

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS TO FARM PEOPLE IN OHIO
1946, 1947 AND 1948

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FOREWORD

Careful examination was made of all death certificates for 1946, 1947 and 1948 that are on file in the Division of Vital Statistics of the Ohio Department of Public Health, to discover the farm people who died as a result of accidents. The reports of all accidental deaths that occurred to people having rural addresses were sorted into three groups. Upon first examination about one-fourth of them were found to be definitely farm people. Another group who definitely showed occupations other than farming were eliminated. A third group, largely women and children, which could not be classified as farm or non-farm from the information given, were sorted by counties and the assistance of County Agricultural Extension Agents was solicited to correctly classify these questionable cases.*

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This study was carried out at the request of the Farm and Home Safety Committee of the Ohio State Safety Council.

*This method of classification was used for the 1946 and 1948 questionable cases. For 1947 it was assumed that a similar percentage breakdown between farm and non-farm cases would exist.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS TO FARM PEOPLE IN OHIO, 1946, 1947 AND 1948

Nine farm people met with fatal accidents each week, on an average, for the past three years. A study of fatal accidents to Ohio farm people for 1946, 1947, and 1948 shows that over the three year period 1401 people died as a result of accidents. This is an annual accidental death rate of 1 person per 1800 farm people. At this rate in a lifetime of 60 years there is a chance of 1 in 30 that a farm person may die because of an accident.

The fatal accidents to farm people have been grouped into three main types according to where they occurred. The first groups, making up about one-fourth of the total number of cases, occurred on the farm but outside the home. Over one-half of these accidents occurred during the four month period from June thru September. From 25 to 30 percent of the accidents occurring on the farm involved farm machinery (mostly tractors). Nearly one-fifth of these on-the-job deaths resulted from falls.

The second group of fatal accidents occurred in the farm homes. Nearly 40 percent of all fatal accidents to farm people occurred in the home during this three year period. About two-thirds of the people who died from accidents in the home were 65 years of age and older. Falls and fires were the two types of accidents that caused most of the home deaths.

The third group of fatal accidents occurred to farm people when they were off the farm. About 80 percent of this group of fatal accidents were caused by motor vehicle accidents or pedestrians being struck by motor vehicles.

In Table 2 it is seen that relatively higher accidental death rates were found in the youngest and the oldest age classes. In Table 14 the facts about all farm children under 5 years of age who met with fatal accidents are shown. Some of the most frequent types of accident causing death to the children were smothering, strangling, fires, motor vehicles, and drowning.

In Table 15 the facts about farm people who were over 64 years of age that met with fatal accidents are presented. Nearly 60 percent of these people died as a result of falls. Almost 20 percent met death as a result of motor vehicle accidents or being struck by motor vehicles. Fire was also an important cause of death.

A more complete summary of these groups, types of accidents, ages of people who died, and the months these deaths occurred are presented in the tables that follow.

Table 1. Seasonal Distribution of Fatal Accidents to Ohio Farm People,
by Months, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Month | 1946 | | 1947 | | 1948 | |
|-------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| | Number of fatal accidents | Percent | Number of fatal Accidents | Percent | Number of fatal Accidents | Percent |
| Jan. | 39 | 8 | 31 | 7 | 34 | 8 |
| Feb. | 44 | 9 | 37 | 8 | 31 | 7 |
| March | 42 | 8 | 31 | 7 | 24 | 5 |
| April | 46 | 9 | 37 | 8 | 31 | 7 |
| May | 38 | 7 | 44 | 10 | 25 | 6 |
| June | 50 | 10 | 48 | 11 | 36 | 8 |
| July | 58 | 11 | 40 | 9 | 53 | 12 |
| Aug. | 35 | 7 | 47 | 10 | 45 | 10 |
| Sept. | 39 | 8 | 40 | 9 | 35 | 8 |
| Oct. | 41 | 8 | 30 | 7 | 50 | 11 |
| Nov. | 30 | 6 | 24 | 5 | 39 | 9 |
| Dec. | 45 | 9 | 43 | 9 | 39 | 9 |
| Total | 507 | 100 | 452 | 100 | 442 | 100 |

