

June, May and July, in that order, had the most injuries. The summer months have longer days, heavier workloads and more people involved with the farm labor. The time of day was also interesting, 7:00PM had the highest incidence with most occurring between 5:00PM and 8:00PM. This time of day the farmer has many times already put in 12-14 hours of work. Thoughts may be on tomorrow's activities, physical tiredness has set in, sensual and mental acuity are decreased. Milking is done at this time, as well as other chores with the animals. This could account for the number of animal-related injuries.

Machinery-related accidents had the highest number of injuries. There were no deaths reported in our surveillance, but in Wisconsin Fatal Farm Accident reports done by Roger Tormoehlen for the years 1985 and 1986, the majority of farm fatalities were caused by farm machinery. The number of fatalities are increasing. There are many different approaches to try to improve the safety factor with machinery. Farmers are aware of the hazards. They have learned to live with it. Also many times because of financial stress, they are not able to keep their machinery in good repair. Maybe a more passive approach that modifies the equipment rather than the farmer would be more beneficial. Safety devices would be built into the machinery, therefore eliminating human error.

Separating the days of the week showed a fairly even distribution of injuries except for Thursday. Thursdays were significantly lower than any other day. At this time, no definite conclusions can be drawn from this, but it is an interesting finding. One idea was that many local newspapers come out on Wednesdays or early Thursday and maybe Thursdays are a day spent shopping. Whatever the reasons, Thursdays seemed to be the safest day of the week in this study.

Weather is a powerful and constant variable in farming. The farmer races against it every day. Poor conditions such as several days of rain, will force the farmer to work longer days when the weather breaks. Warm, sunny summer days are also ideal for long hours of labor. These conditions could be a factor in the number and type of injuries. For example, Wednesday, 5/27/87 had the most injuries for May. According to weather information recorded at the University Experimental Farm in Grant County, 5/26 had .5 inches of rain in the late evening and fog early in the day. The fog may have delayed the field work. Then with the rain that night, Wednesday's field work could also have been postponed until later in the day. The

remainder of that day was probably rushed, catching up on lost time. Under such conditions, the probability of an injury could increase.

### CONCLUSION

This research was a local response to an enormous concern for the number of farm injuries today. Each individual can interpret these findings to their own individual situations. We can see that many factors can precipitate an injury. After reviewing all the data, certain trends are evident. One purpose for documenting these statistics would be to raise the farm family's awareness of their safety on the farm. Another would be to compare this data with other pertinent research. Specific information could be used to enhance present programs or in developing new farm safety strategies.

This surveillance will be conducted again in 1988 for 7 months. Reviewing and comparing the two years data, will provide us with more information that will support the conclusions from the research.

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