

Health and Safety in Agriculture in Ireland

- Challenges and successes experienced and foreseen

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Teagasc

Advisory, Training, and Research
Authority,

Agenda

- Introduction:
 - Myself, Teagasc and Farming in Ireland.
 - Safety , Health and Welfare at Work (SHWW) legislation and Health and Safety Authority
 - Farm Safety Partnership - Member Organisations
- Trace Progress with SHWW legislation
- Challenges and successes experienced and foreseen

John McNamara – C.V.

- M.Agr Sc, Diploma SHWW, PhD (2013).
- 1978-90: Machinery/ Crops Trainer.
- 1990-1996: Teagasc H&S Officer
- 1996- 2000: Agr. College Principal
- 2000- 2006: Work Organisation and H&S.
- 2006- 2012: Corporate H&S Officer

Agriculture in Ireland

- 120,000 Farms.
- Predominantly self employed (92%)
- 400,000 persons at Risk
- 91% Grassland/ 9% Crops
- Average Farm Size – 32 Ha

Teagasc Roles

- **Research ↔ Knowledge Transfer model**
- **Media**
- **Training and Advice.**
- **Health and Safety: Joint Agreement to work with H.S.A. & Farm Safety Partnership A.C.**
- **National Specialist and 30 Health and Safety Officers.**
- **Advisers Trained on the Farm Safety Code of Practice.**

