

## Life Changing Agriculture Injury Stories from Farmers

### Brett's Harobed Rollover

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[http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/ag\\_storycorps](http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/ag_storycorps)

**Brett:** The thing that started it all is something that happened back in 2006 during the summer, and it was a harobeding accident. A little background on the harobed is that it's an automated system to pick up bales, and the platform that you're sitting on sticks right off the front of the edge of the square frame and it basically has just a rail around it to hold you in, there's nothing else on there.

I'm out and have about a load and a half left to do and I'm out in the field and I start feeling rain and I have about a half a load on the harobed. And so, I decided that I'd better go head back to the stack and help my sister get it tarped. On my way, I went up and around the wheel line and made it around the first rock, and you have to turn a little bit to the right to make it between the two rocks. I ended up instead of being able to turn, my steering locked up and my harobed went straight. It caused my harobed on the left-hand side to run up over another rock, and it rolled the harobed.

I was thrown off in the process of that happening. To give you an idea of the forces involved, when I rolled I bent steel that was an inch and a half- to two-inch solid round steel. Now, if that rack had failed, the machine would have rolled a whole 180, instead of a 90-degree roll, and that potentially could have wiped me out, too. It took me about a week before I was feeling good enough to really do anything.

The thing about the accident, after I thought about it though, was this particular accident could have been easily avoided had I done a few things to the machine. I'd known that it had a weak braking system for quite a long time. The other thing about it was I also knew that the steering gear had an issue, and that every once in a while it would lock up on me. I'm working on keeping a maintenance log so I remember when I did stuff instead of thinking I did something yesterday, when in reality it was five weeks ago.

It's the little things that my grandfather always did, just because he didn't want to have to fix the machinery. As he'd do maintenance, he'd make sure that he'd always make sure things were greased the recommended time, and that if something was pretty worn that he'd replace it. I always saw him doing that, but I didn't realize why until my little fiasco.

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