Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2015/16
Operational Strategy Team (OST), Agriculture, Waste and Recycling Unit

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Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing 2015/16

TOTAL FATALITIES

10 Employed
17 Self-employed
2 Non-employed

29 DEAD

KILLED BY ...

7 Farm vehicles
eg tractors and trailers, ATVs

6 A fall from a height
eg from ladders, fragile roofs

4 Drowning/asphyxiation
eg slurry pits, ponds

3 Contact with machinery
eg hay baler, wagon feeder

3 An animal
eg cows, calves and cattle, bulls

2 Something collapsing
eg excavations

1 Being struck by object
eg tree branches

1 Contact with electricity
Overhead power line

1 Slip, trip or fall
Farmyard

1 Fire
Portable building

This information is available in a poster at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm
Part One: Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain, 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

Summary and key points

The total number of reported fatal injuries resulting from work activities in agriculture was 29, including two non-employed people.

The total excludes reported deaths from reportable diseases and road traffic deaths.

In agriculture

- Twenty-nine (29) deaths were reported in 2015/16, compared with an average of 37 deaths over the five previous years.
- The total of 27 deaths among all workers (10 employees and 17 self-employed) is five less than the previous year’s figure of 32.

Table 1 Comparison of deaths in agriculture with previous five years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>2015/16(p)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employees</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total workers</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-employed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which children (&lt;16)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also:

Source: RIDDOR

- A total of 10 employees were killed in the agricultural sector in 2015/16. This compares with 13 in 2014/15, though numbers fluctuate year-on-year. The average number of employee deaths over the previous 5 years was 11, the range being between 10 and 13. Over a 5-year-period (2011/12–2015/16) 56 employees died.
- Seventeen self-employed people died during 2015/16. This compares with 19 in 2014/15. The average over the previous 5 years was 20, ranging between 17 and 23. Over a 5-year-period (2011/12–2015/16) 96 self-employed people died.

1 The fatality figures for 2015/16 presented in this report are at this stage provisional, covering the 12 months from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, and will be finalised in July 2017 following any necessary adjustments. Based on previous years, the provisional 2015/16 fatality figure could increase or decrease slightly when finalised.
The total number of workers killed in agriculture over the five-year period (2011/12 to 2015/16) was 152. Of these, 56 (37%) were employees and 96 (63%) were self-employed.

In addition, two non-employed people were killed in 2015/16. The average number of deaths over the previous five years was five. The average number of child deaths over the previous five years was one.

Table 2 Breakdown of fatal injuries in agriculture by country 2015/16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Self-employed</th>
<th>Non-employed</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RIDDOR

**Age profile**

Of the 27 deaths involving workers:

- Around half of the worker fatalities were to workers aged 65 years and over.
  - Twelve of them were self-employed and one was an employee.
  - Nine were self-employed farmers, the other four were self-employed contractors/farm workers.
- The youngest self-employed person was 38 and the oldest was 86. Among employees, the ages ranged from 26 and 73.

Figure 1 Fatal injuries by age, 2015/16

Cause of fatality

During 2015/16, the five main causes of a fatal injury were transport-related, fall from height, drowning and asphyxiations, contact with machinery, and injured by an animal.
Figure 2 Fatal injuries by cause, 2015/16 (rounded to nearest percentage point)

Source: Operational Intelligence
Figure 3  Fatal injuries by cause: Percentage in 2015/16 against previous 10 years (2005/06 to 2014/15) (rounded up to nearest percentage point)
Figure 4 Detailed cause of fatal injuries, 2015/16

- **7 people** Transport (overturning or struck by moving vehicle)
  - Tractor and trailer including farm equipment
  - All-terrain vehicle (ATV)
  - Self-propelled sprayer
  - Combine harvester
  - Digger

- **6 people** Fall from a height
  - Fragile roofs
  - Ladder
  - Silage pit/wall

- **4 people** Drowning or asphyxiation
  - Slurry pit
  - Pond
  - Bales of hay (haylage)

- **3 people** Contact with machinery
  - Hay bale/hay machine
  - Wagon feeder

- **3 people** Injured by an animal
  - Cows, calves and cattle
  - Bull

- **2 people** Trapped by something collapsing
  - Excavation

- **1 person** Struck by moving, falling or flying object
  - Tree branch

- **1 person** Contact with electricity
  - Overhead electricity power line (OHPL)

- **1 person** Fire
  - Portable building

- **1 person** Slip, trip, fall on same level
  - Farmyard

**Total 29**

Source: Operational Intelligence
There were seven transport (24%)-related deaths.

