

Safer Farms 2022

Agricultural Injury and Fatality **TREND REPORT**



Safer Farms, Safer Farmers



Farmsafe
AUSTRALIA

Message from the Chair

Felicity Richards



Before I introduce myself, I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Charles Armstrong for his leadership as Chair of Farmsafe Australia for the last decade. He was completely dedicated to reducing the incidence of injury and fatality on Australian farms and the commitment that he showed through some incredibly tough times was steadfast.

Charlie, we can't thank you enough and I hope to be able to do your work and your leadership proud as I take the organisation forward.

So, who am I, you ask? I'm a farmer from Tassie, I'm a farmer's wife, I'm a mother and I am an advocate for our industry. I love Australian agriculture and I respect and admire our Australian farmers. That is why I am 100% behind Farmsafe Australia's commitment to keeping you safer on Australian farms and why I chose to nominate for the role of Chair when the vacancy arose.

I grew up on a merino and beef farm on Flinders Island and married a beef farmer who grew up around Launceston. We have three small farmers, aged 6, 4 and 2 and we want them to see agriculture for all the skills and opportunities that it presents. We also want to see them grow up safely on our farm, with the knowledge that our industry values their work and their lives.

I recently listened to Bob Chapman, an American CEO, talk about 'Truly Human Leadership' – a style of leadership in which the leader recognises that everyone is someone's precious child and should be treated that way in the workforce. That resonated with me as a daughter, a wife, and a parent.

If I look at every employee, every contractor, every visitor to our farm, as being someone else's child or family and just as precious as my own children, then their safety should and will be my highest priority.

Don't get me wrong, I am **not** the poster child for farm safety, far from it – and I would question anyone who thinks that they are as there is always something that we can improve or learn from in our approach to safety. But it's a journey I'm committed to taking and I take it one step at a time, finding new and better ways to conduct our operations and look after our people.

As I write this, my husband is out with one of our employees getting the bulls out of the cows. It's a dangerous job when you really sit down and consider the risk profile. It involves taking 1000+ kilograms of testosterone-fuelled beef away from mobs of 200+ cows. It's hilly terrain, slippery from winter rain. He will be driving a side-by-side, navigating around animals, fences, gullies, rocks and trees. His concentration will be divided between the vehicle and the

livestock. But like most cattlemen, when he walked out the door this morning his only thought is that the job needs to get done.

And it does need to get done. And we will do it because we love our cattle, and we love working with them. But as he climbs into that side-by-side, I hope that he takes a moment to remember that the job isn't more important than him coming home for dinner tonight.

In 2021, 46 farmers didn't make it home for dinner. Each one of them was somebody's child, somebody's partner; somebody's family.

We need to remember the human behind each statistic. The farmer who was just out doing their job. The one who didn't think it could happen to them.

I challenge each and every one of you as you read through this report to not just skim the graphs and compare last year's numbers with this year's numbers, but to really consider the impact that an injury or a fatality would have on your business – and on your family.

Safer farms and safer farmers is a journey – a step by step approach to shifting our industry's mindset from acceptance of injuries and fatalities to actively working to reduce injuries and fatalities on Australian farms.

We can prevent injury and death in our industry.

Farmsafe Australia has endorsed a new strategic plan to ensure that we, as an organisation, are committed to and accountable for reducing the incidence of injury and fatality on Australian farms; *keeping you safer on Australian farms*, through our resources and initiatives.

I look forward to working with our member organisations to continue to build a strong, far-reaching network of industry bodies and organisations that will engage with each and every person that sets foot on our farms and work with them to take the next step on their own farm safety journey.

And I look forward to working with you – the Australian farmer. I hope you hear the voices of your family members through our messaging and our campaigns. I hope it makes you pause, maybe have a chuckle or two, and remember how important you are to those who love you.

Farm safety isn't all rules and regulations – it's remembering that we are all mates, we are all family and we are all precious to someone out there.

Felicity Richards

Chair, Farmsafe Australia

Message from the EO's

Stevi Howdle and Blake Hillier



The most interesting part of being in my role as Executive Officer with Farmsafe Australia is the reaction from farmers when I share incidents and near misses that have happened to me personally. There is often the assumption that I must be a 'Safety Sam' (or a 'Safety Stevi!'). The truth is, that's not really me. Growing up, I was always a bit of a daredevil and was often in trouble for pushing boundaries. It was only when things hurt a bit more as I aged that I really started to think about consequences. Now, it's part of my job to think about best practice and worse case scenarios.

Looking back, I've come to realise that it was when I first moved to Australia that I became more conscious of risk, because the environment and the processes were new to me. I would scan the ground prior to jumping out of the ute, terrified of stepping on snakes, or I would take 10 minutes to back the feed cart because I was driving from the opposite side of the vehicle.

But as I got more used to the environment and the tasks I was performing, complacency began to creep in. My mind wasn't always on what I was doing and often I was rushing through choice points – you know those moments where you have an opportunity to do something differently? There is always a choice point that flashes to mind after a near miss or an injury.

