Mortality and incidence studies have suggested that agricultural workers may be at an increased risk for some cancers including non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (NHL). We used a death certificate-based case-control study design to investigate whether farmers in Taiwan had an increased risk of dying from NHL (ICD-9 codes 200 and 202). Data on all deaths of Taiwan residents were obtained from the Taiwan Death Certification Registry. Cases were deaths from NHL that occurred between 1997 and 2009 who were at least 50 years of age at death. Controls were deaths from all causes other than cancers. From each death certificate we extracted information on sex, marital status, year of birth, year of death, cause of death, county of residence, and usual occupation. The mortality odds ratio (MOR) and their 95% confidence interval (CI) were calculated using logistic regression models. From 1997 to 2009, a total of 32 456 deceased farmers were identified. Of these 32 456 decedents, 205 deaths were coded as NHL. Farmers were at a slightly but statistically non-significant excess risk of NHL (dMOR=1.11, 95% CI=0.96–1.29) compared to nonfarmers. The MOR for NHL among farmers was higher among those who died at ages 65 or older (dMOR=1.25, 95% CI=1.06–1.48) than those who died at younger ages (dMOR=0.81, 95% CI=0.60–1.10). Further investigation of NHL among farmers is warranted.

Oral Presentation
Dusts and Fibres

0104 CURRENT AND FUTURE ASBESTOS EXPOSURE RISKS IN AUSTRALIA
Alison Reid. Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, Australia

To be presented in an accepted mini-symposium.

Background Australia mined, and manufactured asbestos and imported asbestos products. More than 90% of this asbestos was used in the form of asbestos cement, which was used in the construction of private, public and residential properties, including fencing. Today there is a legacy of in situ asbestos throughout the built environment. The aim of this study was to identify possible sources of current and future asbestos exposure from the built environment.

Methods A review of the literature and telephone interviews with environmental health officers, asbestos removalists and assessors across the country, sought information about common exposure scenarios encountered.

Results Substantial amounts of asbestos remain in situ throughout the Australian built environment. Potential current and future sources of exposure risk to the public are from asbestos-cement containing roofs and fences, unsafe asbestos removal practices, illegal dumping and do-it-yourself home renovations.

Conclusion Consistent approaches in the regulation and enforcement of safe practice for the management and removal of asbestos is needed across all states, to ensure that in situ asbestos in the built environment is managed safely.