

Health and safety in agriculture 2020 - a Swedish perspective

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The main worries for Swedish farmers during 2020 was the initial problems with restrictions for seasonal workers to travel in Europe and the lack of access to personal protection equipment. So far has the COVID-19 not had much negative impact for farmers and farm workers in Sweden. Consumers are now more willing to support and buy locally produced products from farmers. Most of the health & safety challenges remains, with a number of recent work-related fatalities in agriculture. A new web-based campaign on reducing farm injuries has been initiated and an on-going study has a focus on rural crime as a health & safety problem. Injuries and fatalities with ATVs/Quadbikes is still a large problem and there has been developed an up-dated national strategy for safe use of these vehicles, together with extensive full-scale tests of roll-over protection among 50 professional users. One of the major problems are decreasing resources for interventions and research regarding health & safety in agriculture. The Nordic Meeting on Agricultural Occupational Health and Safety was planned to take place in November this year, but has been rescheduled to September 6-8, 2021.