

Agriculture Sector

These are the most common injuries and hazards for people working in agriculture, as shown by injury claims. The agriculture sector includes arable and livestock farming, horticulture and nurseries.

Psychological System

Arm

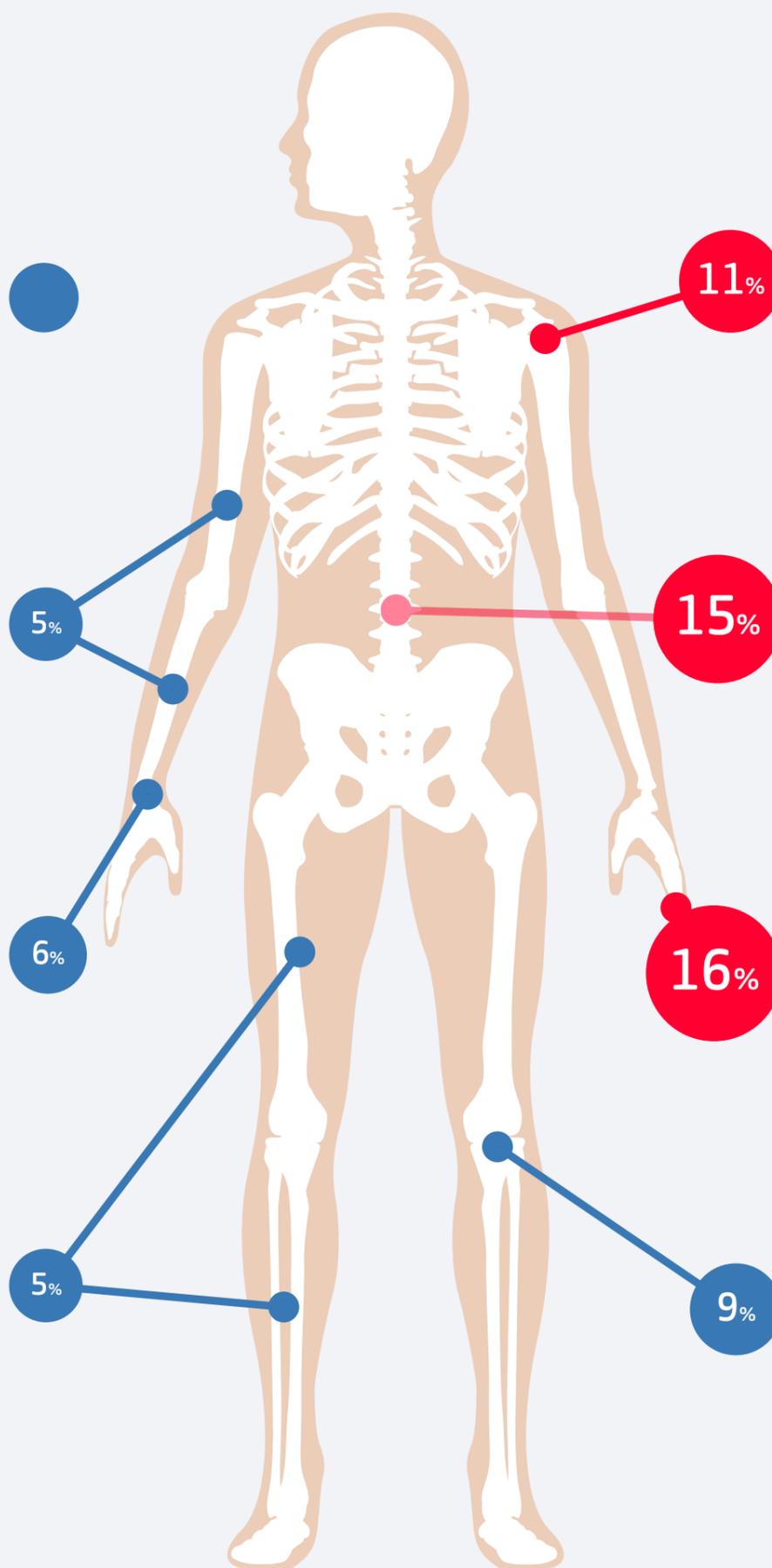
Muscle stress/strain from lifting and handling livestock, and loading and unloading produce. Traumatic joint/muscle injury or strain from driving plant, or lifting heavy boxes.