- Two involved tractors: a 42-year-old employee died when the tractor rolled over trapping him inside; a 68-year-old self-employed farmer was found trapped underneath a tractor and trailed fertiliser spreader.
- Two involved all-terrain vehicles (ATVs): a 61-year-old shepherd died when his ATV went over a cliff; another involved a side-by-side ATV when a 73-year-old worker was found trapped underneath the vehicle when it overturned downhill.
- A 71-year-old self-employed contractor was run over by a combine harvester; a 63-year-old farm worker was crushed between a digger and a wall; and a 62-year-old self-employed agricultural contractor was crushed by a self-propelled sprayer.

Falls from a height also caused six (21%) deaths.

Three incidents involved fragile roofs:

- A 61-year-old self-employed farmer was removing roof sheets when he fell through a fragile barn roof; a 42-year-old self-employed contractor was repairing a barn roof when he fell through; and a 51-year-old self-employed farmer was walking on the roof when he fell through a plastic roof light onto the concrete floor below.
- A 72-year-old self-employed farmer in a family farming partnership died when he fell into an empty silage pit and a 72-year-old self-employed farm partner died when he fell from a ladder.
- A 67-year-old self-employed contractor died when he fell over a wall.

Drowning and asphyxiation caused a further four (14%) deaths.

- Two workers, one aged 32 the other 36, were both found dead in an underground slurry pit whilst attempting to clear a blockage pipe.
- A 73-year-old self-employed farmer in a family farming business was found drowned in a pond.
- A 54-year-old farm worker was asphyxiated when he became engulfed with haylage bales.

Machinery caused three deaths (10%).

- A 26-year-old farm worker was found dead entangled inside a feeder wagon connected to a tractor.
- A 66-year-old self-employed farmer was found trapped inside a baler.
- A 65-year-old non-employed person was helping a farmer to repair a hay-turning machine when it jolted forward, causing him to fall over and hit his head on the ground.
All three animal-related deaths involved self-employed farmers coming into contact with cows or a bull.

- A 76-year-old self-employed farmer was dragged in the field by a cow.
- A 76-year-old self-employed farmer was knocked over by a cow.
- A 79-year-old self-employed farmer was attacked by a bull.

Being trapped by something collapsing caused a further two deaths (7%). Both incidents involved excavation work:

- A 32-year-old farm worker died from crush injuries when an excavation collapsed.
- A 70-year-old self-employed farm worker became trapped inside a drainage ditch when it collapsed.

The remaining four victims were:

- A 49-year-old chainsaw operator was struck by a hung-up tree.
- A 38-year-old self-employed contractor who was found dead in a burnt-out mobile unit.
- A 86-year-old self-employed farmer died when he slipped and fell over.
- A 34-year-old non-employed person was electrocuted when his vehicle came into contact with an overhead electricity power line (OHPL) while he was collecting bales of hay from a farm.
Figure 5 Number of fatal injuries by geographical area, 2015/16

TOTAL
29 fatals

Source: RIDDOR
Summary of fatalities by geographical area from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

South East
A 62-year-old self-employed agricultural contractor was crushed by a self-propelled sprayer. He had been spraying across a steep field when he lost control of the sprayer. There was no seatbelt and he was thrown out of the cab and crushed by the vehicle as it overturned and rolled over the slope several times. He later died in hospital from crush injuries.

A 34-year-old non-employed person was electrocuted when his vehicle came into contact with an OHPL. He was collecting bales of hay from a farm using a flatbed lorry with a crane attachment. It is believed that he was manoeuvring his lorry to load hay bales when it came in contact with the OHPL. He was found collapsed on the floor and later died in hospital.

