

Purdue University  
*Agricultural Safety and Health Program* ■

## 1996 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 24 farm work-related fatalities<sup>1</sup> that occurred in 1996. The average age of 1996 farm fatality victims was 59 and over half (54%) were seniors (Table 1). A large proportion (46%) of the recorded fatalities resulted from incidents involving tractors (Figure 1). Table 2 summarizes the types of incidents associated with Indiana's 1996 farm fatalities.

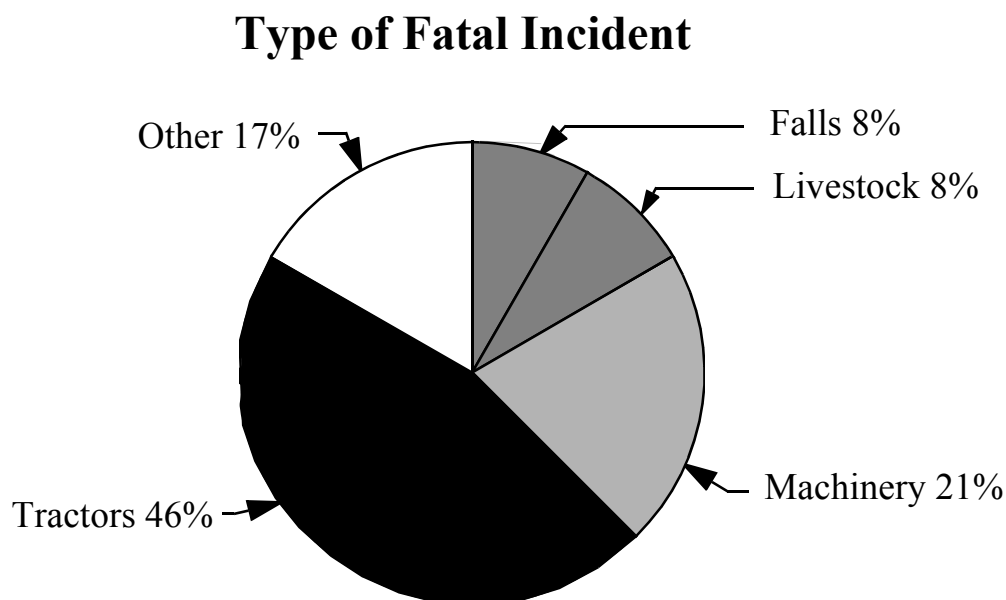
**Table 1. Demographics of 1996 Indiana Farm Fatalities.**

Gender	Age Distribution					Total	%
	1-17	18-35	36-59	60+	Unk		
Males	1	1	6	13	1	22	92
Females	1	1	—	—	—	2	8
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>
%	8	8	25	54	4	100	
<b>Average Age</b>	14	33	49	74	—	59	

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: 1996 Indiana Farm Fatalities by Type of Incident**

Type of Incident		Fatalities
Falls	From farm structures/equipment	2
Livestock-related incidents	Horse-drawn wagon incidents (Primarily runovers)	2
Machinery-related incidents	Other entanglements	1
	PTO entanglements	1
	Crushings	2
	Runovers	1
Tractor-related incidents	Overturns	6
	Roadway collisions	0
	Runovers	2
	Crushings/pinnings	3
Other incidents (struck/crushed by flying/falling objects, heat stroke, fire)		3
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>



**Figure 1. 1996 Indiana farm fatalities by type of incident**

## 1996 Indiana Farm Fatalities

The following table provides a summary of the 24 Indiana fatalities recorded for 1996. 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, (4) description of circumstances surrounding the incident, and (5) the source of the incident report [FACE = Report received from the Indiana Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, CLIPS = Report obtained from news report clippings].]