Forearm/Wrist

Muscle stress/strain from lifting heavy bags of feed, chemicals, or potting mix. Traumatic joint/muscle injury or strain from lifting heavy trays. Fractures from slipping on wet floors or uneven surfaces.

Leg

Traumatic joint or muscle injury from being kicked or tripping over animals, and tripping over materials or equipment. Muscle stress/strain from tripping while climbing fences, or exiting tractors. Wounds/lacerations from falling on rough, uneven ground.



Shoulder

Muscle stress/strain from heavy lifting of animals, hay bales, or punnets. Traumatic joint/muscle injury or strain from heavy lifting.

Back

Muscle stress/strain from heavy lifting of feed, produce, and animals. Traumatic joint/muscle injury from lifting tractor attachments, digging trenches, or stacking boxes.

Hand/Fingers

Wounds/lacerations or fractures due to hammering in stakes, being crushed between materials/plant/machinery, and pneumatic air snips and chain saws.

Knee

Muscle stress/strain from slipping or tripping on uneven surfaces, repeated kneeling, or when exiting vehicle/plant. Traumatic injury from falls from ladders, plant, and machinery.

Safety solutions

WorkSafe expects employers to have safety solutions in place to protect workers from injury and illness.

Below are some common solutions known to reduce the risk of injury. Employers should work together with their employees to determine the most effective solutions for their workplace.

Hotspots

Solution

Fatigue

● Psychological System

- Provide sufficient breaks and ensure there is water available.
- Ensure employees are not exposed to repetitive work for long periods (e.g. by using job rotation, task variation) or work that requires a significant amount of high force.
- Develop strategies for managing the impact of fatigue (e.g. develop a fatigue management system and train managers/team leaders how to effectively implement it).
- Train employees how to recognise fatigue signs and symptoms.

Heavy lifting

- Back
- Shoulder
- Forearm/Wrist
- Arm
- Leg

- Provide appropriate mechanical aids and equipment (lifter trolley or powered pruners for pruning, picking, harvesting and shearing, hydraulic arm for lifting or transporting animals and hay bales, platform as an intermediary step if loads need to be raised over shoulder height) and ensure they are used properly and maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- For shearing, use drafting gates in the handling race to eliminate lifting, and ensure animals are held close to the body.
- Order materials in smaller sizes (e.g. 20kg bags instead of 40kg bags). If using bigger sizes, use mechanical equipment only.
- Train employees on how to safely use any mechanical equipment and aids, and on safe handling methods (e.g. work is done between shoulder and mid-thigh height with the elbows close to the body).
- Clear the work area of any obstacles and set up tasks in a way they can be completed between shoulder and mid-thigh height to help maintain the back in an upright posture.
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. back harnesses).

Manual harvesting

● Hand/Fingers

- Sharpen hand tools and ensure they are maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- Regularly inspect and maintain equipment (e.g. ensure guards are secure and serviceable).
- Provide suitable personal protective clothing and equipment (e.g. gloves, hats, eye protection).

Slips, trips and falls

- Back
- Knee
- Leg

- Provide appropriate equipment (e.g. extension handles, platforms with support rails) and ensure they are used properly and maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- Ensure floor surfaces in work areas are kept dry and clear of clutter and obstructions.
- Use plant and equipment that has service points that can be accessed from ground level.
- Ensure employees use three points of contact when entering/exiting high vehicles.

Using mechanical tools and equipment

● Hand/Fingers

- Guard all moving machinery parts on equipment such as the tractor power take off (PTO), post hole diggers or bench grinders.
- Guard entire length of PTO and couplings, and ensure guards are secured at all times.
- Ensure employees remove all jewellery, tie long hair back, and wear appropriate clothing with no loose straps.

Visit www.injuryhotspots.com.au

WorkSafe Advisory Service Toll-free 1800 136 089

Your health and safety contact is:

You must consult with the people who will be affected by changes before any changes affecting their occupational safety or health are put in place. If someone is injured at work, their employer must ensure they receive proper care and support their safe return to work. WorkSafe Victoria is a trading name of the Victorian WorkCover Authority.