

## **Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin**

### **Donald V. Jensen**

Thirty-eight Wisconsin farm residents lost their lives in farm work accidents during 1981, the fewest fatalities in the past 36 years. The number of fatalities per year has decreased markedly in the past 10 years. Farm tractors were involved in 16 fatal accidents (an all-time low) during 1981.

The farm equipment industry, youth organizations, women's organizations, farm organizations, vocational agricultural departments, the mass media, and many other groups deserve credit for the decrease in fatalities.

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, agricultural teachers, implement dealers and others. Individual county statistics are available from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, 460 Henry Mall, University of Wisconsin-Madison 53706.

Some accident costs such as medical, replacement help, and property damage can be measured. Accidents also 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 by organizing effective farm accident prevention programs.

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
		1981	38

**Table 1. Wisconsin Fatal Farm Accident Summary for 1981**

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
16	Tractor	2	-	1	2	2	1	5	-	-	2	1	-
7	Machinery	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-
4	Fall	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
3	Woodcutting	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2	Electrocution	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
2	Motor Vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
2	Traffic	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Falling Object	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1	Suffocation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
38	All Types	5	2	1	4	2	5	10	0	2	4	3	0

**Table 2. Victims of 1981 Fatal Tractor Accidents**

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

### 1981 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	Boys Women Men	11, 14 60, 66 32, 33, 47, 56, 59, 66, 90
4	Run over by tractor	Boy Girls Man	4 2, 2 67
1	Pinned between tractor and other	Man	71
16	Fatal tractor accidents		

**Table 4. 1981 Fatal Tractor Accidents by Month**

January	2	July	5
February	0	August	0
March	1	September	0
April	2	October	2
May	2	November	1
June	1	December	0

**Table 5. 1981 Fatalities Involving Equipment Other Than Tractors**

Power take off	3
Fork lift	1
Manure spreader	1
Power saw	1
Wagon	1
Total	7

#### University of Wisconsin-Extension

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