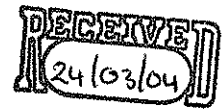


MICHAEL ROBERTSON. - 3RD GENERATION BROADACRE FARMER
-WORKPLACE SAFETY SOLUTIONS PTY LTD. OH & S CONSULTANT.



(51)

TERMS OF REFERENCE.

1. MAIN CAUSES OF FATALITIES/INJURIES ON VICTORIAN FARMS.

- THE CULTURE. EG. THE LAID BACK ATTITUDE OF THE FARMING COMMUNITY.

EXAMPLES.

SHE'LL BE RIGHT MATE, I TOOK THE GUARD OF THE P.T.O. WHEN I BOUGHT IT. IT HASN'T GOT ME YET.

- I DON'T NEED GLOVES HANDLING THESE CHEMICALS, YOU COULD DRINK THE STUFF.
- JUMP INSIDE THE SILO AND SHOVEL THE GRAIN OUT. I'VE DONE IT A HUNDRED TIMES.
- JUMP UP HERE SON AND HAVE A RIDE ON THE TRACTOR.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO CHANGE THE CULTURE. HOW CAN THIS BE ACHIEVED?

IT MUST START AT THE TOP WITH OWNERS AND MANAGERS.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ON FARM SAFETY TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF THEIR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS TO THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES, EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS.

THE ATTITUDE "SHE'LL BE RIGHT MATE" WON'T STAND UP IN A COURT OF LAW IF THERE IS A SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH ON THE FARM.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED; THE DAYS OF FARMERS WORKING HARD MANUALLY BEING THE KEY TO SURVIVAL HAVE GONE. THEY MUST NOW ALSO WORK SMARTER AND BE UP TO SPEED IN OH& S COMPLIANCE. IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE. THE INJURY OR DEATH OF A FAMILY MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE HAS A LASTING EFFECT ON THEIR EMOTIONS AND THEIR BANK BALANCE.

THE CULTURE MUST CHANGE TOWARDS FARM SAFETY.

6.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

STRATEGIES TO REDUCE INJURIES AND FATALITIES.

DEVELOP A GENERIC HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY FOR ALL FARMING SECTORS

- BROADACRE
- DAIRY
- HORTICULTURE

POLICIES TO BE WRITTEN IN COMMONSENSE LANGUAGE, AUDITED ANNUALLY AND COVER THE FOLLOWING.

- LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FARMERS TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORKPLACE FOR THEMSELVES, FAMILIRES, EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS.

POLICY TO INCLUDE

- HANDLING AND STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES. RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED.
- PLANT AND EQUIPMENT REGISTER , INDIVIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENTS DONE BY THE FARMER ON ALL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT TO HIGHLIGHT POTENTIAL DANGERS
- STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR ALL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.
- INDUCTION AND TRTRAINING OF EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS. EG. HAZARDS, MANUAL HANDLING PRACTICES, SAFE WORK PRACTICES.
- EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT, RECORD ALL INJURIES, ILLNESSES AND NEAR MISSES.
- FIRST AID FACILITES ON FARM.

6.2 DEVELOPED BY WHOM?

CONSULTATION BETWEEN FARMERS, CONSULTANTS, WORKCOVER, FARMSAFE, V.F.F.

6.3 DELIVERED IN FARMERS LANGUAGE TO GROUPS (INCLUDING WIVES AND FAMILIES) IN A SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION, TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT GRASS ROOTS LEVEL TO BE DELIVERED IN AN INFORMAL WAY.

SHOW EXAMPLE AND STATISTICS OF THE POOR RECORD OF THE FARMING SECTOR AND THE LEGASL PROBLEMS THAT OCULD ARISE BY NON COMPLIANCE TO THE OHS ACT. EG WORKCOVER PREMIUM INCREASES. LITIGATION CLAIMS AND WORKCOVER FINES.

I HAVE SEEN REMARKABLE CHANGES OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS FARM SAFETY WHEN FARMERS HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE OH&S ACT.

I HAVE DEVELOPED A COMMONSENSE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY FOR BROADACRE FARMS WHICH SHOULD BE COMPULSORY.

I BELIEVE THIS WOULD HAVE A DRAMATIC INFLUENCE ON MINIMISING FARM INJURIES AND DEATHS.

 24/3/09