It's become increasingly obvious that us farmers learn best from others around us, that we respect and trust, about how to navigate the incredible amount of risk that we deal with daily. So for Farm Safety Week, we thought it was a good idea to give other farmers, across different states and commodities, a platform to share their stories and tips, in the hopes that one of their stories would resonate with you specifically, and give you some ideas or inspiration on how you can tweak your safety practices or culture on farm.

The one thing that I hope that I can impart from my experiences is - **'listen to your intuition'** - we have it for a reason. If something seems dangerous or you get the feeling something isn't right or might not work out – step back and reassess the situation.

'Use your choice point wisely' – it might just save your life.

I've enjoyed meeting you all across the nation at conferences, workshops and on your farms and hopefully, I will see you all again soon.

Stevi Howdle

EO, Farmsafe Australia

Firstly, I'd like to thank Stevi Howdle for the extraordinary efforts of the past few years, building the resurging Farmsafe Australia into what it is today. Stevi's hard work has resulted in Farmsafe Australia being highly respected amongst Government bodies, industry organisations, commodity groups, researchers, and above all else, the farmers of Australia. Stevi certainly has left some big boots to fill and I'm excited to continue to build on the foundation that has been laid, and extend the reach of Farmsafe Australia and our members, both current and future.

I've been a part of the agricultural sector for the past five years and the last two, in particular, have proven to many Australians just how important our farmers are to our everyday way of life. Throughout the pandemic, our farmers did not stop. I spoke with a farmer in Colac, back in March 2020, who advised me, 'unless the sun doesn't come up tomorrow, I'll be working the sheep!' and that has stuck with me every day since.

That is why I was so excited to join Farmsafe Australia. I'm not a farmer and I won't pretend I could tell you how to run your farm, but I will endeavour to help you be a safer farmer and provide a safer farm for yourself, your employees, contractors, visitors, your friends and your family.

The importance of stakeholder partnership and engagement towards sustaining Farmsafe into the future is high on my priority list. Ultimately, every business and organisation along the agricultural supply chain has a significant stake in the safety and wellbeing of Australian farmers. Collaboration is the key to us reducing injury and fatality towards zero deaths on farm. I've already been made aware of some fantastic programs and initiatives across Australia that we could all learn from for the common good and I look forward to connecting with you all on future projects.

As you can see from the data in this report, there has been some great strides towards lowering both the on-farm fatalities and the non-fatal injuries each year, and we are very capable of lowering these numbers further, year after year. We will work together to achieve this goal and provide all of those currently working on farm, and the next generation of farmers, with the resources needed to be farm safe.

Blake Hillier

EO, Farmsafe Australia

Snapshot

We need to celebrate improvements made – every step that we take towards zero needs to be counted.

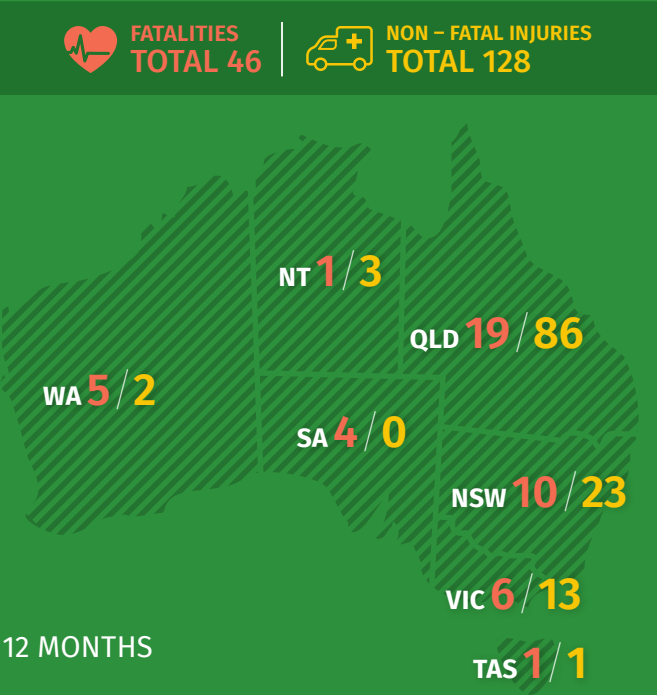
2010 was the last time that on-farm fatality statistics were below 50. In both 2019 and 2020 we lost 58 lives respectively on Australian farms. The significance of our 2021 number is easy to quantify. 14 farmer lives – not lost. This is why we keep doing what we do – every single farmer counts.

The tragedy is that we still lost 46 farmers. 46 loved ones.

