Farm Safety Plan
2003 - 2007

Farm Safety Action Group
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Farm Accidents</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of the Farming Industry</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Targets</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme of Activities</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement of Progress</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisational Commitment</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 1 Membership and Terms of Reference of the Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 2 Description of Farm Fatalities for 2001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 3 Coping with Herd Depopulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 4 Farm Incomes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 5 Commitment of Organisations to support the Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive Summary

This Farm Safety Plan was prepared against the background of:

- a high fatality rate in the sector. An average of twenty people (including four children) have been killed each year as a result of farm accidents over the past 10 years.
- a high accident rate in the sector. Over 3000 people were injured in 2001. Agriculture has the highest accident rate relative to any other sector.
- falling incomes. Farm incomes fell by over eight per cent in 2002. Farmers earned an average income of €300 per week from farm activities in 2001.
- falling population. The farm workforce fell by over 82,000 in the ten-year period 1991-2000 or by over 2 per cent per annum.

Targets

The following are the main targets (base year 2001) set for this Farm Safety Plan:

- Farm deaths to be reduced by fifty per cent with zero child fatalities
- Farm accidents to be less than 1,600 per annum
- A minimum of 1,000 farm inspections per annum
- Increase from ten to fifty per cent in farmers complying with health and safety legislation
- 5,000 farmers to receive training in health and safety per annum
- Special emphasis on providing health and safety training for all age groups
- Research into methods of achieving attitude change among farmers to health and safety issues and identifying engineering solutions
- Specific promotional campaigns highlighting health and safety issues
- Development of a database for farm inspections by the Health and Safety Authority

The following is a list of activities designed to achieve these targets. They are grouped together into the 3 “Es”, namely, Engineering, Enforcement and Education/Training.
Engineering/Workplace Design

- Identify and promote the adoption of existing technical solutions to health and safety problems.
- Identify and research solutions for outstanding health and safety problems.
- Promote engineering solutions where possible.

Enforcement

- Increased farm inspections
- Dedicated team of inspectors for agriculture
- Develop databases to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of farm inspections.
- Insurance companies to strongly advise on the requirement for Safety Statements when quoting clients

Education/Training

- Focused health and safety programmes for children at primary and post-primary schools
- Access for all third level students to an occupational health and safety module in college courses
- Specific health and safety courses for adult farmers
- Specific promotional campaigns
- Production of quality brochures on farm safety
- Carry out research into the effectiveness of training programmes.

Central to the success of the Plan is the development of a ‘Safety Partnership’ between all the interested parties to develop and co-ordinate activities contained in the Plan.
Introduction

The Health and Safety Authority set up the Farm Safety Action Group in February 2002. The composition and Terms of Reference of the Group is shown in Appendix 1. The Terms of Reference include:

“to develop a national action programme, co-ordinating the actions of the representative organisations and assigning tasks”.

This plan reviews the current situation on farm safety and sets out specific targets, which are practical and achievable. Further, it outlines specific activities required to achieve these targets and identifies methods for measuring progress. The plan will need the full support and total commitment of all organisations and individual farmers to achieve the identified reduction in accident levels.

1.0 Review of Farm Accidents

1.1 Fatality Rate

Farming has a very high fatality rate. Data in Table 1 show that over the last ten years, twenty people (including four children), on average are fatally injured each year on farms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Farm Fatalities</th>
<th>Child Fatalities</th>
<th>All Employment Sectors</th>
<th>Farm Fatalities as % of Employment Fatalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HSA Annual Reports
Farming accounts for thirty two per cent of fatalities, yet accounts for an average of only 7.5 per cent of total employment over the past ten years. *(CSO statistics)*

![Total Fatalities 1993 to 2002](image)

There has been a variation in yearly fatalities over time. This is shown in the histogram above. Fatalities have ranged from a high of twenty-eight in 1995 to twelve fatalities in 1996. There is no apparent reason for this yearly variation.

A brief description of each of the 24 fatal accidents in 2001 is presented in Appendix 2. It demonstrates how simply accidents can happen on farms. It also shows that over half the fatalities (13) occurred with tractors and machinery. A further four were killed by bulls, while slurry and falling from heights accounted for two deaths each.

### 1.1 Accident Rate

There are no national statistics available on farm accidents. This is due to the gross under reporting of farm accidents by farmers, despite a legal obligation to do so. However, a series of surveys conducted by the Teagasc National Farm Survey, since 1991, gives an estimate of accident trends during that period.

In the Teagasc surveys a farm accident was defined as an event associated with farming activity, which impacted on normal work routine. An accident therefore must lead to an injury and must be associated with a farming activity.
An accident is reportable to the HSA (as defined in the General Application Regulations, 1993) where the injured worker is unable to work for more than three consecutive days.

