

# Farm Safety Week to minimise harm

NATIONAL Farm Safety Week is only a couple months away and is imperative in raising awareness about farm safety issues across Australia.

From July 16 to 22, Farmsafe Australia members are united in efforts to reduce the deaths and injuries associated with health and safety risks on farms.

This year's theme, 'innovative, safe and healthy', continues to highlight the importance of business and industry working together to increase the well-being of Australian farmers through innovation and improved attention to health and safety outcomes.

The initiative has been running successfully for the past 19 years.

A key focus during the week

includes tractor and machinery safety.

People working with tractors on the farm are exposed to risk of injury and illness associated with a range of hazards.

Tractors and other machinery have been proven to be one of the most deadly pieces of equipment on Australian farms.

In the period 1989-1992 almost 90 traumatic deaths associated with tractors occurred. In 2016 an estimated nine deaths involving tractors and a further eight incidents causing serious injury also took place.

Hazards associated with using tractors on Australian farms include:

- Tractor rollover
- Tractor run over
- Tractor power take offs (PTOs)

- Hydraulics
- Ergonomics
- Noise
- Operator skills

The types of injury range from death, serious injury requiring hospitalization and downtime, to "nuisance" injury that stops work for a short time, or makes work slower and reduces productivity. Similarly, farmers utilising grain augers must be aware of the associated risks.

Many grain augers used on farms have had the guard over the flight intake removed and not replaced.

Often these have been removed so that the auger can be used for grains that do not flow easily through the narrow mesh of the guard.

Most injuries are crush injuries



National Farm Safety Week runs from July 16 to July 22 to highlight the importance of operating machinery safely while on a farming property.

or amputations of fingers, hands, arms and feet, caused by limbs being caught in unguarded auger flights. Effective guarding would prevent these serious injuries.

More information on tractor and farming machinery safety can be found at: (<http://www.farmsafe.org.au/Tractor-and-Machinery-Safety>).

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## Visit the agriculture experts at Hoods Agrimotive

NORM Hood and his experienced team make Hoods Agrimotive a name you can trust when it comes to all things farming machinery, equipment, advice and repairs.

Mr Hood is in his 51st year of working in the farm machinery industry since leaving agricultural college.

He commenced Hoods Tractors and Implements Sales Pty Ltd in 1982 and the name changed recently to Hoods Agrimotive.

Located in Paringa, Mr Hood said the business is home to an enormous catalogue of stock, machinery, spare parts and more.

He said if you can find it in the store then it is a product he believes in.

"We don't sell competitive brands against each other," said Mr Hood.

"I pick out what I consider are the best brands available, then that's what we sell and provide support to our customers 24/7."

Mr Hood has always had a passion for agriculture and takes pride in the advice he shares.

"I have always had an interest in growing things and agriculture since I was two or three, so I take a lot of personal pride in advice I give or what we suggest and recommend," he said.

"I've been very much hands on with spare parts, repairs and assembly, etc. so I've got an incredible wealth of knowledge that I've gained over those years covering a vast range and brand names of equipment and machinery.

"The biggest emphasis that we have here at work - that one of two bosses



Hoods Agrimotive service mechanic Marty Raams, owner Norm Hood, Tom Frahn (spare parts), Kirk Theil (spare parts) and Anja McCann (accounts) with the business's fully equipped service truck. PHOTOS: Christian Longobardi

I've ever had told me - is anyone can sell brand new machinery, but very few can back it with parts and service and we have a massive back-up to what we sell."

Mr Hood said the confidence in his business is shown by his long list of customers from all over the country.

"I'm very proud that we get phone calls from all over Australia from farmers who I have been recommended to get information and advice from," he said.

Hoods Agrimotive is equipped to handle any kind of mechanical breakdowns and visits clients within a 250km radius of its Paringa store.

"We have a fully equipped service truck on the road and we also do on-property air conditioning," said Mr Hood.

"We're not afraid to tackle any sort of mechanical breakdowns."

Mr Hood said his employees are ready to assist customers with any query great or small.

"I have a very, very experienced and practical team working alongside me," he said. "My mechanic Marty Raams has been in this industry for 41 years, my son-in-law Kirk Theil has been here for 14 years and Tom Frahn has been here for six years."

Head to Hoods Agrimotive at 21058 Sturt Highway, Paringa, or call 8595 5388 with any inquiries.



Hoods Agrimotive has operated out of Paringa since 1982.



The team at Hoods Agrimotive are experts in all things farming machinery.



Hoods Agrimotive can come to you, thanks to its fully equipped service truck.