

## Life Changing Agriculture Injury Stories from Farmers

### Chris's Tractor Rollover

(audio transcripts) Rev. 6/2011

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

**Scott:** The farm comes of course with inherent hazards. You had your incident here a year or two ago when you were feeding the haylage bales.

**Chris:** Yeah. We feed cows out behind one of our barns and we store all of the big haylage bales, which are the ones that are wrapped in white plastic. They look like giant marshmallows, and they weigh quite a bit, especially with all the water content in them. And so, we use a tractor to carry them to the cows, and we cut the plastic off and then cut the strings off and dump them in their feeders. The tractor we use is called a Belarus and it's pretty large. Once you cut the strings off you have to stab it with this fork on the front of the tractor and lift it up and drop it in, but sometimes the bales get moldy. I was being lazy—this is the first time I've admitted this to Dad—but I drove off the side of the ramp so I could just dump it in the mud there instead of driving it around the corner where I'd dump it in the bushes. So I was being kind of lazy, and it wouldn't come off the end of the bucket, and so I just backed up to try and dump it where I was supposed to now, because the lazy way wasn't working. And as I came around the corner, the edge of the pad that we drive on the road slumped off, and the tractor rolled over onto its side into this giant mud puddle that was about 4 feet deep. What scared me the most at first was my younger brother Aaron was out there with me helping me feed. And, so he kind of works around the tractor picking up the strings and the pieces of plastic, and when it tipped I didn't know where he was when it had fallen over. It's such a big tractor, you know, you couldn't really see what was underneath it once it crashed into the mud, and I crawled out through the roof. So I was really scared that Aaron had been underneath it or something, but then he came running over and I saw him there before I got too worried and upset. He helped me out the rest of the way out of the tractor. But yeah, Dad just happened to be driving down the road right after it had happened, and so he jumped out of the car on the side of the road there and came running over to where we feed because it's a ways away from our house. At first, seeing how scared and worried Dad was and then a couple minutes later, Mom from the house couldn't really see what had happened but she could see the top of the red tractor was on its side. Trying to run across the field as fast as she could to us because she was so scared. I remember the look on both of their faces, at first being scared for us and finding out that we were OK, and just really kind of hit home how important safety is and how much our parents loved us and everything. Kind of another little reality check into being careful around everything. Life is short.



The PACIFIC NORTHWEST AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (PNASH) CENTER

University of Washington, Box 357234, Seattle, WA 98195-7234,  
[pnash@uw.edu](mailto:pnash@uw.edu) (800) 330-0827 <http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/>

