

MEDIA RELEASE
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2022 SAFER FARMS REPORT: FARMSAFE AUSTRALIA RECOGNISES 12 FEWER FARM DEATHS IN 2021

12 fewer farmers died on Australian farms in 2021 compared to 2020 and 2019, according to Farmsafe Australia's 2022 Safer Farms Report. The report stresses that while this is a significant step forward, 46 farmer deaths in 2021 is a tragedy.

The report, which was released today, presents a positive trend in farm safety and encourages the Australian agriculture industry to recognise each step towards 0 fatalities.

2021 marks the first year that on-farm fatalities were below 50. And data reporting on the first half of 2022 shows there have been 20 fatalities on Australian farms. A devastating number, but one that represents another positive step.

Felicity Richards, Chairperson of Farmsafe Australia, spoke about the progress that has been made in the industry in the past year.

"The perception of the importance of farm safety is becoming greater every year thanks to Australian farmers stepping up and taking responsibility for themselves, their families and their workers," Ms Richards said.

"We need to keep working to reduce incidents. 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 farm workers as we can."

The report found that Queensland had the highest rate of farm incidents at 19 fatalities and 86 injuries. This was followed by New South Wales at 10 fatalities and 23 injuries, Victoria at 6 fatalities and 13 injuries.

Among the 46 farm workplace deaths in 2021, 87 per cent were male and 58.7 per cent were over 45 years of age.

"The data is showing us that it is not necessarily just the young, inexperienced farmers who are involved in these incidents. Experienced farmers are just as susceptible to death and injury, especially when dealing with intangible factors such as fatigue, complacency or mental health."

This Farm Safety Week, Farmsafe Australia are encouraging farmers to just take an extra moment to consider the intangible factors that can impact safety on-farm.

The Safer Farms Report is a yearly report published by Farmsafe Australia providing an overview of the state of safety on Australian farms. The report tracks both injury and fatality statistics nationally and by state, as well as recording safety trends among Australian farmers.

Statistics within the report are 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.

The report is published via the Farmsafe Australia website and is available to download for free. To read the full report, visit: farmsafe.org.au

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