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WORK INJURIES IN CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE



1956

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DISABLING WORK INJURIES IN CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE, 1956

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WORK INJURIES IN CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE, 1956

PART I. SUMMARY

The year 1956 marked a new high, both in the number of persons working on California's farms and in the number of on-the-job injuries suffered in agriculture. Lost-time injuries to California farm workers numbered 16,595 in 1956, up 5 percent from the 15,810 in 1955. (These figures do not include injuries to 77 persons in 1956 and 360 in 1955 hired in California for work on Arizona farms and who thus were subject to the provisions of the California Workmen's Compensation Act, although not actually working in the State).

As the rise in injuries outstripped the expansion in farm employment, the injury rate in agriculture advanced to 51.7 disabling injuries per 1,000 workers in 1956 from 49.5 in 1955. The injury rate on farms was nearly 50 percent higher than the average rate for all industries combined, 34.6

The long-term record in agriculture is less favorable than that for most other industries. As the figures below indicate, the injury rate on farms has dropped only 4 percent since 1950. This compares with a decline of 17 percent in the rate for all California industries as a whole.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Disabling injuries per 1,000 farm workers</u>
1950	54.0
1951	54.1
1952	52.6
1953	47.9
1954	48.3
1955	49.5
1956	51.7

Type of Farm

More injuries were recorded in 1956 than in 1955 for all branches of agriculture, except dairy and livestock farms, nurseries and greenhouses. The sharpest injury advances occurred on truck farms and in agricultural service establishments:

	<u>Disabling work injuries</u>		
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>Percent change 1955-56</u>
Total	16,595	15,810	+5.0
Field crop and general farms	5,860	5,621	+4.3
Fruit and tree-nut farms	5,629	5,407	+4.1
Dairy and livestock farms	1,808	1,857	-2.6
Truck farms	1,476	1,272	+16.0
Poultry farms	266	236	+12.7
Nurseries and greenhouses	383	396	-3.3
Agricultural services	1,173	1,021	+14.9

	<u>Disabling work injuries</u>	
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Total	1,140	1,236
Tillage equipment	289	310
Mowers	68	71
Cotton pickers	59	52
Harvesters, combines, threshers-- grain or rice	66	58
Harvesters, pickers--other	80	102
Spray rigs, sprayers	48	83
Planting equipment	47	55
Hay balers	50	54
Loaders, stackers	32	45
Grinders, choppers--hay, feed	31	40
Milking machines	15	17
Other farm machinery, implements	128	141
Other machines (not agricultural)	227	208

Four farm workers died in agricultural machinery accidents during 1956.

One worker crawled beneath a windrower to tighten the swivel bolt which held the frame to the axle. He jacked up one end of the equipment but failed to block it properly. The swivel bolt threads were worn since the bolt had been loose for a long time. When he attempted to tighten the bolt, the nut stripped off. The heavy frame of the implement dropped and crushed him to death.

A Mexican National was killed while working on a tomato farm. He and several others were riding on the narrow, low seat of a tomato planter. Apparently, as he rode he dragged one leg on the ground. The wheel caught his leg and he was pulled off and under the planter.

A truck driver lost his balance while trying to climb the ladder of a moving bean thresher. He fell to the ground and was run over by the thresher wheels.

A trailer tramper, working at night, was assigned to spread and tramp cotton dumped into trailers from a picking machine. The interval between rounds was about 40 minutes. The tramper went to sleep in one of the trailers while waiting for the picker to return. When the machine was pulled up to the dump, the tramper did not awaken, and the operator did not see him in the dark. The 700-pound load of cotton was dumped into the trailer, landing on the worker, who was smothered to death. Apparently, the picker operator did not check the tramper's position before dumping his load because the tramper worked on several trailers.

Exposure to Insecticides, Sprays, and Fumigants

A substantial increase was recorded during 1956 in the number of injuries resulting from exposure to insecticides, sprays, or fumigants on the farm. Such injuries rose to 239 in 1956 from 187 in the previous year.