Table 2. Age Distribution of Ohio Farm People Who Met with Fatal Accidents,
1946, 1947 and 1948

| Age class | 1946 | | 1947 | | 1948 | |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| | Number of fatal Accidents | Percent | Number of fatal Accidents | Percent | Number of fatal Accidents | Percent |
| years | | | | | | |
| 0-4 | 49 | 10 | 50 | 11 | 44 | 10 |
| 5-14 | 49 | 10 | 44 | 10 | 56 | 13 |
| 15-24 | 56 | 11 | 41 | 9 | 46 | 10 |
| 25-44 | 45 | 9 | 50 | 11 | 40 | 9 |
| 45-64 | 86 | 17 | 78 | 17 | 69 | 16 |
| 65 and over | 222 | 43 | 189 | 42 | 187 | 42 |
| Total | 507 | 100 | 452 | 100 | 442 | 100 |

Table 3. Where Fatal Accidents Occurred to Ohio Farm People,
1946, 1947 and 1948

| | On farm | In home | Off the farm | Total |
|---------|---------|---------|--------------|-------|
| 1946 | | | | |
| Male | 103 | 73 | 169 | 345 |
| Female | 15 | 107 | 40 | 162 |
| Total | 118 | 180 | 209 | 507 |
| Percent | 23 | 36 | 41 | 100 |
| 1947 | | | | |
| Male | 113 | 89 | 105 | 307 |
| Female | 10 | 101 | 34 | 145 |
| Total | 123 | 190 | 139 | 452 |
| Percent | 27 | 42 | 31 | 100 |
| 1948 | | | | |
| Male | 85 | 68 | 126 | 279 |
| Female | 14 | 100 | 49 | 163 |
| Total | 99 | 168 | 175 | 442 |
| Percent | 22 | 38 | 40 | 100 |

Table 4. Types of Fatal Accidents Involving Ohio Farm People,
1946, 1947 and 1948

| Type of accident causing death | 1946 | | 1947 | | 1948 | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|
| | Number of fatal Accidents | Percent | Number of fatal Accidents | Percent | Number of fatal Accidents | Percent |
| Fall and fractures | 143 | 28 | 133 | 29 | 129 | 29 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 105 | 21 | 71 | 16 | 90 | 21 |
| Struck by motor vehicle | 67 | 13 | 32 | 7 | 35 | 8 |
| Fires | 50 | 10 | 66 | 15 | 37 | 8 |
| Farm machinery | 30 | 6 | 35 | 8 | 37 | 8 |
| Farm animals | 25 | 5 | 15 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Drowning | 21 | 4 | 19 | 4 | 24 | 6 |
| Other | 66 | 13 | 81 | 18 | 81 | 18 |
| Total | 507 | 100 | 452 | 100 | 442 | 100 |

Table 5. Seasonal Distribution of Fatal Accidents on Farms Outside the Home, by months, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Month | Number of fatal accidents | | |
|-------|---------------------------|------|------|
| | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Jan. | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Feb. | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| March | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| April | 9 | 12 | 5 |
| May | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| June | 13 | 16 | 8 |
| July | 21 | 13 | 18 |
| Aug. | 14 | 18 | 12 |
| Sept. | 13 | 17 | 10 |
| Oct. | 11 | 12 | 9 |
| Nov. | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| Dec. | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Total | 118 | 123 | 99 |

Table 6. Sex and Age Distribution of People Who Died from Accidents on Ohio Farms Outside the Home, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Age class | Number of Accidental Deaths | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | 1946 | | 1947 | | 1948 | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| years | | | | | | |
| 0-4 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 5-14 | 9 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 11 | 3 |
| 15-24 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 10 | - |
| 25-44 | 14 | 3 | 18 | 1 | 13 | 1 |
| 45-64 | 18 | 2 | 34 | 2 | 21 | 1 |
| 65 and over | 45 | 2 | 38 | 4 | 23 | 3 |
| Total | 103 | 15 | 113 | 10 | 85 | 14 |

