

1975
Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin
Donald V. Jensen

Seventy-One Wisconsin citizens lost their lives in farm accidents in 1975. Accidents involving tractors were 52% of the total, and machinery accidents were 15%. In 1974, tractor accidents were 53% and machinery 12% of the total. Sixty fatal farm accidents occurred in 1974- one of the lowest totals recorded.

The graph [table] below shows the number of fatal farm accidents since 1945. During the five-year period 1945-1949, fatalities involving fires, falls, and animals were 39% of the total. In 1975, fires and animals were excluded making falls responsible for 8% of the total.

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin

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
1974	60
1975	71

Accidents costs such as time lost from work, decreased earning power, decreased efficiency, damage to equipment, and crop lost can be measured. In addition, there is suffering, grief, and loss of life.

Safety must be a continuous concern. We need to increase our efforts to eliminate hazards and learn how to avoid those which cannot be eliminated. Voluntary safety programs are necessary. More than 90% of the accidents to rural Wisconsin residents involved the farm family which is exempt from rules and regulations.

Accident Summary 1975

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, implement dealers and similar sources.

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

During 1976, a farm accident study was conducted in 21 Wisconsin counties. This study, which is similar to the 1969-70 study, will provide a complete picture of the accident situation in rural Wisconsin.

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 53706.

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

Table 1. Number of Fatalities Involving Machinery

Tractor	37
Corn Picker	3
Chopper	2
Manure Spreader	2
Elevator	1
Hay Baler	1
Wagon	1
Miscellaneous	1
Total	48

Table 2. Type of Accident and Total Fatalities by Month for 1975

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
37	Tractor	-	1	-	3	1	5	4	1	8	9	4	1
11	Machinery	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	2	1	1
6	Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	1	-
4	Poisonous Gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
3	Animal	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
3	Falling Object	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
3	Woodcutting	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
1	Drowning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Electrocution	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Motor Vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1	Strangulation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
71	All Types	1	2	1	3	3	8	11	6	13	13	6	4

Fatal Tractor Accidents 1975

Tractor Accidents were responsible for 37 (52%) of the 71 fatal farm accidents in 1975. Tables 3 and 4 give the type of accident, age and sex of the victims.

Table 3. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Age Group and Sex

Total	Sex	65-Over	45-64	25-44	20-24	15-19	10-14	5-9	Under 5
32	Male	8	5	10	1	5	2	-	1
5	Female	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2

Table 4. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Type and Age

23	Tractor Tipped Over	Girl	13
		Boys	13, 14, 15
		Men	19, 24, 28, 30, 33, 34, 41, 41, 41, 53, 57, 62, 65, 68, 69, 72, 75, 77, 84
5	Extra Passenger	Girls	3, 5, 5
		Boy	16
		Man	31
5	Pinned Between Tractor and Other	Boy	15
		Men	25, 43, 51, 58
2	Run Over by Tractor	Girl	17 mo.
		Boy	13 mo.
2	Power-Take-Off	Boy	15
		Man	71
37	Fatal Tractor Accidents		

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This publication is revised.