

procedures and training at university campuses.

State health professionals identify and respond to reports of lead exposure, silicosis, and carpal tunnel syndrome by investigating work sites where these problems exist and targeting educational services to each site. In 1994, these programs identified 713 workers with excessive lead exposure, 83 with silicosis, and almost 7,000 with carpal tunnel syndrome.

NIOSH supports technical assistance to address other occupational problems. Health care workers at developmental disability centers in Madison, Union Grove, and Chippewa Falls were frequently and severely injured as a result of performing physically stressful tasks, particularly lifting patients. The State program initiated educational efforts at each of these centers to establish injury prevention activities. Lifting devices and other measures were introduced to reduce injuries to workers. After two years, this effort has reversed a rapidly increasing trend of injuries, reducing by 40% the lost work time for workers on workers' compensation. At the Madison Center, these efforts have saved the State of Wisconsin \$500,000 in overtime payments for staff to fill in for injured workers.

Promoting health and safety in agriculture: Farming is one of the most hazardous occupations for fatal work injuries. Farmers are also at high risk for nonfatal injuries, work-related lung disease, noise-induced hearing loss, skin diseases, and certain cancers associated with chemical use and prolonged sun exposure. Farming is one of the few industries in which the families of farmers, who share the work and live on the premises, are also at risk for injuries, illness, and death.

NIOSH identified almost 300 fatal injuries in Wisconsin agriculture in the 1980s. Wisconsin farmers and their families suffered more than 10,000 nonfatal injuries in 1993, 5% of the national total. These injuries cost farmers an average of 13 workdays or restricted activities per injury. One in five of these injuries occurred among women or girls; one in fourteen occurred to a youth between the ages of 10 and 19. At least three-quarters of the injuries required medical attention and three out of 100 injuries resulted in lifelong disability.

NIOSH is funding a number of programs in Wisconsin to improve the safety and health of farmers and their families. With NIOSH funding and collaboration, the Center for Agricultural Research, Education and Disease and Injury Prevention, (a component of the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison conduct statewide research and outreach activities to evaluate causes and suggest methods to prevent farm injuries. Special focuses include protecting women and children and evaluating the economics of preventing injury and disease on Wisconsin farms.

NIOSH also funds the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield to conduct a statewide cancer research and control program, targeting farmers and their families, migrant and seasonal farm workers, and rural health care practitioners. The program coordinates with rural hospitals, Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and other organizations to reduce death and disease from cancer. In 1994, this Wisconsin program was awarded a National American Cancer Society Honor Citation recognizing outstanding projects that further cancer control.

NIOSH, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, funds a third program to improve safety on Wisconsin farms. Building on the existing network of the land grant university, the state cooperative extension service, and agricultural employers and workers, this program develops and delivers safety information, technology, and services to farms and other agricultural worksites. Special state-wide emphases included training for improving farm machine safety among youth, promoting safe handling of farm chemicals and farm rescue training for emergency medical technicians.

Providing research and training: NIOSH funds research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Marquette University into the causes and prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders. At the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and at Stout, NIOSH funds the training of professionals in the prevention of work injuries and diseases. The program at Stevens Point is presently training 20 B.S. students; Stout, 42 M.S. students.

NIOSH 800-number(1-800-356-4674): The NIOSH 800-number provides workers, employers, university researchers, labor organizations, industrial organizations, and government agencies with information specific to their occupational health or safety problems. No comparable service exists in the United States. The total number of calls received on the 800-number increased more than tenfold between 1988 and 1993, with calls from Wisconsin increasing from 89 to 875 per year. NIOSH provides assistance to an average of 3 callers per workday from Wisconsin.

**National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW 317B
Washington, DC 20201
202-401-3747**

Backup for more state profiles  or go to the NIOSH home page  or the CDC

home page.



New safety programs

Groups reach out to form new partnerships

By Cheryl Tevis
Farm Issues Editor

A growing number of initiatives and programs are providing children with positive role models, and equipping families with new tools to improve safety training.

TASK, (Teaching Agricultural Safety to Kids) is a community-based injury prevention program, with a Train the Trainer approach aimed at teens, ages 15-17.



TASK members at Cissna Park, Illinois, celebrate their involvement in teaching fourth graders about farm safety.

RISK (Rural Indiana Safer Kids) project trains adult volunteers as "master safety leaders." Conducted by the Purdue Ag Safety and Health Program, the aim is preventing injury through local educational programs. This "I Farm Safe" camp was sponsored by DeKalb County Young Farmers.



"The best way to learn is to teach," says Tom Berkshire, Illinois Easter Seal Society, the originator of TASK.

Working closely with FFA, TASK has trained 108 teens. Using a 12-unit curriculum, these teens have trained over 4,000 fourth, fifth and sixth graders. "Students take ownership and become prime movers," says Mark Franklin, coordinator. "The classroom composure of these kids is amazing."

Families get involved

Ron Lynch, Cissna Park, Illinois, vocational instructor, can vouch for that. He has worked with TASK since it began as a pilot program four years ago.

"Cissna Park is rural, with a population of 850, and a school of 100 in one complex," he says. "Less than half of our students are on farms, but when you ask how many visit farms, the whole class is involved."

Lynch works with sophomores, paired as team teachers. Each unit requires 30-35 minutes, and teens work closely with teachers on scheduling. Each unit has take-home materials, and is followed by a short quiz.

"Parents comment that family worksheets are discussed," Lynch says. "The tractor rollover unit hits home more than any other. Kids say, 'Dad lets me ride all the time.' When they see the little man in our model go under the wheels, eyeballs swell."

He adds, "The father of a student was killed in a tractor rollover. The mom said she wants her son in class because he not only needs to understand how his dad died, but how it could have been prevented.

"We'll never measure how many lives we save, but if there's never any fatalities to measure against it, we'll know we've won." **SF**

Partners for a safer community leads team effort

Not so long ago, it was almost impossible to find entertaining and educational farm safety and health materials focusing on children.

Today the challenge is to make certain the growing array of safety and health materials is promoted and distributed as widely as possible.

Partners for a Safer Community is a unique new collaborative effort formed to do just that. Supported by 13 national safety organizations and three corporate sponsors, this special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc., aims to reach 4,000 communities in the next three years.

"The organizations in the program

feel strongly about working together," says Julie Sessions, project director.

Youth leadership is an important component, as it encourages older youths to reach out as mentors to younger children in their communities.

"Agriculture is changing so much, with the new technology," says Lynn Boughton, Illinois FFA president, and TASK advisory member. "People need to realize it's unsafe to stick to the traditions of the past."

Program partners include National FFA Organization, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, National Farm Medicine Center, Cooperative Extension System, National Safety Council, NIOSH and



TASK. Corporate sponsors are Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Lorsban*15G and Equipment Manufacturers Institute.

Partners will review, select and compile existing ag youth safety and health resources into a teacher's guide, student's guide and instructional package. A community development guide also will prepare volunteers to create and sustain local programs. These will be distributed to teachers and community leaders by fall of 1998. ■



Trading in unsafe traditions

Families need to shed unsafe attitudes as eagerly as they trade for new equipment or adopt new technology

By Cheryl Tevis
Farm Issues Editor

Traditions. They're a precious part of farm heritage. That's why any effort to change traditions—even if the goal is saving lives of loved ones—is an uphill battle.

Just ask Dawn and Mike Smith. Their son, Derek, wanted to continue a family tradition. Like dad, he wanted to farm. But he never got the chance.

In 1989, when he was five years old, he begged his dad for a short ride on the tractor fender. The tractor struck a small rock and overturned, crushing Derek beneath it.

Despite the tragic example set for their community of Ladora, Iowa, the Smiths say they don't have to look far to see other families taking unnecessary chances with loved ones. "We would like to think that we could teach them to be safer—just by seeing our faces," Mike says. "We don't want

Photographs: Doug Smith



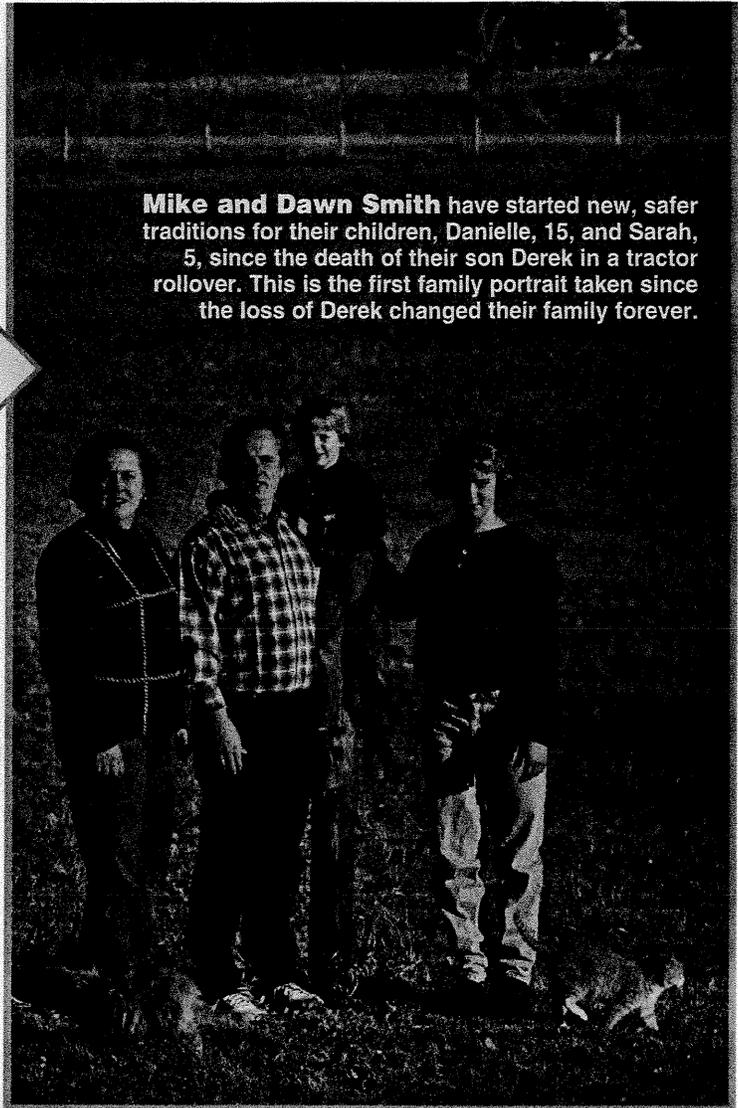
Derek Smith was an extra rider on a tractor when he was killed in 1989.

them to forget that what happened to Derek could happen to them."

The Smiths admit that their attitudes have changed. Daughter Sarah, age 5, never knew her brother. Yet she is benefitting from Derek's legacy.