Data from the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Farm Surveys are shown in Table 2. It shows both the number and the distribution of accidents per 100,000 people employed in farming.

Table 2: Distribution of Accidents in Farming for 1991, 1996 and 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Accidents</th>
<th>No. of Accidents per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>1,805</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Distribution of Accidents in Farming for 1991, 1996 and 2001

Teagasc National Farm Survey

Data in Table 2 show that, while the overall number of accidents fell between 1991 and 1996, the accident level has increased substantially again between 1996 and 2001. There were 1,805 accidents per 100,000 employed in farming in 2001 which is quite close to the 1991 figure of 1,970 accidents.

1.2 Causes of Farm Accidents

The causes of farm accidents are predictable. Statistics show that over the years, the same factors account for a huge proportion of the accidents.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Farm Accidents by Cause

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trips &amp; Falls</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chainsaw</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Farmyard</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Work</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data in Table 3, show that livestock, machinery and, trips and falls cause most accidents, (76% in 1996 and 69% in 2001). This clearly indicates that these areas should be the main focus of attention for safety training and safety campaigns.
1.3 Health Statistics

There is a wide range of farm-related illnesses, which can have major long-term implications for the farm family. Many of these illnesses can take time to develop symptoms and can be irreversible, when finally diagnosed. Data in the Teagasc National Farm Survey show that some 9.9 per cent farms (or 11,900 nationally) reported an illness resulting from farm activity. The distribution of farms with health problems by type is shown in Table 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illness Type</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Back Pain</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory/Lung Problems</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases from Animals</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

Data in Table 4 show that, of the illnesses identified, almost half (49%) were associated with chronic back pain while one third of farmers with illness reported respiratory problems. Eight per cent of ill farmers had illnesses resulting from contact with farm animals while a further eight per cent had other health problems.

CSO Quarterly Household Survey figures for 2002 (Table 5) show the distribution of farmers with long term health problems by type for those engaged in farming, forestry and fishing. These health problems are not all associated with farming activities but nevertheless give some indication of the level of ill health on farms. Health issues associated with the back problems, limbs, respiratory system and the cardiovascular system accounted for most of the disability.
There is increasing evidence that stress is becoming a major health issue on farms. The issues causing stress are well known, such as low incomes, pressure of work, animal disease problems, planning issues and a general loss of control by farmers over their own destiny. The initiative by the Department of Agriculture and Food to provide a counselling service (see Appendix 3) to farmers with depopulated herds is a welcome recognition of the problem and is a model for such future services to farmers who should be encouraged to avail of the support.

2.0 Review of the Farming Industry

2.1 Farm Investment and Farm Development Schemes

Farm Investment

Data in Table 8 show the capital investment made for the years, 1995, 1998 and 2000 for agricultural machines/equipment, transport equipment and farm buildings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agr. Machines / Equipment</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Equipment</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Buildings</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is evident from data in Table 8, that many Irish farmers are substituting capital for labour.
This will affect health and safety in two important areas. Firstly, new machines and buildings will incorporate all the latest technology for safety, from noise reduction in tractor cabs to external agitation points for slurry handling. Newer machines have the potential to be safer, provided they are operated by a competent operator.

**Farm Development Schemes**

Farm Development Schemes offer an opportunity for farmers to modernise their farms. Three schemes are of particular relevance, the Dairy Hygiene Scheme (DHS), Farm Waste Management Scheme (FWM) and the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS). While none of these schemes had safety as a fundamental reason for their introduction, they nevertheless have contributed enormously to improving safety on many farms.

The specification for farm buildings (S 123) has a requirement for several safety features. The DHS provides for the installation/provision of proper electrics, chemical storage, non-slip floors and washing facilities. The FWM Scheme provides for the collection, storage and handling of farm wastes. REPS provides for an overall environmentally friendly farm, which requires the tidying up of farmyards, proper fencing and adequate housing for animals and the control of pollution.

It is proposed to include occupational safety in the current mid-term review of CAP. This Farm Safety Plan will be amended to take account of the final outcome of the negotiations currently underway.

### 2.2 Demography

**Employment in Farming**

The trend of falling employment in farming has continued over the last number of years. Data in Table 9 show the numbers employed in agriculture fell by 82,000 in the ten-year period, 1991 to 2000 or an average 3.2 per cent per annum.

**Table 9: Employment on Farms for the Years 1991 & 2000**
The fall in 'other family' members and 'non-family workers' has accelerated due primarily to the increase in off-farm employment and pressure on farm incomes.

There were 142,900 landholders and 141,500 farms in 2000. This indicates that many farms are now operated as one-person units, which has serious implications for health and safety on farms. It means that farmers carry out many activities alone, which normally require two people. This can lead to serious consequences in the event of an accident. The reduced labour will also put many farmers under great pressure to get time-critical work done. In their haste, safety can be the first casualty.

