Irish Rural Link

19th September

**Irish Rural Link call for a Bottom up Approach to Farm Safety**

During the National Ploughing Championships, Irish Rural Link – the national network representing the interest of rural communities are calling for a bottom up approach to Farm Safety.

With over 14 farm fatalities so far this year, action needs to be taken now to ensure this number does not continue to increase. The reasons why so many farm deaths and accidents are occurring in the first instance also need to be explored; whether this is work stress, mental health or just a change in mindset, they cannot be ignored and must be included when looking at solutions.

Irish Rural Link are calling for a bottom up approach to farm safety, similar to a Pilot Programme Irish Rural Link carried out in 2011/2012. In this pilot mentors, who were farmers themselves carried out safety checks on neighbours or friends’ farms in a less formal and practical way. It found farmers were more responsive to farm safety if pointed out by their peers.

Awareness of safety on the farm should be an everyday occurrence on the farm and actions taken to ensure we are not seeing 2 farm fatalities a month for the rest of the year.

Ends

**For further information, please contact (anytime):**

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**About Irish Rural Link:**

Irish Rural Link represents the interests of locally based rural groups in disadvantaged and marginalised rural areas by highlighting problems, advocating appropriate policies, sharing experiences and examples of good practice. It has a membership of over 600 rural community groups dedicated to sustainable rural development and represents rural communities at a national and international level