00:00:06:03 - 00:00:28:10

Speaker 1

161. That's how many fatal incidents has been on farms over the past five years. And on this week's episode of the other, The Farm Gate podcast, we're taking a look at the latest safety campaign from the Health and Safety executive. I'm Farmers Guardian, head of news and Business, Alex Black. And I've got with me Farmers Guardian editor Olivia michalak.

00:00:29:03 - 00:00:49:14

Speaker 1

We'll bring you a new episode of the podcast every Friday, so don't forget to subscribe on your favorite podcast platform so you don't miss an episode. So health and safety is a big topic. Olivia And it's something that we're always reporting on. And give us some idea of how much we report on the FDA and how big a problem it is from the industry.

00:00:50:14 - 00:01:28:17

Speaker 2

Yeah, So, Alex, these figures are really quite shocking, but unfortunately, they're not all that surprising, are they? So we know the timing is one of the most dangerous industries in the UK. And, you know, construction is obviously thought of as the most dangerous book per head, but it's actually agriculture that has the most deaths in an industry, which is obviously something that, you know, is is just really quite shocking and obviously the impact we see that way in terms of what happens to families and how they deal with these tragedies and also the impacts on the businesses as well.

00:01:29:13 - 00:01:52:15

Speaker 2

So yeah, I think I think we've got a massive responsibility in terms of supporting campaigns like this and showing best practices. Well, I think one of the things that we were talking about earlier when we the you know, we've been working with HCF for quite a few years. How do we as editors and and publications show best practice?

00:01:52:20 - 00:02:19:03

Speaker 2

And it's things like, you know, not not publishing pictures with with, you know, showing, you know, people riding quad bikes without helmets and things like that. And also, you know, we get quite a lot of letters in actually, when programs like Countryfile and others show farmers flying up and down fails on quad bikes without wearing helmets. So I think it's there's a big responsibility on us all, really.

00:02:19:03 - 00:02:23:19

Speaker 2

Isn't that to to to show that and to to all just do a little bit, really.

00:02:24:12 - 00:02:50:09

Speaker 1

Yeah, I think that that's a big one. You know, we get a lot of photos in for consideration, even from, you know, from companies that, you know, maybe should know better rather than from directly from farmers themselves of. I think quad bikes, like you say, is probably the most most common one that we get, but also sort of children on farm machinery and in the places on farms that they probably shouldn't be.

00:02:50:19 - 00:03:16:20

Speaker 1

And from a health and safety perspective, and obviously it's not just the the deaths, obviously, that's a pretty shocking figure. But an agency also say there's an estimated 11,000 injuries on farm each year. So that's you know, whether that's a near miss, it could be. You know, we've seen people losing limbs, etc., represent everything, you know, from a scratch to to a lost limb.

00:03:17:08 - 00:03:22:23

Speaker 1

It's all very serious and can have a massive impact on people's lives and obviously their livelihoods as well.

00:03:23:09 - 00:03:53:21

Speaker 2

It really can. And it is so shocking that that it happened so frequently. But we know that we ourselves accidents just happen so quickly and the impacts can be so widespread and hugely damaging, as we said, not only for that person but for, you know, the people around them as well. And that impact then on the business. If someone is carrying a really serious injury, you know, how how then do you know cows get melts and sheep get alarmed and that sort of thing.

00:03:54:04 - 00:04:21:19

Speaker 2

So yeah, that the impacts can be really huge. But unfortunately these accidents do seem to keep on happening and I guess the industry is finding it quite difficult. Is it? It's a difficult balance between telling farmers what to do and offering as much guidance. And I know HRC does a great job in offering all this guidance, but, you know, these these incidents definitely aren't planned.

00:04:22:04 - 00:04:41:12

Speaker 2

They just happen so quickly. And, you know, I think and if you and others have a massive educational campaign, which, you know, they're working on with HRC, which is which is great, and I think we as well have got a responsibility to to promote those safe working practices as well.

00:04:41:20 - 00:05:06:16

Speaker 1

Yeah. And I mean, there's also the impacts on the wider rural community itself. You know, it's such a tight knit community and you know, certainly it in rural communities, if, if somebody is killed on a farm, you know, it doesn't just impact obviously has a heartbreaking impact on the family but also on the wider wider farming community in the area and nationally as well.

