

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin 1976
Donald V. Jensen

Sixty-one Wisconsin residents lost their lives in farm work accidents in 1976. This total is one of the lowest recorded as shown on the graph below. Tractor accidents accounted for 41 percent of the total and machinery accidents 23 percent. The number of tractor fatalities in 1976 (25) is the lowest recorded in the past ten years.

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin

Year	Number of Fatalities	Year	Number of Fatalities
1945	168	1961	93
1946	156	1962	86
1947	145	1963	100
1948	134	1964	85
1949	128	1965	81
1950	124	1966	93
1951	115	1967	75
1952	114	1968	65
1953	102	1969	77
1954	99	1970	75
1955	89	1971	68
1956	95	1972	79
1957	94	1973	59
1958	81	1974	60
1959	89	1975	71
1960	103	1976	61

Some accident costs such as medical, replacement help, and property damage can be measured. In addition, accidents can mean time lost from work, decreased earning power, decreased efficiency, and crop loss. These costs plus loss of life, suffering, and financial loss can be reduced if we effectively organize farm accident prevention programs.

Safety must be a continuous concern. We must increase our efforts to reduce or eliminate hazards and learn how to avoid hazards which cannot be eliminated. It is evident that strong voluntary programs are needed, as approximately 90 percent of the farm accidents involve only the farm family. What will the situation be in the future? Only the farm people of Wisconsin can answer this question.

During 1976 a farm accident study was conducted on 1679 farms in 20 counties. The results of this study (A2375) are available at county Extension offices.

Accident Summary 1976

Yearly summaries of fatal farm work accidents are based on reports from all Wisconsin daily and weekly newspapers, with further verification from county Extension agents, agricultural teachers, and others.

In 1976, tractor and machinery accidents accounted for 64 percent of the fatal farm accidents. Tractors were involved in 25 of the 61 deaths in 1976 and machinery in 14 of the fatalities. Thirteen of the fatal tractor accidents involving tipping. The tables in this report show the types of fatal accidents, a breakdown of the tractor and machinery accidents, and the breakdown of tractor accidents by age and months.

Individual county statistics are available from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 53706.

Table 1. Number of Fatalities Involving Machinery

Tractor	25	Front End Loader	1
Chopper Wagon	2	Hay Baler	1
Blower	1	Hay Wagon	1
Bunk Feeder	1	Saw Rig	1
Carrot Harvester	1	Silo Feeder	1
Conveyor	1	Trailer	1
Corn Chopper	1	Wagon	1
		Total	39

Table 2. Type of Accident and Total Fatalities by Month for 1976

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
25	Tractor	-	-	2	-	7	8	1	2	2	3	-	-
14	Machinery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	3	2
5	Woodcutting	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
4	Animal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
3	Suffocation*	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
2	Falling Object	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Electrocution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
1	Explosion	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1	Silo Gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1	Motor Vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1	Strangulation	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Cave-In**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
61	All Types	0	3	5	0	8	10	3	6	9	7	5	5

*2 trapped in corn storage bin, 1 chopped straw stack fell on him

**earth ditch

Table 3. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Age Group and Sex

		65- Over	45-64	25-44	20-24	15-19	10-14	5-9	Under 5
25	Male	7	7	4	1	2	2	2	-
0	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Type and Age

13	Tractor Tipped Over	Boys Men	5, 8, 16 19, 31, 38, 43, 48, 55, 59, 64, 67, 87
3	Power Take-Off	Men	20, 70, 71
3	Run Over by Tractor	Men	29, 61, 76
2	Extra Passengers	Boy Man	11 71
2	Pinned Between Tractor and Other	Men	51, 85
1	Fell From Tractor	Boy	11
1	Miscellaneous	Man	52
25	Fatal Tractor Accidents		

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