Tracking Work-Related farm Injuries in Michigan

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Summary Statistics





Injuries caused by cows are the leading source of work-related farm injuries in Michigan.

There were 388 work-related farm injuries in 384 individuals in Michigan in 2021; four individuals had two separate agricultural injury incidents. There were an additional 19 agricultural fatalities. Most injuries were among men (73.7%) and Caucasians (89.1%). Thirty-three (22.3%) injured farm workers and operators were of Hispanic ethnicity and 14 (3.6%) were <16 years of age. The age of individuals varied from 6-86 years of age; the average age was 44.3 and the median age was 42.0.



*Information on part of body injured was available for 386 (99.5%) of injuries. Percentages are based on the primary diagnosis of the injury.

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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 prepares periodic reports on work-related farm injuries, available at www.oem.msu.edu.

2021 Results

- Three children, ≤10 years old were injured while doing farm work activities.
- 322 (83.0%) individuals were treated in Michigan's hospitals or EDs for work-related farm injuries.
- The most common part of the body injured were upper extremities in 164 individuals followed by lower extremities in 107.
- The most common injury source was "cow" (32.1%), followed by tractor (13.3%).
- The most common nature of injury was fracture (17.5%) followed by contusion/bruise (15.5%).
- Dairy farms had the highest number of injuries (42), followed by livestock farms with 27 injuries and grain farms with 12 injuries.

Injury Source of Work-Related Farm Injuries, Michigan 2021*

Injury Source	Number	Percent
Cow	121	32.1
Tractor	50	13.3
Non Tractor Machine	44	11.7
Fall at Ground Level	25	6.6
Livestock	20	5.3
Tool	19	5.0
Fall from Height	15	4.0
Chemical	13	3.4
Horse	3	0.8
Other	67	17.8
Total	377	100.0

*Information on injury source was available for 377 (97.2%) cases.

Work-Related Farm Injury Narratives

• A 64-year-old male was hospitalized for eleven days sustaining second degree burns to his face, head and neck after he was sprayed with hot hydraulic oil from a farm tractor.

• A 10-year-old boy sustained a right clavicle fracture after he was pinned against a barn wall by a cow.

• A 35-year-old female sustained a concussion after she was hit in her head by a cow.

• A 40-year-old male sustained an amputation of his right index finger after his finger got caught in a manure spreader's gears.

• A 16-year-old male was hospitalized for one day sustaining a crushed pelvis after being pinned by a tractor and a hay bale.

• A 24-year-old female sustained a crushing injury to her right hand after a cow stepped on her hand while milking.