00:05:07:03 - 00:05:47:01

Speaker 2

Yeah, and we've we've been speaking to to to victims families, you know, and members of communities over the years haven't waited for stories. And yeah, the impact, like you say is is just massive. I noticed at the weekend there was a tractor run in Aquinas Bread North Yorkshire and that was actually raising money for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, which is obviously a really important and things for farmers in, in Yorkshire because obviously if, if an incident does happen and you know they need to be airlifted to hospital quickly and obviously the Yorkshire Air Ambulance is just a critical service.

00:05:47:16 - 00:06:07:08

Speaker 2

So that's just kind of one what example, whether, you know, we saw some fantastic pictures over the weekend of old age tractors and with some is paying I think 2030 quid each and you all raising money for for this for this critical survey. So yeah that's an example isn't it. Of of the rural community really sort of coming together and trying to make a difference.

00:06:07:14 - 00:06:32:20

Speaker 1

And there's definitely some great charities, you know, working in the area as well. So moving on to a HHC campaign. And so the new campaign key messages are around having a safe, safe driver and safe vehicle. It's highlighting simple acts that you can take to make yourself safer on farm. And, you know, we do often hear that, don't we?

00:06:32:21 - 00:06:53:21

Speaker 1

Lives that, you know, sometimes it's hot. It's hard to say, you know, after an event, something so simple could have made such a big difference, you know, turning off the machine or, you know, being in being in the right place, you know, not being in the wrong place off, like we say, a helmet, etc.. Something so simple can make such a big difference.

00:06:54:15 - 00:07:22:16

Speaker 2

Yeah, I think that's right. And I think one of the things that HMRC have said is, you know, for them, as like all businesses at the moment are under tremendous pressure with, with things like, you know, the cost of energy and the bills just keep mounting up, down. And I suppose they're concerned that, you know, there might be a propensity, if you like, to cut corners, you know, take, take that short cut.

00:07:23:17 - 00:07:58:22

Speaker 2

Perhaps if you have other things on your mind, you know, safe working practices will be at the forefront. And I guess that the worry is that, you know, things might just slip when people have got so much else on the plate at the moment. So I think that's something to think about as well. So I think anything that we can do to put this out not in a preachy way because we know that doesn't not just doesn't work, but in a way that we're just trying to inform people and just just act as a reminder, if you like, just to to make those extra checks and like you say, you know, don't work on that

00:07:58:22 - 00:08:10:20

Speaker 2

machine when it's when it's switched on, take the keys out, things like that. So yeah, I think anything that we can do, we've, we've got a huge responsibility and yeah, I think anything we can do to make a difference is obviously worthwhile.

00:08:11:00 - 00:08:46:01

Speaker 1

And there was also recently an article on Farmers Guardian's front page, but with a link between mental health and farm safety, which I think is, you know, mental health is such a big issue for the industry and it's something that's been being highlighted more and more and rightly so. But, you know, there's that link between people who are struggling with their mental health are perhaps more, well, less likely to take safety precautions and that's another big issue that the industry needs to tackle, needs to be more open about and, you know, help the farmers that are struggling.

00:08:46:01 - 00:08:55:04

Speaker 1

And obviously that's all linked to in some ways to the financial situations and the difficulties and the million. And one things on farmers minds when they're on farm as well.

00:08:55:17 - 00:09:15:21

Speaker 2

Yeah, and I think you're right. I mean it's, it's, it's talking about isn't it. And bringing these issues up to the front end and talking about them and not the not being a stigma. Well we know there is a stigma, but perhaps less so nowadays. You know, people are talking about it more and, you know, it's just talking about it.

00:09:15:21 - 00:09:22:20

Speaker 2

Right. And you know, keeping these issues at the forefront of people's minds and hopefully that will make a difference.

00:09:23:19 - 00:09:33:03

Speaker 1

So let's hear from the NHS team about their campaign and about the simple things that you can do to make yourself safer.

00:09:33:03 - 00:09:41:11

Speaker 3

I mean, you can actually Jones and I work NHS is agricultural policy team and leading on machinery and transport.

00:09:41:11 - 00:09:48:12

Speaker 4

Hi Alex. Adrian Hodkinson, the head of Agriculture for HSA. I deal with the operational strategy and policy.

