events were attended by HSENI staff with 41 presentations given to students studying GCSE Agriculture and Land Use between April 2017 and March 2020.

Three Farm Safety Calendar Competitions have been run by HSENI and as a result three calendars have been published in the period. 72 schools entered the competition for the 2020 calendar with nearly 4,000 pupils entering the competition in 2019.

CAFRE completed 30 tractor driving courses for 13-16 year olds during July and August 2019 across all three CAFRE campuses. New tractor driving simulators are now being used by CAFRE to aid the development of tractor driving skills in young people.

HSENI in partnership with Rural Support and Farming Families

promoted health and safety topics to the farming community at Balmoral Show over 2017, 2018 and 2019. In conjunction with all partners a farm safety competition was developed each year for Balmoral show inviting farmers to visit the stands of all partners where health and safety messages were displayed and promoted.

DAERA have greatly exceeded their target in encouraging farmers to use the *"making it safer risk assessment tool"* with a total of 9,400 farmers completing this assessment. This is nearly double the proposed target of 4,000.

In striving to develop behavioural change, NFU Mutual have agreed a new programme that every new farm business they insure will receive a farm safety visit from a farm safety risk adviser within the first year of their contract.

HSENI continued to promote the "SAFE" message through farm advisory visits, inspections, talks and presentations and working with Agricultural Contractors.

2017- 2020 Target Out-turns

- A) That the average fatal incident rate, compared to the previous plan, is reduced by 20%. **Target Achieved** (24% decrease)².
- B) That the estimated number of farm incidents requiring medical attention (as measured by the FSP Farm Safety Survey) has fallen by 10% over the life of the plan. **Target not met** (no reduction)³.
- C) That at least 90% of farmers and farm families are aware of the FSP Campaigns. **Target Achieved** (95% of farmers and farm families were aware of the FSP Campaigns)⁴.
- D) That at least 85% of farmers were influenced to protect themselves from incidents. **Target Achieved** (94% of farmers reported being influenced)⁵.



² HSENI Statistics 2014-16 = 20 fatalities equates to 41.8 deaths per 100,000 Agriculture Labour 2017-19 = 16 Fatalities equates to 35.2 deaths per 100,000 Agriculture Labour

³ 4.85% in 2015, 5% in 2019, Farm Safety Partnership Surveys 2015 and 2019

⁴ Cognisance survey spring 2019

⁵ Cognisance survey spring 2019

⁶ FSP Partner internal figures.

⁷ CAFRE Farm Family Key Skills Evaluation Report - GENERAL HEALTH and SAFETY TRAINING for the period 11 August 2016 to 22 August 2018

- E) That 9,000 people have completed farm safety-related training during the period of the action plan. **Target Achieved** (5,886 Adults, 2,600 Young People and 42,000 Children)⁶.

- F) That over 85% of farmers completing courses (physical and online) have indicated that they understand the risks presented and subsequently plan to change work and regularly review practices and behaviours. **Target Achieved** (96% of surveyed

attendees at FFSK H&S training have stated their knowledge has improved to either excellent or very good and qualitatively reported a wide range of actions which they have taken as a result of the training).⁷