"She obviously never has ridden on

Mike and Dawn Smith have started new, safer traditions for their children, Danielle, 15, and Sarah, 5, since the death of their son Derek in a tractor rollover. This is the first family portrait taken since the loss of Derek changed their family forever.



a tractor—even with a cab," Dawn points out. "She will tell you or any kid that it's not safe."

Sarah also has a babysitter. "I don't work away from home now, but when Mike and I are busy outside, she goes to her sitter," Dawn says. "Sometimes we feel a bit guilty because we're right here, but as parents, we have to make a judgment call."

Injuries are predictable

If Derek looks familiar, that's because Dawn and Mike gave permission to Farm Safety 4 Just Kids to feature his photo on the pages of this magazine and others. He appears with three other young victims in a new Farm Safety 4 Just Kids poster (page 56).

Almost a decade ago, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids joined with Extension safety specialists, ag engineers and health professionals to launch a concerted effort to change old patterns and traditions endangering farm kids.

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“No child should have to die in ‘just an accident,’ ” says Marilyn Adams, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids president. “Farm fatalities are not random—they’re very predictable, and almost all can be prevented.”

Adams knows. Her 11-year-old son, Keith, suffocated in a gravity flow grain wagon in 1986.

Traditions die hard

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids has attracted national attention, spawning 52 chapters in 23 states and Canada.

Adams and other safety advocates feel encouraged by a greater awareness. But the annual cost of childhood deaths and injuries on farms and ranches remains about \$3 billion. The emotional devastation cannot be measured.

“Despite educational and engineering efforts to reduce childhood injuries, we have not truly been successful yet,” says Barbara Lee, National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Three deeply ingrained farm traditions remain the source of many childhood fatalities and injuries:

- the extra rider on tractors
- allowing toddlers to stay with parents or siblings as they work
- permitting children to perform inappropriate chores for their age/abilities

“All three behaviors are common,



This poster kit is available from Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (1 800/423-5437)

and all are risky and known to be risky,” Lee points out.

New research (see page 57) confirms reasons why parents involve children in hazardous farm situations.

Surveys show that most parents feel inadequate supervision causes most farm injuries involving kids. Only 30% feel kids are injured when parents give them too much responsibility. Growing evidence indicates that the reality is a combination of factors.

Say ‘no’ to extra riders

A 1989 survey of *Successful Farming* readers revealed that 95% of kids are riding in tractors by ages 7-9. A total of 70% of parents surveyed perceive the risk as “very low.”

But in Pennsylvania, between 1983 and 1993, 17 of 20 extra rider fatalities were children. That’s why the National Safety Council asks parents to volun-

tarily prohibit their children from riding on or being around tractors. It supports “No Rider” programs.

The tradition of parents or older siblings watching kids at the work site is intertwined with the farm family’s traditional bias against hiring someone else to watch their children.

Women who work off-farm use more child care. But their kids often have less supervision after school or during summers. New research (page 57) shows Grandma and Grandpa may fill the void with more traditional, risky attitudes and practices.

Lack of availability and cost still are barriers to adequate child care.

Family support

Assigning kids chores that exceed their developmental level is subjective. The National Safety Council states, “Some farm youth operate tractors before they have the physical and judgmental abilities to do so safely.”

Today, more efforts than ever before are focused on providing parents with guidance to help children gain a work ethic and experience with the lowest possible injury risk. Families must discuss these decisions.

“When I go out and tell kids not to ride on tractors, I put a child in a tough situation if Dad says to hop on,” Dawn says. “We can’t expect kids to stand up to that pressure. They must get the safety message from parents.” **SF**

Extra seat offers convenience, stirs controversy

Carrying riders on farm equipment is deeply entrenched in our farm heritage. It often saves time, provides transportation, offers on-the-job training and resolves babysitting problems.

It also is a major source of injuries and fatalities to children.

Recently, in response to the safety concerns for extra riders, a few manufacturers have added a second seat with a seatbelt to passenger cabs of tractors and combines.

The passenger seat is common practice for tractors sold in some European countries. But U.S. safety experts and equipment manufacturers remain cautious about the innovation.

“It’s too early to say these seats are absolutely safe, but if an accident does occur, and the passenger is wearing a seatbelt, there’s less likely to be an injury,” says Dennis Murphy, Pennsylvania State University safety Extension specialist.

He says training a youth to operate the tractor may be one instance that justifies an extra seat for a passenger, but he fears it will be misused.

“The seat is designed only for short rides, and isn’t intended for children,” he says. “If farmers don’t respect these limitations, tragedies may result.”

Dawn Smith agrees. “Kids argue they’re safe in a tractor cab. It really

bothers me that their parents believe it, too. Farmers are in a tractor to do a job—and a child is a distraction. What happens when you get off to adjust something?” Mike agrees, “Even if you shut the engine off, computerized controls make it easy for a child.”

Other risks are more subtle, says Marilyn Adams. “Consider a child’s exposure to the noise, vibration, dust and chemicals of fieldwork.” ■



Farm Safety Bill Forthcoming

By Jane Fyksen
Regional Editor

A comprehensive farm health and safety bill is in the works. Its author, state Assemblyman Thomas Ourada (R-Antigo) wants to hear farmers to find out what they'd like to see included in the legislation, likely to be introduced in late summer.

Plans are to establish farm safety audit teams, under the guidance of the state ag department. A standardized farm safety checklist would likely be drawn up. The 2 or 3-person inspection teams would use it to evaluate safety on Wisconsin farms.

Farmers who pass inspection would hopefully be eligible for reduced health insurance premiums. Such a program was one of the recommendations that recently came out of the Lieutenant Governor's Trauma and Childhood Injury Prevention Task Force, of which Ourada was a member.

Team similar to SVAT

Ourada suspects the teams would operate similar to the department's Stray Voltage Analysis Team (SVAT). Participation would be completely voluntary. Farmers

Reduced Insurance Costs Suggested

interested in reduced health insurance costs could call to have their operations audited. Compliance with the visiting team's recommendations would also be strictly voluntary. He surmises that safety-check teams might consist of UW ag engineering experts, rural health professionals and ag department staff.

Discussions are being held with insurance companies to see whether their voluntarily participation can be counted upon, says the state representative, whose brother dairy farms. If they won't cooperate by voluntarily reducing insurance premiums for farmers with designated "safe" operations, then the last-resort option would be to mandate such a reduction in premiums. "Some states have done that for people who've completed safe-driving courses," Ourada compares.

Sales tax break?

Another facet of this upcoming legislation will likely be a sales tax break when older tractors are retrofitted with rollover protection (ROP) or machinery has guards replaced. Ourada admits that the Department of Revenue "isn't too crazy about losing revenue." He's not sure whether

this no-sales-tax idea will fly in Wisconsin's fiscally tight times.

Ourada would also like to get a Farm Health and Safety Council established within the Governor's office. Wisconsin already has such a council, a fledgling, independent body. The legislator feels, however, that forming such a statewide council within the Governor's office would give it "more prominence."

'Council' central clearinghouse

He foresees such a new council as operating similar to Wisconsin's snowmobile council or its forestry council. With members appointed by the governor, it would become the leading voice on farm safety and health issues in the state, and would possibly make recommendations to state agencies. The council would have a staff of its own and hold meetings around the state to get more public input on farm health and safety.

What's more, Ourada says such a council would be able to coordinate all Farm Safety Week activities in Wisconsin, and be a clearinghouse for information on federal and private grants for studying related is-

suess. President George Bush has already proclaimed Sept. 15-21 as the 48th annual National Farm Safety Week.

Ourada may wind up using this package to restore the Division of Health's injury prevention section. "We had hoped to do in the budget, but weren't able to," he confides. The Governor's budget sought to eliminate the three-person staff, and the Legislature has agreed to that, he notes. Possibly, the Division of Health will be able to shift funds and use some federal money to maintain the injury prevention section, he continues. If that's not possible, though, he could include funding in his proposal. The injury prevention section is needed to do recordkeeping and education, he notes.

Budget delays bill

Admitting that the drafting of this bill has been on hold recently due to state budget negotiations, Ourada says his staff intends to explore further what other states are doing in the area of farm health and safety. He also wants to hear from farm families who have further suggestions regarding this initiative (1-608-266-7694, Madison office, or 1-715-623-5213, in his district).

Ourada says he'll be introducing the farm safety package because it's all too apparent that "there's a great deal of danger and risk in farming, and people are not aware of it as they should be." Perhaps farming is most risky for the children which Ourada recognizes "need to be involved." Growing up and working on the farm is a "part of our heritage," he points out.

According to preliminary estimates from the National Safety Council, ag work-related accidents results in 1,300 deaths and 120,000 disabling injuries in the U.S. last year. The accident death rate in agriculture was 42 per 100,000 workers, compared to the composite rate for all industries of 9 per 100,000 workers. This year's Farm Safety Week theme is "Safety Protects Agriculture's Greatest Resource - YOU!"

Farm Framed

The framework of a fence provides a man-made border to the view of a Manitowoc County farm.





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Safety

Cooperative State
Research, Education,
and Extension Service

Fact Sheet

Guide to Communicating Farm Safety for Editors, Illustrators, Cinematographers and Photographers

Agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the United States. It is crucial that those responsible for mass media messages contribute positively to farm safety.

Convey safe farm practices not just with words, but with visual accuracy. Visual errors can actually negate the verbal message. These errors can cause irate letters to editors, resulting in embarrassing apologies to the public and costly retractions. Even worse, they reinforce unsafe farming practices. One wrong picture can undo a thousand words! Articles and stories emphasizing actual experiences of how safe work habits have averted tragedy are tried-and-true attention-getters. But be careful what your pictures are portraying while the words are being read or spoken.

The following guidelines give editors, illustrators, cinematographers and photographers a list of positive safety steps to safeguard against communicating wrong farm safety messages. They are not meant to cover all the possibilities; therefore, "When in doubt, ASK!" farm safety experts, state Extension specialists, or county Extension educators.

Guidelines for "Safe" Safety Communication

DO....show tractors and other farm equipment being maintained and operated safely.

- Tractors should have rollover protection structures (ROPS).
- If slow moving farm equipment is shown being operated on a public road, be sure it has a properly mounted SMV emblem and front and rear lighting that is clean and in working order.
- The vehicle must be operated at a reasonable speed, by an adult wearing a seat belt.

DO NOT..... show individuals of any age riding in or on tractors, wagons or the backs of pickup trucks; stepping over a rotating shaft; leaning over a conveyer; hand-feeding materials into machines with moving parts or blades; climbing to heights without fall protection, stair or platform guarding; or using augers/ladders near power lines.

June 1996

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-2791.

