

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin Donald V. Jensen

During 1983, 45 farm residents lost their lives in farm work accidents. The number of fatalities involving machinery decreased from 18 in 1982 to five in 1983. The number of fatal tractor accidents involving children 14 years old or younger decreased from eight in 1982 to six in 1983.

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 accident 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 newspaper 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
		1983	45

Table 1. Wisconsin Fatal Farm Accident Summary for 1983

Total	Type of Accident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
25	Tractor	3	-	-	2	1	6	1	2	3	4	2	1
5	Machinery	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
4	Woodcutting	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
2	Animal	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
2	Fall	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
2	Falling Object	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Motor Vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
1	Traffic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Electrocution	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1	Suffocation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45	All Types	6	2	-	5	1	10	4	3	4	5	4	1

1983 Fatal Tractor Accidents in Wisconsin

Of the 30 fatal machinery accidents recorded from newspaper clippings, 25 were fatal tractor accidents.

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

18	Tractor tipped over	Boys Men	13, 14, 15 19, 21, 21, 21, 23, 26, 27, 29, 32, 47, 62, 65, 66, 68, 80
3	Run over by tractor	Boys	2, 3, 3
2	Extra Passenger	Girls	7, 16
1	Fell from tractor	Man	60
1	Unknown	Man	56
25	Fatal tractor accidents		

Table 3. Age and Sex of Victims of 1983 Fatal Tractor Accident

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

Table 4. Fatal Tractor Accidents by Month

January	3	July	1
February	-	August	2

March	-	September	3
April	2	October	4
May	1	November	2
June	6	December	1

Table 5. 1983 Fatalities Involving Equipment Other Than Tractors

Skid steer loader	1
Culti-packer	1
Front end loader	1
Corn picker	1
Forage chopper	1
Total	5

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