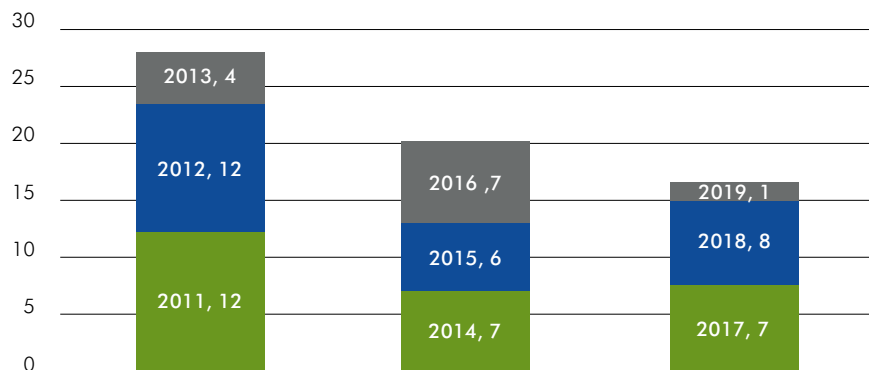


Facts and Figures

Fatal Incidents

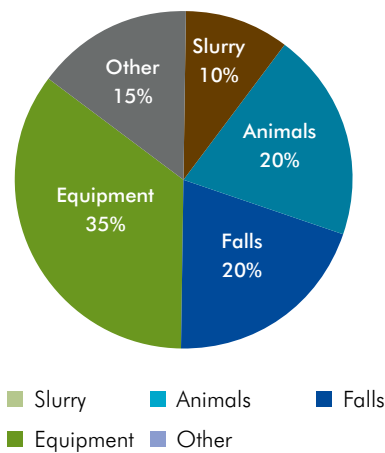
Over the period from the start of 2017 to the end of 2019 there were 16 fatal incidents in Northern Ireland. This compares to 20 during the FSP Action Plan period (2014-16) and 28 during the previous three years (2011-13). It should be noted that the apparent reduction in the last period was significantly influenced by the single incident in 2019.

Total Work Related Fatalities

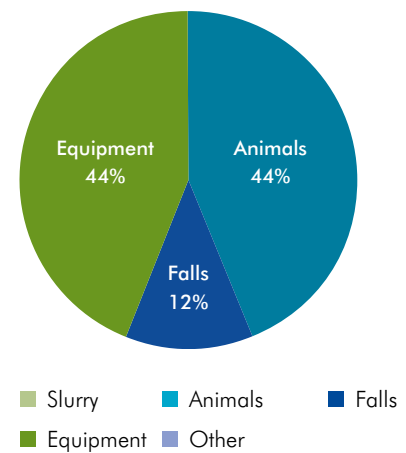


The root causes of the fatalities has altered since the last action plan with an increased percentage of incidents related to animals and equipment and a reduction in the percentage of falls. Although no slurry related fatalities occurred during the period 2017-2019 there were a number of very serious incidents recorded where individuals sustained life changing injuries as a result of being subjected to slurry gas. Whilst the FSP will continue to work across the full scope of the SAFE messages, emphasis will be put on **Safety Essentials** related to animals and equipment.

Calendar Years 2014 - 2016



Calendar Years 2017 - 2019



The average age of farmers in Northern Ireland is 59 years with the majority of fatalities recorded over the past six years occurring in individuals over this age. This may be reflective of a higher level of risk to older farmers and/or a poorer prognosis of recovery after a serious injury. In both periods (2014-2016 and 2017-2019) one child under the age of 16 lost their life.

It is important to remember that whilst discussing statistics every incident represents a personal tragedy affecting many close family and friends.

Non-fatal incidents

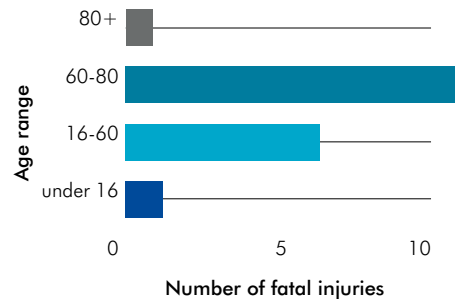
The 2019 Farm Safety Survey aimed to enhance the statistical evidence base available to the Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) and all associated stakeholders with an interest in reducing the number and prevalence of farm incidents in Northern Ireland (NI).

The survey included questions relating to the number and nature of non-fatal farm incidents and near misses.

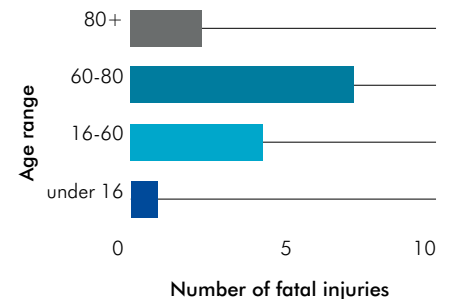
Thankfully the vast majority (95%) of farms had no incidents or near misses in the previous 12 months, however 5% of respondents experienced an incident in the previous 12 months which required medical attention. Of these, 17% were admitted to hospital, 66% received outpatient treatments and 17% were treated by their GP.

It is notable that 16% of injuries (approx 200 people per annum) require medical attention, resulting in the individual not being able to work for 30 days or more.

