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Oregon Farm *ACCIDENT SURVEY*



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Oregon Farm Accident Survey

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To determine the nature and extent of injuries to farm people and subsequently to promote better attitudes, safer working habits and methods of integrating more safety procedures into farm family living, a farm accident study was conducted through the joint efforts of the Oregon Governor's Committee on Farm Safety, National Safety Council, and Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service.

This study surveyed accidents occurring to Oregon farm families and hired labor for a one-year period in 13 counties selected in the survey. The period was from February 1, 1971 to January 31, 1972. Farm families were interviewed in the following counties: Clackamas, Clatsop, Deschutes, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lane, Linn, Malheur, Tillamook, Umatilla, Wasco, and Yamhill.

The results of this important study were made possible by the contribution of time by many groups in the 13 counties. Interviewers representing 17 organizations collected data from 989 farm families. Interviewers received initial training from E. H. Davis, a consulting agricultural engineer who served as coordinator of the Oregon Farm Accident Survey. About 3½ percent of Oregon farms were included, which is considered a representative sample of the total farms in the state.

The sponsors of the Oregon Farm Accident Survey suggest that the information in this publication be reviewed by members of all rural groups to determine the most effective course of action to further reduce accidents. This information could be used as a basis for discussions, demonstrations, displays, news releases, magazine articles, and radio and TV programs. There are many farm-related organizations, therefore many people should become involved in planning safety programs.

Definitions

Accident: An accident was defined in this study as an injury which required professional medical care or resulted in loss of one-half day or more of time from normal activities and involved any person:

1. Living on a farm, regardless of where the injury occurred (on the farm or off the farm, factory, home, school playground, etc.).
2. Working on a farm when the injury occurred there.
3. Visiting a farm when the injury occurred there.

Medical Care: The National Health Survey defines medical care in terms of the "physician visit." A contact with a physician by phone or in person is considered a physician visit. The service may be given by the physician, or by a nurse, or by another person acting under the physician's supervision. A physician may be a doctor of medicine or an osteopathic physician.

Facts on Oregon Farm Accidents

The Oregon Farm Accident Survey reveals that:

- Farm family labor had a lower accident rate per man hour of work than hired labor.



- Falls accounted for 38 percent of the injuries.
- A ladder was involved in nearly 12 percent of the mishaps.

- A cow or horse was involved in 12 percent of accidents to people on farms.



- Young people within the ages of 15-24 years were involved in 31 percent of the accidents and children within the ages of 5-14 years accounted for 20 percent of the mishaps.
- Children had 67 percent of their accidents during leisure periods of time and falls accounted for 62 percent of all their injuries.
- Sixty-seven percent of the accidents occurred during the months of April, May, June, and July. The peak month was July with 40 percent of the cases.
- Over 40 percent of the accidents occurred between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. The next high-risk period was in the afternoon between 1:00-2:00 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 p.m.

- The farm tractor was involved in 10 percent of the accidents.
- Approximately 3 percent of the accidents reported resulted in death. A farm machine, tractor, or vehicle was involved in these deaths.



- Bruises and cuts accounted for 41 percent of all the injuries. Legs and fingers were the parts of the body most frequently hurt.
- Nearly 30 percent of the accidents occurred in the field. The next most hazardous area was the barnyard where 17 percent of the mishaps occurred.
- The saw is the most dangerous power tool.
- Approximately 51,700 days of time were lost in Oregon in 1971 due to farm accidents. Doctor and hospital bills cost about \$544,000 based on the survey reports. The average cost per accident for doctor and hospital bills was \$145.

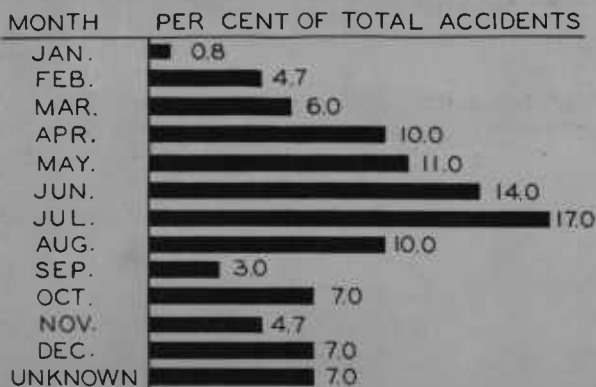


Figure 1. When do accidents occur on a monthly base?

