

1977
Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin
Donald V. Jensen

Some accident costs, such as medical, replacement help, and property damage, can be determined. Hidden costs may include time lost from work, decreased earning power, decreased efficiency and crop loss. These costs plus suffering and loss of life can be reduced if we effectively organize farm accident prevention programs.

Sixty-nine Wisconsin farm residents lost their lives in farm work accidents in 1977. This total is the second highest in the past five years.

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
1976	61
1977	69

Safety must be a continuous concern. Efforts to reduce or eliminate hazards must be increased, and we must learn how to avoid hazards which cannot be eliminated. It is evident that strong voluntary programs are needed, as about 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, Wisconsin Farm Accidents), other farm safety publications, and suggestions for safety programs are available at County University of Wisconsin-Extension offices.

Accident Summary 1977

In 1977, tractor and machinery accidents accounted for 68 percent of the fatal farm accidents. Tractors were involved in 33 of the 69 deaths in 1977, and machinery in 14 of the fatalities. Fifteen of the fatal tractor accidents involved tipping. The tables in this report show the types of fatal farm accidents, a breakdown of the tractor and machinery accidents, and the breakdown of tractor accidents by age and month.

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 teacher, and others.

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

Table 1. Number of Fatalities Involving Machinery

Tractor	33	Corn Picker	1
Power-Take off	4	Drag	1
Bale Elevator	1	Forage Harvester	1
Bunk Feeder Auger	1	Hay Wagon	1
Chain Saw	1	Manure Spreader	1
Corn Elevator	1	Silage Auger	1
		Total	47

Table 2. Wisconsin Fatal Farm Accident Summary for 1977

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
33	Tractor	-	2	1	3	4	2	6	6	1	6	-	2
14	Machinery	-	1	-	2	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	4
6	Falls	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
4	Electrocution	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
3	Animal	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2	Suffocation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
2	Falling Object	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Hay Rope	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
1	Motor Vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1	Woodcutting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1	Poisonous Gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
69	All Types	1	6	2	6	4	5	9	10	2	12	4	8

1977 Fatal Tractor Accidents in Wisconsin

Of the 47 fatal machinery accidents recorded from newspaper clippings, 33 were fatal tractor accidents.

Table 3. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Type and Age

15	Tractor Tipped Over	Boys	11, 13, 16, 17
		Men	23, 37, 41, 48, 51, 57, 57, 70, 75, 78
		Women	58
7	Run Over By	Men	20, 52, 53, 54, 61, 68, 75
4	Extra Passengers	Boys	2 ½, 6, 13, 14
1	Power-Take-Off	Men	23
3	Between Tractor and	Boy	13
	Other	Men	62, 76
1	On Highway	Boy	17
2	Miscellaneous	Men	68, 72
33	Fatal Tractor Accidents		

Table 4. 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	9	2	3	3	5	1	1
1	Female	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Month

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

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