1. Background
Farmers are at highest risk of occupational skin diseases. Therefore, prevention should start at the earliest phase: during farmers’ vocational training.

2. Study settings and Aims
In order to identify risk factors for farm work-related skin diseases, a nationwide study of Polish farming students was carried out in 2001 and 2002.

3. Study group
- 304 random students of 11 agricultural schools consented to participate in the study (participation rate 98%).
- The schools were at least 100 km from each another.
- The participants were 160 men and 144 women, aged from 17–21 years.

4. Methods
- The examinations included questionnaire, skin prick tests, patch tests, total IgE, farm-animal specific IgE and Phadiatop.
- For each of 144 variables, odds ratios (OR) were calculated (Mantel-Haenszel).
- Logistic regression model was used for the identification of main determining factors.

5. Results
- Skin diseases related to farm work were diagnosed in 18 of 304 farming students (5.9%, 95% CI: 3.3–8.6%):
  - contact dermatitis in 10 students (3.3%, 95%CI: 1.3–5.3%),
  - contact urticaria in 4 students (1.3%, 95%CI: 0.03–2.6%),
  - both dermatitis and urticaria in 4 students (1.3%, 95%CI: 0.03–2.6%)

Conclusions:
- Asking simple questions at the initial health check is sufficient for identifying farming students at risk for work-related dermatitis.
- Asking simple questions combined with simple allergy testing (SPT, Phadiatop) is sufficient for identifying farming students at risk for work-related urticaria.