Exposure to parathion or other organic phosphate insecticides disabled 70 farm workers in 1956, compared with 53 in 1955.

Hand tools	1,793	678	614	112	173	33	41	142
Knives	282	51	100	7	99	7	15	3
Scissors, shears	279	6	248	2	4	4	2	17
Shovels, spades	178	114	35	5	4	4	9	7
Saws	124	25	64	3	3	3	3	23
Hammers	118	64	20	14	8	1	-	11
Hooks	92	49	3	27	-	3	-	13
Pitchforks	89	28	12	22	14	1	3	7
Welding tools	79	61	6	5	1	1	-	5
Hoes	67	36	7	4	1	-	3	7
Axes	65	40	25	2	1	-	1	6
Wrenches	53	40	4	2	1	4	1	4
Bars	51	33	4	2	3	-	-	4
Tree shakers, almond malls, fruit knockers	37	-	37	2	3	-	1	4
Jacks	18	13	1	2	-	-	-	2
Torches, blow or acetylene	16	11	1	-	-	-	-	4
Other hand tools	230	112	44	17	11	10	4	32
Hand tools, type not stated	15	10	3	-	-	-	1	1
Chemicals, hot, or injurious substances	882	310	336	28	63	8	27	110
Poison oak and other poisonous plants	269	66	138	6	10	1	9	39
Parathion and other organic phosphate insecticides	70	20	26	3	4	-	-	20
Other insecticides, sprays, fumigants	169	65	67	1	10	2	8	14
Foods	93	16	46	1	27	1	3	2
Hot substances	68	36	16	4	3	1	-	5
Dusts	43	27	9	2	2	-	-	3
Gasoline and other petroleum products	32	18	5	3	-	1	-	5
Ammonia	21	11	1	3	-	1	-	9
Other chemicals	41	15	13	-	2	1	2	5
Fertilizers	13	9	-	1	1	-	2	5
Other injurious substances	24	10	4	2	1	-	2	5
Injurious substances, type not stated	39	17	11	3	3	1	1	3
Working surfaces	2,264	779	625	355	206	45	81	173
Ground	936	308	288	114	118	17	31	60
Stationary vehicles--bed, back	276	132	52	41	32	2	3	14
Stationary vehicles--running board, fender, step	163	91	22	17	15	1	3	14
Trees, poles, other vertical working surfaces	189	7	145	3	2	-	2	30
Floors	172	35	30	74	11	4	11	7
Ditches, trenches, excavations (except collapse)	74	46	12	7	6	1	2	7
Platforms, ramps, runways	63	18	22	5	6	1	4	7
Piles, stacks of material	57	28	-	20	2	1	4	5
Roofs, scaffolds, staging	42	21	6	4	-	3	3	4
Stairs, steps	38	15	4	9	2	-	1	11
Other elevations (except ladders)	97	31	17	21	3	4	10	3
Other working surfaces	12	5	-	2	-	9	2	11
Working surfaces, type not stated	145	42	27	38	9	-	9	11
Ladders	1,793	121	1,640	9	2	5	2	14
Containers	1,861	465	577	141	469	45	69	95
Boxes, crates	989	115	448	5	390	14	11	6
Sacks	344	175	48	22	50	16	10	23
Bales	201	89	-	63	2	2	5	40
Cans	90	20	7	19	2	3	33	6

TABLE 2--ACCIDENT TYPE, BY TYPE OF FARM
Disabling Work Injuries in Agriculture, California, 1956