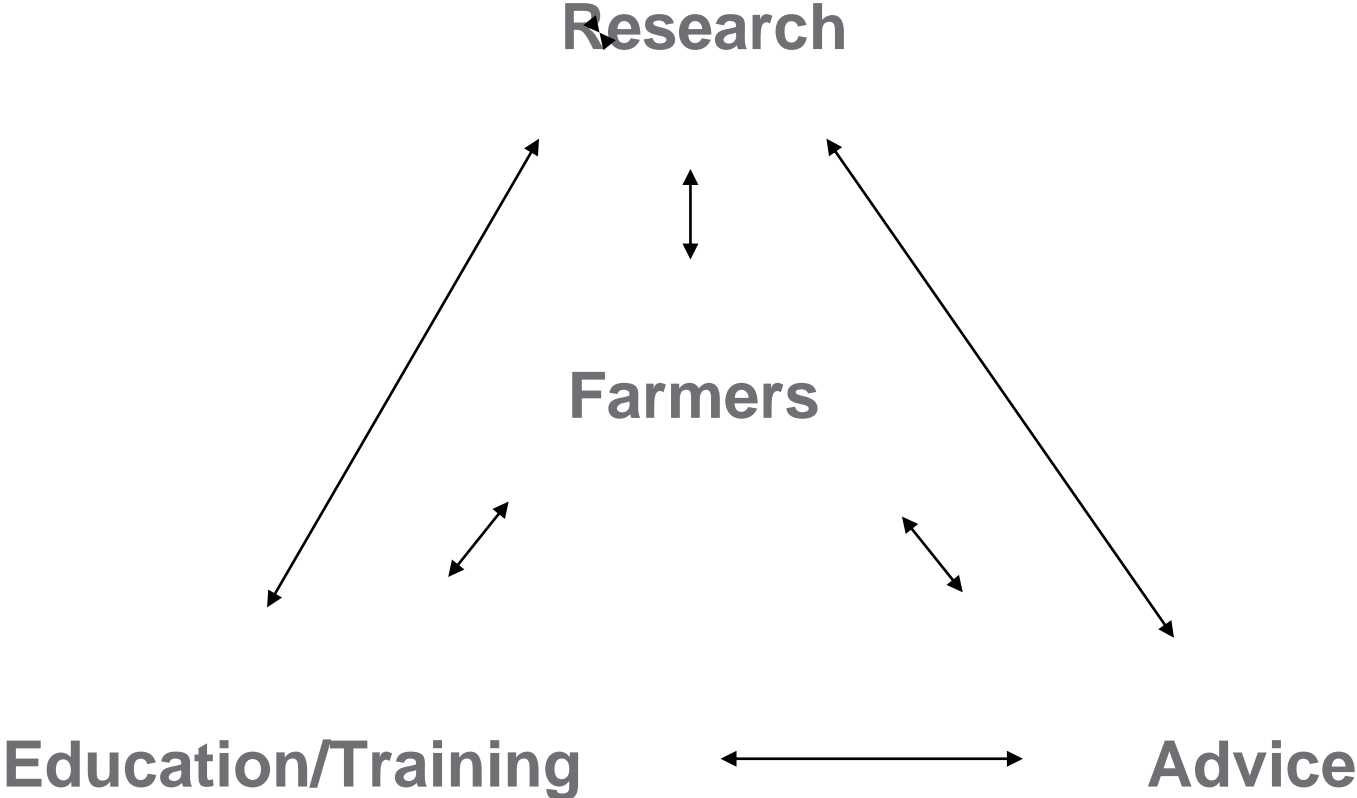
Role of Teagasc Specialist

- **Develop Programme for Specialism**
- **Promote Programme**
- **Apply Knowledge (Research and All Sources).**
- **Provide In Service Training to Teagasc Staff:**
 - **Advisers and Education Officers.**
- ***Specialists develop Knowledge through applied research - PhD level – an emerging trend.***

Current/ Recent OHS Projects

Farm Accident and Ill Health levels.	Dr Anne Finnegan
Evaluation of Code of Practice Implementation	Mr John McNamara
Geo-demographic study	Dr David Meredith
Animal Welfare and Safety	Dr Mickeal Mazurek.
Impact of Disability	Dr Shane Whelan
Health and Safety with Spent Mushroom Compost	Mr. Balasubramanian Velusami
Health of Farmers	Ms Aoife Osborne
Rural Suicide Prevention	Ms Maria Feeney

Irish Knowledge – Transfer Model (Adapted from FAO.)



New Entrant Training for a Land-based Career in Ireland

- Green Certificate Training provided (since c 1982)
- Mandatory for Tax Exemptions, additional Grants and Aids. (must be completed before 35 years of age.
- Currently 950 new trainees per annum commence training with c 4,000 in total in Training.
- Training involves, Husbandry/ Science, Practical Experience & Management Training over 2 years.
- Further Information: <http://www.teagasc.ie/training/>

Extension in Action

- Teagasc – Communicates with 80% of farmers.
- C. 44% of Farmers nationally are Fee Paying Clients
- Health and Safety strongly built into extension message



Legal Duties of Employers/ Employees

- **Employer - predominant duty to manage**
- **Employee - must comply and co-operate**
- **Contractors and Farmer must co-operate**
- **Designers, manufactureurs, suppliers.**
- **Prepare Safety Statement or Risk Assessment.**
- **Regulations, Codes of Practice (COP) and Guidance for support.**

Health and Safety - Key Organisations

Health and Safety Authority

Teagasc

Department of Agriculture.

Farm Safety Partnership Advisory Committee

- Forum for all Organisations

Collaboration the Key Issue.

Health and Safety Authority

- Empowered under SHWW Act (s) - 1989 and 2005
- Roles
 - Advice and Guide
 - Oversee Implementation – Inspect Workplaces
 - Enforce Legislation – Legal Notices and Prosecution (c !5 to-date).

Department of Agriculture

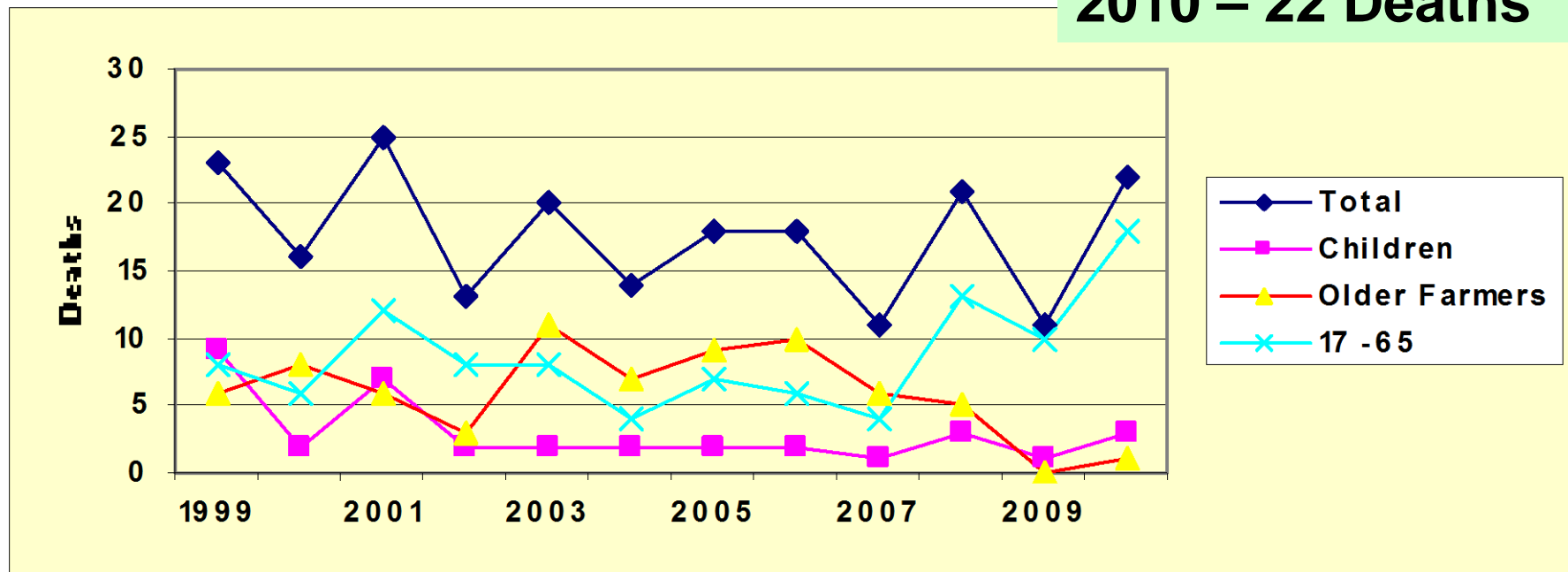
- **Specify Standards for Grant Aided Buildings and Installations – Include SHWW.**
- **Specify Training Inclusion in Farmer Scheme**
 - Rural Environment Protection Scheme.
 - Dairy Efficiency Programme.
 - Beef Technology Advisory Programme
- **Facilitate Circulation of Information Nationally to farmers**

