

'Farm Safety' Post-Primary School Teacher Resource





1. Introduction

The video resource is suitable for post-primary students (post-junior cycle). The resource aims to increase students' awareness of health and safety in agriculture and promote good practice. The resource's content will help students engage in classroom discussions on farm safety and key hazards on a farm. Students from a farming background, visiting a farm, helping on a farm, or thinking about a career in agriculture will find this resource useful. This resource includes an overview of the learning outcomes, an outline of the video contents, high-level farm safety data/trends, in-class exercises, a quiz and curriculum links.



2. Learning Outcomes

This resource will raise awareness on key hazards and risks on farms, and the types of measures/controls farmers put in place to prevent accidents occurring. Students will learn how to:

- stay safe on the farm,
- follow safety rules, and
- play their part in preventing accidents by knowing the hazards present and acting in a safe and responsible manner.

**Table 1-
Key messages
from video.**

3. Overview of Video Resource

The video resource is available at the following link: [Farm Safety Post Primary Students](#), and can be played before the classroom discussion starts.

The Importance of supervision on the farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children never enter a farmyard unsupervised, • safe play area for children.
How to behave safely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listening to all instructions from a responsible adult, • only operating machinery when you are adequately trained, • stay away from dangerous areas, • never climb or work at height unless trained, • reading and obeying all safety signs on the farm.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<p>PPE must fit properly and be suitable to the task. Examples of PPE include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hi-visibility clothing such as vests/reflective gear, • eye protection such as glasses, goggles, and face shields, • foot protection such as steel toe cap boots/wellies, • respiratory protection such as masks (protect from dust, gases, fumes, and pesticides), • gloves and fitted overalls (hands and skin protection), • hearing protection such as earmuffs or ear defenders.
Dangers present on the farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tractors, machinery, quad bikes, livestock.
How to stay safe around tractors, machinery, and quad bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persons under 18 should not operate farm machinery with a complex control system, • children under 14 should not drive or operate tractors or machinery, • children over 14 may operate tractors off public roads/areas under strict supervision and only after attending a formal training course run by a competent training provider, • always be aware of blind spots and danger zones, • you must be over the age of 16 and appropriately trained to operate a quad bike, • since November 2023, all operators must complete appropriate training. Also, helmet protection must comply with the required standard and be worn before operating any quad bike.
Safety around animals on the farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • livestock can be dangerous and can attack without warning, • always follow basic safety rules to avoid accidents and injury, • always stay alert of your surroundings, • always have an escape plan in place, know and understand animal behaviour.

4. Data

To support the classroom discussion, data trends might be referred to. The following is a summary of key trends pertaining to farm accidents. Please note that each year the Health and Safety Authority publishes an annual report of workplace illnesses, accidents, and fatalities. This includes sector specific information – for example agriculture and other sectors. For more on this, please see the HSA website.

Farming Fatalities 2013-2022 (190)

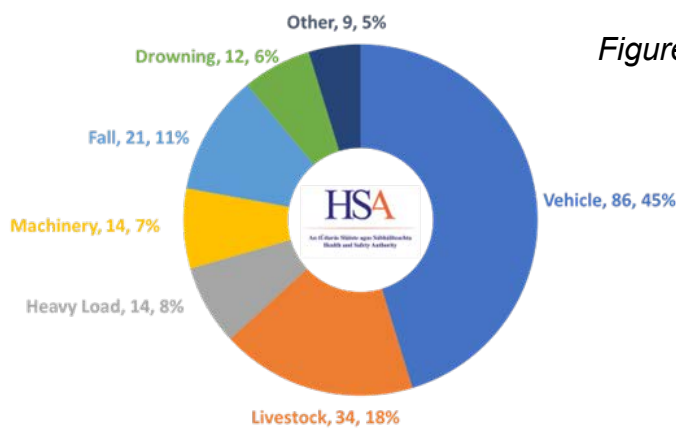


Figure 1: Breakdown of How Fatalities Occurred.

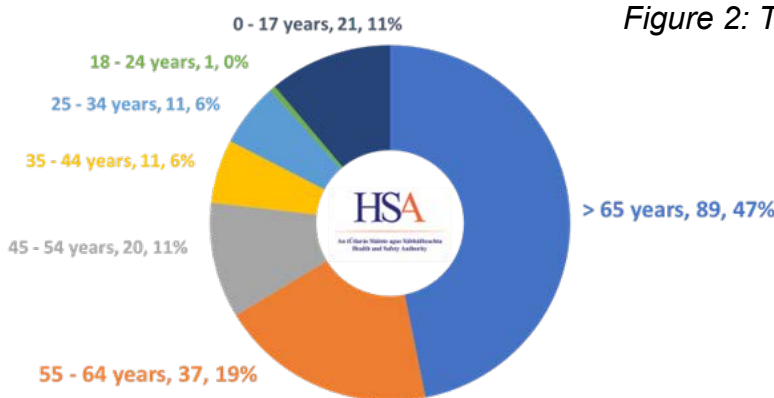


Figure 2: Total Fatalities by Age Group.

