



Farm Safety Focus

Belinda Haddow
Extension Co-ordinator Darling Downs
and South-east Queensland



The South Burnett discussion group met in May 2019, as a follow-up to last year's Farm Safety Manual workshop held in the region. Challenging seasonal conditions and the complexity of the farm safety issue had meant that most farmers were yet to start working through the Dairy Australia Farm Safety Manual (FSM) which they were introduced to at the workshop. Di Gresham facilitated the group through a farm walk, identifying key areas of risk on-farm and discussing some practical options to address the risks.

It is important to remember that every farm is different and even though there are similarities in work practices and risks, every farm needs its own risk control solutions to achieve the best safety outcomes. Dairy Australia's Farm Safety Manual is a special tool designed for dairy businesses to make the process easier to build and improve a comprehensive farm safety system. It is designed to cover both the legal and practical requirements for farm safety management on-farm and can be worked through at a suitable pace for each farm business. Each topic (or risk area) starts with Explanatory notes and a Self-Assessment (or traffic light) tool designed to guide you to key focus areas that need some attention. Templates are included and can also be downloaded online. Each topic has a Farm Records section where completed documents can be stored and the manual becomes a living document for the farm business.

Some of the key resources in the manual include:

- **Induction checklist:** no employee can walk into a new job and be fully effective from the first day. Effectiveness grows with an understanding of the farm and the details of its operation. It is important to ensure that every employee receives appropriate induction training. A checklist will help you remember the important things to cover during the induction.
- **Safety system snapshot:** uses a 'traffic lights' format to guide you and the farm team in checking your Farm safety system against the current Work Health and Safety Legislation.
- **Incident report log:** all injuries, accidents and incidents that occur in a workplace must be recorded. Use the templates provided to set up a reporting system on your farm that everyone is encouraged to use. This includes an incident and industry register, investigation report and hazard/near miss report templates.

Remember it is each farm's responsibility to keep their Farm Safety Manual up-to-date and relevant to their business.

The South Burnett group decided to start their Farm Safety Manual by completing the Quad Bike Safety section of the module and have planned another meeting to review that section and complete the next one in the manual. ■■



Working through the Quad bike safety section of the Farm Safety Manual as a group.



Looking at confined space safety, working at heights risks, ladders, augers and other hazards on-farm.



Discussing some common hazards on farm.