

## News from the Farm Advisory Service:

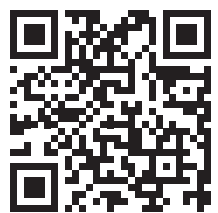


PERSONAL RESILIENCE WITH FARMSTRONG SCOTLAND

### Video - Personal resilience with Farmstrong Scotland

Farmstrong Scotland is a rural wellbeing programme for the farming and crofting sector, sharing peer-to-peer tips and advice. In this video, Alix Ritchie, programme director for Farmstrong Scotland tells us about the initiative and the five steps to well being. We also hear from farmer James Biggar about why he thinks it is important to engage with the programme, and Farmstrong New Zealand's Gerard Vaughan on the impacts the programme has had in New Zealand.

To watch this video, use the QR code below or search for Scotland's Farm Advisory Service on Youtube



You can also visit [www.farmstrongscotland.org.uk](http://www.farmstrongscotland.org.uk) for more information.



### Farm safety for temporary staff



#### Are you planning to employ temporary staff?

Harvest is upon us and is a very busy time on most farms. Temporary staff play a vital role in the agricultural industry and can fulfil a variety of skilled and non-skilled tasks. People who are new or returning to a workplace environment may be particularly vulnerable to accidents, even if they already come from a farming background.

Ultimately, it is your responsibility as an employer/farmer/farm manager/farm owner to ensure health and safety on your farm. You must ensure adequate training, instruction, and guidance, is provided for all personnel – employed staff, temporary staff, and family members who may help with agricultural activities.

#### Key things to think about:

- 1. Induction** - carry out a farm induction for new and returning temporary staff. Ensure that any language / understanding barriers are also considered.
- 2. Provide on-the-job training and task-specific instruction**, clearly identifying potential health and safety risks and mitigation. On-the-job training may be appropriate for some things but not others e.g. operating a sprayer. In most cases training will need to be provided before the job begins. Some training may need to be provided by external bodies / competent persons.
- 3. Ensure all tasks are properly risk assessed** by a competent person and safe working procedures are in place.
- 4. Provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** for the tasks/activities staff will be undertaking.
- 5. Go over your farm health and safety plan**, including emergency contact information and a secondary point of contact in the event of an emergency. Show staff where first aid kits and fire extinguishers are located and outline the procedure to follow.
- 6. Maintain regular communication with all employees** to ensure their safety, particularly if they are lone working.
- 7. Provide field maps, road maps and any site-specific information**, clearly identifying potential hazards such as overhead power lines, water courses, gas pipes, electricity cables, rocky areas, steep areas, and dangerous livestock.
- 8. Ensure that all machinery and equipment used is fully maintained**, with all guards and safety features working. Implement Safe Stop when operating and maintaining agricultural machinery.
- 9. Lead by example**, if you take health and safety seriously it will encourage everyone to follow.

Calum Johnston, SAC Consulting

For the full article, please visit:

[www.fas.scot/article/farm-safety-for-temporary-staff](http://www.fas.scot/article/farm-safety-for-temporary-staff)

### Free Events



At the Farm Advisory Service we run a range of events both online and in-person.

Visit [www.fas.scot/events](http://www.fas.scot/events) to sign up or contact the advice line and we'll help you get booked on.

**Farm Wildlife Walks - Stranraer**  
Portpatrick, 10th September, 10:00am - 1:30pm

**Don't be Sheepish, Plan Ahead - Improving Flock Efficiency**  
Thurso, 10th September, 11:00am - 2:00pm

**Farm Wildlife Walks - Isle of Mull**  
Mull, 11th September, 12:30pm - 3:00pm

**Ayrshire Women in Agriculture - Arran Trip**  
Arran, 17th September, 11:15am - 5:00pm

**Caithness Women in Agriculture - Dressed for Success**  
Murkle, 17th September, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**Conducting a Biodiversity Workshop - Angus**  
Arbroath, 24th September, 10:00am - 1:30pm

### September pig update



**Pig prices have been fairly static throughout 2024, with the Standard Pigs Price (EU Spec) hovering around 210 p.p.kg since January (AHDB). Despite the crisis of the early 2020's meaning that UK sow numbers dropped significantly, resulting in less slaughter pigs coming through and the UK being little more than 50% self-sufficient in pig meat, prices have stubbornly refused to move upwards. One major concern now is the recent fall in prices in the EU. This has seen the differential between UK and EU prices increase again, meaning EU pig meat is more competitive as it looks to find space on UK supermarket shelves.**

To add to the woes, the UK summer (or lack of it) has also tempered demand with the barbeque boost sadly missing. Slaughter weights still remain historically high at just under 90kg, which in part mitigates the effect of the reduced slaughter numbers in terms of total pig meat produced. The fall in EU prices has had a knock-on effect in cull sow values in recent weeks although weaner values are holding up.

The latest published margins from AHDB (for Q2 of 2024) showed pig producers margins have fallen slightly over the last quarter to 17 p.p.kg (£15 per pig), back from 18 p.p.kg and £16 per pig in Q1 and while this is also back from the margins seen a year ago, it is a significant turnaround from the dark days of 2021 and 2022 with producers now benefiting from a period of sustained profitability.

George Chalmers, SAC Consulting



Agribusiness News  
September 2024

This article is part of the September edition of Agribusiness News. More information can be found at:

[www.fas.scot/publication/agribusiness-news-september-2024/](http://www.fas.scot/publication/agribusiness-news-september-2024/)

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service is funded by the Scottish Government. It is delivered by SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College, and Ricardo Energy and Environment.



National Advice Hub  
T: 0300 323 0161  
E: [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot)  
W: [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)

If you need more advice on any topic, the Farm Advisory Service has a range of support and help available:

#### Advice line

For free telephone advice on a wide variety of topics including cross compliance, water framework directive requirements, climate change and other technical issues call us on **0300 323 0161** or email [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot). The advice line operates between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

#### Bespoke Advice and Grants

FAS can also help you to increase the profitability and sustainability of your farming business through Scottish Government grants including Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMPs) – worth up to £2,000.

The ILMP will identify opportunities and cost savings for your business, based on an independent and confidential assessment of your business by an experienced farm business adviser of your choosing. As part of your plan you can choose to benefit from up to two further specialist advice plans.

#### Online

Our website contains articles, videos and much more at [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)