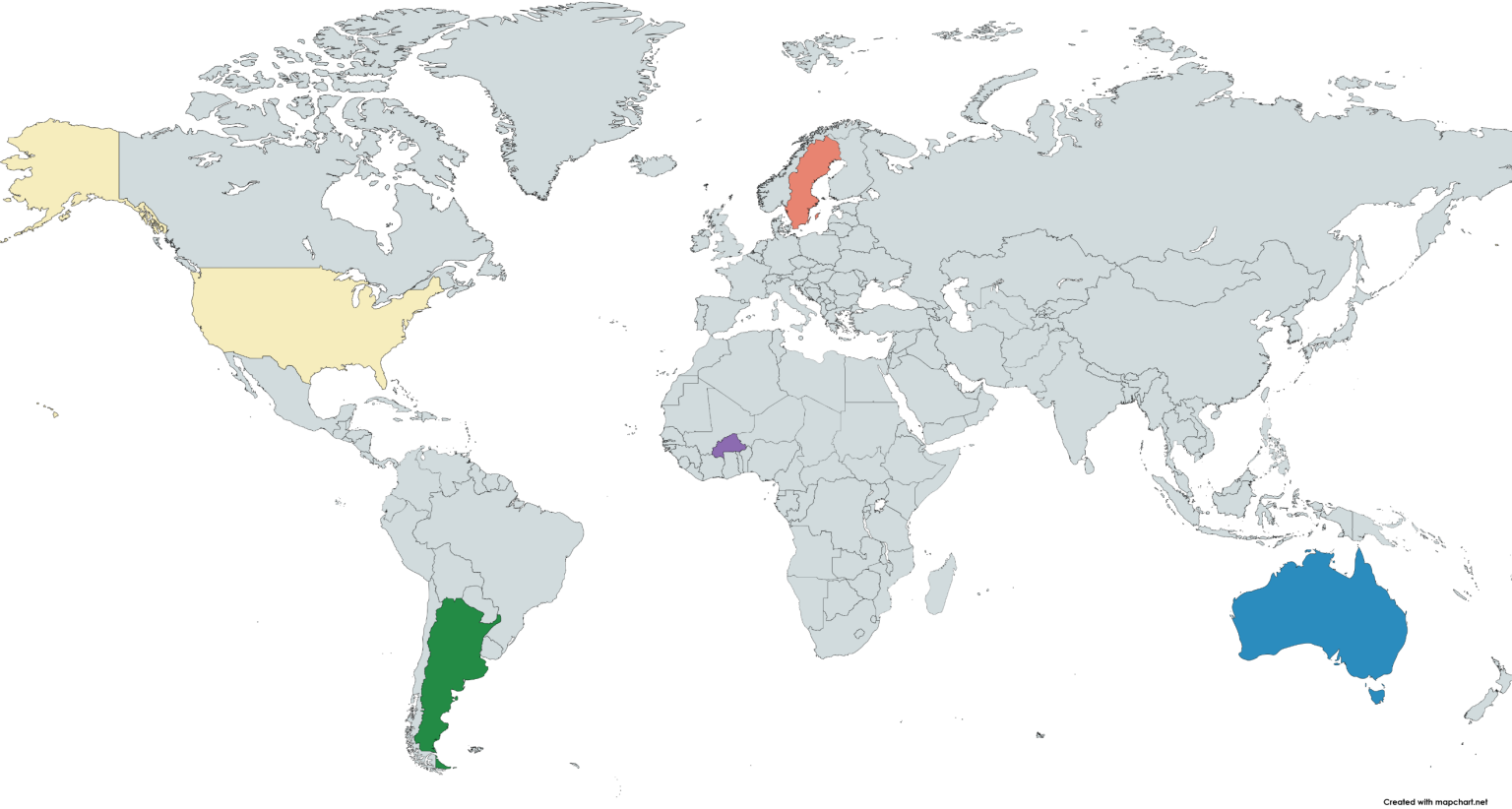


International experiences and perspectives in children agricultural health and safety



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Commentaries in special issue

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Commentary: Perspectives from Argentina: Children and agricultural health and safety

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Children in relation to agricultural health and safety in Sweden: A perspective

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Safeguarding youth from agricultural injury and illness: The Australian experience

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Safeguarding youth from agricultural injury and illness: The United States' experience

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Safeguarding youth from agricultural injury and illness: Perspectives from Burkina Faso

