**Workplace health and safety at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI)**

All workplaces are legally obliged to care for the safety and health of their employees. Severe penalties can be imposed under workplace health and safety legislation on business managers who fail to comply with this requirement. This is one way in which the NSW state government has some influence on production at EMAI.

The major areas of concern relating to workplace health and safety at EMAI are:

1. **Machinery usage**

A wide range of machinery is used on the farm, some of which has the potential to cause catastrophic injuries.

1. **Chemical usage**

A range of chemicals are in regular use on the farm. Some of these are highly toxic and can poison workers and/or consumers if not correctly handled and applied.

1. **Working with large animals**

Cattle are large and unpredictable animals. Working around them can be dangerous if proper precautions are not taken.

1. **Zoonoses**

Some infectious diseases that affect cattle can be transmitted to humans resulting in serious human disease. Diseases that can be transmitted from animals to human are known as ***zoonoses***.

1. **Working in the sun**

By its very nature much of the work done on the farm is conducted in the sun. This results in the risk of sun damage to the skin of workers being quite high.

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**Workplace safety signs**

**An activity for you to complete**

Draw up a table as follows. Complete it by listing issues relating to each type of workplace safety category and suggesting means by which the farm manger can ensure the safety of farm workers. Some examples have been included to get you started. You might like to have a class discussion with your teacher about these issues.

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| **Category** | **Issues of importance** | **Management strategies to prevent injuries** |
| **Machinery safety** | * tractor safety   + rollovers   + runovers   + implements   + noise   + sun damage * other machinery | * driver training * signage |
| **Chemical safety** | * accidental poisoning |  |
| **Working with animals** | * physical injury |  |
| **Zoonoses** | * transmission of diseases |  |
| **Working in the sun** | * sunstroke |  |
| **Miscellaneous** | * barbed wire fences |  |