Wales
A 26-year-old farm worker was found dead inside a feeder wagon connected to a tractor. He had been given the task of feeding cattle using the machine. It had been noted that he had been missing for some time and had not fed the cattle. He was later found by the farmer entangled inside the machine. It is thought that he climbed on top of the feeder wagon and had fallen into the machine while it was still running.

A 68-year-old self-employed farmer was found trapped underneath an overturned tractor and trailed fertiliser spreader. He was driving down a slope when he lost control of the vehicle. A police examination of the tractor found that worn tyres and poor brakes may have caused him to lose control. It is thought that he was thrown around inside the cab and then ejected from the cab when the tractor overturned. He died from crush injuries.

A 49-year-old chainsaw operator was killed by a hung-up tree. He was felling a large ash on steep ground as part of a commercial harvesting contract when he was struck by a pre-existing windblown larch. The larch had been hung-up in the ash tree he was felling. He died on site from asphyxiation.

A 72-year-old self-employed farm partner died when he fell from a ladder. He had climbed up a ladder to retrieve some bales from a stack for a customer. As he removed the bales he fell from the ladder onto the concrete floor below. He later died in hospital from head injuries.

A 54-year-old farm worker was found under bales of hay. He was loading wrapped haylage bales onto a cattle feed trailer in the barn with a telehandler. It is believed that he was removing the silage wrap with his knife when he became engulfed with haylage. He was missing for some time and later found by the farmer under a pile of silage with the telehandler still running. He died from asphyxiation.

South West
A 63-year-old farm worker was crushed between a digger and a wall. The digger had a faulty starter motor and, in order to start the engine, the key had to be turned in the cab and then a connection made with a piece of wire with the engine’s motor terminal. The worker had turned the ignition on and left the cab. A second worker offered to start the engine with the wire, assuming that his colleague was back in the cab. However, his colleague was standing on the other side of the vehicle by a wall. As the machine started it moved forward and he was crushed against the wall and later died in hospital.
A 42-year-old employee died when the tractor and trailer that he was operating overturned. He had driven the tractor and trailer out of the farmyard. It is believed that when travelling the front wheel of the tractor left the road and struck a hedge, causing the tractor to overturn. The worker was not wearing the lap belt and was trapped between the cab and the road surface. He died from multiple injuries.

A 76-year-old self-employed farmer was dragged in the field by a cow. He was trying to move cattle from one field to another but was having trouble moving one of the cows. He decided to put a rope around the cow’s body. The cow spooked and bolted forward, dragging the farmer along the field. He died from neck and chest injuries.

A 61-year-old self-employed farmer died when he fell through a fragile barn roof. He had used a telehandler and a man cage to gain access to the roof and was intending to remove roof sheets using a disc cutter. No effective measures had been taken to prevent a fall. While he was working on the roof the fragile material gave way and he fell onto the concrete floor below. He died from serious injuries.

An 86-year-old self-employed farmer died when he slipped and fell over. He was looking at his cattle when he noticed a piece of plastic on the floor. He went to lift up the plastic but fell and banged his head. He later felt unwell and went to hospital and died from medical complications.

A 67-year-old self-employed contractor died when he fell over a wall. He and two other workers had arrived on the farm to carry out a ‘chicken catching’ contract. It would appear that he had parked his vehicle and then decided to climb over an adjacent wall, where the ground level was lower on the other side. It was dark at the time. He landed head first on the concrete area at the bottom of the wall and died from serious head injuries.

**West Midlands**
A 73-year-old worker was found trapped underneath a side-by-side all-terrain-vehicle (ATV). He was driving down an incline on an established off-road track that crossed grassland. At some point the vehicle overturned. He was found crushed underneath the vehicle cab.

A 66-year-old self-employed farmer was found trapped inside a round baler. He had raised the hydraulic tailgate and had entered the rear of the baler with the tractor engine running. It is assumed that he was attending to a problem with a roller when the tailgate closed, trapping him inside. His neighbour heard shouts from inside the baler chamber and found the farmer trapped between the rear tailgate and the main structure of the baler. He was taken to hospital where he later died from serious crush injuries.

**Yorkshire and Humberside**
A 38-year-old self-employed contractor died in a fire. He had taken a portable building into the woods for disposal. He was later found by another farmer in the burnt out unit. He died from burn injuries.

