

Falls Top Accident List

CHICAGO — Falls are among the most common accidents in agriculture, yet they are perhaps the most difficult cause of injuries to guard against, according to the Farm Department of the National Safety Council.

Nearly one-third of all reported injuries in a study of farm and ranch accidents in ten states were the result of falls. An in-depth investigation of 955 of these accidents by the National Safety Council showed that the majority of those injured (863) were members of the farm family, and more than half of the accidents attributed to falls occurred on-the-job.

In a detailed study of 86 homestead falls, the Safety Council found that 76 percent of the falls resulted in serious injury, and that 50 percent of the victims were admitted to the hospital while 33 percent required hospital emergency room treatment. The investigation further revealed that the yard and the kitchen were the scenes of nearly 40 percent of all accidents, and in more than half of all the cases reviewed the victim was simply walking — not climbing up ladders or running down stairs.

The best weapon against accidental falls is alertness, according to the Safety Council. In addition to being alert and aware of the potential for a trip or slip, the Council points out that your chances of falling are increased by illness, haste, fatigue, emotional upset, alcohol and drugs.

There are several common hazards around the farm or ranch that one must watch for to aid in the prevention of accidental falls. Among these are:

- Cluttered work areas and passageways.
- Slippery surfaces resulting from ice, mud, water spills, oil, etc.
- Broken flooring and loose rugs.
- Ladders in a poor state of repair.

In combating injuries due to falls, the Council reminds farmers to:

- Keep stairs repaired and lighted.
 - Provide sturdy hand rails.
 - Do not carry a load that blocks your vision.
 - Set ladders on firm footing. Follow 4 to 1 rule for straight ladders—set base one foot out from building or tree for every four feet up.
 - Keep materials and tools well secured and within easy reach.
 - Wear shoes with non-skid soles and heels.
 - Do not work up high when the weather is windy or stormy.
 - Do not work in a high place when you are ill, tired, or taking strong medicines.
 - Allow no one to ride on the draw bar or towed machinery.
 - Stay clear of running machinery so that an accidental slip or stumble won't throw you into moving parts.
- Falls and injuries can be prevented, but it is up to the individual to always be alert, because accidental tumbles can happen without warning at any time or at any place.

Accidents Kill 2,200 On The Farm

CHICAGO — In 1972 an estimated 2,200 persons were killed in work accidents in agriculture, according to the National Safety Council.

Using a standardized survey format, the statistical and farm departments conducted one-year studies of agricultural accidents in 10 states. The studies made by extension services and local volunteers show that an estimated 169,000 injuries occur annually to farm residents, workers and visitors in the states studied. Of the total injuries, the report indicates that more accidents occurred

President Sets Safety Week

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Richard M. Nixon has declared the week beginning July 25 as National Farm Safety Week.

In his proclamation setting the observance, the President said: "The dollar cost of rural accidents is high, but there is no higher price than the human suffering. This waste of precious human and economic resources must be reduced and can be reduced. The same energies and talents which have made agriculture so highly productive should also be turned to the task of making it safer. 'The unending supply of food and fiber provided by the Nation's largest industry, agriculture, has been the foundation of American prosperity since our country's beginnings,'" President Nixon observed. "The abundance on the farm, in turn, has been stimulated by constant technological progress. But the blessings of technology have sometimes been mixed, as each advance has also brought a new potential for injury."

The President, in proclaiming National Farm Safety Week, urged all persons engaged in farming and ranching to consider ways in which they can promote safer practices in work, home and recreational activities, and can exercise greater caution when traveling on public roads.

TOTE BOX

Use a basket, box or bucket to carry cleaning supplies from one room to another. It saves time and effort, says Thelma Hinson, extension home management specialist,

Demand Key Factor In Prices of Pork, Beef

Pork and beef prices are expected to decline, eventually, but the experts aren't sure when.

Currently, prices are being held at high levels by the combination effect of demand, or consumers' willingness to pay the high prices, and reduced livestock production due to high feed costs.

"Future levels of beef and pork prices will depend in large measure on consumer demand," according to North Carolina State University extension economists. It has been consumer demand more than any other factor that has driven prices to record highs.

The economists point out that, until recently, high feed prices have had little effect on meat prices. The decisions to produce most of the hogs and all of the fed cattle coming to the market currently were made before the drastic rise in feed prices last fall.

However, high feed prices last winter may have dampened the expansion plans of livestock producers, thus influencing pork and beef supplies in the months ahead.

The NCSU economists pointed out that continued high feed prices could continue to keep expansion of production at moderate levels. This would slow the decline in pork and beef prices.

Some experts believe that meat prices have already reached their peak. Expansion of supplies is almost sure to come. The pork supply will build up faster than the beef supply, because the production cycle for hogs is much shorter than that for cattle.

Without high feed prices, supplies would be building up faster. A moderate decline in hog prices is expected to continue through 1973, but there may be no real break in prices before the end of the year or later, the experts predict.

Beef prices have been rising almost continuously since 1964, but as prices have risen, so has production. There are now some indications of a substantial buildup in the nation's cow herd that may lead to beef production far beyond the amounts that could be sold at current retail prices.

This would be the break consumers have been waiting for, but it isn't likely to come overnight.

Beef prices during the remainder of '73 are expected to decline moderately.

Tractors Can Be Safe

CHICAGO—Farm tractors are potentially hazardous yet most tractor accident fatalities can be prevented, according to the National Safety Council.

The Safety Council estimates that there are from 800 to 1,000 deaths resulting annually from tractor accidents. In addition, thousands are injured and millions of dollars are lost in property damage, medical costs, time off work, lost earning power and insurance costs.

"Most of these losses could be prevented," stated the Safety Council, "by competent operation of tractors, use of protective equipment and proper maintenance."

More than half of all tractor accident fatalities involve over-turns, the Council reports. These fatalities occur unnecessarily, because the equipment to protect the driver in a roll-over is available for new tractors and many older models.

"The National Safety Council is convinced that more than 90 percent of the roll-over fatalities could be prevented through the use of roll-over protective cabs and frames," said Leon Urban, manager of the Council's Farm Safety Department.

"The problem," said the Council official, "is that many farmers and ranchers are reluctant to invest in roll-over protection systems for their equipment. The Safety Council, however, believes that the use of ROPS is essential to preventing unnecessary tractor accident injuries and fatalities."

Tractor operation can be safe if operators are alert to potential accident hazards. The Safety Council offers the following 10 tips for safer operation of the tractor on the farm or ranch:

- Stay clear of ditches, embankments, holes, etc., to avoid upset.
- Don't permit others to ride — keep children off and away.
- Cut speed when turning, crossing slopes, on rough, slick or muddy surfaces.
- Watch where you're going at row ends, on roads, near trees, etc.; always watch for and avoid obstacles, and be sure everyone is clear before moving.
- Stay off hills and slopes too steep for safe operation.
- Don't overload — engage clutch slowly with heavy load to avoid backward tip.

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