

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 wellbeing of people in Australian agriculture. Australian print and online media monitoring provide avenues to highlight the prevalence of farm injury in a timely manner. This report focuses on injury events that occurred from 1 January to 30 June 2021.

Deaths

During the period 1 January to 30 June 2021, there were 20 on-farm deaths reported. In the corresponding period for 2020, there were 33 cases. A comparison of data for the 2020 and 2021 periods through to 30 June 2021 by state is provided in Figure 1.

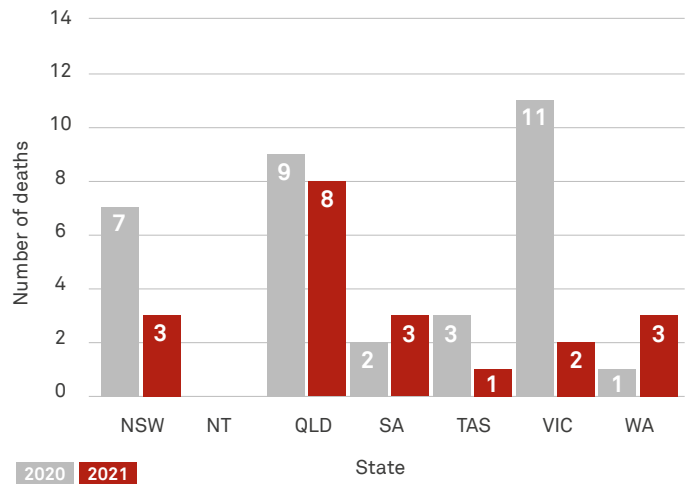
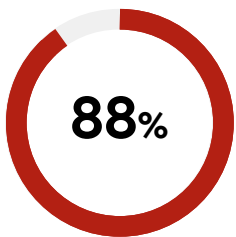
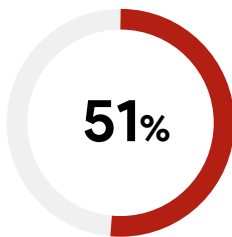


Figure 1 On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by state, 1 January – 30 June 2020 and 1 January – 30 June 2021.

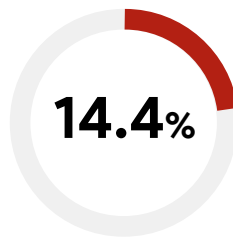
Since 2001, 1,604 people have lost their life on a farm due to non-intentional injury in Australia.



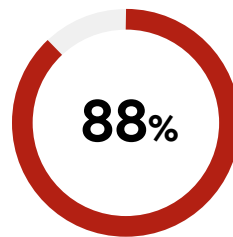
Of these, **1,415** cases (88%) have been finalised and “closed” by the coroner.



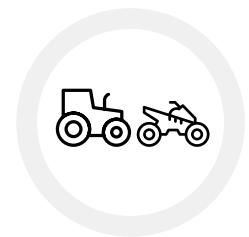
Persons in the 50+ years category (n=**813**) accounted for 51% of all reported incidents.



Children under 15 years were present in **231** cases (14.4%).



Males were involved in **1,415** cases (88%).



Tractors (n=**257**) and quads (n=**197**) are the leading agents causing fatal injury since 2001.

For the 2021 period, tractors (n=6) were reported most frequently (Table 1). Of the total number of cases (n=20), males were involved in 17 of these cases (85%), with data for age and gender presented in Table 2.

Table 1 Agents of injury causing on-farm deaths, by age group, 1 January – 30 June 2020 and 1 January – 30 June 2021.

Category	Agent	2020			2021		
		<15 yrs	>15 yrs	Total	<15 yrs	>15 yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		1	1		1	1
	Deer						
	Horse				1		1
	Snake		1	1			
	Animal NEC*				1		1
Farm structure	Dam				1		1
	Silo		2	2			
	Water source NEC*	1		1			
Farm vehicle	Aircraft		1	1			
	Car				1		1
	Motorbike				1		1
	Quad	2	7	9	2		2
	Side by side		2	2	1	1	2
	Trailer						
	Truck		1	1			
	Utility	1	3	4	2		2
	Farm vehicle NEC*		1	1			
Materials	Hay bale				1		1
	Tyre		1	1			
Mobile farm machinery	Tractor		4	4	6		6
	Mobile farm machinery NEC*				1		1
Other	Firearm		1	1			
	Other NEC*		1	1			
Powered equipment	Power saw		1	1			
Working environment	Fire/smoke/flame						
	Log						
	Trees being felled		2	2			
Total		4	29	33	2	18	20

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Table 2 Number of fatalities by age group and gender, 1 January – 30 June 2021.

Age group	n	%
0-14 years	2	10.0
15-29 years	2	10.0
30-44 years	1	5.0
45-59 years	5	25.0
60-74 years	5	25.0
75+ years	4	20.0
Unknown	1	5.0
Gender	n	%
Male	17	85.0
Female	3	15.0

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

Injuries

An additional 70 non-fatal on-farm injury events were reported in Australian media for the current reporting period. Eight (11.4%) of the injury events involved children aged under 15 years. Quads (n=31) were the leading cause of injury. These incidents were followed by tractors (n=8) and horses (n=6). These three agents (n=45) accounted for almost 65% of all incidents reported. As indicated in Figure 2, more than 70% of the incidents occurred in Queensland.

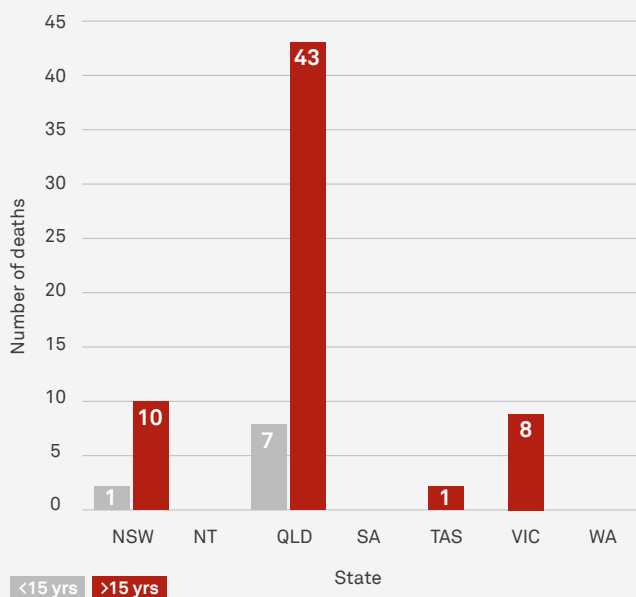


Figure 2 On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian media by state, 1 January – 30 June 2021.

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