

## 1990

### Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatalities

C.A. Skjolaas, R.T. Schuler, and T.L. Wilkinson  
Agricultural Engineering Department  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

There were forty-five fatalities that occurred in Wisconsin in 1990 as a result of farm related activities. This is an increase of four from 1989 when there was forty-one farm-related fatalities as shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Number of Fatal Farm Injuries In Wisconsin**

1970	75	1981	38
1971	68	1982	51
1972	79	1983	45
1973	59	1984	38
1974	60	1985	48
1975	71	1986	67
1976	61	1987	63
1977	69	1988	46
1978	48	1989	41
1979	60	1990	45
1980	43	Average	56

### **Data Collection**

Since 1985 the yearly summaries of fatal farm injuries are based on newspaper clippings and Wisconsin death certificates. Newspaper clippings are used to identify situations where injuries occurred in Wisconsin but the victims died out-of-state.

### **Type of Farm-Related Fatalities**

Tractors and farm machinery accounted for approximately 54% of the total farm fatalities during 1990. Farm tractors were involved in 15 farm fatalities as shown in Figure 2, the same as in 1989. Farm machinery, other than tractors, accounted for nine fatalities. The number of fatalities due to falls (six) was up 50 percent from 1989.

**Figure 2. Wisconsin Farm – Related Fatalities 1990**

Incident	Number of Fatalities
Tractor	15
Machinery	9
Fall	6
Motor Vehicle	5
Animal	3
Asphyxiation	2
Woodcutting	2
Other	3

### Farm Tractor-Related Fatalities

Farm tractor-related fatalities were most commonly the result from tractor overturns and falls or run overs as shown in Figure 3. The number of fatalities resulting from tractor overturns decreased by four from 1989. However, fatalities resulting when victims fell from or were run over by a tractor increased by five. Run overs are frequently associated with extra riders.

**Figure 3. Farm Tractor – Related Fatalities 1990**

Incident	Number of Fatalities
Overturn	7
Fall or Run Over	7
Other	1
Total	15

### Farm Machinery-Related Fatalities

Fatalities involving farm machinery, other than tractors, increased by one in 1990. Figure 4 shows the types of incidents that involved farm machinery. In the incidents where victims were run over by machinery, they had fallen from a tractor and then were run over by the machinery. Types of machinery involved in run overs were a brush mower, cultipacker, and a haybine. Two of the victims had been extra riders on tractors.

**Figure 4. Machinery-Related Fatalities 1990**

Incident	Number of Fatalities
Run Over	3
Pinned Between	3
Fall	2
Caught In	1
Total	9

Three of the incidents involved victims being pinned between machinery. All of these incidents involved skid-loaders or mini-loaders. One victim was pinned between the skid-loader and a silo. The other two victims were pinned between the frame and bucket arm.

### Other Farm-Related Fatalities

As indicated in Figure 2, six people were fatally injured as a result of falls, two from a ladder; three from slippery surfaces; and one from a silo chute.

Five fatalities were the result of incidents involving motor vehicles. One victim fell from the rear of a truck; another was pinned under a farm truck; a youth was run over by a vehicle rolling down a hill as she ran around it in the farm drive; one was a result of a roll-over; and one victim was pinned between the truck and a milk house.

The three animal related fatalities involved victims being kicked by a horse; attacked by a bull elk; and being trampled by cattle.

Two people received fatal injuries while cutting wood. A branch fell on one victim and the other was hit when the tree kicked out from the bottom.

The two asphyxiations involved methane gas from a septic system and carbon monoxide from a running motor vehicle.

The three other fatalities involved an electrocution; a gas tank explosion; and being buried under frozen silage.

### Age and Sex of Victims

In 1990, 11 percent of the victims were female and 89 percent were male. This differs from 1989 when all the victims were male.

As in recent years the largest portion of farm fatalities was in the 65 years and older age group, shown in Figure 5.

**Figure 5. Farm – Related Fatalities By Age of Victim 1990**

Age	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-Over
Number	3	4	6	4	4	7	3	14

Approximately 38 percent of the 1990 farm fatalities involved victims 55 years and older which is a decrease from 51 percent in 1989. The greatest change was in the age groups of 5-14 and 15-24. These groups involving youth most often were associated with tractors and machinery.

### Months when Fatalities Occurred

The greatest number of farm-related fatalities occurred in August when seven took place, as shown by Figure 6. Other months with a higher number of fatalities included December with six; May, June, July with five each. December had the most noted increase with five more fatalities than in 1989.

**Figure 6. Farm – Related Fatalities By Month 1990**

January	3	July	5
February	1	August	7
March	3	September	1
April	4	October	3
May	5	November	2
June	5	December	6

### Time of Day

A large percentage of the farm-related fatalities occurred in the late morning and late afternoon or early evening as shown in Figure 7. This probably indicates that these were periods of peak work activity, although in some cases fatigue may have been a factor.

**Figure 7. Farm – Related Fatalities By Time of Day 1990**

7:00am	2	2:00pm	4
8:00am	0	3:00pm	3
9:00am	2	4:00pm	2
10:00am	1	5:00pm	6
11:00am	4	6:00pm	2
12:00pm	3	7:00pm	2
1:00pm	3	8:00pm	1
		Unknown	10