



Youth Agricultural Injury Statistics

An estimated 104 children younger than 20 die of agricultural injuries on U.S. farms and ranches annually. Fatality rates among young agriculture workers range from 12 to 16 per 100,000 workers, about three times the private sector rate. The fatality rate for all workers in agriculture is 19.2 per 100,000 workers. Of male youth fatalities, 53 percent occur in crop production. Female youth fatalities occur primarily in livestock production. Farm machinery (including tractors) is the leading agent of fatality, accounting for 36 percent of deaths to youth less than 20 years old. Thirty percent of farm machinery-related deaths are among children less than 5 years old. Drowning is the second leading mechanism of death on farms with children less than 5 years of age, accounting for 32 percent of farm deaths.

The highest injury rates for all farm youth were seen for youth less than 10 years of age and youth 12 to 13 years of age (two injuries per 100 youth). The three most prevalent mechanisms of injury to youth less than 20 are falls (22 percent), followed by off-road transportation incidents (15 percent), and being struck by objects (11 percent).

It is our responsibility as adults to provide appropriate supervision for youth who work on Alabama farms. All agricultural tasks must be deemed appropriate for the youth who are approved to perform that task. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System will work with you by providing training and guidance to assess farm tasks and their appropriateness for your prospective youth employees.

Contact your county office or Dr. Jesse LaPrade, Extension farm safety specialist, at (334) 844-5533 or (334) 707-9534 to receive helpful training that will reduce the incidence of farm fatalities and injuries to youth who work on your farm.