



Shouldn't

ACCIDENTS ^ HAPPEN

There are approximately 3.1 million men and women who work on America's 2.3 million farms and ranches. In these settings, accidents and other work-related health problems claim as many as 1,300 lives and cause 120,000 injuries a year. According to the US Department of Labor websites.

Knowing the risks, these men and women still work long hours to plant, grow and harvest food, feed, fiber and clothing for a growing nation and world but for a seasoned farmer, accidents can still happen.

Gary Cabe, owner of Cabe Farms, talks about how when new employees come along you have to stress how important it is to pay attention.

"First time employees to the farm can be intimidated by the big machinery which is something that helps them be a little more cautious," Cabe said.

After growing up around cotton gins and a managing one for 16 years, Meadow Co-op Gin manager, Dan Jackson, has seen it all.

Jackson has seen smashed fingers to fingers getting caught and tendons severed in gin saws.

"While the gin saws were turned off an employee went to unstop some cotton from the saws. Jackson explained. When he did, another coworker reached up to start the saws up catching his hand in the saws."

What looked to be a major loss of tendons and possible fingers, turned out to less sever and he returned to work three days later. Jackson has several accidents in the gin that looked worse than they really

were but lucky most of the employees returned to work with in a week.

"I remember a gin owner friend of mine who had a retired ginner take the new employees out and explain their job to them. He always told them

'nothing in this gin is going to reach out a grab you but if you get in it, it will not let you go,'" Jackson said.

While he has heard several stories of people dying in the cotton gin, Jackson has been fortunate enough to never have a death at a gin he has been at.

"I am so relieved that there has never been a death on my watch because I have seen other managers have a tough time going through a fatal accident at the gin," Jackson said.

Paying attention is something that will always be stressed in any job but especially any dangerous job.

While safety has improved in the last 20 years, accidents will still happen but how severe

depends upon the people themselves. The key to a safe environment is paying attention even when doing the smallest jobs.

Always remember Jackson said: "Nothing in here is worth getting killed over." **T**



This sign hangs in the Meadow Co-op Gin as a reminder to employees to always watch where you put your hands.

