

Purdue University

Agricultural Safety and Health Program

2010 Indiana Farm Fatality Summary

Compiled by the Purdue University Agricultural Safety and Health Program

Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department
225 S University St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907

For additional information contact:
Dr. Bill Field at (765) 494-1191 or field@purdue.edu

The 2010 Indiana farm fatality report was compiled by Purdue's Agricultural Safety and Health Program through a variety of sources, including a contracted news clipping service, web searches, voluntary reporting from Extension educators and individuals, and personal interviews. No cases were identified from sources outside of the state, including Federal government sources.

In review, only eight farm-work-related fatalities were recorded during 2006—exactly one half of the second lowest number ever previously reported (16); however, that uncharacteristically low number of fatalities was not sustained with 24 fatalities in 2007, 28 fatalities in 2008, 20 in 2009, and 23 in 2010. These currently wide variation in the fatality frequency from year to year have also historically occurred in the past. This report includes a summary of those 23 farm-work-related fatalities¹ that were documented in 2010. For over 40 years, there has been a steady downward trend in the number of farm-work-related fatalities, and the 2010 total is only slightly larger than would be expected from that downward trend. The ages of the recorded victims ranged from one to 87. The average age for farm-work-related fatality victims in 2010 was 47 (Table 1) while the average age over the past ten years was 53.0.² Twenty of the documented cases involved males and three were female (in 2009, all were male). There were five fatalities under the age of 18; their ages were one, four, nine, and two were thirteen. Those five incidents involving children accounted for 22% of the total number of fatalities reported in 2010. Only one or two fatalities of children or adolescents under age eighteen have been reported annually over the last ten years except seven occurred in 2000, four in 2007, three in 2009, and now five in 2010. Victims over the age of 60 (N=9) accounted for 39% of all documented cases, and that is consistent with a continuing trend of older individuals being involved in a disproportionate number of fatal incidents.

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 or vehicles are excluded. In addition, the report does not include fatalities that may have occurred due to chronic exposures to hazardous environments or substances, or heart attacks that occurred during work activities.

² According to current census data, the average age of farm operators in the state is 57.

Gender	Age Distribution					Total	%
	1-17	18-35	36-59	60+	Unknown		
Males	4	2	4	9	1	20	87
Females	1	1	1	0	0	3	13
Total	5	3	5	9	1	23	100
%	22	13	21.7	39	4.3	100	-
Average Age	8.0	29.3	53.7	74.8	-	47.0	-

Table 1. Age distribution of Indiana farm-work-related fatalities in 2010.

Tractor-related incidents continue to be the leading category of fatalities and were involved in eleven (48%) of the recorded fatalities, and that percentage approaches the historical average. Tractor overturns accounted for five (22%) of the fatalities and remain the leading cause of farm-work-related fatalities nationally accounting for approximately 25% of all fatalities. However, an unusually high number—five or 22%—of runovers involving tractors and trailing implements occurred. In one case a farmer was run over by a tractor that he was attempting to start while standing on the ground. There has been no farm-work-related fatalities involving ATV/utility vehicles over the past three years, even though there has been a rapid increase in fatalities and injuries in the ATV recreational sector. The three cases in 2007 represent the highest number of farm-work-related, ATV/utility vehicle fatalities ever recorded during a single year.

Table 2 provides a more detailed listing of fatalities that occurred in Indiana during 2010. Incidents are described by (1) date of incident, (2) county, (3) age of victim, (4) gender of victim, and (5) description of the incident.

Date	County	Age	Sex	Description
3/25/10	St. Joseph	72	M	Hoisted grain truck, overturn, crush
4/4/10	Greene	53	M	Tractor runover, while repairing
4/7/10	LaGrange	4	M	Runover by lawn roller
4/11/10	Jefferson	81	M	Hit by tree limb while felling tree
4/13/10	LaGrange	1	F	Skid loader runover
4/22/10	Greene	81	M	Ammonia applicator hit power line
6/23/10	Morgan	45	F	Fell into hole repairing water line
7/2/10	Harrison	72	M	Tractor fire
8/2/10	Scott	35	F	Tractor overturn, mowing
8/5/10	Benton	32	M	Tractor-train collision
8/26/10	Kosciusko	13	M	Crushed against tree by draft horse
9/2/10	Vigo	45	M	Tractor overturn, mowing
10/8/10	Jay	21	M	Car driver collision with combine
10/8/10	Starke	49	M	Semi-Train collision
10/10/10	Putnam	72	M	Loader fell on worker's head
10/16/10	Orange	41	M	Tractor overturn
10/18/10	Dearborn	64	M	Tractor overturn
10/18/10	Whitley	72	M	Lawn tractor overturn
10/21/10	Floyd	72	M	Tractor runover, bypass starting
10/23/10	Franklin	13	M	Grain entrapment, semi trailer
11/??/10	Morgan	??	M	Crushed under overhead fuel tank
11/29/10	Noble	87	M	Runover by semi unloading grain
12/11/10	Fulton	9	M	Farm sawmill

Table 2. Listing of 2010 Indiana farm-work-related fatalities (N=23).

Figure 1 (see next page) represents a geographic distribution of 781 of Indiana's 854 documented farm-work-related fatalities in the years 1980-2010 where the county of the incident was known. Only Fayette County has never reported a farm fatality over the past 30 years, while Elkhart and LaGrange currently tie for most with 24 each.

