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Agricultural Activities Policy

Document Control:

Policy Owner:	The Director of Health and Safety or equivalent position
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Amendment History:

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V1 05 03 18	05/03/18	Initial version of document	John Phillips
V1.1 20 07 22	29/07/22	Review - Minor amendments	Gillian Prince
V1.2 13 06 26	08/05/26	Review – minor amendments, converted responsibilities to a Responsibilities grid, change of template	Gillian Prince

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 are relevant to all activities carried out on the University campus, or by University staff. The regulations set minimum standards for the protection of individuals from risks related to work activities, which would include any and all agricultural activities, and require suitable and robust risk controls to be implemented where there are particularly high-risk areas or activities. A number of other regulations also have direct applicability to agricultural activities. Activities carried out by University Grounds Staff are covered separately under other policies and arrangements.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This Policy applies across the University's campuses, including Gibbet Hill, Westwood and Stratford Innovation Campus. The Policy also applies to all agricultural activities managed or carried out by University staff at off-campus sites as part of research projects. This Policy is supported by arrangements, instructions, and guidance, which are available on the University's Health and Safety web pages.
- 2.2 Under the provisions of Regulation 26, Safety Regulations and associated University Health and Safety Policy document, it is the duty of all staff, students and others working in the University to comply with this Policy, together with any other instructions, rules and guidance that may apply.

3. Responsibilities

The table below outlines the key responsibilities associated with this Policy and should be read alongside the detailed role responsibilities set out in the [Leadership and Management of Health and Safety at the University of Warwick](#) documents.

Role	Responsible for
Heads of Departments	Ensuring this Policy is implemented within their respective areas. Including but not limited, ensuring completion of risk assessment, suitable control measures are implemented, and cooperation with host employer.
Departmental Senior Administrative staff	Supporting Heads of Department in meeting the expectations placed upon them in relation to delivering the requirements of this Policy.
Technical Services Managers	Ensuring that all technical activities, equipment, facilities, and technical staff within their area are managed safely and effectively. This includes ensuring that relevant risks are assessed, equipment is appropriately maintained, technical staff are trained and supervised, and that all applicable safety arrangements are implemented and communicated within their area.
Supervisors and Managers (including Academic staff e.g. Principal Investigators)	Ensuring that all people, activities, and research projects they lead are planned, conducted, and supervised safely. This includes ensuring that appropriate risk assessments are completed, that staff and students working under their supervision are competent, trained, and supported, and that all safety requirements relevant to their work are implemented and followed.
All staff	Complying with this Policy and the associated arrangements, instructions and guidance.
The Director of Health and Safety or equivalent position	Advising on the standards and regulations that must be achieved in order to meet legal requirements; for keeping the University's Health and Safety website up to date with the related policy documents; and for ensuring that spot checks and audits are carried out to provide assurance that activities are being carried out in compliance with this Policy.

4. Policy Statement

- 4.1 All agricultural activities carried out by staff and students must be risk assessed against the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive's guidance on safety in agriculture (HSG270) and such risk assessments must be documented, shared with those carrying out such work and must form part of the associated training and supervisory arrangements.
- 4.2 Particular attention must be paid in the risk assessment to specific agricultural risks including: Work equipment (especially moving parts, power take-off shafts and other rotating machinery, conveyors and chainsaws; vehicles and mobile plant (especially the risk of overturning); personal exposure to noise and vibration; risks from overhead cables and underground services; confined spaces such as grain silos and slurry pits; respirable dusts, vapours, fumes and mists; pesticides and veterinary medicines; biological risks (including a number of diseases, known as

Zoonoses, which can be transferred from animals to humans); and, other risks associated with working with livestock or in the proximity of wild animals.

- 4.3 Due consideration must also be given in risk assessments to generic risks (covered in separate University policies) which are also applicable to agricultural activities, including construction related work, working at height, electrical safety, manual handling and lone working.
- 4.4 Where agricultural activities are to be carried out by University staff and students away from University campuses, whether on sites in the UK or overseas, the documented risk assessments must be completed well in advance of such work commencing and must be shared with the appropriate Health and Safety Officer or Health and Safety Adviser so that they can check for completeness and support the individual carrying out the risk assessment as required.
- 4.5 All reasonable steps must be taken to prevent access by members of the public (and children in particular) to areas where agricultural activities are being conducted.
- 4.6 All staff and students involved in agricultural activities must be provided with the required training as identified within the risk assessments and records of training and competence maintained: in particular, those supervising staff and students engaged in agricultural activities must be competent to do so.
- 4.7 The risk assessments must also document any work-wear and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required by staff and students involved in such work, and this should detail the arrangements for the maintenance, storage, cleaning and drying of such PPE.
- 4.8 The risk assessment must also detail the relevant emergency and first aid arrangements required, bearing in mind such work is often carried out in remote areas where communication and access to medical treatment or the emergency services might be challenging.

5. Associated Documents

Health and Safety Executive (2017), *Farmwise: Your essential guide to health and safety in agriculture. HSG270 (Third edition)*. Available at:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg270.pdf>

[Agricultural Activities at the University of Warwick](#)