

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin – 1985

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Forty-eight Wisconsin farmers were fatally injured in farm accidents during 1985. Approximately 31 percent of the victims were children 14 years old or younger. Of the 15 children 14 years old or younger killed in farm-related accidents, 14 (29.2% of total) were under the age of five. In 1984, children under five years of age accounted for approximately eight percent of the total accidental farm fatalities.

Number of Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin (1970-1985)

Year	Number
1970	75
1971	68
1972	79
1973	59
1974	60
1975	71
1976	61
1977	69
1978	48
1979	60
1980	43
1981	38
1982	51
1983	45
1984	36
1985	48

Data Collection

Prior to 1985, yearly summaries of fatal farm accidents were based on newspaper clippings only. This year, newspaper clippings and death certificates were used to analyze fatal farm accidents. The use of death certificate resulted in the identification of 16 farm accident fatalities not recorded through the use of newspaper clippings. Thus, the use of death certificates as a data source in 1985 explains the large increase in accidental farm fatalities from 1984 to 1985. If death certificates had not been added as a data source, newspaper clippings would have shown a small decline in accidental farm fatalities from 1984 to 1985.

Type of Accident

Approximately 60 percent of the 1985 accidental farm fatalities involved tractors or farm machinery. Farm tractors were involved in 20 farm fatalities while farm machinery, other than tractors, was associated with an additional nine farm fatalities. Figure 2 shows the 1985 farm accident-related fatalities by type of accident.

Figure 2. Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatalities by Type of Accident – 1985

Type of Accident	Number
Tractor	20
Machinery	9
Animal	4
Fall	3
Fire	1
Woodcutting	4
Suffocation	3
Drowning	2
Motor Vehicle	2
Total	48

Farm Tractor-Related Fatalities

Fatal farm tractor accidents increased from 12 in 1984 to 20 in 1985. Eight of the 20 fatal tractor accidents occurred when the tractor overturned. Four people, including three children (ages 2, 4, and 5), who were extra riders, were fatally injured when they fell from the tractor. Another four people, including two children (ages 2 and 3), who were NOT extra riders, were killed when run over by the tractor. Figure 3 shows the 1985 farm tractor-related fatalities by type of accident.

Figure 3. Farm Tractor – Related Fatalities by Type of Accident – 1985

Type of Farm Tractor Accident	Number
Overturn	8
Extra Rider	4
Run Over	4
PTO Entanglement	1
Other	3
Total	20

Farm Machinery-Related Fatalities

The number of fatalities involving farm machinery, other than tractors, decreased from 16 in 1984 to nine in 1985. The types of farm machinery involved in the fatal accidents included: grain augers; and wagons. Figure 4 shows the 1985 farm machinery-related fatalities by type of accident.

Figure 4. Farm Machinery-Related Fatalities by Type of Accident – 1985

Type of Farm Machinery Accident	Number
PTO Entanglement	1
Pinned Between	1
Caught In	2
Run Over	1
Extra Rider	2
Suffocation	2
Total	9

Other Farm-Related Accidents

As indicated in Figure 2, four people were fatally injured as the result of animal-related accidents. A bull was involved in three of the fatalities and a cow in the other case.

Three people were suffocated in farm-related accidents. One person succumbed in a Harvestore silo; another one was pulled under in a grain facility; and the third person was buried by loose straw in a barn loft.

Four people were killed in separate woodcutting accidents when a tree or branch fell striking the victim. Two children (ages 1 and 4) drowned; one in a cistern and one in a stock watering tank. The fire-related fatality occurred when a farmer attempted to extinguish a fire in a calf barn.

Falls accounted for three fatalities on Wisconsin Farms. Two of the victims fell from a ladder and the other person fell from a roof. Two people were fatally injured in truck-related accidents. One person was pinned between the truck's bed and a one year old child was run over by a truck's rear wheels.

Age and Sex of Victims

Two of the farm-related accident victims were female and 46 were male. One of the females (22 yrs. old) was killed when she fell from the tractor's drawbar into the path of a towed wagon. The other female, a three year old, fell from a moving wagon into the path of a tractor which was backing-up.

Approximately 30 percent (14 people) of the victims were under five years of age. The youngest person fatally injured in a farm accident with the oldest person being 82 years old. Figure 5 shows the 1985 fatal farm-related accidents by victim's age.

Figure 5. Farm-Related Fatalities by Age of Victim – 1985

Age (years) of Victim	Number of Fatalities
Under 5	14
5-14	1
15-24	4
25-34	7
35-44	4
45-54	5
55-64	6
65-Over	7

Months when Accidents Occurred

The greatest number of fatal farm accidents, on a per month basis, occurred in October. March, June, and July had five fatalities each, and September had six, which all were above the monthly average of four fatal farm accidents in 1985. Figure 6 shows the 1985 farm accident-related fatalities by the month during which they occurred.

Figure 6. Farm – Related Fatalities by Month

Month	Number of Fatalities
January	0
February	4
March	5
April	3
May	4
June	4
July	5
August	5
September	6
October	7
November	3
December	2
Average	4

Time of Day when Accidents Occurred

The majority of fatal farm accidents occurred between the hours of 11:00a.m. and 5:00p.m. Figure 7 lists the fatal farm accidents by the time of day when they occurred.

Figure 7. Farm – Related Fatalities by Time of Day

Time	Number of Fatalities
6 (a.m.)	0
7	2
8	2
9	4
10	2
11	5
12 (p.m.)	5
1	3
2	6
3	2
4	4
5	7
6	0
7	2
8	0
9	2
10	0
Unknown	2