# Agriculture sector

Our priority plan for the agriculture sector covers farming and related services, with a particular emphasis on dairy, beef, and sheep farming. Around a quarter of WorkSafe's targeted frontline activities will be in agriculture because of the high rate of acute harm and the range of serious risks in this sector.

Agriculture accounts for around 25% of serious acute harm in Aotearoa New Zealand while having only 6% of employment. There is persistent harm associated with farm vehicles, especially in dairy, beef, and sheep farming. There are also serious risks from working with machinery, agrichemicals, and farm animals, in difficult and sometimes remote environments.

The distance, terrain, and seasonal variation in farming make it harder to ensure our workplace assessments are in the right place at the right time. We will use data and intelligence to target our assessments, focusing on serious risks such as vehicles, machinery, and hazardous substances. We will respond to notifications about serious risk or harm and be clear about when we will take action.

Farming is a way of life for many people in Aotearoa New Zealand, and health and safety must be part of this way of life. WorkSafe will influence health and safety culture by working with organisations that are trusted by farming communities. We will contribute to the implementation of the Safer Farms 'Farm Without Harm' strategy by sharing data and insights and aligning our assessment and enforcement activity with the priorities of Safer Farms.

### WorkSafe's priorities

Priorities	Why	Objec
Reinforce the sector-led 'Farm Without Harm' strategy	Being clear on our role in the system, and doing that well, will support the efforts of Safer Farms and other agricultural sector leads	- Work under will le - Impro secto
Target interventions in the areas of highest harm or risk	Targeting the actions only we can take will make effective use of our resources to influence better outcomes.	- Busin Work - Invest their
Work through trusted sources of influence to promote better health and safety practices	Agricultural health and safety messaging is most effective when disseminated through trusted channels to improve reach, supported by targeted enforcement	– Impro respo – Impro



### ectives

kSafe and sector partners have a shared erstanding of the highest priority actions and who

ead

roved trust and confidence in WorkSafe among our or partners

inesses make a change after interaction with kSafe

estigations and prosecutions are targeted to maximise deterrent effect

roved understanding of health and safety onsibilities

roved risk management practices

## Top harms

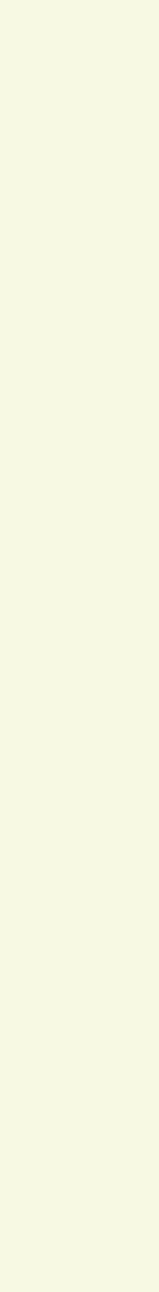
- A vehicle rolls or crashes
- A worker is hit by a falling object
- A worker is caught or trapped in machinery
- A worker is hit or bitten by an animal
- A worker is exposed to substances hazardous to health including welding fumes and toxic chemicals.

# Key risk factors

- Low maturity safety culture
- Poor work organisation and planning practices
- Poor hazard identification and risk management practices
- Environmental risk factors such as weather, terrain, and temperature
- Job stressors influenced by weather and economic factors
- Poor selection, use, and maintenance of machinery and vehicles

### Partner concerns

- Insights and information about what WorkSafe is seeing
- Greater collaboration with WorkSafe on shared priorities
- Vehicle-related harm
- Risk identification and management capability
- Health and safety culture and leadership



# Agriculture sector

### What WorkSafe will do:

Priority	Initiative	Initiative description
Reinforce the sector- led 'farm without harm' strategy	Share WorkSafe data and insights with Safer Farms	Share WorkSafe data and insights with Safer Far inspectorate sees, so they can influence change
	Tailor our communications to better connect with and influence farmers	Tailor our communications and maximise our inf for example during seasonal high-risk periods, w an enforceable undertaking.
	Give certainty to the sector through a clear and credible enforcement position	Establish our enforcement position for the agric through with action consistent with our position
Target interventions in the areas of highest harm or risk	Target management of substances hazardous to health	Undertake workplace assessments targeting the including dusts, fumes, infectious biological mat use requirements for hazardous substances. Pric health. Where we find poor practice, take action aligned
	Target vehicle and machinery safety	Undertake workplace assessments targeting far Prioritise response to notifications related to har Where we find poor practice, take action aligned
	Build understanding of effective interventions in agriculture	Investigate and compare intervention approache agriculture.
Work through trusted sources of influence to promote better health and safety practices	Influence through organisations and events where rural people meet and seek advice	Target the organisations and events where we can of harm. Work with these organisations and events to del targeting management of vehicles, machinery, and hazardous exposures.
	Target delivery of tailored programmes to reach workers at greater risk	Deliver our equity-focused programmes, build o how WorkSafe can influence the relevant risk fac



arms, including fatalities, notifications patterns, and what our e through their channels.

nfluence at times when farmers may be more alert to our messages, when harm occurs, or when we successfully prosecute or agree to

icultural sector, clearly communicate our expectations, and follow on.

ne farms with highest exposures to substances hazardous to health, aterial, and toxic chemicals. Assess compliance with storage and rioritise response to notifications related to substances hazardous to

ed to the sector enforcement position.

arms with highest risks of harm from vehicles and machinery. arm from vehicles and machinery.

ed to the sector enforcement position.

nes to identify the most effective ways to engage and enforce in

can most effectively reach businesses and workers at greatest risk

leliver education and training, and share tools and resources,

our understanding of workers at greatest risk of harm, and explore actors.

# How we will track our progress

### During Year 1 we expect to see

- Agreed sector priorities for guidance and information sharing.
- Workplace assessments targeted to agriculture in line with our planned resource distribution, delivered in a nationally consistent way.
- Continued enforcement and investigations in accordance with our current policies and protocols.

### During Year 2 we expect to see

- Two-way information sharing between WorkSafe and agriculture sector partners.
- Clearly communicated expectations for agriculture businesses.
- Consistent focus on key risk factors in our workplace assessments, enforcement, and investigations.
- Exploration of opportunities for equity-focused programmes in agriculture.

