



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Combating Safety Risks for Farmers**

FarmWeb SUPPORT, a unique and innovative method of helping farmers make their farms safer places to live and work is about to be launched.

FarmWeb, the network of specialist agricultural insurance brokers, has developed a risk assessment and reporting service enabling brokers to carry out a risk assessment on behalf of their farming customers. The service includes provision of a bespoke report for each farmer which highlights areas of responsibility, providing information on the legislation which applies and most importantly, providing guidance and assistance to farmers in managing their risks.

FarmWeb has developed the service in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive and risk management specialists, RiskSTOP. RiskSTOP currently provide risk management services to the insurance industry and in 2005 were winners of both the British Insurance Awards - Risk Management category and the Queen's Award for Enterprise - Innovation.

The news comes as the Health and Safety Executive Report for 2004 revealed that on average nearly one person a week dies in work connected with agriculture (50 deaths in 2004 and an average of 47 fatalities a year since 2000). In addition, each year there are 7,000 reported injuries on farms of which 75% are as a result of bad working practices.

Elaine Pyke Chief Executive said: "Our service has been designed to improve working practices and help farmers achieve better managed businesses. This will

have a positive impact on their insurance costs and most importantly, save lives. If one life is saved, or one injury averted, it will have proved its worth. With 75% of injuries caused by poor working practices, we have a job to do and a responsibility to do it.”

FarmWeb recognises that the long term benefit of good risk management is vital in the agricultural sector but to begin to achieve any improvement farmers must be risk aware in their own working environments.

Mrs Pyke continued: “Farmers are bombarded with information on legislation regarding health and safety – not all of it is relevant to their individual businesses – how do they decide what actions they need to take in order to comply with HSE requirements? There is no simple solution, other than employing an external advisor which can be expensive. We have piloted our service, which has been tailored and refined to the point where we know it will be effective and make a real difference to farm safety. It will be available, via our brokers from early September.”

For further information on the service please contact FarmWeb on 01452 361645.

5 September 2005

ENDS