

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin
Donald V. Jensen

Year	Number of Fatalities	Year	Number of Fatalities
1945	168	1962	86
1946	156	1963	100
1947	145	1964	85
1948	134	1965	81
1949	128	1966	93
1950	124	1967	75
1951	115	1968	65
1952	114	1969	77
1953	102	1970	75
1954	99	1971	68
1955	89	1972	79
1956	95	1973	59
1957	94	1974	60
1958	81	1975	71
1959	89	1976	61
1960	103	1977	69
1961	93	1978	48

Forty-eight Wisconsin farm residents lost their lives in farm work accidents in 1978 – The lowest number in the past 35 years. Farm tractors were involved in 23 fatal accidents. This figure is the lowest in the past 30 years. The tables in this report show the types of farm accidents, a breakdown of tractor and machinery accidents, and the breakdown of tractor and machinery accidents, and the breakdown of tractor accident by age, month, and type of accident.

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

Accident prevention continues to be a major concern of farm families, commercial farms, youth organizations, women’s organizations, farm organizations, news media, and others. These efforts must continue if the number of accidents is to decrease each year. Strong voluntary safety programs are needed, as approximately 90 per cent of the farm accidents involve only the farm family.

Studies of fatal farm accidents occurring recently clearly indicates that fatigue, depression, attitude, haste, stress, horse play, poor judgment, and other human factors are involved in most accidents.

Table 1. Wisconsin Fatal Farm Accident Summary for 1978

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
23	Tractor	2	-	-	2	2	3	4	4	1	3	1	1
6	Machinery	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
4	Suffocation	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
3	Drowning	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
3	Electrocution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
3	Fall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
2	Poisonous Gas	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Animal	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1	Woodcutting	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Frozen Silage	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
48	All Types	5	2	3	4	2	3	6	7	3	8	3	2

1978 Fatal Tractor Accidents in Wisconsin

Of the 29 fatal machinery accidents recorded from newspaper clippings, 23 were fatal tractor accidents.

Table 2. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Type, Age, and Sex (1978)

15	Tractor Tipped Over	Boys Woman Men	9, 12, 13, 17 42 19, 20, 24, 45, 48, 60, 60, 61, 64, 68
4	Extra Passengers	Boys Women	5, 6 33, 48
3	Run Over By	Boys Women	9, 12 43
1	Miscellaneous	Boy	16
23	Fatal Tractor Accidents		

Table 3. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Age Group and Sex (1978)

		65- Over	45-64	25-44	20-24	15-19	10-14	5-9	Under 5
20	Male	1	6	1	2	3	3	4	0
3	Female	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Months (1978)

January	2	July	4
February	0	August	4
March	0	September	1
April	2	October	3
May	2	November	1
June	3	December	1

Table 5. Fatalities Involving Equipment Other Than Tractors (1978)

Front End Loader	2
Power Take Off	1
Silage Conveyor Belt	1
Silo Unloader	1
Self Propelled Combine	1
Total	6

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This publication is revised.