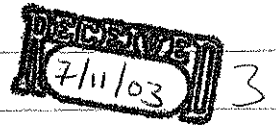


820 Horanhor Blvd Rd
Mt. Deneed 3216

6-11-2003

Rural and Regional Services
and Development Committee



Dear Sir,

I would like to make the following submission to the farm safety enquiry.

I am an elderly (in 80's) semi retired farmer still operating a small cattle breeding and fattening business as a partnership with my sons, who live nearby. I have had considerable experience with many types of farming, and with many and various types of machinery and vehicles. I have experience with machinery and equipment far more complex and dangerous than that on farms during service as a ground engineer in the R.A.F. during World War II. In R.A.F. work I found that avoidable accidents were few and far between, considering the somewhat primitive conditions under which we sometimes operated. This I think was due to good discipline, and the fact that all of our members were volunteers, dedicated to do a job, and most had some previous experience in their trades, and above all, had common sense.

I have raised a family of five on my present farm and have taught them how to handle farming without any accidents. My grandchildren too have learned to handle stock and vehicles without any problems and have loved it.

I seem to be a matter of training people to behave responsibly and to take care of themselves.

no one else can do this and it cannot be enforced by regulation, the responsibility rests with the individual. One must be careful - always, never relax and do not try to be too fast.

A.T.V. moka cycles seem to be one of the main problems now with farm safety. I have had considerable experience with both three and 2 wheel moka cycles. A.T.V.'s are great little machines, but they are not toys and can be lethal if not handled with respect. I think the name "A.T.V." should be abandoned, it is very misleading. They never were suitable for all terrains, only reasonably good going, reasonable smoothness, and one must be very wary on slopes. Some of the main 4 wheel makes now issue buyers with a very good video on handling these machines, should be seen by all concerned.

I think that it all comes down to one thing farm operators must at all times be vigilant and always conscious of their safety. No machine can be made fool proof. The individuals must look after themselves and not search for someone else to blame. Equipment and machinery must be maintained in a safe and reasonable condition, with proper guards and covers in place and this is surely the responsibility of the property owner or manager.

R. C. Baker