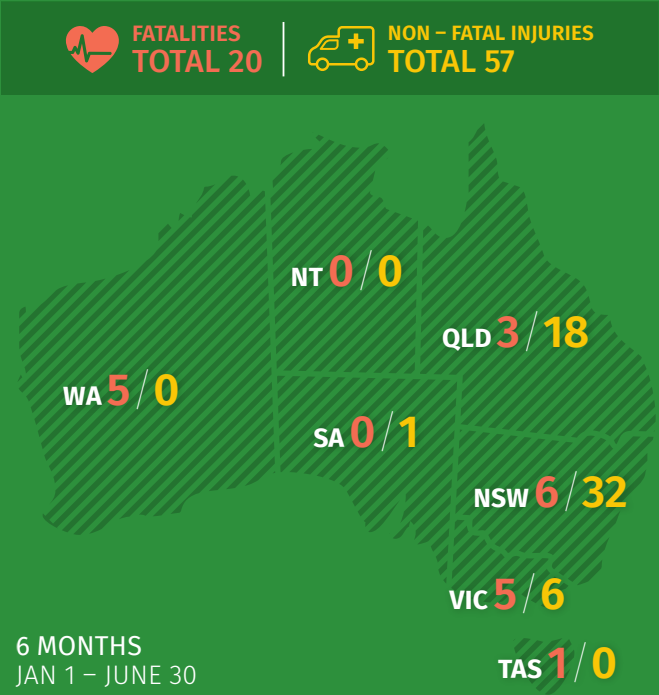
We need to keep working to reduce that number. We need to keep advocating for safer practices, leading a social movement towards behaviour change, leveraging our agricultural networks, informing our audience on changes to the WHS environment and educating as many farmers and members of the farming community as we can.

And we will. But today we will acknowledge the positive trend line – farm safety is a journey and every step towards zero counts.

2021



2022



Snapshot

2021 Statistics



Common Agents of Fatality 2021



Common Agents of Injury 2021



Did you know?

Tractors and quad bikes continue to be the leading cause of fatalities.

Please note: Farmsafe Australia reports on both recreational and work-related incidents on Australian farms and as such finds the data set that AgHealth Australia releases to be the most current and available data set for the purposes of this report. We do not discount the importance of revisiting our data when Workers' Compensation and Coronial data becomes available to further enhance the narrative of the statistics.

*Statistics acquired from AgHealth Australia through the Agrifutures Australia Non-intentional Farm-Related Incidents in Australia Report and the Australian Farm Deaths and Injuries Media Monitors Snapshot.

Since 2001
1632
people have died
on Australian farms.*

Tractors
have killed
261

Quad Bikes
have killed
204

Recipe for Averting Disaster

We often get asked who chooses and how we choose what issues we feature in our campaigns and during National Farm Safety Week.



In a recent survey we conducted, we asked members of agricultural industry organisations what top three farm safety issues urgently needed to be addressed by Farmsafe Australia. We provided 10 choices and asked them to rank them 1-10.

The top response, with 65% of survey participants choosing it as number 1 was a 'lack of commitment to, or understanding of, formal on-farm safety training and induction obligations and requirements'.

Top Survey Responses

- #1** Lack of commitment to, or understanding of, formal on-farm safety training and induction obligations and requirements.
- #2** Physical and psychological wellbeing on farm.
- #3** Lack of understanding of the benefits and positive impacts of adopting farm safety measures and practices.



Interestingly, issues such as farm machinery and equipment-related injuries and deaths, chemical handling and quad bikes, although still rated as important, came in well below.

Surveys such as these, as well as regular discussions with farmers, help to inform the direction that our campaigns take.

The concerns around induction obligations fit in well with the re-launch of our induction tool and so the 'Welcome Aboard' campaign was brought to life. We have provided a sneak peak into that campaign over the next few pages.

We all know that a thorough induction will set the stage for a strong safety culture and that placing safety as a cornerstone of the farm business will help to achieve more efficiencies, better productivity, and a happier work life.

As we discussed the importance of establishing a strong safety foundation in farm businesses, we began to look at how we could talk to farmers about intangible risks like complacency and fatigue, physical and mental well-being, and the blurred line between the home and the work environment. We know that farmers trust and respect the experience and knowledge of fellow farmers, so we concluded that the most effective messaging about the importance of staying safe would be farmer to farmer.



These conversations led to the theme that we chose for National Farm Safety Week this year: *'Recipe for Averting Disaster'*.