**Table 3: 1996 Indiana Farm Fatalities by County**

County	Date	Age	Sex	Description of incident	FACE	CLIP
Cass	1-6-96	64	M	The victim was <u>entangled in PTO driveline on a manure spreader.</u>	Y	
Rush	1-8-96	57	M	The victim was <u>crushed by a skid loader.</u>	Y	
Jackson	1-9-96	67	M	The victim was <u>run over by tractor</u> while attempting to remount the moving vehicle. He was reportedly plowing snow and had apparently dismounted the tractor with the vehicle running. The tractor “slipped” into gear and the victim fell under the rear wheel while trying to jump back on.	Y	Y
Randolph	1-20-96	70	M	The victim was working alone on a farm truck engine when the <u>tilted cab apparently fell, trapping him between the engine and cab,</u> crushing his windpipe.		Y
Shelby	2-6-96	46	M	The victim was dragged into and <u>entangled in a silage chopper</u> while attempting to unclog the running machine by feeding corn stalks by hand into the header.		Y
LaGrange	4-2-96	10	F	The victim was holding a team of draft horses while the grain wagon was being unloading at the local elevator when the <u>horses became “spooked” and trampled her,</u> resulting in fatal chest injuries.	Y	Y
Allen	5-18-96	83	M	The victim <u>fell out of hay loft of the barn onto the concrete floor</u> (9-10 feet below).	Y	
Carroll	5-22-96	76	M	The victim was hauling a load of soybeans on a trailer when the trailer’s tires went off the road and down an embankment, <u>causing the tractor to flip over</u> and roll down the embankment, throwing and crushing him.	Y	Y

**Table 3: 1996 Indiana Farm Fatalities by County**

County	Date	Age	Sex	Description of incident	FACE	CLIP
Allen	5-29-96	78	M	The victim was burning trash. He <u>poured gas and oil from a mower on to the fire and set himself on fire</u> in the process.	Y	
Jefferson	6-6-96	17	M	The victim was apparently tearing down an old, “hazardous” barn with his 14-year-old brother when the <u>structure collapsed on him</u> , resulting in suffocation.		Y
Marshall	6-21-96	78	M	The victim was moving large round bales using a front-end loader. While going over a slight incline, the tractor began to slip. The victim raised the loader, apparently in an attempt to shift the center of gravity, when the <u>bale rolled off the loader onto him</u> .	Y	
Franklin	7-3-96	68	M	The victim apparently unloading (driving) a <u>forklift</u> off of a trailer when he lost control of the vehicle, causing it to slide off the ramps, <u>tip on its side, and pin him underneath</u> .	Y	Y
Elkhart	7-15-96	52	M	The victim <u>experienced heat stroke while baling hay in 98°F temperature</u> . (Heat index on that day was 125°F.)	Y	
Pulaski	7-17-96	30	M	The victim was <u>crushed by a corn detassling machine</u> . When he was helping load the machine onto a flatbed low-boy trailer, the vehicle overturned backward off the trailer, throwing him and landing on him, crushing his head and chest.	Y	Y
Wayne	7-31-96	74	M	The victim was killed when he <u>overturned the small utility tractor he was operating</u> on a ditchbank, pinning him underneath the tractor in 10 inches of water and drowning him.	Y	Y
White	8-1-96	74	M	The victim [Harold was <u>run over while attempting to jump-start a tractor</u> (shorting across the switch with a bolt). Apparently, while standing in front of the left rear wheels, he attempted to start the tractor (which had apparently been left in gear) and he was knocked down and run over, causing multiple traumatic injuries.	Y	Y

**Table 3: 1996 Indiana Farm Fatalities by County**

County	Date	Age	Sex	Description of incident	FACE	CLIP
Wayne	8-1-96	Unk	M	The man was found pinned under a tractor in a ditch on his farm. He was apparently spraying weeds when his <u>tractor rolled into the ditch</u> , pinning him underneath.		Y
Adams	8-16-96	43	M	The victim was <u>run over and crushed by a horse-drawn hay wagon</u> when a ring fastened to the harness and wagon tongue broke, freeing the horses, and pulling him by the reins into the path of the wagon.	Y	Y
Madison	8-16-96	49	M	The victim <u>suffered fatal head injuries when he fell</u> from a truck's lift at the farm where he worked.		Y
Parke	8-24-96	77	M	Sheriff's department believes that the victim became ill while mowing a pasture. He apparently shut off the tractor, then <u>fell from the tractor and was run over by the mower</u> .		Y
Orange	10-21-96	83	M	The victim was unloading wood under carport. <u>The tractor slid back pinning him between the tractor and the carport.</u>	Y	
Jay	10-29-96	36	F	The victim driving a tractor, towing a hay rake, on a rural county road when the tractor's left rear tire was struck from behind by a pickup. <u>Upon impact, the tractor veered off the road and overturned in a ditch, pinning the victim underneath.</u> The tractor reportedly had no cab or "roof," and may not have been illuminated.		Y
Park	11-18-96	44	M	<u>The tractor overturned.</u> The victim was crushed under the tractor.	Y	
Orange	12-26-96	73	M	The victim was <u>found dead beside his tractor.</u>		Y