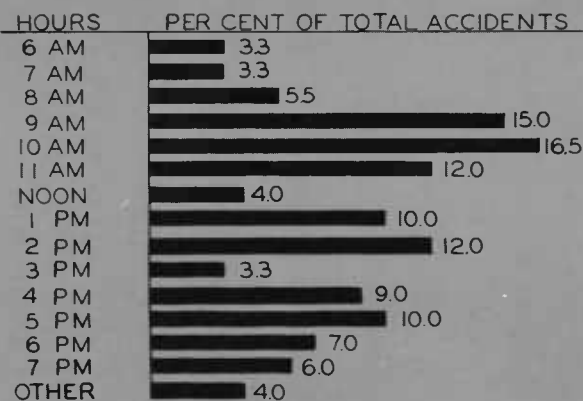


Figure 2. What time of day do most accidents occur?

Table 1. Where did the accidents occur?

<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of accidents</i>	<i>Percent of total accidents</i>
Field	38	29.5
Barnyard	22	17.0
Farm building	13	10.0
Public road	12	9.3
Home yard	9	7.0
Orchard	9	7.0
School	7	5.4
Woods	6	4.6
Home	4	3.1
Farm lane	4	3.1
Other	5	4.0
	129	100.0

Table 2. How did the accident occur?

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Percent of total accidents</i>
Caught in or between	29.4
Fall from different level	24.0
Fall from same level	14.0
Struck against	14.7
Collision	7.0
Falling object	6.3
Lifting	2.3
Other	2.3
	<hr/> 100.0

Table 3. What items were involved?

<i>Item</i>	<i>Number of accidents</i>	<i>Percent of total accidents</i>
Tractor	13	10.0
Farm machinery	14	11.0
Power tools	9	7.0
Hand tools	4	3.1
Cow	9	7.0
Horse	7	5.4
Other animals	4	3.1
Auto	6	4.6
Truck	6	4.6
Ladders	15	11.6
Sports	5	3.9
Other	37	28.7
	<hr/> 129	<hr/> 100.0

Table 4. Who was involved?¹

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Number of accidents</i>	<i>Percent of total accidents</i>
1-4	2	1.5
5-14	26	20.2 ²
15-24	40	31.0
25-44	25	19.4
45-64	23	17.8
65-over	13	10.1
	<hr/> 129	<hr/> 100.0

¹ 40 females and 89 males

² 65 percent occurred during leisure hours

Table 5. Percent of total hours of work by various people.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Family labor</i>			<i>Hired labor</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
5-14	3.34	1.71	5.05	1.03	.49	1.52
15-24	8.61	3.09	11.70	5.43	.83	6.26
25-44	14.45	6.93	21.38	3.10	.87	3.97
45-64	24.15	11.07	35.22	2.71	.56	3.27
65-Over	5.75	4.81	10.54	.81	.28	1.09
Total	<hr/> 56.28	<hr/> 27.61	<hr/> 83.89	<hr/> 13.08	<hr/> 3.03	<hr/> 16.11

Table 6. What type of injuries resulted?

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number of injuries</i>	<i>Percent of total injuries</i>
Cut or bruise	53	41.0
Fracture	22	17.0
Sprain	11	8.5
Crushed	11	8.5
Puncture	5	4.0
Severed	4	3.2
Concussion	4	3.2
Bite	4	3.2
Infection	2	1.6
Burn	1	0.8
Miscellaneous	12	9.0
	129	100.0

Table 7. What parts of body were injured?

<i>Part of body</i>	<i>Number of accidents</i>	<i>Percent of total injured</i>
Legs	24	18.6
Fingers	21	16.3
Trunk	15	11.8
Hands	13	10.0
Arms	13	10.0
Head	13	10.3
Feet	12	9.3
Eyes	5	4.0
Other	13	10.0
	129	100.0

Summary

Suggestions on farm accident prevention based on information gathered from the Oregon Survey are as follows:

1. Fatigue from long hours of work increases chances for accidents.
2. Keep your mind alert to the task at hand. Accidents are frequently caused by not devoting full attention to the task being performed.
3. Perform a task at a normal rate. Don't try to do a normal two-hour task in one hour. Haste causes waste and accidents.
4. Keep ladders, machinery, and farm buildings in safe repair.
5. Acquire and practice greater skill and knowledge in handling cows, horses, tractors, vehicles, and machinery.
6. Keep the farm buildings and yard free of loose boards, trash, loose wires, and other items that may cause people to fall.
7. Practice safety in the use of power tools. They are dangerous when not used properly.
8. Take time to instruct youngsters in proper use of ladders, machinery, tools, and in the safety of daily routine.