

Man injured by auger remains hospitalized in Denver By Jan Rahn Managing Editor A Grant man is recovering in a Denver hospital after losing both hands and part of each arm in a farm accident in rural Perkins County. Jacob Lee, 32, was working at a bin site on a farm owned by Jantzen Farms, Inc., when the accident that severed his limbs occurred the morning of Wednesday, July 8. According to Perkins County Sheriff Jim Brueggeman, Lee was inside one of several bins located on the farm installing an auger when power was accidentally applied to the system causing Lee's hands and arms to become entangled in the auger. Fellow employees working at the bin site freed Lee, applied first aid, then drove him from the scene to meet the Perkins County Ambulance along Highway 23 between Madrid and Grant. The ambulance transported Lee to the Perkins County Community Hospital where he was treated and then airlifted to Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver where he has remained since the accident. Lee was reached by phone in his hospital room on Monday morning, July 13. With his brother-in-law assisting by holding the receiver, Lee said, "Well, I lived through it."

He said he has part of his right arm, which was severed approximately six inches below the elbow. Only a portion of the top of his left arm remains, but his shoulder is intact. Lee's hands and limb(s) were retrieved at the bin site and transported to Denver with him, however, the doctors determined they were too damaged to reattach. "I have a lot of good support," said Lee, appreciating the presence of his wife, Violet, who was able to fly with him to Denver, and other family members who have gathered at his bedside. He looks forward to being released soon and has plans to stay with his sister and her husband in Ft. Collins so he will be close to Denver for observation. "I'm in good physical shape and my blood pressure is okay," said Lee. The exercises he must do are very painful, he said. A portion of his healing process will also include some treatment for post-traumatic stress such as that administered to soldiers recovering both mentally and physically after returning from war. A fund has been set up at Valley Bank and Trust in Grant for collecting donations to help with medical expenses. Responding and assisting with the rescue call were the Grant Volunteer Fire Department, Madrid Volunteer Fire Department, and the Perkins County Sheriff's Office.