

A new strategic direction

FARMSAFE Australia has released its National Farm Safety Education Fund Strategy, aimed at significantly reducing injuries and fatalities in agriculture by 2030.

The strategy calls for collaborative industry action across a range of work, health and safety impact opportunities.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, David Littleproud said the strategy was an important step towards safer farms for farmers, their families and communities. "The health and safety of our farmers and their families is paramount," David said.

"Our farmers have continued to kick goals through the Covid-19 pandemic, with the agriculture sector expected to reach a record \$66 billion in industry production this year.

"But it's a high-risk working environment.

"This strategy sets a long-term course to improve farm safety."

Five key impact opportunities have been identified as targets for further investment:

- Leadership and Cultural Change;
- The Next Generation of Farmers;
- Physical and Psychological Well-Being;
- Industry Endorsed Training and Continued Learning; and
- Evidence and Incentivisation.

Farmsafe Australia Chairman Charles Armstrong says the Strategy sends a clear message that agriculture is ready to do things differently.

"There is no denying that agriculture needs to change its relationship to work health and safety practices. Not only is legislation demanding it, but our people are much too important to allow the culture of 'she'll be right mate' to prevail," Charles said.

"Right now, we're seeing firsthand the importance of our farmers to Australia – they are truly essential. But they also work in an extremely high-risk environment. Agriculture consistently ranks as one of the most dangerous industries for workers in Australia."

The strategy sets an aspiration to end on-farm fatalities, in line with the National Farmers' Federation's 2030 Roadmap.

"In the past decade, there have been over 600 fatalities on Australian farms. While it may not be realistic to cut this number to zero in the coming decade, we shouldn't be aspiring for anything less."

Charles emphasised that the Strategy is not simply about safer systems, it is also about creating safer farmers by shifting attitudes towards better practices. "Achieving cultural change, especially on farm, will require strong leaders, not just in our peak bodies, but on farm, in our managers and overseers.

"Farmsafe cannot achieve the aspirations we've set by ourselves. We are calling on industry and government to get behind the strategy and look for ways in which we can connect and collaborate, not only to avoid duplication, but to enhance and bring together diverse resources in ways that can achieve more; more awareness, more engagement, more impact, more value."

For a full copy of the National Farm Safety Education Fund Strategy, head to the Industry Reports section of the Farmsafe website www.farmsafe.org.au.

New Smart Pivot technology a gamechanger for irrigators

THE Smart Pivot, a transformational irrigation solution that moves beyond traditional water application to a wide array of crop and machine health capabilities has been introduced by leading irrigation technology manufacturer, Lindsay Corporation.

Australian farmers are invited to take part in a live webinar to get in on the ground floor to discover the potential capabilities and provide their input to shape the future of irrigation.

"The Smart Pivot introduces the next era of mechanised irrigation," said James Craft, FieldNET Sales and Support Specialist for Lindsay Australia. "It delivers never-before-seen insights and efficiency to a grower's operation, changing the way they – and the industry – look at and use centre pivots.

"We're keen to hear from Australian growers about exactly what it is that they are looking for in the next generation of centre pivot equipment."

Lindsay's Smart Pivot comes to life through two smart streams – FieldNET advanced agronomics and Zimmatic machine health – designed to support healthier crops and more sustainable farming practices while reducing risk and operational downtime, significantly expanding what the traditional pivot is capable of. Several of the Smart Pivot features are the outcome of collaboration and joint development with strategic partners, including Taranis.

James described the Smart Pivot as a "self-aware, always-there eye in the field, capable of at-scale crop health management, and ground-breaking machine health features. The Smart Pivot virtually takes care of itself – and your crops," he said.

Through its real time monitoring of the systems health and performance, Smart Pivot can provide the grower with a new way of monitoring and self-diagnosis of performance issues that can be relayed directly to your local Zimmatic dealer in real time.

Lindsay ANZ is inviting farmers to learn more about the Smart Pivot and provide feedback about how the system could be tailored to suit the needs of Australian farms and operating conditions.

For more information visit www.lindsay.com/smartpivot.