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250 or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

DO....portray farm workers in proper clothing and personal protective equipment for the job.

- When showing farm workers with machinery, be sure they are not wearing items that could become entangled in moving machine parts; i.e., jewelry, drawstrings, bandannas or ties, or loose clothing.
- Farm workers using all-terrain vehicles should be depicted wearing helmets, goggles, pants, work boots, gloves and long sleeves.
- Workers handling hay, grain, or silage inside structures should be shown wearing dust masks.
- Show farm workers mixing or applying chemicals in proper clothing and personal protective equipment, according to whether the chemical is in concentrated or diluted form (see chemical label recommendations).

DO....show children playing in fenced areas and doing supervised, age-appropriate chores.

Children handling and feeding newborn or small animals is a sure way to catch the public's attention. But the children being photographed may catch the unwanted attention of adult animals who can be dangerously protective of their offspring.

DO NOT.... place children in a risky situation for the sake of your story. Always isolate the babies from the adult animals during filming, and never show children playing in grain piles, wagons or bins.

DO....project positive images, in words and pictures.

When writing about children, write of normal activities and chores appropriate to the age(s) of the children. Remember: unusual responsibility may be admirable in advanced youngsters, but consider what is unsafe for the average child.

DO NOT....show children under 14 driving any motorized farm vehicle, or riding, climbing, standing, or playing on farm machinery.

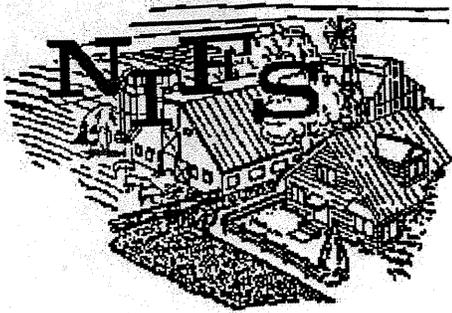
DO....cover positive stories on adult and youth groups involved in safety workshops and projects.

- Frame photos to exclude any potential safety hazard that is impossible to eliminate physically.
- Try to include visible safety measures around the farm within overall shots; i.e., smoke alarms and fire extinguisher mounted prominently in barns, sheds and other outbuildings.
- Photograph areas free of clutter; show clean, obviously well-maintained machinery and equipment. Dirt, clutter and rust could imply carelessness.
- Locate agricultural businesses in your community that have excellent safety records. Detail their safety programs and provide graphic illustrations of accident/cost reduction ratios.

Contrasting bad images that illustrate what not to do is, of course, an effective means of making a positive point. If you use this method, be sure the "wrong way" message is clearly and frequently stated, followed immediately with a strong verbal or visual image of the right way.

Mention or display of a trademark, proprietary product, or firm in text or figures does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and does not imply approval to the exclusion of other products or firms.

National Institute for Farm Safety Papers and Presentations by Categories



For information on cost and obtaining reprints click here Dave Baker, NIFS Secretary.

Animals

Behavior/Attitude

Disabilities

Economic

Education/Programming

Electrical

Emergency Preparedness

Environmental Issues

Fire

Governmental

Health

Incidents/(Accident *
Reconstruction, etc.)

Injury/Fatality *

International

Lighting & Marking

Machinery

Miscellaneous

P.P.E.

Pesticides/Chemicals

Professionalism

Rescue

Research

Statistics

Structures

Tractors

Transportation

Worker Environments

Youth

[Back to NIFS Publications Front Page](#)

* *good website*

<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/cat1.html>

5/7/01

- University of Wisconsin Outreach Programs
- Self-Study Programs
- Emergency Response to Terrorism - Basic Concepts

Farm Rescue Training

Agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the United States, based on the rate of occupational deaths and disabling injuries. According to the National Safety Council, agriculture has an occupational death rate of five times the average of the entire workforce together, and a rate of disabling injuries almost 40 percent higher than the national average. Only mining has a higher occupational death rate.

On Wisconsin farms, approximately 16,000 injuries occur each year which are severe enough to either require professional medical attention, result in at least a half-day of restricted activity, or involve some loss of consciousness. An unknown number of these actually require on-site medical or extrication assistance from emergency response personnel, but there are clearly many medical or extrication assistance from emergency response personnel, but there are clearly many cases which do. Examples of common incidents involving emergency response would include tractor rollovers (where the tractor overturns on top of the operator and/or a passenger), entanglements in machinery, confined space entrapments (such as in grain bins, silos or manure pits), maulings by bulls, and falls.

Emergency response personnel must have an understanding of common farm machines and structures and related hazards, the serious injuries suffered by farm operators, workers, and family members, and the risks farm hazards pose to rescuers. The University of Wisconsin - Extension offers a three-hour classroom training program on these topics. In addition, information is available to assist in post-class training that the individual departments can conduct for themselves or hire other instructors to conduct. The program is coordinated through county Extension offices.

For more information contact your local agricultural Extension agent, or contact:

Mark A. Purschwitz, Ph.D.
Extension Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist
University of Wisconsin - Madison/Extension
460 Henry Mall - Madison WI 53706
Phone 608-262-1180 - mapursch@facstaff.edu
website <http://bse.wisc.edu/wiscash/>



Wisconsin Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

Responding to the agricultural safety and health needs of the farming community

Injury Facts:

Agriculture consistently ranks as one of the three most hazardous industries in the United States.

In 1995, 140,000 agricultural work-related disabling injuries and 800 deaths occurred in the United States.

During 1995, 36 farm related fatalities occurred on Wisconsin farms.

Over 15,000 farm injuries occur in Wisconsin each year.

There are no age boundaries on farm related injuries or illnesses. Infants to the elderly are at risk.

Most farm-related injuries and illnesses are preventable.

Current Extension Outreach Activities:

Agricultural Safety Management

Prevention of farm related injuries and illnesses must be part of farm management, not just an add-on activity. This program promotes the application of safety management techniques as well as designating one individual on the farm to have ultimate managerial responsibility for the safety and health of employees and family members. A women's video with discussion guide (funded by the Kraft Dairy Trust) has been developed to empower women to become more proactive in making their farms safer. A major presentation was made at a four-state dairy farm personnel management workshop, a publication is underway, and opportunities for presentations at county or district levels are invited.

Contact: Mark Purschwitz, (608) 262-1180

Farm Machinery/Systems Safety

Farm tractors and other machines continue to be leading causes of farm-related death and serious injury. This program promotes hazard control on farm machines as well as safe operation. A tractor overturn exhibit was developed (funded in part by the Kraft Dairy Trust) for Wisconsin Farm Progress Days and will be expanded to include live demonstrations in future years. Publications are under development and

Wisconsin Agricultural Safety Promotion System

Funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), this project will involve collaborative work with dairy operation managers to identify and promote cost-saving safety solutions that simultaneously promote health and safety and improve profitability. In phase one, a pilot study of a small group of farms will be used to document and objectively measure work methods leading to improved health, safety, and profitability. In phase two, large-scale promotion of the cost-saving solutions documented will be made to 900 farms that have detailed financial records and that have been working with the UW Center for Dairy Profitability. In phase three, a large sample study of the effectiveness of phase two promotion efforts will be undertaken to simultaneously study factors that influence adoption of the cost-saving interventions.

Contact: Larry Chapman or Gunnar Josefsson, (608) 262-7408

Evaluation of Specific Engineering and Ergonomic Control Technology

Funded by NIOSH through the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield and conducted in cooperation with the University of Minnesota, this project studies hitching systems, braking systems, machinery entanglements, and hydraulic failures. New technology or application of existing technologies are being explored to improve the safety of farm machines. Current emphasis is on use of human presence sensors to reduce or eliminate entanglements.

Contact: Ron Schuler, (608) 262-0613

Costs and Determinants of Hazard Remediation on Wisconsin Farm Equipment

This project, funded through USDA Hatch funds, involves a random statewide survey of Wisconsin farmers to determine attitudes toward and determinants of retrofitting ROPS (rollover protective structures) on tractors. The survey will be conducted in cooperation with the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service (WASS). Additional data collected by NIOSH and WASS will be used to determine potential costs of ROPS retrofits in Wisconsin.

Contact: Mark Purschwitz, (608) 262-1180

Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatality Reports

The Center documents Wisconsin farm-related fatalities each year, using newspaper clippings and cross-checking with a death certificate-based compilation from the Vital Records office of Wisconsin Division of Health. An annual summary is distributed each year.

Contact: Mark Purschwitz, (608) 262-1180, or Cheryl Skjolaas, (608) 262-9336

Department of Biological Systems Engineering personnel associated with the Wisconsin Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (in alphabetical order)

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Paul Eppers, Research Assistant
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Safety

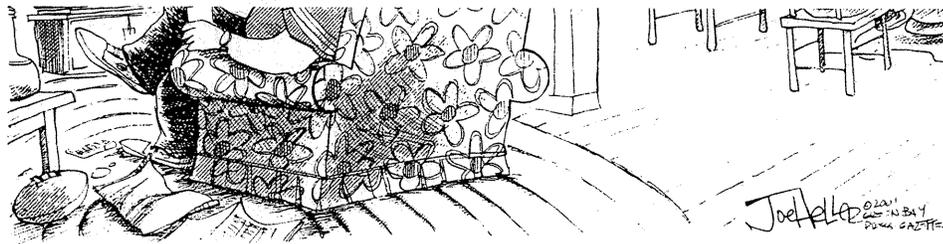


or rollover deaths, entrapments, runovers, and beneath accounted for of machinery related

ating and maintenance and keeping shields in prevent these deaths," said "These are things we do."

fatalities increased from two to six in 2000. Four of these were from attacks by machinery. It seems to be an increase in the number of dairy farms using machinery. This is not a good trend from a safety standpoint," said "While I understand the reasons, I also know there are safer ways. Keeping a dairy bull on a farm is like keeping an unstable animal - you don't know when it will go off. Just ask anybody who has ever lived being attacked by a

fatalities involved children or younger. Two were run over in a barnyard, one by a truck and one by a machine being used. One fell from a tractor and was run over. And one became involved in operating machinery. The death of a young child is a terrible tragedy that can tear families apart, and drive them from the farm, yet year after year these deaths occur on farms," said Purschwitz. "Farmers need to think about the safety of their young children away from machinery hazards, whether it be tractors, tractors with seatbelts, or fenced-in play areas or something else."



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Silo storages have hazards

With corn silage harvest nearing, producers storing silage on their farms should be aware that all silo storage methods have hazards that must be controlled or avoided. Whether using upright silos, bunker silos, or silage bags, producers must use caution and be sure employees or family members are properly trained to avoid injury.

"All silage storages have hazards, involving either the storing or the unloading process, or both," said Mark Purschwitz, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension agricultural safety and health specialist. "There are specific things which producers should watch out for."

