

January
2011
Update

Farmsafe WA Alliance

- Inspiring safe farming -

Inspiring Safe Farming

A great start to the year for Farmsafe WA



Happy New
year to
all our
members,
supporters
and
sponsors

Farmsafe WA Alliance has been successful in securing funding from the Government of Western Australia Department of Health to conduct four separate projects. All four projects, relating to Injury Prevention and Management, have to be implemented and evaluated this financial year so this will mean a very busy 6 month period ahead for the Farmsafe WA team. The projects in question are:

Your health– Your future in farming

Project aim: Developing injury prevention programs for farmers and farm workers aged over 55.

We will be conducting a series of workshops which provide information on how to preserve the most valuable resource on the farm – the people. The whole family is invited to participate as we aim to initiate discussions on the issues affecting the ability to complete certain tasks as we get older and how best to address these issues. Inviting the younger generation to participate in this project, will we believe encourage a more unified injury prevention approach and a more sustainable future for your farm.



Preventing and Managing Hearing Loss

Project aim: To conduct a series of informative workshops, forums, media promotions and audiometric tests, and to evaluate existing resources targeting the prevention and management of noise-induced hearing loss in farmers, their families and farm workers.

Addressing Occupational Health and Safety Requirements on farms and farm properties

Project aim: To develop and evaluate a series of occupational health and safety audit checklists, targeting significant OS&H risks, to enhance understanding of responsibilities and legislative compliance and thereby enhance safety on farms



Emergency care and injury management

Project aim: To increase awareness, knowledge and skills in relation to first aid treatments and managing emergencies in remote and regional WA. In collaboration with emergency service organisations, namely St John Ambulance, FESA, Royal Flying Doctor Service and the WA Regional Police Departments, we will deliver a series of workshops in the South West region during March. Whilst targeting farmers, their families and farm workers, these workshops will be accessible to all community members.



The most exciting elements of this financial support will enable Farmsafe WA Alliance to:

- Continue to reach our objectives which is protecting farming families and workers and improve business performance through better safety awareness and practices
- Extend our reach within the rural community
- Raise the awareness and lift the profile of the organisation to a much higher level
- Foster existing relationships within our network, a vital component for successful community development

Farmsafe WA Alliance is extremely grateful of this support from the Department of Health and appreciates this major opportunity to effectively improve the health and safety of the agricultural community (Further information on each project is listed on pages 2 & 3)

These four projects have been funded by



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Department of **Health**
Public Health

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Your health—Your future in farming

Developing injury prevention programs for farmers and farm workers aged over 55

This project is primarily to engage men and women aged 55 and over, who live and /or work in agriculture, to discuss and address the issues that affect their ability to carry out tasks as they age injury free. The campaign will be conducted as a pilot project in the Southwest region, to determine how best



to further deliver on a wider scale, and to test the existing resource material produced by Farmsafe Australia.

Workshops will be conducted during March and include a presentation about men's and women's health and encourage discussion on how to work smarter, not harder on their properties and in particular, injury free.

The entire family is invited to attend these workshops as we aim to create discussions across generations. We intend to include all perspectives on farm work and discuss and address the issues affecting work ability as we get older. By engaging the younger generation, this will, we believe, allow for a

broader discussion and a more united injury prevention approach.

Farmsafe WA invites farming families in the South West to our FREE workshops:

(Venues to be confirmed soon & light refreshments will be served)

Please note:

Attendance to this workshop may be limited in numbers depending on the venues available.

Capel	28 th March	9am - 12 noon
Nannup	28 th March	3pm - 6pm
Bridgetown	29 th March	2pm - 5pm
Donnybrook	31 st March	8.30am – 11.30am

Registrations therefore will be imperative and will be taken on a first come basis

We are currently taking registrations for attendees



Preventing and Managing hearing loss



This is a collaborative project with Ear Science Institute of WA and the Lions Hearing Clinic and aims to provide knowledge and awareness amongst farmers, their families and farm workers on the importance of taking care of their hearing. FREE workshops will be conducted in the Wheatbelt

region during March.