Agency involved	All types of farms	Field crop and general farms	Fruit and tree-nut farms	Dairy and livestock farms	Truck farms	Poultry farms	Nurseries and green-houses	Agri-cultural services
Total	16,595	5,860	5,629	1,808	1,476	266	383	1,173
Struck by or striking against	4,001	1,288	1,124	749	351	85	102	302
Hand tool or machine, in using	770	263	237	59	109	9	25	68
Dropped while holding	156	64	41	12	13	4	5	17
Otherwise injured in handling	754	316	184	68	84	24	22	56
Falling or flying object	580	228	178	48	40	10	6	70
Stepping on nail	157	59	30	40	7	5	9	7
Other contact with sharp object	410	84	226	35	19	10	20	16
Bumping into stationary object	390	136	124	37	39	12	9	33
Moving equipment, except motor vehicle	70	25	18	5	12	2	2	6
Other	714	113	86	445	28	9	4	29
Caught in or between	895	451	96	100	87	16	17	128
In machine or machine part	429	216	31	29	51	10	6	86
In other mechanical apparatus	144	83	14	15	9	3	2	18
Between object handled and other object	203	109	32	16	19	2	7	18
Other	119	43	19	40	8	1	2	6
Fall or slip	4,171	1,058	2,050	503	220	44	73	223
Fall from elevation	2,161	366	1,544	93	41	8	20	89
Fall or slip in stepping on, off, or over	520	285	98	45	38	8	8	38
Slip, n.e.c.	619	164	248	82	55	13	19	38
Fall on same level	608	181	145	130	76	13	24	39
Fall from animal	180	16	1	146	1	1	-	15
Fall from moving equipment (except motor vehicle)	46	25	8	4	4	-	1	4
Fall into excavation	37	21	6	3	5	1	1	-
Accident involving moving motor vehicle	1,377	807	295	71	83	13	23	85
Collision	301	157	89	11	11	3	7	23
Overturning, running off road	268	184	21	18	23	3	6	13
Fall from	195	100	54	15	16	3	2	5
Run over or struck by	130	55	42	6	16	2	1	8
Strain in operating	122	92	13	5	1	1	1	8
Caught between vehicle and other object	44	21	8	3	5	1	1	5
Other	317	198	68	13	11	-	4	23

TABLE 3--TYPE OF FARM, BY COUNTY
Disabling Work Injuries in Agriculture, California, 1956

County	All types of farms	Field crop and general farms	Fruit and tree-nut farms	Dairy and livestock farms	Truck farms	Poultry farms	Nurseries and green-houses	Agri-cultural services
Total	16,595	5,860	5,629	1,808	1,476	266	383	1,173
Alameda	164	35	22	25	26	6	28	22
Alpine	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Amador	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Butte	240	83	116	18	8	1	-	14
Calaveras	11	5	1	4	-	-	1	-
Colusa	107	61	32	12	2	-	-	-
Contra Costa	160	52	61	21	7	-	5	14
Del Norte	16	6	2	8	-	-	-	-
El Dorado	56	6	42	5	-	-	2	1
Fresno	1,280	682	365	71	27	16	4	115
Glenn	114	48	39	18	-	2	-	7
Humboldt	53	13	-	34	-	-	5	1
Imperial	493	306	9	25	76	-	1	76
Inyo	4	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Kern	993	610	154	72	41	3	7	106
Kings	354	236	30	47	2	1	-	38
Lake	65	10	46	7	-	1	-	1
Lassen	33	9	-	24	-	-	-	-
Los Angeles	922	140	212	209	35	37	108	181
Madera	232	131	41	40	4	1	1	14
Marin	58	10	-	30	-	1	1	16
Mariposa	8	3	2	-	-	2	-	1
Mendocino	63	16	30	15	-	-	1	1
Merced	662	244	264	84	29	5	15	21
Modoc	73	43	-	25	4	-	-	1
Mono	11	6	-	5	-	-	-	-
Monterey	420	156	51	43	135	3	1	31
Napa	107	35	49	15	1	1	2	4
Nevada	24	7	13	3	-	-	-	1
Orange	618	73	363	54	62	14	20	32
Placer	114	27	68	8	-	4	5	2
Plumas	10	4	1	5	-	-	-	-
Riverside	1,000	390	400	53	62	8	23	64
Sacramento	334	176	59	33	36	3	5	22
San Benito	118	30	58	12	10	6	-	2
San Bernardino	429	61	204	81	12	21	20	30
San Diego	376	91	136	66	22	16	23	22
San Francisco	24	3	2	-	1	-	4	14
San Joaquin	1,101	401	273	62	342	6	3	14
San Luis Obispo	172	69	16	41	29	10	1	6
San Mateo	114	29	1	12	5	1	23	43
Santa Barbara	334	108	101	38	48	4	10	25
Santa Clara	531	130	255	50	52	4	14	26
Santa Cruz	188	44	77	7	39	3	13	5
Shasta	37	12	9	11	-	-	4	1
Sierra	5	1	1	3	-	-	-	-
Siskiyou	64	42	-	11	6	-	2	3
Solano	213	61	72	19	46	-	-	15
Sonoma	342	90	137	72	10	20	1	12
Stanislaus	754	185	376	92	44	28	10	19
Sutter	388	113	187	11	60	5	1	11
Tehama	121	22	50	27	-	7	12	3
Trinity	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tulare	1,315	390	681	114	44	13	3	70
Tuolumne	6	2	-	3	-	-	-	1
Ventura	684	168	360	40	62	8	3	43
Yolo	264	128	50	12	59	2	-	13
Yuba	201	53	106	6	27	2	-	7
Place unknown	5	-	3	-	-	1	1	-