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To view special issue: <https://tinyurl.com/3ftz74en>



Argentina – General description



- **Population**
 - Population: 43.1 million
 - Population density: 15.5 people/square km
 - Rural population: 7,9%
- **Economy and Education**
 - GDP per capita: US \$13,789
 - Percent population at national poverty line: 39.2%
 - Population over age 25 with secondary education: 56.4%
- **Agricultural sector**
 - Share of agriculture, fishing and forestry in GDP: 5.2%
 - Share of women working in agriculture: 4%
 - Share of men working in agriculture: 9%
 - Major agricultural commodities produced: soybeans, corn, wheat, sunflower, sorghum, barley. Also bovine, pork, sheep, poultry, milk and honey production

What farm children's injuries and fatalities look like

- Fatalities from injuries and diseases related to some agricultural/rural activity:
 - Death of children under 16:
 - 33 died in 2013
 - 44 died in 2014
 - Fatalities in children under age 17:
 - 241 cases of fatalities last 5 years
- Almost 50% of those affected were 5 years old or younger
- The source of information was the media. No official data exist.
- Major causes of incidents
 - motor vehicle-crashes on rural roads or routes
 - animals (mainly horses)
 - drowning
 - machinery (frequently the tractor).



Measures to reduce farm children's injuries and fatalities

- Laws and regulations protect children from child labor.
- Houses to accommodate minors while their parents work in the harvest in certain parts of the country (Grow Program)
- Rural Socio Educational Centers (CSER) house the children under 16 of seasonal and migrant rural workers during the harvest months.
- Other provincial initiatives: Santa Fé, Tucumán, Misiones, Catamarca (private-government-agricultural sector)
- Groups of rural women from agricultural cooperatives have developed education and training programs for producers, workers, and rural families to prevent injuries involving children.



Australia – General description



Sugar Cane Queensland

Population

Population: 26.4 million

Population density: 3.4 people/square km

Rural Population: 13.3%

Economy and Education

GDP per capita: US \$56,709

Percent population at national poverty line: 13.6%

Population over age 25 with secondary education: 94.5%

Agricultural sector

Share of agriculture, fishing and forestry in GDP: 3.2%

Share of women working in agriculture: 2%

Share of men working in agriculture: 3%

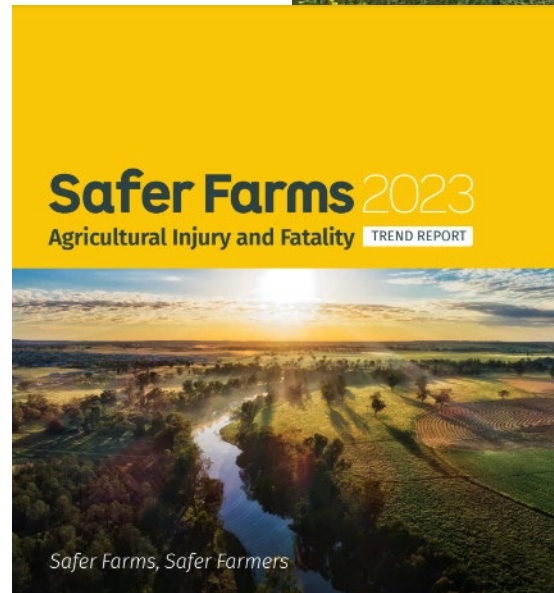
Major agricultural commodities produced: Cereal Grains (21%); Beef Cattle (18%), Fruit and nuts (7%)

What farm children's injuries and fatalities look like

- Agriculture has the highest rate of workplace fatalities per number of workers
- From 2010-2020, 15% of fatalities on farms are to children under 15 years old (222 deaths)
- 10 children killed each year
- 500 hospitalized each year

Major Cause of Incidents

- **Fatal**
 - Machinery (incl. tractors)
 - Vehicles (incl. quads/utes)
 - Drowning
- **Non-Fatal**
 - Machinery & Vehicles (incl. quads & motorcycles)
 - Horses & other animals
 - Falls



<https://farmsafe.org.au/content/product/Industry%20Reports/>

Measures to reduce farm children's injuries and fatalities

- Teaching children in school (educational resources)
 - Resources in curriculum
 - Interactive resources and tools
 - Training
- Programs
 - Safe play areas
 - Keep Watch on the Farm
 - Community service announcements
 - Community Education
 - Online resources (checklists/information sheets)
 - Farm rules
 - Farm numbering for emergency services
- Legislation
 - Working conditions
 - Workplace health and safety



Sheep Grains Farm South Australia

Burkina Faso – General description



Population

Population: 18.7 million

Population density: 68.3 people/square km

Economy and Education

GDP per capita: US \$632.1

Percent population at national poverty line: 41.4%

Population over age 25 with secondary education: 14.0%

Agricultural sector

Share of agriculture, fishing and forestry in GDP: 20.4%

Share of women working in agriculture: 76%

Share of men working in agriculture: 71%

Major agricultural commodities: sorghum, millet, corn and rice and cotton.

