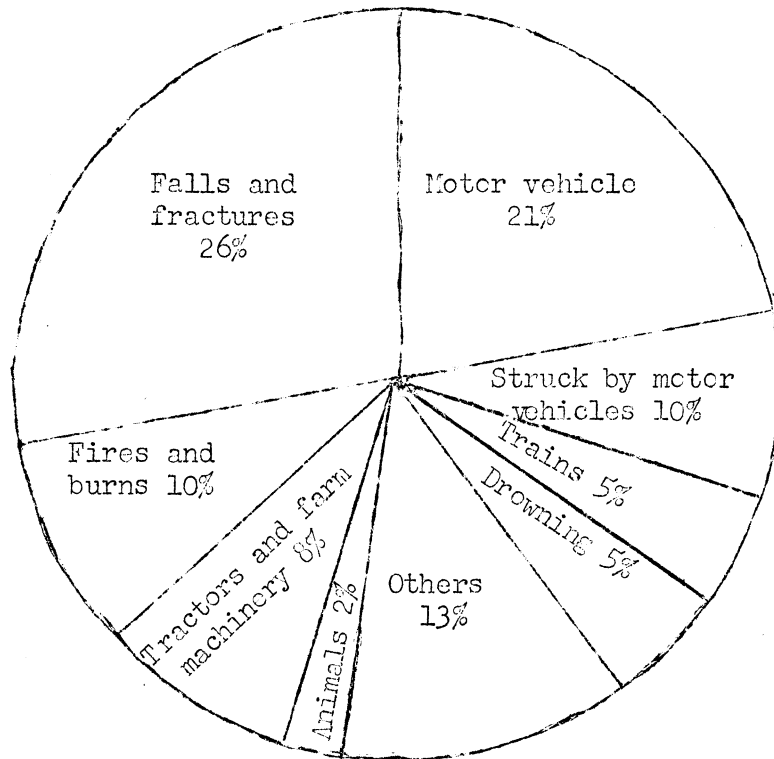


1 9 5 4 F A T A L F A R M A C C I D E N T S

.....
The time to prevent an accident
is before it happens.
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Causes of Fatal Farm Accidents in Ohio, 1946-54



.....
We know more safety
than we practice.
.....

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

Ohio State University

Columbus 10, Ohio

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1954 FATAL FARM ACCIDENTS

R. H. Baker

A great many of our fatal accidents could be prevented. More care to remove or protect accident hazards could save lives and suffering. We should practice more safety on the farm, in the home, at swimming or play, and in traffic. The extra precaution that you should take may save your own life or the life of someone dear to you. We know more safety than we practice.

During 1954 nearly nine Ohio farm people a week died because of accidents. About 70 percent of these were men and boys.

Nearly one-fourth of these 447 fatal accidents to farm people in 1954 were due to falls and fractures. Some fell from mows, roofs, haywagons or down stairs but many fell over stools, out of bed or on slippery floors or sidewalks. Seven out of eight of those whose death was due to an accidental fall or fracture were 65 years old or over. As our age advances we should recognize that our reflexes slow down and that our eyesight and hearing and balance may not be as good as they once were. The use of a cane may prevent that fall. Stairs, throw rugs, porches, dark rooms and ice are things to be considered as danger spots.

The type and causes of fatal accidents to Ohio farm people have been studied for the past nine years. The Division of Vital Statistics of the Ohio Department of Public Health furnished copies of all death certificates where death followed an accident to all Ohio people who did not live in cities, towns or villages. The author, and the Farm and Home Safety Committee of the Ohio State Safety Council are grateful to this Division and to many other persons who have helped make this study possible. The method used in classifying farm people was discussed in mimeographed bulletin A. E. 240, June 1953.

About one-fourth of the fatal accidents to Ohio farm people were caused by accidents involving motor vehicles--cars, trucks, motorcycles and scooters. Another one-eighth were pedestrians struck by autos, trucks and buses.

