



Tuesday 2nd December 2003

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Dear committee members,

I would like to make some brief comments on the inquiry into the cause of fatality and injury on Victorian farms.

1. The main causes are power take off equipment on tractors, then all terrain vehicles and thirdly, animals
2. Most of these injuries occur on one-person operator farms and can be more serious because of the length of time before they can get to help or someone finds them.
3. The roll over protect frames on tractors has been a tremendous initiative. A farm safety audit, without any penalties if things are found not up to regulations, could be a good idea. This could be run by the local V.F.F. Group.
4. Some of the impediments are the low cost off return on some farm products, which means things, are not maintained or repaired properly, the cost of spare parts or they are not available anymore. People working alone and also working long hours to get work done because of weather conditions.
5. Most times the costs are high because it is the main breadwinner that is injured or killed and this leaves the family without major income. This then in turn puts more pressure on neighbours who help out by doing things to try and keep the enterprise going for the family, until they may have to make a major change or sell the farm or business.
6. Education and training programs are good but must be short, six (6) hours maximum, and be concise and practical on a number of machines or animal handling facilities. Could be run by industry bodies such as Meat & Livestock, Wool Innovations and Grain co.

Yours TRULY
J. H. Neary.