

Life Changing Agriculture Injury Stories from Farmers

Victor's Bull Fatality

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

Victor: Steering is a lifetime occupation for me and my father and my grandfather. It's a natural thing for us that grow up in it to work with nature, work with animals, produce a good product—food for people.

Helen: You were telling me before about some sort of accident that really was kind of life changing for you. What happened?

Victor: Well, we had a larger herd of animals at one time. We housed our young stock, breeding-aged animals on the farm of a friend of mine. There was a bull in the group for breeding the heifers, and he had a little bit of an attitude. We had to be careful of him. My son and I went over to check on the animals late in the afternoon, and some of the animals were out and two gates were open. We looked around to see what was going on and we got the animals back, bull's in the wrong place and he'd try to challenge us. We of course knew how to work with him and got him back in the pen and got to looking around and discovered that my friend was laying in the bedding against the steel gate. The bull had gotten him. I had not cried like that since I was a little kid, because he was a dear friend of mine. I had met my wife through him. But this friend of mine now he grew up on a farm, he worked many years with cattle, he worked in a stockyard where they handled bulls and why he went into the pen to do something I don't know. It affected us in that you had to really be more vigilant on working with the animals. You had to figure out a different way of doing things. It seems like there are a lot of people that'll push the envelope as far as they can. I have not been like that, you know, I use my cattle for livelihood. This is what I've passed on to my children, too, you know, that there's a certain way we take care of them so they take care of us.

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