

We hope you enjoy
this special Farm
Safety Week Edition

14th – 18nd July 2008

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We're on the web!

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Farm Chemical Safety

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CSBP have proudly sponsored the printing of the farm safety week edition of Farmsafe WA Alliance's bimonthly newsletter. Hence, we took advantage of the opportunity to ask CSBP to provide us with information on chemical safety – the information below has been written by David Matthews.

Many farmers have completed ChemCert training which provides an excellent understanding of chemical handling and the use of Material Safety Data Sheets or MSDS. The MSDS provides valuable information on how to safely handle, store and use each product.

MSDS are used for hazardous substances as defined by WorkSafe, however CSBP fertilisers do not generally fall into this category. Three exceptions to this include StrataSol Copper, StrataSol Zinc and StrataSol Manganese, which each have an MSDS.

CSBP has developed Fertiliser Safety Fact Sheets (FSFS) to provide our customers with similar information to an MSDS so they can source information on how to safely handle various fertilisers.



Typically an MSDS or FSFS provides recommendations such as:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) to be worn when handling the product such as gloves, safety glasses, goggles, boots and respiratory protection such as dust masks;
- Recommendations on how to handle the product (eg. working only in a well ventilated area);
- Emergency equipment to have available should a spill or exposure occur;
- Advice on what to do with the product when disposing of it.

FARMER SAFETY AWARD APPLICATION DATE EXTENDED

The Farmsafe WA Alliance—Farmer Safety Award 2008 has been extended. The award has been designed to recognise excellence in WA Farm Health and Safety promotion and practice.

The award is a new initiative for Farmsafe WA and has been kindly sponsored by CSBP. The award aims to focus on acknowledging farmers who promote and combine sustainable health and safety practices with profitable production. Their involvement in promoting farm safety to their community will also be considered.

A cash prize of \$500 and a trophy will be presented to the winner at the Dowerin Agricultural Field Day.

Application forms are available for download from the Farmsafe WA Alliance website www.farmsafewa.org or by contacting the office on 9359 4118 or by email farmsafe@wn.com.au.

Applications close 5pm Monday 18th August 2008.

Craig Chadwick, Principal of the Western Australian College of Agriculture - Morawa has kindly provided us with some information on how the college met EPA standards with forethought and creative thinking when recently designing and building their Chemical Store Shed.

A two car lock-up garage was professionally erected measuring 6 x 6 metres. A fully sealed concrete floor and bund wall was angled to ensure any accidental spillage runs to the corner of the shed leading to a drain which was attached to an outside chemical spillage tank.

Storage within the shed includes galvanised mesh stands raised 200 millimetres off the ground. The metal drums are then stored on the mesh stands to prevent rusting. Enviro Drums are used for the bulk of chemicals along with some 20 litre and granular containers.

The ceiling has been fitted with two whirly birds for ventilation. A number of mesh air vents will be fitted to the lower part of the shed walls in the near future to aid in further ventilation.

Scales are set up on a bench for weighting of chemicals. The scales have been tested and compared to Australia Post scales to insure accuracy.



Chemical batches, when purchased, have batch numbers, quantity and supplier names recorded for quality assurance purposes.

The plastic chemical spillage tank, holding approximately 2000 litres, lies next to the shed with a pipe leading to the drain outlet in the shed. The tank has been covered with a heavy metal lid to insure limited access.

The area contains a 10,000 litre water tank to service the deluge system and the boon spray unit. A digital metre to enable accurate measuring of chemicals is used for the Enviro Drums.



A fenced refuse area has been erected to stop used drums and boxes from blowing away before collection. Next to the shed an emergency shower has been installed.

A separate 2 metre shed butts up against the main shed for storage of safety equipment such as

aprons, gloves, respirators, spare spray nozzles etc. The area has been fitted with safety signage to warn of any dangers that may occur.



For safety reasons only two staff members have keys to the Chemical Shed. Limited access insures users are monitored and the shed is locked at all times.



The WA College of Agriculture – Morawa has managed to build a Chemical Shed using resources already available and manager's creative thinking has allowed the project to stay within a limited budget and at the same time meet the requirements of new EPA legislation.

SILO SAFETY CHECKLIST



Silo safety is a topic that generates a number of questions and issues. As a result, John McDougall, committee member with Farmsafe WA Alliance has taken the time out to provide some key points and considerations.