Age profile of persons involved in Fatal incidents 2014 - 2016



Age profile of persons involved in Fatal incidents 2017 - 2019



This is an indicator of the severity of injuries sustained. (This can have a huge impact given that many farm operations rely on only one or two individuals.)

The survey also collected information on minor injuries and near misses with 15% of respondents experiencing a minor injury and/or a near miss in the previous 12 months.



Pictured at the Farm Safety Partnership Affiliate Award From (L-R) – Harry Sinclair, HSENI Board Member and Farm Safety Partnership Chairperson, Mark Harriott and Dr Patrick Harriott, Polaris Safety Training and Rescue, and Bryan Monson, HSENI Deputy Chief Executive.

Aims and Objectives

It remains the belief of the Farm Safety Partnership that by working together a significant reduction in injury rates and occupational ill health in the Northern Ireland farming industry is achievable.

The aim of this plan, emulating from previous work is “To continue to drive behavioural change in the industry by ensuring that farmers, their families and their employees are motivated and able to work safely thereby reducing incidents on farms”.

The action plan is designed as a series of interventions, some new and some ongoing across four areas:

- Promoting good practice and providing information to the agriculture industry;
- Facilitating education and training, and conducting research;
- Engaging with Children and Young People; and
- Driving forward behavioural change in the industry.

A key aspect of this plan is to concentrate on specific **Safety Essentials** designed to reduce the number of serious and fatal incidents relating to common and recurring causations.

Examples of the **Safety Essentials** will include areas such as ensuring that vehicle brakes are maintained, never working directly on fragile roofs and ensuring proper

safeguards are in place when handling bulls.

Plan Objectives

Objective 1: To ensure that straightforward, appropriate information on key **Safety Essentials** is produced in ways that are understandable, easily accessible and deemed to influence the farming community.

Objective 2: To ensure that information is effectively communicated through a wide range of channels with the aim that every person involved with farms and farming is made aware of the key risks and knows how to reduce/remove these risks.

Objective 3: To promote health and safety training and the inclusion of relevant health and safety components within broader training, for people living or working on farms.

Objective 4: To use research to better inform improvements and interventions which sustainably improve farm health and safety.

Objective 5: Maintain the progress made in relation to child safety on farms for children between the ages of 6 and 12 by ensuring they receive age appropriate information on staying safe on the farm through talks, events and competitions.

Objective 6: That young people (12-20) are engaged through talks, events and competitions designed to raise awareness of farm safety

related issues and promote safety essentials.

Objective 7: To ensure that poor practice is discouraged and penalised where appropriate.

Objective 8: To highlight key areas of occupational health (including mental health) and provide information on risks and how to manage them.

Targets

- A) That the average fatal incident rate, compared to the previous plan, is reduced by 20%.
- B) That the estimated number of farm incidents requiring medical attention (as measured by the FSP Farm Safety Survey) has fallen by 10% over the life of the plan.
- C) That at least 80% of farmers and farm families are aware of the FSP **Safety Essentials**.
- D) That at least 70% of farmers are influenced to protect themselves from incidents by following the **Safety Essentials** guidelines.
- E) That 30,000 children and young people have received information on how to stay safe on the farm.
- F) That 6,000 people involved in the agriculture sector complete training in the period of the action plan which should include elements of the **Safety Essentials** messages.

