



2005 Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatalities

Cheryl A. Skjolaas, Ron Schuler,
Hallie Kirschner, and Sherry Liantonio
UW Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
Department of Biological Systems Engineering
University of Wisconsin-Extension/Madison

Thirty fatalities related to farm work or work site hazards occurred in Wisconsin in 2005, compared to 25 fatalities in 2004 and 37 in 2003. Wisconsin has averaged 29 such fatalities per year over the past five years.

The 2005 Wisconsin farm fatality rate (number of fatalities per 100,000 workers) was 45, based on an estimated average of 66,843 workers in production agriculture in Wisconsin in 2005 (including farm operators, unpaid family labor, and hired workers, but excluding service workers hired through agricultural labor contractors). This compares to rates of 35 and 48 for 2004 and 2003, respectively. (Note: Number of workers in 2005 based on linear regression of 1996-2001 totals reported by National Agricultural Statistics Service, which no longer collects such data.)

| Fatalities | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|------------|------|------|------|
| Number | 30 | 25 | 37 |
| Rate* | 45 | 35 | 48 |

* (per 100,000 workers)

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 642 work deaths in 2004 and a fatality rate of 29.2 deaths per 100,000 workers. This compares with 4952 fatalities for all U.S. industries combined, with a death rate of 3.5 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 sixteen (53%) of the 30 fatalities. Other farm machines were also involved in three (10%) fatalities. Animals were also involved in four (13%) fatalities. Falls accounted for three (10%) fatalities. Confined space (grain bin and feed bin) accounted for two (7%) fatalities. Trucks/vehicles accounted for one (3%) fatality. The remaining one (3%) fatality resulted from a victim being pinned under a large round hay bale.

| Fatalities | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| Tractors | 16 | 7 | 10 |
| Farm machines | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| Confined Spaces | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Falls | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Animals | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| Trucks/Vehicles | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Total | 30 | 25 | 37 |

Farm Tractor-Related Fatalities

Farm tractors were involved in sixteen farm fatalities in 2005, compared with seven in 2004 and ten in 2003. Tractor rollovers (overturns) accounted for eight (50%) of the tractor fatalities. Runovers/falls (being run over by the tractor, and/or falling from it) accounted for five (31%) of the tractor fatalities. Other tractor fatalities included three (19%) fatalities from being pinned by a tractor.

| Tractor | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| Rollovers | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| Runovers/Falls | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Other | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 16 | 7 | 10 |

Machine-Related Fatalities

Farm machines other than tractors were involved in three fatalities in 2005, compared with five in 2004 and twelve in 2003. Two fatalities involved skid steers and the other fatality involved a barn cleaner.

| Machines | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Entanglement | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Pinned | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Runovers | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Other | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Total | 3 | 5 | 12 |

Animal-Related Fatalities

Animals were involved with four fatalities. One victim was attacked by a bull on pasture. One victim was trampled by a cow and struck his head. Feeder cattle were involved with one fatality and the other fatality indicated herding cattle and an animal fell on the victim.

County of Occurrence

In 2005, farm-related fatalities were reported in 24 counties. One county had three fatalities, four counties had two fatalities and twenty counties had one fatality.

| | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|---|
| Burnett | 2 | LaCrosse | 2 |
| Chippewa | 1 | Lafayette | 1 |
| Clark | 1 | Manitowoc | 1 |
| Crawford | 1 | Milwaukee | 1 |
| Dane | 1 | Oconto | 1 |
| Dunn | 1 | Racine | 1 |
| Grant | 2 | Richland | 1 |
| Green | 1 | Sauk | 1 |
| Iowa | 1 | Taylor | 1 |
| Juneau | 1 | Vernon | 1 |
| Kenosha | 1 | Waupaca | 3 |
| Kewaunee | 2 | Winnebago | 1 |

Month of Occurrence

Five fatalities occurred in the month of July. August was the only month without a fatality. The distribution by month of occurrence is given below. (Month of occurrence is when the injury occurred; the victim may have died later.)

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

Age and Gender of Victims

Twenty-seven of the victims were male and three were female. Two of the three female victims were youth.

Persons age 45-64 accounted for twenty-one (70%) of the victims. Persons age 65 and older accounted fifteen (50%) of the victims. Youth under the age of nine accounted for three (10%) 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 | 1 | 3.0% |
| 5-9 | 2 | 7.0% |
| 10-14 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 15-19 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 20-24 | 2 | 7.0% |
| 25-44 | 3 | 10.0% |
| 45-64 | 7 | 23.0% |
| 65+ | 15 | 50.0% |
| Total | 30 | 100.0% |

Data Sources

Clippings from Wisconsin daily and weekly newspapers; Wisconsin Department of Health and Family 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, 2005-06.

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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