Share of economically active children : 41.1% of children aged 5 to 17

Share of children working in the agricultural sector : 69.2%

What farm children's injuries and fatalities look like

- Number of injuries and fatalities: hard to come by
- Major causes of incidents:
 - **contact with animals and plants:** bites, poisoning, infections, parasites, allergies, and intoxications
 - **exposure to chemical products :** unsafe pesticide use is a major problem in the agricultural sector in Burkina Faso, leading to illness or death



Measures to reduce farm children's injuries and fatalities

- **Public policies to prevent injuries:** new national survey on child labor is underway to update the 2006 statistics, the implementation of the 2019–2023 National Strategy to combat the worst forms of child labor
- **Public policies to support farm families with children:** free healthcare for children and pregnant women, national laws are in place to specifically protect children); the General Directorate for the Protection of Children and Adolescents , Permanent Secretariat of the National Plan of Action for Children (SP/CNSPDE)
- **Other initiatives:** community watch bodies named “Comités villageois de surveillance CSV” (village surveillance committees); *halte-garderies ou creche mobiles* (World Bank project)



Sweden – General description



Population

Population: 9.8 million

Population density: 18.5 people/square km

Economy and Education

GDP per capita: US \$51,545

Percent population at national poverty line: 16%

Population over age 25 with secondary education: 92%

Agricultural sector

Share of agriculture, fishing and forestry in GDP: 1.4%

Share of women working in agriculture: 1%

Share of men working in agriculture: 3%

Major agricultural commodities produced: dairy, pigs, chicken & cereals

What farm children's injuries and fatalities look like

Sweden is a country with less than 60,000 farms, dominated by family-operated farms. Their children grow up in an environment including both great experiences living close to nature, but also close to a workplace that might be both risky and un-healthy. In the old days there farms had many people available to share the care of children. However, nowadays often one parent works away from home and small children go to daycare or stay with one parent on the farm.

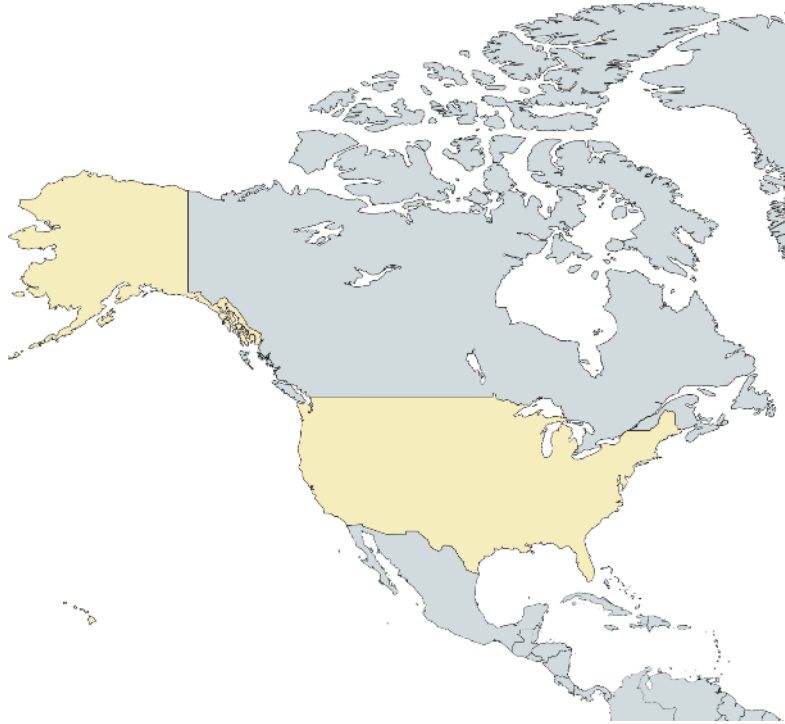
There **is no official statistics on child injuries on farms**, but media is reporting from time to time of serious injuries and fatalities among both children and adolescents in relation to **farm tractors, ATVs/quadbikes, horses and other large animals**.