Topics covered in the workshops include:

- What is Noise Induced Hearing Loss?
- What happens to the ear after prolonged exposure to noise?
- How to prevent Noise Induced Hearing Loss
- Awareness and usage of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Who to contact for hearing test and further information

With the assistance from an Audiologist, the workshops will run for approximately 3 hours and time will be allocated for the conducting of hearing tests by the Lions Hearing Clinic.

Northam	7th March	10am-1pm
Beverley	7th March	3pm-6pm
Quairading	8th March	9am-12noon
Corrigin	8th March	2.30-5.30pm

Bookings for hearing tests are essential and will be arranged upon your registration to the workshop. Morning or afternoon tea will be provided and complimentary.

 ear science institute australia

 Lions HEARING CLINIC

For registration forms and further information about any of our four projects please see our website www.farmsafewa.org or contact Alisa Lim via email or phone (08) 9359 4118

Occupational Health and Safety requirements on Farms and Farm Properties



This pilot project is a direct result from the Farmsafe WA Safety Needs Survey conducted in 2010 where the farming community indicated a need for a series of more user friendly occupational health and safety audit tools.

As this is a pilot project, the final evaluations should see us in good stead to further expand the audit tool and cover all the required OH&S areas



This project will concentrate on the following specific OH&S topics:

- Occupational Noise & Injury
- Safe Chemical storage, handling and disposal
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- OH&S responsibilities for employers, self employed and contract workers

On site farm visits will be the main focus and in consultation with farmers, their families, farm workers and Managers and OH&S professionals to firstly review existing OH&S resources. Through consultation with these partners, we aim to develop, trial and finalise a new comprehensive audit tool to cover these OH&S topics.

Farmsafe WA Alliance is seeking your help

If you are located in the Wheatbelt region and are interested in supporting this project by offering your farm property as a host venue, we would be very happy to hear from you. We have a schedule of dates locked in for these workshops:

Corrigin	Secured	9th March	8.30-12pm
Brookton area	Available	9th March	pm session
Narrogin/Tincurrin	Available	10th March	am session
Kellerberrin/Northam	Available	16th March	pm session

Emergency care and injury management

The aim of the project is to increase awareness, knowledge and skills in relation to first aid treatments and to be better prepared in managing emergencies in remote and regional WA. Farmsafe WA Alliance will work in partnership with FESA, St John Ambulance, Royal Flying Doctor Service and the WA Regional Police Department to present the information that will be beneficial to all community members.



first aid checklists, local emergency contact details and further training opportunities.

Workshops schedule:

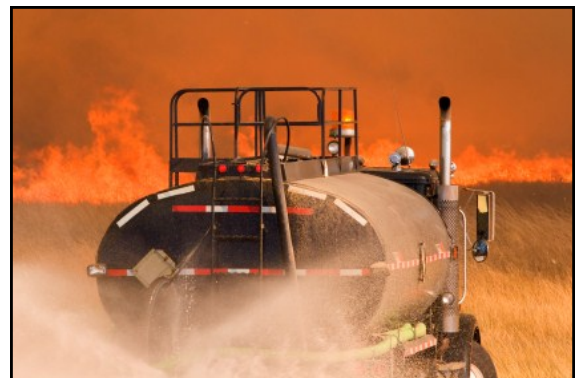
Nannup	Tuesday 29 th March	8.30am – 11.30am
Boyup Brook	Wednesday 30 th March	10am – 1pm
Balingup	Wednesday 30 th March	2.30pm – 5.30pm
Harvey	Thursday 31 st March	3pm – 6pm

Registrations are now being taken PS. Numbers may be limited. (Complimentary morning or afternoon tea will be provided with venues to be confirmed soon)

Workshops will be scheduled in the **Southwest** region and cover practical information on how to deal with a medical emergency on farms and stations including:

- Emergency planning and preparedness
- Who to call in a medical emergency
- The role of each emergency service
- Basis skills and what to do in an emergency, covering specific scenarios

Following presentation by each collaborative partner, each workshop will include question and answer time and will provide for the dissemination of resource materials, namely



Electric fences on rural properties



The importance of electric fences on rural properties being correctly installed and operated safely cannot be stressed enough. This information is provided as an overview of electric fence safety.

In cases where electric fences are installed on non agricultural properties

reference must be made to Australian/New Zealand Standard 3014:2003 and to the Local Government Authority.

