

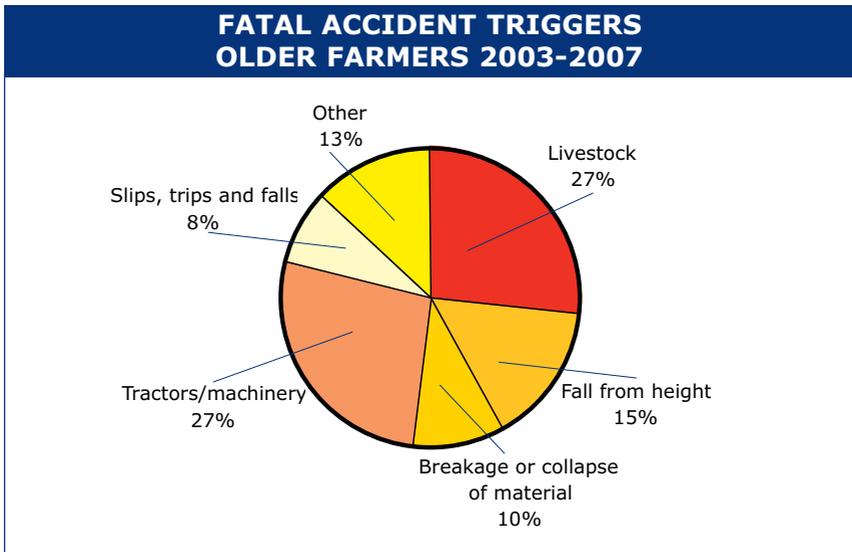


Safety of Older Farmers

Q. What is the problem?

Farm deaths involving elderly farmers (+65 years) now account for more than half of fatal accidents on farms. As farmers grow older their health declines. Their ability to work safely on the farm also declines from:

- ▲ Eye sight and hearing problems
- ▲ Decreased mobility, balance and speed
- ▲ Reduced flexibility and strength from arthritis and joint problems



* As of 31st July

- ▲ 40 farmers over the age of 65 killed in the last 4 years
- ▲ 6 farmers over the age of 65 killed in 2007
- ▲ The average age of elderly farmers killed = 74
- ▲ Most are aged between 65-69 years old

Q. What are the main causes?

Decreased mobility and reaction time are probably the biggest contributory factors particularly in relation to deaths involving tractors/machinery and bulls and other livestock. Strength, mobility and flexibility are factors in most deaths from falls from height.

- ▲ Older farmers working with livestock on their own
- ▲ Tractors and machinery poorly maintained
- ▲ Poorly maintained handbrakes and steering
- ▲ Starting tractor from outside the cab
- ▲ PTO guards broken or missing
- ▲ Carrying out high risk maintenance on buildings and roofs

Main Causes of Elderly Farm Accidents



Livestock
Killed 11 Farmers



Tractors & Machinery
Killed 11 Farmers



Work at Height
Killed 6 Farmers

Q. How can I reduce the risk?

Older farmers must understand their limitations and any disability they have that may affect their ability to do a job. They must adjust their work practices and make sure that they do not put themselves in places where they may need to move fast to avoid injury.

- ▲ Assess the work to be done
- ▲ Know your limitations
- ▲ Get competent help when handling livestock
- ▲ Have tractors and machinery properly maintained
- ▲ Get specialists to carry out building maintenance

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