



FARM SAFETY

By Jason Karszes and Julie Berry

This month's The Manager from PRO-DAIRY focuses on farm safety and preparing for OSHA's Local Emphasis Program inspections.

Farm safety – A renewed focus

Farming is a rewarding occupation. But it's also a dangerous one. Safety is everyone's responsibility and this culture needs to be embraced on today's farms.

Like at McLanahan Corporation, whose safety program is featured in this issue, employees must be given proper training, proper safety equipment and must feel supported in speaking up or halting a job that they feel is unsafe, regardless of what weather or other deadline pressures are being faced. At day's end going home safely to family is most important, and all farms need to embrace change that reduces hazards and accidents.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Local Emphasis Program (LEP) is focusing on farm safety on dairy farms in New York starting on July 1, 2014. This focus on NYS farm safety can be a catalyst for all business owners, family members and employees to learn more about and closely examine safety elements on their farms and implement improvements. This attitude should be adopted on farms of all sizes, whether they fall under the regulated inspections or not.

As Daphne Holterman, a partner at Rosy-Lane Holsteins LLC in Wisconsin writes "None of us want a death or injury on our conscience." PRO-DAIRY's Jason Karszes worked with Holterman to provide an overview of what OSHA safety compliance has entailed at their farm. OSHA implemented an LEP approach in Wisconsin two years ago, so NY farmers can learn from approaches there. Holterman said compliance does require paperwork but the farm has embraced a focus on safety.

"Some people believe the task will only take a few seconds and don't need the equipment to perform. But an accident could happen in a millisecond and result in a tragic injury that could last a lifetime," said Joseph Adams, Director of Safety for McLanahan Corporation. McLanahan Corporation cites safety as one of their core values, and Adams shares how the management's culture about safety leads to a safer work environment.

Nellie Brown, CIH, Director of the Workplace

Health and Safety Program of the Worker Institute at Cornell University-ILR shares examples of fatalities, often where one worker trying to help another leads to both of their deaths. She also provides detail about working safely around manure gases and in confined spaces.

Guest authors from the U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA, the New York State Department of Labor and the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health provide detail on OSHA's LEP and identify resources available and what to think about when preparing for an OSHA LEP inspection.

PRO-DAIRY's Senior Extension Associates, Karl Czymmek and Curt Gooch, have worked directly with OSHA and farms to help navigate how the inspections will be implemented, and kick off the issue with an overview of OSHA's LEP on NY dairy farms. They are also leading an effort with industry to address the many outstanding bunker silo safety issues that exist.

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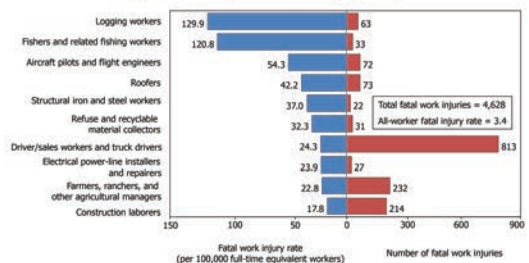
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Occupations with high fatal work injury rates, 2012



The data for 2012 showed fatal work injury rates were high for logging workers and fishers and related fishing workers.

Note: Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 18 years, volunteers, and resident military. The number of fatal work injuries represents total published fatal injuries before the revisions. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/2012/>. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2014.

FYI

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The Manager, a special section prepared by PRO-DAIRY specialists, appears in *Eastern DairyBusiness* four times a year. In keeping with the PRO-DAIRY mission, The Manager helps strengthen the management skills of dairy producers and increase the profitability of the dairy industry. PRO-DAIRY, an educational program begun in 1988, is a joint venture of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Northeast agriservice organizations. For reprints of PRO-DAIRY's The Manager, contact Heather Darrow, 272 Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Phone: 607. 255.4478 Email: hh96@cornell.edu