Two workers, aged 32 and 36, were found dead in an underground slurry pit. It is assumed that both workers were attempting to clear a blockage in a pipe leading into the slurry pit. There were no witnesses and both men had been missing for some time. Both men were overcome by slurry gas and became asphyxiated by gas or drowned. A farm worker found both men submerged in slurry.
**North West**

A 73-year-old self-employed farmer in a family farming business was found drowned in a pond. He had finished milking the cows and was last seen walking away from the farmyard across a field. The farm had a drainage pipe installed from a pond to the mains drain under a road, which had become blocked. It is believed that he may have tried to unblock the drainage pipe by rodding the drain and slipped or fell into the pond and drowned.

A 79-year-old self-employed farmer in a family farming business was attacked by a bull. He was helping to load the bull onto a trailer to take to the abattoir and was standing inside the cattle race. The bull would not go up the ramp into the cattle trailer so it was prodded by an electric cattle prod. The bull became agitated, bolted in the race, knocked the farmer onto the ground and then stood on him. He later died in hospital from serious internal injuries.

A 76-year-old self-employed farmer was knocked over by a cow. He and his son were vaccinating a group of calves. The calves were taken from their pen in the barn to the cattle-handling facilities in another barn. His son was walking ahead of the cattle to open a gate. As he did the cattle became ‘spooked’, turned round and ran back out of the barn into the yard. The farmer was at the rear of the group in the path of the running cattle. He was knocked to the ground and later died in hospital.

**Scotland**

A 72-year-old self-employed farmer in a family farming partnership died when he fell into an empty silage pit being used to house lambing sheep. He was checking the sheep through an open door on top of the silage pit wall. It is thought that he fell from the wall having tripped on one of the blocks that was used for holding down the silage cover. He later died in hospital from injuries caused by the fall.

A 42-year-old self-employed contractor died when he fell through a fragile barn roof. He was contracted by the farmer to wash, repair and paint the barn roof. He was on the roof removing damaged sheets using an electric grinder by cutting some of the bolts holding the old sheets to the roof. His co-worker did not see what happened but heard a loud crack. He fell through one of the roof sheets onto the concrete floor below and died from severe head and chest injuries.

A 65-year-old non-employed farm helper was struck by a fence post. He was helping a farmer to repair a hay-turning machine attached to a tractor. They were attempting to free some rusted bolts and had placed a wooden fence post through the tines to stop them moving. The farmer decided to raise the machine using the hydraulics. As the machine was lifted it jolted and the post hit the helper on the arm, causing him to lose his balance, fall and hit his head on the ground. He was taken to hospital but later died from complications caused by the injury.

A 71-year-old self-employed contractor was run over by a combine harvester. He was carrying out corn carting with a tractor and trailer collecting grain from the combine. He parked the tractor and trailer at the end of field and then climbed into the harvester. He then decided to fetch the tractor so that the combine could fill the trailer with grain. He left the combine cab by climbing down the steps onto the field, the driver then noticed that the contractor was on the ground. It is assumed that he had slipped and fallen over and was then run over by the combine’s rear wheel. He died from fractured ribs and internal chest injuries.
A 51-year-old self-employed farmer in a family farming partnership died when he fell through a fragile roof. He was fitting ridge vent covers and used a ladder to access the valley gutters from the gable end of the building. A worker inside the shed was directing him to walk up the concrete beam supporting the roof; the farmer fell through a plastic roof light onto the concrete floor below. He was taken to hospital where he died from serious head injuries.

A 32-year-old farm worker died when an excavation collapsed. A drainage trench was being dug and a pipe line was being put in the bottom to drain the water away. There were no equipment, protection or measures in place to avoid the sides falling in and collapsing. He was inside the trench connecting the pipes when the sides collapsed, trapping and crushing him. He was buried in the soil and died from serious crush injuries.

A 70-year-old self-employed farm worker became trapped inside a drainage ditch when the sides collapsed. He was helping a farmer to lay a main drain in the field below the farmhouse when part of the excavation collapsed. The excavation had vertical sides with no shuttering, trench boxes or any other protection in place. Both men were working in the excavation laying pipes when a section of soil fell from the wall. The farmer managed to free himself but was unable to free the worker as he became trapped by a slab of falling clay. He died from crush injuries.

