

# Farm families ALIVE & WELL

I-CASH | Iowa's Center for  
Agricultural Safety and Health  
The University of Iowa • Iowa State University  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Iowa Department of Public Health • Non-profits for Farm Health

News from Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH)

## Fisher Receives Hall of Fame Award

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Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) has named Eileen Fisher of Solon, Iowa, the 2012 recipient of its Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award. Fisher was recognized during the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health (MRASH) Conference in Cedar Rapids on November 14, 2012.

Fisher received her Master's and PhD degrees from The University of Iowa in Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health, and has held numerous leadership roles that advanced agricultural safety and health issues on a state and national level.

In 2000, Fisher became the Associate Director of I-CASH, and has been instrumental in successful completion of several farm safety and health projects. The DVD entitled *Rural Roadway Crashes – They're Preventable* was produced in 2011 and provides information on the hazards of driving on gravel and rural roads. The research project *Motivating Farm Parents to Create Safe Play Areas on Farms: A Randomized Controlled Trial* evaluated the effectiveness of specific interventions that encourage safe play area construction. She's also been involved with the Building Capacity in Agricultural Medicine



Shari Burgus, Carolyn Sheridan and Kelley Donham present the 2012 Hall of Fame Award to Eileen Fisher at the MRASH Conference.

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## MRASH 2012 "Reaping the Rewards"

by Kelley Donham, MS, DVM, DACVPM

The Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference (MRASH) was held November 14-16, at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The conference has had various themes over the years, and this year's theme *Reaping the Rewards* coordinated well with our focus of "Research to Practice" and confined space hazards.



Kelley J. Donham  
MS, DVM, DACVPM



Kelley Donham and Captain Brad Husberg, Manager, NIOSH Office of Agriculture Safety and Health, tour Amana Farms during the MRASH conference.

The MRASH conference featured an extensive agenda combining a general program, a focus on agricultural confined spaces, and a research to practice component. Some of the highlights from the conference are listed below.

- Plenary sessions featured overviews of the five agricultural health centers of the upper Midwest, and presentations by Captain Brad Husberg, Manager, NIOSH Office of Agriculture Safety and Health, and Amanda Harney, Team Leader, NIOSH Research to Practice Program.
- A broad scientific session was included in the conference, offering 34 presentations and 15 posters presentations.
- The conference provided a venue for six affiliated organizations to hold separate business meetings.
- A 10-hour program on confined space and grain safety was included with the conference.

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The 2013 North American Agricultural Safety Summit, to be held Sept. 25-27 in Minneapolis, will use non-traditional sessions to match safety interventions with production practices and emerging safety issues. The Summit, hosted by the Agricultural Safety & Health Council of America (ASHCA), will offer sessions that bundle global thinking with hands-on learning and networking. Registration opens in January 2013, visit [www.ashca.com](http://www.ashca.com).

**Eileen Fisher retires from I-CASH** - After serving as Associate Director for 12 years, Eileen Fisher officially retired from I-CASH on October 1st. She will be working on a Safe Play Area grant at the University of Iowa on a part-time basis, and can be reached at [eileen-fisher@uiowa.edu](mailto:eileen-fisher@uiowa.edu) until October 2013.

**2013 Progressive Agriculture Safety Days** will be held June 11 (ages 8 thru 12), July 9 (ages 4 thru 7), and August 6 (ages 8 thru 12) at the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NE-CAS) in Peosta, IA. A wide range of safety topics will be presented; pre-registration is required. For more information contact Gloria Reiter at 888/844-6322 or [reiter@nicc.edu](mailto:reiter@nicc.edu)

**The Safety & Health in Agricultural & Rural Populations: Global Perspectives (SHARP)** symposium, scheduled for October 19-22, 2014, will bring together worldwide multidisciplinary expertise and knowledge to develop plans and goals for future priorities and scientific research needs. The major theme of the symposium is safety & health in agricultural and rural populations, and will provide a framework for discussion and scientific presentations on issues and challenges facing the health and safety of rural people in the twenty first century. For more information visit <http://cbsa-ccssma.usask.ca/sharp2014>.

**Agricultural safety and health questions?** I-CASH and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health personnel are available to provide quick access to agricultural safety and health information and resources. Call the new toll-free phone number at 866/309-0839 and your question will be forwarded to the appropriate safety or health expert, who will promptly return your call.



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## NECAS Builds Rescue Trailer

The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) is building a mobile manure pit safety and rescue trailer that will be available for training in spring of 2013. Curriculum to go with the hands-on training will be developed in the second year of a Susan Harwood OSHA capacity building grant. In the first year of the grant, NECAS developed programs on confined space/grain bin entry, prevention of grain dust explosion, and chemical safety.

As with the current mobile grain engulfment simulator, the new rescue trailer will be used to teach safe entry into confined spaces and will also be used to teach volunteer fire and EMS professionals how to perform a rescue in the specialized confined spaces found in agriculture.

NECAS would like to thank the Dubuque Racing Association, Northeast Iowa Community College, and Alumline trailers for their support of this project. For more information contact Dan Neenan at 888/844-6322 or [neenan@nicc.edu](mailto:neenan@nicc.edu). For more information on NECAS visit [www.necasag.org](http://www.necasag.org) or on facebook at [www.facebook.com/necasag](http://www.facebook.com/necasag).