00:09:49:00 - 00:09:56:00

Speaker 1

So you've launched a new campaign. You want to tell us a little bit about the campaign, first of all, what well, it's called and what you're aiming to do with it.

00:09:56:10 - 00:10:14:16

Speaker 4

So we're going to be looking at three areas safe farm safe driver and safe vehicle. And we'll talk more about that as we go through. That's okay, Alex, But it's really about the farm itself, how to organize the farm, what you can do as being a safe driver, and then really what you can be doing to make sure your vehicle is safe.

00:10:15:07 - 00:10:34:20

Speaker 4

And the important thing is that we've got so many workplace transport incidents that are happening on farms is the biggest cause of fatal and serious injury. And there are things that can be done that are relatively simple and straightforward to do, one of which is just simply putting the handbrake on every time you get out of the vehicle, stop it being run over.

00:10:34:20 - 00:10:39:14

Speaker 4

Something really simple, really straightforward will stop loads of the rollover accidents.

00:10:39:21 - 00:10:42:14

Speaker 1

And just give us an idea of the scale of the problem.

00:10:43:14 - 00:11:10:06

Speaker 4

You know, the scale of the problem is big. We get on most years. We tend to get, unfortunately around about 30 fatal accidents in the in the farming industry every year. It's a relatively small industry. So that's actually quite a high number. So the rate of fatal injuries per 100,000 is how we look at it is actually one of the highest of all of the overall the industry sectors.

00:11:10:13 - 00:11:23:15

Speaker 4

So agriculture doesn't have a good record, really hasn't. It's one of the worst sectors in terms of fatal and serious injury as well as ill health. Lots and lots of ill health as well.

00:11:23:23 - 00:11:34:02

Speaker 1

And why do you think that is? You know, we often hear a lot about the health and safety record in agriculture compared to, you know, a lot of other industries. Why is agriculture's record so bad in comparison?

00:11:34:08 - 00:12:15:13

Speaker 4

Well, there's a whole range of factors involved, but it's quite a hazardous industry. There's big machinery, big, big animals, lots and lots of things going on. Farmers are doing lots of different things, really playing a really important role in keeping the food production going in this country. Really, really important. But there's lots of hazards. And when things do go wrong, unfortunately this the consequences are really, really serious, both for the farmer, the farm itself, and for the family and the community of that farmer, so that there's just so much going on, so busy at times.

00:12:15:20 - 00:12:20:17

Speaker 4

But there are very simple, straightforward things that can be done to keep those risks under control.

00:12:21:08 - 00:12:32:00

Speaker 1

And do you want to go through the campaign? You mentioned the three sections. I suppose if we split it up into those three sections. So the safe farm element of the campaign, what does that cover?

00:12:32:14 - 00:12:42:08

Speaker 4

Well, I'm going to hand over to Eve, if that's okay. On this one. Evil talk is through the safe farm and safe driver, parts of it. And then maybe I'll pick up on the same vehicle later on. Right.

00:12:42:16 - 00:12:45:10

Speaker 1

So. So what's the safe farm part of the campaign, then?

00:12:45:10 - 00:13:19:09

Speaker 3

Cover the safe farm. Alex It's all about the actual site itself. So to use the term risk assessment, you know, it's for a lot of people that's quite scary at home, but it's really just thinking about the sorts of hazards, transport hazards that people may have around the farm. So having to think about if you've got deliveries coming in or if you've got vehicles moving about, you know, different work activities, if they've got operators in the vehicles and pedestrians also walking about the farm area, what we want them to do is separate those vehicles and people.

00:13:19:09 - 00:13:40:23

Speaker 3

That's the first thing you want to think about doing. If you've got a big farm area, you're looking at my routes and what we keeping pedestrians separate from the vehicles. Sometimes you be looking at put in barriers and and posts potentially and think of the area as crossing points. But again it's thinking about what's realistic for my farm, what's the element of transport and pedestrian movement.

00:13:40:23 - 00:14:02:08

Speaker 3

I've got other things that people can do on farms as they can implement some signage, they can ensure that the lighting is good. Really simple things like insuring Leighton's goods and asked people also to be a high visibility cordon. And it's important to see as well that the sort of safety rules apply to visiting people on the site.