Purschwitz listed the following major hazards, noting that each farm and situation is different and this is not necessarily a complete list of all hazards.

Upright (tower) silo hazards:

- Silo gas, produced the first three weeks after material is put into the silo.
- Falls while climbing the interior or exterior ladders.
- Entanglement in the silo blower or forage wagon while filling the silo.
- Entanglement in the silos, asphyxiation from lack of oxygen.
- Electrocution while working on the unloader, cable or control box.

Bunker silo hazards

- Tractor overturns while filling and packing.
- Entanglement in forage wagons, or crushing by dump boxes, during filling.
- Falls while placing or removing plastic on top of the silage, or walking near the edge.
- Suffocation from the silage face collapsing onto a person during unloading.
- Skid-steer loader-related injuries during unloading.

Silage bag hazards

- Entanglement in the bagger or forage wagons during filling.
- Silo gas during the first three

weeks after filling.

- Skid-steer load-related injuries during unloading.

Purschwitz said that deaths have resulted from each of these hazards, either in Wisconsin or somewhere else in the country.

Purschwitz offered the following safety recommendations:

- Stay out of silos for three weeks after filling, and run the blower for 30 minutes before entering the first time.
 - Do not work on a silo unloader while it is running, and have the power locked out so it cannot be turned on by someone else. Tether controls are available for briefly operating the unloader while in the silo troubleshooting or making repairs.
 - Keep all shields in place on all machinery, and observe manufacturer recommended practices for operation, unplugging, etc.
 - Use only a ROPS (Rollover Protective Structure) equipped tractor for packing bunker silos, with the wheels set as wide as possible, or with dual wheels, for stability. Do not pack the edge higher than the walls.
 - Keep children and bystanders away from loading and unloading areas.
 - Keep clear of dump boxes or other hydraulically supported equipment, and never work on them while raised unless mechanical safety supports are in place.
 - Never exit or reach from a skid-steer loader with the bucket up, and keep the ROPS and side screens in place.
- Never enter a sealed silo unless it has been completely ventilated, or unless using a supplied-air breathing apparatus.
- Be sure ladders are in good condition, that good non-slip shoes are worn, and no material is on the steps.
 - Use great caution when walking on top bunker silos near the edge or face. Do not undercut the silage face, which makes collapse more likely.

Wisconsin farm related fatalities increase in 2000

Wisconsin's farm-related fatalities increased from 26 in 1999 to 32 in 2000, and nationally, agriculture is close to overtaking mining as the nation's most dangerous industry, according to University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension agricultural safety and health specialist Mark Purschwitz.

With a 1999 work death rate of 22.5 per 100,000 workers compared with 23.1 for mining, based on the most recent National Safety Council statistics, agriculture has much work to do to make things safer.

"These are all tragedies, especially those involving children, but we are seeing the same preventable types of fatalities, year after year, and it is disturbing," said Purschwitz. "I think we need to decide whether we have the will to do what is necessary to prevent these deaths."

With National Farm Safety and Health Week scheduled for Sept. 16-22, Purschwitz said the time is right for farm safety issues to be discussed at the family, community, and state levels.

"The theme this year is 'Kids No. 1 in 2001.' Let's think about our kids in two ways: Keeping them safe on the farm, so they have a chance to grow up; and keeping the adults safe on the farm, so the kids will not lose a parent or grandparent. We can honor and respect our children by making our farms safer."

In Wisconsin in 2000, as in previous years, deaths involving tractors and other farm machinery were predominant, with 11 tractor-related and 12 machinery-related fatalities. In addition, there were six animal-related fatalities, two suffocations, and a fatality involving a truck in the barnyard.

"These deaths can be prevented," said Purschwitz. "Nationally, tractor

overturns are the single most common fatal event, and five Wisconsinites died of overturns last year. Yet we know that operating tractors with rollover protective structures (ROPS), or putting ROPS on tractors without them, has and will prevent tractor rollover deaths."

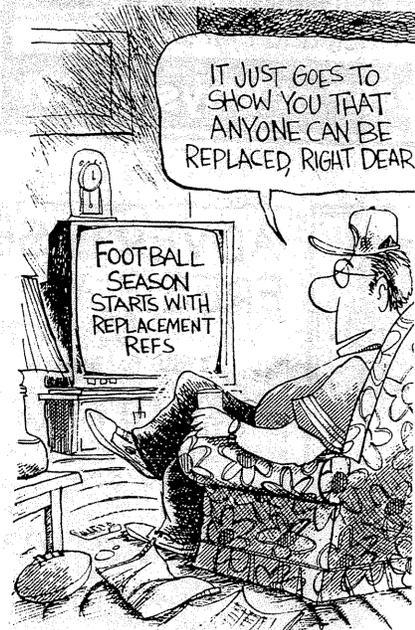
Entanglements, runovers, and being pinned beneath accounted for the majority of machinery related deaths.

"Safe operating and maintenance procedures, and keeping shields in place, can prevent these deaths," said Purschwitz. "These are things we know how to do."

Animal fatalities increased from one in 1999 to six in 2000. Four of the deaths were from attacks by bulls. "There seems to be an increase in the number of dairy farms using bulls, and this is not a good trend from a safety standpoint," said Purschwitz. "While I understand the rationale, I also know there are safer alternatives. Keeping a dairy bull on your farm is like keeping an unstable stick of dynamite - you don't know when it will go off. Just ask anybody who has survived being attacked by a bull."

Four of the fatalities involved children age 10 or younger. Two were run over in the barnyard, one by a truck and another by a machine being backed up. One fell from a tractor and was run over. And one became entangled in operating machinery.

"Losing a young child is a terrible tragedy that can tear families apart, or result in leaving the farm, yet year after year these deaths occur on Wisconsin farms," said Purschwitz. "Every family needs to think about ways to keep young children away from farm hazards, whether it be using babysitters or fenced-in play areas or something else."



Silo storage

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Bunker silo hazards

- Tractor overturns while filling and packing.
- Entanglement in forage wagons.



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Hard economic times bring depression, shame for struggling farmers

May 25, 2000
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Reported by [Judd Rose](#) and [Kara A. Thomas](#)
 CNN NewsStand

(CNN) -- We've heard the words since we were children. "Oh beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain. ..." The idea: that farms are a basic element of the American dream. And nowhere is that more true than in the American heartland.

"You grow up out in the country and you grow up doing this all your life," said Nebraska farmer Brian Zimmerman. "Dad taught you everything he knew as far as farming, and you learn to respect it."

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"It's not just the farm and not just the business," added Tammy Zimmerman, Brian's wife. "It is also home ... and it's really tough to separate those out."

But that home and many more cherished family farms are threatened by a crisis much of the nation thought had ended in the 1980s, with the Farm Aid concerts.

Tough times on the farm

Farmer income is expected to be more than 16 percent lower than just three years ago, and crop prices are at a 12 year low. Moreover, the number of farms continues to shrink. Now, there are only about 2 million left.

"The way the economy is now, what has been known as the family farm -- if things don't change, they will not exist," predicted farmer Larry Barber.

This new harvest of despair demands new answers, and Michael Rosmann is

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one of them. On his farm in western Iowa, Rosmann tends to 320 acres and 40 head of cattle. But for part of every day he goes to the nearby town of Harlan where he works as a clinical psychologist.

"The most common problem that I have observed," Rosmann says, "is a profound sense of disillusionment among farmers and their families. They feel misunderstood by the general public. There is a sense among some farmers that all is well in the economy and that it should be well in the farming economy, too."

On Thursday nights, Rosmann conducts group counseling sessions where patients can talk, let off steam or simply cry.

"I came because my husband committed suicide," said participant Jane Hagge. "His dream had always been to farm the family farm, and I guess if he couldn't do that, he didn't want to do anything else."

Suicide, shame, and severe depression are among the issues Rosmann deals with regularly.

'Agricultural mental health'

Larry Barber and his wife Linda Have been going to Rosmann for months, to help cope with the frustration and disappointment of losing their farm. They had what's known in the region as a "century farm" -- it had been in Larry's family for 115 years. But late last year, the Barbers had to sell their cattle and were told by their bank to stop farming.

"I felt I had a responsibility to keep the farm going, make it profitable to my ancestors, to my children, to my mother, to my wife and I wasn't able to do it," Barber confessed. Dealing with the loss of the farm, he said, was even harder than dealing with the deaths of his father and mother-in-law.

The Barbers now rent some of their land to other farmers, and watch someone else's corn grow in their fields. They said discussing their troubles with Rosmann is easier because the doctor is also a farmer. "So that gives us a lot in common to start with," Barber explained.

Rosmann agreed. "I grew up on a farm. I always had a strong appreciation for the land, but I also had a strong sense of wanting to serve my fellow man. So I am trying to pursue what we call 'agricultural mental health.' I think that working on a farm has allowed me to be a better therapist, and I think that working as a therapist has allowed me to be a better farmer."

As the pressures of farming have become more commonly known, the number of health professionals who focus on them has grown.

Author Osha Gray Davidson has written "Broken Heartland," considered the definitive look at the decline of the family farm.

"Farmers are more apt to blame themselves, to see themselves as a part of this myth of rugged self-reliance, and so when things go wrong, you blame yourself," Davidson explains.

Rosmann said he tries to help farmers cope by identifying which factors they can control and which ones they can't. If they didn't cause the circumstances

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that are troubling them, Rosmann said he tries to help them let go of the associated stress.

Raising public awareness of the plight of America's family farmers is important, experts said.

"I think we need to tell the general public that they have a stake in how food is produced and how food producers are rewarded," Rosmann said. "Do we want to lose family farmers?"

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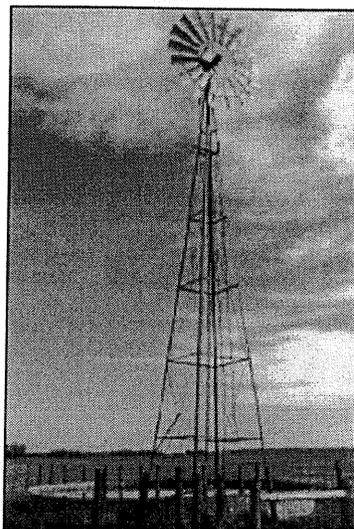
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The Research: Potential Mental Health Consequences of the Farm Crisis

By Peter G. Beeson

If the "Farm Crisis" of the 1980s is any guide to what we can anticipate from the current problems in the farm economy, then we can expect the following:

IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS

Farm financial stress will lead to personal psychological distress (Schulman, M.D. and Armstrong, P.S. "The farm crisis: An analysis of social psychological distress among North Carolina farm operators." *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 17(4): 423-442, 1989).*

Loss or threat of loss of the family farm will produce multiple stress-related symptoms (Heffernan, W.D. and Heffernan, J.B. "Impact of the Farm Crisis on Rural Families and Communities." *The Rural Sociologist*, 6(3): 160-170, 1988).

