

Work-related deaths in agriculture are a major concern

Australian agriculture

<3% of workforce
21% of work-related deaths

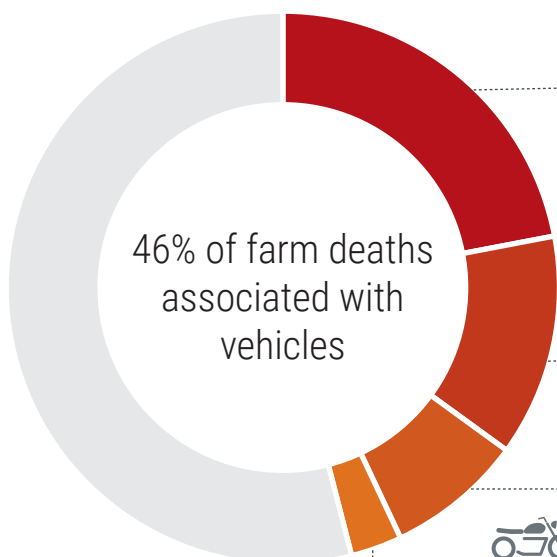
(2016 data)

33 deaths between January and June 2020
(10 in Victoria)



89% deaths were male

>50% were aged over 50 years



22% Quad bikes



Quad bike risk factors
- Driving backwards: 2.5x higher risk
- Carrying liquid load: 3.5x higher risk
- Spraying: 3.5x higher risk

Independent research suggests suitably fitted Operator Protective Devices (OPDs) significantly reduce fatalities

13% Tractors



72% tractor rollover fatalities in Italy were not equipped with rollover protective structures (ROPS)
- 26% of the fatalities involved tractors where ROPS were removed or folded down

Australia: Tractor rollover fatalities decreased by 7% following promotion of OPDs (Aust. 2000-10)
USA: ROPS led to >80% reduction in fatalities and 53% reduction in non-fatal injuries
Sweden: ROPS reduced deaths in rollover incidents by 99%

8% Side-by-Side vehicles



- More stable but more expensive than quad bikes
- More suitable for carrying loads
- Fitted with ROPS including seatbelts

3% Motorbikes



Engineering controls

Operator Protective Devices (OPDs) and Rollover protective structures and systems (ROPS)
- designed to reduce the risk of fatality following a rollover incident

Cut-off switch on new tractors triggered when farmer gets off - to prevent run-overs

Safe tractor access platforms (STAPs)

Control measures

Most preferred

Elimination

May not be feasible as farm vehicles are essential equipment

Drones are increasingly being used



Substitution

Use of a more stable, less hazardous vehicle, such as a side-by-side

Engineering controls

Includes OPDs and ROPS

Administration controls

Training, incentives, regulations



Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Helmets



Least preferred

A strong safety culture in farming underpins all control measures

<https://research.iscrr.com.au/prevention/workplace-risks/prevention-first-global-scans>