

# 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)

## 2012 Agricultural Medicine Training

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Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) initiated an educational outreach program in agricultural medicine in 1988. The growth of this program was advanced with funding from the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health Building Capacity Project. The project aim was to establish capacity in other regions to train health providers in agricultural medicine, and to establish new AgriSafe providers and clinics.

Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals was held June 11-15 in Iowa City, IA. Twenty-nine health care professionals from Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Indonesia, Israel and The Gambia attended the training. In addition to the didactic training, the participants toured Amana Farms to learn how to identify safety hazards, followed by a barbeque dinner.



Participants in the Agricultural Medicine course enjoy a tour of Amana Farms, Inc, led by Rich Gassman, Amana Farms Crop Manager.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) will also host an Agricultural Medicine Training July 16-19, in Omaha, NE. Six additional hours of online training will accompany the on site training. For information on the Agricultural Medicine Training program, visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education). Course details for the UNMC training are available at [unmc.edu/cce/agrimed](http://unmc.edu/cce/agrimed).

## Building Capacity is Back

by Kelley Donham, MS, DVM, DACVPM

One project that I have been involved with, that has exceeded my expectations, is the Building Capacity for Health and Safety Professionals (BC). This program was the Education/Translation project of the NIOSH funded Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) from 2006 – 2011. During that period of time, 87 new instructors, and over 400 students (from 34 states/territories, and 11 foreign countries) were trained in agricultural safety and health.

The BC program created new sustained training opportunities in Illinois, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Australia. A new proposal to expand BC, submitted in the competitive renewal of the GPCAH, fell one point short of receiving funding; however, we recently received word that BC would be funded for years 2 – 5 (Oct. 2012 – Sept. 2016). The renewed funding will allow us to:



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- Convene a national agricultural health curriculum advisory committee to review current material and build consensus on the “essential core” curriculum for the basic agricultural medicine course.
- Create instructional materials for trainers and trainees, including a new edition of the Agricultural Medicine textbook.
- Create an Academy of Agricultural Medicine Instructors in multiple regions of the U.S.

We look forward to working with many of our colleagues around the country to further expand trainings in Agricultural Medicine.

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I-CASH, the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, and the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (University of Nebraska Medical Center) will host the **11th Annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference** November 14-16 at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, Cedar Rapids, IA. This conference will provide an opportunity for researchers, health care practitioners, agricultural producers, and agricultural businesses to communicate on rural and agricultural needs, rural health care and agricultural safety and health. The focus of the conference is research to practice (r2p) and confined space safety. We encourage abstracts with this subject matter, but will accept abstracts for all rural and agricultural health and safety research, surveillance, education, outreach, and intervention presentations. **The deadline for abstract submission is July 16, 2012.** Conference details can be found at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2012/index.html](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2012/index.html) or by contacting Aaron Kline at [aaron-kline@uiowa.edu](mailto:aaron-kline@uiowa.edu) or 319/335-4065.

Since 1990, I-CASH has designated funds each year for communities to develop farm injury prevention and education programs for Iowa youth. I-CASH is pleased to announce the following recipients for the 2012 **Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grant** program aimed at decreasing the risk of illness and injury to young people living on Iowa farms or involved in production agriculture: Clay County Countrymen 4-H Club, Delaware County Chapter Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, Lucas County Agricultural Extension District, Monona County Extension, North-Linn FFA Chapter, South Hardin FFA Chapter, Town & Country Farm Safety for Kids, and Wapello County 4-H.

**FReSH is out!** A new online resource is available to help answer farm safety and health questions. eXtension, a national research and educational based website supported by 74 land grant universities, has launched a website specifically for Farm Safety and Health at [www.extension.org/farm\\_safety\\_and\\_health](http://www.extension.org/farm_safety_and_health). The new Community of Practice, Farm and Ranch eXtension for Safety and Health (acronym is FReSH) resource provides answers to frequently asked farm safety questions, relevant articles on a variety of safety and health topics, and a calendar of farm safety events.

Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health requests proposals for their Pilot/Feasibility Projects Program. A total of \$60,000 is available, with a maximum \$20,000 per project. The letter of intent is due August 15, 2012; proposal due date is September 15, 2012. For more information visit [www.unmc.edu/publichealth/cscash](http://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/cscash)



## Using the Web to Reach Farmers

“The Next Generation: Farm Safety and Health” website at [www.fs4jk.wordpress.com](http://www.fs4jk.wordpress.com) has been officially launched. The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) funded pilot project is designed to evaluate whether or not blogging is an effective tool in farm safety education. The GPCAH, the University of Missouri, and Farm Safety 4 Just Kids have partnered to create this blog as a place for farmers and ranchers to discuss farm safety and health. Together, the organizations will offer information, tips, and stories to get the conversations started; others are encouraged to use this space to share farm safety and health ideas. The farm safety and health topics will range from child labor laws, changing agricultural demographics, manure storage, and beyond. Each post encourages people to add comments from their own perspective and dialogue about farm hazards and prevention strategies.

Please encourage people from your rural communities to comment on the blog at [www.fs4jk.wordpress.com](http://www.fs4jk.wordpress.com) and ask family members, friends, and acquaintances to participate in the process. Each month, \$25 is awarded to one randomly selected commenter.