Farming is characterised by an ageing population. The age profile of farmers is shown in Table 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Nos.(000s)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 35 years</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>21.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 64</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>141.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSO, June 2000

Data in Table 10 indicate that only thirteen per cent of farmers are less than 35 years of age, while almost forty per cent are over 55 years of age. This situation has major
implications for farmers in their attempt to comply with the legal requirement for written documentation on health and safety.

The ongoing changes in the demography of farm households has major implications for the safety of children on farms. Supervision of children is now a major problem. Spouses often have to care for children after school, while also carrying on farm work.

3.0 Programme Targets
The following are the programme targets, which we believe are both realistic and achievable, for the period 2003 – 2007.

Targets:

3.1 Farm Accidents

Farm accidents are the result of an individual farmer activity. A set of targets (based on 2001 figures) will give focus to the plan and an ongoing measure of impact:

- that farm accidents will be fewer than 1,600 per annum
- that deaths from farm accidents will be reduced by 50 per cent over five years with particular emphasis on eliminating child fatalities
- that the incidence of health problems (back problems, respiratory problems) will be reduced by 50 per cent over five years

3.2 Training

- that 5,000 farmers/contractors will attend health and safety training each year
- that a national series of health and safety events be held each year
- that 1,000 second level students receive tractor skills training each year
- that all primary schools show and discuss the contents of the CHILDSAFE video and CD-ROM
- that suppliers will be encouraged to provide training for all new machinery and equipment and display all safety signs
- that all agricultural training programmes will include an health and safety module
3.3 Farm Inspections

- that a minimum of 1,000 farm inspections be carried out each year
- that follow-up inspections will take place where necessary

3.4 Data Collection

- that access to a suitable farmer database be secured to encourage greater reporting of farm accidents by farmers
- that access to Health Board health and accident statistics relating to farm families be secured
- that a database on all farm accidents be developed

3.5 Research

- to identify methods of improving farmer/contractor attitude, awareness and behaviour towards health and safety
- to develop effective methods of improving health and safety on farms
- to develop engineering solutions to health and safety hazards

3.6 Promotional Campaigns

- that the current Farm Safety Week / Safe Town Campaigns continue
- that a number of timely seasonal press releases be issued
- that a national seminar on farm safety be undertaken each year
- that a child safety campaign be undertaken prior to school holidays

4.0 Programme of Activities

There is no formal arrangement between farming organisations and the agencies promoting health and safety on farms. The success of any plan will depend largely, on the development of a strategic partnership between the HSA, farming organisations and state bodies providing such services to farmers. A partnership model similar to the partnership model in construction is proposed.

The following programme of activities will improve safety standards on farms and if followed, will meet the targets outlined above. The programme includes the benefit
of education and training, the enforcement of health and safety legislation and availing of modern technology to find the best engineering solutions to hazards on the farm.

4.1 Engineering/Workplace Design

In the hierarchy of safety controls, engineering solutions to health and safety problems feature very prominently. The design of external agitation points for slurry tanks is an example of how engineering solutions can contribute to safety.

Proposals:

That the HSA form a group whose prime function would be to:

- identify all current engineering solutions to health and safety problems.
- promote the adoption at farm level of such solutions, e.g., safety access, manhole covers for handling slurry.
- to identify the outstanding health and safety problems in farming where an engineering solution is feasible and practical.

In respect of each, the group would:

- examine the developments elsewhere for possible solutions.
- formulate (in conjunction with universities, industry, Teagasc) proposals to research the issues and provide solutions.
- source funding for suitable projects.
- publicise and seek implementation of findings.

4.2 Enforcement

The enforcement of health and safety legislation is an essential part of any action plan on farm safety. It is a well-known fact of nature that humans respond to two kinds of stimuli, reward or punishment, the “carrot and stick” approach. Farmers (including contractors) are no different.

To be effective, farm inspections have to be seen by farmers as making a positive contribution to improved farm safety. The number of inspectors available for farm inspections and the geographic location of farmers will have consequences for the
methodology of conducting farm inspections. There is an urgent need for more farm inspections and serious consideration should be given to having inspectors solely dedicated to agriculture.

An examination of the safety statement is central to any farm inspection. Despite over thirteen years of effort only ten per cent of farmers have a safety statement. The 1989 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, currently under review, provides an ideal opportunity to examine how farmers can meet their legal requirements on safety. It should be amended to allow for an achievable level of compliance by the self-employed, while still making a positive contribution to improving safety. This might be best achieved by having a requirement for a Safety Management System whereby a farmer (or any other self-employed person) will be required to demonstrate to the HSA Inspector that he has a safe system of work in place. This could include the need for documented evidence. What constitutes a safe system of work will have to be clearly defined.