00:14:02:08 - 00:14:28:00

Speaker 3

So it's going to be that people visiting sites who make deliveries and things like that are aware of what the safety rules of that particular site would be. That's really important, especially when it's really busy. We appreciate there's all different sizes of forms, all different levels of workplace transport going on. So it's about thinking, you know, each individual farmer, thinking about what's what the hazards are on their site, what the levels of risk and what steps they can take that are practical and they're able to implement.

00:14:28:07 - 00:14:40:03

Speaker 1

And, you know, you talk about some pretty simple, simple things as well as all the crossing plates and things. Is that something that you've seen from the incidents that you've seen that could have saved some of those lives that Adrian was talking about?

00:14:40:15 - 00:15:08:00

Speaker 3

Yeah. I mean, workplace transport across the board in all industries as the sort of one of the highest causes of accidents and fatalities. So, you know, these are some of these simple measures. I mean, we're not asking people to cross end points and things. And if you've got a really small yard with little movement, you know, in some situations just change and lose the situation on a farm, changing the shape of the site and it sort of gets people into the harbor of being safe.

00:15:08:01 - 00:15:30:10

Speaker 3

If it was what was what was there to use people and how about using the walkways? If there's crossing points equally that do that, if you've separated areas all for somebody or. Yeah, sometimes there's a bit of an early cost wise originally for that. But if you compare it to the implications of an incident, a prosecution, things like that, then it's not that much of an alley.

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Speaker 3

So and these these measures can can really reduce the situation for people getting knocked down, which is one of the causes of injury and fatality. Unfortunately, as as people get knocked down and it is easily preventable with a few simple measures.

00:15:46:05 - 00:15:52:01

Speaker 1

So I think the next section of campaign is safe. Driver joins take us through that bit as well.

00:15:52:01 - 00:16:18:04

Speaker 3

Yeah, well good looking and first and foremost as is training to ensure that drivers are competent and they understand the safety aspect of dying driven vehicles about the farm. So one of the big things that we advocate is in treatment for ATVs or quad bikes. You know, this has become an increasing thing in environment is use of TVs and they operate them in all kinds of environments and dealing with slopes, ingredients and things like that.

00:16:18:04 - 00:16:42:10

Speaker 3

So are to talk things for safe driver on ATVs would be training which is really about half of the of people's time. It's not a lot to ask on to wear a helmet preferably a quad bike specific helmet. But if you've got some kind of herd protection available, then we welcome just head protection full stop that can help reduce the consequences if there is an accident.

00:16:42:17 - 00:17:03:03

Speaker 3

The reason we advocate training so much is due to the active region aspect. These are not things you just hop on and can easily just drive about. You need to know what you're doing. You need to know how to shift your body weight on an ATV to keep it stable. Things like an all that lots of people out there will have had a lot of years experience on things like tractors and things like that.

00:17:03:03 - 00:17:28:11

Speaker 3

But you know, they are the reality over. As the accidents happen with us, equipment overturns hopping on gradients quite a lot. And so therefore experience is great. But training is really, really key in the last the last thing I want to mention under safe drivers, this is a state safe stop the agent sort of alluded to earlier. So this is a really well first joined policy section.

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Speaker 3

You really have to tell people to stop the vehicle safely. We do, because as you mentioned, farmers under the law, pressure that got lot to get done every day. I think there's those new problems to sort of face on. Sometimes it seems quicker to just fix the problem on a machine by leaving the pot or if you've got a blockage to clear or a little bit maintenance, it's okay, I'll just jump over it and I'll just do that while the tracks are still running in the poor Stoke When we constantly see accidents, we are safe.

00:17:56:15 - 00:18:15:13

Speaker 3

Stop hasn't been carried out and people get caught in machinery or run over, etc. Safe Stop is literally a home vehicle and put it in neutral. And you know, if you're if you're doing a large piece of work, then it's it's it's take the kids out and do the filthy stop procedure. But it's literally simple. Unzip your hand and put it in neutral.

00:18:15:21 - 00:18:25:19

Speaker 3

So all these things will offer the driver to take responsibility for to really have that little safe procedures when you're operating machinery.