Farming Organisations

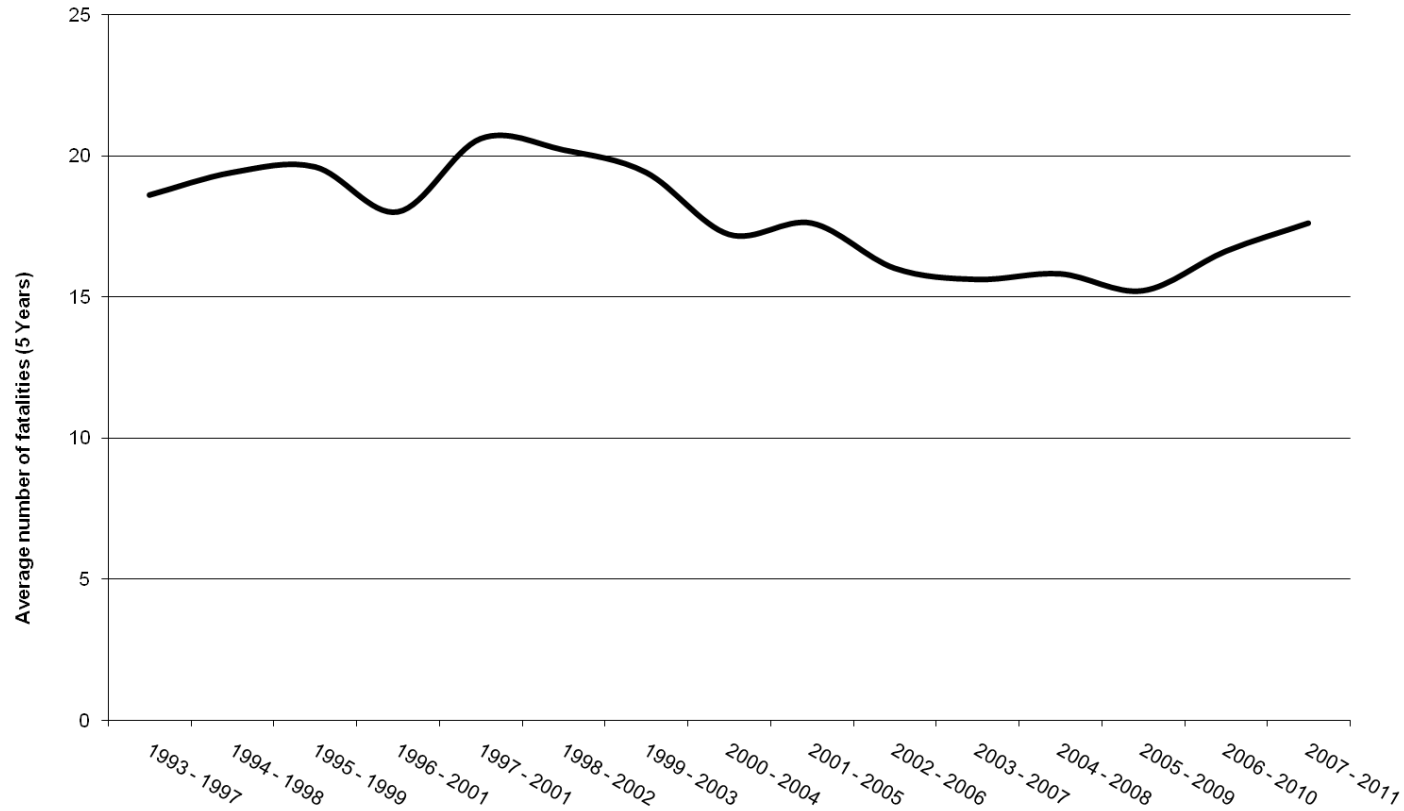
- Endorse Health and Safety nationally
- Conduct projects:
 - E.g. Childhood Safety, Older Farmer Safety. Presidential Initiative (Irish Farmers Association)
- Endorsement of Safety Training by organising and./ or by Texting Members.
- Research – support by facilitating e.g. surveys.
- Support as Board members of agencies.

