

Dairy injuries and deaths 2003-2009

At least 18 people died working in Western dairies between 2003 and 2009; many more were injured. The following list, compiled from state and federal safety agency reports, is certainly incomplete, thanks to loopholes and differences in state and federal reporting requirements as well as underreporting by

workers. When possible, supplementary information was culled from news stories and coroner's and sheriff's reports. Dollar amounts reflect fines, if any. Some fines in the cases listed below were not directly related to the accidents; on occasion, investigators issued citations for unrelated safety violations

—Rebecca Clarren



Name, Age	Injury*/Fatality	Date	Company	Description of Accident	Fine
ARIZONA 120 dairy farms licensed to sell milk**					
Jose Refugio, 23	INJURY	8/1/03	Westwind Dairy	Fractured both legs after stepping through a skylight in the dairy's barn and falling 18 feet to the ground. He was cleaning the gutters.	\$6,700
CALIFORNIA 1,905 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
Luis Alberto Enriq, 16	FATALITY	4/26/09	Couto Dairy	Died from internal injuries after a bull struck him and rammed him into a steel post.	None
Guillermo Hernande, 42	FATALITY	10/26/08	Joe Tresch Dairy	Killed in a tractor rollover. Hernande hadn't received safety training, and the tractor didn't have rollover protection.	\$12,765
Unknown name, 39	INJURY	6/23/08	Abacherli Dairy	Amputated four fingers on his left hand. The employee was using a chain drive on a manure spreader truck when his gloved left hand got caught in the moving conveyer system that pushes manure off the machine. The injury required three surgeries and two weeks of hospitalization.	\$6,350
Ray Veldhuis, 74	FATALITY	5/30/08	P & H Ranch, Inc.	Killed by a forklift rollover. Veldhuis, the dairy's owner, was using a forklift to place a water pump in a sump. The ground of the field collapsed and the forklift rolled onto the road 16 feet below. Veldhuis was thrown to the pavement.	None
Bulmoaro Contreras, 39	FATALITY	3/24/08	AJ Borba Holsteins	Stepped through a fiberglass skylight on the roof of a barn and fell 19 feet to his death.	\$14,625
Unknown name, 51	INJURY	3/23/08	Alexandre Acres Dairy	Lacerated finger on door handle of a calf hutch, causing infection; the employee needed IV antibiotic treatment every eight hours for three days.	\$1,565
Unknown name, 53	INJURY	1/7/08	Fumasi Dairy	Pushed by cow against the milking parlor wall, fracturing his pelvis. He was working alone.	\$5,175
Manuel Quintanilla, 64	FATALITY	12/27/07	Faria & Sons Dairy	After he fell off a tractor, it ran over him, crushing his head. There were no witnesses.	\$1,800
Duarte Flores, 24	FATALITY	9/20/07	Emanuel A Belo Dairy	While clearing debris from a vacant lot, Flores drove a tractor into an irrigation canal. The tractor rolled, crushing Flores to death underneath.	\$4,925
Unknown name, 58	INJURY	8/13/07	John Mendonca & Son Dairy	Cracked vertebra and hip when pinned by a crumbler bar, a steel implement for a tractor attachment designed to pulverize soil.	\$2,025
Unknown name, 46	INJURY	10/23/06	3H Cattle Co	Employee was in the cattle pen doing some welding when a bull rammed him from behind, bruising his neck and other body parts.	\$350
Manuel Quinonez, 74	FATALITY	9/18/06	Ribeiro Dairy Farm	Crushed to death by a tractor.	\$700
Unknown name, 33	INJURY	7/10/06	Valley Holsteins	Splashed on the chest and arm by the chemical used to clean milking equipment prior to milking.	\$250
Unknown name, 55	INJURY	6/3/06	Vander Eyk Dairy	Hit in the face by a jack while working on a tractor. He has lost vision in his right eye, lost the hearing in his right ear and has tingling in the upper right portion of his head.	None
Juan Cisneros, 35	FATALITY	5/14/06	Grimmius Cattle Co	Run over and killed by tractor. He was the foreman.	\$19,500
Unknown name, 29	INJURY	5/6/06	JCJ Dairy	Struck by a 500-lb hay bale that fell from 18.5 feet as he was cutting open one of the lower bales. The bale pinned him against a tractor, injuring his abdomen.	\$11,150
Carlos Lourenco, 43	FATALITY	4/19/06	Lourenco Dairy	Lourenco, the company's head maintenance mechanic, was oiling the chains of the feed wagon while it was running. He was caught between the steel triangle blades that cut, shred and mix the hay, corn and other food for the cows, and died of his injuries.	None
Luis Gutierrez, 26, and Luis Armondo Gutierrez Jr., 8	FATALITIES	3/4/06	Contente & Company	Drowned in a 10-foot-deep manure pit. The pond was heavily contaminated and looked like solid ground. Both father and son were wearing large dairy boots that would have made swimming difficult. The pond had steep walls, and there were no witnesses. Luis Jr. didn't usually accompany his father to work.	\$150
Unknown name, 46	INJURY	12/8/05	5 Star Dairy	Fractured elbow and bruised hip. The employee was constructing a tin roof structure at a dairy when he stepped backwards through a skylight and fell approximately 18 feet to the ground.	\$1,850
Unknown name, 41	INJURY	7/2/05	M S Monteiro & Sons	Amputated left hand at the wrist after reaching into a clogged hay bailer.	\$2,700
Unknown name, 26	INJURY	2/8/05	Pedretti Ranches, Inc	Severe internal injuries when crushed against a tree by a snapped branch. The employee had been cutting the branch with a chainsaw.	\$3,425
Unknown name, 24	INJURY	9/2/04	Legend Dairy Farms	Struck in head and chest while inflating a tire. Hospitalized for 11 days.	\$14,170
