

1949

Fatal Farm Accidents In Wisconsin

A five year record of fatal farm accidents in Wisconsin has shown a gradual decrease from 168 deaths in 1945 to 128 in 1949. Nevertheless, the toll of life, suffering, and expense from needless farm accidents is still too high.

This summary of fatal farm accidents in 1949 was compiled from newspaper clippings from all Wisconsin daily and weekly newspapers. There are, in addition, hundreds of permanent injury and thousands of lost-time accidents.

Individual county statistics will be sent upon request, to those promoting community or county-wide safety programs.

Total	Cause												
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
41	Machinery	2	1	-	7	1	5	6	6	6	1	3	3
17	Falls	1	1	3	1	-	-	3	3	-	3	-	2
15	Fire	1	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	2	-	6	1
13	Animals	-	-	-	2	-	3	3	-	2	-	-	-
11	Drowning	-	-	1	1	2	2	3	-	2	-	-	-
7	Traffic	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	1	1	-	-
6	Woodcutting	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3	Falling Object	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
3	Explosion	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
3	Electrocution	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
2	Lightning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
2	Asphyxiation-Suffocation	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1	Firearms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1	Poisonous Gases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1	Cave-In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1	Haying	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1	Small Tools (Pitchfork)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
128	All Causes	5	6	7	14	8	12	18	11	19	11	10	7

Analysis

Machinery

Tractor	26
Saw	4
Truck	2
Manure Spreader	2
Feed Cutter	2
Threshing Machine	1
Combine	1
Corn Chopper	1
Corn Picker	1
Manure Carrier Boom	1
Total	41

Animals

Horses	6
Bulls	5
Cows	2
Total	13

Falls

From Load of Hay	3
From Hay Mow	3
On Ice	3
Down Basement Stairs	2
From Barn Roof	1
From House Roof	1
From Scaffold	1
From Ladder	1
From Truck	1
From Farm Trailer	1
Total	17

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Fatal Tractor Accidents In Wisconsin

Of the 41 fatal machinery accidents recorded from newspaper clippings, 46 were fatal tractor accidents.

Analysis of the causes of the 26 fatal tractor accidents:

13	Tractor Tipped over	(Boys aged 14, 14, 14, 15; Man age unknown, 19, 27, 30, 33, 45, 55, 58, 70)
5	Extra Passengers	(Boys 3 ½, 4, 7; Girls 1 ½, 7)
2	Operator fell from tractor	(Men 56, 69)
2	Run over by tractor	(Men 48, 79)
1	Clothing entangled in gears	(Man 64)
1	Tractor Fender Collapsed (Extra Passenger fell)	(Man 25)
1	Tractor hit by freight train	(Man 37)
1	Operating tractor (no details)	(Man 62)
26	Total	

Analysis According to age for the 26 fatalities:

Age	65-Over	45-64	25-44	15-24	5-14	Under 5	Age Unknown
Male	3	7	5	2	4	2	1
Female	-	-	-	-	1	1	-

Months in Which Fatal Tractor Accidents Occurred:

January	1	July	5
February	-	August	4
March	-	September	3
April	6	October	-
May	1	November	2
June	4	December	-
		TOTAL	26

Farm Safety Office – Agricultural Engineering Department – College of Agriculture