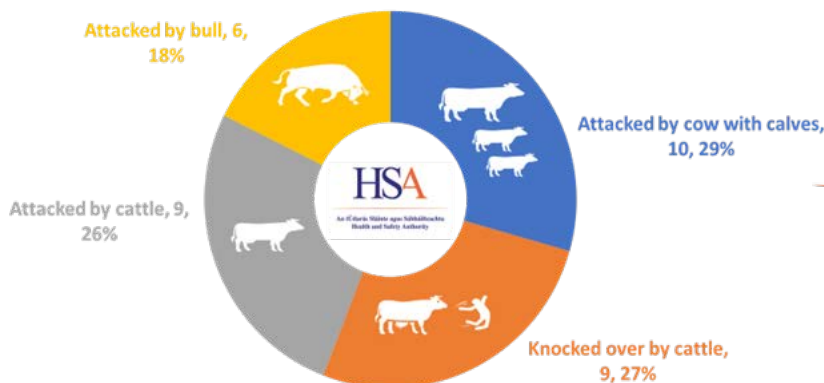


Figure 3: Livestock Fatalities.

5. Classroom Case Studies

Scenario 1

John, a farmer, was run over and killed as he tried to mount a runaway tractor. The hand brake on the tractor failed, causing the tractor to run away down a slope. The farmer tried to mount the tractor but fell under the wheels receiving crush injuries to the head and chest.

Learner to:

- identify the hazards that contributed to this incident,
- list the control measures that if applied could have prevented this incident, and
- identify the unsafe behaviour in this case study.



Scenario 2

Mary, a farmer, and her local vet were obtaining a blood sample from a two-day old calf in a cowshed. To complete this task, the farmer opened the pen and separated the cow from the calf by putting the cow into the central passageway in the cowshed with feed.

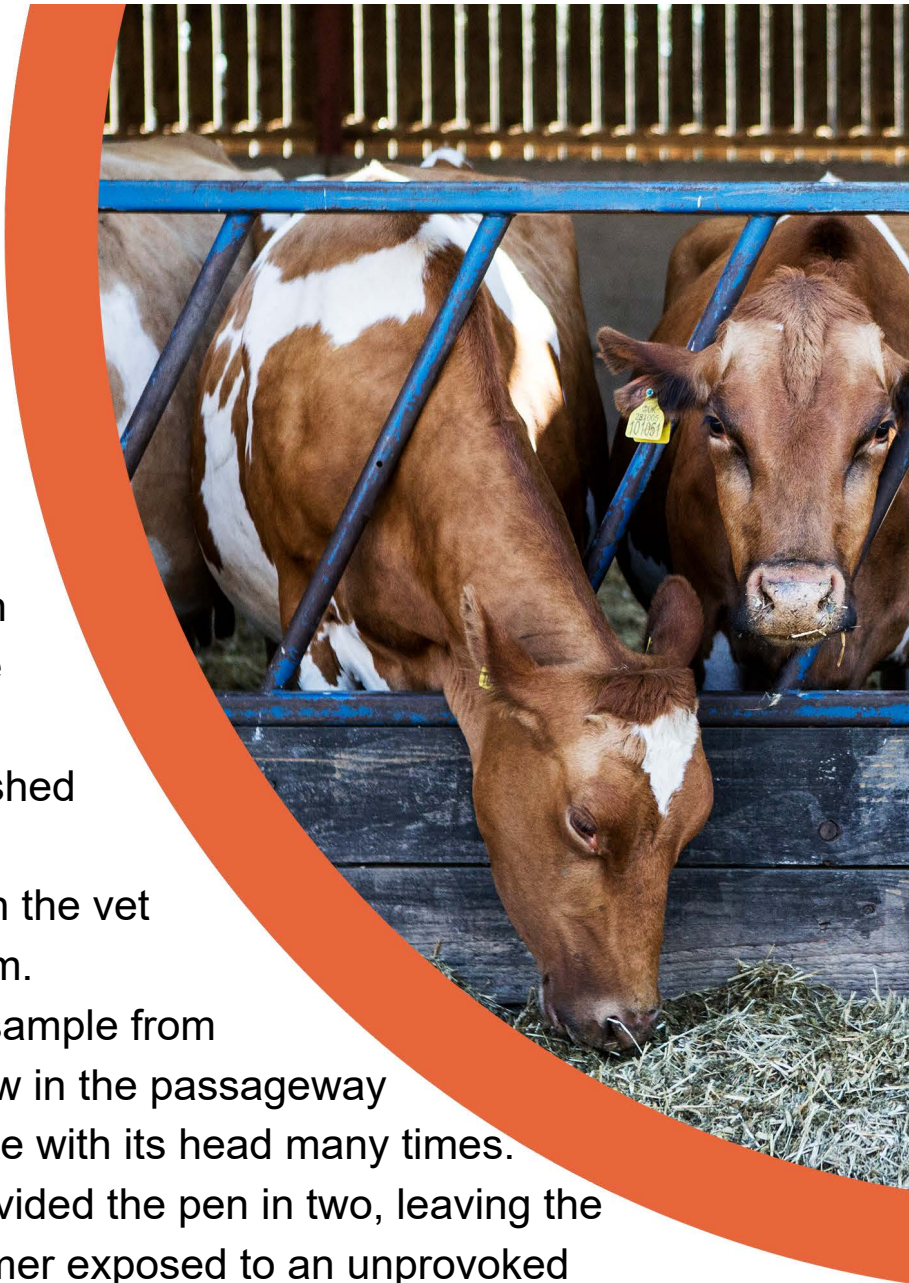
The farmer entered the pen with the vet and closed the gate behind them.