Unknown name, 49	INJURY	8/25/04	W&J Dairies	Attacked by bull and pinned against a fence while bringing in cows for the evening milking. Fractured his spine and pelvis.	None
Unknown name, 20	INJURY	6/29/04	Moo Views Jerseys	Tips of all four fingers on left hand amputated when a bolt on a chain supporting a feed wagon's gear-box broke and crushed his hand.	None
Unknown name, 35	INJURY	5/18/04	Martin's Dairy	Attacked by bull.	\$750
Unknown name, 37	INJURY	4/16/04	Shady Grove Dairy Farm	Fractured his right wrist, shoulder and two ribs and lacerated his right ear when he fell off the bucket of a tractor. He was pulling a shade cloth off the calf pen and using a chain with a hook that became disconnected. He was hospitalized for two days.	\$6,650
Unknown name, 27	INJURY	12/2/03	John Fragosa and Sons Dairy	Lacerated lower leg when his clothing got caught on the rotating metal blades that push manure out the back of a tractor.	\$700
Unknown name, 21	INJURY	8/3/03	Jer Z Boyz Ranch	Injured spleen and bled internally after the horse he was riding stumbled, fell and rolled on him. He was moving dairy cattle from the corral to the milk barn.	\$5,000
Unknown name, 42	INJURY	7/09/03	California Dairy Inc	Scalded by 180-degree water. The foreman was attempting to tighten the clamp on a water pipe when it failed and released both pipes.	\$300
Unknown name, 63	INJURY	6/18/03	Palla Rosa Farming Co	Fell through a fiberglass skylight on the dairy's roof while checking a leak in a water line. The 10-foot fall onto the concrete floor left him with a concussion.	\$2,475
Unknown name, 49	INJURY	4/21/03	E&R Prins Dairy	The employee's head struck a Bobcat's rear cab when the machine bounced, immediately paralyzing him from the neck down.	\$100
Unknown name, 50	INJURY	4/18/03	Deboer Dairies	Arm amputated by rotating shaft of a manure spreader.	\$2,475
COLORADO 140 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
Matthew Flaschenriem, 25	FATALITY	1/20/05	Hogland Dairy	Mechanically asphyxiated when his head and neck were trapped under the bucket of a front-end loader. Flaschenriem's father, who owned the dairy, had asked him to stop for lunch, but he had refused.	None
IDAHO 635 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
Alexandro Juan Dominguez, 26	FATALITY	1/1/09	DeRuyter Dairy Inc	Thrown from a hay loader's window and crushed when the machine rolled over him. The employer, Nick DeRuyter, had provided no formal safety or equipment training.	\$3,750
Chad Thompson, 30	FATALITY	3/6/08	4-Brothers Dairy	A 50-foot-tall pile of silage collapsed on top of Thompson's truck; Thompson, inside the cab, was struck in the head. He died instantly.	\$1,700
Marcelino Miranda, 33	FATALITY	6/25/03	Double A Dairy, Inc.	Crushed and killed by the rear wheels of a front-end loader. Miranda was hanging on the ladder outside the machine's cab and lost his balance when the driver, the dairy's crew leader, hit bumps in the road. OSHA cited the dairy for failing to report the fatality and for the lack of seatbelts.	\$3,750
MONTANA 80 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
No reports					
NEW MEXICO 160 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
Emeterio "Tao" Godinez, 47	FATALITY	7/3/09	Boyd Brothers Ranch	Crushed by 1,800-pound hay bale that fell 12-15 feet from a nearby haystack.	None
NEVADA 25 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
No reports					
OREGON 300 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
Augusto Zavala Cerva, 33	INJURY	5/12/08	Hazenber Dairy	Fractured his ribs after an oncoming pickup truck hit the tractor he was driving. Cerva spent several weeks in the ICU. He had not received safety training and was not wearing a seat belt because it hadn't worked for several months. This was a repeat violation from an inspection in 2005.	\$8,500
Luis Mojica, 18	INJURY	9/21/07	Sleger's Dairy	Concussion; rear-ended while driving a tractor along the highway with no seatbelt. Mojica's father was the dairy supervisor.	None
Benjamin Batista, 45	INJURY	7/8/06	Konyon Dairy LLC	Left foot crushed between the rollers of a manure separator; foot subsequently amputated.	\$800
Ramone Rodriguez, 35	INJURY	9/24/05	Willow Creek Dairy	Run over by a hay loader, which left abrasions and bruises on Rodriguez's left leg and back. Oregon OSHA fined the dairy for 10 hazards, including the fact that the view of oncoming hay loaders was blocked by feed and storage piles.	\$2,000
UTAH 260 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
No reports					
WASHINGTON 500 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
Miguel Diaz, 31	FATALITY	12/31/08	Tony Veiga Dairy	Trampled and killed by bull.	None
Oner Villa, 28	FATALITY	2/1/07	Tony Veiga Dairy	Crushed to death by falling 1,500-pound hay bale.	\$300
Shaun Cody Forrest, 16 Tyler Rausch, 16	FATALITIES	8/12/03	Fair Tomorrow Farms Inc	Overcome and/or asphyxiated by toxic gas in a silo. The boys apparently were checking whether the 80-foot-silo was full or not. No witnesses; their bodies were found inside the silo on the silage surface. One of the employees was the owner's son, the other was a longtime family friend.	\$100
WYOMING 25 dairy farms licensed to sell milk					
No reports					

*Only California, Oregon and Washington safety agencies report individual injuries that result in overnight hospitalization. But Washington does not release injury details to the public. **2008 average based on regulatory agency counts