



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 for the purpose of this project is captured through Australian print and online media. The process of media monitoring is utilised to highlight the prevalence of farm related deaths and injuries.

Deaths

During the period of January 1- June 30, 2019 a total of 34 on-farm deaths were reported. In the corresponding period for 2018 there were 30 cases. A comparison of these data for the 2018 and 2019 periods through to June 30 by state, is provided in Figure 1.

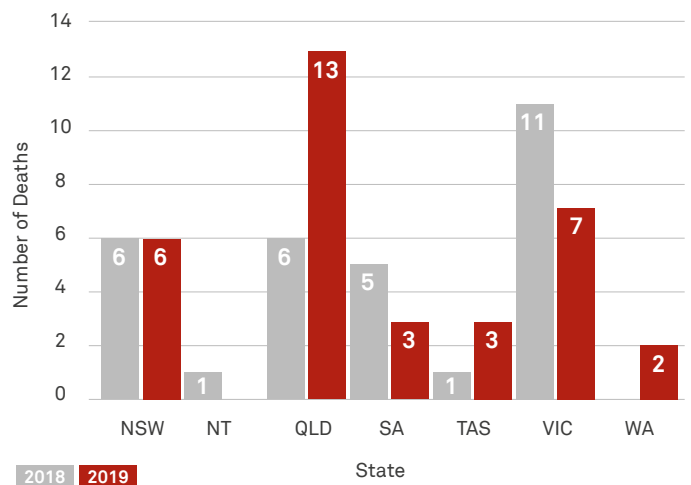
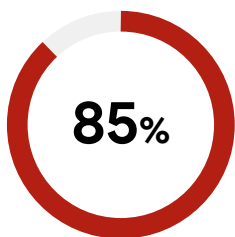
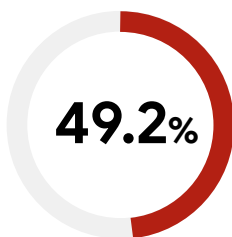


Figure 1 On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by state, Jan 1 – Jun 30, 2018 and Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2019.

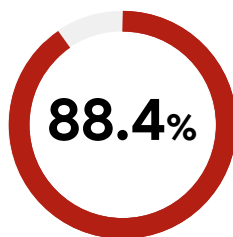
Since 2001 across Australia, 1,456 people have lost their life on a farm due to non-intentional injury.



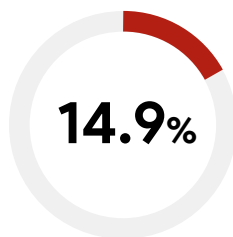
Of these, **1,234** cases (85%) have been finalised and “closed” by the coroner



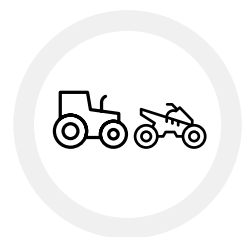
Persons in the 50+ years category (n=**716**) accounted for 49.2% of all reported incidents.



Males were involved in **1,287** of these cases (88.4%).



Children under 15 years accounted for **217** cases (14.9%).



Tractors (T=**234**) and quads (Q=**182**) are the leading agents causing fatal injury



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For the 2019 period (Table 1) quads (n=7), tractors (n=3) and motorbikes (n=3), were reported most frequently. Males were involved in 33 of these cases (97.1%), with data for age and gender presented in Table 2.

Table 1 Agents of injury, by age group causing on-farm deaths, Jan 1 – Jun 30, 2019.

Category	Agent	2018			2019		
		<15yrs	>15yrs	Total	<15yrs	>15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		1	1			
	Deer					1	1
	Dog					1	1
	Horse		1	1			
	Animal NEC*		1	1			
Farm Structure	Dam		2	2	1	1	2
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft					2	2
	Car	1	1	2		2	2
	Motorbike		1	1		3	3
	Quad		3	3	2	5	7
	Side By Side		1	1	2		2
	Trailer		1	1			
	Truck		3	3			
	Utility		3	3		1	1
	Materials	Hay Bale		1	1		
Mobile Farm Machinery	Field Bin					1	1
	Fertiliser Spreader				1		1
	Grader					1	1
	Seeder/Planter					1	1
	Tractor		4	4		3	3
	Mobile Farm Machinery NEC*					2	2
Other	Powerline		1	1			
	Other NEC*					1	1
Working Environment	Fire/smoke/flame		2	2			
	Log		1	1		1	1
	Trees being felled		2	2		2	2
Total		1	29	30	6	28	34

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Table 2 Number of fatalities by age group and gender
Jan 1 – Jun 30, 2019.

Category	n	%
0-14 years	6	17.6
15-29 years	5	14.7
30-44 years	3	8.8
45-59 years	8	23.5
60-74 years	5	14.7
75+ years	7	20.6
Gender	n	%
Male	33	97.1
Female	1	2.9

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, historically this occurs in about 5-10% of cases. As new cases are identified, they will be included and reported in subsequent bi-annual reports.

Injuries

An additional 67 non-fatal on-farm injury events were reported in the Australian media for the current period.

- Nine (13.4%) of the injury events involved children aged under 15 years.
- Quads (n=14) and horses (n=10), were the leading cause of injury.
- These incidents were closely followed by utes (n=7) and tractors (n=6).
- These four agents (n=37), accounted for more than half of all incidents.

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AgriFutures Australia publication no.: 19-045
AgriFutures Australia project no.: PRJ-012006

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