

New York State Offers Assistance to Dairy Farms

The New York State Department of Labor On-Site Consultation Bureau can help Upstate New York dairy farms address safety and health issues before they become a problem. This service will be valuable to farms facing possible OSHA inspections. OSHA adopted a Local Emphasis Program for Dairy Farm Operations on October 1, 2013, which will increase OSHA inspections of Upstate New York dairy farms with 11 employees or more. The State On-Site Consultation Bureau is available to dairy farmers and all businesses who wish to eliminate hazards at their workplace prior to an OSHA inspection or at any time.

Following a request from a farmer, the first step is an on-site consultation to survey the workplace, identify hazards and provide recommendations to abate the hazards. The scope of the visit is determined by the farmer but may include manure pits, horizontal silage, confined spaces, tractors, powered take off devices, electrical, noise levels and working around animals in agricultural settings. Farmers and their employees may also receive free safety trainings. The Bureau can also help farmers develop written programs required for their specific workplace.

The consultation services are free. The results of the consultation are not provided to OSHA except in the rare event that an employer refuses to correct a serious hazard identified by the consultant. Additional information on the New York State On-Site Consultation Bureau and contact information may be found at:

http://www.labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/safetyhealth/DOSH_ONSITE_CONSULTATION.shtm.

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