A 61-year-old worker employed as a shepherd died when his ATV went over a cliff. He was gathering sheep on the quad bike in a field on the side of a cliff that overlooked the beach and the sea. There were no witnesses but it would appear that he had driven the bike through a fence and over the cliff edge. He was found at the bottom of the cliff and airlifted to hospital but had died from his injuries.
Part Two: Fatal injuries in the agricultural sector in Great Britain, 2005/06 to 2014/15

Part Two of this report provides a detailed breakdown and summary of the fatalities in the agricultural sector over the 10-year period 2005/06 to 2014/15. It also provides a comparison between 2015/16 and the previous 10 years.

Summary

Three hundred and ninety fatalities in agriculture (including farming, forestry, horticulture, fish farming etc) were reported to HSE between 2005/06 and 2014/15. Of these, 126 (32%) were to employees, 210 (54%) were to self-employed people and 54 (14%) were to non-employed people who were killed as a result of someone else’s work activity.

Of the 54 deaths to non-employed people, 17 were children (under 16 years of age) See Figures 11–14 for further information.

This means that:

■ on average over the past 10 years, one person is killed every 9 days as a direct result of an agricultural work activity;
■ almost two-thirds of the worker deaths were to the self-employed;
■ one in every 3 reported fatalities to non-employed people was a child death.

Employees and self-employed people

■ Over a 10-year period (2005/06 to 2014/15(p)), 336 workers were killed, of whom 126 (38%) were employees and 210 (63%) were self-employed.
■ There were 10 fatal injuries to employees in 2015/16, slightly fewer than the average annual number of employee deaths over the previous 10 years (average of 13 deaths per year), although numbers do fluctuate year-on-year.
■ There were 17 fatal injuries to self-employed people in 2015/16. In all, a total of 210 self-employed people were killed over the past 10 years, an average of 21 deaths per year.

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2 The data for 2014/15 within the 10-year period 2005/06-2014/15 are based on the provisional data for 2014/15 published in July 2015, supplemented with details on cause of injury gathered during operational investigations. Data for 2014/15 have now been finalised – the number of worker fatalities has been revised downwards from 33 to 32; there was no change to the number of fatal injuries to members of the public.
Age (employees and self-employed) over a 10-year period

Of the worker deaths in 2015/16, 13 (48%) were over the age of 65. When compared against a 10-year period (2005/06–2014/15), there were 96 (29%) deaths to those over 65.

Of the workers aged between 55 and 64, there were four deaths (15%) in 2015/16 and over a 10-year period (2005/06–2014/15) there were 74 (22%).

During 2015/16 there were no deaths to workers under 25 but over a 10-year period (2005/06–2014/15) there were 27 (8%) deaths.

See Figures 6(a) and 6(b) and Figure 7 for further analyses of fatal injuries by age.
Figure 6(a) Age of deceased. Percentage of the total for employees – 2015/16 against 10-year period (2005/06–2014/15)

Source: RIDDOR

Figure 6(b) Age of deceased. Percentage of the total for self-employed – 2015/16 against 10-year period (2005/06–2014/15)

Source: RIDDOR
Figure 7 Fatal injuries to employees and the self-employed in agriculture, 2005/06–2014/15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Self-employed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24 years</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>25-34 years</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>35-44 years</td>
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<td>45-54 years</td>
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<td>65+ years</td>
<td>16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age unknown</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 336

Source: RIDDOR
Fatal injuries by cause\(^3\) (employees and self-employed) over a 10-year period

The three main causes of fatal injuries to workers in agriculture over the past 10 years were:

- transport – being struck by a moving vehicle/overturns (29% of all fatalities);
- struck by moving or falling objects (16% of all fatalities);
- falls from a height (14% of all fatalities).

Other causes included:

- injury by an animal (13%);
- contact with machinery or material being machined (10%);
- asphyxiation or drowning (7%);
- trapped by something collapsing or overturning (4%); and
- contact with electricity or an electrical discharge (3%).

See Figure 8 for more information on cause of injury.

