

SAFETY: 2000 Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatalities

Thirty-two fatalities related to farm work or work site activities occurred in Wisconsin in 2000, compared to 26 fatalities in 1999 and 29 in 1998. Wisconsin has averaged 32.6 such fatalities per year over the past five years.

The 2000 Wisconsin farm fatality rate (number of fatalities per 100,000 workers) was 35.2, based on an estimated average of 90,700 workers in production agriculture in Wisconsin in 2000, as reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (including farm operators, unpaid family labor, and hired workers, but excluding service workers hired through agricultural labor contractors). This compares to rates of 26.5 and 28.2 for 1999 and 1998, respectively.

Fatalities	2000	1999	1998
Number	32	26	29
Rate*	35.2	26.5	28.2

*(per 100,000 workers)


Fatalities	2000	1999	1998
Tractors	11	13	15
Farm Machines	12	7	8
Confined Spaces	0	1	2
Falls	0	0	1
Animals	6	1	1
Trucks/Vehicles	1	0	0
Other	2	4	2
Total	32	26	29

TYPES OF FARM-RELATED FATALITIES

Farm tractors were involved in 11 (34.4%) of the 32 fatalities. Other farm machines were involved in 12 (37.5%) of the 32 fatalities. Animals were involved in 6 of the 32 fatalities. In addition, a child was run over by a truck in a barnyard and two people died from suffocation: one under loose straw and one under grain in an open storage.



A complete copy of the 2000 Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatalities Report can be found at <http://bse.wisc.edu/wiscash> under Statistics and Documents.

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Promoting Success in Agriculture for People with Disabilities and Their Families

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FEATURING:

Added Steps & Handholds for Machinery

ALSO LOOK FOR:

Upcoming Events

*Partners...
"Thank a Farmer"
By T. Ellenbecker*

Quick introduction...

Safety...2000 Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatalities

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AgrAbility of Wisconsin

Plowing Ahead

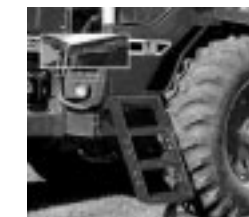
ADDED STEPS & HANDHOLDS FOR MACHINERY

Does the first tractor step seem increasingly far from the ground? Extra steps and handholds can provide simple and relatively inexpensive solutions for people with decreased strength, flexibility, or balance.

The steps or ladders leading to the operator's station on many tractors, combines and other machinery are steep and tall, with small surface areas on the steps themselves. In addition, the first step is usually placed high to prevent damage to the step by rough terrain or to crops by the step. Individuals with limited mobility may have trouble safely mounting and dismounting a tractor. Given the height and location of the operator's seat, added steps and handrails can help increase the safety and usability of farm tractors. Because there are many sizes and configurations of tractors, there are no "universal" steps and handrails/holds or plans for either. Here are a few commercially available step and handhold kits recommended by the National AgrAbility Project:

Deere & Company
One John Deere Place
Moline, IL (USA) 61265
1-800-503-3373

Deere & Co. fabricates a line of "Step-Kits" with integrated handholds that is available for their 10-55 Series Row Crop Tractors. Ask your local dealer about the "Dress up a Deere Friend" brochure.



K & M Manufacturing
308 NW 2nd St
Renville, MN 56284
1-800-328-1752

K & M fabricates a line of bolt-on added steps and handholds for some models of John Deere and Case/IH tractors.

M. D. Products, Inc.
1998 215th Street
Humbolt, IA 50548.
Phone: 515-332-3550
Fax: 515-332-3770

M. D. fabricates a line of add-on steps for John Deere Model 7000 and 8000 Series tractors and also sells individual steps.



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Considerations:

Commercially available steps and handholds are more desirable than locally fabricated solutions because they have already been tested for safety and practicality. If you can't find a commercial supplier of steps and handholds for your model tractor and you need to have the equipment fabricated locally, be sure that the fabricator follows the American National Standards Institute and/or American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ANSI/ASAE) minimum standards for access and egress (ASAE Standards, S318.14, Section 8).

