



# 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 between 1 January and 31 December 2024.

## Deaths

During the period 1 January to 31 December 2024, a total of 72 on-farm deaths were reported. In the corresponding period for 2023, there were 32 cases. A comparison of these data for the 2023 and 2024 periods through to 31 December by state is provided in Figure 1.

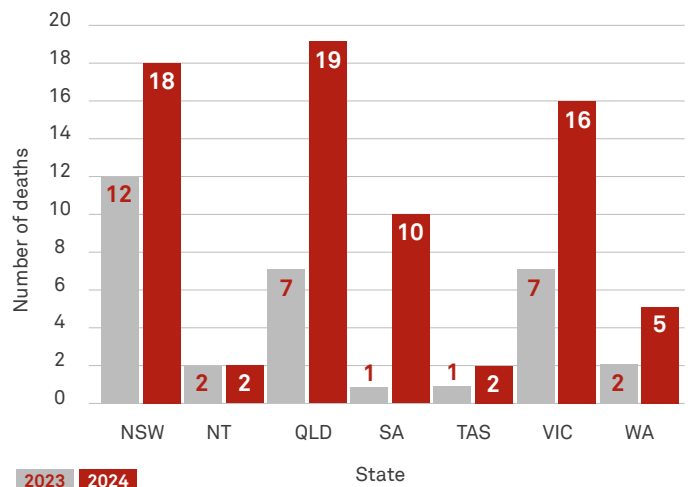
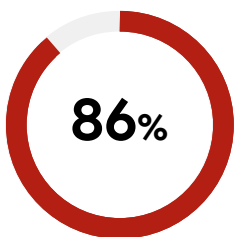
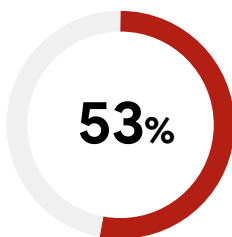


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by state, 1 January – 31 December 2023 and 1 January – 31 December 2024.

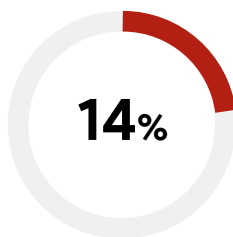
Since 2001, 1,815 people have lost their life on a farm due to non-intentional injury in Australia.



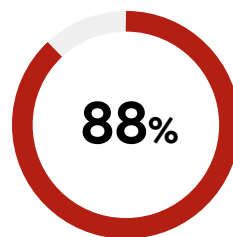
Of these, **1,565** cases (86%) have been finalised and “closed” by a coroner.



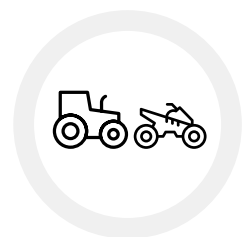
Persons in the 50+ years category (n=**971**) accounted for 53% of all reported incidents.



Children under 15 years were present in **248** cases (14%).



Males were involved in **1,601** cases (88%).



Tractors (n=**285**) and quads (n=**231**) are the leading agents causing fatal injury since 2001.



For the 2024 period, side by sides (n=14), quads (n=10) and tractors (n=8) were reported most frequently (Table 1). Of the total number of cases (n=72), males were involved in 63 (87.5%), with data for age and gender presented in Table 2.

**Table 1:** Agents of injury causing on-farm deaths by age group, 1 January – 31 December 2023 and 1 January – 31 December 2024.

Category	Agent	2023			2024		
		<15 yrs	≥15 yrs	Total	<15 yrs	≥15 yrs	Total
<b>Animal</b>	Cattle				2		2
	Horse				1		1
	Insect				1		1
<b>Farm structure</b>	Cattle yards		1	1			
	Dam/creek/river				2	1	3
	Shed				1		1
<b>Farm vehicle</b>	Aircraft		4	4		5	5
	Motorbike					2	2
	Quad	2	3	5		10	10
	Side by side	1	3	4	3	11	14
	Trailer					1	1
	Truck		1	1		3	3
	Utility		1	1		3	3
<b>Fixed plant</b>	Fixed elevator/conveyor		1	1			
<b>Materials</b>	Hay bale		1	1		2	2
<b>Mobile farm machinery</b>	Auger					1	1
	Earthmoving equipment		1	1			
	Excavator					1	1
	Field bin					1	1
	Harvesting machine		1	1			
	Front-end loader					1	1
	Plastic mulch retriever					1	1
	Post hole digger					2	2
	Rock picker					1	1
	Skid steer loader		1	1			
	Tractor		5	5		8	8
	Mobile farm machinery NEC*					5	5
<b>Other</b>	Other NEC*		1	1		2	2
<b>Working environment</b>	Fire/smoke/flame		4	4			
	Ground/rock/stump/hole					1	1
	Heat		1	1			
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>72</b>

\*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

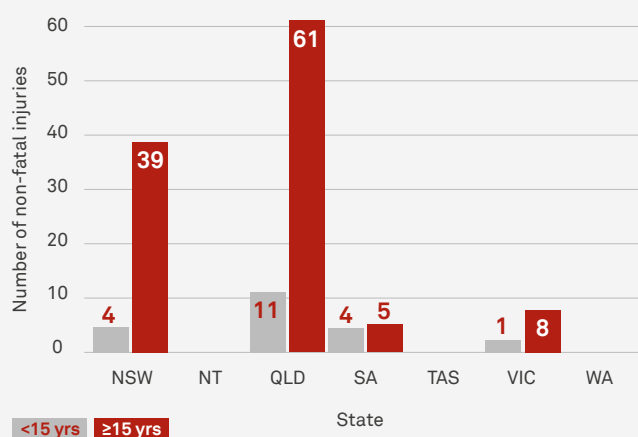
**Table 2:** Number of fatalities by age group and gender, 1 January – 31 December 2024.

Age group	n	%
0-14 years	5	6.9
15-29 years	10	13.9
30-44 years	11	15.3
45-59 years	20	27.8
60-74 years	12	16.7
75+ years	13	18.1
Unknown	1	1.4
Gender	n	%
Male	63	87.5
Female	9	12.5

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 that 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 reports and presentations that are approved by NCIS for release.

## Injuries

An additional 133 non-fatal on-farm injury events were reported in Australian media for the reporting period. Twenty (15%) of the injury events, involved children aged under 15 years. Quads (n=46) were the leading cause of injury. These incidents were followed by horses (n=14), cattle (n=12), side by sides (n=12), motorbikes (n=11) and tractors (n=11). These five agents (n=106) accounted for more than 79% of all incidents reported. As indicated in Figure 2, more than 75% of the incidents occurred in Queensland and New South Wales.



**Figure 2:** On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian media by state, 1 January – 31 December 2024.

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