

# ARE YOU PREPARED?

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Accident Compensation Corporation Statistics (ACC Statistics 2009) show that there are on average 30 sudden deaths on farms each year. These figures are only for accidents on farm. They do not include sudden deaths related to medical conditions.( See Appendix A). Being aware of these statistics highlights the reason why we should all - **Be Prepared** - for the sudden death of a partner.

The result of any death whether it be an accident or from illness is devastating for those that are left behind. Being a widow in a rural business such as farming can be extra challenging. As a farmer you are unable to close the door of your business and leave your stock to fend for themselves while you grieve.

If farming couples discuss what would happen if one partner were to die suddenly and plan for such an event this allows the grieving partner the option to put the planned systems into place, allowing the partner time to grieve without the added pressure of needing to continue with the day to day operation of the farming business.

## **Project objectives**

- To create an awareness of the need to prepare for the unexpected.
- To establish what support there is available for widows in the rural sector.
- To investigate the role of the Rural Professional's when there is a sudden death of a client.
- To understand the role of the Police and Victim Support when a sudden death occurs.