Table 7. Types and Frequency of Fatal Accidents That Occurred on Ohio Farms Outside the Home, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Type of accident causing death | Numbers of fatal accidents | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | 1946 | | 1947 | | 1948 | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Farm machinery accidents | 26 | 1 | 33 | 2 | 30 | 1 |
| Thrown or kicked by horse, or runaway | 14 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Gored by bull or kicked by cow | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | -- | 2 |
| Falls from different levels (from hay mow, load of hay, roof, etc.) | 18 | 1 | 21 | - | 10 | 1 |
| Falls on same level | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | - |
| Fire in barn or brushpile | 7 | - | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Truck ran over | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Struck by falling tree or object | 8 | - | 13 | - | 6 | - |
| Drown in water trough, creek, or well | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| Struck by lightning | 3 | 2 | 6 | - | - | - |
| Electric fence | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Accidental discharge of gun | 4 | - | 7 | 1 | 6 | - |
| Sunstroke | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Blast injury | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Other | 3 | 1 | 6 | - | 14 | 3 |
| Total | 103 | 15 | 113 | 10 | 85 | 14 |

Table 8. Seasonal Distribution of Total Accidents in Ohio Farm Homes, by Months, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Month | Number of fatal accidents | | |
|-------|---------------------------|------|------|
| | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Jan. | 22 | 21 | 15 |
| Feb. | 12 | 15 | 16 |
| March | 20 | 15 | 12 |
| April | 20 | 13 | 18 |
| May | 10 | 19 | 10 |
| June | 22 | 16 | 14 |
| July | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| Aug. | 10 | 11 | 14 |
| Sept. | 11 | 13 | 10 |
| Oct. | 13 | 12 | 19 |
| Nov. | 11 | 11 | 12 |
| Dec. | 17 | 30 | 14 |
| Total | 180 | 190 | 168 |

Table 9. Sex and Age Distribution of Persons Who Died From Accidents in Ohio Farm Homes, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Age Class years | Number of accidental deaths | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | 1946 | | 1947 | | 1948 | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 0-4 | 8 | 12 | 24 | 14 | 17 | 8 |
| 5-14 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| 15-24 | - | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | 4 |
| 25-44 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 45-64 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 3 | 4 |
| 65 and over | 49 | 75 | 45 | 62 | 42 | 75 |
| Total | 73 | 107 | 89 | 101 | 68 | 100 |

Table 10. Types and Frequency of Fatal Accidents That Occurred in Ohio Farm Homes, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Type of accident causing death | Number of fata accidents | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| | 1946 | | | 1947 | | | 1948 | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Falls on same level | 18 | 34 | 52 | 17 | 28 | 45 | 19 | 35 | 54 |
| Falls from different level (downstairs, etc.) | 8 | 6 | 14 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Fractures | 15 | 33 | 48 | 14 | 26 | 40 | 10 | 32 | 42 |
| Fire in home (including stove explosion) | 19 | 24 | 43 | 26 | 26 | 52 | 16 | 19 | 35 |
| Smothered or suffo- cated | 2 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Poisons | 7 | - | 7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Accidental discharge of gun | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 10 | 2 | 12 |
| Total | 73 | 107 | 180 | 85 | 105 | 190 | 68 | 100 | 168 |

Table 11. Seasonal Distribution of Fatal Accidents That Occurred To Ohio Farm People When Off the Farms, by months, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Month | Number of fatal accidents | | |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Jan. | 12 | 5 | 14 |
| Feb. | 26 | 15 | 9 |
| March | 18 | 12 | 8 |
| April | 17 | 12 | 8 |
| May | 21 | 16 | 9 |
| June | 15 | 16 | 14 |
| July | 25 | 13 | 21 |
| August | 11 | 18 | 19 |
| Sept. | 15 | 10 | 15 |
| Oct. | 17 | 6 | 22 |
| Nov. | 10 | 6 | 19 |
| Dec. | <u>22</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>17</u> |
| Total | 209 | 139 | 175 |

Table 12. Sex and Age Distribution of Ohio Farm People Who Met With Fatal Accidents When Off the Farm, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Age class | Number of accidental deaths | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | 1946 | | 1947 | | 1948 | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| years | | | | | | |
| 0-4 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 5-14 | 22 | 7 | 14 | 5 | 20 | 12 |
| 15-24 | 40 | 5 | 23 | 5 | 25 | 7 |
| 25-44 | 14 | 6 | 14 | 6 | 14 | 7 |
| 45-64 | 38 | 13 | 17 | 8 | 27 | 13 |
| 65 and over | 46 | 5 | 33 | 7 | 37 | 7 |
| Total | <u>169</u> | <u>40</u> | <u>105</u> | <u>34</u> | <u>126</u> | <u>49</u> |