San Benito	118	4	8	19	16	19	21	4	7	15	-
San Bernardino	429	20	42	44	58	59	62	34	45	49	6
San Diego	376	15	68	40	52	26	44	27	26	55	5
San Francisco	24	-	6	7	6	-	1	1	-	2	-
San Joaquin	1,101	47	154	100	184	107	215	24	46	156	25
San Luis Obispo	172	12	17	22	31	2	17	7	18	24	4
San Mateo	114	7	5	10	26	2	6	12	11	10	4
Santa Barbara	334	27	37	40	47	26	39	20	24	47	5
Santa Clara	531	23	49	64	78	79	53	28	27	72	14
Santa Cruz	188	11	29	19	35	11	18	9	8	27	5
Shasta	37	-	2	6	8	2	3	-	4	9	2
Sierra	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Siskiyou	64	11	10	6	14	-	5	-	5	12	1
Solano	213	9	33	16	30	17	46	8	14	26	4
Sonoma	342	16	30	51	58	31	35	11	29	38	7
Stanislaus	754	37	111	82	78	151	84	28	55	91	16
Sutter	388	22	56	40	39	63	60	27	7	45	13
Tehama	121	8	9	17	18	24	7	7	11	15	-
Trinity	4	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Tulare	1,315	91	138	154	175	261	124	84	66	140	22
Tuolumne	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
Ventura	684	33	89	49	78	117	76	83	23	71	8
Yolo	264	32	47	34	45	13	33	4	7	35	5
Yuba	201	10	15	18	9	42	23	18	4	38	3
Place unknown	5	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	1