00:18:26:02 - 00:18:38:13

Speaker 1

And no helmets, no quad bikes is something that we come across quite often. Is that a big problem? People seem to just think, Oh, I'll pop on the quad bike and never think about put in the helmet on. Is that a big problem for you guys that you say.

00:18:39:06 - 00:19:03:13

Speaker 3

That's a massive problem for a variety of reasons. Some people think, you know, it's it sometimes feels a little bit like who wears a helmet and there's lots of kind of peer issues. Would you believe that that's true? Farmers are open and honest about that. They've said, well, you know, my neighbor doesn't wear the helmet or but as a big, big, big issue that, you know, helmets save lives and they don't cost very much.

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Speaker 3

So, again, you know, the agencies earlier, a lot of these small steps people can take do cost a lot of money. You know, sometimes you get a helmet when you bike. What we've said, we're quite open to see. And if you've got a motor bike helmet or a bike helmet or something about the farm, you can use that.

00:19:20:04 - 00:19:45:09

Speaker 3

We prefer a quote, bike helmet, but you can as long as you're protecting your head, we we're happy for you to use another kind of helmet. And as I said before about green, and that's Halfords. These these measures which would save lives are not hugely costly or time consuming. So we have heard all the reasons or, you know, I've got no time to do that, sort of not got a helmet or a feel sorry we didn't want to recount here, can't see, you know, maybe not wearing the right helmet.

00:19:45:09 - 00:19:55:06

Speaker 3

We we really, really strongly advocate helmets in terms, of course, bike safety is voluntary. You know, the only real control measures that we we find acceptable.

00:19:55:06 - 00:20:03:01

Speaker 1

And moving on then to the last part of it, Adrian, if you want to pick this one up, the safe vehicle part of it, tell us a little bit about it.

00:20:03:02 - 00:20:41:05

Speaker 4

Yeah, I'm sure the is vehicles on farms have a hard life. They you know, they get worked hard. Really, really important to for the for everything on the farm so the farm vehicles are always in use. It's important to make sure they're properly maintained. That's what it boils down to, making sure that you've got a safe vehicle. So making sure that it's maintained that it works properly, that it's clean, that people who work on it know what they're doing.

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Speaker 4

And I've had that training. The Eve, quite rightly, is talked about, and it really is about, you know, checking the faults before it's too late because those safety checks can protect you, your family, the farm itself. Because if you have an incident and you're one of the main people in the farm, what's it going to do to the farm?

00:21:03:12 - 00:21:44:23

Speaker 4

Is you being out of action. So it's so important to maintain that machine regularly, check it, make sure that things, if you are working underneath it in particular, that you've used the not just jacks, but you've put in proper axle stands or you've used really decent props underneath there up to the job, and that you you're checking the brakes work properly, the tires, the right, the right pressure going back to quad bikes, you know, so important to have the right pressure on the bike tires because it bounces around to the wise or you get in stability and brakes.

00:21:44:23 - 00:22:08:07

Speaker 4

So important on things like trailers, really important to maintain those properly because you rely on those when you've got when you've got a full load and you're going downhill, that's not when you want to find out the brakes don't work. So really important to find out before that happens and to prevent really horrible incidents. And then simple things as well.

00:22:08:07 - 00:22:36:22

Speaker 4

Just keeping the mirrors clean, just maintaining the the structure of the cab. Does the door close properly because that cup protects you as the thinking rolls over, it's important to have that cup that's maintained that you stay in the cab with your seatbelt on and the cup protects you. So look after the vehicle where the seatbelt, if it's fitted and keep those mirrors, windows, doors clean.

00:22:36:22 - 00:22:49:07

Speaker 4

And it's sounding like I'm teaching everybody here to to the eggs. But yeah, it's it's straightforward stuff that loads of loads of loads of people And.

00:22:49:07 - 00:23:01:17

Speaker 1

Have you guys got any examples of things that you've seen where something like, you know, as simple as putting your seatbelts on, I'll make sure that the door closes properly. Could have saved people's lives. You got examples you can tell our listeners?

00:23:02:01 - 00:23:25:05

Speaker 3

Yeah, and we do have some examples and these are examples drawn from a real experiences with things that have happened to farm workers, farmers, etc.. And I just want to say before we go through the examples that we're not making any comment or criticism about the people injured or killed in these incidents in terms of, you know, full or bohemian, and we're using the most these are real examples.

