

## How Can I Notify MSU of a Farm Work-Related Death?

Call MSU Farm Injury Hotline: **1-800-446-7805**

Fax: **1-517-432-3606**

E-mail: **MIFACE@ht.msu.edu**

Mail MIFACE a confidential letter:

(factual summary, newspaper clipping, etc.):

**(MIFACE) Michigan State University**

**Department of Medicine**

**117 West Fee Hall**

**East Lansing, MI 48824-1315**

MSU Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Website: [www.oem.msu.edu](http://www.oem.msu.edu)

We can make Michigan's agricultural work safer by

*"Working Together to Educate and Prevent Fatal Farm Injuries"*



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**MICHIGAN STATE  
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**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE  
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE  
117 West Fee Hall ■ East Lansing, MI 48824**

## MSU Study of Michigan

**FARM WORK-RELATED DEATHS**

**A STATEWIDE, MULTI-YEAR MSU STUDY**



## MSU Statewide Study of Michigan Farm Work-Related Deaths

The MSU statewide study of farm work-related deaths began in 2001. Any individual, including farm family members, who die as a result of performing a farm work-related activity is included in the study.

**Deaths from natural causes, such as a heart attack, are not included.**

*We can learn from situations where farm workers have lost their lives doing farming activities by understanding the circumstances associated with these deaths.*

### The Farm Work-Related Death Study IS:

**About Prevention.** Through information gathered about each farm work-related death, practical information and prevention strategies can be developed and distributed to Michigan farm workers and farm owners/operators.

**About Education.** Hazard Alerts will be published by MSU to help farmers and their families, farm employers and farm employees to improve safety on the job.

### The Farm Work-Related Death Study IS NOT:

**About Enforcement.** *This educational research program does not enforce MIOSHA health and safety regulations.*

**About Fault or Blame.** *MSU is not interested in “who was to blame,” but rather in “what went wrong” and how a similar death can be prevented in the future.*

## Why Notify MSU of a Farm-Related Death?

You can help prevent similar tragedies from happening to other farm families and farm workers by letting us know when a farm work-related death occurs. Your action provides MSU the tools to detect common patterns of fatal injuries that occur in the Michigan farming industry and increase our understanding of the specific farming-related fatalities in our state.

The back cover details how to notify MSU of a farm work-related death.

## What Will Happen When MSU Receives Notification of a Farm Fatality?

The farm owner will either be contacted by phone or by a letter asking permission to visit the farm to learn more about what happened, why it happened and how tragedies like these can be prevented in the future.

## What is the Reason for a Farm Visit?

A visit to the farm is essential to the identification of the underlying cause(s) of the farm-related death. It helps the MSU investigators better understand the series of events that led to the fatal injury.

Investigators will have MSU ID and a voluntary consent statement to assure and confirm authenticity of this confidential study.

## Who are the Investigators?

The MSU Investigators are experienced health and safety professionals, who have received training in conducting farm-related death investigations.

- **Industrial Hygienist**
- **Agricultural Safety Research Specialist**
- **Occupational Medicine Physician**

## What Will MSU Investigators Do During the Farm Visit?

The investigators will **introduce** themselves and offer to **explain** the farm study in further detail to the farm owner and **answer any questions** the farm owner has about the prevention program.

The investigators will **collect information** regarding the events that led to the death. The investigators will **ask questions** about the circumstances of the event and will **interview witnesses**, if any. Any sketches, drawings, or pictures taken of the equipment or source of the injury involved in the death will not reveal the identity of the farm.

## How Will the Information Collected During the Farm Visit Be Used?

After the MSU farm visit a written summary that includes a narrative of the event and prevention recommendations will be developed and distributed. The summary does not contain any personal identifiers (such as the victim’s name or the address of the farm).

One-page Hazard Alerts targeted to the agricultural community will be published and distributed. The Hazard Alerts identify farm-specific hazards that have resulted in a fatal farm injury, specific prevention recommendations, and other useful farm-related safety information. *Both the written summary and Hazard Alerts do not contain personal identifiers (such as the individual’s name or the name of the farm).*

Annually, a statewide final report will be published analyzing and discussing all farm work-related deaths.