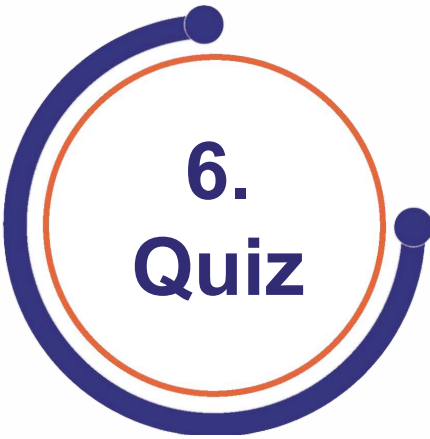
The vet proceeded to take the sample from the calf. Instantaneously the cow in the passageway became agitated and hit the gate with its head many times.

The gate swung inwards and divided the pen in two, leaving the vet behind the gate and the farmer exposed to an unprovoked animal attack. The farmer suffered serious abdominal injuries and her recovery took 6 months.

Learner to:

- identify the hazards that contributed to this incident,
- list the control measures that if applied could have prevented this incident, and
- identify the unsafe behaviour in this case study.





6. Quiz

There are 12 possible questions to answer. Questions can be asked at different times during the class.

01

How many young people have lost their lives on Irish farms in the last 10 years?

Answer: 22 (21- under 17, 1- 18 year old).

02

Can you name one way in which young people can be injured on the farm?

Answers:

- falling from the tractor,
- attacked by livestock,
- blind spots around machinery,
- falling from a height,
- improper use of a quad.

03

What time of year is most hazardous for young people on farms?

Answer: Summer months.

04

Name three ways you can stay safe on the farm?

Answers:

- listen to instructions,
- pay attention to safety signs on the farm,
- when you see something unsafe report it immediately to a responsible adult.

05

Name three types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on the farm?

Answers:

- boots (foot protection),
- goggles (eye protection),
- earmuffs (hearing protection),
- high visibility clothing.

06

Which mandatory farm document identifies hazards, risks, and control measures on the farm?

Answer: Farm Safety Code of Practice, Risk Assessment Document.

07

What is a hazard?

Answer: A hazard is something that can cause you harm.

08

To operate farm machinery with complex control systems, what must you have?

Answers:

- be over 18 years of age,
- received formal training, and
- be competent to operate the machine.

09

What are the most common causes of tractor incidents?

Answers:

- an untrained driver, loss of control or speeding,
- falls from the tractor,
- being run over,
- being crushed or trapped under the tractor.

10

Write down three measures you can take to protect yourself around vehicles and machinery?

Answers:

- wear high visibility clothing,
- never start up any farm vehicle without having first received training,
- make yourself known to the driver first before approaching the vehicle,
- wear a seatbelt.

11

Can you write down three things you should do when interacting with livestock?

Answers:

- stay alert of your surroundings, always have an escape route in sight,
- know and understand animal behaviour,
- stay out of the pen.

12

What are the most common causes of quad incidents on farms?

Answers:

- lack of formal training or experience,
- excessive speed,
- over inflation of tyres,
- poor quad maintenance and poor physical mobility,
- carrying a passenger or an unbalanced load,
- a steep slope,
- overturning.

7. Further Information

Please see the following information and guidance which is available on the HSA website.

- ATV Information Sheet gives advice on the safe use of ATV's and quad bikes.
- Guidance on the Safe Handling of Cattle on Farms.
- Safe Handling of Cattle on Farms Information Sheet.
- 'Code of Practice on Children and Young Persons in Agriculture' applies to on-farm work activities and their potential impact on children and young persons.
- Child Safety on the Farm Information Sheet provides advice for farm families, parents and children on farms.
- Play Safe, Stay Safe on the Farm is a short leaflet designed to raise children's awareness about safety on the farm.

Survivor Stories

Please also see the following survivor stories, YouTube videos where real farmers talk about accidents and the effects on their families and friends.

 **Peter's Story**

 **Dominic's Story**

 **Ann's Story**

 **Brendan's Story**

 **Dangers of Slurry Gas - Just One Breath Will Kill**

 **'Once Upon a Farm...' A Safety Video for Students**