

Fatal Farm Accident in Wisconsin 1979
Donald V. Jensen

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin

Year	Number of Fatalities	Year	Number of Fatalities
1945	168	1963	100
1946	156	1964	85
1947	145	1965	81
1948	134	1966	93
1949	128	1967	75
1950	124	1968	65
1951	115	1969	77
1952	114	1970	75
1953	102	1971	68
1954	99	1972	79
1955	89	1973	59
1956	95	1974	60
1957	94	1975	71
1958	81	1976	61
1959	89	1977	69
1960	103	1978	48
1961	93	1979	60
1962	86		

Sixty Wisconsin farm residents lost their lives in farm work accidents in 1979. Compared to 1978 in which there were the fewest fatalities in 30 years, fatalities increased in 1979. The total number of fatalities per year has leveled off during the last 10 years. Farm tractors were involved in 30 fatal accidents during 1979.

The tables in this report show the types of farm accidents, a breakdown of tractor and machinery accidents, and the breakdown of tractor accidents by age, sex, 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, industry, and others. These efforts must continue if there is to be a decrease in the number of farm accidents. Strong voluntary safety programs are needed, as approximately 90 percent of farm accidents involve only the farm family.

Studies of recent fatal farm accidents clearly indicate fatigue, depression, attitude, haste, stress, horseplay, poor judgment, and other human factors are involved in most accidents.

Information regarding agricultural safety is available at County University Extension offices.

Table 1. Wisconsin Fatal Farm Accident Summary for 1979

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
30	Tractor	-	-	-	2	3	6	5	2	2	2	5	3
19	Machinery	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	2	5	3	2	2
5	Animal	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
2	Falling Object	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	Fire & Burns	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	Farm Truck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1	Fall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
60	All Types	1	1	2	5	4	7	7	4	8	5	8	8

1979 Fatal Tractor Accidents in Wisconsin

Of the 49 fatal machinery accidents recording from newspaper clippings, 30 were fatal tractor accidents.

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

15	Tractor Tipped Over	Boys Women Men	10, 11, 13, 16 55, Unknown 18, 33, 40, 46, 54, 57, 61, 66, 73
7	Run Over By	Girl Boys Woman Men	19 months 3,3 50 57, 59, 67
4	Extra Passengers	Boys Men	3, 4 32, 72
2	Pinned Between Tractor and Other	Woman Man	59 61
1	Power-Take-Off	Man	42
1	Fell from Tractor	Man	67
30	Fatal Tractor Accidents		

Table 4. 1979 Fatal Tractor Accidents by Month

January	0	July	5
February	0	August	2
March	0	September	2
April	2	October	2
May	3	November	5
June	6	December	3

Table 5. 1979 Fatalities Involving Equipment Other Than Tractors

Front End Loader	4
Skid Steer Loader	2
Power Take Off	2
Auger	1
Corn Chopper	1
Corn Picker	1
Corn Planter	1
Elevator	1
Hay Baler	1
Haybine	1
Manure Spreader	1
Saw	1
Silo Unloader	1
Wagon	1
Total	19

Table 3. 1979 Fatal Tractor Accidents by Age Group and Sex

	Total	65- Over	45-64	25-44	20-24	15-19	10-14	5-9	Under 5	Unknown
Male	25	5	7	4	0	2	3	0	4	0
Female	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

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