



Purdue University
Agricultural Safety and Health Program ■

(Preliminary) 1997 Indiana Farm Fatality Summary

Compiled by the Purdue University Agricultural Safety and Health Program

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This farm fatality report is compiled through a variety of sources, including news reports, and personal interviews. Some cases were identified with the assistance of the Indiana Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program at the Indiana State Department of Health, which documents occupational fatalities identified through coroners' reports, as well as news articles and on-site investigations.

The Purdue Agricultural Safety and Health Program identified 21 farm work-related fatalities¹ that occurred in 1997. The average age of 1997 farm fatality victims was 46 and almost half (43%) were seniors (Table 1). A large proportion (38%) of the recorded fatalities resulted from incidents involving tractors (Figure 1). Table 2 summarizes the types of incidents associated with Indiana's 1997 farm fatalities.

Table 1. Demographics of 1997 Indiana Farm Fatalities.

Gender	Age Distribution					Total	%
	1-17	18-35	36-59	60+	Unk		
Males	3	4	4	9	—	20	95
Females	—	1	—	—	—	1	5
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	5	4	9	—	21	100
%	14	24	19	43	—	100	
Average Age	11	21	49	71	—	46	

1. A **farm work-related fatality** is defined as any fatal injury to a farm or ranch worker (or bystander) occurring in the course of performing an agricultural work-related task, or as a result of exposure to hazards in the agricultural workplace. Motor vehicle incidents not clearly involving agricultural equipment are excluded.

Table 2: 1997 Indiana Farm Fatalities by Type of Incident

Type of Incident		Fatalities
Falls	From farm structures/equipment	1
Livestock-related incidents	Horse-drawn wagon incidents (Primarily runovers)	1
	Other	2
Machinery-related incidents	Other entanglements	1
	PTO entanglements	—
	Crushings	1
	Runovers	1
Tractor-related incidents	Overturns	4
	Roadway collisions	1
	Runovers	2
	Crushings/pinnings	1
Grain Entrapment		2
Other incidents (struck/crushed by flying/falling objects, heat stroke, fire)		4
Total		21