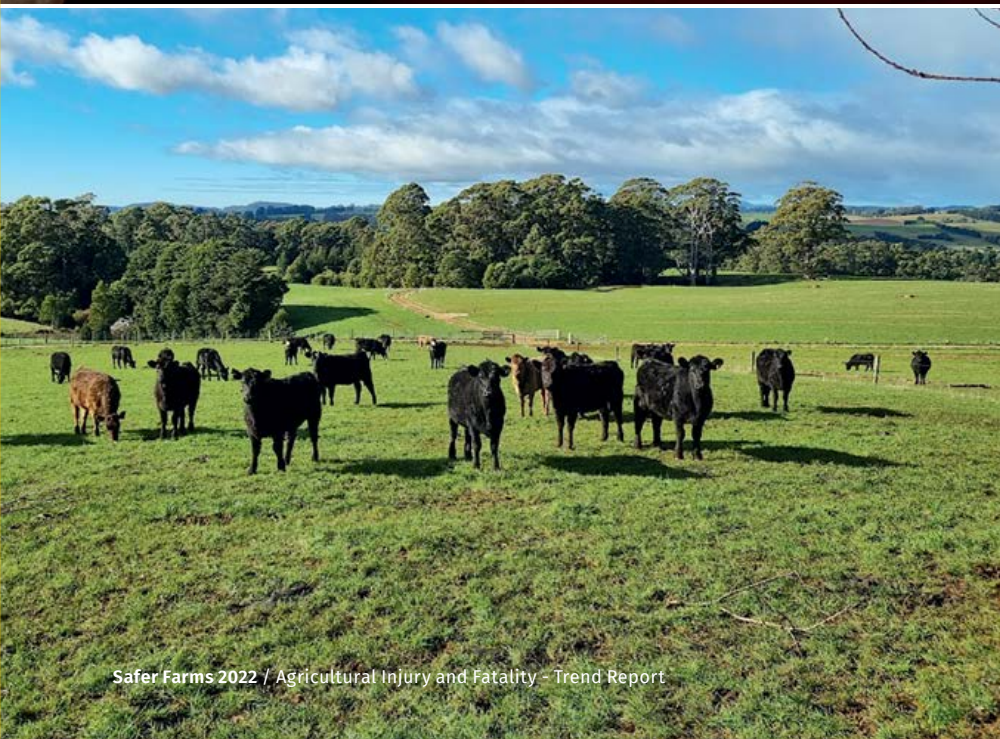
We have chosen to create a recipe book that not only celebrates Australian produce and producers but incorporates the stories and tips and innovative solutions that farmers are using to avert disaster and stay safe and healthy on their farms.

The cookbook will be officially launched at our Conference in September this year, but we will be showcasing five of our featured farmers during our Farm Safety Week Campaign.

We really hope that this Farm Safety Week you can take a break, enjoy a morning tea or maybe a long lunch, and think about what safety means to you and your farm business, how you communicate it to those you work with, and how you might be able to implement some of the great tips that our featured farmers are using on their own farms.

We might work in an industry that has an extremely high risk profile, but that just gives us more opportunities to show how innovative, adaptable and modern Australian agriculture really is.

Instead of focussing on statistics, we reached out to farmers and asked them how they were doing safety this year ~ **what safety tips could they share with fellow farmers?**



Building a Safer Farms, Safer Farmers Culture

The Importance of Inductions

The first impact opportunity we identified in the National Farm Safety Education Fund Strategy was Investing in Leadership and Cultural Change. We take our role as the national leader in farm safety messaging seriously and we know that the way we message around farm safety can either increase farmer engagement with safer practices or shut down the conversation completely.

We work extremely hard to try to find the right tone for our national campaigns to make safety personal, accessible and relatable. We know as farmers ourselves how frustrating it can be when safety messaging is driven by fear, compliance and regulation.

When developing this year's campaigns, we took that on board – quite literally – and 'Welcome Aboard' was created to raise awareness and educate farmers about the importance of tailored on-farm inductions in setting up employees, contractors, family members and visitors on farm to consider their safety from the moment they set foot on the farm.

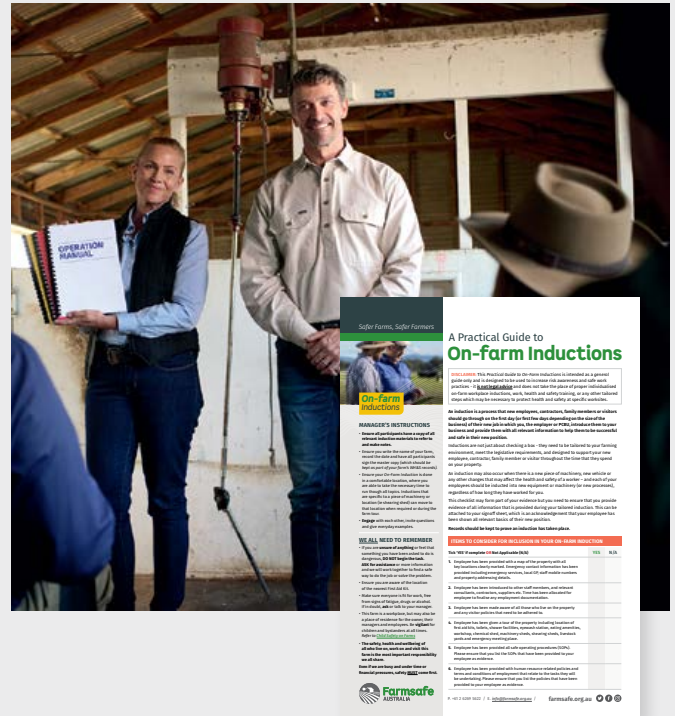
The creative idea behind the campaign was based on the 'safety onboarding' that we receive every time we board an airplane. You can watch the first three videos on our website at farmsafe.org.au/welcome-aboard. Two more will be released later this year. We hope you enjoy watching them as much as we enjoyed creating them – they are a bit tongue-in-cheek - but at heart, they deliver important information about how to conduct on-farm inductions.