There are other agencies that can have a positive role in ensuring safety standards. For example, insurance companies have a vested interest in safety standards on the farm. They have to cover the costs following an accident. The time is opportune for all insurance companies to require that farmers comply with the minimum legal standards of safety on the farm.

Proposals:

- The HSA will set out:
  (a) its enforcement policy on health and safety issues on the farm
  (b) its inspection policy, and
  (c) its required standards on health and safety at farm level

- that a team of inspectors be dedicated to agriculture
- that a minimum of 1,000 farm inspections be carried out each year
• that the review of the 1989 Act examine different methods of compliance with safety legislation
• that additional resources be allocated to agriculture to meet the extra demands
• that a suitable database be developed for inspection. In the short-term a sample provided by database providers could be used.
• that a farm safety scheme be introduced, either as a stand-alone scheme or as an addendum to an existing scheme
• that insurance companies would strongly advise clients on the need to comply with safety standards
• that the final outcome of the Fischler’s CAP reform will be examined regarding it’s expected impact on farm safety

4.3 Education, Training and Promotion

Education has long been recognised as a key factor in aiding the development of a positive attitude to safety. It allows the person (young or adult) to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to work safely. Involving children in farm safety at an early age is critical to ensuring their safety on the farm. There are opportunities for farmers and their families to acquire the necessary information and skills to identify and control the hazards on the farm. For school children there are videos, an interactive CD-ROM and posters on farm safety.

There is a compulsory module on safety for all students attending agricultural courses. There are some health and safety courses available to adult farmers. We note the recent inclusion of health and safety in the REPS training programme. This will be available to 36,000 farmers. There is no funding available to farmers undertaking health and safety courses.

Proposals:

4.3.1 Training
The proposals are divided into three specific areas:

(a) Young People (Primary and Second Level Students)

- The Department of Education and Science will be approached so that the CHILDSAFE programme (videos, CD-ROM and poster) can be included as part of the curriculum for students.
- More ‘user-friendly’ guidelines for child safety based on the *Code of Practice on Preventing Accidents to Children and Young Persons in Agriculture* will be produced.
- Skills training for children on farms, e.g. tractor driving will be provided.
- A health and safety website on the Internet for children will be developed with a link to the Department of Education and Science website, www.scoilnet.ie.

(b) Third Level Students attending Agricultural Courses

- All students attending Certificate, Diploma or a Degree courses will be offered the opportunity to study a module on occupational health and safety.

(c) Courses for Adult Farmers

- Courses for adult farmers, e.g. safety awareness will be targeted.
- Completing a Safety Statement or Manual Handling training
- Continue to develop health and safety information services on the HSA web site.

4.3.2 Promotional Activities

Proposals:

- to continue to channel safety messages through the mass media
- to seek access to popular morning programmes on local radio with a view to reaching a wider audience, in particular, farming women
- to hold a series of safety events each year to indicate to farmers the standards and practices required
- to focus attention on two or three specific safety issues
- to continue with Farm Safety Week
• to ensure the involvement of farm women in safety initiatives
• to develop slogans specific to Farm Safety, e.g. “Safety Begins Here”
• to continue to attend major farming events
• to evaluate promotions for effectiveness and value for money
• that focus groups be set up to evaluate all promotional activities

4.3.3 Leaflets / Brochures/Videos
Leaflets, brochures, information technology and other new media have a valuable contribution to make to increasing awareness and providing information on health and safety

Proposals:
• to continue the production of quality leaflets / brochures
• that an evaluation of all farm safety videos be undertaken
• that priorities be set for the production of leaflets / brochures / videos

5.0 Measurement of Progress
The targets in the plan need to be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis. The main purpose of the review is to evaluate the progress and modify targets, if necessary.

In this context, data from the HSA Annual Reports, reports from farm inspections, attendance at various training courses and ongoing research into farm safety will provide indicators to measure progress in meeting the targets in the plan.

However, this will not be sufficient to enable all the targets in the plan to be measured. There is a need to develop a methodology to provide:

a) statistics on farm accidents on a yearly basis, and
b) cost-benefit analysis of various campaigns.
6.0 Commitments of Organisations

All organisations represented in the Group are fully committed to the targets and the activities contained in the plan. A written commitment has been received from all organisations outlining the activities they intend to carry out in support of the plan. The following is a brief summary of their activities. Commitments of various organisations are outlined in Appendix 5.
Appendix 1

Membership & Terms of Reference of the Farm Safety Action Group

Membership:

Mr. Frank Laffey, (Chairman)
Mr. Joe Hegarty, HSA Board Member
Mr. Aidan McTiernan, Senior Inspector HSA*
Ms. Mary McGreal, Irish Farmer’s Association (IFA)
Mr. John O’Connor, Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)
Mr. Liam Curtis, Macra na Feirme
Mr. Ciarán Roche, FBD Insurance
Mr. Jim Dockery, Farm Relief Service
Mr. John McNamara, Teagasc
Mr. Michael Moroney, Farm Tractor & Machinery Traders’ Association Ltd (FTMTA)
Dr. Ignatius Byrne, Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development
Mr Tom Murphy, Professional Agricultural Contractors of Ireland
Ms. Maura Kavanagh, HSA Regional Office, Waterford (Secretary)

* Replaced by Mr. Tommy O’Sullivan, Inspector HSA

Terms of Reference of the Farm Safety Action Group:

In the period January 2002 to June 2003, in accordance with HSA Board policy and in the context of the Authority’s Annual Programmes of Work, the terms of reference of the Farm Safety Action Group are:

- to identify and prioritise the key issues related to improving safety on farms.
- to identify the actions necessary to deal with these problems.
- to set agreed targets for:
  - (a) a reduction in injuries
  - (b) an improvement in compliance in the sector.
• to develop a national action programme, co-ordinating the actions of the representative organisations and assigning tasks.
• to publicise, effect and monitor the programme.
• to carry out appropriate research and liaise with relevant agriculture organisations.
• to report regularly and formally at least quarterly to the Board of the Authority.
## Appendix 2

### Description of Farm Fatalities for 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Description of Accident</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Fell into open slurry pit.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Entrapped between transport box and rear of tractor.</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Rear wheel of tractor rolled over farmer.</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Fell into open slurry tank.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Gored by bull.</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Struck by front loader on tractor while playing on bonnet.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Driving tractor across field with steep incline, tractor overturned.</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Playing on a gate in the cattle pen area and wall collapsed.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Gored by Bull.</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farmer got caught under moving tractor.</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farmer was crushed between a tractor and fertilizer spreader.</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Drowned while helping to transport sheep from the mainland to an island.</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farmer was attacked by a bull.</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Tractor overturned and pinned the farmer underneath.</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farmer crushed under the rear wheel of tractor</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Trapped in combine harvester</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Fall from top of load 3.2 metres from ground.</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farmer attacked by a bull.</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Deceased was driving a mini-tractor when it overturned and he was pinned underneath.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Sitting in cab beside driver of moving tractor, fell forward, hit door handle which opened, he fell out and wheel went over him.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Tractor overturned on slope</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Electrocuted by automated feed delivery equipment</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farmer fell from a ladder.</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Working under machine when hydraulic hose burst causing machine to fall down on him</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 3

COPING WITH HERD DEPOPULATION
SPECIAL ADVISORY SERVICE

Teagasc, with the support of the Department of Agriculture and Food and the main farming organisations has developed a special advisory service for farmers whose herds have been depopulated under the disease eradication programmes operated by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

There are no fees or charges for this special service.

WHO SHOULD AVAIL OF THIS SERVICE?
Any farmer who has had a herd depopulation as a result of the animal disease eradication programmes, for example Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, BSE, Scrapie, Foot & Mouth or other exotic diseases.

WHAT CAN THE SERVICE DO FOR ME?
An experienced Teagasc adviser will assist you and your family in dealing with all the critical decisions that you must take at this difficult time. These include:

- What can I do with my farm in the immediate future?
- How do I maintain my income?
- How soon can I restock and how do I avoid bringing in diseases with the replacements?
- What are the tax implications of destocking?
- What impact destocking will have on suckler cow, ewe premium and other livestock schemes? Do I need to amend my REPS Plan?
- How do I plan for the future?
Appendix 4

Farm Incomes

Farming in all developing economies has always been characterised by falling incomes. Ireland is no different. Data in Table 6 show farmer’s income for the years 2001 and 2002.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income (€m)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2,614.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2,381.0</td>
<td>-8.9 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSO, Output, Input and Income in Agriculture, 2003

Farm income fell by over €233 million or 8.9 per cent. The low income in farming is further demonstrated by data from the Teagasc National Farm Survey in Table 7. It shows that, in 2001, the average farm income was €15,840, or just over €300 per week. As a result, many farmers have supplementary off-farm income. Some forty-five per cent of farmers have an off-farm job, ranging from fifty-five per cent of cattle farmers to thirty per cent of dairy farmers.

Data in Table 7 shows that there is a wide variation in farm incomes between individual farmers. Average farm income varied from €34,426 for dairy farmers to €7,278 for cattle farmers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Average Income (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>34,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy &amp; Other Systems</td>
<td>27,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>7,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle + Other Systems</td>
<td>7,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>12,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainly Tillage</td>
<td>24,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,840</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey 2001  *Includes all State subsidies
Low income has serious implications for health and safety on farms. Pressure on farm income inevitably forces many farmers to postpone investments in safety on their farms. These include purchases such as PTO shaft covers, investing in proper cattle handling facilities or servicing machinery.