Farmers and rural residents will be at increased risk for suicide (Gunderson, P., Donner, D., Nashold, R., Salkowicz, L., Sperry, S., and Wittman, B. "The Epidemiology of Suicide Among Farm Residents or Workers in Five North-Central States, 1980-1988." *Farm Injuries: A Public Health Approach. American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 9:26-32, May/June, 1993).

Farmers and rural residents will be at increased risk for mental disorders, especially depression, but their mental health will improve with improvements in the agricultural economy (Ortega, S.T., Johnson, D.R., Beeson, P.G., & Craft, B.J. "The Farm Crisis and Mental Health: A Longitudinal Study of the 1980s." *Rural Sociology*, 59(4): 598-619, 1994).

Farmers and rural residents will be at increased risk for substance abuse problems (Hsieh, H.H., Khan, M.H., Cheng, S., and Curran, J.J. "Increased Drinking and the Farm Crisis: A Preliminary Report" *Hospital and Community Psychiatry*, 39(3): 315-316, 1988).

Farmers will be at increased risk for farm accidents and injury (Geller, J.M., Ludtke, R.L., & Stratton, T. "Nonfatal Farm Injuries in North Dakota: A Sociological Analysis." *The Journal of Rural Health* 6(2): 185-196, 1990).

The effects of rural stress will last long after the farmer has left the farm (Heffernan, J. & Heffernan, W. "When farmers have to give up farming." *Rural Development Perspectives*, 2(3): 10-14, 1986).

Small town residents, compared to farmers, will be at equal or greater risk for depression and other mental disorders (Hoyt, D.R., O'Donnell, D. & Mack, K.Y. "Psychological Distress and Size of Place: The Epidemiology of Rural Economic Stress." *Rural Sociology*, 60(4): 707-720, 1995).

Similar problems are likely to be seen in Canada (Walker, J.L. & Walker, L.J.S. "Self-reported stress symptoms in farmers." *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 44(1): 10-16, 1988).

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Even under the most severe economic stress and hardship, farm families will make every effort to stay involved with farming and their land (Rosenblatt, D.C. *Farming Is In Our Blood*, Iowa State University Press, 1990).

Farm and farm families will experience increased inter-generational conflict (Anderson, R.M. and Rosenblatt, P.C. "Intergenerational transfer of farm land." *Journal of Rural Community Psychology*, 16(1): 19-25, 1985).

Farm and rural families will be at increased risk for marital discord and disruption (Norem, R.H. & Blundell, J. "Farm Families and Marital Disruption During a Time of Crisis." *Families in Rural America: Stress, Adaptation & Revitalization*, 1988).

The quality of farm marriages will be affected with an increase in thoughts of divorce. This, however, will be driven more by depression of family members rather than a direct result of farm stress (Johnson, D.R. and Booth, A. "Rural economic decline and marital quality: A panel study of farm marriages." *Family Relations* 39:159-165, 1990)

Farm and rural families will be at increased risk for domestic violence (see National Mental Health Association National Action Commission Report on the Mental Health of Rural Americans, 1988)

Some farm and rural families will be displaced and have difficulty adjusting to new urban settings (Jurich, A.P., Collins, O.P., & Griffin, C. "Coping With the Displaced Farm Family: The New Rural Migration." *Marriage and Family Review*, 19(1-2): 77-98, 1993).

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

The farm crisis will take a subtle toll on children (Wall, W.L. "Farm crisis is taking subtle toll on children in distressed families." *Wall Street Journal*, CCVI (92), November 7: 1, 22, 1985).

Farm and rural children will evidence a number of adjustment problems and be at increased risk for mental disorder and antisocial behavior (Conger, R.D. and Elder, H.E. *Families in Troubled Times*, Aldine De Gruyter, 1994).

The stress of the farm crisis will result in poor parenting practices which will have negative developmental outcomes for children in areas such as school achievement, peer relations, antisocial behaviors, and self-confidence (Conger, R., Patterson, G. & Ge, X. "It takes two to replicate: A mediational model for the impact of parents' stress on adolescent adjustment." *Child Development*, 66:80-97).

Some rural youth will manifest their distress through more responsible behavior as they try to help their families (Van Hook, M. "The Iowa Farm Crisis: Perceptions, interpretations, and family patterns." Pp. 71-86 in McLoyd, V. and Flanagan, C. (Eds.) *Economic Stress: Effects on Family Life and Child Development* San Francisco: Jossey Bass. *New Directions for Child Development*, 46, Winter, 1990).

Parents suffering from depression related to the farm crisis will not only have relationship difficulties with their spouses, but also have poorer parent-child relations (Ge, X. Conger, R., Lorenz, F., Elder, G., Montague, R. & Simons, R. "Linking family economic hardship to adolescent distress." *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 2: 3351-378, 1992).

Depression and stress related to the farm crisis will result in poor parenting practices and in turn produce increased risk for adolescents internalizing disorders such as depression (Ge, X. Conger, R., Lorenz, F. & Simons, R. "Parents' stressful life events and adolescent depressed mood." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 35: 28-44, 1994).

The economic pressures of the farm crisis will increase the risk of harsh and inconsistent parenting and contribute to rural adolescent substance abuse and antisocial behavior (Conger, R., Lorenz, F., Elder, G., Melby, J., Simons, R. & Conger, K. "A process model of family economic pressure and early adolescent alcohol use." *Journal of Early Adolescence*, 11: 430-449, 1991).

IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

In some cases, depression will be contagious (collective) affecting entire communities (O'Brien, D.J., Edward, W. H., & Dershem, L. "Community attachment and depression among residents in two rural mid-western communities." *Rural Sociology*, 59:255-65, 1994).

Rural communities will experience social disintegration (Davidson, Osha Gray *Broken Heartland: The Rise of America's Rural Ghetto*. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, Iowa, 1996).

Rural communities will be at risk of collapse (Fitchen, J.M. "When communities collapse: Implications for rural america." *Human Services in the Rural Environment*, 10-11 (4-1): 48-57, 1987).

There will be some potential for violence directed against others (Brown, Bruce *Lone Tree: A True Story of Murder in America's Heartland*, Crown Publishers, 1989).

There will be increased community disorganization which will result in increased levels of conduct problems among adolescents (Simons, R., Johnson, C., Beaman, J., Conger, R. & Whitbeck, L. "Parents and peer groups as mediators of the effect of community structure on adolescent problem behavior." *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 24:145-171, 1996).

REACTIONS

Farmers and farm families who lose their farm will go through stages of adjustment similar to the stages of grief related to death of a loved one (Rosmann, M. and Delworth, U. "Clinical and Community Perspectives on the Farm Crisis." *The Clinical Psychologist*, 10(1): 10-16, 1990).

Farmers will increasingly believe that outside forces, rather than their own actions, will determine their fate (Kettner, K.A., Geller, J.M., Ludtke, R., and Kelley, J. "Economic hardship and stress among farm operators in North Dakota: The buffering effect of social support." *Great Plains Sociologist*, 1(1): 69-88, 1988).

Farmers and farm families will experience increased social isolation (Wright, S.E. and Rosenblatt, P.C. "Isolation and farm loss: Why neighbors may not be supportive." *Family Relations*, 36(4):391-95, 1987).

Farmers and rural residents will be more vulnerable to the messages of antigovernment and hate groups (Dyer, J. *Harvest of Rage*, Westview Press, 1997).

The general public will not care what's happening to farmers and rural residents (Lyson, T.A. "Who cares about the farmer? Apathy and the current farm crisis." *Rural Sociology*, 51(4): 490-502, 1986).

COPING

Personal coping strategies and systems of social support will mediate the effects of economic adversity and result in fewer depressive symptoms (Belyea, M.J. and Lobao, L.M. "Psychosocial consequences of agricultural transformation: The farm crisis and depression." *Rural Sociology*, 55(1): 58-75, 1990).

Persons in farm households will not use the social support networks available to them as effectively as the people in towns to lessen the psychological consequences of economic distress (Ortega, S.T. & Johnson, D.R. "Urban/rural differences in the structure and consequences of social support." Paper presented at the International Sociological Association meetings, Madrid, Spain, July, 9, 1990).

Persons in rural areas-particularly farmers-will be somewhat less likely than persons in larger communities to seek help for depression (Larson, S. "Help-seeking for depression and alcohol disorders in Nebraska." Report of the Center for Rural Health, Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, forthcoming).

Rural men will be less likely than rural women to use mental health services and this "gender gap" will be greater than for their urban counterparts (Larson, S. "Help-seeking for depression and alcohol disorders in Nebraska." Report of the Center for Rural Health, Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, forthcoming).

RESPONSE

There will be an increase in the number of ad-hoc self-help and support groups, and hot lines as the crisis deepens (Wagendfeld, M.O., Murray, J.D., Mohatt, D.F. & DeBruyn, J.C. *Mental Health and Rural America: 1980-1993*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service, NIH Publication No. 94-3500, 1994).

There will be increased demand on rural mental health programs (Mermelstein, J. and Sundet, P. "Rural community mental health centers' response to the farm crisis." *Human Services in the Rural Environment*, 10: 21-26, 1986).

Effective mental health response to farm and rural stress will be hampered by organizational constraints on community mental health centers (Coulam, R.F., Hargrove, D.S., & Lentner, T.H. "NIMH-funded rural mental health demonstration project: Technical assistance report." *Rural Community Mental Health*, 17(2): 1-16, 1991).

Use of mediation services will have a positive effect on the mental health of farmers and rural residents (Rettig, K.D., Bauer, J.W. & Danes, S.M. "Adjustment of farm families to economic stress: A two year study." [Minnesota Report 220-1990-Item No. AD-MR-3994]. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, 1990).

Frontline workers supporting farmers and farm families will experience stress and

burnout (Hughes, R. "Burnout among county extension staff involved in the rural crisis." Human Services in the Rural Environment, 12(1): 23-28, 1988).

*While cited in regard to only one "finding", most of the research referenced here contains multiple findings and conclusions about the farm crisis and mental health. More references can be found in the bibliographies of the references cited here. For a recent compilation of the rural mental health literature in general, see Wagendfeld, M.O., Murray, J.D., Mohatt, D.F. & DeBruyn, J.C. Mental Health and Rural America: 1980-1993, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service, NIH Publication No. 94-3500, 1994.