One of the first steps that you can take to begin to build a safety culture on your farm is to make sure that you are conducting thorough inductions. Although the videos are more fun, we thought we would use some space here to provide a bit more information. First off – there is some confusion about online inductions versus on-farm inductions, so let's clear that up.

Farmsafe Australia offers a free online induction tool farmsafe.org.au/induction-tool but beware: an online induction does not cover your duty of care to your employees. Our Induction Tool is only intended to be used to increase risk awareness and knowledge of safe work practices. It is not legal advice and does not take the place of proper individualised on-farm workplace inductions, work, health and safety training or any other tailored steps which may be necessary to protect health and safety at specific worksites.

So, what does an online induction tool do for your business?

It provides generalised farm safety information so that your new employees, contractors, family members or any visitors to your farm, can be made aware of risks and hazards that they may encounter and have some practical knowledge about mitigating those risks. It provides information in a structured, modular way, so that a person new to your farm has a basic understanding of Australian farming practices and the risks and hazards associated with them prior to set foot on your property.



An on-farm induction provides you with an opportunity to give employees (or contractors, family members or visitors) information relating to health and safety that is **specific to your farm and is part of your duty of care as an employer or person conducting a business undertaking (PCBU)**.

What should be part of an on-farm induction?

An on-farm induction is a process that new employees, contractors, family members or visitors should go through on the first day (or first few days depending on the size of the business) of their new job in which you, the employer or PCBU, introduce them to your business and provide them with all relevant information to help them to be successful and safe in their new position.

An induction is also necessary when there is a new piece of machinery, new vehicle or any other changes that may affect the health and safety of a worker – and each of your employees should be inducted into new equipment or machinery (or new processes), regardless of how long they have worked for you. Records should be kept proving the induction took place.

Farmsafe has developed a free induction checklist available for use online or for download farmsafe.org.au/welcome-aboard to help you develop your own tailored inductions. The checklist is full of great topics you may want to discuss or need to include in your individual induction. The point is, you know your farm best and it is up to you to cover off on the information needed to discharge your duty of care and ensure that everyone is aware of the risks and hazards they may encounter.



A cropper in NSW put it beautifully when they said, ‘Messaging needs to be [delivered in] simple language with no legal speak and reduce the level of information, so it isn’t perceived as all too hard.’

Consultation

Consultation is key for work, health and safety. It is a legal requirement and employers and PCBU's have a duty to consult with all those whose health and safety may be affected by changes to procedures, training requirements, facilities, plant or equipment.

But consultation is not just ‘I talk - you listen’. All employees, contractors, family members and visitors need to have the opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions and actively participate in the conversation.

Inductions are part of consultation, but regular safety meetings (often known as Toolbox Talks) are an ongoing requirement. However, don’t wait for a ‘meeting’ to consult if there is an issue or concern that may impact health, safety, or wellbeing.

Record Keeping

Documentation of inductions and consultation, and risk assessment/mitigation techniques is an important step to ensure that you have evidence that you take work, health and safety seriously, if there is ever an incident or investigation on your farm.

It can be as simple as writing notes in a diary, or as complex as an online WHS management system that you have purchased through a safety contractor. Find a system that works for you, implement it, and maintain it.

A Final Practical Tip

Placing safety signage or reminders of topics you’ve spoken about in your inductions around the farm (the workshop is a great spot!) is a great way of ensuring that safety messages are still communicated when you might not have a chance to catch up in the moment.

We have put together a single page, double-sided ‘Welcome Aboard’ card to accompany our campaign that briefly covers off on a few of the more common safety issues that farmers come across. Download it from farmsafe.org.au/welcome-aboard and slip it in the glove box of the ute or the toolbox on the tractor as a reminder for your station hand – or maybe just for you!

The Blurred Line Between the Work & Home Environment

Child Safety on Farms



One of the biggest issues in Australian farm safety is that since 2001, there has been no significant decrease in the average annual child fatality statistics on farms, sticking stubbornly around 15% of all fatalities being children under the age of 15.

It was very important that investing in our next generation of farmers was highlighted as an impact opportunity in our strategy.

Farming is the only industry in which a child can walk onto a worksite with no questions asked. Mining and construction are two industries that often spring to mind when discussing similar high risk profiles – could you imagine and 12 year old being allowed to drive a front end loader at a mine site?