As in previous years, the largest cause of fatal injuries in agriculture continues to be workplace-transport-related (i.e. being struck by moving vehicles; trapped in between vehicles; vehicles overturning etc).

- transport-related incidents caused 98 deaths (29%) of the combined total fatalities;
- being struck by a moving or overturned tractor was the most common transport-related cause of fatal injuries to workers, resulting in 34 deaths. Of these, 19 were to the self-employed and 15 involved employees.

Being struck by a moving, falling or flying object accounted for 53 deaths (16%); 15 of which were caused by falling branches/trees and 10 from material being lifted or lifting equipment. A further 7 were caused by moving or falling bales of hay.

Falls from heights accounted for 47 deaths (14%). The most common cause was falling through fragile roofing materials (28 deaths).

Animals caused a further 44 deaths (13%), of which almost a third (14) involved a bull and almost two-thirds (29) involved cattle.

**Cause of injury (employees) over a 10-year period**

Among employees, the most common cause of death was transport, of which being struck by a moving or overturned tractor accounted for 15 deaths. Other common categories of vehicle deaths were ATVs (13 deaths), and telescopic material handlers/loaders or fork lift trucks (4 deaths).

Asphyxiation/drowning caused 19 deaths, of which 7 were in water, 3 in grain and 9 due to other factors including oxygen deficiency.

Struck by moving, falling or flying objects caused a further 15 deaths, of which 6 were struck by a tree or a tree branch and a further 6 by material being lifted or lifting equipment.

\(^3\) Information on cause of fatality is taken from Intelligence collected during operational investigations.
In the other categories, falls from a height caused 12 deaths, machinery was involved in 9 deaths, and contact with electricity caused 8 deaths. Trapped by something collapsing or overturning caused 7 deaths and farm animals a further 6.

**Cause of injury (self-employed) over a 10-year period**

Among the self-employed, the most common cause of death was also transport, accounting for 55 (26%) of fatalities. Struck by a moving or overturned tractor accounted for 19 of the transport-related deaths. ATVs were involved in 13 deaths and a further 7 were caused by fork-lift trucks/telehandlers or loaders.

Struck by a moving, falling or flying object caused a combined overall total of 38 deaths, of which 9 were by trees/tree branches and 6 involved moving or falling bales of hay.

Farm animals caused 38 deaths of which 25 involved cattle and 13 were bulls. Overall, falls from a height caused 35 deaths, of which falls from a fragile roof caused 24 deaths. Machinery was involved in a further 24 deaths.

Other significant causes include asphyxiation or drowning and trapped by something collapsing or overturning resulting in 6 deaths (each). Contact with electricity was the cause of 3 deaths (all due to contact with an overhead power line).

See Figure 9 for more information about causation.

**Deaths by month (employees and the self-employed) over a 10-year period**

The highest number of deaths to the employed and self-employed during the 10-year period were in August (39) and March and July (36 each).

See Figure 10 for a more detailed breakdown by month.
Figure 8 Fatal injuries to employees and the self-employed in agriculture over a 10-year period (2004/05–2014/15) (rounded to nearest percentage point)

Injured by vehicles
- Employees: 43
- Self-employed: 55
- Total: 98

Struck by a moving (including flying or falling) object
- Employees: 15
- Self-employed: 38
- Total: 53

Fall from a height
- Employees: 12
- Self-employed: 35
- Total: 47

Injury by an animal
- Employees: 6
- Self-employed: 38
- Total: 44

Contact with machinery or material being machined
- Employees: 9
- Self-employed: 24
- Total: 33

Asphyxiation or drowning
- Employees: 19
- Self-employed: 6
- Total: 25

Trapped by something collapsing or overturning
- Employees: 7
- Self-employed: 6
- Total: 13

Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge
- Employees: 8
- Self-employed: 3
- Total: 11

Other categories (including struck against something fixed or stationary, slip, trip or fall on the same level, exposure or contact with a harmful substance and fire)
- Employees: 7
- Self-employed: 5
- Total: 12

TOTAL
- Employees: 126
- Self-employed: 210
- Total: 336

Source: Operational Intelligence
**Figure 9** Fatal injuries to employees and self-employed in agriculture, 2005/06–2014/15

