



Title: Accidents in Danish Agriculture and initiatives

Presenting Author, *Helle Birk Domino, Occupational Health and Safety manager, SEGES, Denmark*

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Agriculture is still the most dangerous workplace in Denmark. We keep having yearly fatal accidents, a large number of serious accidents as well as many less serious accidents.

The number of fatal accidents varies from year to year, but is a sad fact every year. Unfortunately, also the registered number of serious accidents (> 3 weeks of sickness absence) and the numbers of less serious accidents (< 3 weeks of sickness absence) have slightly risen during the last 5 years.

There is a lot of different causes to all the different kind of accidents that occur. It is for sure a challenge constantly trying to put focus on all risks. The conclusion from the Danish working environment authority is that the most common and most serious accidents happen due to machinery, handling large animals and slip, trip and fall accidents (from heights and in level). Together with both the Authorities and the Unions we have in 2017 and 2018 made an extra effort and taken several initiatives to put focus on safe handling of big animals, pigs and cattle. Machinery is always in focus and hopefully 2019 can be the year to make an extra effort to put focus on slip, trip and fall accidents.

On-going health and safety (HS) initiatives directed at the farmer:

To get the message to farmers we have several different on-going initiatives, for example:

- Intensive work with the insurance company Topdanmark
- Evening arrangement at agriculture schools and together with agriculture associations
- Teaching at agriculture schools (collaboration with the insurance company Gjensidige)
- Provide courses for HS representatives
- Presentations and exhibitions at agriculture conferences and cattle shows
- Short movies, fact sheets/signs, newsletters on specific tasks
- Website with information www.landbrugogsikkerhed.dk
- Very active on social media – www.facebook.dk/agrisafety
- Daily exchange of experience yearly with local HS-consultants

A lot of important initiatives are going on, but we need more long-term intensive actions.

Conclusions

We do not experience a decline in the number of accidents – on the contrary. The statistics are still horrifying and agriculture is still the most dangerous workplace in Denmark. Slowly more and more important stakeholders start to put focus on safety in Agriculture. This is a positive development and necessary if we are ever to be able to make a U-turn and see a long-term decline in the number of accidents.