San Benito	118	32	8	33	2	28	1	3	9	4	7	1	3	4	1	2	2	3	3	16
San Bernardino	429	119	21	120	21	87	3	3	9	10	40	1	3	4	1	1	2	4	4	16
San Diego	376	89	16	86	53	79	4	6	21	21	18	2	4	1	17	67	19	4	2	4
San Francisco	24	4	1	6	95	6	53	285	9	33	2	67	17	4	4	5	1	1	3	4
San Joaquin	1,101	218	53	285	95	289	21	289	21	21	67	17	17	17	17	67	19	19	19	16
San Luis Obispo	172	49	13	34	9	33	5	33	5	16	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4
San Mateo	114	28	7	29	3	19	2	19	2	20	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Santa Barbara	334	87	22	74	21	74	6	74	6	19	27	27	1	1	1	27	1	1	1	2
Santa Clara	531	132	18	140	33	112	11	112	11	39	26	26	6	6	6	26	1	1	1	3
Santa Cruz	188	42	7	46	20	41	1	41	1	13	8	8	1	1	1	8	1	1	1	3
Shasta	37	11	2	11	2	6	2	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sierra	5	12	12	20	3	1	8	1	8	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Siskiyou	64	51	9	49	21	46	5	46	5	35	20	20	1	1	1	20	1	1	1	1
Solano	213	93	11	91	24	53	4	53	4	4	16	16	5	5	5	16	1	1	1	4
Sonoma	342	175	34	243	67	139	4	139	4	16	50	50	4	4	4	50	4	4	4	8
Stanislaus	754	73	13	95	37	104	4	104	4	13	34	34	4	4	4	34	4	4	4	13
Sutter	388	23	6	44	7	20	3	20	3	4	12	12	1	1	1	12	1	1	1	7
Tehama	121	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Trinity	4	268	55	435	80	247	19	247	19	45	124	124	20	20	20	124	7	7	7	15
Tulare	1,315	2	2	191	60	131	11	131	11	48	1	1	7	7	7	1	3	3	3	15
Tuolumne	6	117	25	62	33	59	7	59	7	15	85	85	3	3	3	85	6	6	6	6
Ventura	684	58	22	62	11	46	4	46	4	22	10	10	2	2	2	10	2	2	2	3
Yolo	264	39	9	49	11	46	4	46	4	15	22	22	1	1	1	22	1	1	1	3
Yuba	201	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Place unknown	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

PART II. FARM TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS

Seven farm workers were killed and 344 sustained nonfatal lost-time injuries during 1956 while being transported to or from the job in trucks or farm labor buses. The 351 workers were involved in 116 separate accidents (99 truck and 17 bus accidents).

Trend of Highway Accidents

The number of individual farm transportation accidents increased only slightly between 1955 and 1956 but twice the number of workers were hurt. This is explained by the fact that in 1956 many more of the accidents involved large numbers of workers. In 1955 only one mishap occurred which disabled more than five farm workers. In this, the most serious single farm transportation accident in California in recent years, a truck carrying 13 Mexican Nationals, plus the driver, collided with a train at a marked railroad crossing. Nine men were killed, including the driver, and the other five workers were seriously injured. In 1956 there were 16 separate accidents which disabled more than 5 workers. For example, a truck overturned, killing one worker and disabling 35 others; 31 workers were hurt in a single labor bus accident; an entire 26-man picking crew received disabling injuries when their truck overturned. Thus, while only seven more accidents were recorded in 1956 than in the previous year, 186 more workers were disabled.

Trend of Lost-time Farm Transportation Accidents California, 1952-56

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of accidents</u>	<u>Number of workers injured</u>	
		<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Nonfatal</u>
1952	140	13	304
1953	151	28	341
1954	111	4	161
1955	109	17	158
1956	116	7	344

Fatal Accidents

In sharp contrast with the increase in nonfatal injuries, farm transportation fatalities were much lower in 1956 than in three of the past four years. Seven workers died in 1956 compared with 17 in 1955.

Three cotton pickers were killed and four were seriously injured when the bus in which they were riding collided with a truck. The worker who was driving the bus did not have a driver's license. He claimed he did not see the oncoming truck at the intersection because he was blinded by sunlight on the dusty windshield. Manslaughter charges were filed against him.

A 44-year old widow with four children were fatally injured when she fell from the back of a truck while being driven home from the field. She landed on her head and fractured her skull.