While the number of human injuries and fatalities associated with livestock electric fences is low, it is important for farmers and members of the public to recognise that contact with an electric fence can result in tragedy.

In most cases, contact with an electric fence results in a relatively harmless shock, and usually the force of the first shock triggers awareness of the charge so contact is broken and further shocks do not follow, however, there is a risk of serious injury or even death if multiple shocks are received over a long period of time.

Persons with a heart condition or a pacemaker are more susceptible to being rendered unconscious from contact with an electric fence.

Entrapment and being rendered unconscious while in contact with an electric fence are two situations that can cause serious injury or death.

Physical entrapment can occur if a person becomes entangled in the fence or is trapped between a fence and a physical barrier such as a water trough, building or another part of the fence.

There is an increased risk if the head or neck touches an electrified wire so climbing through an electric fence can increase the risk of a shock to the head or neck and should be avoided.

The historic role of barbed wire in fences is to deter animals from pushing against the fence, therefore barbed wire is not generally required in electric fences. The use of barbed wire should be avoided as it increases the risk of a person or animal becoming entrapped and receiving multiple shocks. If barbed wire is used in an electric fence it must be at least 150 mm offset from the electrified wires. Under no circumstances may barbed wire be electrified.

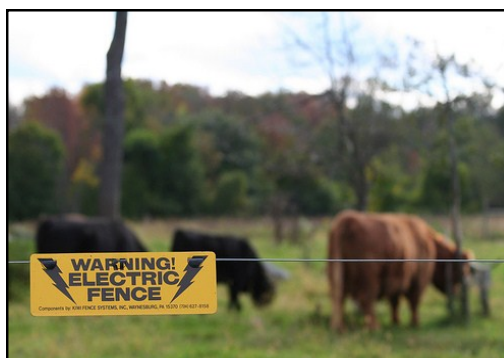
Clearly visible warning signs securely fastened to fence posts or firmly attached to the fence wire must be installed in positions where legal public access is likely, e.g. fences along public roads and boundary fences.

The warning signs must be yellow background and at least 200mm x 100 mm in size, inscribed with "TAKE CARE ELECTRIC FENCE" or similar wording, (height of 25mm) or the symbol as shown in black. It is required that the signs be posted in positions to give adequate warning that the fence is electrified.

It is important that the warning signs are provided where there is public access and that employees, children and visitors be made aware of electric fences installed on the property.

If further information is required on the correct installation and operation of electric fences, contact the manufacturer or supplier of the electric fence equipment or obtain a copy of Australian/New Zealand Standard 3014: 2003.

Contact Farmsafe WA for further details on (08) 9359 4118



Child Safety on Rural Properties - How safe is your child?

Every year, around 20-30 children die on Australian farms. Many more are injured seriously enough to be hospitalised. The greatest risk for toddlers is drowning, most commonly drowning in dams. For older children (5-14) working farm machinery, farm vehicles, motorcycles and horses are also big risks.

Research has indicated that the most effective ways to prevent children being injured on farms is to:

- Provide a safe place for children to play
- Put children in seat belts and child restraints when in vehicles on the property
- Keep children off quad bikes and tractors
- Ensure that children wear helmets when riding on horses

An informative DVD has been produced based on child safety and on the development of this safe play demonstration site.



To obtain a copy of this DVD or require further information, please contact Farmsafe WA Alliance on (08) 9359 4118

Changing of wheels on level assisted portable field bins

At times on the farm, the wheels of the earlier type portable field bins need to be replaced or repaired. In some instances field bins that use spring assisted levers connected to the wheels on each side to manually raise the bin off the ground for transportation have been used to raise the wheels from the ground to undertake the task of wheel removal.

Serious injuries have occurred during the operation of the levers of these types of bins when removing the wheels.

In these types of field bins the spring assisted levers provide the fulcrum that allows the empty bin to be lifted off the ground.



When lowering the bin to the ground the lever moves through an arc that starts at the horizontal (90 degrees) and stops at about 45 degrees (from horizontal). The spring is extended when the lever is manually moved and the bin is raised.

In some design types, the lever can be moved past the 45 degree position to raise the wheel from the ground. This method has been used to change wheels but it requires a person to hold the lever down against the force of the extra spring extension.