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2000 Wisconsin Farm-Related Fatalities

Mark A. Purschwitz, Cheryl A. Skjolaas, and Yuyen Chang
 UW Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
 Department of Biological Systems Engineering
 University of Wisconsin-Extension/Madison

Thirty-two fatalities related to farm work or work site activities occurred in Wisconsin in 2000, compared to 26 fatalities in 1999 and 29 in 1998. Wisconsin has averaged 32.6 such fatalities per year over the past five years.

The 2000 Wisconsin farm fatality rate (number of fatalities per 100,000 workers) was 35.2, based on an estimated average of 90,700 workers in production agriculture in Wisconsin in 2000, as reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (including farm operators, unpaid family labor, and hired workers, but excluding service workers hired through agricultural labor contractors). This compares to rates of 26.5 and 28.2 for 1999 and 1998, respectively.

| Fatalities | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 |
|------------|------|------|------|
| Number | 32 | 26 | 29 |
| Rate* | 35.2 | 26.5 | 28.2 |

* (per 100,000 workers)

According to the National Safety Council, agriculture is consistently one of the three most hazardous industries in the U.S. (along with mining and construction), with an estimated 770 work deaths in 1999 and a fatality rate of 22.5 deaths per 100,000 workers. This compares with 5100 fatalities for all U.S. industries combined, with a death rate of 3.8 per 100,000.

Farm-Related Fatality Definition

Farm-related fatalities are defined as unintentional deaths resulting from injury or environmental factors involving farm work or hazards of the farm work site. Fatalities resulting from heart attacks, recreational activities, home-related activities, or most motor vehicle injuries, are not included in this definition.

Types of Farm-Related Fatalities

Farm tractors were involved in 11 (34.4%) of the 32 fatalities. Other farm machines were involved in 12 (37.5%) of the 32 fatalities. Animals were involved in six (18.8%) of the 32 fatalities. These are discussed in more detail later in this report. In addition, there was a truck rollover of a child in a barnyard, a suffocation under loose straw, and a suffocation under grain in an open storage.

| Fatalities | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| Tractors | 11 | 13 | 15 |
| Farm Machines | 12 | 7 | 8 |
| Confined Spaces | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Falls | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Animals | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Trucks/Vehicles | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Total | 32 | 26 | 29 |

Farm Tractor-Related Fatalities

Farm tractors were involved in 11 farm fatalities in 2000, compared with 13 in 1999 and 15 in 1998. Tractor rollovers (overturns) accounted for five (45.5 %) of the tractor fatalities. Runovers/falls (being run over by the tractor, and/or falling from it) accounted for five fatalities (45.5%). One additional tractor-related fatality involved being pinned between the tractor steering wheel and the raised bucket of a skid-steer loader.

| Tractor | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| Rollovers | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| Runovers/Falls | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 11 | 13 | 15 |

Machine-Related Fatalities

Farm machines other than tractors were involved in 12 fatalities in 2000, compared with seven in 1999 and eight in 1998. Entanglements (including amputations, lacerations, or other trauma) accounted for two (16.7%) of these fatalities; machines included a forage wagon and a liquid manure pump PTO driveline. Four fatalities (33.3%) involved being pinned or crushed by a machine; these included a skid-steer loader, portable hay elevator, stone picker, and milking parlor crowd gate. Two fatalities (16.7%) involved being run over by a machine; machines were a mower and a feed mixer. The other four machine-related fatalities included a fall from a combine, a fall from a hay wagon, an overturn of a horse-drawn manure spreader, and an overturn of an ATV being used for fence work.

| Machines | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 |
|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Entanglement | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Pinned | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Runovers | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 12 | 7 | 8 |

Animals

Animals were involved in six of the 32 fatalities, compared with one in 1999 and one in 1998. Four of the six involved attacks by bulls. The other two involved a horse kick and being struck in the head by a heifer.

County of Occurrence

In 2000, farm-related fatalities were reported in 24 counties. One county had three fatalities, six counties had two fatalities each, and 17 counties had one fatality.

| | | | |
|-------------|---|------------|---|
| Barron | 3 | Grant | 1 |
| Brown | 2 | Green Lake | 1 |
| Buffalo | 2 | Jefferson | 1 |
| Calumet | 1 | Juneau | 1 |
| Chippewa | 1 | Kewaunee | 1 |
| Clark | 1 | Lafayette | 2 |
| Columbia | 1 | Manitowoc | 2 |
| Crawford | 1 | Marathon | 1 |
| Dane | 1 | Monroe | 1 |
| Door | 1 | Richland | 2 |
| Dunn | 1 | Sawyer | 2 |
| Fond du Lac | 1 | Vernon | 1 |

Month of Occurrence

The peak month for fatalities was May, with 8 (25%) fatalities. There were fatalities in nine of the 12 months; the distribution by month of occurrence is given below. (Month of occurrence is when the injury occurred; in some cases, the victim died later.)

| | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|---|
| January | 2 | July | 0 |
| February | 0 | August | 3 |
| March | 0 | September | 3 |
| April | 3 | October | 3 |
| May | 8 | November | 4 |
| June | 4 | December | 2 |

Age and Gender of Victims

Thirty-one (96.9%) of the victims were males, and one was female; she was a child.

Persons age 45-64 accounted for 14 (43.8%) of the victims. Persons age 65 and older accounted for 12 (37.5%). Four (12.5%) of the victims were age 14 or younger, including two (6.3%) age four or younger. The following table gives the age distribution using standard National Safety Council age categories, with expanded categories below age 25. (Percentages may not add up due to round-off.)

| Age | Number | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| 0 - 4 | 2 | 6.3% |
| 5 - 9 | 1 | 3.1% |
| 10 - 14 | 1 | 3.1% |
| 15 - 19 | 1 | 3.1% |
| 20 - 24 | 0 | 0% |
| 25 - 44 | 1 | 3.1% |
| 45 - 64 | 14 | 43.8% |
| 65+ | 12 | 37.5% |
| Total | 32 | 100.0% |

Data Sources

Clippings from Wisconsin daily and weekly newspapers; Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Bureau of Health Information death certificate registry; National Agricultural Statistics Service Farm Labor Reports.

August 2001

09/24/01
09:22

LAW INCIDENT TABLE

City : Sturgeon Bay
Occurred after : 17:25:58 09/15/01
Occurred before : 17:25:58 09/15/01
When reported : 17:27:20 09/15/01
Date disposition declared : 09/15/01
Incident number : 01-009884
Num of the original incident :
Nature of the incident : Heart Problem Heart Attack
Incident address : 5597 ST 42
State : WI
Zip code : 54235
Contact or caller : WIFE
Name ID number of complainant : 14438 JOANN W FELTES
Area Code : LTSV Sevastopol Town
Received by : Spearo, J
How received : 9 911 Line
Agency code : DRSO Door County Sheriff's Office
Responsible officer : Tassoul, Randy
Offense as Taken :
Offense as Observed :
Disposition : CLO Closed Case
Misc. number :
Record security ID :
Geobase address ID :
CAD call ID : 27488
Clearance Code :
Judicial Status :

=====

INVOLVEMENTS:

| Px | Record # | Date | Description | Relationship |
|----|----------|------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| NM | 14438 | | FELTES, JOANN W | *Complainant |
| NM | 34510 | | FELTES, JOHN L | VICTIM/DECEASED |
| CA | 27488 | 09/15/2001 | 17:27 09/15/2001 Heart Problem | *Initiating Call |

LAW INCIDENT NARRATIVE:

Record

On 09/15/01 at approximately 1728 hours, R/O was dispatched to a residence located at 5597 STH 42, south of Carlsville, in reference to an ambulance call in which there was information in regard to a male in his sixties who was found pulseless and non-breathing. While en route to the call, R/O was advised that the victim, who was later identified as John L. Feltes, was found to have a number of scratches on his body. R/O arrived at 1740 hours and was met by Paramedic Chris Jeanquart and received the following information.

Chris explained to R/O that he had spoke with the original calling person that being the wife of the victim, Joann Feltes, who stated that she had last seen her husband at approximately 10:30 a.m. this date, and upon returning home at approximately 5:15 p.m. this date, she found her husband in the yard behind a tractor and manure spreader, face down on the ground and it appeared as though he was lifeless at the time. It should be noted that upon R/O arriving at the scene, R/O noted that the said tractor and manure spreader had been driven into a machine shed and crashed through a sliding door and had come to rest up against the framework of the machine shed. R/O then briefly viewed the body of the victim and observed that it had been covered up with a clean white sheet and R/O learned that paramedics and first responders had ceased rescue efforts on the victim. R/O noted that the long sleeved shirt that was worn by the victim had been cut up the front to assist the responding paramedics and first responders in giving rescue aid. R/O also noted that the victim had on blue jeans and that the left knee area of the blue jeans was ripped. R/O had been advised that the medical examiner, Jane Cordier, had been summoned to the scene and R/O also summoned Investigator Randy Tassoul to the scene.

R/O then briefly interviewed Joann Feltes who again reiterated that she had last seen her husband at approximately 10:30 a.m. this date, that she had left for work, and at the time stated that John seemed to be feeling well and had planned on doing farm work around the property on that date. Joann stated that her husband did have a previous cardiac history and has been on medication, but has not had any recent cardiac spells or treatment. Joann stated that she found her husband in a face down position in the back of the manure spreader when she arrived home on this date at approximately 5:15 p.m. and that he was

laying face down and that she did in fact turn him over and call 911 and she was performing CPR on her husband at the direction of the Door County dispatchers. She continued doing so until first responders and/or paramedics arrived at the scene.

Upon the arrival of Investigator Tassoul and Medical Examiner Cordier, a more thorough examination of the body revealed that on the victim's back and along the back of his legs there were numerous abrasions indicating that the victim may have been run over by the manure spreader. In the location that the tractor was at this time situated, it appeared that the right rear tire of the tractor had spun for a while prior to the tractor shutting off. Joann Feltes did state that upon her arrival at 5:15, the tractor was not running. The engine at this time did feel cold. Further examination of the victim also indicated that he had some broken ribs and possibly a broken neck and/or jaw. These injuries would be consistent with the manure spreader driving over the top of him. Approximately twenty-five to thirty feet prior to the final resting place of the tractor, R/O did note a location in the tire tracks that indicated that either the clutch had been popped or for a short duration during the track, the tires had dug in or spun quite briefly. There was a fuel can that had been run over in approximately the same location and also a leatherman tool was found on the ground near the fuel can. R/O had noted that there was a leatherman tool holder strapped to the victim's belt near the right rear hip area. It appeared as though from back tracking the vehicle tracks, that the tractor and manure spreader had been driven out of a machine shed located to the west of the current location and sometime during its travel to the east, either the victim who is believed to have been driving the tractor at the time suffered some sort of cardiac condition

and/or experienced an accident with the tractor. Joann Feltes had told R/O that John had previously mentioned to her prior to her leaving for work that he was going to be cleaning pens in the barn and that he had planned to use the tractor and manure spreader that day. Also Joann stated that the tractor and manure spreader are stored attached to each other in this machine shed. R/O also noted that it did not appear as though any fresh manure had been accumulated in the manure spreader.