Trends in Farm Deaths

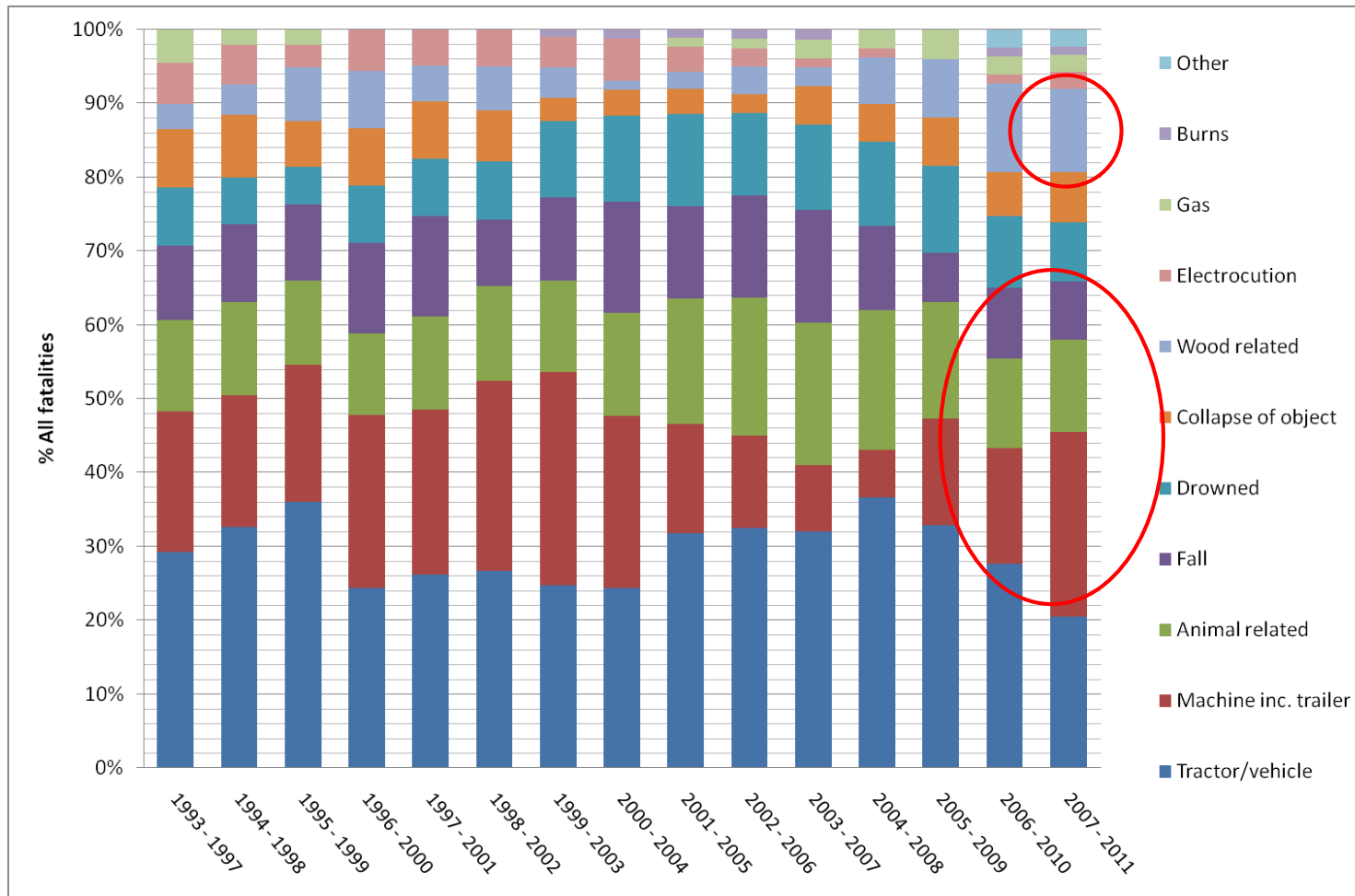
2010 – 22 Deaths



Average Farm Fatalities 1993 – 2011 (5 –year rolling average) (Meredith and McNamara , 2012)