## Save the Date

**Agricultural Medicine:**  
Occupational and Environmental  
Health for Rural Health Professionals

**June 10-14, 2013**  
**Iowa City, IA**



I-CASH | Iowa's Center for  
Agricultural Safety and Health

**GREAT PLAINS**  
Center for Agricultural Health

Contact Kay Mohling at 319/335-4219 or [kay-mohling@uiowa.edu](mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu)

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[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcah](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcah)

## Always Be Careful (ABC) on the Farm

by Staci Lee, North Dakota Farm Bureau, and  
Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health Regional Advisory Committee Member

The *Always Be Careful (ABC)* on the farm program is a comprehensive safety program for students in second and fifth grade. The course includes an hour long, in-school presentation by a trained volunteer, teacher materials with activities, and a take home packet for each student. The presentations introduce farm safety concepts in eight different topic areas through an interactive format of discussion, visual aids, videos, demonstrations and hands-on activities. Developed in 1991 by the North Dakota Farm Bureau (NDFB), the program was initially funded through a grant from the Center for Disease Control, and administered by the North Dakota Department of Health.

Following a successful pilot program, the program was refined and expanded statewide. A network of trained volunteers throughout the state of North Dakota have delivered the program to thousands of students and teachers. Topics include: tractors, lawn mowing, power take-offs, personal protective equipment, grain safety, chemicals, animals, and safe/dangerous play areas. The topic of ATV safety is added in the fifth grade.

Special learning tools to reach various types of learners are included with the program. Visual aids in the program include colorful pictures, safety videos emphasizing key safety points, and toy tractor/wagon demonstrations. Safety Sam, the puppet mascot, provides catchy farm safety slogans and even has his own read-along book and CD.

The ABC program was written by an experienced team of farm safety experts and educational consultants. Each year NDFB gathers feedback from trainers, teachers, and parents, so the program can be continually modified and improved. Through pre and post testing of all students, significant improvements in their knowledge of various farm safety concepts is evident. For more information on the ABC program contact Staci Lee, North Dakota Farm Bureau, at 701/799-1896 or visit [www.ndfb.org](http://www.ndfb.org).



Safety volunteers Diane Peyerl and Sue Ann Locker present the *Always Be Careful* program to students at St. Joseph School in Devils Lake, ND.

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**Hall of Fame continued from page 1**

Program, which expanded agricultural health and safety training to seven US states, Australia, and Turkey. Fisher has been instrumental in founding two tobacco control organizations and continues to work tirelessly on this important policy.

I-CASH created the Hall of Fame Award in 2002 as a lifetime achievement award for individuals or organizations that have made significant and lasting contributions to agricultural safety and health in Iowa. For more information on the Hall of Fame Award visit the I-CASH website at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Hall-of-Fame/2012.html](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Hall-of-Fame/2012.html)

## calendar

January 10-12, 2013

**Practical Farmers of Iowa 2013 Annual Conference**  
Ames, IA  
<http://practicalfarmers.org>

January 17

**Finding Common Ground Forum**  
**Series: Improving Animal and Worker Health and Welfare**  
St. Paul, MN  
<http://umash.umn.edu/commonground/>

January 17-18

**North Carolina Agricultural Medicine Training - Session 1**  
Greenville, NC  
[www.ecu.edu/ncagromedicine](http://www.ecu.edu/ncagromedicine)

January 23-24

**2013 Iowa Pork Congress**  
Des Moines, IA  
[www.iowaporkcongress.org](http://www.iowaporkcongress.org)

February 6 - April 9

**Vermont Agricultural Medicine Training webinars**  
[www.cvahec.org](http://www.cvahec.org)

February - March

**North Carolina Agricultural Medicine Training webinars - Sessions 2-7**  
[www.ecu.edu/ncagromedicine](http://www.ecu.edu/ncagromedicine)

April 4-5

**North Carolina Agricultural Medicine Training - Session 8**  
Greenville, NC  
[www.ecu.edu/ncagromedicine](http://www.ecu.edu/ncagromedicine)

April 9

**Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health**  
Ames, IA  
[www.iowapha.org](http://www.iowapha.org)

April 16-19

**Agricultural Medicine Training**  
Middlebury, VT  
[www.cvahec.org](http://www.cvahec.org)

June 10-14

**Agricultural Medicine Training**  
Iowa City, IA  
[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

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**Director's Message: MRASH continued from page 1**

- Field demonstrations using mobile confined space and grain safety equipment from the University of Illinois, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, and the National Center for Agricultural Safety and Health were held at Amana Farms, Inc.
- A meeting of key stakeholders to finalize policy recommendations on grain safety was held on the final day of MRASH.

The conference provided networking opportunities and collaboration among the NIOSH Agricultural Health and Safety Centers of the upper Midwest states, confined space and grain handling safety specialists, farm safety advocates, university researchers, and the rescue and emergency response community. Conference work sessions provided updates to the core curriculum in agricultural health and safety academic training, progress on development of the Iowa AgriSafe Affiliate, and advancement of the National Certified Safe Farm Coalition.



The Ohio Grain C.A.R.T. (Comprehensive Ag Rescue Trailer) was one of the grain engulfment demonstrations at MRASH. In this picture Mike Bailey describes to conference participants the benefit of getting the audience involved in the interactive training program.

For complete coverage of MRASH 2012 proceedings, please visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/licash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/licash) or [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/GCAH](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/GCAH)

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