But the reality is, males aged 10–14 are over-represented in the statistics of on-farm fatalities involving farm vehicles and machinery.

We often hear that the easy solution is just to ban kids from the farm working environment. But it's just not that simple. And we actually don't believe that's really a solution at all.

So often, farms are family homes and it is impractical, unfeasible and ultimately detrimental to try to keep kids away from risk. There is a firm view in farming communities that children need to be exposed to risk in a safe manner or else they will manage to find risk themselves in an unsafe way.

We need to work with both parents and children to find the right educational tools and messaging to begin to see a shift in safety practices involving children on farm.

This year, we focussed on how we might target a young audience and aim our messaging directly at those at risk; children.

We have delivered on one of the short-term areas for investment, partnering with George the Farmer to develop a free educator's guide

aligned with the Australian Curriculum for students from Foundation to Year 4, along with an animated music video and song about farm safety.

George the Farmer has a broad reach across rural and regional Australia and is beloved by children and parents alike. We reached out to George the Farmer co-creators Simone Kain and Ben Hood to see if they might be interested in working with us.

Co-founder Simone Kain said the partnership was a natural fit. "Growing up on a farm, I'm acutely aware of how dangerous a place they can be. I know many people who have sustained life-threatening injuries or who have died. I worry for my three young sons who think they're invincible on our farm," she said. "Partnering with Farmsafe Australia provides an excellent opportunity to use our brand platform creatively and entertainingly to help reduce these frightening numbers."

We couldn't agree more.

We really hope that George's message will resonate and stick with his young fans and that over the next few years, we finally begin to see a decrease in the numbers of children injured and killed on Australian farms.

The song can be viewed on YouTube – *The Farm Safety Song with George the Farmer* or on our website George the Farmer & Farmsafe Australia Farm Safety Song. Additional resources can be downloaded from georgethefarmer.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CHILD FATAL FARM INJURIES 2001–2019

AGE / SEX			
AGE GROUP (YEARS)	MALE n (%)	FEMALE n (%)	TOTAL n (%)
0–4	85 (38.3)	29 (13.0)	114 (51.3)
5–9	32 (14.4)	16 (7.2)	48 (21.6)
10–14	44 (19.8)	16 (7.2)	60 (27.0)
TOTAL	161 (72.5)	61 (27.5)	222

CHILD (0-14 YEARS)	
AGENT	TOTAL
Animal	16
Horse	12
Farm Structure	76
Water	10
Dam	45
Pool	9
Creek/River/Irrigation	6
Farm Vehicle	90
Quad Bike	32
Motorbike	13
Ute	17
Car	12
Mobile Farm Machinery	27
Tractor	14
Other	13

STATE / TERRITORIES		
LOCATION	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE %
NSW	65	29.3
NT	1	1.8
QLD	73	32.9
SA	9	4.1
TAS	10	4.5
VIC	39	17.6
WA	22	9.9
TOTAL	222	100.00

Research for citation for all stats in this section: Peachey K-L, Lower T, Rolfe M. *Protecting the future: Fatal incidents on Australian farms involving children (2001–2019)*. Aust J Rural Health. 2020; 00:1–9.

¹ The status of four cases (resident/visitor) could not be determined from the available data.

Increasing Our Well-being



The third impact opportunity that was highlighted in our National Farm Safety Education Fund Strategy was Investing in Physical and Psychological Well-being. Our research told us that partnering with organisations that offer mental health workforce training, and investing in localised programs would be the best way to provide simple, practical and effective tips to manage individual and community wellbeing.

Having grown up on a farm near Streaky Bay in South Australia, Dr Kate Gunn knows firsthand the impact that events such as drought and fires can have on a farmer's wellbeing. A Clinical Psychologist and Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Rural Health, at the University of South Australia, Dr Gunn has led the development of ifarmwell.com.au – a farmer-focused, **free** online and text message-based wellbeing program, specifically designed to help farmers learn new tools to cope with things beyond their control- like the weather, market fluctuations or biosecurity incursions. This tool is designed with Australian farmers, for Australian farmers.

Australian farmers are known for being resourceful and good practical problem-solvers, but life on the land can be tough, particularly because a farmer's livelihood is determined by many things beyond their control.

Farmers die of suicide at twice the rate of other employed people and are half as likely to have seen a GP or mental health professional in the last 6 months compared to their non-farming rural counterparts. The reasons for this are complex, but

challenges associated with spending time away from the farm to access help, reluctance to 'complain' and concerns about privacy in small communities, are all thought to contribute.

Since the drought of 2008, Dr Gunn and the ifarmwell team have examined these issues and looked for solutions. A key finding in her research was that something that separates farmers who do not become distressed in times of drought from those who do, is their ability to accept things they cannot control, and not give up on the things they can. Additionally, a lack of understanding of the agricultural industry from outsiders (including health professionals), adds to stress and acts as a barrier to help-seeking.