Action Plan

Information and Promotion

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| <p>1.1 Continue the farm safe Information and Promotion Programme through advertising, media, events and other communication channels.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify and utilise appropriate media channels to maintain the high recognition levels for farm safety and occupational health messages. – Promote Safety Essentials via existing channels. – Issue media releases and articles to inform of relevant safety messages at key times of the year. – Continue large audience contact opportunities through the annual programme of events in the farming calendar. – Publish and distribute through print and electronic means 10,000 farm Safety Essentials publications and safety and health guides. – Identify new opportunities to promote farm safety messages. |
| <p>1.2 Deliver a series of seasonally relevant Farm Safety Spotlight weeks.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Participate in the annual International Farm Safety Week and Child Safety Week. – Run nine Farm Safety or Health Spotlight weeks with an emphasis on Safety Essentials. |
| <p>1.3 Expand Social Media Engagement.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop a program to maximise the effectiveness of social media channels. – Use social media to promote events and Safety Essentials messages at key times of the year. – Increase social media linkages between partners, Affiliates and other stakeholders. |
| <p>1.4 Enlisting support of ‘key influencer’ family members.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify communication lines to key family members to encourage and equip them to support and encourage safe working practices by influencing those who work on the farm. |
| <p>1.5 To encourage improved management of Stress and Mental Health within the sector.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Through information and promotion activities provide advice on dealing with the pressures of farming and signpost relevant services. – Develop a website which will help farmers and others to identify if they have mental health issues. This website will have tips for farmers on how to help themselves going forward in coping with the pressures of life and work. |
| <p>1.6 Deliver a range of press and media initiatives to raise awareness of FSP Safety Essentials and encourage farmers to manage known key risks.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop press and media initiatives to encourage farmers, their families and employees to comply with the FSP Safety Essentials and to protect themselves from key hazards known to cause major injury or fatality. – Inclusion of articles in the YFCU Magazine, UFU Watch and other partner publications. |

Training and Research

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| <p>2.1 To review and deliver targeted Health and Safety training to farmers, their families and farm workers.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Based on the level of demand continue the Family Farm Key Skills (FFKS) First Aid and Coping with the Pressures of Farming training courses. – Review existing agricultural education and training courses and ensure that appropriate health and safety information is included in the syllabus / course content. – Identify new opportunities and channels for training linked to Safety Essentials. |
| <p>2.2 Continue to deliver Health and Safety awareness training through the Business Development Groups (BDG).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promote FSP Safety Essentials through BDG meetings. – Continue to encourage BDG group members to complete NVQ level 3 Agriculture training. |
| <p>2.3 Conduct research into farm safety awareness and how to effectively change behaviours.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete two MSc dissertations researching behavioural change on farm safety and disseminate findings to the Farm Safety Partnership. – As part of CAFRE's Postgraduate taught MSc programme (Module: Planning and Evaluating Change Management Programmes); include an Assessment on communication of key farm safety messages on slurry/equipment/young drivers/livestock and signposting to Farm Family Key Skills training. – CAFRE Postgraduate taught MSc Team to host the Farm Safety Partnership for a seminar of MSc Postgraduate presentations to disseminate main findings and recommendations on theses completed under the Farm Safety Action Plan (2017-2020) Training and Research Team targets. – DAERA to ensure that Farm Safety remains within its Research Priority Areas. – Complete a socio-economic study examining those factors that impact on behaviors and actions to improve farm safety. |
| <p>2.4 Conduct and analyse surveys of agricultural businesses.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Carry out and analyse a repeat FSP Survey (based on the 2019 survey) to monitor progress and identify interventions required during the life of the action plan. – Share information with The Farm Safety Foundation (Yellow Wellies) on Farm Safety related surveys and research to inform future activities. – Seek to obtain more detailed incident information and analysis of non-fatal incidents on farms. |

Training and Research (continued)

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| 2.5 | Young Farmer Mentor Scheme. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop the YFCU Farm Mentor scheme and create video content for use on social media and other channels raising awareness of Safety Essentials. |
| 2.6 | Education through New Technologies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expand of the use of the CAFRE farm-vehicle simulator training. – Introduce the Farm Safety Foundation Virtual Reality training session to colleges and other relevant bodies across Northern Ireland. – Continue to provide and further develop online tools such as the 'FarmsafeNet' (www.farmsafenet.org) online learning tool and the 'Making it Safer' tool, risk assessment aid that can help farmers manage their farm in such a way that it is safer for themselves, families and employees. |
| 2.7 | Encourage sector specific Mental Health Training. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue the provision of mental health training and coping with the pressures of farming to farm families via the Farm Families Key Skills in conjunction with Rural Support. – Deliver to relevant organisations and influencers the The Farm Safety Foundation (Yellow Wellies) '<i>Mental Well-being in Farming</i>' training session. – DAERA to include aspects of mental health awareness within the 'Making it Safer' Risk Assessment Tool. |
| 2.8 | Identify speaking /presentation opportunities and provide speakers to deliver key messages to relevant audiences. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure across all partner organisations that sufficient people are trained or retrained in relation to key health and safety messages and Safety Essentials. – Continue to identify potential audience groups, approach them to provide opportunities to address their members. – Deliver 90 talks and presentations by the end of the action plan. |

