

FACT SHEET

Farming environment

Issue

The Australian farm can be a harsh environment. Farmers need to be aware of the sun and noise, and animal diseases.

Recommendations

Sun protection

- Schedule outdoor work for early morning or late afternoon [outside peak UV times](#).
- Ensure workers are provided with adequate fresh water and regular rest breaks.
- Encourage all workers to wear long sleeves and pants, sunscreen, appropriate hats and sunglasses.
- Provide shade for outdoor intensive-work areas where possible.

For more information about sun protection, visit the [Cancer Council](#).

Noise protection

- When purchasing farm equipment, consider noise reduction qualities.
- Rearrange workshop layout to minimise noise.
- Install noise barriers or insulated walls.
- Install mufflers on motorised equipment.
- Install safety signs in noisy areas.
- Maintain equipment – engines, seals, brackets.
- Monitor noise levels and organise hearing tests for your workers if appropriate.
- Consider rotating tasks so that workers are not exposed to high levels of noise for a prolonged period of time.
- Provide hearing protection.
- Provide guidance material about noise to your workers.

For more information about noise protection, listen to the webinar on [Managing noise in the workplace](#).



Zoonotic diseases

Zoonotic diseases are passed from animals to humans, and include brucellosis and Q fever.

Consider these prevention measures:

- Vaccinate workers and animals against transmissible diseases.
- Worm working dogs and household pets.
- Avoid direct contact with animal body fluids.
- Use machinery to clear manure and other waste products.
- Use crushes and other safety devices to limit physical contact with animals.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, masks, waterproof boots, overalls and glasses.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling animals and before eating.

For more information on zoonotic diseases, see [Zoonoses – animal diseases transmissible to humans](#).



Disclaimer

This publication may contain work health and safety and workers compensation information. It may include some of your obligations under the various legislations that WorkCover NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation.

Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website legislation.nsw.gov.au

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular problems or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation.

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