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media activities.

Partnerships – are the classic methods of knowledge translation where researchers develop partnerships with a group or groups whose members utilize the research. Dr. Lum noted that, “You don’t need a ton of partners if you get the right partner. Motivated partners will assist in transferring information to users.”

Integrated Efforts – are knowledge management structures that include elements of Push, Pull, and Partnerships to nurture connections, interactions, and continuity. He noted examples at the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH - [www.nycamb.com](http://www.nycamb.com)) and the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety ([www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs)) that provide great examples of integrated efforts.

Dr. Lum concluded the webinar with a brief distinction between the “front end and back end aspects of research translation.” He believes that much work has been done in addressing the front end aspects which ensures research is conducted “that is relevant to stakeholders and results in the reduction of workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.” However, more work is required in addressing the back end aspects dealing with, “the synthesis and application of knowledge by relevant stakeholders to accelerate the benefit of improving people’s health and safety.” The difficulty in addressing the back end is due to a resource issue, both fiscal and human. Dr. Lum concludes, “The bottom line is that many elements of the research translation process aren’t really about research...it’s more about marketing and evaluation.”

Dr. Conway concluded the webinar with r2p examples from the NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Safety and Health Program. Two of the examples originated from NYCAMH; specifically, an ergonomic apple bucket for picking apples and an ergonomic blueberry rake for harvesting blueberries. The blueberry rake was redesigned to include a two handles vs. the traditional one handle as well as extending the handle height; this redesign resulted in increased productivity for the worker while reducing occupational injuries.

Dr. Conway followed with an overview of a grain engulfment training program for emergency response personnel developed at the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety. This training program disseminated research and information to agricultural producers and emergency responders through development of a mobile demonstration, hands-on demonstration, and didactic training for grain bin safety procedures. These examples demonstrate an integrated effort for knowledge translation which includes Pull, Push, and Partnerships.

In addition to biannual webinars, the GPCAH offers several additional services to enhance r2p including the following:

- An information resources service to research areas of r2p interest.
  - A compendium on translatable research, programs that can match the needs in our region.
  - A “hot line” phone consulting service.
  - A major regional scientific conference that will have an r2p focus.
- The Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference will be held November 14 – 16, 2012 in Cedar Rapids, IA.

For more information on the r2p program, or to view recordings of this and other webinars, please visit our website at <http://cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/community/#events>.

## calendar

July 16-19

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

Omaha, NE

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education/agmedtraining.html](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education/agmedtraining.html)

July 29 - August 1

**2012 American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Annual International Meeting**

Dallas, TX

[www.asabe.org/meetings-events/2012/07/2012-asabe-annual-international-meeting.aspx](http://www.asabe.org/meetings-events/2012/07/2012-asabe-annual-international-meeting.aspx)

August 7

**Iowa Women in Agriculture 6th Annual Conference**

*Navigating the Future*

Ankeny, IA

[www.iowawomeninag.org](http://www.iowawomeninag.org)

August 28-30

**Farm Progress Show**

Boone, IA

[www.farmprogressshow.com](http://www.farmprogressshow.com)

September 16-22

**National Farm Safety & Health Week**

*Agricultural Safety & Health - A Family Affair*

[www.necasag.org](http://www.necasag.org)

September 20

**2012 Iowa Rural Health Association & Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics Annual Conference**

Johnston, IA

[www.iowapha.org](http://www.iowapha.org)

November 14-16

**Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference - Reaping the Rewards**

Cedar Rapids, IA

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



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## Research to Practice

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### Moving Research in Agricultural Safety and Health to Practice

Over the past 20 years, a large investment in agricultural safety and health research has been made in the U.S. and internationally. However, translating what is known into what NIOSH calls “...highly effective prevention practices and products which are adopted into the workplace” ([www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p)), has been challenging in the agricultural setting. To address this concern, the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) has introduced the Community Partnerships: Research-to-Practice with Regional Agricultural Health Organizations program (r2p program). Our aim is to enhance partnerships with community-based agricultural health and safety organizations who have already established relationships with agricultural producers, their families and workers in order to assist producers in improving safety and health performance in agriculture.

This month’s column reviews one of two informational webinars produced as part of the r2p program, “Moving Research in Agricultural Safety and Health to Practice: The NIOSH r2p Program” presented by Dr. Max Lum (Distinguished Consultant in Communications and Research Translation) and Dr. George Conway (Director of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Safety and Health Program) of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Dr. Lum opened with an overview of the NIOSH r2p program including examples from a knowledge translation model developed by John Lavis of McMaster University. According to Lavis, knowledge translation models can be categorized by the following attributes.

Push – are methods to supply research findings to users in accessible manners such as journal articles, brochures, or Wikipedia pages. Dr. Lum stressed that, “Any research we do, we should have a Wikipedia page; either a page or an edit to a page...if our information isn’t there, we are missing an opportunity to translate the knowledge.”

Pull – are methods driven by the user’s demand for information (i.e. users “reaching in” for information). To energize users to “reach in” for information, Dr. Lum recommends using good packaging, marketing, and social