

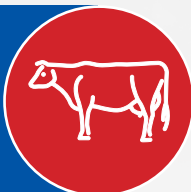
55%

Tractors account for 55% of vehicle related deaths



25%

Attacks by cows with calves accounted for 25% of fatalities caused by livestock



15%

15% of fatal vehicle accidents involved quad bikes



93%

93% of child fatalities involve vehicles (86%) and machinery (7%)



Do you have a Safety Statement for your Farm?

It is important to understand the risks you face on your farm every day and have a plan in place to manage them.

BeSmart.ie is a fantastic resource created by the HAS that provides key information, templates, checklists and guidance to help you understand and implement effective day-to-day management of health & safety on your farm.

You can complete a FREE risk assessment and receive a customised Safety Statement for your farm at **BeSmart.ie**

*All the statistics used above were sourced from HSA's Statistics on Work-Related Fatalities in Agriculture in Ireland 2015-2024

Support at your fingertips

Samaritans (support with mental health).....	116123
Aware (support with depression).....	1800 804848
Grow (support with mental health).....	1800 474474
Alone (support for older people).....	0818 222024
Pieta House (support for people who are suicidal).....	1800 247247
Your Mental Health (support with mental health).....	1800 111888
MABS (money advice and budgeting service).....	0818 072000
HSE Drugs & Alcohol	1800 459459
Emergency Services	999/112
Local Fire Brigade	999/112
Gardai	999/112
Hospital/Out of hours Emergency Care	South Doc 0800 355 999
Utility Providers:	
Electricity	1800 372999
Gas	1800 205050

Do you know your Eircode?

The **National Ambulance Service (NAS)** uses Eircodes to swiftly pinpoint callers. Knowing your Eircode and displaying it clearly on your farm can literally save lives by preventing lost time with lengthy directions.

Find or check your eircode at www.eircode.ie

Visit bandoncoop.ie/farmsafety for more information



ALWAYS THINK FARM SAFETY

Farm Safety Guidance 2026

FARM MACHINERY



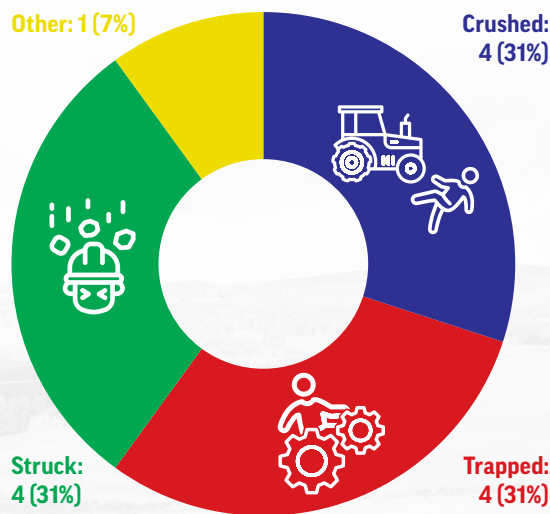
Tractors and Machinery are the main cause of farm accidents in Ireland. Elderly farmers and children are at particular risk. Being entangled in PTO's, crushed under a machine part, caught in a machine mechanism, crushed between vehicles and struck by a machine object are the main causes of deaths with farm machinery.

Keys to prevention are training, good maintenance and safe work practices.

It is important that machinery used is suitable for the task and properly maintained with all dangerous parts covered. All machinery should be serviced and maintained on a regular basis. Tractors and machinery should be stable and controls in good working order. It is important to remember that machinery cannot be operated safely if operators do not have sufficient information or are not sufficiently trained.

Many serious farm accidents occur because guards which must be provided by law are damaged or taken off. PTO shafts are often involved in accidents with machinery that is stationary e.g. slurry agitation and milling meal. When you buy or hire machinery the law states the supplier must provide all necessary guards. Machinery should be inspected regularly for defects which should be rectified immediately. Always prop machinery when working under hydraulics.

Work related fatalities involving machinery 2014–2023 (total machinery fatalities: 13)



TAMS Grant available for a range of farm safety equipment, including PTO covers.

SLURRY



Slurry presents two health and safety problems - drowning and gas poisoning. Drowning is by far the most common cause of death involving slurry. Children and the elderly are at particular risk. In the period 2000-2010, 30% of child fatal accidents on farms were caused by drowning in slurry or water. In the same period 8% of deaths to elderly farmers were caused by drowning.

Smell is no indicator of the absence of gas, as many gases are odourless. Hydrogen sulphide has a 'rotten egg' smell at low levels but cannot be smelt at higher levels. High levels can be released when slurry is agitated. One breath or lung-full at this level causes instant death.

Key safety tips

- Safety grids and barriers must be in place to prevent falling into slurry
- Maintain high vigilance when placing slurry agitators into position
- Agitation should fully cover the agitation point
- Use access holes for slurry pipes
- Keep slurry tanks and pits securely covered or fenced

For a full checklist on how to manage your slurry tanks visit hsa.ie

LIVESTOCK



Around 4-in-10 of all non-fatal farm incidents are livestock related. Bulls, and cows with new-born calves, pose a significant risk. Being crushed or gored by animals that are being herded, moved, separated, released, or loaded onto trailers present the highest risks.

When handling livestock:

- Have well designed animal handling and loading facilities
- Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where necessary
- Install well designed calving pens and gates
- Use calving jacks
- Always ensure that there is a physical barrier between you and a freshly calved cow, particularly when treating a calf

When handling bulls:

- Any field in which a bull is kept should be securely fenced and gates should be safely secured
- A sign warning of the presence of a bull should be displayed at access points to the field
- All bulls should be ringed when 10-months-old
- A bull at pasture should have a chain attached to the ring
- You are advised to slaughter an aggressive bull
- Use a vehicle when herding or moving the herd
- A properly designed bull pen will allow feeding and bedding without having to enter the pen

TAMS Grant available for a range of cattle handling equipment.

QUAD SAFETY



The use of ATV/Quad Bikes is becoming more common on farms. However, there have been a significant number of fatalities involving quads and the potential for a serious injury or fatality when using a quad is high.

Regulations governing the safe use of ATV/Quad Bikes in all workplaces (SI 619/2021) came into effect on 20 November 2023.

These regulations have 2 essential requirements

- Training to be undertaken with a registered training provider to a QQI standard or equivalent
- Use of helmets to a (generally) prescribed standard

TAMS Grant Aid available for up to 2 safety helmets.

IFA held a Quad Safety Training Information Webinar. A recording of the webinar can be found at www.ifa.ie/quadsafety.

CHILD SAFETY



Children are naturally curious. A farm is a very tempting place for them. But a farm is a place of work. Children can sometimes be injured or killed on farms.

IMPORTANT: Never allow a child onto a farmyard unless they are closely supervised by an adult. It's not possible to safely look after a child and work on the farm at the same time.

Create a safe place on the farm for children

If you live on a farm, you must:

- Keep children out of work areas
- Have a safe play area that is fenced off and in full view of the home
- Have danger signs that are easy to read and tell children what they mean
- Have fencing with mesh right down to the ground - so that children cannot slip through gates and fences or climb over them

You should also do a risk assessment to find any risks to child safety around the farm.

Teach your child how to be safe on the farm

Talk to children about safety on the farm. Tell them about the dangers and set the rules.

But do not expect a child to keep themselves safe. Children do not understand danger.

Visit HSE.ie for more information on how to keep children safe on your farm.