



For Immediate Release: August 14, 2019
Contact Person: Sheriff Jamie Patton
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Up-Date: Victim has been positively identified in Farm Fatality

On Tuesday, August 13, 2019, the Union County Coroner's Office positively identified the victim from New Day Farms. Investigator's have been working closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to make identification.

Josue Adan Mezhuza Hernandez, 24 from Zongolica, Mexico is scheduled to fly back to his home country today for funeral services.

Mr. Hernandez had several different aliases connected to his name. Investigators worked with family members in the surrounding area for next of kin notification and with the help of state and federal agencies this was made possible.

Sheriff Patton states, "We have to get it right the first time for the sake of the family when making notifications, we can't undo telling a family their loved one is deceased, if it really wasn't them!"

Sheriff's Office Investigating Farm Fatality in York Township

On Thursday, August 9, 2019 at approximately 1:32 pm, the Union County Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call reporting a person had fallen from a ladder at a farm in 20000 block of Powder Lick Road in York Township. Deputies and units from the Liberty Township Fire Department responded to the scene and found a male victim, approximately 25 years of age, unresponsive in a barn area. The victim was pronounced deceased and the Union County Coroner was called to the scene. The deceased was transported to the Montgomery County Morgue and an autopsy will be performed today. The preliminary investigation has revealed the victim was working in a barn at New Day Farms when he fell approximately fifteen feet off of a motorized ladder while repairing a manure transport belt. As of this morning, the victim still had not been positively identified, but had been employed with New Day Farms for approximately four years.

The incident remains under investigation by the Sheriff's Office, the Union County Coroner's Office, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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Sheriff Malcum J. "Jamie" Patton