R/O requested that Investigator Tassoul photograph the area and take measurements and Medical Examiner Jane Cordier continued her investigation with the probability of an autopsy being scheduled for the victim. At this time it did not appear as though any foul play was indicated in the circumstances observed by R/O, although it is unknown at this time if this was a tractor accident in itself or that the victim's cardiac condition may have started the chain of events that eventually led to his demise.

Reporting Officer: Sergeant James S. Grondin

Typed: Mon Sep 17 10:15:53 CDT 2001 jms

LAW INCIDENT RESPONDERS DETAIL:

| <u>Se</u> | <u>Responding offi</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>Unit</u> |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | Grondin, James | 105 | Road Sergeant |
| 2 | Schwartz, Mark | 118 | Patrol |
| 3 | Tassoul, Randy | 504 | Investigator |

LAW INCIDENT OFFENSES DETAIL:

| <u>Se</u> | <u>Offe</u> | <u>Offense code</u> | <u>Arson Dama</u> |
|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | DEAI | Death Investigation | 0.00 |

LAW SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

| <u>Seq</u> | <u>Secure</u> |
|------------|---------------|
| 1 | |

On 09/15/01 at 1740 hours, R/O was requested by Sergeant Grondin to respond to an apparent farm accident at 5597 STH 42. R/O arrived at the scene at 1755 hours and met with Sergeant Grondin near a machine shed located just north of the residence.

Upon approaching the scene, R/O observed that an Allis-Chalmers 185 farm tractor towing a New Idea manure spreader was situated on the south side of the machine shed. The tractor had went through the sliding garage doors, smashing the doors. The front of the tractor was situated up on top of items stored inside of the machine shed and the engine had apparently stalled. Lying directly behind the manure spreader was the deceased, John Feltes. The deceased at this time was lying on his back with his legs situated under the manure spreader.

R/O was advised by Paramedic Jeanquart that rigormortis was present in the deceased and it was apparent that the deceased had passed away hours earlier.

R/O spoke to the wife of the deceased, Joann Feltes, and in summary she stated the following. Prior to leaving for work on 09/15/01, Joann had spoke to her husband and she stated that he felt fine and he was in good spirits. Her husband stated he was going to clean the horse pens and then spread the manure. Joann left for work at 1025 hours and she returned home at 1715 hours. Upon driving in the yard, she observed that the tractor had smashed through the machine shed doors and she observed her husband lying on the ground behind the manure spreader.

R/O checked the condition and controls of the Allis-Chalmers tractor and noted the following: 1) the fuel pump was still activated; 2) the ignition key was in the on position; 3) the transmission was in gear; 4) the left brake was engaged and locked; and 5) there was

approximately 4" of fuel left in the gas tank. R/O also noted that after the tractor had smashed through the sliding garage doors, the front end of the tractor became lodged in debris, preventing the tractor from continuing in a forward manner. At this time, the right rear wheel continued to spin and this continued for an unknown length of time, up until the tractor's engine stalled. The left rear wheel did not spin due to the left brake being engaged and locked.

Looking at the tire tracks left in the lawn and gravel driveway, R/O was able to ascertain that the deceased had apparently driven the tractor and manure spreader easterly from another machine shed which was located north of the barn and west of this particular machine shed. R/O observed a diesel fuel can and a funnel situated at this particular machine shed and both of these items had been run over either by the tractor and/or spreader. As the deceased approached this particular machine shed near where the fuel can was situated, R/O observed a rutted area in the gravel caused by either sudden acceleration of the tractor or by the deceased having had pushed in the clutch and then releasing the clutch rapidly (popping the clutch). From the point where R/O observed the rutted area to where the tractor came to rest was approximately forty-five feet. R/O observed a leatherman tool lying in the grass near the gas can and approximately twenty-five feet west of the deceased and the leatherman tool was situated approximately ten feet east of the rutted area. The deceased was wearing a leather sheath on his belt designed to carry the leatherman tool.

It is apparent and it is R/O's opinion that he deceased drove his farm tractor with manure spreader in tow from the west machine shed across the yard towards the east machine shed. There was a full diesel fuel can and funnel situated outside the east machine shed doors. The

09/24/01

09:22

LAW INCIDENT TABLE

Page:

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7

deceased stopped the tractor where the fuel can was situated and the deceased engaged the left rear brake. The tractor's engine was left running and the deceased did not place the transmission in neutral. The clutch was suddenly disengaged and it is unknown at this time why this occurred. The tractor lunged forward and it appears the deceased was thrown from the tractor and it appears the deceased fell backwards and the tractor continued on with the manure spreader passing over the top of the deceased. The tractor's engine then stalled after smashing through the shed's doors.

It should be noted that the deceased went through a heart blockage procedure two years ago.

The medical examiner, Jane Cordier, met with R/O at the scene and the deceased was later transported to St. Vincent's Hospital by Huehns Funeral Home for an autopsy.

Reporting Officer: Investigator Randy Tassoul

Typed: Mon Sep 17 13:43:33 CDT 2001 jms

Statement Form

Date & Time Started: 9-15-01 @ 7:00 AM

Case No. 01-009884

Date & Time Completed: 9-15-01 @ 7:10 PM

Page 1 of 1

Statement of: Last Name Faltus First Name JoAnn Middle Initial W

Sex F Race W DOB 1-28-37 Home Telephone 743-6125 Business Telephone

Address 5547 3TH 42 City State

I left for work this morning at approx 10:25 A.M and I worked at Peninsula Antiques. When I left for work this morning JOHN WAS FINE AND IN GOOD SPIRITS. WHEN I LEFT FOR WORK JOHN HAD TOLD ME THAT HE WAS GOING TO CLEAN THE HORSE PENS AND SPREAD THE MANURE. I RETURNED HOME AT 5:15 PM AND I SAW JOHN LYING ON THE GRASS AND THE TRACTOR HAD CRASHED THROUGH THE GARAGE DOOR. THIS STATEMENT WAS WRITTEN FOR ME BY INVESTIGATOR CASSOUL OF THE D.C.S.D.


Officer/Witness Signature


Signature of Person Giving Statement

DOOR COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
DEATH SCENE CHECKLIST
EXAMINATION OF OUTDOOR DEATH SCENE

Neighborhood description: Rural Urban Business Residential Other

Type of property: Public Private

Property owned by: John & JoAnn Fritzes

rented by: _____

Scene entered by virtue of:
Search Warrant Consent Search Exigent Circumstances Public Lands

OVERALL DESCRIPTION OF SCENE INCLUDING:

*Entrances to area by suspect/victim determined: Yes No

If yes, describe: N/A

*Trampled grass: Yes No If yes, describe location, etc.

*Broken twigs: Yes No If yes, describe location, etc.

*Dragging marks: Yes No If yes, describe location, etc.

*Tire prints: Yes No If yes, describe location, etc.

By FARM TRACTOR

*Footprints: Yes No If yes, describe location, etc.

*Blood stains: Yes No If yes, describe location, etc.

Type of terrain: Flat

Approximate distance to nearest road: 200'

Approximate distance to nearest residence: 200'

Exposure to view: Concealed Semi-Concealed Open View

Any evidence of struggle at scene? Yes No Describe Observations:

Trajectory of weapon ascertained? N/A Yes No

List items of evidence you want collected from the scene:

| Description of item(s) | Location of item(s) | Remarks |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| <u>N/A</u> | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

DOOR COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
DEATH SCENE INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST
INVESTIGATION OF SCENE

VICTIM: JOHN L. FELTES DCSD Case # 01-009884
D.O.B.: 4-18-37 DCI Case # _____
RES.: 5597 STID 42 STURGEON BAY WSCL Case # _____

ARRIVAL AT SCENE

Time: 1755 Date: 9-15-01

Type of scene: Indoor Outdoor Vehicle Combination

Outside Temperature: 65° Weather Conditions: Sunny

Describe Location: Body was found lying behind a
farm tractor with manure spreader in tow

Within Jurisdiction of: _____

Body(ies) Found by: WIFE: JOANN FELTES

Number of Bodies: 1 Time Found: 1715

First Officer at the scene: SGT. GRONIN

Names of ALL persons known to have entered death scene prior to your arrival:
PARAMEDICS & EMT'S
JOANN FELTES

Identify all persons/witnesses at scene:

Name

Address

Telephone

FRAN SHEPCHIK - 1552 TACOMA BEACH RD 746-2117

CERRY SHEPCHIK - S.A.A. S.A.A.

Is there a suspect? Yes No

Is suspect in custody? Yes No

If yes, name of suspect, if known: N/A

Coroner/Medical Examiner been notified? Yes No Time: 1742

District Attorney been notified? Yes No Time: _____

Victim identified? Yes No Name: JOHN L. FELTAS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| Any Witnesses to the death? | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undetermined <input type="radio"/> | |
| Name | Address | Telephone |

Additional comments and/or observations:

EXAMINATION OF THE DEATH SCENE WITH A FIREARM INVOLVED

Is a firearm present? Yes No If yes, give type (rifle, pistol, etc.): _____
Location: _____

NOTE: Without disturbing the firearm, record as much of the following information as possible. Use a second page if more than one firearm is involved.

Manufacturer: _____
Model: _____
Cal. / Gauge: _____
Barrel Length: _____
Type of Action: _____
Shot Capacity: _____
Finish: _____
Serial Number: _____

Hammer Position: Forward/Uncocked
Back / Cocked
Safety Position: Not applicable
Up Down
Off On
Forward Back

Is the firearm: Apparently operable
Obviously not functioning

Expended cartridge casings:

| | <u>Cal. / Gauge</u> | <u>Fired?</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|----|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3) | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Objects displaying POSSIBLE bullet damage:

Item / Location

DOOR COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
DEATH SCENE CHECKLIST
EXAMINATION OF THE BODY AT THE DEATH SCENE
(Prepare a separate worksheet for each victim.)

