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## TELLING THE STORY

Farmers share cautionary tales to promote safety

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS  
Capital Press

**P**inned under an upside down 4-wheeler in a dry ravine, 64-year-old farmer David Endorf took inventory. “I was not bleeding. I was sore, but I did not feel I had broken bones,” he said.

But he was trapped, helpless and alone. He hadn’t told anyone where he was going, and his wife wouldn’t expect him home until 7 or 8 that evening.

It had started as a typical summer day in southeastern Nebraska, sunny and humid. But Aug. 18, 2018, is one Endorf will never forget.

“That’s the day I nearly lost my life, and it’s etched in my memory,” he said.

He had been looking forward to the local cooperative’s

annual appreciation lunch, which would start at noon.

“They bring in some good barbecue beef and chicken, baked beans and cornbread,” he said.

But he had a chore to do first — take care of the brushy trees lining the creek that runs through his pasture. At about 9 a.m. he loaded his 4-wheeler and 15-gallon spray tank onto the pickup and headed to the pasture.

By 11:15 a.m., he had sprayed for about two hours in an area filled with obstacles, including trees and ravines off the main branch of the creek.

“I started thinking about this good barbecue meal. It became a distraction, I wanted to make sure I allowed myself enough time to get back to the pickup,” he said.

That noon lunch was calling, and it was time to head back. But then everything took a bad turn.

“The rear wheel of the 4-wheeler went off the side of the

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### Safety at work

Leading occupations for fatal injury rate in 2019  
(per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers)

Occupation	fatal injury rate
Fishing and hunting workers	145.0
Logging workers	68.9
Aircraft pilots and flight engineers	61.8
Roofers	54.0
Construction helpers	40.0
Refuse and recyclable material collectors	35.2
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	26.8
Structural iron and steel workers	26.3
<b>Farmers, ranchers and other agricultural managers</b>	<b>23.2</b>
Grounds maintenance workers	19.8

Fatal injury rates by industry sector in 2019  
(per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers)

Occupation	fatal injury rate
<b>Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting</b>	<b>23.1</b>
Mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction	14.6
Transportation and warehousing	13.9
Construction	9.7

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Capital Press graphic

Stephanie Leonard  
Telling the Story  
**David Endorf documents the account of his farm accident for the Telling the Story Project.**

## China’s agricultural imports are big but volatile

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS  
Capital Press

Despite a global pandemic and a slow start, 2020 was a really good year for U.S. agricultural exports — with a significant increase in exports to China in the fourth quarter.

The last three months of 2020 were three of the four best months in the history of U.S. agricultural exports to China, said Gregg Doud,

the immediate past chief agricultural negotiator with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

More than half of U.S. agricultural exports to China in 2020 took place in October, November and December, he said during the Farm Foundation’s forum on agricultural trade.

“That’s going to be a really important thing going forward here I think, and we did that in the midst of a pandemic,” he said.



Gregg Doud

1,500 to well over 4,000, he said.

“This is a very big thing to keep in mind as we go forward,” he said.

So many more products have

access now, and that’s a major change, he said.

To be successful going forward, the U.S. has to be price competitive — not just in China but around the world, he said.

“So much of our challenge in the last few years has been a strong dollar and particularly as we deal with competition from Brazil,” he said.

Infrastructure is another challenge. Since September, the U.S.

infrastructure for bulk agricultural products and what it can sell has been maxed out, he said.

“Our window is not going to expand ... so we have to be able to maximize what we can do in that window,” he said.

Another thing to keep in mind is volatility, he said.

“The volatility that we are going to see going forward as a

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## Hammond family loses grazing permit for third time

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

Roughly a month after their grazing permit was restored, Oregon’s Hammond family has again lost access to four federal allotments totaling 26,400 acres.

The U.S. Interior Department has reversed its decision to re-issue the Hammonds’ grazing permit after several environmental groups filed a lawsuit challenging the decision, claiming it violated administrative, environmental and land

management laws.

The federal government re-authorized the 10-year grazing permit on Jan. 19, the Trump administration’s final day in office, after initially announcing the proposal on Dec. 31.

However, the Interior Department now says that interested parties weren’t notified of the proposed re-authorization for several days, which means they didn’t get the required 15 days to file a protest.

The agency said the rescission isn’t a “final determination”

in the case and has ordered the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which regulates the allotments, to reconsider the decision.

“On remand, the BLM is encouraged to initiate any additional processes and opportunities for public involvement that it may determine appropriate under applicable law following a careful and considered review of protests,” the rescission notice said.

In previously re-issuing the

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Capital Press File  
**Hammond Ranches has lost its grazing permit for the third time, shortly after an environmental lawsuit challenged its re-authorization.**

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