

# How do you avoid accidents on your farm?

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# Agenda

- Background legal text
- Statistics
- The prevention ladder
- Accidents on cattle farms
- Handling of slurry
- Philip's story
- Handling of animals



**Defective PTO shaft**



**Apron in chemistry room**



**Unsafe cover of well**

# Executive Order on the Working Environment Act

## Purpose and area

### § 1. The Act aims to create

- 1) a safe and healthy physical and mental working environment that is at all times in accordance with technical and social developments in society, and
- 2) a basis for companies to solve safety and health issues themselves with guidance from the labour market organisations and guidance and control from the Danish Working Environment Authority.

The Ministry of Employment's  
Statutory Order no. 2062 of 16  
November 2021

The following post focuses on the physical working environment

# Investing in the working environment is good business

Research and studies show that:

- There is an investment return of up to 12:1 when investing in improvements in the working environment
- It is easier to hire and retain employees
- Safe and well-defined tasks are more time-efficient
- Reduces costs and sick days
- Increases the company's reputation in the local area and with lenders

A good and healthy working environment is good business

# Unfortunate or accident?

- An accident at work is a sudden incident in connection with work that leads to a person being physically or mentally injured
- An accident at work can also be an injury that occurs after an impact that has lasted for a maximum of five days
- An accident is an unintentional incident
- Near accidents are "a warning" or a prelude to an accident

An accident is a series of events that together lead to an accident

# Ulykker statistik

In 2024, a total of 47955 occupational accidents were registered in Denmark

**23% of 47955** registered accidents at work were due to a fall to a lower level or a fall to the same level

**17% of 47955** registered accidents at work were due to physical overload of the body

**2.6% of 47955** registered accidents at work are reported in the industry agriculture, forestry

**75% of 47955** registered accidents at work are expected to be incapacitated for 1-20 days

**25% of 47955** registered accidents at work are expected to be incapacitated for 21 days or more

**29 fatal accidents in 2024**

Definition of serious accidents  
3 weeks of sick leave or more.

# Serious accidents at dairy farmers

- 42% happens when handling cattle
- 19% occurs when working with Machines
- 13% occurs when falling from a height

## ULYKKER HOS MÆLKEPRODUCENTER

Landbruget er én af de brancher, hvor der sker flest alvorlige arbejdsulykker. Ulykkerne fører typisk til brækkede arme og ben, hjernerystelser og knuste hænder. Der sker desværre også mange dødsulykker i landbruget.