It only takes a couple of tec-screws/gutter bolts or rivets to give way and start a devastating chain reaction

John suggests that it is important to be aware that:

1. Old silos do wear out and they are often quietly rusting away.
2. They are becoming silent killers – this is partially brought about by lack of maintenance and understanding of grain storage or by the change in use of silos.
3. Farmers often catch themselves out by filling silos originally designed for oats with wheat and or lupins, which of course are heavier and have different flow characteristics.

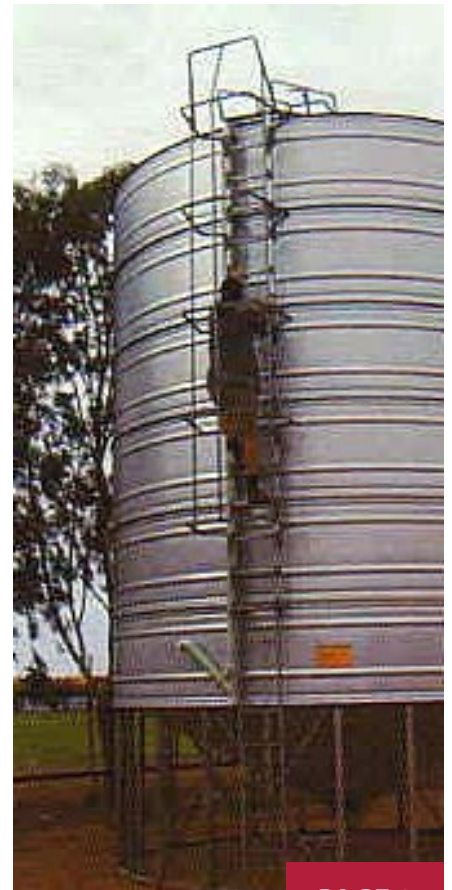
If you should be placed in the position where you intend to use an older silo, especially a raised cone base, to store wheat or lupins at least give it a **thorough inspection** to determine if it is safe to do so.

Here are some tips to consider:

1. Pay special attention to vertical rivet and/or bolt lines, although they may **look ok from the outside there is a good chance that the internal shaft will be rusted away.**
2. Ensure that you pay attention to the fixers of the cone itself – some of them are fastened with tec-screws. The tec-screws may also be rusting away (you may have to dig under the sealer to find them).
3. **It only takes a couple of tec-screws/gutter bolts or rivets to give way and start a devastating chain reaction.**
4. Check all welded seams – continuous use will often cause welds to crack along one side. Often this is not obvious.
5. Check the anchoring bolts (to the concrete pad) for corrosion and tightness and all other bolts and nuts.
6. Check that all bolts and fasteners on ladders and handrails are in place and tight.
7. Check for internal rust on the wall sheeting (this is often caused by storing wet grain or roof leakage). This is usually not obvious from the outside – the first you know about it is when the grain bursts out through the sheeting.
8. If the silo is sealed, check all seals and venting equipment for secure operation **before** you fill the silo with grain.

Things to consider if you are going to change the use of your silo:

1. Be very careful filling and emptying any silos with high capacity augers, sudden weight surges can actually set off the chain reaction described previously. The silo can be full before the grain actually settles. Emptying can create a similar effect.
2. It is not good practice to use older silos as transit storage, as many of them were never designed to be filled and emptied continuously.
3. Unfortunately there have been a number of near new silos failing. If you are in the market for new silos do your homework, buy the appropriate silo for your job, **don't just buy on price.**



DON'T FORGET — Farmsafe WA has the FREE on-farm advisory service available to farmers. For more information please contact us.

Member Profile: **Tony Hiscock, Manager of Alcoa Farmlands WA**



Tony, born in 1956, along with his wife Debby, is blessed with three kids, Rebekah, Tasman and their youngest Jackson, who is now 18. At this stage there is only one grandchild, but both are hopeful of a few more in future years. Outside of his family, he has four other major passions; the agricultural industry, land conservation, scuba diving and red wine. He is a keen wreck diver and tries to get away annually on diving expeditions to Micronesia, the Mediterranean or other parts of the world. His wine collection grows by the year, much to Debby's frustration of having to find places for him to store it.

With 32 year's involvement in the agricultural industry, Tony has always specialised in property management and agricultural development projects - with the last fifteen years also focused on natural resource management and community engagement. Through his management roles over the past 20 years, he has been able to give practical support to many technical projects aimed at improving livestock production, as well as engaging with industry groups that are focused on sustainable grazing systems and economic improvement. He has always been keen to

showcase and promote the agricultural industry and is active in the areas of communicating information and industry extension to increase producer knowledge by hosting demonstrations, field days and open days on those properties he manages. He believes that the future of the livestock industries sit with greater training and extension in sustainable farming and grazing management systems and practices, so he is active in contributing to both state and national programs in this field.

