



*Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities*

### **Synopsis of Alabama On-farm Work Fatalities as Recorded From Newspaper Clipping Services**

This data covers the years 2002 through 2009, except for the Alabama public highway fatality data, which covers the years 2003 through 2007 and was provided by the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

In 1992, 12 fatalities occurred:

- Five tractor overturns
- Two highway collisions that resulted in one fatality each
- Two tractor or implement runovers
- One tractor and operator went over a cliff
- Two ATV overturns on farms that resulted in youth fatalities

Since 2002, 21 farm-work-related fatalities have occurred. Thirteen of these involved the use of a tractor or associated implement. In particular, two incidents involved an operator being run over by a tractor that was cranked with a screwdriver while the tractor was in gear, and three incidents involved an operator being run over by a trailing bush hog without a ROPS as a part of the tractor or an operator not wearing a seatbelt on a tractor fitted with ROPS. Six tractor overturns have occurred, four of which did not involve farm work that occurred on rural acreage using tractors that pre-date 1976 (when ROPS were made mandatory by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration). One fatality involved a tractor that rolled into a farm pond, flipped, and pinned the operator under water, drowning the operator. One fatality involved airing a truck tire that exploded, resulting in multiple lacerations that caused the death. One incident involved a grain bin that fell on a farmer while it was being unloaded from a flatbed trailer.

### **Fatalities and Collisions Recorded on Transporting Tractors and Associated Equipment on Alabama Public Highways**

In addition to the data shown above, 14 fatalities occurred from transporting tractors and associated implements on Alabama public highways since 2003. A total of 552 highway accidents involved farm equipment being transported on Alabama highways from 2003 to 2007.

The publication, "A Guide to Agricultural Tractor Rollover Protection," is available on the Web at [http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/default.aspx?page=nfmc\\_rops\\_guide](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/default.aspx?page=nfmc_rops_guide).

This data was tabulated by Dr. Jesse LaPrade, professor, Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Auburn University