00:23:25:05 - 00:23:46:19

Speaker 3

And what we really want listeners to do as to think about the reality of these and just think twice. But a couple of things they are doing when they're out on the farm because they will be doing these types of things. So one example of what were considered unsafe stop before you do anything to equipment, before you say clear blockages, cardio and maintenance.

00:23:47:05 - 00:24:08:15

Speaker 3

So we've got an example of a young farm worker this is relatively recently who sadly was killed when they attempted to clean once a moving tractor. And I think we'd seen something to do with machinery potentially needed to just change something. They met Mr. Fruits and completely fell fail from the chart. So we're thrown into the machinery being taught by the tractor.

00:24:09:17 - 00:24:32:05

Speaker 3

And so the you know, again, I say stop isolation of the power and you know, potentially just taking out the extra time would have hopefully prevented something like that happening. So it may sound simplistic, but it's something we see over and over and over again, as in failure to see sought procedure. We understand that under a low pressure, Adrian said.

00:24:32:12 - 00:25:00:02

Speaker 3

One of the reasons why it happens and farming and the pressures around are the machinery, faults, etc. etc. But you know, they can't be replaced. You know, people can't be replaced machine, it can be replaced and fixed, etc. but people can't be so just safe. Stop in that situation. Could have made a world reference. But I've got a couple more examples if you want me to, to highlight them.

00:25:00:02 - 00:25:21:15

Speaker 3

Yeah, sure. So that's going to say stop. So we go back to talk about what we're talking about. Safe side. So this is an example where a lorry driver was was hurt and struck by Green Book attached to Sally Handler while the only driver was delivered in feet to a farm. Well, that was was happening potentially getting unloaded.

00:25:21:15 - 00:25:42:22

Speaker 3

He's walking through a passageway towards the farmer and wasn't seen by the tail handler driver because of his blind spots or the fact that, you know, if he was walking, he just couldn't be seen and they struck him and he was injured, wasn't wasn't killed, thankfully, but he was uninjured. And what happened was the bucket with the tail handler had been obstructing the driver's view.

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Speaker 3

So you get situations where, as Adrian said, there's maintenance issues you can you can sort of take on to ensure people's view as obscured, like making sure meadows are clean infections, things like that. But in that situation potentially where the bucket was, that just was a blind spot. So that's what comes back to save us when it comes back to pedestrians shouldn't be near vehicles are operating.

00:26:05:23 - 00:26:22:22

Speaker 3

We should there should be a process in place for visiting drivers where they're supposed to go, what are supposed to do while they're getting a load. It's a proper procedure and they should be aware of them as well as some questions on this. They should know where they can walk really should at work. So that's again, a safe sight.

00:26:22:22 - 00:26:51:17

Speaker 3

People do get run over again. It's another real example, but that's why safety is actually so important. So I think we were talking about you mentioned seatbelts just a second ago, Alex. So, you know, that's this is a really important one for us. So there's this example, but that applies to everybody. So a child member of a farming family, which just illustrates for us the far reaching consequences of incidents on farms.

00:26:51:17 - 00:27:21:11

Speaker 3

It's, it's the business, it's the family in the wider community that can often get affected as devastating consequences. So a child was run over when they had them and killed when they had jumped from a truck, which was being driven by the farmer and the vehicle was to in a trailer to another field. And both the vehicle and the trailer had started to slide, potentially creating not sure the circumstances so the child could try to jump from the vehicle, but was subsequently run over and killed a lot of people out there.

00:27:21:20 - 00:27:41:20

Speaker 3

You ask farmers and a lot of people have said in terms of overturns of a vehicle start to overturn and they say we can jump clear. We really don't accept that as an acceptable killing for control measures that we have. We we would see seatbelts must be worn. First of all, children shouldn't be passengers on agricultural vehicles just to that one equation.

00:27:41:20 - 00:28:12:13

Speaker 3

But for people, operating vehicles, they should have seatbelts and they should be wearing them. That has overtones of a serious cause of death and serious injury in terms of vehicle incidents on farms and in a seatbelt, again, simple, reasonably cheap control measure. And that would make a world of difference when people when the vehicle does overturn. So that's just another example of how important seatbelts are and they can be fitted.

