

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin

Donald V. Jensen

In 1980, 43 Wisconsin farm residents lost their lives in farm work accidents, the smallest number of fatalities in the past 35 years. The number of fatalities per year shows a marked decrease in the past 10 years.

Farm tractors were involved in 16 fatal accidents (an all-time low) during 1980. The rate of fatal tractor accidents per 100,000 farm workers and the rate of fatal farm accidents per million acres of crop land harvested both were at a 36-year-low during 1980.

The tables in this report show the types of farm accidents, machinery involved and breakdown of tractor accidents by age and sex of victims, month accident occurred 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, agriculture teachers, implement dealers and others. Individual county statistics are available from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, 460 Henry Mall, University of Wisconsin-Madison 53706.

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

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

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	1980	43

Table 1. Wisconsin Fatal Farm Accident Summary for 1980

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
16	Tractor	2	1	-	-	2	4	1	1	-	3	1	1
14	Machinery	-	1	1	2	-	3	-	1	1	1	4	-
3	Animals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
3	Suffocation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
2	Electrocution	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
1	Falling Object	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Strangulation	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Traffic	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Fall	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Woodcutting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
43	All Types	2	4	1	2	3	9	1	3	2	7	6	3

Table 2. 1980 Fatal Tractor Accidents by Victims' Age Group and Sex

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

1980 Fatal Tractor Accidents in Wisconsin

Of the 30 fatal machinery accidents recorded from newspaper clippings, 16 were fatal tractor accidents.

Table 3. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Type and Age, and Sex of Victims

11	Tractor tipped over	Boy Girl Men	13 12 29, 40, 45, 50, 63, 68, 73, 79, unknown (retired)
1	Extra passenger	Boy	14
1	Power-take-off	Boy	13
1	Run over	Man	26
2	Other	Men	66, unknown (older)
16	Fatal tractor accidents		

Table 4. 1980 Fatal Tractor Accidents by Month

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

Table 5. 1980 Fatalities Involving Equipment Other Than Tractor

Manure spreader	3
Gravity box	2
Front end loader	1
Power take off	1
Silage auger	1
Forage chopper	1
Corn picker	1
Corn elevator	1
Culti mulcher	1
Disc	1
Drag	1
Total	14

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