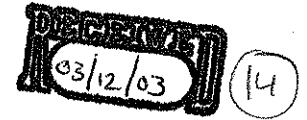


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Homestead & Cottages

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1.12.03

Regional development committee.

Recently Mr. B. Hardman M.P. asked that farming families, tell what needs to be done to make farms safer. The answer to this is not what we are going to get, i.e. more rules, regulations, fees etc, but the following work place scenario contains the real answer. The majority of farm workers are past city retirement ages, but for mainly economic reason they can't exit their work place. These folk carry out tasks that have inbuilt danger content, and naturally reaction time, co-ordination, danger assessment are not spot on. The real issue is why are these people in this situation and the answer is modern politics /economics which rewards talking people instead of the producing people. The economics of this results in primary producers getting very little for their product and paying v. high for requirements to get a product and thus unable to step out of the work place if they choose, ie.they cannot afford to retire. This economic scenario also adds to the problem, in that most young people leave to have a much easier life with plenty of time and money in the city, this has been made more certain by the recent law change that requires written permission for grandparents to start their grandchildren on a rural experience.

The bottom line is that rural life is becoming unviable ,caused by the current structure of politics/economics ,and its very hard to see any change occurring, to put what most likely will be your committees solution on to the rural folk will only add to what already exists .

Thanking you,

L.Price.

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