



Fast Facts

Fast facts for senior farmers:

- From 1990 to 2000, most of the fatal injuries in farmers aged 60 and over were due to tractor rollovers
- Most backwards rollovers were caused by towing heavy loads, such as disabled vehicles, or by pulling implements, stumps or logs using a tow chain attached to a tractor
- The use of rollover protection structures (ROPS) and seat belts would substantially reduce the number of rollover fatalities in older farmers
- Runovers were a major cause of fatalities in older farmers. 51% of machinery runover deaths occurred when a dismounted tractor operator was run over by his/her unmanned tractor, often subsequent to a jump starting procedure. Tractors should never be started by means of the side ignition box. Tractor operators should always shut off a tractor's engine and set its brakes prior to dismounting
- 30% of the runover deaths in senior farmers occurred when the operator fell from his/her machine and was then run over by it. Seatbelts should be worn at all times when a tractor is in motion
- Injuries sustained while handling and tending animals, especially bulls, were an important cause of fatalities in older farmers. In many bull-related fatalities, the farmer was charged by an untethered bull. Most of the bull attacks appeared to be unprovoked
- Most hospitalized farm machinery injuries in adults aged 60+ occurred during the active periods of field crop production (spring through early fall)
- Being entangled or caught in operating farm machinery was the leading cause of hospitalization in senior farmers. Guards should always be used on PTOs and moving machine components
- Tight-fitting clothing should be worn when working near PTOs, conveyers and other moving machinery. Most entanglement injuries are caused by loose clothing such as sweaters or coats being caught in the moving parts of a machine. The farmer is then drawn into the machine by his/her entangled clothing
- Falls from machinery were a much more frequent cause of hospitalized injury for senior farmers than for younger farmers
- In senior farmers, tractors, augers, combines, motor vehicles, power take off devices, swathers, balers and ploughs were the machines most commonly associated with injury events
- Animal related trauma and falls from height were the leading causes of non machine-related hospitalized injuries in older farmers
- Falls on the same level were a far more common cause of hospitalized injuries in senior farmers than in younger farmers. This was especially true for senior females

Fast facts for all farmers:

- On average, there are 114 agricultural fatalities and 1,500 agricultural hospitalizations each year in Canada. There has been no substantial change in the annual number of agricultural injuries in Canada over the past decade

THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL INJURY SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM



Fast Facts

- In persons aged 15+, sideways rollovers (into ditches and from slopes) and backward rollovers (from sudden acceleration or incorrect towing practices) are the leading causes of agricultural fatalities in Canada. Most rollover fatalities could be prevented if ROPS were retrofitted on all tractors and operators wore seatbelts at all times. In jurisdictions where the retrofitting of ROPS has been made compulsory, rollover fatalities have been virtually eliminated
- Many farmers are killed and injured working alone in isolated locations on Canadian farms and ranches. They frequently die at the scene of the injury event. Geographic positioning systems and two-way radios could facilitate rapid response to an injury at an isolated site, as long as communication devices were always kept within reach

Fast facts for farms where children live or play:

- From 1990 to 2000, there were 109 fatal agricultural injuries in children aged 1-6 years in Canada. Over 84% of the children were related to the farm owner/operators. 79% of those killed were boys. Fatalities in children aged 1-6 were 8.7% of the total number of agricultural fatalities
- From 1990 to 2000, there were 717 agricultural hospitalized injuries to children aged 1-6 years in Canada. Hospitalized injuries to children aged 1-6 were 4.8% of the total number of hospitalizations
- Across Canada, three causes of injury accounted for almost 79% of the fatal agricultural injuries to children under seven: bystander runovers, extra rider falls and runovers, and drownings
- Nationally, 34% of the agricultural fatalities in children aged 1-6 were bystander runovers. The vehicle was usually reversing at the time of the runover
- Bystander and extra rider runover injuries are so severe that there is negligible chance of a child surviving, even if immediate medical care were available
- Children of any age should never be taken as extra riders on tractors or other farm machinery. Extra riders are at extremely high risk for fatal falls or runovers
- On farms, child drownings generally occur when young children wander away from parents or other relatives who are engaged in chores. Nationally, 20% of agricultural deaths in children aged 1-6 were due to drowning. Most drownings took place in man-made water sources such as dugouts. Children have also drowned in sewage pits, manure pits, water troughs, rain barrels and wells
- Machine entanglements were the most common reason for hospitalized injuries in children aged 1-6. Entanglements often result in permanent disabling injuries, such as limb amputations
- To prevent runovers, drownings, pinnings and entanglements, the farm or ranch work site must be completely off limits to children aged 1-6. Drowning hazards and areas where tractors, pick up trucks, machinery and equipment are operated should be barriered "child-free zones", inaccessible to preschool children
- Fenced-in play areas with high-mounted, self-locking, gate closures should be provided for pre-school children. Affordable, accessible childcare alternatives should be made available to farm and ranch families
- Agricultural injuries are also a serious problem for older children. Fatalities in children under 15 were 13.5% of the total number of agricultural fatalities. Hospitalized injuries to children under 15 were 12.3% of the total number of hospitalized injuries. Older children should not be allowed to do farm work without appropriate training and supervision. The North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks are available from www.nagcat.org