Children and Young People

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| 3.1 | Continue to deliver and further develop the Child Safety on Farms Programme. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Deliver Farm Safety presentations to 210 Primary Schools by March 2023. – Run three Farm Safety Calendar Competitions and publish three farm safety calendars, one in each of the three years of the programme with appropriate partners. – Over the life of the plan encourage and assist other organisations to deliver Farm Safety Awareness Training to school age children. |
| 3.2 | Work with Young People to raise awareness of key aspects of agricultural health and safety for future farmers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Include Safety Essentials and farm safety articles in YFCU Members magazine Rural Dispatch (three issues per year). – Promote YFCU safety videos and circulate to YFCU clubs and other interested parties. – Introduce an AQA certificate in Farm Safety to YFCU clubs and other interested parties. – Participate in the YFCU annual competition to elect the best Senior and Junior members of YFCU. – Annually deliver 12 talks to GCSE Agriculture and Land Management classes at participating schools and colleges. – Use materials and resources produced by 'The Farm Safety Foundation (Yellow wellies)' to raise awareness of farm safety among young people involved in farming. |
| 3.3 | Identify age specific skills based training for young farmers . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Make the 13-16 year CAFRE Tractor Driving course (or equivalent) available to those wishing to drive tractors on farms in NI. – Promote and expand the use of the CAFRE tractor driving simulators to aid the development of tractor driving skills. – Through YFCU provide farm-applicable first aid training (5 courses). – Over the period of the plan, work with The Farm Safety Foundation (Yellow Wellies) in providing health and safety training at CAFRE colleges. |

Developing Behavioural Change

4.1	Include Farm Safety as a component of future policy decisions and schemes .	– Farm safety is a high priority across all programmes that are delivered through DAERA and will continue to feature within all future key schemes.
4.2	To continue to promote and develop the ‘Making it Safer’ risk assessment tool to allow farmers to risk assess their farms and identify simple solutions to manage risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To review and where necessary update the content of the online and paper based “Making it safer” tool over the life of the plan. – To encourage and promote the use (and reuse) of the tool resulting in an additional 4,000 completed assessments/ reassessments. – To utilise anonymized data obtained from the use of the tool to identify areas for future advice and assistance.
4.3	NFU Farm Risk Audits.	– NFU Mutual will conduct Farm Risk Audits with new customers and following certain claims situations. These on site, face-to-face interactions are designed to provide information, promote good practice and assist in managing risk in farm businesses.
4.4	To continue to conduct a series of ‘Farm Safety Inspections’ on the key SAFE message or targeting FSP Safety Essentials .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To deliver 1,500 farms inspections by HSENI staff to assist farmers in identifying significant risks and implement appropriate controls by the end of the action plan. – Where appropriate signpost farm business to the HSENI business advisors.
4.5	Where required develop guides to compliment the FSP Safety Essentials topics demonstrating simple, inexpensive safe working methods.	– In line with the Safety Essentials roll out, develop and publish four ‘guides’ focusing on the key actions that every farmer must take to protect themselves and others from the situations which have tragically led to death and serious injury.
4.6	Discourage repeat and serious failings by those who ignore basic safety standards by utilising existing and identifying new, proportionate penalties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prosecute cases where there has been a blatant disregard for achievable and recognised minimum legal standards by farmers resulting in harm to others (family members, employees or members of the public). – Where there are failings to implement Safety Essentials use appropriate enforcement action, including notices or prosecution.
4.7	Continue this Agricultural Contractors initiative to improve health and safety standards in this sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue to expand the ‘Agricultural Contractors Initiative’ – to improve standards within the agricultural contractors sector over the life of the plan. – Distribute a checklist for farmers using Agricultural Contractors to assist them in understanding their responsibilities, improving safety standards and reducing incidents.
4.8	NFU Mutual Tidy Farm Competition.	– NFU Mutual (in conjunction with the Ulster Farmers Union and the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland) will organise and run an annual tidy farm competition. The competition will showcase farms that manage health and safety effectively.