Table 13. Type and Frequency of Fatal Accidents That Occurred to Ohio Farm People When Off the Farm, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Type of accident causing death | Number of fatal accidents | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| | 1946 | | | 1947 | | | 1948 | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Pedestrian struck by motor vehicle | 52 | 10 | 62 | 22 | 8 | 30 | 21 | 9 | 30 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | | | | | | | | | |
| Auto-auto collision | 27 | 12 | 39 | 27 | 10 | 37 | 23 | 12 | 35 |
| Auto-fixed object collision | 24 | 3 | 27 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| Auto or truck-train accident | 13 | 9 | 22 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 11 | 17 | 28 |
| Auto-truck collision | 6 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Misc. auto accident | 8 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Pedestrian struck by train | 6 | - | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Drowning | 12 | 2 | 14 | 13 | 2 | 15 | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| Poison | 4 | 1 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Electric shock | 3 | - | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Struck by falling object | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Accidental discharge of gun | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Fall on same level | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Fall from different level | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | - | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Team runaway or thrown from horse | 4 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tractor accidents on highway | 3 | - | 3 | - | - | - | 6 | - | 6 |

Table 14. Type and Frequency of Fatal Accidents That Happened To Ohio Farm Children Under 5 Years of Age, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Type of accident causing death | Number of fatal accidents | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| | 1946 | | | 1947 | | | 1948 | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Struck by motor vehicle | 4 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Motor vehicle accident | 3 | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Fire | 6 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Smothering and strangling | 2 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Drowning | 6 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Fall from different level | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Struck by falling object | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Poison | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Farm machinery accident | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | - | 3 | 2 | - | 3 |
| Other | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 12 |
| Total | 27 | 22 | 49 | 33 | 17 | 50 | 27 | 17 | 44 |

Table 15. Type and Frequency of Fatal Accidents That Happened to Ohio
Farm People Over 64 years of Age, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Type of accident causing death | Number of fatal accidents | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| | 1946 | | | 1947 | | | 1948 | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Fall on same level | 23 | 35 | 58 | 19 | 30 | 49 | 21 | 34 | 55 |
| Fall from different level | 17 | 4 | 21 | 22 | 3 | 25 | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| Fracture | 15 | 32 | 47 | 15 | 28 | 43 | 10 | 32 | 42 |
| Motor vehicle accident | 20 | 5 | 25 | 17 | 2 | 19 | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| Struck by motor vehicle | 23 | - | 23 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 1 | 14 |
| Fire | 11 | 4 | 15 | 11 | 5 | 16 | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| Farm animals | 13 | - | 13 | 3 | - | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Farm machinery | 7 | - | 7 | 8 | - | 8 | 6 | - | 6 |
| Poison | 3 | - | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Struck by falling object | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | - | 4 | 3 | - | 3 |
| Accidental discharge of gun | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Struck by train | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | - | 5 |
| Other | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 1 | 14 |
| Total | 140 | 82 | 222 | 114 | 75 | 189 | 102 | 85 | 187 |

Table 16. Type and Frequency of Fatal Accidents That Happened to Ohio
Farm People Between 5 and 65 years of Age, 1946, 1947 and 1948

| Type of accident causing death | Number of fatal accidents | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| | 1946 | | | 1947 | | | 1948 | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Motor vehicle accident | 55 | 22 | 77 | 35 | 15 | 50 | 48 | 26 | 74 |
| Struck by motor vehicle | 26 | 6 | 32 | 12 | 4 | 16 | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Farm machinery | 18 | 1 | 19 | 22 | 2 | 24 | 28 | 1 | 29 |
| Farm animals | 10 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 2 | 11 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Fire | 9 | 16 | 25 | 16 | 18 | 34 | 2 | 12 | 14 |
| Fall on same level | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | - | 3 | 3 |
| Fall from different level | 9 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Poison | 7 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Lightening and electric shock | 7 | 3 | 10 | 7 | - | 7 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Drowning | 10 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 18 | 4 | 22 |
| Struck by train | 5 | - | 5 | 4 | - | 4 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Struck by falling object | 6 | - | 6 | 8 | - | 8 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Accidental discharge of gun | 7 | 1 | 8 | 11 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Other | 7 | - | 7 | 15 | 4 | 19 | 23 | 3 | 26 |
| TOTAL | 178 | 58 | 236 | 161 | 52 | 213 | 150 | 61 | 211 |