00:28:12:13 - 00:28:23:12

Speaker 3

We do not accept that if people see this, they can't be retrofitted. The company couldn't order equipment. We believe they can and they should and they should be worn. So it's just another example of that one.

00:28:23:12 - 00:28:45:21

Speaker 1

And just to pick up on that on the children point, because I think agriculture's quite a unique situation, but in a situation where obviously the business is often on the same sites as the family home, you know, it's a family business. Children obviously are often excited to be, you know, be part of the farm in whatever ever way.

00:28:45:22 - 00:28:53:00

Speaker 1

What do you say about, you know, having children on the farm and the health and safety elements of that? What's important for people to think about that?

00:28:53:12 - 00:29:15:05

Speaker 3

I think that we appreciate that the sort of the slightly different nature of agriculture and, you know, you turn up to to visit a farm and it's a home and a business and a lot of people say so. So this is how children live and this is how we get them interested in farming as we want to be part of the process.

00:29:15:05 - 00:29:34:11

Speaker 3

And they learn from a really young age and that there's a lot to be respect and not for. I would always compare that with other industries, you know, and as Adrian mentioned earlier, as there are a lot hazards in farming because of the machinery, the size, the machinery, the type of machinery, what it can do on the animals.

00:29:35:00 - 00:29:51:20

Speaker 3

And I think it's about a common sense and again, coming back to thinking about the hazards and thinking logically, would you put your child in the way of some of those households if you worked in an engineering company or a business, all of those, and say, would you take a child into an engineering company? Would you put them on a building site?

00:29:53:08 - 00:30:21:05

Speaker 3

So it sounds literature, as of course you would. And so, you know, we were really quite sort of serious about our views on seeking children and particularly high household activities on farms like involving machinery and transport and things like that. And we've got lots of recommendations about keeping the home side separate from the working sites and again, looking at the level of look at households and the level of risk to your children.

00:30:21:13 - 00:30:51:23

Speaker 3

And there are truly examples and horrific examples of people with young children as young as two years old or, you know, little children who have been killed in a horrible way and been run over by some of this equipment. And it's devastating. It's absolutely devastating for the families and the wider farming community. So we see this that children shouldn't be near the high halls of work and activities on farms.

00:30:51:23 - 00:31:03:02

Speaker 3

And, you know, that's it's really kind of a deal breaker for us. It's not a case where they need to learn to drive the tractor. So I've brought them in from each to know we don't accept that.

00:31:04:10 - 00:31:14:02

Speaker 1

You know, if people are listening to this and they want more information about, you know, what they can do on their farm, where do they need to go, what do they need to and what other support can you give them?

00:31:14:09 - 00:31:50:13

Speaker 4

Alex There's a whole range of information available from a whole range of sources. I know Farmers Guardian offer some sort, some sources of information, really good stuff. But equally we've got our own website which has got pages and pages on agricultural safety, the Willow launching this campaign, which will be running throughout March. And there's lots of campaign material that'll be available on the social media channels, on our work, write, come work, work, write campaign pages.

00:31:51:00 - 00:32:16:09

Speaker 4

I got it out eventually. And we we've also got lots of our partners on the Farm Safety Partnership across England, Wales and Scotland who will also be joining in on this with this with the campaign in and they they've all got material that's available. So whether you're a member of one of the big organizations or a contractor or there's loads of people involved.

00:32:16:20 - 00:32:46:08

Speaker 4

So yeah reach out find out what what's available, talk to people. It is all fairly straightforward stuff. We're going to be we'll have face campaign, there'll be media, there'll be there'll be videos, there'll be stuff on the news pages, all sorts. So yeah, plenty of, plenty of information out there if you, if you, if you're really interested and we really hope you will because this is so, so important.

00:32:46:08 - 00:33:03:04

Speaker 4

It is the biggest cause of of injury on farms and a lot of it is so, so preventable. That's all I think we need to say really.

00:33:03:04 - 00:41:53:03

Speaker 1

Thank you to Eve and to Adrian. Some sobering statistics and stories there. That's it for this week's episode of Over the Farm Gate. We'll be back with another episode for you next Friday. So don't forget to subscribe on your favorite podcast platform. Thank you very much for listening and make sure you stay safe on farm. Go bye for now.