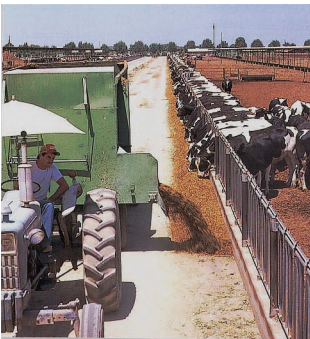


Injury Fact Sheet—Agriculture

Livestock Farms Workers—Struck-by or Against Injuries



Over 300 livestock farm workers were seriously injured from being struck by or against objects in the years 2000-2004

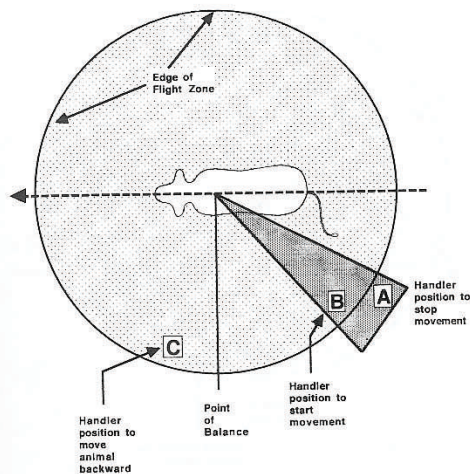


These injuries were so serious that the workers had to take time off work to recover or in some cases, were permanently disabled. Serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the base rate of \$1.80 per hour per employee paid by livestock farmers in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your “experience rating” could increase by as much as 25% in one year to \$2.23 per hour per employee.

At first, it may not seem like much but consider this: if you had 5 full-time workers and had an average number of injuries (claims), you would pay about \$18,000 in premiums in 2006. If your experience rating increased by 25% because you had higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$22,300 in premiums, or \$4,300 more in 2006.

Causes of struck-by or against injuries

Many injuries related to livestock handling could be directly attributed to inadequate facilities, equipment failures and poor building structures.



According to the Washington state injury claim reports, workers are most commonly being struck-by or against animals, building structures and equipment.

Ways to prevent struck-by or against injuries

- Before starting mechanical work, inspect the area for objects that can be thrown by the machine or equipment. Make sure all equipment is properly guarded as required.
- Maintain even lighting. Bright spots mixed with shadows in alleys and crowding pens will often cause cattle to balk.
- Do not enter a small enclosed area with an animal unless equipped with a man-gate.
- Cattle have a blind spot directly behind them therefore sudden movements or noises from behind will spook them, which might result in a “flight or fight” response.
- Touch the animal gently rather than let the first contact be a bump or a shove.
- Avoid the kicking region when approaching an animal and have an escape route planned.