

Life Changing Agriculture Injury Stories from Farmers

Diana's Combine Amputation

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http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/ag_storycorps

- Diana:** Well, it was harvest season in August of 1981 in Gilford, Montana, which is located in kind of north central high planes Montana. My husband Levi and I were getting our combine ready to harvest our wheat crop. I was cleaning out the take up auger and the take up auger was turned on accidentally by my husband because we were working with a piece of machinery that we had just purchased that year and had not gotten quite as familiar probably with it as maybe we should have. Then I was holding an air compressor and I also had a bracelet on, so because of those two things it pulled my arm into the auger and the auger took the lower part of my arm within three inches of my elbow. Then after the accident was all over with, because we were in the middle of harvest, the local community kind of all pulled together and helped finish the harvest for us so that we could get our crop in that year.
- Tanya:** What message do you have for other farmers to avoid something like this happening?
- Diana:** Well, the biggest thing is, don't wear jewelry when you're working around farm equipment. And the other thing I think I learned, too, was you have to be extremely careful and cautious around machinery, particularly if it's something that's new to you.
- Tanya:** Was there one thing that was the hardest to relearn how to do?
- Diana:** No, everything.
- Tanya:** Everything. Pretty much everything was difficult?
- Diana:** Pretty much everything was harder and frustrating. So, I'm not bored. And you know, you go through adjustments and my theory was you can be a victim or you can go on with your life, and victim was not a good idea. I didn't want to be a victim.
- Tanya:** Well, of course. I mean, it's amazing, you're amazing, and always have been.

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