



Make Farm Safety, a priority!

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Recently Subtropical Dairy in conjunction with Dairy Australia hosted a one-hour Getting Started: Farm Safety Webinar, taking dairy farmers through the practical, easy-to-use resources available to enable them to get their Farm Safety System started or improve on their existing system.

Sarah Thompson from Dairy Australia facilitated the webinar and Ros Rees from Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) was also online to give a Queensland perspective and answer any 'curly' questions. There are lots of resources available to farmers, some of which, I will note below.

If you are interested in listening to the recent webinar recording, please click on www.dairyaustralia.zoom.us/recording/share/LeqFXfjyExdDyiWNSnqtuz8CSE15zRgtRQrHz5STmYWwlumekTziMw

In Queensland, the Injury Prevention and Management program (IPaM) provides free assistance to businesses to develop and implement a safety management system appropriate for your business. To register your interest, go to the following link www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/injury-prevention-safety/injury-prevention-and-management or email: workplaceassistance@oir.qld.gov.au

For those that are yet to start their farm safety journey, a great place to start is by downloading Dairy Australia's Farm Safety Starter kit www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/farm-safety/safetystarterkit. The Dairy Australia's 'People in Dairy' website has so much information in regard to Farm Safety. Please don't be a stranger to this website www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/farm-safety/dairyhomesafely.

It is advised that farmers use the National Codes of Practice www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance alongside other guidance material to ensure they are meeting compliance.

These codes are relevant to all states except Victoria. There are a few that are still state specific, such as the Qld Rural Plant CoP 2004 which is currently under review.

Another website to familiarise yourselves with is Workplace Health and Safety Qld (WHSQ). The website has lots of relevant information on farm safety www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/agriculture. For any agriculture queries about WHS in Qld, WHSQ have a dedicated email address: agriculture@oir.qld.gov.au or you can phone them on 1300 362 128. More information and resources can be found on Farmsafe Australia's website: www.farmsafe.org.au/

As quad bike safety is a particular issue for many farmers, the WHSQ Ride Ready website provides information and resources on quad bike safety www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/rideready.

Although currently there are no laws to enforce it, helmets should not be optional on farm but mandatory. There are a number of approved helmets suitable for use on a quad bike: www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/rideready/helmets

The Shark helmet is approved for both road use and off-road use and has breathable vents for warmer weather - www.motorcycleid.com/shark-helmets/shark-helmets-off-road-atv-drak-blank-open-face-helmet-1500113452.html

The Shorty – this helmet is one of the lighter helmets on the market, also approved for road and off-road use - www.motorcyclestuff.com.au/products/m2r-rebel-shorty-helmet-white

With all the available resources, there really is no excuse not to start your farm safety journey. Every bit you do, big or small, is a step in the right direction and could very well prevent injury or loss of life on your farm. Help is only a phone call or email away. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact your local Subtropical Dairy Extension Coordinator. Please see the last page of Northern Horizons for their contact details.

