

Farm equipment from my late grandfather's farm.



He utilised this farm equipment during the mid 1900s. I was born in the 1960s, so I would have visited his farm during the 1970s mostly. I never recall that he was injured, however maybe he was & we were not aware of this happening.



This equipment shows a crank, a mechanical component that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa. It typically consists of an arm attached at a right angle to a rotating shaft, allowing for efficient transfer of mechanical energy. Cranks are essential in many machines and tools, serving as a key motion-transmitting device. As kids we sometimes watched how the equipment was used, but we didn't use this device ourselves. I can imagine that injuries could occur if an appendage or a digit got caught in this device.

Crush injuries or even amputation can occur and the book titled; 'When someone is hurt' by Varghese M, Mohan P. 1998, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, states that wounds can result from crush injuries and bleeding can occur. They also state that wounds allow germs to enter the body & this can result in infection & pus formation. If serious, the patient may die or lose a limb.



I'm not sure what this piece of machinery is. However many injuries can occur from equipment. Lifting injuries can occur if the equipment is heavy in that you can strain your back muscles if you have to lift equipment. Wounds, grazes & cuts can occur if you drop the equipment on your foot or hand. Burns may occur if the equipment is hot against your skin. Crush injuries can result in the loss of a finger or thumb.



This image shows another vice type piece of machinery, a farm tool on the work bench.

A study in Northern India in 1998 on farm hand tool injuries reported that hand tools accounted for 58% of total agricultural injuries. Australia maybe different due to the differing nature of farms, a differing number of farms plus equipment quality and type may significantly differ.

Adarsh Kumar, J.K. Singh, Dinesh Mohan. Mathew Varghese. 2008.

Farm hand tools injuries: A case study from northern India. Safety Science. 46, [1]; 54-65.



Employers, managers, trade and worker associations, and policymakers should take additional steps to improve the safety of workers involved in tree care or for those who utilise farm tools, such as structured education to employees. This can include on the job training emphasizing the importance of correct machine handling, ways to minimise risk and prevent accidents and providing personal protective equipment to workers, along with ensuring that safety equipment is used and not left on the shelf.

Remember that these tools as displayed that my late grandfather utilised are older pictures. You can locate more modern farm hand tool pictures on picture repository sites like Unsplash [<https://unsplash.com/>].

The educational & informative videos that accompany this campaign will promote knowledge among community members & tree workers on hazards they may encounter. It is based upon concrete evidence-based research reports.