

On-Farm Health & Safety Charter for Wales

A stubbornly high number of farmers are killed each year on Welsh Farms. Over ten years from 2003 there have been 38 deaths in agriculture in Wales. The persistently high level of deaths and serious injuries in our country is a real cause for concern.

There are many organisations in Wales involved in providing support to farmers and the wider industry. By joining forces and working together, we can do much to ensure that farmers are equipped with the information and training they need to be able to make that promise to themselves and to their families to come home safe.

As leaders of organisations representing agricultural, forestry, horticultural and allied industries, our objective is to work collaboratively to build awareness and to change behaviour. Our key message to farmers is that they should **pause, stop and think** before taking unnecessary risks. We will do all that we can to promote the importance of good health and safety on-farm. The success or otherwise of this important initiative rests almost entirely with individual farmers and farm workers rising to the challenge and responding positively to our urgent call for things to change.

We agree on the need for us to:

- work in partnership and collaboratively to develop understanding and create awareness of Health & Safety best practice throughout the Welsh farming industry;

- provide leadership to the farming industry in Wales on Health & Safety, challenging traditional attitudes to risk;
- ensure that an appropriate regard to Health & Safety runs through all the messages we impart;
- demonstrate the simple practical steps many farmers are already taking and reinforcing the message that a good safety record is proof of a professional and modern industry;
- persuade all in the farming industry in Wales that safer working is good business practice that impacts positively on the profitability and long-term sustainability of every business;
- build on the work done over the years by the HSE, using the experience, resource and knowledge base of the HSE to support this important work;
- work within our own spheres of influence to bring about a change in culture, attitude and behaviour towards farm safety, while co-ordinating messages and priorities across the industry;
- engage with our own target internal and external endorsement groups, including the press and media, and to provide them with appropriate tools and information to help them promote key Health & Safety messages.

We, the undersigned organisations, declare that we are committed to working together for a safer farming industry in Wales. We aspire to consistently reduce the number of fatalities and injuries caused to farmers, their families, farm employees and others who come into contact with farm activities.



Markus W. Smith



Brian Vindland



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