Support for farmers in the form of specific grants for improving safety on the farm should receive careful consideration, e.g. safety access manhole covers or fencing slurry lagoons.
Appendix 5

Commitment of Organisations to Support the Plan

Department of Agriculture & Food

The Minister for Agriculture and Food strongly supports the initiative being undertaken by the Health and Safety Authority Farm Safety Action Group in the implementation of their five-year Farm Safety Plan.

Support will take the form of embracing the Farm Safety Plan’s proposals to improve all aspects of farm safety based on the three E’s: education, engineering and enforcement.

Education
The Department of Agriculture and Food in 2002 provided for a module on health and safety to be included in the 20-hour training course, which is now mandatory for all applicants to REPS II. This module will give a heightened awareness to farmers of the need to take health and safety into consideration in all their daily activities in order to reduce the unacceptable number of accidents occurring on farms each year. The need for each farmer to complete a Farm Safety Statement is emphasised in this course.

Engineering
The introduction of properly designed safety measures in farm buildings, other farm structures and farm layout is one of the foremost ways of reducing farm accidents. The specifications for all farm buildings and structures produced by the Department of Agriculture and Food are under continual review and are regularly up-dated to ensure that they incorporate the best safety standards currently available.

For example, the new editions of our major structural specifications are currently being finalised and will incorporate new requirements for non-fragile roof construction and non-fragile rooflights for all buildings.
The Department of Agriculture and Food will continue to incorporate the best safety standards currently available in all new and/or revised specifications.

**Enforcement**
Enforcement of safety regulations at farm level is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Authority. However, the current mid-term review of CAP, includes a proposal that a *farmer receiving direct payments shall respect certain statutory management requirements including occupational safety*, and that cross compliance checks be extended to include occupation safety.

In the event that cross compliance is extended to include occupational safety, the Department of Agriculture and Food will endeavour to support the activities of the HSA at farm level.

**FBD Insurance**

- FBD continue to be committed to reducing the number of farm fatalities and accidents.

- FBD encourage farmers to complete Safety Statements and promote safe farming practices at all times.

- FBD will continue to print and distribute safety statements to members of the farming community.

- FBD and the National Parents Council (Post Primary) launched a health and safety educational programme for secondary schools on Tuesday, 25th February. Already over 3900 students have been addressed at the time of print (12/3/03).

- “Think Safety First” is the theme of the safety programme and this will be written on all brochures, posters, armbands, key rings and pens.
• FBD will continue to sponsor the Corkman and Kerryman safety initiative and competition for primary schools through the Cork and Kerry region. This competition won a national award from the NSC for Best Media Campaign in 2002.

• FBD / Goffs Livestock Show (FBD Farm Safety theme) FBD will continue to sponsor the insurance for the FRS tractor driving skills training course.

• FBD will continue to have a farm safety stand at the Ploughing Championships.

• FBD will continue to sponsor national farm safety open days.

• New Dick Dangerfield stories will be written for the Farmer’s Journal.

• The Farm Safety Video “The Gambler”, has been sent to all FBD offices throughout the country and will be made available to farming groups.

• FBD will continue to research and analyse the main causes and types of farm accidents that occur on Irish farms.

• FBD will continue to promote health and safety through the media, flyers, posters, videos, seminars and working with other organisations.

**Farm Relief Services (FRS)**

• We are currently training teenagers in the Safe Tractor Driving Skills Course and we plan to train 800 –1000 teenagers annually.

• We have 14 people trained to help farmers, contractors and employers to compile safety statements. We intend to improve, promote and develop this service to farmers throughout Ireland.
• We envisage that this service will be accessible to all farmers wherever they are in the country and we hope to achieve a target of 1000 completed in 2003.

• We are at present providing training to farmers through groups on chainsaw handling and will continue to provide this service and increase numbers being trained to 100-150 for 2003.

• We are researching a proposal to the HSA on providing suitably trained personnel to carry out farm health and safety audits and to give advice on possible improvements and report back to the relevant authority. (We would envisage starting with a pilot scheme and assess the programme after a number of visits.) FRS Network will furnish the details later on to the FSAG on this proposal.

• FRS Network feel that there is a need to train and educate farmers in the importance of tractor and machinery safety maintenance and will continue to provide this service to them as we do with our present operators. This will have a particular emphasis on health and safety, e.g. brakes, steering, hydraulics, greasing, unsafe steps, cab condition as well as use of this equipment on the road.

• FRS believe that a standard recognised training programme be made available to farmers and contractors i.e. the equivalent of the FAS “Safe Pass” maybe the “Safe Farm Pass” recognised by the FSAG, HSA, Teagasc, Fetac etc. FRS Network feel the training programme content is there at present. What is required is the approval of all relevant bodies. We will work to achieve this over the next few months and our aim is to have this available by the end of 2003.