Research regarding the **farm parent attitudes to risk and injury** to children was done and it was concluded that most parents know the risks on their farm, but are sometimes careless when working under stress or exhaustion. Other parents seemed to overlook the risks and had their children carrying out tasks for which they were not mentally or physically equipped. Some of the tasks the children reportedly carried out on farms conflicted with Swedish legislation.

Measures to reduce farm children's injuries and fatalities

- Children's rights has been an important issue in Sweden for many years the **Ombudsman for Children** is a government agency that protects children's rights and looks after their interests.
- In 1979 Sweden made it **illegal to hit children**, both at home and in school – as the first country in the world.
- Sweden is also a well-known the country **to protect children in traffic** with measures such as the rear-facing car seat.
- The **preschool cares for children** while their parents are away working or studying. Preschools are open all year round and daily opening times are varied to fit in with parents' working hours. Children are registered and the parents pay a fee that in most areas is linked to the family's income and the child's attendance.
- It is important paying attention to **mental health and well-being** among children living on farms. In a recent study it was concluded that also farm children are affected (worries, fear and sleeping problems) by the increasing rural crime and by threats from animal rights activists towards animal farmers.

United States – General description



2 million farms – large, midsize & small
890,00 youth living on family farms (50% work)
265,000 youth hired to work on farms

Population

Population: 320.7 million

Population density: 32.6 people/square km

Economy and Education

GDP per capita: US \$56,762

Percent population at national poverty line: 11.5%

Population over age 25 with secondary education: 95.3%

Agricultural sector

Share of agriculture, fishing and forestry in GDP: 1%

Share of women working in agriculture: 1%

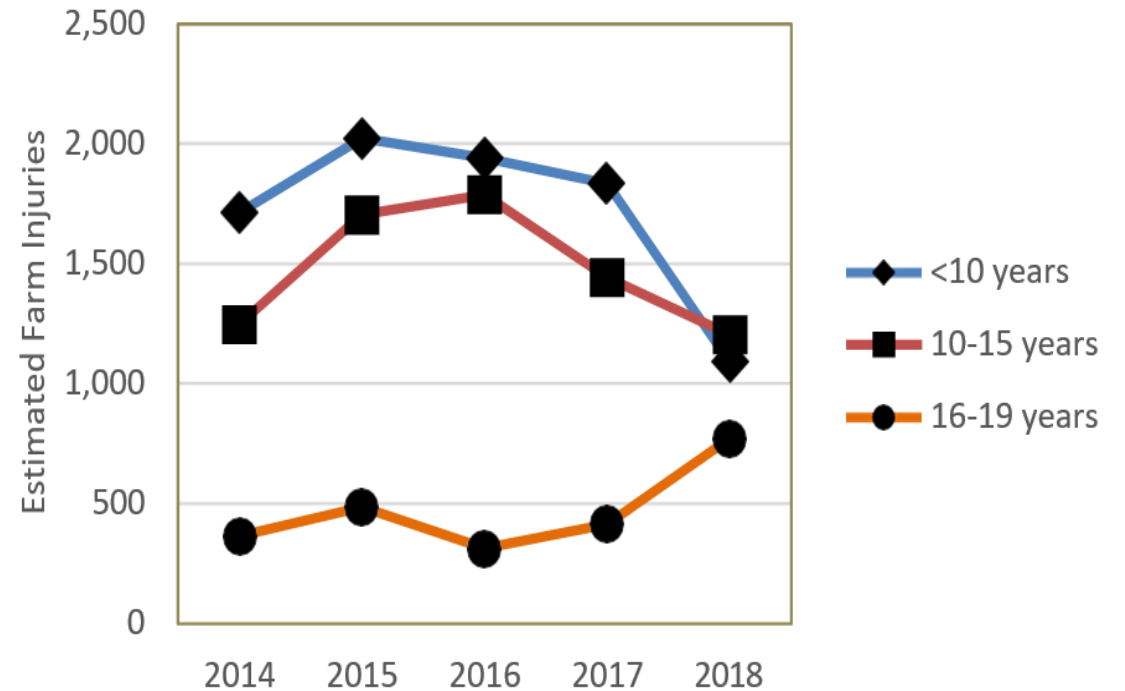
Share of men working in agriculture: 2%

Major products: Multiple types of crops, meat, dairy, fuel, fiber – based on climate, landscape, etc.

