Safety of Older Farmers
Q. What is the problem?

Farm deaths involving elderly farmers (+65 years) now account for more than half of fatal accidents on farms. As farmers grow older their health declines. Their ability to work safely on the farm also declines from:

- Eye sight and hearing problems
- Decreased mobility, balance and speed
- Reduced flexibility and strength from arthritis and joint problems

**FATAL ACCIDENT TRIGGERS OLDER FARMERS 2003-2007**

- 40 farmers over the age of 65 killed in the last 4 years
- 6 farmers over the age of 65 killed in 2007
- The average age of elderly farmers killed = 74
- Most are aged between 65-69 years old

* As of 31st July
Q. What are the main causes?

Decreased mobility and reaction time are probably the biggest contributory factors particularly in relation to deaths involving tractors/machinery and bulls and other livestock. Strength, mobility and flexibility are factors in most deaths from falls from height.

▲ Older farmers working with livestock on their own
▲ Tractors and machinery poorly maintained
▲ Poorly maintained handbrakes and steering
▲ Starting tractor from outside the cab
▲ PTO guards broken or missing
▲ Carrying out high risk maintenance on buildings and roofs

Main Causes of Elderly Farm Accidents

Livestock
Killed 11 Farmers

Tractors & Machinery
Killed 11 Farmers

Work at Height
Killed 6 Farmers
Q. How can I reduce the risk?

Older farmers must understand their limitations and any disability they have that may affect their ability to do a job. They must adjust their work practices and make sure that they do not put themselves in places where they may need to move fast to avoid injury.

▲ Assess the work to be done
▲ Know your limitations
▲ Get competent help when handling livestock
▲ Have tractors and machinery properly maintained
▲ Get specialists to carry out building maintenance

THE BENEFITS

A long, happy & healthy retirement