

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 provides an avenue 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 2022.

Deaths

During the period 1 January to 30 June 2022, a total of 21 on-farm deaths were reported. In the corresponding period for 2021, there were 20 cases. A comparison of these data for the 2021 and 2022 periods through to June 30 by state is provided in Figure 1.

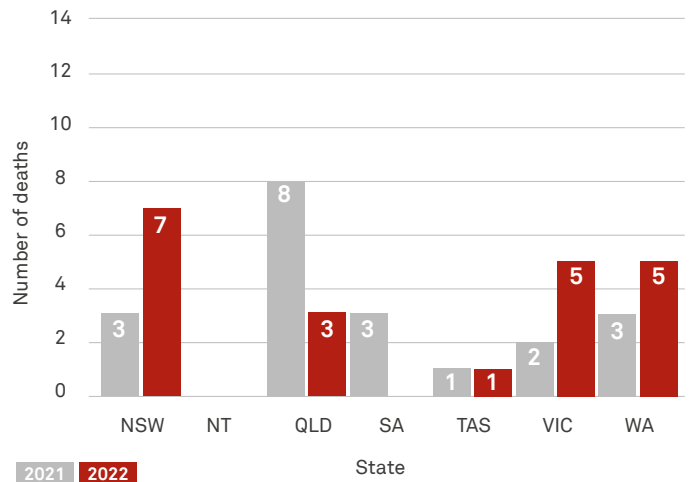
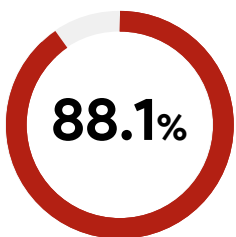
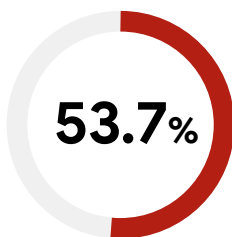


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by state, 1 January – 30 June 2021 and 1 January – 30 June 2022.

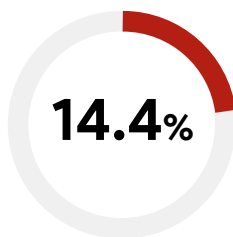
Since 2001, 1,651 people have lost their life on a farm due to non-intentional injury in Australia.



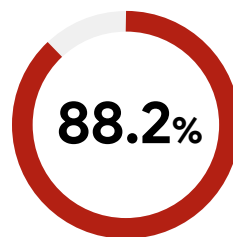
Of these, 1,454 cases (88.1%) have been finalised and 'closed' by a coroner.



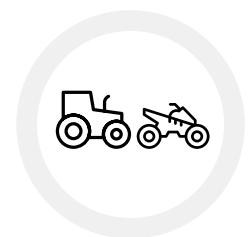
Persons in the 50+ years category (n=887) accounted for 53.7% of all reported incidents.



Children under 15 years were present in 237 cases (14.4%).



Males were involved in 1,457 cases (88.2%).



Tractors (n=262) and quads (n=208) are the leading agents causing fatal injury since 2001.

For the 2022 period, quads (n=4) were reported most frequently (Table 1). Of the total number of cases (n=21), males were involved in 19 (90.5%), 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 2021 and 1 January – 30 June 2022.

Category	Agent	2021			2022		
		<15 yrs	≥15 yrs	Total	<15 yrs	≥15 yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		1	1		1	1
	Horse		1	1			
	Animal NEC*		1	1			
Farm structure	Dam	1		1			
	Powerline				1		1
	Car		1	1			
	Motorbike		1	1			
	Quad		2	2		4	4
	Side by side	1	1	2	1		1
	Trailer				1	1	2
	Truck					1	1
	Utility		2	2		1	1
	Fixed plant	Wool press				1	1
Materials	Chain				1	1	
	Hay bale		1	1			
	Tow strap				1	1	
Mobile farm machinery	Harvesting machine				1	1	
	Earthmoving equipment				2	2	
	Telehandler				1	1	
	Tillage equipment				1	1	
	Tractor		6	6		2	2
	Mobile farm machinery NEC*		1	1			
Total		2	18	20	2	19	21

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Table 2: Number of fatalities by age group and gender, 1 January – 30 June 2022.

Age group	n	%
0-14 years	2	9.5
15-29 years	2	9.5
30-44 years	2	9.5
45-59 years	5	23.8
60-74 years	6	28.6
75+ years	4	19.0
Gender	n	%
Male	19	90.5
Female	2	9.5

The fatal cases for this reporting period could potentially increase. Monthly queries are run in the National Coronial Information System to identify any additional incidents not 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 six-monthly reports. Over time, the information is then validated against data from the National Coronial Information System as cases are closed by a coroner.

Injuries

An additional 58 non-fatal on-farm injury events were reported in the Australian media for the current reporting period. Seven (12.1%) of the injury events involved children aged under 15 years. Quads (n=9) were the leading cause of injury. These incidents were followed by horses (n=8), tractors (n=5), motorbikes (n=5) and side by sides (n=5). These five agents (n=32) accounted for more than 55% of all incidents reported. As indicated in Figure 2, more than 55% of the incidents occurred in New South Wales.

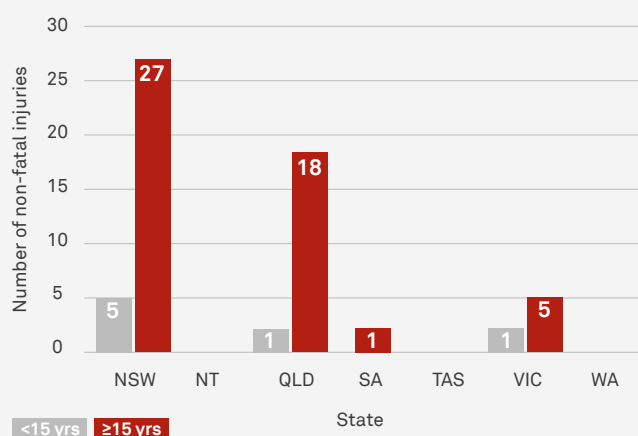


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian media by state, 1 January – 30 June 2022.

Contact

Hon. Assoc. Prof. Tony Lower

AgHealth Australia
University of Sydney
Dubbo NSW 2830
+61 2 6882 1486
tony.lower@sydney.edu.au

Jane Knight

Manager, National Rural Issues
AgriFutures Australia
jane.knight@agrifutures.com.au

AgriFutures Australia publication no.: 22-083
AgriFutures Australia project no.: PRJ-013128

Learn more
agrifutures.com.au/health-safety

AgriFutures Australia is the trading name for Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation.
AgriFutures is a trade mark owned by Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation.



AgriFutures™
National Rural
Issues