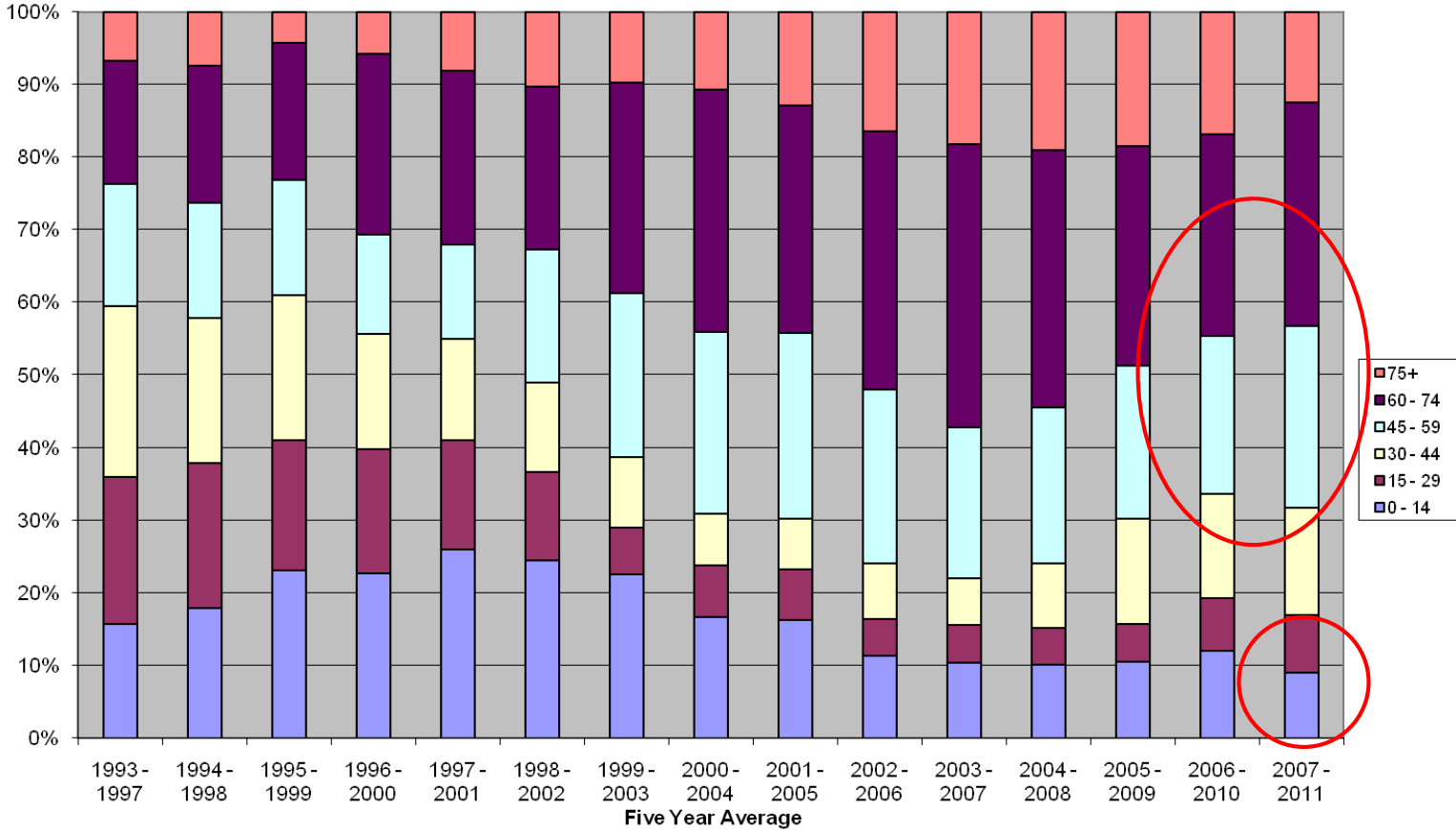


(Un)Changing Profile of Fatalities



Demography of Farm Fatalities

Age distribution of farm fatalities



Age – Structure of Irish Farmers