Affiliate Liaison Group

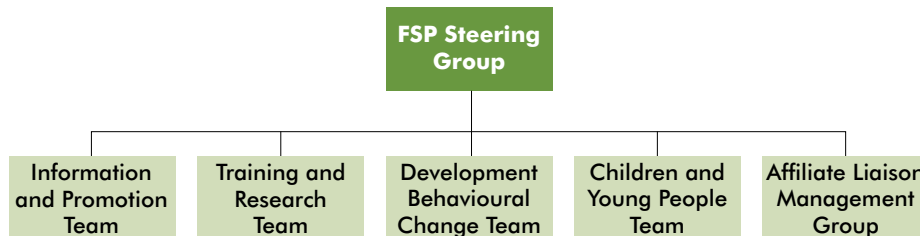
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| 5.1 | Instigate an Affiliate Liaison Management Group made up of representatives from the FSP Partners. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage the interface between the FSP and Affiliates and co-ordinate activities. – Identify opportunities for Affiliates participation in FSP activities. – Ensure good communications between the FSP and affiliate members. – Encourage affiliates to promote relevant events and safety messages via their social media platforms. |
| 5.2 | Review the FSP Affiliate Scheme to encourage more businesses and organisations to support the aims of the Farm Safety Partnership in Northern Ireland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review the current scheme and membership criteria to encourage increased participation of organisations in the scheme. – Continue the FSP Affiliate scheme with existing members and encourage continued participation. |
| 5.3 | Increase participation of organisations in the FSP Affiliate Scheme. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify potential affiliates and encourage their participation in the scheme. – Increase the number of Affiliates by 20% over the life of the plan. |
| 5.4 | Recognise the contribution of FSP Affiliates. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expand and run the annual FSP Affiliate Award. – Annually publish a report on the membership of the affiliate scheme and the contributions made over the period. |

Implementation and Monitoring

The FSP Steering Group, made up of senior representatives from each of the partners, will continue to provide strategic leadership for the Partnership and the five FSP Action Teams. The Steering Group will monitor the implementation and review the effectiveness of the Farm Safety Action Plan and make recommendations for future work.

Reporting to the Steering Group, the Action Teams will monitor the delivery of the actions within the five key areas, continue to act as a conduit to ensure the sharing of information and, where appropriate, supply resources to co-ordinate activity. The Action Teams will be made up of experienced staff from each of the partners and where necessary other persons with relevant skills and expertise seconded into the team. These teams will also identify issues or opportunities around the delivery of the targets and produce plans to address issues and capitalise on opportunities.

Based on structures put in place to oversee the successful delivery of the previous action plan, the Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) Steering Group has modified the remit of the Action Teams to manage the new action plan, as detailed below.



Research and Data Gathering

There will be an ongoing need for research and data gathering in a range of areas to assist the Partnership to develop, implement, and monitor the effectiveness of interventions and programs. Research on specific areas of work or issues will be commissioned as required by the partnership based

on need and available resource. This will be co-ordinated by HSENI with assistance from all partners under the guidance of the FSP Steering Group.

There will also be a need to repeat the Farm Safety Survey, which was run in 2015 and 2019 to assess the effectiveness of the interventions and identify future needs.

Appendix 1: Membership of the Farm Safety Partnership

The members of the Partnership at the time of the publication of this Action Plan are as follows:

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI)

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU)

National Farmers' Union Mutual (NFUM)

Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU)

Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association (NIAPA)

Farm Safety Foundation (FSF)

Appendix 2: Membership of the Farm Safety Partnership Affiliate Scheme⁸

The members of the Partnership at the time of the publication of this Action Plan are as follows:

ABP Group

ASDA

Autoline Insurance Group

Carson McDowell LLP

Dale Farm

Danske Bank

Girlguiding Ulster

Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NI Branch)

Lakeland Dairies

Lantra

Livestock and Meat Commission Northern Ireland

Northern Counties Co-Operative Enterprises Ltd

Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Northern Ireland Safety Group

Polaris Safety Training and Rescue

Power NI

Ulster Bank

⁸ Membership as of the 31/3/2020



hсени
CONTROLLING RISK TOGETHER

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Email: mail@hсени.gov.uk
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For more advice on farm safety
visit hсени.gov.uk/farmsafe

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