Here are a few suggestions from the National AgrAbility Project for locally fabricated handholds and steps:




Jim Zell, Marathon County, using locally fabricated steps and handhold

- Make sure they are placed to assist the operator who has a disability to easily and safely mount and dismount the tractor without losing balance or creating a secondary injury.
- Handholds should be fabricated and secured in a manner that allows the user to maintain continuous contact with them during mounting and dismounting the tractor.
- They should be placed to maintain a clear pathway for entering and exiting the tractor.
- They should be created in such a way that they do not interfere with tractor function or future value, such as obstructing valves or controls or interfering with the clearance (ground or row) of the tractor.
- They should be welded or bolted to the tractor frame or existing steps. When possible, avoid adding or attaching them to fenders or sheet metal.
- Steps should be made of steel with non-skid, non-slip tread materials that can be purchased from steel and welding supply companies.

Check with AgrAbility of Wisconsin, (608) 262-9336 for assistance in locating fabricators or additional information on steps and handholds

*NOTE: Mention or display of a trademark, proprietary product, or firm in text or figures does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Wisconsin, Easter Seals, or the AgrAbility Project, and does not imply approval to the exclusion of other suitable products or firms.

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2001 UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ **World Dairy Expo**, Madison, WI -- October 3-7
- ★ **National AgrAbility Workshop**, Harrisburg, PA -- October 9-12

STOP BY AND VISIT US DURING THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Partners...



As an adult some of my fondest memories are those as a child visiting my Grandfather's friends. My grandfather's four best friends were bachelor brothers who owned a dairy farm. They would come over for cake and coffee every Sunday. In turn, we would visit their farm to help bring in the cows, ride the hay wagon, ski the hill behind their house, and chase the Guinea hens, just naming a few activities. My family boarded workhorses for the neighboring farm and we raised chickens to butcher and produce eggs.

Little did I know that some day I would be working as a Rural Outreach Specialist for Easter Seal's Resource Center for Farmers with Disabilities Program. A job that has taken me into farmers' homes and farms across the State of Wisconsin.

My employment has been a "tapestry of many colors". All of my life, my family and I have been in self-employment ventures. I have also worked in the

Human Services field for 25 years. And, I can truthfully say my most enjoyable and fulfilling work has been with farmers and their families. Their livelihoods reflect much more than hard work. The words "hard working" do not come close to accurately describing the long hours, strenuous schedules, and harsh conditions farmers endure on a daily basis. They grow crops, raise animals and produce milk so we can sustain our families and ourselves. We take these things for granted. They live a proud and humble life raising families with good, established work ethics.

This has been a very interesting summer. Again, I am brought closer to my childhood memories, which is always a pleasant experience. But, what is even more important is remembering to thank the farmer for remaining determined and tenacious in their continuous struggle to maintain a living. What would we do without them? So, the next time you sit down to a nice meal with family or friends, remember to thank a farmer.

T. Ellenbecker

Quick introduction....

Hello! My name is Jessica Danziger.

I am assuming the role of University of Wisconsin Outreach Specialist for AgrAbility of Wisconsin during Sheri Hicken's reign as Alice in Dairyland.

I come to you from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services where I managed operations for the Bureaus of Aging and Long Term Care Resources and Developmental Disabilities Services with a short stint in Tobacco Control. Wisconsin's long term care service programs try to focus on quality of life, self-determination, and options that allow people to continue living in the community in which they are comfortable. I am happy to be working with AgrAbility of Wisconsin toward similar goals by providing ideas and encouragement to help people continue their chosen profession.

I earned my BS in Agriculture from the University of Illinois in Urbana where I specialized in Animal Science. I grew up in St. Charles, Illinois (not on a farm). I became interested in agriculture after working for a farm veterinarian and living on a sheep farm while I was in college.

Give me a call, (608)262-9336. I would love to hear about your experiences with AgrAbility of Wisconsin!

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Serving Wisconsin's farm families with a human touch:

Wisconsin Farm Center
Wisconsin Dept of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

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