Source: Operational Intelligence

98 people **Struck by moving vehicle**
- 13 by a tractor
- 13 by an all-terrain vehicle
- 4 fork-lift truck/telescopic handler/loader
- 7 trailer, plant or equipment associated with vehicle
- 13 from transport of any kind

53 people **Struck by moving, falling or flying object**
- 9 by a tree or branch
- 4 material being lifted or lifting equipment
- 16 moving or falling bales of hay
- 6 from shelf, table or stacking
- 6 part of a building or structure
- 10 other

47 people **Fall from a height**
- 24 fragile roof
- 4 from a moveable ladder
- 12 from a tree
- 21 from a vehicle
- 11 from stacked material
- 43 other including from scaffolds, gangways, roof edge or other means of access including structures and buildings

44 people **Injured by an animal**
- 13 bulls
- 25 other cattle and cows
- 10 horses

33 people **Contact with machinery**
- 4 combine harvesters
- 4 chainsaws
- 8 other (including bale handlers, bale choppers, hay turners, balers etc)
- 16 other attached powered machinery

25 people **Asphyxiation or drowning**
- 4 water
- 1 grain
- 10 other including oxygen deficiency

12 people **Other kind of incident**
- 7 water
- 5 other

13 people **Trapped by something collapsing or overtuning**
- 3 plant, including lifting machinery and equipment
- 20 building or structures
- 20 bales of hay
- 3 other

11 people **Injured by contact with electricity**
- 3 overhead power lines
- 10 handtools
- 2 other

**TOTAL 336**
Figure 10 Fatal injuries to employees and the self-employed in agriculture, 2005/06–2014/15

Non-employed people, 2005/2006 to 2014/15

Fifty-four non-employed people, including 17 children (aged under 16 years) died as a result of an agricultural work activity during the 10-year period.

The main cause of fatal injuries to adults was being injured by an animal (19 deaths). This is followed (in order of prevalence) by transport; struck by a moving, flying or falling object and fall from a height (4 deaths each).

Eight children died as a result of being struck by a moving vehicle (47% of all child fatalities). A further 2 each were as a result of asphyxiation, or drowning, falls from a height and struck by a moving, falling or flying object.

Of the 17 child deaths, 7 children (41% of the total) were within the 1–5 age group. The remaining child deaths were between 6 and 10 and 11 and 15 years of age (5 deaths each).

Seventeen fatalities (31%) involved non-employed people who were over the age of 65. This relates to 46% of the total adult deaths to the non-employed.

More non-employed people died during the summer months. Of the 38 deaths to adult members of the public, 8 occurred in September and 7 in August and July (each).
Table 11 Summary of fatal injuries to non-employed people in agriculture, 2005/06-2014/15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Non-employed</th>
<th>Child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RIDDOR

Figure 12 Summary of fatal injuries to non-employed people in agriculture, 2005/06–2014/15 (age)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5 years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15 years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-19 years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-64 years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64+ years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RIDDOR
**Figure 13** Summary of fatal injuries to non-employed people in agriculture, 2005/06-2014/15 (cause)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injured by an animal</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport: struck by moving vehicles</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck by moving, falling or flying object</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall from a height</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asphyxiation or drowning</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trapped by something collapsing or overturning</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck against something fixed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to or contact with harmful or hot substance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other including slip, trip or fall on the same level</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** RIDDOR

**TOTAL 54**
Figure 14 Summary of fatal injuries to non-employed people in agriculture, 2005/06–2014/15 (month)

The presentation of statistics in this report

1. Part One of this report summarises fatal workplace injuries in agriculture\(^4\) in Great Britain in 2015/16, the primary determinant of inclusion being RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). Work-related deaths excluded from these statistics are mainly of two types: fatal diseases, and fatal injuries involving workers travelling on a public highway (a ‘road traffic accident’).

