

ABSTRACT FOR THE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN A NEW CENTURY. NIOSH AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE; 2000 APR 28-30; COOPERSTOWN, NY.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE RATES IN AGRICULTURE IN FINLAND.
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Occupational diseases are compensated to Finnish farmers as part of the mandatory accident insurance system. There were 141,886 insured farmers in 1996; 84,925 of them were male and 56,961 female. 944 occupational diseases were compensated, 510 to males and 434 to females. The incidence rate (occupational diseases/1,000 workers) was 5.9 for males, 7.6 for females and 6.6 overall. The incidence rate was highest in the <20 year age group: 25 for males and 45 for females. The incidence rate declined in the older age groups. The most frequent occupational disease were allergic asthma (159), allergic rhinitis (151), tenosynovitis (146), epicondylitis (126), irritant contact dermatitis (71), hypersensitivity pneumonitis (62), and allergic contact dermatitis (59). The production specific incident rates were 18.1 occupational diseases/1,000 farms in dairy work, 5.4 in swine work, and 2.7 in poultry work. The average length of disability was 26 days during 1996. Many occupational diseases cause lengthy disability periods and the average disability time increased to 64 days when extended disabilities were included up to July 1999. The total amount of compensation payments for new occupational disease cases in 1996 was \$3.54 USD.

Occupational disease, workers compensation