Has the victim been identified? Yes No

If yes, how or by whom? WIFE: JoAnn Feltes

Name of decease: JOHN L. Feltes

Location of body within the scene: situated lying next to
MACHINE SHOP. lying BEHIND MANURE SPREADER

Room temperature: N/A

State of decomposition: None Slight _____
Advanced _____ Skeletal _____

Notes: _____

WITHOUT MOVING THE BODY, Complete as much of the following as possible:

Description of body:

Sex: Male Female Unknown

Race: White Black Other Unknown

Hair Color: Brown Black Blond Red Gray Shaved Other _____

Eye Color: Brown Blue Hazel Green Unknown Other _____

Estimated age 65 Estimated height 5'10 Estimated Weight 180

Eyes: open/closed Mouth: open/closed Color of skin pale

Color and conditions of hands/fingernails: —

Presence of blood, saliva, lung purge, direction of flow, etc.: Blood in mouth

Cyanosis (degree and location): NO
(Bluish, dark purple skin color)

Cadaveric spasm present? (Muscle movement of deceased) Yes No

Petechial hemorrhages (degree and location): _____
(Tiny red spots on skin)

Glasses, hearing aid, other prosthetic devices: GLASSES SITUATED ON PLATFORM -
REAR OF MANURE SPREADER

Natural physical deformity or oddity: No

Occupation marks: None Noted

Description of clothing: (including condition):

Blue jeans - dirty & torn knees

white tee shirt

Grey sweatshirt

Brown shoes

Any identifiable marks or tattoos? Yes No If yes, describe/also photograph: _____

Describe any jewelry worn by the deceased: _____

Watch - left wrist body

Describe the **Position** of the body: stick figure can be used to **supplement** the narrative account.)

On my arrival, body was positioned on its back

Describe any apparent injuries to the following body parts: (A body diagram can be used to supplement the narrative account.)

Head: _____

Face: _____

Front Torso: BRUISING TO CHEST

Back Torso: BRUISING TO BACK

Right Leg: ABRASION TO KNEE

Left Leg: _____

Right Foot: _____

Left Foot: _____

Right Arm: _____

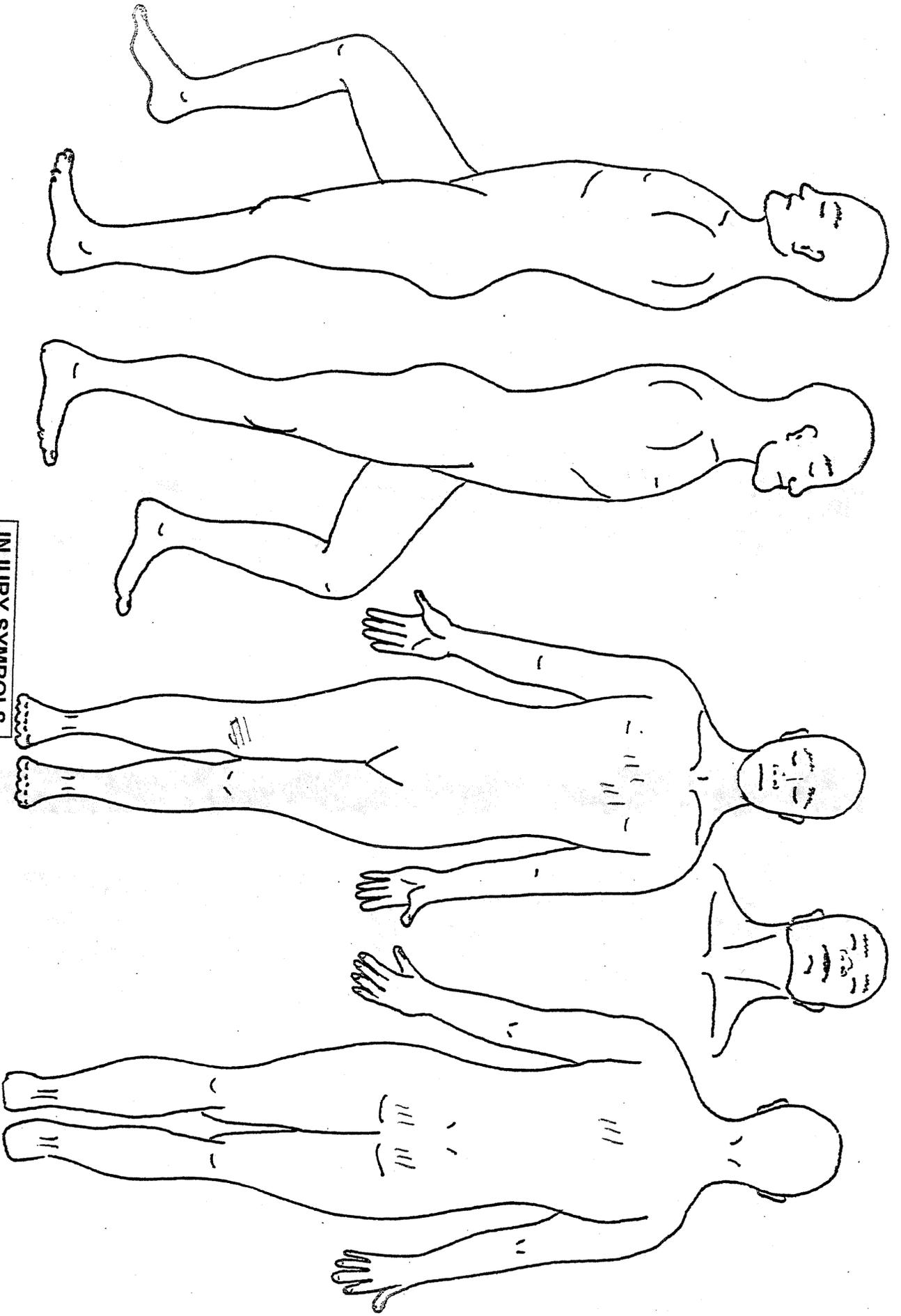
Left Arm: _____

Right Hand: _____

Left Hand: _____

Any evidence or suggestion of Rigor Mortis? (Stiffening of muscles) Yes No Unknown

If yes, describe location and extent: ENTIRE BODY



INJURY SYMBOLS

| IDENTIFYING MARKS | GUNSHOT WOUNDS | SHARP INSTRUMENT WOUNDS | BLUNT FORCE INJURY |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>(S) = Scar</p> <p>(T) = Tattoo</p> <p>(D) = Deformity</p> | <p>••••• = Shotgun Pellets</p> <p>○ = Entrance</p> <p>⊕ = Exit</p> | <p>— = Stab</p> <p>— = Incise - cut - slash</p> <p>○ = Puncture (needle, nail, ice pick)</p> | <p>⊥ = Fracture - broken bones</p> <p>⊗ = Laceration - tear</p> <p>⊗ = Fracture with laceration</p> <p>⊗ = Abrasion - scrape - scratch</p> <p>⊗ = Contusion - bruise</p> |

09/19/01
08:31

LAW SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE

Incident number : 01-009884
Sequence Number : 2
Secure ID :
Narrative : (see below)

On 09/18/01 at 1430 hours, R/O attended the autopsy of the victim, John Feltes, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Green Bay.

It should be noted that when the victim was removed from the cooler, R/O observed that the evidence tag had been removed from the sealed body bag. R/O later learned from Joe Grantham that he had removed the evidence tag from the body bag.

In attendance at the autopsy were Pathologist Charles Dais, Jr., his assistant Jan, and Joe Grantham.

R/O photographed the victim clothed and unclothed identifying the injuries sustained by the victim. The victim sustained abrasions to both legs from the thighs to the feet, abrasions to the back, abrasions to the chest, a laceration to the right elbow, and a laceration to the back of the neck. Upon exposing the body cavity, R/O observed massive broken ribs, a lacerated liver, and a broken back. Upon checking the condition of the heart, Dr. Dais stated that the victim had severe coronary artery disease.

Upon completing the autopsy, Huehns Funeral Home was notified.

Reporting Officer: Investigator Randy Tassoul

Typed: Wed Sep 19 08:29:39 CDT 2001 jms

=====
*officers
copy done*

Others: _____

Rape case: Breast checked for saliva/bite marks _____

- ALL FLUIDS SHOULD BE REFRIGERATED -

Hair samples taken by: _____
(Comb first to obtain transferred hair.)

Head: _____
(Should be 5 from front, 5 from back, and 5 from each side.)

Pubic: _____ Chest: _____ Arms: _____

Others: _____

Blood scrapings from external portion of body taken by: _____

Diagram and measurements taken of all wounds, bruises and other trauma by: _____

Body X-ray: chest & neck Taken by: St. Vincent's

Gunshot Residue Test (GSR): _____ Taken by: _____

Eyes and hairy surfaces checked for wounds: _____

In stabbing cases, has body been X-rayed for possible broken tip from weapon where applicable?

VISIBLE INJURIES

ANTEMORTEM
(Before death)

POSTMORTEM
(After death)

lacerations & abrasions to both legs

Full X-ray for old fractures or abnormalities: _____

Old surgical scars: _____

Occupational marks: _____

If body burned, sift ashes for possible teeth, bones, etc.: _____

Other Notes: Victim sustained a Flail chest, Broken back,

Lacerated liver, Hemorrhage to exterior of skull

Victim also had severe coronary artery disease.

Former running star works to recover from farm accident

By Gary Johnson
Special contributor

ELK MOUND -- Pinned under a 2,000-pound piece of frozen hay silage 35 feet up in a concrete silo, dairy farmer Al Douglas' mind flashed fast forward.

Hours had passed since the silage he'd been prying off the silo wall on his Elk Mound farm had broken free and fallen on him, crushing his lower body. Somehow he wasn't killed by the massive frozen chunk because it fell against a metal silo unloader, leaving Mr. Douglas a 10-inch air space that allowed him to breathe.

As daylight slowly turned to darkness on a Wisconsin winter day, the 39-year-old's mind turned to his family: his wife, Karin, and his three children.

"I want to see my kids grow up," Mr. Douglas thought.

He felt an inner peace knowing a life insurance policy he'd taken out would ensure financial stability for his family if he wasn't rescued in time.

Mr. Douglas' mind switched to another love -- his passion for running.

His powerful legs, the legs that had carried him 25,000 miles over country roads and through 21 grueling marathons, were numb from the crushing weight of the silage. He tried to remain optimistic, even considering the possibility of running with a prosthesis if one of his damaged legs had to be removed.

His thoughts raced as he faded in and out of consciousness. Mostly, he focused on survival.

"Running helped me be in shape enough to handle it," Mr. Douglas said. "You do what you've got to do."

That day, Feb. 12, was a warm 28 degrees in a Wisconsin cold spell. Mr. Douglas thought it was a good opportunity to climb up in the 80-foot silo to clean frozen hay silage that had built up on the north wall of the structure used to store feed for his 72 dairy cattle.

A little before noon, Mr. Douglas climbed up the covered chute to about 35 feet off the ground. He used an iron wrecking bar to reach up about 10 feet to pry off parts of the 15-foot-wide chunk of frozen silage.

"I knew it was kind of dangerous in there," Mr. Douglas said.