Observations

1. The rate of farm-related fatalities is high. Based upon the National Safety Council injury facts, the rate of farm fatalities per 100,000 workers is nearly 10 times the average for other industries.
2. In 2010, five children died in agricultural workplaces. This reverses a trend towards fewer reported childhood injuries. Over one of five reported fatalities involved a child. Three of these incidents involved children under ten. There is currently an initiative underway at the federal level to address this problem through greater restrictions on children and youth working in agriculture.
3. There is a continuing trend towards farm-work-related fatalities involving individuals over the age of 60. Eight of the documented cases in 2010 were over the age of 70 and three were over the age of 80.
4. The frequency of farm-work-related fatalities has appeared to reach a plateau. There is evidence to suggest that there is a growing indifference to the problem of agricultural workplace safety. Additional reductions in the number of fatalities will require new efforts in the areas of education, engineering, and workplace safety regulations.
5. In addition to the documented fatalities, it is estimated that slightly over 6770 non-fatal, treatable injuries occurred on Indiana farms in 2010. Some of these resulted in permanent disabilities including amputations, spinal cord injuries, and brain injuries. It was estimated in 2009, that these injuries averaged \$1200 per incident resulting in an economic effect of over \$8.12 million excluding the costs of transportation to receive medical attention, replacement labor, property damage, emergency services, and long-term rehabilitation care if needed.

Resources

Check out the following resources for additional information:

1. www.farmsafety.org
2. www.grainsafety.us
3. www.agrability.org

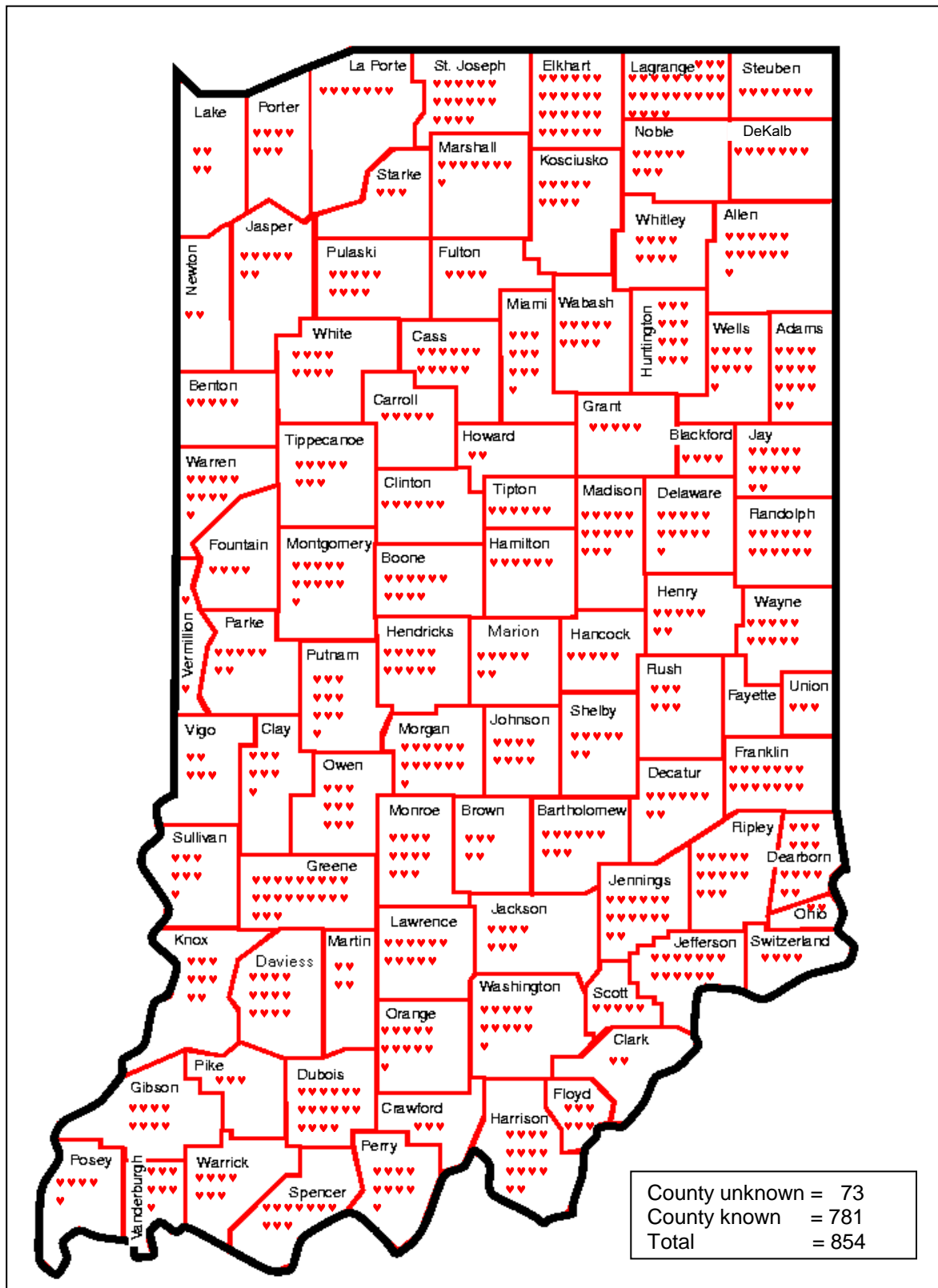


Figure 1. Geographic distribution by county of Indiana’s farm-work-related fatalities from 1980 through 2010.