"Worrying about things you can't control is not only a waste of energy, but it is also dangerous. When your mind is elsewhere and not focused on the job at hand, this can have serious ramifications for your safety."

These findings directly informed the development of ifarmwell.com.au which delivers accessible, evidence-based wellbeing education and support. The free

website guides users through five 30-minute modules, to learn new ways of coping with the types of stress that farmers commonly endure. The ifarmwell website equips farmers with extra coping skills to help them stay focused on what they can control, practical tips and feedback on their level of wellbeing, as well as advice on seeking professional mental health help if required. To keep farmers engaged, ifarmwell also uses short videos, cartoons and text message reminders.

Evaluation of the website has shown that completion of the modules is associated with increases in psychological wellbeing and decreases in distress, that are maintained for at least six months following completion of the final module.

Industry supporters and stakeholders, such as Rural Financial Counsellors, have highlighted the value of ifarmwell.com.au, particularly when distress is preventing sound financial decision making.

"There appears to be increased awareness of mental health issues in our farming communities in recent years. This is great, but it is important that this awareness is met with practical, accessible ways people can learn how to improve their own wellbeing if they want to, which is where we see the freely available resources on ifarmwell, playing an important role" said Dr Gunn.

Additional features and new content have been added in response to changing needs; for example modules are now available via podcast, and a module to help fire-affected farmers prepare psychologically for future fires is currently being co-designed with assistance from farmers like Michael Kowald, an Adelaide Hills dairy farmer whose property was burnt in December 2019, pictured here with Dr Gunn.

In 2022, thanks to funding from the Federal Drought Fund, two exciting new initiatives are being launched to help increase the reach of ifarmwell and the strategies it teaches to farmers who need it most.

If you would like to learn more about ifarmwell or access any of the modules – head to ifarmwell.com.au.

The Case for The Card

For years now, discussions around labour shortages in agriculture and potential solutions have dominated both industry and government debate. The issue was exacerbated by border closures during the pandemic and record low unemployment.



Labour shortages pose a significant risk to the health and safety, with farmers forced to battle fatigue and work even longer hours than normal, or reduce operations, risking major financial setbacks.

One of the questions that we are often asked is 'how can we increase the attractiveness of working in agriculture to young Australians?'. Our answer is our fourth impact opportunity, investing in industry endorsed training and continued learning.

There is a common misconception amongst the general population that farmers are low-skilled or unskilled workers, and that agriculture doesn't provide interesting career pathways for young Australians.

However, anyone within the industry knows that this is far from the truth. Most farmers are highly skilled operators – the fundamental difference between the farming cohort and other sectors is just the extent of informal, on-the-job training that occurs on farms and isn't recognised outside the agricultural industry.

To help people interested in working on farms access a basic level of training in farm safety, members of Farmsafe Australia are pursuing the development of an accreditation system like the 'White Card' in construction.

Safe Farms WA is currently piloting the 'Green Card' which has already been completed over 400 times. The three hour, self paced online learning follows the curriculum of the ASQA (Australian Curriculum) Certificate II. NB: This is not accredited, however it follows the modules and is aligned with the Certificate II in WHS. Safe Farms WA Executive Officer, Maree Gooch noted that this has been well received across the board for inductions and training programs. It is intended to be more in-depth than the (construction) White Card which is a Certificate I.

Primary Employers Tasmania have developed the 'AgCard' – a free online training tool covering safe farming practices and human resources. Australian farmers will soon benefit from three exciting new modules: Wool harvesting, Biosecurity and Managing livestock for red meat production. AgCard, which was launched in July 2020, has already had over 2,300 enrolments and Primary Employers Tasmania expects numbers to quickly jump when the new units are launched.

As part of our strategy at the national level, we will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these programs. In doing so, we will work with farmers to determine whether a national card for the agriculture sector would be appropriate, and if so, what form it should take.

Professionalisation of the workforce will be a critical component in finding a long-term solution to the labour shortage problem. Farmers need access to a pool of qualified, risk-aware labour, ready for on-farm inductions regardless of the industry sector.

This will not only increase the productivity of Australian farms, but will have a positive impact on health and safety outcomes.



THE EVIDENCE

Quad Bike Rebate Report



Roll-over protection advocacy has been a controversial issue that Farmsafe Australia was actively involved in over the last decade. The implementation of The Standard in 2019 was hard won, but we believe that the positive safety impacts that will be achieved were well worth the fight.

A recent study published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health reviewed quad-related deaths from 2011-2020, nearly the same timeframe as the advocacy work that was being undertaken.

Out of 155 fatalities in that period, 116 of them occurred on Australian farms. Rollovers were responsible for 59% of the fatalities and 86% of those rollovers occurred on farms.

Head injury and asphyxiation were the primary causes of death.

Of the fatalities resulting from head injury, only 5% were wearing helmets. Of the fatalities resulting from asphyxiation, 80% were trapped under the quad bike, with no other life-threatening injury

Obviously the statistics are very clear on the high risk profile that comes with these farm vehicles and adoption of and investment in safety upgrades such as roll-over protection and helmets are an important step to mitigating those risks and reducing the number of fatalities.

