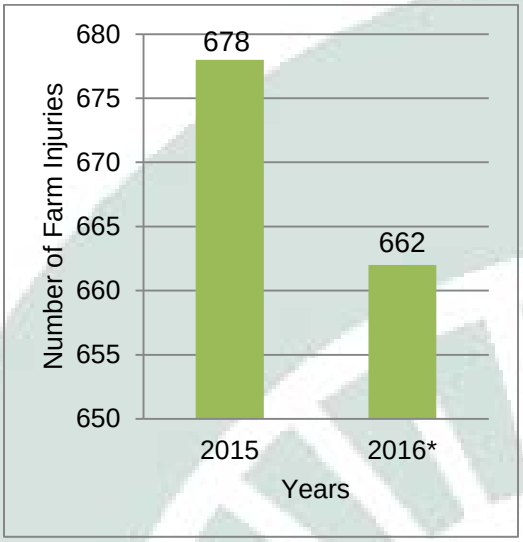
Tracking Work-Related Farm Injuries in Michigan

www.oem.msu.edu

Summary Statistics

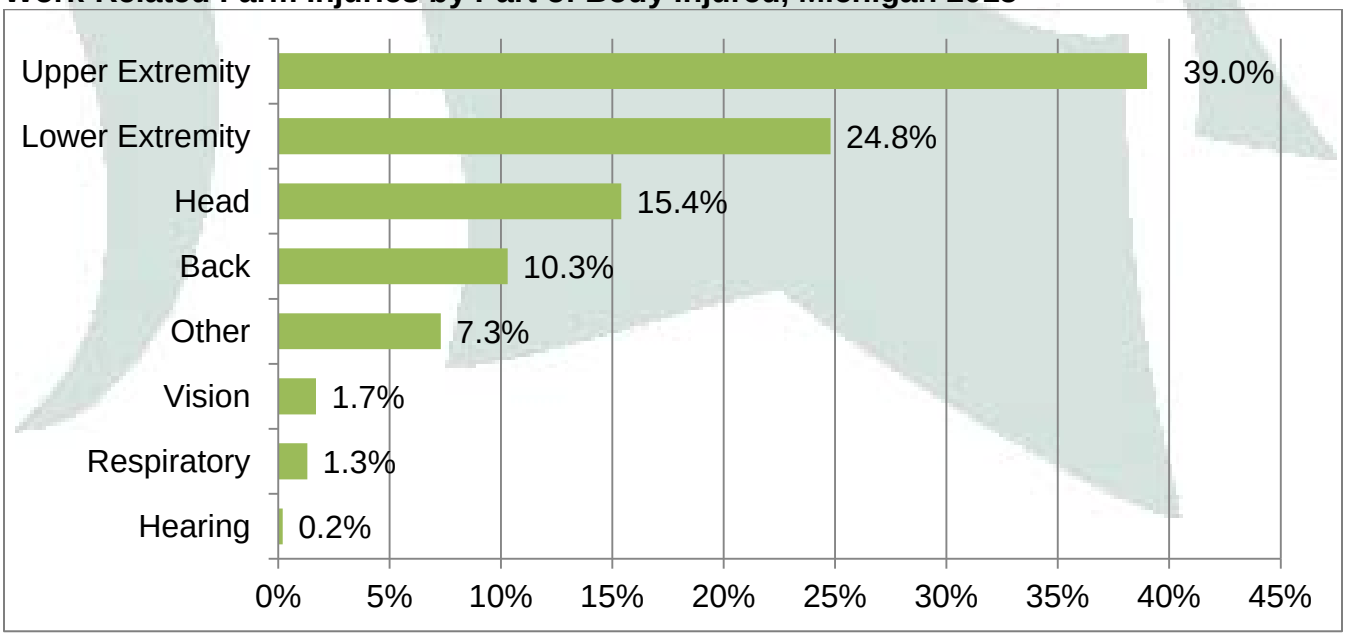


*2016 preliminary data as of 4/6/2017

Injuries caused by cows are a leading source of work-related farm injuries.