• FRS Network plans to hold at least one national Safety event during the term of the plan and will assist others in also running similar events.

• FRS network has just launched its Health and Safety Service as a commitment to providing farmers and others with training, with the objective of improving the safety standards on farms.
• Our operators are working on many of these farms and we have a vested interest in their safety. We hope these services will be helpful to farmers and contractors, we have to survive as a commercial organisation but in doing so feel that our services can also have a positive impact on all aspects of Farm Safety.

Farm Tractor and Machinery Trade Association (FTMTA)

FTMTA will encourage all of its members and their employees who are involved in the sale, service and repair of farm machinery to provide the following guidelines for dealing with their customers:

• To provide operational and safety training for all new machinery and equipment supplied to farmers and contractors.

• To ensure that all farm machines are sold with the necessary safety guards in place.

• To ensure that repair works are completed so that the necessary safety guards are refitted so that adequate safety systems are always put in place.

To ensure that customers are made aware and requested to repair any dangerous features of machines that are presented for repair. Advisory guidelines will be presented to all FTMTA members during a week of regional meetings in April 2003.

The FTMTA Certificate of Membership will include a statement on supplying safe machines. Members will be encouraged to continue their risk assessment programmes in their own businesses and carry out occupational safety training programmes. The FTMTA has an active Safety Committee, which will, where possible, support farm safety initiatives being organised by other farming-related organisations.
Health and Safety Authority

Training – Farmers / Contractors
Where relevant, training requirements will be dealt with during inspections to farms and contractors. This will include tractor skills training for 14-16 year olds. Suppliers of agricultural machinery and equipment will be included in the Authority’s inspection programme over the four years. We will continue to work to ensure that all agricultural training programmes will include an health and safety module.

Farm Inspections
The target for inspections this year is 1000. The Authority will increase this number as resources permit. Follow-up inspections will take place where necessary.

Data Collection
Some progress has been achieved to date: a comprehensive farmer database is a priority and resources have been allocated to acquire same.

Research
Much work has already been done in this area. (Refer to recent study by NUIG on Farmers Health, Safety & Well-being.) Also current study is supported by HSENI and HSA regarding slurry gas dangers.

Promotional Campaigns
The annual Farm Safety Week will continue. Timely seasonal press releases will continue. A child safety campaign will be undertaken prior to school holidays. Pro-active and responsive press releases and media interviews will be undertaken as appropriate.

Education, Training and Promotion
The Health and Safety Authority will:

- consult the Department of Education and Science to ensure that the CHILDSAFE programme (videos, CD-ROM and poster) is part of the curriculum for primary and second level students.
• review the existing publications, which deal with guidelines for child safety.
• promote the tractor driving skills training for 14-16 year olds at every opportunity, particularly during inspections.
• initiate discussions with relevant Third Level Institutions in 2004 to discuss inclusion of health and safety in courses.
• assist organisations with such courses by providing speakers.
• continue to develop its web site: www.hsa.ie

Promotional Activities
The HSA will continue to support safety initiatives and promotions and avail of local and national press / media in communicating safety messages.

The HSA will promote health and safety at the Ploughing Championships, the Farm Machinery Trade Show and the recently introduced national / regional Farm Safety Events.

Leaflets / Brochures
An evaluation of all farm safety videos be undertaken (by FSAG sub-group) in 2003 and set priorities for renewal.

Enforcement
The proposal to provide a larger team of inspectors dedicated to agriculture will be reviewed as resources permit. Resource allocation for agriculture will also be reviewed.

The HSA will fully support the initiative to introduce a farm safety scheme. However, the outcome of the Mid-Term CAP Reform may influence this.

The Authority has been working on the CAP proposals since 1999. There is tremendous potential here for improving health and safety standards on farms in Ireland and across the EU and the HSA will do everything it can to support the initiative.
Measurement of Progress
The Authority will continue to monitor its own annual fatal accident figures and non-fatal accident figures from the CSO. We will support a further research study in 2006 similar to the two previous studies (John McNamara 1996/7 and Anne Finnegan 2002/3).

