



## Strengthening farm safety – now and for future generations

Farming families are the backbone of the Australian agribusiness sector, owning around 90% of all farms across the nation and representing an estimated \$3.6 trillion in capital value. These businesses manage more than half of Australia’s land, produce much of the nation’s food and supply global markets.

While agriculture represents a relatively modest share of GDP, its broader contribution to employment, regional communities and the economy is profound. This is just one of the ways wealthy families have a significant positive socio-economic impact on Australia, as outlined in our paper [Why the Modern Family Office Matters](#).

Despite this vital contribution, those who live and work in agriculture understand better than anyone that farming is inherently unpredictable. Seasonal pressures, environmental conditions and the day-to-day reality of running a farm mean risk is ever-present and constantly evolving.

As policy, regulation and industry expectations continue to change, farming families have an opportunity to adopt more efficient and structured approaches to safety.

With the right systems in place, families can focus less on paperwork and more on protecting people, preserving legacy and supporting long-term success.

There’s always risk in farming — from the seasons to the pace of the work. Without the right safety structure in place, some of those risks aren’t as visible as they should be.

Our role is to give families this transparency, so they can gain the confidence and freedom to focus on running their business and achieving what matters most.

**Tobias Martin**  
Senior Manager, Agribusiness  
Mutual Trust

## The rise of formal OHS systems in farming business

Farming businesses are becoming larger and more complex, with operations growing in sophistication. Many now involve multiple entities, larger workforces and more structured governance.

While this growth brings new opportunities, it also introduces additional layers of responsibility – particularly in relation to workplace safety.

Auditors, OHS officers and supply-chain partners are increasingly requiring clear evidence that safety risks are not only understood, but actively managed and consistently documented.

Historically, many well-run farming businesses have relied on informal or partially documented safety practices. While effective in supporting day-to-day operations, these approaches are progressively exposing families to risk.

In an environment that is both physically demanding and continuous in nature, this creates a practical challenge. Long hours, seasonal peaks and limited margin for error can leave little time for administration.

In response, many successful farming businesses are moving away from reactive, ad hoc approaches and adopting structured, continuously maintained systems. In doing so, they are better positioned to uphold their family legacy, attract and retain quality staff and strengthen the long-term value of their enterprise.

## A shift from reactive to embedded safety

At Mutual Trust, we understand the realities of farm life and the practical challenges of maintaining safety documentation.

To address this, we help families adopt a structured, proactive and best practice approach to safety that supports compliance requirements.

Our Farm OHS Management service provides a clear and consistent framework that keeps records up-to-date; embeds safety into everyday operations; stands up to external scrutiny and provides visibility and confidence at a family and governance level.

Rather than placing the burden on you or your farm managers to maintain documentation when time allows (alongside a wide range of other tasks) we take responsibility for the system's ongoing administration and data integrity.

This includes:

- Managing staff and contractor onboarding and inductions

Farming is 24/7 – it doesn't stop. When things get busy, safety can easily become something you assume, rather than something you actively manage. Having the right system in place has taken that pressure off and given us real peace of mind.

Family Member  
**Mutual Trust Farming Client**

- Maintaining incident, hazard and maintenance records
- Tracking licences, training and qualifications
- Conducting regular reviews to ensure information remains current
- Providing clear reporting to demonstrate compliance

Underpinning this is a purpose-built agricultural safety platform that centralises records and creates a single source of truth.

### **Supported by a holistic, purpose-driven approach**

Consistent with Mutual Trust’s purpose of helping families achieve what matters most, we support clients to build successful, sustainable farming businesses for generations.

We do this by helping families understand how the farm fits within their broader Purpose of Wealth and what matters most to them across the five facets of the Mutual Trust Gemstone Framework. Through this holistic approach, we ensure the right structures are in place to support long-term success.

**For more than 100 years, farming and land stewardship have been an important focus for Mutual Trust’s founding families and many of our clients. Today, we support families with a broad range of agricultural interests, including livestock, cropping and land management, helping them to navigate changing expectations and manage their businesses with confidence across all seasons and conditions. For a conversation on how Mutual Trust can support your farm safety approach, please contact your Relationship Manager.**

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Mutual Trust acknowledges and pays respect to the past and present Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.