TABLE 7--FARM TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS, NUMBER OF INJURIES AND TYPE OF VEHICLE
Disabling Work Injuries in Agriculture, California, 1956

Accident type	Disabling work injuries			Fatalities
	Total	Truck	Bus	
Total	<u>351</u>	<u>256</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>7</u>
Collision with other moving vehicle	137	102	35	5
Overturning, running off road	122	86	36	1
Fall from moving vehicle	35	35	-	1
Collision with stationary object	25	3	22	-
Striking against part of vehicle or object within vehicle	20	19	1	-
Struck by shifting load	6	6	-	-
Other	6	5	1	-

TABLE 8--FARM TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS, NUMBER OF SEPARATE ACCIDENTS AND TYPE OF VEHICLE
Disabling Work Injuries in Agriculture, California, 1956

Accident type	Number of accidents		
	Total	Truck	Bus
Total	<u>116</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>17</u>
Fall from moving vehicle	33	33	-
Collision with other moving vehicle	30	23	7
Striking against part of vehicle or object within vehicle	19	18	1
Overturning, running off road	17	12	5
Struck by shifting load	6	6	-
Collision with stationary object	5	2	3
Other	6	5	1

PART III. WORK INJURIES ON CALIFORNIA POULTRY FARMS

Lost-time work injuries on California poultry farms numbered 266 in 1956, compared with 236 in 1955, and 264 in 1954.

Fourteen percent of the injuries in 1956 occurred in Los Angeles County. The second largest number of injuries occurred in Stanislaus County which had 11 percent of all poultry ranch injuries.

Operation Being Performed When Injured

About one-fifth of the workers injured on poultry farms in 1956 were doing construction, dismantling, or repair work at the time of the accident. In most instances, the workers were building or repairing poultry houses.

Nearly a fifth of the injured employees were processing or packing poultry products. Of these, about half were processing fowl, and half gathering, cleaning or packing eggs.

Fifteen percent of the workers were injured while feeding poultry.

Nine percent were loading or unloading trucks or trailers at the time they were hurt.

Agency Involved and Accident Type

Containers and working surfaces were leading agencies involved in work injuries to poultry farm hands. Together these two agencies accounted for one-third of all injuries. Most injuries involving containers occurred when workers overexerted in lifting or carrying feed sacks and egg or chicken crates.

Vehicles and hand tools each were responsible for 12 percent of the injuries on poultry farms.

Less than half of the vehicle injuries involved moving motor vehicles. Many of the vehicular injuries occurred in handling carts, wheelbarrows, and other hand-operated conveyances.

Most of the hand tool injuries occurred when workers struck themselves with the tool they were using, or strained themselves in handling a tool.

TABLE 11--INJURIES ON POULTRY FARMS, BY ACCIDENT TYPE
 Disabling Work Injuries in Agriculture, California, 1956

<u>Accident type</u>	<u>Number of injuries</u>	<u>Percent of injuries</u>
Total	<u>266</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Strain or overexertion	<u>80</u>	<u>30.1</u>
In lifting, carrying feed sack	17	
In lifting egg or chicken crate	8	
In lifting, carrying other containers	12	
In lifting other objects	13	
In using tool	11	
In handling cart, wheelbarrow	7	
In making sudden motion or assuming awkward position	7	
Other strain or overexertion	5	
Struck by	<u>42</u>	<u>15.8</u>
Tool in using	9	
Other object in handling	11	
Falling object	10	
Flying object	6	
Other	6	
Striking against	<u>41</u>	<u>15.4</u>
Object in handling	11	
Stationary object	11	
Stepping on nail	5	
Otherwise striking sharp object	10	
Other	4	
Slip or fall on same level	<u>29</u>	<u>10.9</u>
Slip	11	
Fall on same level	15	
Caught in or between	<u>16</u>	<u>6.0</u>
In automatic feeder or feed elevator	4	
In table saw	3	
In feed mixer or grinder	2	
In other machine	3	
Other	4	
Fall from elevation	<u>15</u>	<u>5.6</u>
Stationary vehicle	4	
Ladder	4	
Other elevation	7	

PART IV. INJURIES TO YOUNG FARM WORKERS

Introduction

Each year around 500 school-age children hired to work on California farms suffer lost-time injuries on the job. Most of the youngsters injured in paid farm work are 16 or 17 years old but more than one-fourth are under 16.

