

Non-intentional Farm Related Incidents in Australia

AgHealth Australia has been leading research into deaths and injuries on farm since 2004, providing the most comprehensive evidence on which to build prevention approaches to enhance the safety and well-being of people in Australian agriculture. Australian print and online media monitoring provides an avenue to highlight the prevalence of farm injury in a timely manner. This report focuses on injury events that occurred between January 1 to June 30, 2020.

Deaths

During the period of January 1 - June 30, 2020 a total of 33 on-farm deaths were reported. In the corresponding period for 2019 there were 34 cases. A comparison of data for the 2019 and 2020 periods through to June 30 by state, is provided in Figure 1.

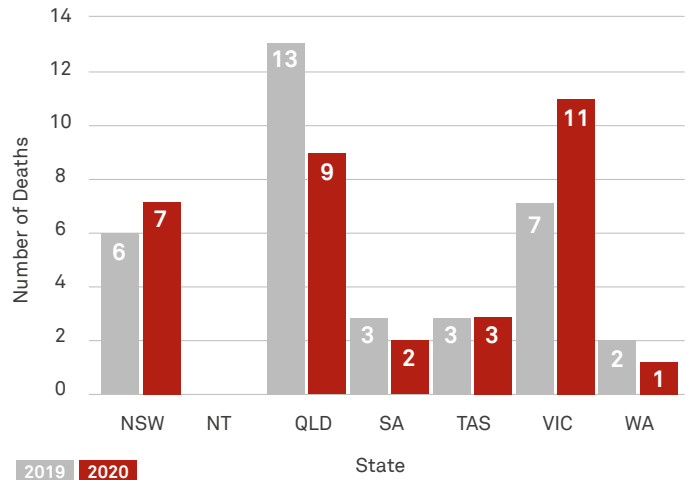
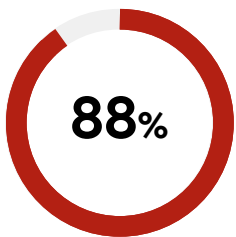
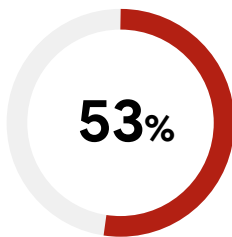


Figure 1 On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by state, Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2019 and Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2020.

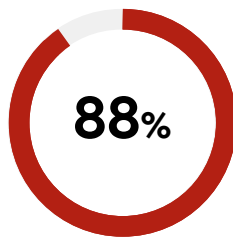
Since 2001, 1,523 people have lost their life on a farm due to non-intentional injury in Australia.



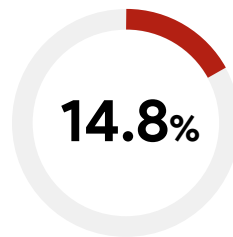
Of these, **1,336** cases (88%) have been finalised and “closed” by the coroner



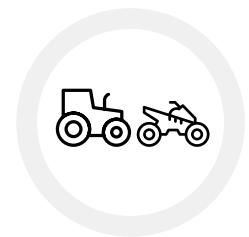
Persons in the 50+ years category (n=**808**) accounted for 53% of all reported incidents.



Males were involved in **1,339** cases (88%).



Children under 15 years accounted for **226** cases (14.8%).



Tractors (T=**240**) and quads (Q=**190**) are the leading agents causing fatal injury since 2001



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For the 2020 period, quads (n=9), tractors (n=4) and utes (n=4), were reported most frequently (Table 1). Males were involved in 27 total cases (81.8%), with data for age and gender presented in Table 2.

Table 1 Agents of injury, by age group causing on-farm deaths, Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2019 and Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2020.

Category	Agent	2019			2020		
		<15yrs	>15yrs	Total	<15yrs	>15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle					1	1
	Deer		1	1			
	Dog		1	1			
	Snake					1	1
	Animal NEC*						
Farm Structure	Dam	1	1	2			
	Silo					2	2
	Water Source NEC*				1		1
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft		2	2		1	1
	Car		2	2			
	Motorbike		3	3			
	Quad	2	4	6	2	7	9
	Side By Side	2		2		2	2
	Trailer						
	Truck					1	1
	Utility		1	1	1	3	4
	Farm Vehicle NEC*		1	1		1	1
Materials	Tyre					1	1
Mobile Farm Machinery	Field Bin		1	1			
	Fertiliser Spreader	1		1			
	Grader		1	1			
	Seeder/Planter		1	1			
	Tractor		3	3		4	4
	Mobile Farm Machinery NEC*		2	2			
Other	Firearm					1	1
	Other NEC*		1	1		1	1
Powered Equipment	PowerSaw					1	1
Working Environment	Fire/smoke/flame						
	Log		1	1			
	Trees being felled		2	2		2	2
Total		6	28	34	4	29	33

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Table 2 Number of fatalities by age group and gender
Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2020.

Category	n	%
0-14 years	4	12.1
15-29 years	5	15.2
30-44 years	2	6.1
45-59 years	5	15.2
60-74 years	11	33.3
75+ years	5	15.2
Unknown	1	3.0
Gender	n	%
Male	27	81.8
Female	6	18.2

The fatal cases for this reporting period could potentially increase. Monthly queries are run by AgHealth Australia to identify any additional incidents which have not been captured by the media, historically this occurs in about 5-10% of cases. As new cases are identified, they will be included and reported in subsequent bi-annual reports.

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Injuries

An additional 71 non-fatal on-farm injury events were reported in the Australian media for the current reporting period. Twelve (17%) of the injury events involved children aged under 15 years. Quads (n=27) and horses (n=9) were the leading cause of injury. These incidents were closely followed by tractors (n=8) and motorbikes (n=6). These four agents (n=50) accounted for over 70% of all incidents. As indicated in Figure 2, more than 60% of the incidents occurred in Queensland.

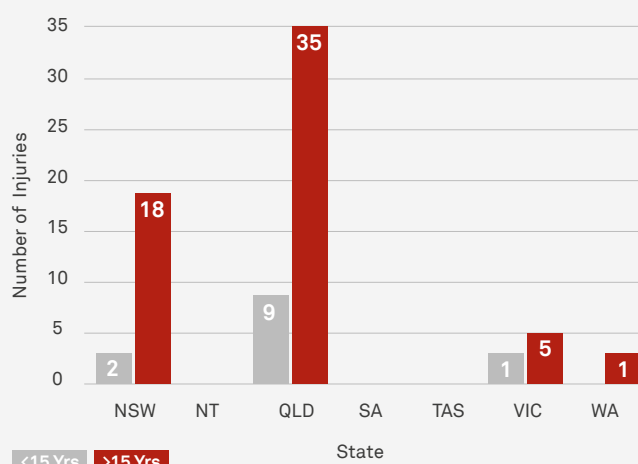


Figure 2 On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian media by state, Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2020.

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