There were 678 work-related farm injuries in Michigan in 2015; eight individuals had two separate agricultural injury incidents. There were an additional 21 agricultural fatalities. Injuries were more common among men (72.8%) and Caucasians (91.0%). Forty-seven (29.7%) injured farm workers and operators were of Hispanic ethnicity where ethnicity was known and 74 (11.0%) were ≤ 18 years of age. The age of individuals varied from 4-94 years of age; the average age was 40 and the median age was 37.

Work-Related Farm Injuries by Part of Body Injured, Michigan 2015*



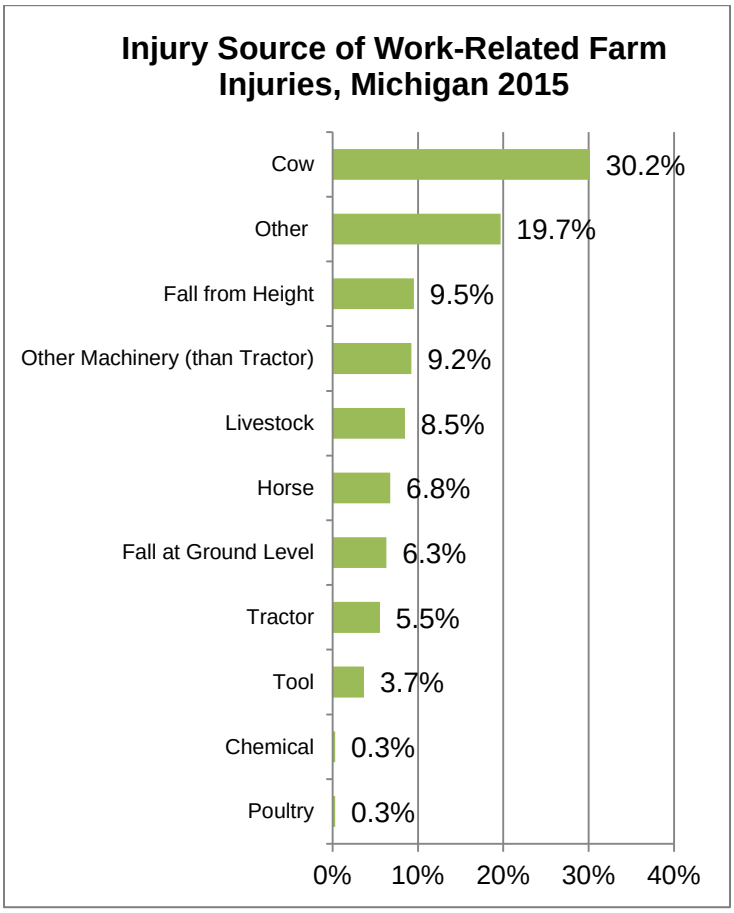
*Information on part of body injured was available for 629 (92.8%) individuals.

Background

Since January 1, 2015 Michigan's hospitals were required to report work-related farm injuries for all patients. The Occupational and Environmental Medicine Division at Michigan State University is in the process of preparing the first annual report on work-related hospitalizations in Michigan that will be available at www.oem.msu.edu.

2015 Results

- 670 individuals were treated in Michigan's hospitals or ER departments for work-related farm injuries.
- 9 individuals were migrant workers.
- 70 (10.3%) individuals were hospitalized and 594 (87.6%) were treated in the Emergency Department.
- The most common part of the body injured were upper extremities in 245 individuals, followed by lower extremity injuries in 156 individuals.
- The most common injury source was "cow" (30.2%), followed by "other" (19.7%), and then "fall from height" (9.5%).
- 158 individuals sustained contusions, followed by 99 individuals with fractures and 90 individuals with lacerations.
- Dairy farms had the highest number of injuries (172), followed by livestock farms with 64 injuries.



*Information on injury source was available for 650 (95.9%) individuals

Work-Related Farm Injury Narratives

- A 68-year-old male sustained multiple traumatic crush injuries and rib fractures after being run over by a tractor.
- A 26-year-old male sustained a traumatic above-the-knee amputation of the right lower leg after it was caught in an auger.
- A 21-year-old female sustained a concussion due to a fall from a ladder while picking apples.
- A 22-year-old male sustained a fracture of one rib after one cow stepped and his foot and another cow pushed him against a wall.
- A 50-year-old male sustained abrasions to his forearm and a sprained shoulder after a piece of his clothing became caught in a corn auger.