



2011 – A bad year for Farm Accidents

As we look back at 2011 we are reminded about farm health and safety and some of the tragic events that took place on our farms.

Last year 12 farmers from Northern Ireland lost their lives in farming accidents and our deepest sympathy goes out to all those families affected. As well as the tragic fatal accidents there were numerous other incidents where farmers were injured, but these often were not reported.

We must however look forward to 2012 with renewed hope that our farming community will not witness such a tragic year as this ever again.

These deaths affect every one of us who are involved with the agriculture community when we read and hear about such tragedies.

The high risk areas which have been highlighted in accidents last year included attack by animals, slurry pits/tanks drownings, slurry gassing, falls from height and operating unsafe machinery. Once again the older farmer has featured strongly in the accident figures. This age group continue to be involved in the day to day running of farm businesses. We would ask these older farmers to continue to play an important role in the running of the farm, but to take a step back when it comes to those high risk jobs more suited to someone younger or who has the professional expertise to carry out the work safely e.g. roof work.

Everyone involved in agriculture has a role to play in ensuring that these tragic incidents are eliminated from our industry and we would ask everyone to play their part in trying to make the whole industry safer.

It is The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland's wish that 2012 is one where farm accidents are eliminated.

We wish everyone involved in the agriculture industry a safe, prosperous and peaceful new year.

REMEMBER: STAY SAFE ON THE FARM

For further information on farming health and safety issues in Northern Ireland please contact the HSENI helpline on 0800 0320 121 or visit our Farm Safe website at www.hseni.gov.uk/farmsafe