I'm Neil Whatling from NFU Mutual Risk Management Services. I'm a senior health and safety consultant and I’m here today to talk about some significant risks that can be found on the farm. Managing safety on the farm is incredibly important. Unfortunately there are wide-ranging implications if you have a significant incident on the farm. You've got the financial implications of possible prosecution and also insurance premiums rising. You've also got the moral implications of an accident on the farm, how everybody else feels. It isn’t just the person who had the accident that’s affected, it's the family that could be left behind.

Unfortunately people get hit by vehicles quite frequently and sometimes they run themselves over. We really try to advocate safe stop when you get off the vehicle - switch it off, engage the handbrake, make sure all the controls are in neutral before you leave the vehicle. It's a natural thing we do in the car but we don't always do it in our agricultural vehicles. Also, people get complacent. They're not used to people working near them - all of a sudden you bring somebody into the equation that isn't normally there and you find they get struck by a vehicle. In a perfect situation you would have marked walkways. This isn't always possible on farm because of the nature of the ground however you can have clear safe ways of working - known walkways and also known no-go areas. High visibility clothing especially during the winter months is incredibly important just so that you do stand out.

Falling from heights happens quite frequently because unfortunately people don't take the time to stop and think about the task. If people actually stop, ensure they've got the right equipment, the right ladder, that it's complete, it's not broken or damaged, and they plan the work, accidents could be reduced. Ideally we should be stopping to get the correct at height equipment it might mean having to hire in a mobile work platform or even a cherry picker when we do go to height we need to plan what we are doing and how we're going to do it.

Power lines should be mapped upon your farm and you should share that information with anybody that comes upon your farm so they're also aware of the location of the power lines. During summer a power line can drop by half a meter so equipment that fits underneath it within winter quite often won't in summer months. If you're in the unfortunate event that you do hit a power line the actions that you can take could save your life. If you cannot drive away stay where you are unless it catches fire. At that point you must jump clear, never come into contact with the ground whilst upon your machinery. Jump clear and then bunnyhop away. Keep your mobile phone within your pocket never leave it in the cab of your vehicle - the accident will always occur when you're away from your vehicle. 112 is a very important number to remember - program it into your mobile phone it patches through to any network and you can be GPS-located within about 25 metres of your location, so if you have a problem you can get help to you quickly.