



Dual wheels will keep ATVs upright

John and Deborah McIntyre, who farm at Nuhaka in the Hawke's Bay, say that if anyone feels strongly about safety on their farm and hence ATV use, then they should be fitting dual wheels to their 4WD motorbikes.

They believe Roger Barton's article in the September issue of Country-Wide (page 7) regarding ATV safety raised some good points, but they have a view on ATV safety to share.

"I think he and most others have missed what I consider one of the most influential tools in reducing the risk of ATV roll-over and therefore significantly making ATV a lot more safe to use - that is the use of dual wheels on 4WD motorbikes," McIntyre says.

"Dual wheels will stop an ATV bike from rolling over 99% of the time.

"Mr Barton's article talks about helmets, roll-over protection, seatbelts - and I have seen an article asking for a mechanism that warns a rider when the bike is unstable.

"All of these are unpractical and that's why in the offending photo (see inset of farmers without helmets riding on ATVs at a Homewood field day), no one is wearing a helmet and why helmet use is limited.



■ The McIntyre family feel safe with dual wheels on their ATVs.

"My analogy is that a helmet is the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff (and really only helps prevent head injuries) whereas dual wheels stop you from going over the cliff.

"I get frustrated seeing all the news media asking for ways to make 4WD motorbikes safer when there is something that does.

"My father and I farm on a sheep and beef farm on hill country in the

northern Hawke's Bay and we have them on both our ATVs. It almost feels naked when we go around the farm without them on.

"Dual wheels do have extra costs associated with them but that is nothing compared to the cost of losing a life or a broken back. We had the Department of Labour up for a visit and he was very impressed because it was all about minimising the risk."



"My analogy is that a helmet is the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff ... whereas dual wheels stop you from going over the cliff."