



TRACTOR ACCIDENT

Farmer killed in Scott County tractor accident



AUGUST 25, 2011 10:30 PM • [BRIAN WELLNER](#)

"This is the way he wanted to go," the son of a farmer who was killed Thursday in a tractor accident said.

Lonny Sievers stood on a gravel road near New Liberty, Iowa, surrounded by his late father's 270 acres, talking about how Donavon Sievers farmed his whole life, until the day he died.

Donavon Sievers, 77, of Stockton was hauling hay bales with his John Deere tractor about noon when the hitch

connecting the hayrack broke, said his grandson, Justin Speth of Eldridge, Iowa. The weight and momentum of the hayrack pushed Sievers' tractor into a ditch in the 3500 block of 260th Street, and Sievers died in the accident, Speth said.

The Scott County Sheriff's Office and the Iowa State Patrol responded to the accident, which is under investigation.

Family members who gathered at the scene Thursday afternoon said they found him lying beside the tractor.

"He loved the farm," said Lonny Sievers, of Dixon. "He loved his livestock."

And while Donavon Sievers had more than 50 years of farming experience, accidents still happen, Speth said.

"Farming is the most dangerous occupation there is," he said.

Donavon Sievers had lost his 15-year-old grandson, Blake Sievers, in a similar tractor accident six years ago.

"The same thing happened, right over there," Willie Meyer, Donavon's brother-in-law, said, pointing toward a field near the scene of Thursday's accident.

The tractor Blake Sievers was driving overturned on a gravel road on July 18, 2005. Like his grandfather, Blake raised cattle.

Speth, who is Blake's cousin, said Blake lost control of the tractor.

"People say that Blake might have been inexperienced," Speth said. "But take a look at his grandpa. He's doing it his whole life and an accident happens. Accidents happen to everybody."

Though Meyer called Donavon Sievers' death a "freak accident," he is thinking more about tractor safety now and the types of tractors used for hauling.

"I guess we got to use tractors with cabs," Meyer said.

Unable to hold back tears as he talked about his brother-in-law, Meyer said, "We worked together, and we played together all our lives. He was wonderful."