We know that we need to prove to farmers that investing in safety has an economic upside but we also need to prove to the state and federal governments that investing in safety incentives will save lives.

The Tasmanian, Victorian and New South Wales governments have invested heavily in rebate programs for quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles. The uptake of these programs was enormous, with all three states extending their original investments.

Farmsafe Australia has commissioned a report that analyses the effectiveness of the state-run incentive programs. The report will help Farmsafe determine whether further advocacy is required to ensure more funding is directed into programs such as these in states such as Queensland, which, according to the statistics, accounts for 31% of the quad-related deaths by state.

We will be delivering these findings at the Farmsafe Australia National Farm Safety Conference to be held in Canberra on 14-15 September farmsafe.org.au/farmsafe-conference-2022 and we look forward to updating you soon.

Our role isn't just to advocate and educate on best practices safety solutions, but to ensure that those solutions are available for our farmers to easily access.

AUSTRALIAN DEATHS - LOCATION / YEAR (n=155)				
LOCATION	2010-2015	2016-2020	TOTAL	%
NSW	25	15	40	26
NT / SA	*	5	9	6
QLD	28	19	47	31
TAS	9	5	14	9
VIC	22	10	32	21
WA	8	5	13	8
TOTAL	96	59	155	
Farm	72	44	116	75
Non-farm	24	15	39	25

Notes: * Denotes case numbers <4. NT and SA amalgamated due to small numbers.

UPDATE

National Farm Safety Education Fund Strategy

As we headed into the holiday season of 2021, the Department of Agriculture announced the allocation of the final \$1.6M of the Farm Safety Education Fund.

They chose to focus the funding allocation on two of the five impact opportunities that we outlined in our strategy;

- Investing in Our Next Generation of Farmers
- Investing in Industry Endorsed Training and Continued Learning.

The following projects were chosen for funding in an open grant round and are now well into the delivery phase.

ORGANISATION	TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Central Queensland University	Next Generation Farm Safety	This is an integrated program to improve farm safety for the next generation of farmers. It focuses on building the capacity of primary and secondary school students. This school-to-farm approach enables students, teachers and parents to get involved. Together, families will develop a shared understanding and positive attitude towards farm safety, leading to increased uptake of safe practices.
Cotton Australia Limited	Changing Culture and Improving Farm Safety for Queensland Cotton Growers	The project supports cotton farming businesses in Queensland, to learn how to use a practical and compliant, work health and safety system. The project includes face-to-face workshops, online delivery, farm visits and follow up coaching, and aims to engage the entire business. With improved systems and recordkeeping, businesses are expected to reduce injury and fatality on farm.
Rural Edge Australia	National Online Farm Safety Training	This project will create an online national program using existing farm safety training. It aims to educate and support farmers towards improved safety outcomes. Participants will be supported to create farm safety plans for their individual businesses, using peer-to-peer learning, easy tools and regular check-ins.
University of New South Wales	Co-designing game-based farm safety education for adolescents	This project will develop a national web and app based farm injury prevention program. This app targets secondary school-aged adolescents. Interactive game-based learning will educate on injury risk reductions strategies. The program will be part of the national curriculum to be delivered in school with resources for parents and teachers.
AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited	Be safer today to see tomorrow	This project will deliver a series of farm safety workshops to producers. Each day will include safety training on a 'whole systems safety approach'. Participants will use a safety toolkit to complete risk assessments and safety planning. Presentations will focus on mental health, financial stressors and farm safety.
NT Cattlemen's Association Incorporated	NTCA Safer Stations Initiative	This project provides activities and educational resources to increase farm safety. It is for young children and station communities living on remote pastoral properties. The program is hands-on and will identify, assess and manage safety hazards and risks. It inspires young children to be 'Station Safety Champions'. This encourages a cultural and behavioural shift towards farm safety practices.
Primary Producers SA Incorporated	SA Food and Fibre Education Hub Farm Safety Module	The project will design a farm safety module to improve understanding and practices. This will include classroom educational materials about best practice safety on farm. There will be farm excursions for primary school children. Teachers will also attend farm professional development days.
Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia Limited	Future Farm Safety for Life	This project will develop teaching resources for high school students. Classes will learn the importance of modernising farming environments to improve farm safety. Resources will be activity-based and encourage problem solving. Students will find STEM based solutions using virtual reality, animation and online tools.
Grain Growers Limited	The Safe Use Machinery Portal and Masterclass Series	This project will develop and deliver a pilot program about safe machinery use and updating safety content. Practical learning will be available through an online portal. It will be accessible with deaf, blind and multi-language options. There will also be 'in field' QR Codes that link to the online portal.



Safer Farms, Safer Farmers



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

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Committed to keeping you safer on Australian farms



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