ICMSA

ICMSA will provide a link from its website to the appropriate farm safety website.
ICMSA will provide a download facility from its website for a Farm Safety Statement document provided by the HSA.
ICMSA has a team of Regional Development Officers who visit and liaise with farmers on a daily basis. ICMSA will undertake to deliver HSA Farm Safety documentation to farmers in order to promote farm safety and raise awareness. The HSA would have to provide the necessary documentation to ICMSA.
ICMSA will include a section on Farm Safety on all notices of ICMSA meetings throughout the country.
ICMSA will ask each County Executive to highlight the issue of Farm Safety at all meetings within their respective counties.
ICMSA has a members’ magazine. ICMSA will provide space for an article on farm safety in one of its editions in 2003.
ICMSA is proposing that it would take the period pre-summer holidays where it would highlight in particular the issue of child safety. ICMSA would welcome financial support from the HSA to run such a campaign.
ICMSA would also ask the HSA to look again at financial support for a farm safety video.
**IFA**

The Irish Farmers’ Association wishes to propose the following programme of activities, news and information to support the National Farm Safety Action Plan, 2003 – 2007:

- Two, twenty minute slots per year on specifically identified farm safety issues to be addressed at each IFA County Executive.
- One, thirty minute slot per year on specifically identified farm safety issues to be addressed at meetings of both the IFA’s National Industrial and Environmental and National Farm Family Committees.
- Two press articles targeted at the provincial press per year.
- Three farm safety articles per year for inclusion in the IFA page of the Irish Farmers’ Journal.
- Three national press releases per year on specifically identified farm safety issues.
- IFA will communicate directly with members through IFA’s text messaging service.
- Allowing for the significant cost implications involved, IFA will seek to include information on farm safety with our direct mail out to members, which takes place approximately four times per year.

**Macra Na Feirme**

- Macra will create awareness by promoting the importance of operating a safe farm to our members.
- We will encourage our members to participate in farm safety events being run by the other organisations participating in the group.
- Newsletters will feature timely reminders of relevant health and safety issues.
- We will maintain the highest degree of safety at all of our competitions and will build a safety element into all stages of the competition.
- Macra will examine the possibility of running a safety competition on its website.
• The Ag / Hort Student Council will be used to disperse safety information and encourage participation by students in farm safety programmes.

**Professional Agricultural Contractors Association (PAC Ireland)**

• PAC Ireland will organise the training of three people with specific regional responsibility to be pro-active amongst our members to advise on the preparation of a Safety Statement.
• PAC Ireland will hold two open days at a contractor’s premises to promote safety in the workplace.
• PAC Ireland will have Health and Safety on its programme at all its National and Regional meetings.
• PAC Ireland in association with Teagasc will promote the Agricultural Contractors Safety Checklist.
• PAC Ireland will at regular intervals throughout the year issue media statements to highlight the need for awareness of Health and Safety in Agriculture.
• PAC Ireland will support fully Farm Safety Week.
• PAC Ireland will audit annually each of the above commitments.

**Teagasc**

Teagasc is making a substantial staff commitment to the improvement of health and safety on farms.

• Two full-time staff assigned to this area.
• Staff located at Agricultural Colleges (including Private Colleges) will deliver a 25hr module on health and safety to all students.
• Education officers will deliver health and safety modules to farmers attending courses.
• Education and advisory staff will contribute on health and safety to our farmer clients.
• All students attending full-time courses will undertake 25hr module on health and safety.
• Courses on the completion of Safety Statements will be run in each county.
• All REPS courses will contain an health and safety input.
• Teagasc staff will participate in activities during Farm Safety Week.
• A minimum of two leaflets / brochures on Farm Safety will be produced each year.
• Health and safety exhibitions will feature at all Teagasc events.
• Co-operate with other organisations / groups on various health and safety initiatives.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Safety Authority</strong></td>
<td>10 Hogan Place, Dublin 2</td>
<td>(01) 614 7000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hsa.ie">www.hsa.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ICMSA</strong></td>
<td>John Feely House, Dublin Road, Limerick</td>
<td>061 314677</td>
<td><a href="http://www.icmsa.ie">www.icmsa.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dept of Agriculture and Food</strong></td>
<td>Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2</td>
<td>(01) 607 2000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gov.ie/daff">www.gov.ie/daff</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Irish Farmers Association</strong></td>
<td>Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12</td>
<td>(01) 450 0266</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifa.ie">www.ifa.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farm Relief Network</strong></td>
<td>Derryvale, Roscrea, Co Tipperary</td>
<td>0505 22100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.frsnetwork.com">www.frsnetwork.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Macra Na Feirme</strong></td>
<td>Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12</td>
<td>(01) 450 8000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.macra.ie">www.macra.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FBD Insurance</strong></td>
<td>Bluebell, Dublin 12</td>
<td>(01) 409 3200</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fbd.ie">www.fbd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAC Ireland</strong></td>
<td>P.O. Box 9, Athlone, Co Westmeath</td>
<td>0902 37518</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pacireland.com">www.pacireland.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FTMTA</strong></td>
<td>Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12</td>
<td>(01) 450 9954</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ftmta.ie">www.ftmta.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teagasc</strong></td>
<td>19 Sandmount Avenue, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4</td>
<td>(01) 637 6000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.teagasc.ie">www.teagasc.ie</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>