For the past 16 years as Manager of Alcoa Farmlands, he has been responsible for the freehold landholdings and farming businesses that occupy the major rural properties that surround the refineries and mines of Alcoa World Alumina - which now total around 19,000 hectares and run 4,700 breeding cows, 1000 trade cattle, 7000 sheep and crop about 500 ha per year. Being quite passionate about natural resource management he has involved himself in many "on-ground" land management projects outside of Alcoa's landholdings and contributes to strategic planning at local and regional levels. In his time more than 800,000 trees have been planted across the Alcoa Farmlands along with many kilometres of streams and some 4,000 hectares of remnant vegetation protected. His position has also legitimised a role he has undertaken to assist in the development of land use systems that are outside traditional farming practices in collaboration with community and industry groups.

During his years in the industry, Tony has also gained several international experiences which have included many extended projects in the Solomon Islands, Thailand, Israel, South Africa and New Zealand. The projects have been highly diverse and have included the implementation of beef and dairy developments through to sourcing blood stock horses for the race horse industry.

Being that Alcoa is underpinned by a very strong safety ethos that applies equally to peers, employees, visitors and contractors, Tony has been a long time and strong supporter of the Farmsafe WA Alliance which culminated as a past chairman. In the course of his association with Farmsafe, he has also worked with many other health and safety focused community groups that are striving to make our farms a safer place.

**Tony's four major passions:
The agricultural industry; land conservation;
scuba diving and red wine.**

Farmsafe WA Alliance – Founded by farmers, for farmers

Farmsafe WA Alliance is an independent, not-for-profit, non-government organisation that encourages and leads the way to safer farming. We have been around since 1994.

Our aim is to work with the WA farming community to identify health and safety issues and provide information and motivation to develop strategies and solutions to improve agricultural livelihood.

Farmsafe WA has established some strong partnerships and alliances with growers/farmers, community groups, state organisations, other key rural industry partners and relevant state government departments and agencies. Half of our committee are farmers and the remaining half represent groups such as community, health, education, agricultural industry organisations/associations and local government.

We would like to encourage people to become involved in Farmsafe WA in some way. Whether it is to become involved in our committee, be a champion for your region (such as helping to distribute information), providing us with your ideas/innovations on how you have been safer on your farm or by becoming a member to assist Farmsafe WA to develop financially.

At Farmsafe WA we not only provide a link between rural communities and organisations, we also distribute information relative to OH&S on farms and conduct activities within regional areas. For example we have recently been:

- Visiting parents and children to discuss child safety on farms as well as participating in collaborative forums with Kidsafe WA and Royal Life Saving Society of WA.
- Visiting farmers as part of the free on-farm advisory service whereby our consultant spends half a day talking with the host farmer and their neighbours about safety on their farm and ways they could potentially improve their safety systems.
- Delivering Managing Farm Safety Courses to many people as well as agricultural college students.



Tony Hiscock (Vice-Chair) & Jenny Fry (Chair)

New website

Please visit our newly constructed website that is being launched to coincide with Farm Safety Week. You can find the site at: www.farmsafewa.org

Some of the new features include:

- Automatically updated agricultural news from all over Western Australia.
- Facilities for becoming a Farmsafe WA Alliance member online.
- Local area weather forecasts for members.
- Blog updates delivered to your email address.
- Upcoming events at a glance.
- Interactive comments forms.
- Access to newsletters, project information, free services, courses, competitions and much more.

Visit the site and let us know what you think. We also welcome your suggestions, photos and articles, so please keep in touch and send us your feedback.

New DVD to Help Rural Men

Wheatbelt Men's Health Inc (WMH) and the Kondinin Group (a farmer based support organisation) have joined forces to produce a high quality DVD to assist farmers and their families to understand the issues created by excessive stress, depression and the need to seek professional help if under pressure.

The DVD focuses on the Working with Warriors program pioneered by Julian Krieg, Senior Educator with WMH who believes that prevention starts with informing community members about their responsibilities to look after themselves and their mates as the first line of defence with mental health problems.

For the past six years Julian has been promoting the slogan "...before it all gets too much – talk to a mate...". He also believes most men don't stop long enough to identify who their real mates (people they can discuss things with) are.

The DVD focuses on four bush stories and captures the need to watch out for extreme stress in our lives.



"...before it all gets too much—talk to a mate..."

