

**Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin**  
**Donald V. Jensen**

During 1982, 51 farm residents lost their lives in farm work accidents, the most fatalities during the past three years and 13 more than in 1981. The number of fatalities involving machinery increased from seven in 1981 to 18 in 1982. The number of fatal tractor accidents involving children 14 years old or younger increased from five in 1981 to eight in 1982.

The tables in this report show the types of farm accidents, the machinery involved, and a breakdown of fatal tractor accidents by type of accident, age and sex of victims, and month the accident occurred.

Some accident-related 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 indicate that fatigue, attitude, depression, haste, stress, horseplay, poor judgment, and other human factors or errors are involved in most accidents.

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 upon request from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, 460 Henry Mall, University of Wisconsin-Madison 53706.

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	1964	85
1946	156	1965	81
1947	145	1966	93
1948	134	1967	75
1949	128	1968	65
1950	124	1969	77
1951	115	1970	75
1952	114	1971	68
1953	102	1972	79
1954	99	1973	59
1955	89	1974	60
1956	95	1975	71
1957	94	1976	61
1958	81	1977	69
1959	89	1978	48
1960	103	1979	60
1961	93	1980	43
1962	86	1981	38
1963	100	1982	51

**Table 1. Wisconsin Fatal Farm Accident Summary for 1982**

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
20	Tractor	-	-	1	1	3	1	6	1	2	3	2	-
18	Machinery	2	-	1	3	2	-	2	-	1	3	4	-
4	Motor Vehicle	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
2	Electrocution	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
2	Silo Gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
2	Woodcutting	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Animal	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Fall	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Falling Object	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
51	All Types	2	1	3	5	8	1	12	2	5	6	6	0

**1982 Fatal Tractor Accidents in Wisconsin**

Of the 38 fatal machinery accidents recorded from newspaper clippings, 20 were fatal tractor accidents.

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

13	Tractor tipped over	Boys Women Men	12, 13, 14 38, 54 31, 42, 45, 52, 57, 63, 67, 75
5	Extra Passenger	Boys Girls	2*, 10+, 12+, 13**
1	Crushed between tractor and other	Man	54
1	Other	Man	86
20	Fatal Tractor Accidents		

\*Also run over by tractor

\*\*Also tractor tipped over

+Also run over by pulled implement

**Table 3. Age and Sex of Victims of 1982 Fatal Tractor Accidents**

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

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

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

**Table 5. 1982 Fatalities Involving Equipment Other Than Tractors**

Manure Spreader	5
Power take off	2
Bunk Wagon Feeder	1
Corn Elevator	1
Corn Picker	1
Dump Truck	1
Feed Grinder	1
Front End Loader	1
Hay Chopper	1
Manure Elevator	1
Silage & Hay Conveyor	1
Silage Press	1
Stock Trailer	1
Total	18

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Donald V. Jensen is associate professor of agricultural engineering, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Division of Economic and Environmental Development, University of Wisconsin-Extension.