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\(^4\) Agriculture SIC 2007 classification comprises farming; horticulture; crop and animal production; hunting and related service activities; forestry and logging; fish farming and aquaculture.
2 The figures for 2015/16 are at this stage provisional, covering the 12 months from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, and will be finalised in July 2017 following any necessary adjustments.\footnote{Updating this a year after initial publication allows for the fact that investigations of workplace fatal injuries are often complex and can take considerable time. In the course of these investigations new facts can emerge to affect judgements on issues such as whether the accident was work-related or whether the worker was based at the site of the accident. This means initial views regarding the reportability of the accident or the industrial sector to which it should be assigned can prove to be incorrect. The delay of a year in finalising the figures allows for such matters to be fully resolved in the light of formal interviews with all relevant witnesses, forensic investigation and coroners’ rulings. Also, Regulation 4 of RIDDOR covers situations where someone dies of their injuries within a year of their accident.} Based on previous years, the provisional 2015/16 fatality figure could increase or decrease slightly when finalised.

3 Part Two summarises fatal workplace injuries within the agricultural sector in the 10-year period 2005/06–2014/15, again the primary determinant of inclusion being RIDDOR. It identifies trends and highlights key issues relating to these injuries to employees, the self-employed and members of the public during this period.

4 Statistics in this report are based on HSE’s official statistics of fatal workplace injuries and are subject to detailed review and scrutiny in line with national statistics protocols and quality standards. Fatal incident statistics are published for all industrial sectors annually (usually early July), at which time the provisional figures for the 12 months to the end of the previous March are published and the figures for the preceding year are finalised.

5 HSE’s Statistics Branch and staff in HSE’s industry-specific sectors use data of this kind to work out patterns of incident causation, trends and incidence rates. This helps HSE prioritise and devise effective interventions with particular industry sectors and types of businesses.

6 The number of fatal injuries in the agriculture sector each year continues to be a cause of concern for HSE, the Farm Safety Partnerships (FSP) in England, Scotland and Wales, the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) and the industry itself. AIAC and FSP are kept informed about indicative statistics and incident trends so that, as the year unfolds, any emerging patterns of causation or seasonal trends can be shared with the industry to try to prevent further incidents. The situation is ever-changing and there is a balance between the speed of providing relevant information and its accuracy.

7 HSE’s agriculture strategy has been developed to address the hazards and risks in the industry, defined as including both:

- traditional farming activities such as arable, dairy, livestock and mixed farming, growing fruit and vegetables, forestry, production horticulture, aquaculture, agricultural and animal husbandry services;
- the wider land-based industries, including arboriculture, animal care (veterinary practices etc), environmental conservation etc. Fatal injuries in arboriculture have been included in parts of this report.

If you have any queries about this report, contact HSE’s Vulnerable Workers, Agriculture, Waste and Recycling Unit: agriculture@hse.gov.uk.
Appendix: Fatal injuries in arboriculture

Under the Standard Industrial Classification (2007) scheme used for official statistics, arboriculture does not sit within the definition of agriculture, forestry and fishing. However, HSE’s Agriculture Strategy aims to address the hazards and risks in agriculture and the wider land-based industries, including arboriculture. For completeness, arboriculture fatalities are included below.

There were three arboriculture fatalities in Great Britain in 2015/16.

**South East**
A 27-year-old self-employed tree surgeon died when he came into contact with his chainsaw. He was working in a tree at a private property when he was struck in the neck with his chainsaw. He died from serious injuries while still suspended in the tree.

**Wales**
A 45-year-old self-employed tree surgeon fell from a tree. He was cutting branches from a tree using a rope, harness and climbing equipment. When he finished the final cut he was preparing to get down from the tree and may have unclipped himself or was not secured to the tree. He was seen falling from the tree and hit his head on the ground as he landed. He died from serious head injuries.

**Yorkshire and Humberside**
A 34-year-old self-employed tree surgeon was struck by a falling tree branch. He and his co-workers were pruning trees in a church graveyard. Two of them were pruning a large tree using ropes while he was clearing fallen branches. His colleague checked the area and shouted a warning before dropping the step-cut branch. He acknowledged the warning and was walking under the edge of the canopy of the tree when he looked back, possibly having heard the branch falling through the tree. The tree branch fell and struck his head. He died from serious head injuries.
Further advice

Current guidance on health and safety in agriculture is available at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture and about tree work at www.hse.gov.uk/treework/index.htm

This report is available at: www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm

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