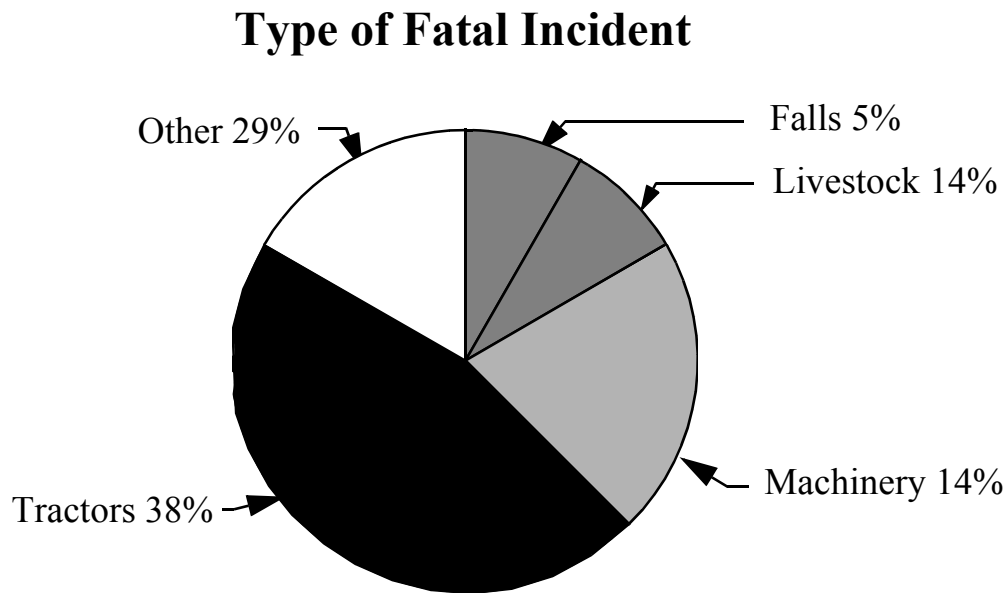


Figure 1. 1997 Indiana farm fatalities by type of incident

1997 Indiana Farm Fatalities

The following table provides a summary of the **21** Indiana fatalities recorded for 1997. Fatal farm work-related incidents are described here by (1) county in which the incident occurred, (2) date of incident, (3) age of victim, (4) gender of victim, (5) description of circumstances surrounding the incident, and (6) the source of the incident report [FACE = Report received from the Indiana Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, CLIP = Report obtained from news report clippings].]

Table 3: 1997 Indiana Farm Fatalities by County

County	Date	Age	Sex	Description of incident	FACE	CLIP
Switzerland	1-4-97	5	M	The victim died of injuries sustained after <u>a farm horse which he was leading stepped on his chest.</u>		Y
Fountain	1-7-97	73	M	The victim entered a grain bin filled with soybeans and <u>became entrapped in the unloading grain.</u>		Y
Spencer	1-8-97	65	M	The victim was <u>pinned beneath his tractor</u> after it ran off the road.		Y
Jay	1-14-97	25	M	The victim was inside a silage wagon kicking and loosening frozen corn silage when the wagon became unbalanced. <u>The victim was thrown from the wagon and crushed as it rolled over.</u>		Y
Miami	1-16-97	19	F	The victim was playing in a snow drift when she was <u>hit by a tractor-powered snow blower</u> operated by her father.		Y
Tippecanoe	2-23-97	50	M	The victim was working on a pump system when <u>he fell head-first into a well</u> and was unable to right himself.		Y
Lake	3-27-97	78	M	The victim was <u>stricken while attempting to extinguish a field fire.</u>		Y
Jennings	4-22-97	63	M	The victim was reportedly working in a grain bin and <u>suffocated upon being buried to the shoulders in corn.</u>		Y
Harrison	5-23-97	74	M	The victim reportedly <u>died in a farming accident.</u>		Y
Allen	6-27-97	19	M	The victim was believed to be baling hay when he <u>fell off the equipment and was trampled by horses.</u>		Y
Spencer	7-7-97	12	M	The victim slipped and fell from a hay wagon and was <u>run over by the wagon's wheels.</u>		Y

Table 3: 1997 Indiana Farm Fatalities by County

County	Date	Age	Sex	Description of incident	FACE	CLIP
Wells	7-22-97	20	M	The victim died a week after becoming mired in mud and <u>nearly drowning in a farm pond.</u>		Y
Lawrence	8-6-97	69	M	The victim was found under equipment in a hay field. He had reportedly <u>hooked a stump and been thrown from the tractor which then ran over him.</u>		Y
Morgan	8-12-97	73	M	The victim was mowing an embankment near a dam when he <u>lost control of the garden tractor causing it to flip, pinning him beneath the steering wheel.</u>		Y
Steuben	9-14-97	41	M	The victim was killed after trying to drive an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) up a steep hill and <u>having the vehicle flip backward pinning him beneath it.</u>		Y
Wayne	9-15-97	21	M	The victim <u>was crushed when his tractor rolled over</u> while mowing on a steep incline.		Y
Adams	9-27-97	48	M	The victim <u>drowned after the tractor he was operating slipped into a pond.</u>		Y
Putnam	10-1-97	78	M	The victim <u>fell off a tractor for an unknown reason and was run over.</u>		Y
Pike	10-21-97	66	M	The victim <u>suffered fatal rib injuries from being head-butted by a birthing cow that he was attempting to assist.</u>		Y
LaGrange	11-16-97	17	M	The victim was killed when <u>a semi tractor-trailer rig struck his Amish buggy</u> when it ran a stop sign.		Y
Greene	12-28-97	54- 56 (?)	M	The victim was <u>dragging a log when it became entangled and the tractor overturned.</u>		Y

Geographic Distribution of 1997 Indiana Farm Fatalities

