

Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin – 1986
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Introduction

Sixty-seven Wisconsin farmers were fatally injured in farm accidents during 1986. Approximately 45 percent of the victims were people 55 years old or older. In 1985, people 55 years old and older accounted for approximately 27 percent of the total accidental farm fatalities.

Number of Fatal Farm Accidents in Wisconsin (1970-1986)

Year	Number of Fatalities
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

Data Collection

Prior to 1985, yearly summaries of fatal farm accidents were based on newspaper clipping only. This year, newspaper clippings and death certificates were used to analyze fatal farm accidents. The use of death certificates as a data source in 1985 and 1986 may partially explain the increase in fatal farm accidents recorded during those years.

Type of Accident

Approximately 67 percent of the 1986 accidental farm fatalities involved tractors or farm machinery. Farm tractors were involved in 29 farm fatalities while farm machinery, other than tractors, was associated with an additional 16 farm fatalities. Figure 2 shows the 1986 farm accident-related fatalities by type of accident.

Figure 2. Wisconsin Farm – Related Fatalities by Type of Accident – 1986

Type of Accident	Number of Fatalities
Tractor	29
Machinery	16
Animal	3
Fall	1
Fire	1
Woodcutting	4
Suffocation	4
Drowning	3
Motor Vehicle	1
Electrocution	2
Recreational	3
Total	67

Farm Tractor Fatalities

Fatal farm tractor accidents increased from 20 in 1985 to 29 in 1986. Twelve of the 29 fatal tractor accidents occurred when the tractor overturned. Nine people were killed when they were run over by the tractor. Of the nine people run over by a tractor, seven were 55 years old or older, while only one of the nine was under the age of ten. Figure 3 shows the 1986 farm tractor-related fatalities by type of accident.

Figure 3. Farm Tractor – Related Fatalities by Type of Accident – 1986

Type of Farm Tractor Accident	Number of Fatalities
Overturn	12
Fell From	3
Run Over	9
PTO Entanglement	2
Other	3
Total	29

Farm Machinery Fatalities

The number of fatalities involving farm machinery, other than tractors, increased from nine in 1985 to 16 in 1986. The types of farm machinery involved in the fatal accidents included: silo unloader; elevator, self-unloading forage wagon; combine; corn picker; front-end loader; hay baler; skid steer loader; hay wagon; and forage chopper. Figure 4 shows the 1986 farm machinery-related fatalities by type of accident.

Figure 4. Farm Machinery-Related Fatalities by type of accident – 1986

Type of Farm Machinery Accident	Number of Fatalities
PTO Entanglement	4
Pinned Between	4
Caught In	4
Run Over	3
Upset	1
Total	16

Other Farm Accidents

As indicated in Figure 2, four people were fatally injured as the result of suffocation-related accidents. A five year old boy suffocated when submerged in flowing grain in a gravity box wagon. A 58 year old man accidentally suffocated in flowing grain inside a grain bin. Two men suffocated, in separate incidences, when frozen silage fell on them inside a silo.

Woodcutting accidents accounted for four fatalities in 1986. All four of the victims were struck by a falling tree in separate incidences.

Animals were involved in three of the fatal farm accidents. In two of the cases, the victim was gored by a bull. In the other case, the victim was gored by a bull. In the other case, the victim was kicked by a horse.

Three people drowned in farm-related accidents. One person drowned in a river, one in a farm pond, and the other in a swimming pool located at the farm residence.

Recreational-related accidents accounted for three of the fatalities in 1986. Two of the victims were killed when they lost control of the ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) they were driving. The other person hit a wire fence with his snowmobile.

Two people were electrocuted on the farm during 1986. One person came in contact with an ungrounded exhaust fan and the other person was moving an elevator when it came in contact with an overhead powerline.

In the remaining three fatal farm accidents; one person fell 40 feet down a silo chute; another was run over by a farm truck; and, one died in a farm fire.

Age and Sex of Victims

Nine (approximately 13 percent) of the fatal farm accident victims were female and 58 (approximately 87 percent) were male. Two of the females were involved in tractor accidents; one was electrocuted; three drowned; one was run over by a farm truck; and, one was killed in an ATV accident.

In 1985, approximately 30 percent of the victims were under five years of age, while in 1986 this group accounted for only about seven percent of the fatalities.

The group that experienced an increase in fatal farm accidents during 1986 was the 55 years old and older group. In 1985, this group accounted for 27 percent of the total farm fatalities, while in 1986 they had 45 percent of the fatal farm accidents. In 1985 only one person 5 to 14 years old was killed in a farm accident while in 1986 eight people in this age group were fatally injured. Figure 5 shows the 1986 fatal farm accidents by victim's age.

Figure 5. Farm-Related Fatalities by Age of Victim

Age	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-Over
Number	5	8	7	5	5	7	15	15

Months When Accidents Occurred

The greatest number of fatal farm accidents, on a per month basis, occurred in October. August had eight fatalities; May had seven; and, June and December each had six, which were all above the monthly average of 5.6 fatal farm accidents in 1986. Figure 6 shows the 1986 farm accident fatalities by the month during which they occurred.

Figure 6. Farm-Related Fatalities by Month

January	1	July	5
February	4	August	8
March	4	September	6
April	5	October	12
May	7	November	3
June	6	December	6

Time of Day When Accidents Occurred

The majority of fatal farm accidents occurred between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.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

4 a.m.	1	2	4
5	0	3	2
6	0	4	8
7	1	5	6
8	0	6	4
9	4	7	7
10	2	8	2
11	4	9	1
12 p.m.	3	10	1
1	5	11	1
		Unknown	11