

1973

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin

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Fifty-nine Wisconsin Citizens lost their lives in farm accidents in 1973. This is the lowest farm accident death loss recorded in the state in the past 29 years.

Figure 1 shows a gradual decrease in the number of fatal farm accidents since 1945. Fatalities involving fires, falls, and animals were very common during the five year period 1945-1949, accounting for 39 percent of the total, while in 1973 they accounted for 5 percent of the total. In 1973, machinery was involved in 81 percent of the fatal accidents, but 73 percent of the tractor deaths were caused by upsets.

Only some accident costs can be measured. Fatal farm accidents and injuries from accidents mean time lost from work, decreased earning power, decreased efficiency, damage to equipment, and crop loss.

Safety therefore needs to be a continuous concern. We need to increase our efforts to reduce or eliminate hazards and to learn how to avoid hazards which cannot be eliminated. It is clear that voluntary safety programs are necessary, as approximately 90 percent of the accidents to rural Wisconsin residents involved the farm family.

What will the fatal farm accident situation be in the future? Only the farm people of Wisconsin can answer this question.

Figure 1

Year	Number Fatalities
1945	168
1946	156
1947	145
1948	134
1949	128
1950	124
1951	115
1952	114
1953	102
1954	99
1955	89
1956	95
1957	94
1958	81
1959	89
1960	103
1961	93
1962	86
1963	100
1964	85
1965	81
1966	93
1967	75
1968	65
1969	77
1970	75
1971	68
1972	79
1973	59

Loss of life, suffering, and financial loss can be reduced if we recognize the problem and make plans to stay alive.

Accident Summary 1973

Yearly summaries of fatal farm accidents are based on reports from all Wisconsin daily and weekly newspapers, with further verification and details obtained from county agents, agricultural teachers, and similar sources.

In addition to fatal accidents, hundreds of permanent-injury and thousands of lost-time accidents occur each year.

For persons promoting community or county-wide safety programs, individual county statistics are available from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tractor and machinery accidents caused most of the farm accident fatalities in 1973. Tractors were involved in 35 of the 59 deaths in 1973, and machinery in 13 of the fatalities. Figure 2 shows the total and monthly fatalities by types of accident.

Figure 2

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
35	Tractor	-	1	2	2	4	3	5	8	4	2	3	1
13	Machinery	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	3	3	2	-
2	Woodcutting	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
1	Strangulation	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Burns	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Traffic	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1	Lightning	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1	Falling Object	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1	Poisonous Gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1	Suffocation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
59	All Types	1	3	2	5	5	4	8	9	7	8	5	2

Table 1 gives a breakdown of the tractor and machinery accidents shown in Figure 2.

Table 1: Number of Fatalities According to Type of Accident

Breakdown

Tractor & Machinery

Tractor	35
Chopper Wagon	4
Elevator	2
Wagon	2
Auger	1
Combine	1
Corn Chopper	1
Corn Picker	1
Utility End Loader	1
Total	48

Fatal Tractor Accidents 1973

Tractor accidents were responsible for 35 (59 percent) of the 59 fatal farm accidents in 1973. Tables 2, 3, and 4 give the type of accident, age and sex of the victims, and months the accidents occurred.

Table 2. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Type and Age

19	Tractor Tipped Over	Boys	11, 15, 16, 17
		Men	21, 27, 37, 43, 46, 47, 52, 53, 58, 60, 63, 65, 67, 68, 78
6	Extra Passenger	Boys	9, 10, 13, 15
		Girls	2 ½, 8
5	Power-take-off	Women	28
		Men	37, 46, 56, 57
3	Run Over By	Girl	9
		Men	37, 46, 56, 57
1	Fell From	Man	70
1	Miscellaneous (type not identified)	Man	64
35	Fatal Tractor Accidents		

Table 3. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Age Group and Sex

Total	Age	65- Over	45-65	25-44	20-24	15-19	10-14	5-9	Under 5
31	Male	5	13	4	1	4	3	1	-
4	Female	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1

Table 4. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Months

January	-	July	4
February	1	August	8
March	2	September	4
April	2	October	2
May	4	November	3
June	3	December	1

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