

# 2017 Pennsylvania Farm Fatal Injury Summary

Annual summaries of farm fatalities help identify hazards and risks associated with production agriculture.



Annual summaries of farm fatalities help identify hazards and risks associated with production agriculture. This report summarizes Pennsylvania's 2017 farm fatality data. Fatalities were compared and validated using [AgInjuryNews.org](http://AgInjuryNews.org) and Pennsylvania issued death certificates.

## Demographics

In 2017, there were 30 farm and agricultural fatalities in Pennsylvania. Almost 28% of the fatalities were to youth younger than 18 years and 28% of the fatalities were to 65 and older. Most of the victims were male and 28% of the victims were Anabaptist.

**Table 1. Demographics of the victims**

### Age of Victim

Demographics	Frequency	Percentage
0-6	5	16.7%
7-17	3	10.0%
18-24	1	3.3%
25-34	2	6.7%
35-44	2	6.7%

45-54	2	6.7%
55-64	7	23.3%
65 and older	8	26.7%

### Gender

Demographics	Frequency	Percentage
Male	26	86.7%
Female	4	13.3%

### Anabaptist

Demographics	Frequency	Percentage
Anabaptist	8	26.7%
Non-Anabaptist	22	73.3%

### 2017 total:

- Frequency = 30
- Percentage = 100%

## Farm and Agricultural Injury Code (FAIC)

The Farm and Agricultural Injury Classification (FAIC) Code is a classification scheme used to separate out incidents not directly related to the work of production agriculture. The FAIC was introduced in Pennsylvania in 1992 and revised in 2000; therefore 2017 totals can only be compared with 2001-2015 and 2016 totals.

**Table 2. Fatalities by Farm and Agricultural Injury Code (FAIC)**

### Agricultural Occupational (n=17)

FAIC category	Number (n=30)	Percentage
FAIC-01. Farm Production Work	16	53.3%



FAIC-02. Forestry and Logging	1	3.3%
-------------------------------	---	------

### Non-Agricultural Occupational (n=13)

FAIC category	Number (n=30)	Percentage
FAIC 05. Worksite Exposure: Workers, Outside Services	2	6.7%
FAIC 06. Farm Hazard Exposure: Equipment, Tools and Products	6	20%
FAIC 07. Farm Hazard Exposure: Structures & Landscape	1	3.3%
FAIC 08. Farm Hazard Exposure: Animals	1	3.3%
FAIC 09. Farm Hazard Exposure: Roadway Accident	3	10.0%

## Fatalities by Injury Source

Fatality reports since 2000 have been used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) to characterize primary and secondary sources of injury. BLS revised the structure of categories in 2012. Most changes are subtle, but use caution when comparing the 2017 report to previous reports. The **Primary Source** of injury or illness identifies the object, bodily motion, or exposure which directly produced or inflicted the previously identified injury or illness. Table 3 provides the frequencies and percentages of primary injury sources.

The **Secondary Source** of injury or illness identifies the object, substance, or person that generated the source of injury or illness or that contributed to the event or exposure. Secondary source was detected for 10 incidents: Fences, fence panels, gates (3), trees, logs, limbs (2), Farm tractor (2), Walls (1), embankments (1), and passenger van (1).

**Table 3. Primary Injury Sources**

Primary Injury Source	Frequency	Percentage
Agricultural and garden machinery	1	3.3%
Construction, logging, and mining machinery	3	10.0%
Vehicle and mobile equipment parts	2	6.7%
Animals	3	10.0%
Plants, trees, vegetation-not processed	1	3.3%
Structures and surfaces	1	3.3%
Geographical structures	1	3.3%
Highway vehicles, motorized	3	10.0%
Animal- and human—powered vehicles	2	6.7%
Off-road and industrial vehicles—powered	13	43.3%
<b>Total</b>	30	100%

### Agricultural and Garden Machinery Related Fatalities (n=1)

Source	Description
Harvesting and threshing machinery	Child slipped and was struck by the farm equipment

### Construction, Logging, and Mining Machinery Related Fatalities (n=3)

Source	Description
Skid steer loader, mini loaders	Hit by bucket of front end loader
Skid steer loader, mini loaders	Victim was repairing skid loader and the boom crushed him
Skid steer loader, mini loaders	The decedent was backed over by a skid steer on a private driveway

**Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Parts Related Fatalities (n=2)**

Source	Description
Tires, inner tubes, wheels	Caught in explosion while inflating tire on farm equipment
Tires, inner tubes, wheels	Caught in explosion while inflating tire on farm equipment- helping his brother

**Animal Related Fatalities (n=3)**

Source	Description
Cattle and other bovines	Decedent was crushed between cattle and cattle corral
Cattle and other bovines	Farming accident while moving steer - struck by steer and gate
Cattle and other bovines	Struck by bull

**Plants, Trees, Vegetation-not Processed Related Fatalities (n=1)**

Source	Description
Trees, logs, limbs	Tree fell on decedent while he was cutting it

**Structures and Surfaces Related Fatalities (n=1)**

Source	Description
Structures and surfaces, unspecified	Farm accident

**Geographical Structures Related Fatalities (n=1)**

Source	Description
Water bodies—natural	Child fell into small pond at a farm house

**Highway Vehicles, Motorized Related Fatalities (n=3)**

Source	Description
Trucks—motorized freight hauling and utility	Farm truck loaded with hay went over embankment
SUV, sports utility vehicle	Crash involving farm tractor and SUV – SUV driver
SUV, sports utility vehicle	Crash involving farm tractor and SUV – passenger in SUV

**Animal- and Human—Powered Vehicles Related Fatalities (n=2)**

Source	Description
Animal- or human- powered vehicle, unspecified	Decedent fell off and was run over by horse drawn manure spreader
Animal-powered wagon	Thrown from animal-powered wagon

**Off-road and Industrial Vehicles—Powered Related Fatalities (n=13)**

Source	Description
Off-road passenger vehicles—powered	UTV struck a tree and flipped killing the passenger
ATV, all terrain vehicle	Passenger on an ATV that rolled over pinning victim underneath
Farm tractor	Decedent got pinned between wall and front of tractor
Farm tractor	Entrapped between two tractors
Farm tractor	Farm tractor accident
Farm tractor	Tractor accident
Farm tractor	Tractor accident; somehow run over and tangled in baler
Farm tractor	Tractor decedent was using to plow field rolled over and pinned him under the tractor
Farm tractor	Tractor rollover
Farm tractor	Tractor rollover
Farm tractor	Tractor rollover
Farm tractor	Woman, 25, killed when victim's minivan collides with tractor
Power take-off (PTO)	Fell into PTO shaft of a tractor

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank Dr. Bryan Weichelt, National Farm Medicine Center, for reviewing the 2017 Pennsylvania fatality data. Eight additional Pennsylvania fatality cases were identified through a comparison with [AgInjuryNews.org](http://AgInjuryNews.org). These cases were included in Penn State's data set for 2017.

## Authors

---

**Douglas Schaufler, Ph.D., P.E.**

Research Associate

**Michael Pate, Ph.D.**

Nationwide Insurance Associate Professor of Agricultural Safety and Health

**Serap Gorucu, Ph.D**

BRS Assistant Advisor

---

## **extension.psu.edu**

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Extension is implied.

**This publication is available in alternative media on request.**

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or protected veteran status.

© The Pennsylvania State University 2020

Code: ART-5377