

February 2018 Update from the Field: Safety Planning

Health and Safety Adoption from Use of a Risk Assessment Document on Irish Farms. McNamara J, Griffin P, Kinsella J, Phelan J. *Journal of Agromedicine*. 2017 Jul 25;22(4):384-394.

Objectives: This article describes levels of implementation of occupational health and safety (OHS) controls on a sample of Irish farms following completion of a risk assessment document (RAD) made available as part of a statutory code of practice (COP) for the agriculture sector. The article describes the legislation mandating the COP and the operation of a prevention initiative (PI) among key stakeholders to develop and promote farmer use of the COP and RAD. **Methods:** RADs were collected for farmers (N = 475) and the number and type of OHS controls listed for action were tabulated. A farm audit of OHS standards and of implementation of controls listed for action in the RAD was undertaken among a randomly selected sample of farms (N = 94) where the RAD was completed. **Results:** The study data indicates that farmers used the RAD to a limited extent, and that their focus in its use was on identifying physical rather than organizational controls. An association was found between farmers who actively implemented controls and positive OHS standards. Farm OHS standards were also associated with farmer attitude to OHS, farm enterprise, farmer age category, and work time needed to operate the farm. **Conclusions:** Overall, the study data suggests that standards of farm management are a crucial determinant of OHS standards. The study data also indicates that having knowledge of required OHS controls does not ensure implementation. Development of social learning in groups is considered as a significant means of increasing OHS farm adoption.

Needs and Opportunities for Applying Voluntary Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems in the High-Hazard U.S. Dairy Production Industry. Autenrieth D, Román-Muñiz N.

Advances in Safety Management and Human Factors. 2018 Jun 23;604:55-66.

The U.S. dairy industry has had consistently high rates of occupational injuries. Occupational health and safety management systems (OHSMSs) have potential to reduce injury rates, but lacking a regulatory mandate for such a system, it is uncertain if U.S. dairy farmers will adopt an OHSMS. Needs assessment interviews were developed and validated to assess the attitudes, experiences, and interests of dairy workers and managers about OHSMS approaches to worker safety. Non-parametric statistical methods were applied to determine whether there were differences between the mean responses of workers and managers and whether their expressed attitudes and interests were significantly strong in favor or against OHSMSs. Thirty-two dairy workers and four managers from four farms completed the interviews. There were no significant differences in attitudes or interests between dairy workers and management. Most of the attitudes and interests were strongly favorable of OHSMS approaches, suggesting that dairy farmers may be willing to adopt an OHSMS voluntarily.

How to Create a Farm Safety Plan. Harlow I. *Farm and Dairy*. 2016 Feb 12;

<https://www.farmanddairy.com/top-stories/how-to-create-a-farm-safety-plan/314505.html>.

Farmers handle food, animals, equipment and chemicals every day. We climb into haylofts, lift heavy loads and transport farm products to market. We are responsible for maintaining a high level of safety for ourselves and our families, as well as our employees and customers.

Regardless of how serious farmers take safety, the dangerous nature of our work and many hazards present on the farm increases chance of accidents. A farm safety plan identifies and minimizes hazards. Having a plan helps farmers respond to hazards appropriately, and trains everyone on the farm to stay safe.