The annual number of lost-time injuries to young farm hands since 1950 is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 16 years</u>	<u>16-17 years</u>
1950	485	128	357
1951	523	134	389
1952	525	145	380
1953	464	133	331
1954	440	95	345
1955	501	140	361
1956	499	132	367

Injuries to young farm workers reported during 1956 are analyzed below:

Type of farm

Forty percent of all injuries to young agricultural workers under 18 occurred on fruit and tree-nut farms. Over 85 percent of the injuries to young children under 14 occurred in orchards, or packing sheds of fruit farms or vineyards.

Agency involved

Vehicles, the leading single agency, were involved in 16 percent of all injuries to young farm workers under 18. Tractors proved the most hazardous vehicles for children as well as for adults employed on farms.

The next largest group of injuries to young workers (15 percent) involved knives or other tools.

Working surfaces, ladders, and containers also contributed to the injuries suffered by youngsters working on farms.

Accident type

Over a third of the injured young farm workers were struck by or struck against an object, most often a tool.

Falls from ladders or other elevations accounted for the second largest group of injuries.

Injuries to Illegally Employed Minors

At least one out of every four children under 16 injured on a farm in 1955 and 1956 was employed in violation of California child labor laws. This does not include any violations of Federal child labor laws or State school attendance laws.

Seven children under 12, who were not related to the farmer, suffered disabling injuries on farms during the two-year period. Nearly all the illegally employed children under 12 were working in the fields with their parents, who were farm laborers.

Some of the injuries to illegally employed children reported during 1955 and 1956 are described below:

9-year old

A 9-year old boy suffered serious internal injuries when he strained himself in lifting and emptying heavy pans of grapes picked by his parents.

10-year old

A 10-year old boy was badly hurt when the truck in which he was riding home from the job collided with another vehicle on the highway.

12-year old

A young plum picker got a splinter in his foot as he stepped from one tree to another, and the wound became infected. This 12-year old boy was working 9 hours per day, 54 hours per week.

13-year olds

A young boy was running a tractor over silage in order to pack it. In attempting to shift gears, he accidentally shifted into reverse, and the tractor climbed the side of the silo bank and tipped over. The tractor caught the boy's leg as he tried to jump clear. His right foot was crushed and his thigh badly bruised.

Another 13-year old child suffered a severe head injury when he lost control of the truck he was driving. The truck skidded off the farm road and collided with a pole. Not only was this boy illegally employed as a truck driver, he was also working 10 hours a day, 6 days a week.

14-year olds

A 14-year old tomato planter was disabled when the planting machine he was operating ran over the toes of his right foot, breaking the great toe and bruising the others.

A young tractor driver was shredding cotton stalks when a pin came loose, causing the shredder to fall on his right foot. Two toes were broken.

A 14-year old boy fell from the roof of a farm structure he was repairing and repainting. He fractured his ribs, and a rib punctured his lung.

TABLE 12--DISABLING INJURIES TO YOUNG FARM WORKERS
By Age Group and Type of Farm, California, 1955 and 1956

Type of farm	1956				1955			
	Total	Under 14 years	14-15 years	16-17 years	Total	Under 14 years	14-15 years	16-17 years
Total	<u>499</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>361</u>
Field crop and general farms	151	3	22	126	157	3	27	127
Fruit and tree-nut farms	215	23	55	137	200	14	61	125
Dairy and livestock farms	63	1	11	51	72	2	15	55
Truck farms	21	-	8	13	29	4	6	19
Poultry farms	12	-	-	12	8	-	2	6
Nurseries and greenhouses	18	-	6	12	21	-	4	17
Agricultural services	19	-	3	16	14	-	2	12

TABLE 13--DISABLING INJURIES TO YOUNG FARM WORKERS
By Age and Sex, California, 1955 and 1956

Age	1956			1955		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total	<u>499</u>	<u>451</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>61</u>
9 years	2	1	1	-	-	-
10 years	3	2	1	1	1	-
11 years	2	1	1	1	1	-
12 years	4	4	-	7	5	2
13 years	16	13	3	14	9	5
14 years	41	30	11	49	36	13
15 years	64	53	11	68	57	11
16 years	168	158	10	170	157	13
17 years	199	189	10	191	174	17

