



ANR-1263

Farm Safety Series

1993 Farm Injury Data—An Insight in Preventing Future Incidents

This compilation of farm injuries was taken from www.cdc.gov/niosh/agttopics.html that shows statistics on farm fatalities and injuries recorded in 1993.

Introduction

Knowledge of injury prevalence by category and how these injuries occurred should be helpful in reducing similar injuries in future operations. This information should provide an insight into what to look for and how to plan for a safety program that will minimize the incidence of farm-related injuries on current farming operations. The following statistics are provided for field crop producers, poultry production operations, beef, hog, and sheep

producers, and nursery crop producers. Each producer category shows incident category prevalence, body parts most often injured, months of most incidents, and what the injury entailed.

Incident Prevalence Data

Field Crop Operations

Injuries by Region

- **South—41.7%**
- **West—28.2%**
- **Midwest—19.2%**
- **Northeast—10.9%**

Southern Region

Months Injuries Occurred	Body Parts Injured	Nature of Injuries	Activities When Injuries Occurred	Sources of Injuries
September (19.1%)	Legs/knees/hips (20.5%)	Cuts (32.3%)	Field work (34.6%)	Machinery (18.6%)
August (17.3%)	Hands/wrists (16.6%)	Sprains/strains (23.5%)	Farm maintenance (19.1%)	Hand tools (13.0%)
November (12.9%)	Fingers (14.6%)		Livestock handling (14.7%)	Livestock (12.1%)
April (10.4%)	Feet (11.9%)			

Beef, Hog, and Sheep Operations

- **Midwest—49.3%**
- **South—31.6%**
- **West—16.2%**
- **Northwest—2.9%**

Southern Region

Months Injuries Occurred	Body Parts Injured	Nature of Injuries	Activities When Injuries Occurred	Sources of Injuries
June	Knees/legs/hips (21.6%)	Fractures (24.1%)	Livestock handling (42.4%)	Struck by or against objects, equipment, or livestock (28.2%)
July	Back (16.8%)	Sprains/strains (20.9%)		Fall from same level (16.1%)
September		Cuts (18.0%)		Fall from elevation (12.6%)

Injuries by Region for Poultry Operations

- South—45.9%
- West—43.0%
- Northwest—7.2%
- Midwest—3.8%

Southern Region

Months Injuries Occurred	Body Parts Injured	Nature of Injuries	Activities When Injuries Occurred	Sources of Injuries
December (81.1%)	Fingers (29.7%)	Fractures (32.9%)	Using tractors (32.2%)	Fall from same level (31.3%)
January (13.7%)	Hands/wrists (27.0%) Feet (22.4%)	Bruises (18.5%)	Performing plant support operations	Something falling on victim (22.4%)

Injuries by Region for Nursery Operations

- West—62.2%
- South—16.2%
- Midwest—12.0%
- Northeast—9.6%

Southern Region

The majority of nursery operations injuries occur during the growing months, May through August. The most frequently injured body parts are the eyes (32%), the chest/trunk (27.2%), the back (19.2%), and the hands/wrists (11.5%).

Summary of Data With Interpretations for the Southern Region

Most farm-related injuries in the South occur from field operations in September and August. The most frequent source of injuries comes from farm machinery followed by hand tools. Cuts are the most frequent type of injuries. The body parts most often injured are the legs/knees/hips followed by the hands. The second most prevalent type of injuries is sprains/strains, which are usually legs/knees/hips injuries. Most hand injuries involve cuts from farm machinery and hand tools.

The second most frequent farm-related injuries in the South occur on poultry production facilities in December. The most frequently injured body parts are the fingers followed by the hands/wrists and the feet. Fractures and bruises are the most common type of injuries. The most frequent injuries occur as a fall followed by equipment or supplies falling on the victim. Most poultry operations injuries occur while using the tractor and performing plant support operations, such as lagoon pumping or manure spreading operations.

The third most significant number of injuries in the South involves beef, hog, or sheep producers. Most injuries occur in June, July, and September for these producers. The most prevalent body parts injured are the knees/legs/hips followed by the back. Most injuries involve fractures followed by sprains/strains and cuts. Most injuries result from being struck by or against

objects, equipment, or livestock followed by falls. Most injuries occur from handling and transporting livestock.

The least number of injuries occur from nursery operations in the South, but the most prevalent of these injuries occurs to the victims' eyes. Requiring field workers to wear clear safety goggles at all times prevents most of these injuries. Nursery operations injuries are most frequent in the growing months of May through August. The third most common injury in nursery operations is to the back, which can be minimized by using proper lifting techniques.

Farming is considered to be one of the most hazardous occupations by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. The data shown here should provide a better understanding of where, how, and when incidents have occurred in farming operations in the past. This will, in turn, offer insight into prevention and minimizing similar farming incidents. Everyone must strive to do their part in preventing farming-related incidents: the farm worker, manager, and owner. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System wants to help you reach your goal of zero farm incidents both today and in the future. Please use this training material and all associated material to help achieve that goal.



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For more information, call your county Extension office. Look in your telephone directory under your county's name to find the number.

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