



2006 Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatalities

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Twenty-six fatalities related to farm work or work site hazards occurred in Wisconsin in 2006, compared to 30 fatalities in 2005 and 25 in 2004. Wisconsin has averaged 28 such fatalities per year over the past five years.

Fatalities	2006	2005	2004
Number	26	30	25

According to the National Safety Council, agriculture is consistently one of the three most hazardous industries in the U.S. (along with mining and construction), with an estimated 626 work deaths in 2006 and a fatality rate of 28.7 deaths per 100,000 workers. This compares with 4988 fatalities for all U.S. industries combined, with a death rate of 3.4 per 100,000.

Farm-Related Fatality Definition

Farm-related fatalities are defined as unintentional deaths resulting from injury or environmental factors involving farm work or hazards of the farm work site. Fatalities resulting from heart attacks, recreational activities, home-related activities, or most motor vehicle injuries, are not included in this definition.

Types of Farm-Related Fatalities

Farm tractors were involved in ten (38%) of the 26 fatalities. Other farm machines were involved in seven (27%) fatalities. Trucks/Vehicles accounted for three (12%) fatalities. Falls accounted for two (8%) fatalities. Confined space (silo) and animals (bull attack) accounted for one fatality (4%) each. The other two (8%) remaining fatalities resulted from a victim being pinned under a large round bale and woodcutting.

Fatalities	2006	2005	2004
Tractors	10	16	7
Farm machines	7	3	5
Trucks/Vehicles	3	1	0
Falls	2	3	3
Confined Spaces	1	2	2
Animals	1	4	7
Other	2	1	1
Total	26	30	25

Farm Tractor-Related Fatalities

Farm tractors were involved in ten farm fatalities in 2006, compared with sixteen in 2005 and seven in 2004. Tractor rollovers (overturns) accounted for four of the (40%) of the tractor fatalities. Runovers/falls (being runover by the tractor, and/or falling from it) accounted for six (60%) of the tractor fatalities.

Tractor	2006	2005	2004
Rollovers	4	8	6
Runovers/Falls	6	5	1
Other	0	3	0
Total	10	16	7

Machine-Related Fatalities

Farm machines other than tractors were involved in ten fatalities in 2006, compared to three in 2005 and four in 2004. Entanglements in the machinery (baler and power-take off of bale chopper) were involved in two (29%) of the fatalities. The victim being pinned by the machinery accounted for three (43%) of the fatalities. These incidents included the victim being pinned between an excavator and a skid steer loader; pinned under a corn chopper; and pinned under a chopper box. One (14 %) fatality resulted when the victim fell out of a skid steer loader bucket and was runover. The final farm machine-related incident (14%) involved the victim being thrown from an ATV.

Machines	2006	2005	2004
Entanglement	0	1	1
Pinned	2	0	0
Runovers	0	1	1
Other	1	3	2
Total	3	5	4

County of Occurrence

In 2006, farm-related fatalities were reported in 18 counties. One county had three fatalities, six counties had two fatalities and eleven counties had one fatality.

Brown	1	Green	1
Buffalo	1	Richland	1
Crawford	1	Rusk	1
Dane	3	Sauk	2
Dodge	1	St. Croix	1
Dunn	2	Trempealeau	1
Eau Claire	1	Vernon	1
Fond du Lac	1	Walworth	2
Grant	1	Waupaca	2

Month of Occurrence

Five fatalities occurred in the month of October. February and December were the only months without a fatality. The distribution of occurrence is given below. (Month of occurrence is when the injury occurred; the victim may have died later.)

January	1	July	3
February	0	August	1
March	3	September	2
April	2	October	5
May	2	November	4
June	3	December	0

Age and Gender of Victims

All victims were male.

Persons age 65 and older accounted for eleven (43%) of the victims. Persons age 45-64 accounted for six (23%) of the victims. The following table gives the age distribution using standard National Safety Council age categories, with expanded categories below age 25.

Age	Number	Percent
0-4	2	8.0%
5-9	0	0.0%
10-14	1	4.0%
15-19	1	4.0%
20-24	2	8.0%
25-44	3	12.0%
45-64	6	23.0%
65+	11	42.0%
Total	30	100.0%

Data Sources

Clippings from Wisconsin daily and weekly newspapers; Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Bureau of Health Information death certificate registry; county coroners' and sheriffs' reports; National Agricultural Statistics Service Farm Labor Reports; and National Safety Council Injury Facts, 2006-07.

Further Information:

Previous [Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatalities](#) reports and other safety materials can be found on the UW Center for Agricultural Safety and Health website at <http://wiscash.uwex.edu>.



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