



ice cream directly from the farm. Mackie's operates a Lely robotic milking system with 300 milking cows – a mixture of Holstein, Jersey and Swedish Red. The farm operates three wind turbines and some solar panels. This investment in wind energy helps make the company carbon positive, generating three times the amount of electricity used by the company. Other activities like zero water waste and recycling activities make them very competitive. They are proud of what has been achieved and are highly innovative when it comes to expansion. Their investment in personnel is a key to their success, according to Karin Mackie. They employ 12 people from Poland and the Czech Republic. Mackie's recent initiative is in the chocolate market, with chocolate produced onsite. They have a turnover of €28 million and are one of the top 15 Scottish brands. Proud of their heritage, the company shows no sign of slowing up. It's a wonderful story of diversification and innovation.

Electricity hazards hammered home at launch

Day two of the 2014 National Ploughing Championships featured the launch of ESB Networks' new safety booklet, *Farm Safely With Electricity – It Makes Sense to Check*.

Attended by special guest, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, it was a poignant occasion, as ESB Networks employee Declan Molloy, who lost his life while working on a sub-station just days earlier, was remembered.

Minister Coveney said it is a "sobering and tragic thought" that so far this year on Irish farms, 21 people have lost their lives. This is more than double the number of fatalities on Irish farms up to the same time last year, when there were 10 deaths.

"If we needed a reminder of the kind of heartache that can emerge following accidents with electricity, well then many of you in ESB Networks are trying to manage that heartache because of the loss of one of your colleagues in the last few days," he said. The ESB Networks booklet was created to raise awareness of the potential hazards of electricity on farms, and to promote farm safety. It contains information about the risks involved with electricity, what to watch out for on the farm, what to do in the event of an electrical accident, and more.

Minister Coveney said it was about "de-risking farming and fields, and the way in which farmers interact with machinery, when they are wiring, replacing cables, or adding to existing cables".

"It is about highlighting the need to avoid shortcuts that so many of us have taken in the past that compromise our safety and the safety of other people," he said.

Director of Group, People and



Minister Simon Coveney pictured at the launch of ESB Networks' new safety booklet.

Sustainability at ESB, Pat Naughton, spoke of the "deep impact" that Declan's death has had on the company. "It is a matter of great sadness that recently, a member of staff, Declan Molloy, lost his life. That is the context in which we launch this booklet. Electricity is a powerful force of nature that brings its own hazards. "This booklet has been developed to remind farmers to stay safe, both in relation to the electricity network and their own electrical installations." He urged people, and farmers especially, to take their time to read and study the booklet.

Farm safety was a major theme of ESB Networks' stand at the National Ploughing Championships this year. Electrocution was the cause of 66 deaths in Ireland between 1995 and 2013 and, of these, 31 were on the customer side and 38 were on the networks side.