Farm Safety Basics — A Useful Checklist



Do Now

- Seat belts are fitted to all cars and utilities used on the farm.
- There is a rule that seatbelts are always worn when driving, or as a passenger in all farm vehicles.
- No passengers ride on the back of farm utilities.
- No passengers ride on ATVs.
- All tractors have a ROPS fitted.
- All tractors have a functional PTO master-guard.
- All PTO powered machinery have a functional PTO guard.
- An RCD fitted to workshop power boards.
- Guards fitted to all workshop power equipment.
- A fire extinguisher in all workshops, tractors and harvesters.
- Effective communication established between all people on the farm.
- A fenced safe play area for children.

Within the next 3 months

- A plan showing progress to achieve all people riding horses and motorbikes/ ATVs on the farm wearing a well-fitting helmet.
- Assembling suitable First Aid Kits for the farm workshop, all tractors and farm vehicles.
- First Aid training for all farm workers.

Within the next 6 months

- Plan to have safe access for all 2 wheeled drive tractors.
- Have all grain auger intake flights guarded.
- A plan showing progress towards preventing electrocution from overhead powerlines.

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Child Safety on Farms

Our emotional attachment to our children often makes us believe that we can instinctively protect our off-spring in all circumstances. Unfortunately, the number of child deaths and serious injury on Australian farms tells a different story!

One child is killed every fortnight on an Australian farm.
One third of these are visitors

Three-quarters of child fatalities occur in an area where farm work was being carried out!

Remote-region dangers

Although we tell ourselves that our kids have a healthy lifestyle free from pollution, traffic-jams and overcrowding, the shocking truth is that the chance of a child reaching adulthood on a remote-region station is only half of that in a metropolitan area.

Let's face it, the incidence of kids in Dalkeith or Belmont being dragged into a power take-off, run over by a tractor, trampled by cattle/horses, poisoned by agricultural chemicals or attacked/bitten/stung by venomous animals or plants is fairly low. And if it did happen, it would make headline news!

Why are children at risk on farms?

The two main reasons are to do with the nature of the farm environment and child growth and development characteristics.

Farms are often a home and workplace—children are often exposed to workplace hazards not present in metropolitan homes. Many farming families are currently unable to access child care to balance farm work and family life. Farmers just don't have the luxury of raising their families in a separate environment from their work. The silent tragedy of on-going losses is testament to this!



The farm environment is unique—the farm workplace can also be the place where families live.

Children are growing and changing—consider that children are going through stages of physical, mental and emotional development. Children are not only smaller, they see the world differently to adults and are not always rational, cautious or able to foresee unsafe consequences!

Farmers love their children as much as anyone else, but when farming has been your whole life sometimes it is hard to see that farms can be dangerous places for kids especially when those caring for them are tired, have deadlines to meet and have many tasks on the go all at the same time.

Farmsafe's helping role

Thanks to support from Kidsafe WA and the Royal Life Saving Society, Farmsafe WA has recently been provided with the opportunity to co-present at Child Safety Workshops and Professional Development sessions in the Pilbara. The trip included visits to Karratha, Port and South Hedland and Newman. We also had the chance to detour to Pyramid Station and visit the School of the Air mini-camp.

Our aim was to provide information and ideas on ways to make it easier to keep kids safe, spot hazards and network with others facing the same inimitable lifestyle.

We are also looking into other opportunities to spread the message about child safety on farms—with some more workshops likely in the future.



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We are grateful for the support we receive from the following sponsors:



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Government of Western Australia



Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
Government of Western Australia



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Membership of the community based organisation Farmsafe WA Alliance Inc supports the need to make agriculture a safer industry for the future. **Members' benefits include: Bi-monthly email bulletin, 10% discount on Managing Farm Safety Course, Farmsafe WA safety sticker, advance notification of upcoming events, access to resources and training opportunities**

Name	\$45 Individual/family <input type="checkbox"/> \$.....
Address.....	\$140 Business/Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> \$.....
Phone.....	Additional Donation <input type="checkbox"/> \$.....
Email.....	Total \$.....

Payment can be made by cheque, credit card or internet transfer.

Internet Transfer Bank details: Farmsafe WA Alliance National Australia Bank, BSB: 086 699, Account No.: 596 032 205

Credit card payment: Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

How else can you help? Do you have specific areas of interest, concern or expertise to contribute?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OHS farm safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATV safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise Injury Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Workshop safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify: _____ | | |

The income we receive through our members' annual subscriptions is vitally important to us. Your contributions will help us to effectively continue our work. We are always keen to recruit more members, - this is probably the easiest way for you to make a real difference to the work we do.

Non Profit Organisations: Contact us regarding reciprocal arrangements or fee negation

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