U.S. Farms & Work Force

- 2.17 Million Farms
- 2.7 Million Hired Farm Workers
- 731,000 Youth Working In Agriculture

- 65% of youth are working on a family farm
- 35% of youth are working for non-family

Hired workers (employees) perform an estimated 60% of the work on U.S. farms and about 80% of hired farm workers are foreign born.

87% of farms are operated by families or individuals.
30% of farm operators are female.
22% of farm operators are “new” having been farming less than a year.

Agriculture-related Deaths

Across all industries, Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing has the highest rate of occupational deaths, followed by transportation, mining and construction.

480 farm work-related deaths occur per year for an annual rate of 22.2 deaths per 100,000 workers.

115 children ages 0-19 die each year.

About 4/5 of these children were present in the workplace, but not working.

Tractors are the leading cause of death, with about 125 per year.
Other deaths involve livestock, falls from heights, and suffocation from grain or gases.

Agriculture-related Nonfatal Injuries

Every day, about 38 children are injured and only 20% of them were working when injured.

Most common work injuries:
- Livestock
- Falls from surfaces
- Vehicles/Machinery

Every day, about 167 agricultural workers suffer lost-work-time injuries and 5% of these involve permanent impairment.

There are no official statistics of nonfatal injuries; data is gathered from periodic surveys and other sources such as workers compensation data.
Cost of Agricultural Injuries

The annual cost of occupational injuries in agriculture is $8.3 BILLION in medical costs and lost productivity.

The cost of youth deaths is $420 MILLION per year.

8.3 BILLION $

In $1 bills, if put end to end, those 8.3 billion dollars would stretch around Earth's equator 31.5 times.

$ The mean cost of a tractor overturn: $1,000,000

Injury Costs At One Farm Include:

- Average reduced income by 30% (exceeds industry average)
- Loss of productive worker
- Loss of machinery that is broken or impounded
- Reduced production outputs impacted by disruption
- Emotional distress among witnesses and co-workers
- Hiring, replacement and re-training costs

Investing in Safety for Profits

Studies show a good safety program saves $4 to $6 for every $1 invested.

Every $1 invested in tractor ROPS installation yields $3.75 investment return.

Providing a safe, secure work place is a shared value between employers and farm workers

OSHA provides a Safety Pays Calculator to determine specific savings

Feeding the World

The world will need about 70% more food by 2050 for the predicted 9.5 billion people.

Efficient, productive and sustainable agriculture includes the preservation and well-being of agricultural workers at every level.

Even the most efficient machinery and production systems require human operators.


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