Table 1

Types of Fatal Accidents: To Ohio Farm People, 1954

Types of Accidents Causing Death	1954	1946-53 Average
Fall or fracture	98	117
Motor vehicle accident	99	92
Struck by motor vehicle	53	43
Tractor or farm machinery	41	37
Farm animal	8	11
Fire and burn	29	44
Train accident	18	24
Drowning	23	22
Smother and strangulation	23	16
Firearm	11	11
Other	44	25
Total	<u>447</u>	<u>442</u>

A great deal has been said about the danger of accidents in the home; the bad accidents in moving parts of farm machinery; the many deaths when tractors overturn; the unguarded swimming hole; and the dangers of kindling fire with gasoline. There are many accounts every month of deaths caused by accidents that happen at these places. But it may surprise some to learn that more Ohio farm people meet with fatal accidents while off the farm than while in the home or out around the farm.

Off The Farm Accidents

Nearly 45 percent of the accidents causing death to Ohio farm people happened while they were off their farms. About 60 percent of these occurred when autos and other motor vehicles were involved in some accident.

An additional one-fourth of these off-farm accidental deaths were cases where persons were struck by autos, trucks, buses or motorcycles while crossing or walking along the road.

Table 2

Fatal Accidents Off the Farm: To Ohio Farm People, 1954

Type of Accident Causing Death	1954		1946-53 Average
	Male	Female	
Pedestrian struck by motor vehicle	38	9	41
Motor vehicle			
Auto-auto collision	37	23	45
Auto-fixed object collision	14	5	17
Auto-truck collision	9	2	9
Misc. Auto accident	7	1	10
Auto or truck and train	13	4	16
Pedestrian struck by train	1		8
Drowning	14	5	16
Fall on same level	2	1	2
Tractor accidents on highway	1		2
Other	10	2	15
Total	<u>146</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>181</u>

There were 18 deaths to farm people when trains struck either a motor vehicle or pedestrian.

This heavy death rate can be reduced if we watch more carefully when we turn on-to and off-of highways; approach intersections with more care; approach railroad crossings with more caution; reduce speed when visibility

is poor or roads are slippery; and walk on left side of road facing approaching traffic.

High speed causes some accidents. Poor visibility causes others. Faulty brakes and other equipment cause a few. Mixing drinking with driving causes far too many. Drive carefully and enjoy a long life rather than live dangerously and bring sadness to so many.

Drownings accounted for about 10 percent of the off-farm accidental deaths to farm people.

Table 3

Home Accidents: Fatal Accidents in Farm Homes, 1954

Type of Accident Causing Death	1954		1946-53 Average
	Male	Female	
Fall on same level	17	29	46
Fall on different level	3	4	11
Fracture	12	18	36
Fire in home	13	11	39
Smothered or suffocated	16	7	16
Poison	5	4	5
Firearm	2	2	4
Other	3	9	10
Total	<u>76</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>167</u>

Home Accidents

About 35 percent of all fatal accidents to Ohio farm people occurred in and around the home. In the farm home the types of accidents that cause most of the deaths are falls, fractures, fires and smothering. More than half of them result from falls and fractures. Many fractures have been caused by falls but fail to so state on the death report. About 90 percent of the falls occurred when the victims fell on the same level.

The others were down stairs or off stepladders and porches.

About one-seventh of the home accidental deaths resulted from fires. Sometimes the home burned, trapping its victims but in many cases the fatal burn was caused by an explosion when using gasoline or kerosene to kindle a fire.

One of the very tragic facts is that about one-seventh of the home accidental deaths were due to small children being smothered in their beds or strangling on food or a foreign object.

Farm Accidents

About one-fifth of all fatal accidents to Ohio farm people occurred in the fields, and in and around the service buildings in 1954.

Table 4

Farm Accidents: Fatal Accidents on the Farm, Outside the Home, Ohio, 1954

Type of Accident Causing Death	1954	1946-53 Average
Tractor or Farm machinery	40	35
Fall from different level	11	13
Fall on same level	1	4
Struck by falling tree or object	8	6
Firearm	3	5
Farm animal	8	10
Fire and burn	4	4
Drowning	3	5
Lightning and electric shock	4	3
Other	7	9
Total	89	94

Tractor and machinery accidents caused 45 percent of these fatal accidents that occurred on the farm. Half of these resulted when a tractor overturned. Five persons were killed when they were run over by

tractors and two more fell from a tractor and were run over by the tool being pulled. Two more were killed when their clothing was caught in the power-take-off. Hay bailer and combine accidents killed two men each.