42%



af de alvorlige ulykker sker ved håndtering af kvæg

13%



af de alvorlige ulykker sker ved fald fra højden

19%

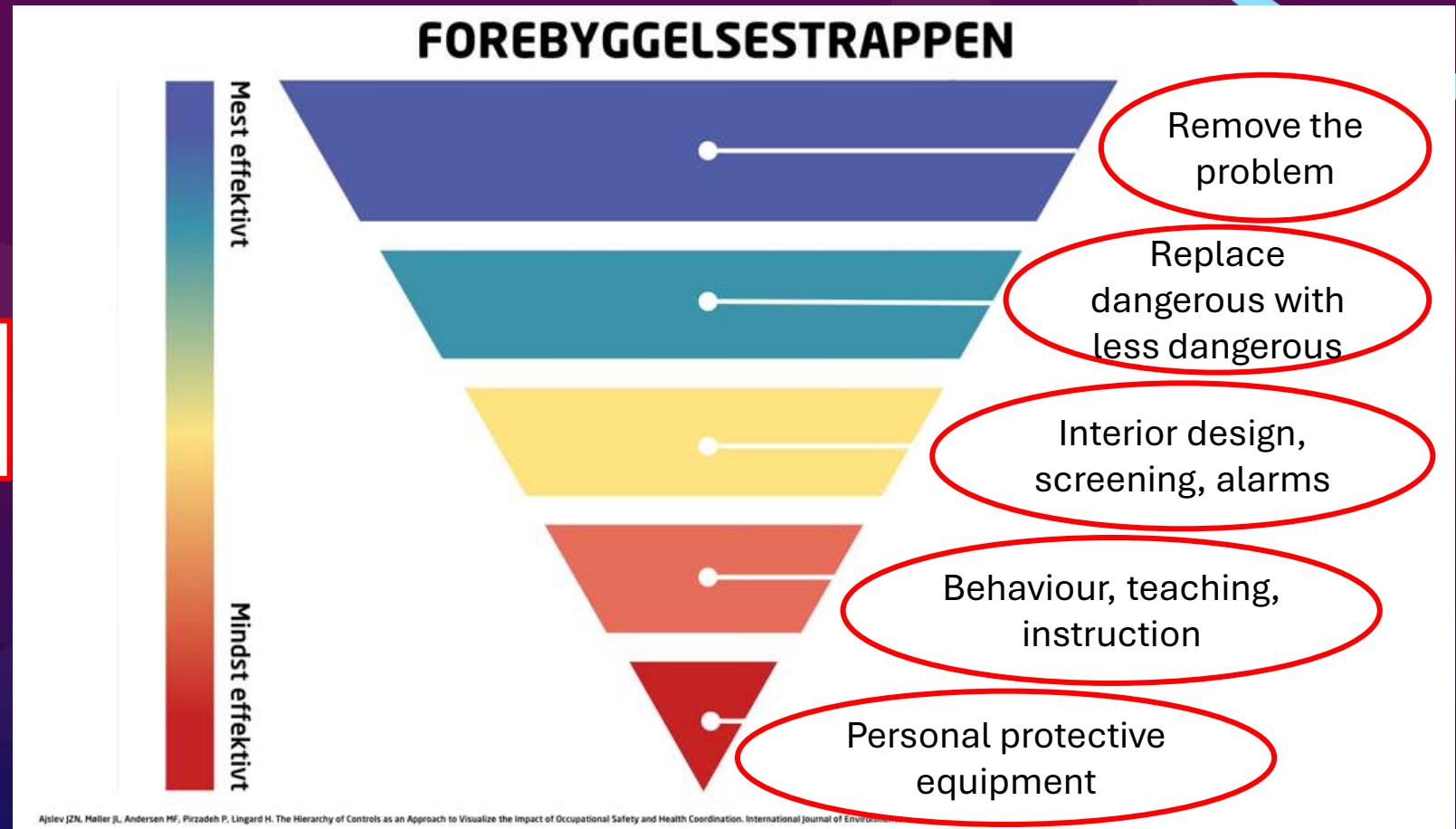


af de alvorlige ulykker sker ved arbejde med maskiner

Der har siden 2012 været en stigning i antallet af ulykker ved håndtering af kvæg. Over halvdelen af ulykkerne med dyr sker for de 16-29 årige.

# The prevention ladder

General working environment model





# Areas to prioritize

- Review the company and identify areas for improvement
- Focus on the facility of the workplace to minimize long-term damage
- Planning work tasks and make a risk assessment on new tasks
- Instruction and training of employees
- Prepare chemical risk assessments when working with substances and materials
- Focus on the psychological working environment, high work pressure over long periods, high demands

