

## Farm Safety Focus

# Two meetings, Four Farm Safety modules

**Belinda Haddow**

Subtropical Dairy Extension Co-ordinator Darling Downs and South-east Queensland

**The South Burnett Discussion Group continued their farm safety focus with two further discussion group meetings – The first meeting focused around Farm Vehicles, Confined Spaces and Heights and the second meeting, Fixed Plant on Farm and Working with Livestock.**

The Dairy Australia Farm Safety manual has a step-by-step process for setting up Farm Safety procedures for each of the risk areas on farm. A self-guided safety assessment using a traffic light system guides you through the process of **what needs to be done immediately**, **what needs to be improved** and **what needs to be reviewed or monitored**. There are guidelines for best practice and setting up Standard Operating Procedures for pieces of equipment.

### **Confined Spaces – More than being in a tight place – these can be fatal....**

Confined spaces can be very dangerous. More than any other area of safety on dairy farms, confined spaces require the owner or person conducting the business to comply with legal regulations. Confined spaces occur in circumstances where there is: restricted entry or exit, or hazardous atmosphere e.g. harmful level of chemical or contaminant or gas, or risk of engulfment. On dairy farms some examples of confined spaces may include: milk vats or silos; grain silos; mixer wagons; tanks and some effluent pits. Security, lockouts and signage are important to prevent entry for each structure. The risks for each structure must be assessed and recorded in a farm Register of Confined Spaces and an Entry Permit is required for each job on a particular confined space.

**Most importantly – Never allow anyone to work in a confined space without having a responsible second (standby) person present.**

Find all of the resources you need to set up a Farm Safety procedure for managing Confined Spaces, including Risk Assessments and Entry Permits at [www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/farm-safety/confined-spaces](http://www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/farm-safety/confined-spaces)

### **Working at Heights – the risk of the fall**

Even a fall from a height less than 2m can lead to serious injury. As a business owner, dairy farmers have a legal responsibility to assess the risk on their farm and put appropriate safety measures in place. For most dairy farms the areas of risk will include the dairy, feeding system, yards and machinery and sheds.

A walk around the farm identifying areas of risk can be useful, recording locations and structures that need some attention in the Risk Assessment Guide in the Farm Safety Manual. For some pieces of equipment it may be as simple as identifying ways of doing the task or operating the machinery from ground level. For others, changes may be needed to stop unauthorised people or children from entering locations where falls can occur. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may need to be provided for those who work in the business and access these locations. Contractors who visit the farm need to be equipped and skilled to work at heights.

Find all of the resources you need to set up a Farm Safety procedure for managing Working at Heights at <http://www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/farm-safety/working-at-heights>

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