Removal of a wheel without disconnecting the spring can produce a situation where the lever can move suddenly with great force through its arc back to the horizontal position. A person in the area can be struck by the lever inflicting serious injuries.

Safe disconnection of the spring in the field is difficult without the required tools and equipment. It must be carried out when the spring is not under tension. When the spring is disconnected, lowering the bin to the ground places the weight of that side completely on the lever.

Before attempting any repairs or wheel changes to spring assisted lever field bins, contact the bin

manufacturer and obtain information on the correct procedure to be carried out. These instructions must be followed.

In addition, consider taking these preventative measures,



- * Restrain the spring when it is being disconnected.
- * Do not lower the bin using the lever when the spring has been disconnected.
- * Use a suitable stand to support the bin and ensure it cannot move by attaching it to a heavy towing vehicle, suitably chocked and isolated from being started and moved.
- * Plan and prepare for all movements of the lever.
- * Do not move the lever when the wheel has been removed.

The safest way of eliminating the hazard is to replace the bin with one that uses a safer method of raising the wheels. If replacing the bin is not practicable, you are strongly advised to take the following actions,

- * Contact the manufacturer to arrange for modifications to be made, or
- * Obtain a modification kit (if available), and fit in accordance with the instructions, or
- * If a modification kit is not available, obtain the instructions the manufacturer has provided for the wheels to be removed.

Contact Farmsafe for further details on (08) 9359 4118



Advice to the commercial fruit growing industry

Requirements for the wearing of a harness in Elevating Work Platforms (EWP)

Recent investigations conducted by WorkSafe involving the operator falling from the working platform of an EWP whilst conducting work in the commercial fruit growing industry has prompted WorkSafe to issue this information on the requirements of wearing of a harness by the operator whilst operating an EWP.



It is a requirement of occupational safety and health law for the supplier of an EWP to provide adequate information in respect

of the conditions necessary to ensure that a person operating an EWP is not exposed to hazards. A significant hazard that EWP operators are exposed to is a fall from the working platform whilst at height.

To determine the conditions in relation to this significant falls hazard, the requirements contained in the Operations Manual for the particular EWP must be followed.

Where the Operations Manual requires a harness to be worn, **A HARNESS MUST BE WORN BY THE OPERATOR AT ALL TIMES** and the harness must be connected to the designated anchorage point at the working platform when the EWP is being operated.

Generally a harness is not provided by the supplier of the EWP, in these situations the services of a reputable safety equipment supplier experienced in fall protection equipment needs to be consulted to select and provide information and training on the correct use of the required harness to all persons that will be operating the EWP.

With some earlier models of EWPs there have been no Operations Manuals produced and in these cases there is generally no adequate anchorage point for attaching a harness. In this situation, a harness should not be worn and a secondary working platform restraint, such as a 6 mm chain must be installed. This modification needs to be undertaken by a competent person.



Note. This allowance is only applicable to EWPs used in the commercial fruit growing industry.

In summary,

- Check the Operations Manual for each type of EWP being used in the workplace to determine the harness requirements.
- Consult with the supplier of the EWP to determine the harness for your workplace application.
- Consult with a reputable safety equipment supplier experienced in fall protection equipment to determine the correct harness for your workplace application.
- As an employer of persons, either by direct employment or contract, you are required to provide information, instruction, training and supervision of those persons to ensure that the harness is correctly worn and connected to the designated anchorage point at the working platform.

As an EWP operator, you are required to correctly wear the harness and ensure it is securely connected to the designated anchorage point.

Further Information can be obtained from,

The WorkSafe internet site,
www.worksafe.wa.gov.au

Ron Jenkins, Regional and Primary Industries Team on
97222888 / ron.jenkins@commerce.wa.gov.au



The WorkSafe document Elevating Work Platforms, Operational and Maintenance Instructions, is available at the internet site. Note these instructions only relate to the earlier type EWPs where no operational instructions were produced and that EWP is only used in the commercial fruit growing industry. Where operating instructions have been produced for the EWP those instructions must be followed.

December 2010

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Farmsafe WA Alliance continues to receive support from



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of Health



Royal Flying Doctor Service
The furthest corner. The finest care.



Department of **Agriculture and Food**



ChemCert WA Incorporated
... training and accrediting farm chemical users