Half of the fatal falls on the farm were from hay mows. Others fell from loads of hay, ladder, roof, pole and a cliff.

Death Rate Higher in Summer

The accidental death rate for farm people was 25 percent higher during the May through September period than during the other months of the year. This higher rate is due in a large part to more highway accidents and swimming accidents during this period of the year. March was the month with the fewest number of fatal accidents.

Table 5

Time and Place: Of Accidental Deaths to Ohio Farm People, 1954

Month	Farm	Home	Off-Farm	Total
January	7	18	12	37
February	7	11	14	32
March	6	14	10	30
April	3	16	10	29
May	13	14	11	38
June	6	15	18	39
July	14	14	21	49
August	6	12	24	42
September	7	13	23	43
October	7	7	20	34
November	8	15	14	37
December	5	11	21	37
Total	89	160	198	447

Table 6

Age, Sex, and Place: Accidental Deaths to Ohio Farm People, 1954

1954							
Age Group	Farm		Home		Off-Farm		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
0 - 4	4	1	25	19	7	4	60
5 - 14	6		4	4	23	10	52
15 - 24	9		2		24	8	43
25 - 44	18		3	3	15	9	48
45 - 64	25	1	7	4	35	10	82
65 and over	24	1	35	54	37	11	162
Total	85	3	76	84	146	52	447

Average 1946-53							
0 - 4	6	3	20	13	7	5	54
5 - 14	9	1	7	5	21	7	50
15 - 24	8		1	2	29	6	46
25 - 44	11	2	2	5	15	8	43
45 - 64	20	1	5	6	25	11	68
65 and over	31	2	45	56	40	7	181
Total	85	9	80	87	137	44	442

Causes Not Same in All Age Groups

Falls and fractures were the types of fatal accidents that led to the death of half the older farm people who met with accidental deaths. Another fifth of the older people who met with accidental deaths were either struck by autos or involved in auto accidents. The other commonest accidents that caused death to these older people were with tractors, and farm machinery, and fires.

When population by age classes is considered it is seen that there is over seven times as many chances that a farm person 65 or over will have a fatal accident than other adults on the farm.

Table 7

Accidental Deaths by Age Groups: To Ohio Farm People, 1954

Type of Accident Causing Death	Oldsters				Youngsters	
	Age, 65 & Over		Age, 5-64		Age, under 5	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Fall or fracture	35	50	11	2		
Motor vehicle	20	5	45	25	3	1
Struck by auto	8	4	28	4	4	5
Tractor or farm machinery	13		25		1	1
Farm animal	4	1	3			
Train accident	4	1	10	2		1
Fire	5	4	9	4	4	3
Drowning	1		12	4	4	2
Smother or strangulation			1		15	7
Lightning and shock			5	1	1	
Struck by object	2		5	1	1	
Poison	1		2	2	3	2
Firearm	2		6	2		1
Other	1	1	13	2		1
Total	95	66	176	49	36	24

Table 8

Fatal Accidents to Ohio Farm People,
1946-54

Year	Number	Year	Number
1946	507		
1947	452	1951	400
1948	442	1952	460
1949	444	1953	410
1950	424	1954	447

About 40 percent of the youngsters under five who had fatal accidents were smothered or strangled. Another 20 percent were involved in auto accidents or struck by autos. Fires, drowning and poison accounted for most of the other accidental deaths in this age group.

The other people on the farm between ages five and 64 met with quite a variety of accidents that caused their deaths. But auto accidents or being struck by an auto was the main cause accounting for over 45 percent of the cases. Accidents with tractors and farm machinery accounted for 12 percent of the cases; and drowning, falls, fire and train accidents were the other main causes of accidental deaths on this broad age group.

Studies of other types of accidents have shown that for every fatal accident to farm people there are 70 non-fatal accidents that will require medical attention or cause the victim to be unable to work for one or more days. More than three-fourths of these non-fatal accidents were cuts, bruises or fractures.

Studies of fatal farm accidents to Ohio farm people have been made for the last nine years. The figures derived from these studies indicate that a farm person in a lifetime of 60 years has one chance in 33 of dying as a result of an accident.

A Little Care Makes Mishaps Rare.

