



April 2018

Non-intentional Farm Related Incidents in Australia

The National Farm Injury Coronial Database was developed by AgHealth Australia in 2004 to provide the most comprehensive evidence on which to build prevention approaches towards the safety and well-being of people in Australian agriculture. Information collated into the database is directly sourced from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS) and will be used for the purpose of this project.

Deaths

During the period of 1 January – 31 March 2018 a total of 13 on-farm deaths were reported. Trucks (n=2), trees being felled (n=2) and water storage (n=2) were reported most frequently.

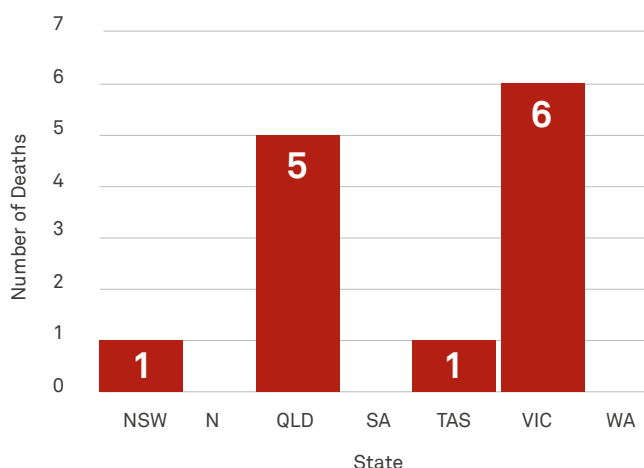
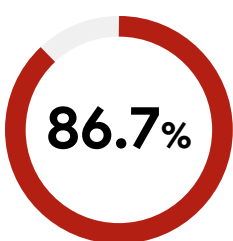


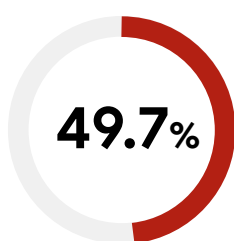
Figure 1 On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by age and state, 1 January – 31 March 2018.

Since 2001 across Australia, 1,365 people have lost their life on a farm due to non-intentional injury.



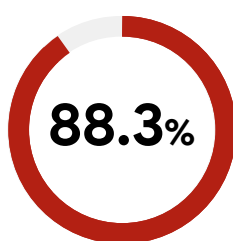
86.7%

Of these, 1,183 cases (86.7%) have been finalised and “closed” by the coroner.



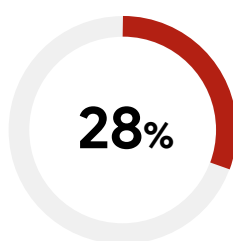
49.7%

Persons in the 50+ years category (n=678) accounted for 49.7% of all reported incidents.



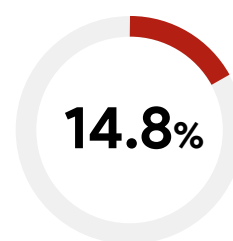
88.3%

Males were involved in 1,206 of these cases (88.3%).



28%

Tractors (n=218) and quads (n=168) are the leading agents causing fatal injury, accounting for 28% of total deaths.



14.8%

Children under 15 years accounted for 202 cases (14.8%).

Lower T, Rolfe M, Monaghan N. Trends and patterns in non-intentional injury in Australian agriculture. *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health* 2017, 23(2): 139-151; doi: 10.13031/jash.12091



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Agents of injury causing on-farm death

In Australia, farming has been consistently identified as a high-risk industry. Mobile Machinery, farm vehicles, animal handling and water on-farm present a range of hazards. It has been conservatively estimated for the period 2003-2006 that 35% of fatal farm cases resulting from the six leading injury agents in Australia (tractors, quads, farm utilities, bodies of water, motorbikes and horses), may have been prevented through the use of existing evidence-based solutions.⁴

4. Lower T, Fragar L, Herde E. Potential for preventing farm injury fatalities in Australia. *J Health, Saf & Envir* 2011;27(2):125-37.

Category	Agent	2018		
		<15yrs	>15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		1	1
	Horse		1	1
Farm Structure	Dam		2	2
Farm Vehicle	Motorbike		1	1
	Truck		2	2
	Utility		1	1
Other	Powerline		1	1
Working Environment	Fire/smoke/ flame		1	1
	Log		1	1
	Trees being felled		2	2
Total		0	13	13

Table 1 Agents of injury causing on-farm death 1 January – 31 March 2018.

The fatal cases for this reporting period could potentially increase. Monthly queries are run in NCIS to identify any additional incidents which have not been captured by the media, which occurs in about 5-10% of cases. As new cases are identified they will be included and reported in subsequent quarterly reports.

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Current Program of Work

Fatal incidents involving Children on Australian Farms (2001-2017) - This study assesses non-intentional injury deaths of children 14 years and under in Australia (2001-2017) and the causal agents associated with these fatalities.

Research Papers

In this most recent period (January - March), the data has been used to develop two papers. These papers assess tractor related cases in Australia from 2001-2016 and the potential preventability for some of the leading causes of fatal on-farm injury.

1. Lower T, Temperley J. A review of Australian farm tractor fatalities 2001-2016. *Journal of Health Safety & Environment* (in press).
2. Lower T, Temperley J. Farm Safety - Time to Act. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia* (in press).

sydney.edu.au/medicine/aghealth/publications/reports.php

AgriFutures Australia supports activities focused on the physical and mental health and safety of farming families. Through this project, AgriFutures Australia is working with AgHealth Australia to track and monitor death and injury statistics in primary industries.

These statistics are reported quarterly and are available at agrifutures.com.au/national-rural-issues/health-safety/

This work is in addition to projects delivered with other Rural Research and Development Corporations on research into new and existing prevention controls.

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