



Media release

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Farmers leading the way as ACC farm injury claims fall sharply

Farmers are being recognised for the practical, everyday changes they are making on farm that are helping bring down injury claims and keep rural people safer.

A mid-Canterbury farm visit on Friday 3 July hosted by arable farmer David Birkett and attended by ACC Associate Minister Nicola Grigg, local farmers, ACC and Safer Farms has highlighted the practical, farmer-led progress being made to reduce harm on farm.

The event in Leeston marked a fall in farm-related ACC claims from over 25,000 in 2020 to 17,322 last year - a result Safer Farms says has come from thousands of small, practical decisions being made in sheds, yards, paddocks and around kitchen tables across the country.

Wairarapa farmer Lindy Nelson, Safer Farms ambassador, says the progress belongs to farmers, growers, contractors and rural teams who are choosing safer ways of working because they know their land, their stock, their machinery and their people best.

“Farmers deserve real credit for this progress. They are the ones making the calls day by day, slowing down when the weather changes, setting jobs up properly, talking things through with staff and family and finding practical fixes that work in the real world. That is why the drop in claims is encouraging.

“However, no one in rural New Zealand will see it as job done. Too many farming families still know someone who has been hurt or worse.”

Safer Farms is working alongside farmers and industry to back the good work already happening on farm and help make safe choices easier, practical and part of everyday farming.

Farm Without Harm is the sector’s own strategy to stop preventable harm. Built with farmers for farmers, the plan focuses on the areas where harm hits hardest: long hours, fatigue, isolation and pressure, vehicle safety, livestock handling and physical strain, and hidden exposure risks such as chemicals, dust and other hazards that can build up over time.

“We're working together, partnering with ACC and farmers to bring the strategy to life, it's about everyday farming people protecting one another from preventable harm,” says Nelson.

“With ACC's investment supporting us to bring safety initiatives to market, farmers are making smart, practical moves such as fitting crush protection devices, GPS rollover alert systems, pen gates to separate people from livestock and choosing the right vehicle for the job.

“They're also taking up technology to train in different ways, monitor risks or reduce time in hazardous areas, showing contractors and visitors where the risks are, taking a minute before a tricky job, and checking in when the pressure is on.

“The next step is to keep building on that momentum by sharing what works, learning from near misses and backing farmers with tools and support that are useful at the farm gate.

“Safer farms are better farms. They are more productive, easier to staff and more resilient through tough times. Most importantly, they help make sure everyone gets home safe at the end of the day.”

For more information, please visit the [Farm Without Harm website](#).

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