# Examples risk decrease



Missing tiles in the milking room



Stairs from the feed barn



Loose hose on the floor



Open well at slurry tank



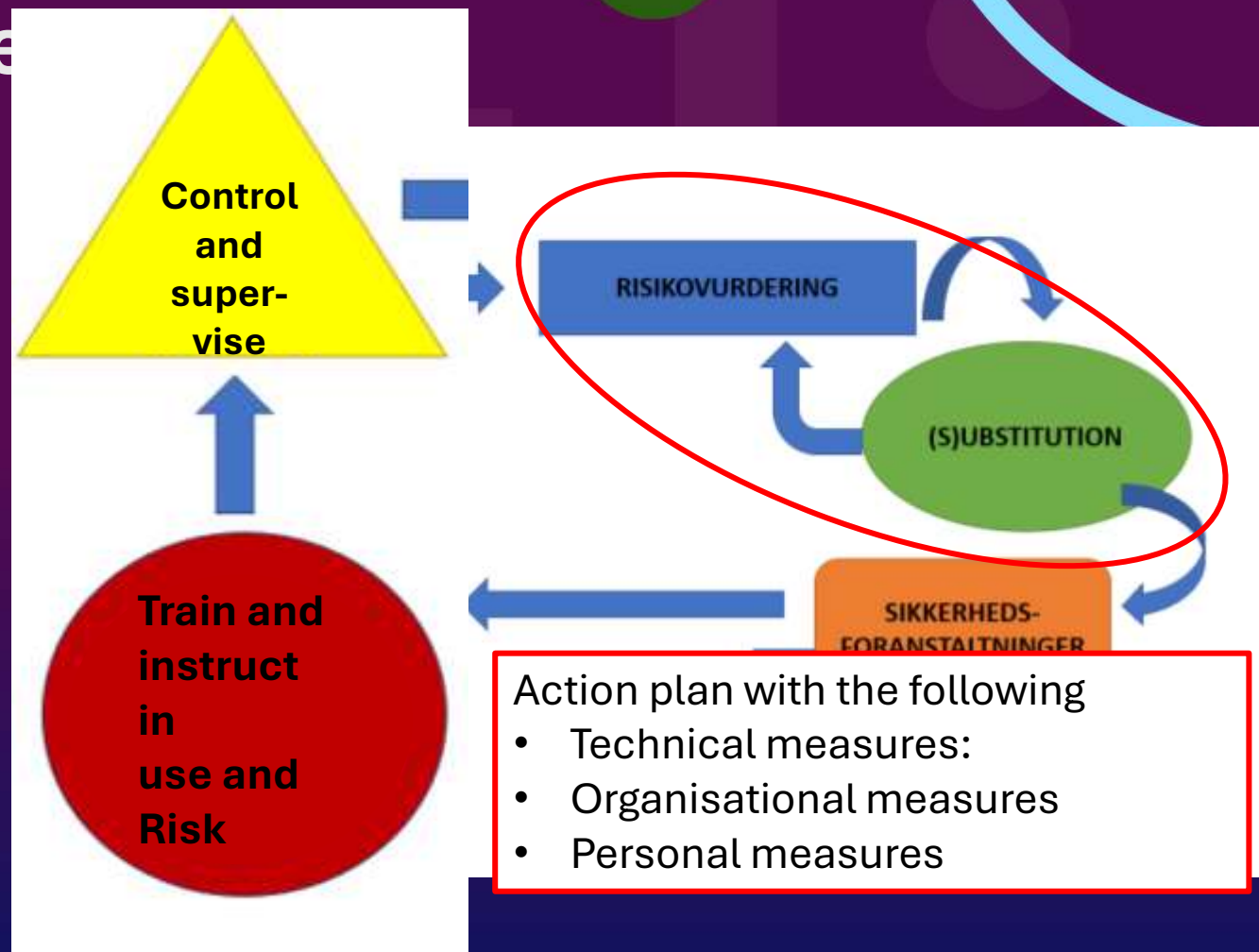
Defective ladder at diesel tank

# Fall to lower level

- <https://www.seges.tv/video/62966801/landmand-slap-heldigt-fra>

# Chemical risk assessment when working with substances and materials

- Evaluate the product based on safety Data Sheet
- Prepare an action plan
- Train and instruct in use and Risk
- Control and supervise



# Handling of slurry

## Risks when handling slurry

In stagnant slurry, hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) is formed

Hydrogen sulphide is colourless and it smells of rotten eggs in low concentrations

Hydrogen sulphide is measured in PPM

- At 100 PPM, the sense of smell is paralyzed
- 500-1000 PPM paralysis of breathing
- 1000 PPM collapse after 2 breaths

# Handling of slurry

- Start the transition furthest away from the slurry pump
- Inform your colleagues that slurry is being sluiced out
- Clean vents (1-2 times a year)
- Problem solving at the slurry pump and slurry cellars requires planning (high risk)
- Risk of high levels of hydrogen sulphide when stirring up slurry tanks



# Handling of slurry

- Remember to inform new employees about the risk of hydrogen sulphide
- Use a hydrogen sulphide alarm when handling slurry, also when stirring slurry tank

**Order a hydrogen sulphide alarm at:**

**+45 40 24 30 81, Kurt S. Mortensen, Byggeri og teknik A/S**



# An ordinary day on 20/9 2022

- 17-year-old Philip was in the process of emptying a barn of machines. During work, he overturns with a skid steer loader and gets pinched nerves in one leg





# Philip's story

October 2022



April 2023



- On 11 October 2022, he took the first

In April  
days a

- **Always remember safety bars**
- **Remember to wear a harness**
- **Never drive with a raised bucket**
- **Never drive on soft and uneven ground**

- Status February 2025

He has started working full time, but he cannot run, and he is in pain on daily basis.

# Handling of animals

## Attention on escape routes

- Furnish the barn with gates and driveways
- The animals must be moved well in advance and not at the last minute – for example, before a calving.
- Collect animals that are to leave the barn in a delivery box. Then they can be moved in good time
- Always have two people to move animals in case something goes wrong
- Establish safe driveways both internally in the barn, between buildings and out to the field

Remember instruction and follow-up on handling animals, especially students and foreign interns

# Take Home

Clean up and ensure that traffic routes are illuminated

Remember the harness on the skid steer loader

Prepare risk assessments

Review slurry systems and risk assessments

Teach new employees how to handle animals

Supervision and control

Focus on near accidents

Avoid falling to a lower level, especially when covering silage

**A good and safe working environment =  
An attractive workplace that retains and attracts  
talented colleagues**



# Thank you for today



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