USA: Nonfatal childhood farm injuries

Estimated Nonfatal injuries: 13,000/year

- Official data stopped being collected in 2018
- Now rely on news reports
- Declined 2014 – 2018 for 0 – 15 years old
- More than half are NOT working



Causes of serious injuries:

- Motorized vehicles (tractors, ATVs, skid steers)
- Large animals



Visit [AgInjuryNews.org](https://www.AgInjuryNews.org) to monitor and explore the latest injury reports, news stories, and trends.

USA: Childhood farm-related deaths

All youth 0 – 18 years

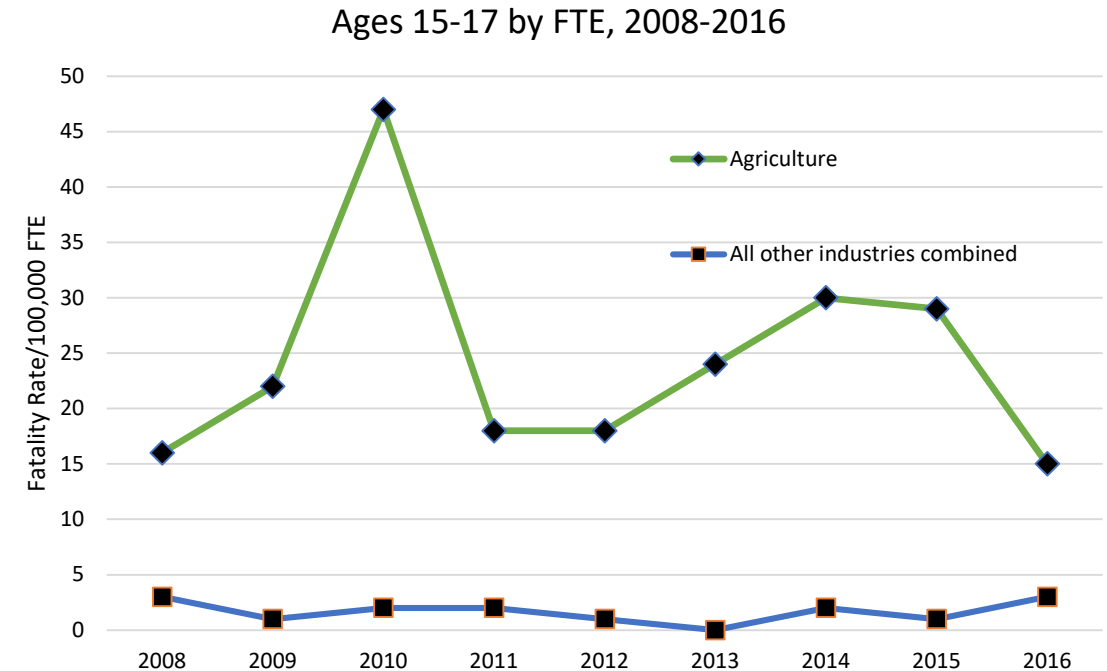
- About 105 deaths/year on farms

Work-related deaths

- Agriculture is most deadly occupation for young workers
- Operating vehicles (tractors, ATVs, skid steers)
- Contact with machinery, large animals

NOT work-related deaths

- Children as bystanders, especially 2-6 years
- Tractor runovers, crushed by machinery
- Drowning in ponds, pits, water reserves
- Large animal contact



Measures to reduce farm children's injuries and fatalities

Major initiatives:

- National Action Plan for Protecting Children on Farms: 1996, 2006, 2012, 2025
- Federal funding (NIOSH) to a national center (Marshfield, WI) for research and outreach
- Federal funding (USDA) for education, outreach, clearinghouse of training materials
- Partnerships and communications via Child Ag Safety Network
- Multiple safety resources for public use (websites)



Visit [CultivateSafety.org](https://www.CultivateSafety.org) for information and resources to prevent child agricultural injuries.

Policy / regulations: (do NOT apply on family farms)

- Child Labor in Agriculture laws (hours of work...less restrictive than other occupations)
- Hazardous Occupations Orders (forbidden tasks, e.g. pesticide handling – very outdated)

Gaps:

- Limited support for child care services
- Limited enforcement of laws and hesitancy to hold adults accountable for unsafe conditions