

ABSTRACT FOR THE NORDIC MEETING ON AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH SERVICES, KUOPIO, FINLAND, 8/25-26/2002

INJURIES AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN AGRICULTURE IN FINLAND; COST,
LENGTH OF DISABILITY, AND PREVENTIVE EFFECT OF A NO-CLAIMS BONUS

**Rautiainen Risto¹, Zwerling Craig¹, Sprince Nancy¹, Donham Kelley¹,
Burmeister Leon¹, Ohsfeldt, Robert¹, Phillips Kirk¹, Reynolds Stephen²,
Saarimäki Pentti³, Siitonen Teuvo³, Eskola Erkki³**

¹The University of Iowa, College of Public Health,

Address: Risto Rautiainen, 103 IREH, Oakdale Campus, Iowa City, IA 52317, USA;

²Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA

³Farmers Social Insurance Institution, Espoo, Finland

ABSTRACT

Objectives: To describe costs and lost time from injuries and occupational diseases, and to measure the effect of a no-claims bonus.

Methods: Linear regression, logistic regression, ANOVA, and ARIMA procedures using Finnish MATA-insurance data.

Results: During 1996, there were 10092 injuries (7.37/100 workers) and 830 occupational diseases (0.61/100 workers). The total cost was €23.5 Million (0.7% of gross, 2.2% of net, and 2.5% of insured farm income). The mean cost was €1340 for injuries and €6636 for occupational diseases. The total lost time was 1431 person years (1.04% of total person years). The mean lost time was 185 days for occupational diseases and 37 days for injuries; and 62 days for women and 42 days for men. Severe claims occurred while working with large animals, commuting, transporting, harvesting, grain handling, construction, and forest work; and they were caused by organic dust, saws, sawmills, wood splitters, wood chippers, slippery terrain, scaffoldings, stairs, ladders, power take-offs, roofs, large animals, and vehicles. The no-claims bonus reduced injury claims by about 10%.

Conclusions: High risk work activities and causes were identified, and they should be targeted by prevention. The bonus system reduced claims, which may be due to under-reporting and a preventive effect.