TABLE 15--DISABLING INJURIES TO YOUNG FARM WORKERS
By Age Group and Accident Type, California, 1955 and 1956

Accident type	1956				1955			
	Total	Under 14 years	14-15 years	16-17 years	Total	Under 14 years	14-15 years	16-17 years
Total	<u>499</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>361</u>
Struck by or striking against	<u>174</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>120</u>
Tool or machine in using	48	5	13	30	49	5	18	26
Otherwise injured in handling	48	-	9	39	44	1	13	30
Falling or flying object	14	-	2	12	17	1	1	15
Bumping into stationary object	14	-	2	12	8	-	4	4
Stepping on nail	8	1	2	5	12	-	3	9
Other contact with sharp object	12	-	2	10	16	1	3	12
Moving equipment, except motor vehicle	8	1	2	5	4	1	-	3
Other	22	2	4	16	24	2	1	21
Caught in or between	<u>35</u>	-	<u>8</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>31</u>
In machine or other mechanical apparatus	15	-	3	12	23	-	4	19
Between object handled and other object	11	-	3	8	10	-	2	8
Other	9	-	7	7	8	1	3	4
Fall or slip	<u>99</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>71</u>
Fall from elevation	54	3	17	34	78	5	25	48
Slip or fall on the same level	31	1	7	23	20	-	3	17
Slip or fall in stepping on, off, or over	14	-	6	8	9	-	3	6
Accident involving moving motor vehicle	<u>49</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>28</u>
Fall from	13	1	3	9	9	1	1	7
Run over or struck by	12	2	2	8	7	-	-	7
Overturning, running off road	7	2	-	5	2	-	1	1
Collision	4	2	-	2	10	1	4	5
Other	13	-	-	13	10	1	1	8
Strain or overexertion	<u>47</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>44</u>
In lifting or carrying	30	2	5	23	33	-	2	31
In using tool or machine	8	-	-	8	6	-	2	4
Other	9	-	2	7	13	1	3	9
Contact with temperature extreme	<u>11</u>	-	-	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	-	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>
Inhalation, absorption, swallowing	<u>39</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>
Foreign substance in eye	<u>23</u>	-	<u>6</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>23</u>	-	<u>3</u>	<u>20</u>
Bite, sting	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>
Other accidents	<u>3</u>	-	-	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	-	-	<u>3</u>
Accident type not reported	<u>6</u>	-	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	-	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

TABLE 17--DISABLING INJURIES TO FARM WORKERS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE
By Operation Being Performed When Injured, California, 1955 and 1956

<u>Operation being performed when injured</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Total	<u>132</u>	<u>140</u>
Picking fruit	<u>40</u>	<u>32</u>
Grapes	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>
Plums, prunes	8	5
Peaches	6	11
Apricots	3	2
Berries	3	-
Cherries	2	4
Other	5	5
Type not stated	2	2
Fruit cutting and other dry yard work	<u>18</u>	<u>23</u>
Cutting apricots	8	13
Cutting peaches	4	4
Cutting fruit, other	3	3
Dry yard work, except cutting	3	3
Picking, harvesting other crops	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
Cotton	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>
Onions, garlic	3	3
Almonds, walnuts	-	2
Potatoes	-	2
Other, n.e.c.	3	4
Swamping in orchard, tomato field	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>
Working with livestock	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
Herding cattle	3	4
Milking cows	2	1
Other	2	1
Irrigating, ditch tending	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
Maintenance of farm facilities and equipment	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
Construction and repair of farm facilities	3	4
Tool and equipment maintenance	2	3
Pruning, thinning	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Trees	4	3
Grape vines	1	2
Hoing, pulling weeds	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
Riding in truck, automobile	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>
Enroute to or from the job	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>
Other or not stated	3	6

