

## Farm Progress Show Health and Safety Tent

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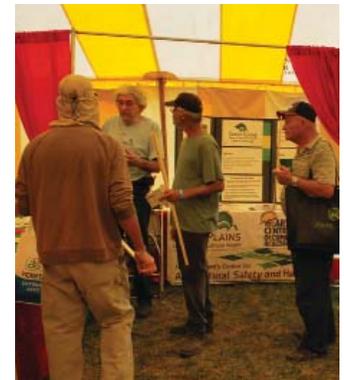
by Brandi Janssen, PhD

This year's Farm Progress Show in Boone, IA was the usual cacophony of machinery, demonstrations, music, giveaways and food. Despite torrential rains that caused the show to close early on Thursday, the turnout during the first two days was excellent; folks just donned their mud boots and enjoyed the experience anyway.

The Health and Safety Tent, hosted by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and managed by Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program Coordinator Kathy Leinenkugel, was centrally located and busy. A vintage Ford 8N, fitted with a ROPS, marked the tent's entrance where health and safety professionals from around the Midwest talked with visitors about farm safety and rural health. The IDPH emphasized stress management, handing out stress "squeeze balls" shaped like tractors and stress-measuring magnets. IDPH

Intern and Drake University student McKyla Carson designed a poster outlining causes of stress for farmers and possible solutions. The Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, along with Farm Safety for Just Kids, reminded show attendees about the importance of hearing protection in agriculture.

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) and Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) focused on heat related illness. GPCAH invited pork producers to



Ralph Altmaier greets visitors at the Farm Progress Show Health and Safety Tent in Boone, IA.

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## National Farm Safety and Health Week September 21-27

by Fred Gerr, MD

Fall is a critical time for agricultural producers and an ideal time of year for National Farm Safety and Health Week. The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety in Peosta, Iowa (a Great Plains Center partner), is leading the annual week-long outreach effort to bring important safety and health information to the nation's agricultural producers.

### Schedule of Events

**Monday, September 22:** Murray Madsen will offer a webinar entitled *Rural Roadway Safety: Collisions between Motor Vehicles and Farm Equipment on US Roads*. Murray is a nationally recognized leader in agricultural safety and health surveillance.

**Tuesday, September 23:** Carolyn Sheridan, Clinical Director of the AgriSafe Network, will offer a webinar on health and wellness for agricultural producers: *Health Assessment and Wellness Programs for Agricultural Business*.

**Wednesday, September 24:** David Schwebel, Professor of Psychology at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, will offer the webinar *Child Safety: Child Development and Tractor Operation*.

**Thursday, September 25:** Dan Neenan, Director of the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety will offer a webinar on *Grain Bin Safety: Grain Bin Entry*. Dan is a national expert on grain bin safety and grain engulfment rescue.

**Friday, September 26:** Julie Sorenson, Director of the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine,



Fred Gerr, MD

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**Save the Date**  
**Agricultural Medicine:  
 Occupational and Environmental  
 Health for Rural Health Professionals**



**June 8-12, 2015  
 Iowa City, IA**

<http://cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/training>

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

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will present the webinar *Tractor Safety: Whole system in a room – using a dynamic, multi-stakeholder, collaboration process to develop a national tractor safety initiative*. Julie and her co-workers have developed the nation's most successful tractor safety program, including a state-funded ROPS retrofit program that has successfully equipped over 1,000 tractors with ROPS.

Visit [www.necasag.org/aboutnecas/national-farmsafetyandhealthweek2014](http://www.necasag.org/aboutnecas/national-farmsafetyandhealthweek2014) for detailed information on webinars.

In his Proclamation for Farm Safety and Health Week, President Obama stated:

*Each day, our farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers face multiple dangers. They work with heavy machinery, livestock, and toxic materials, and in potentially dangerous environments like grain elevators and processing facilities. Physically demanding and all-encompassing, farm work requires the resourcefulness and grit that has been essential to our Nation's success. This week, we pay tribute to the tremendous work ethic of America's farmers, and encourage safe farm practices for all.*

The Great Plains Center at the University of Iowa is a national resource focused on prevention of injury and illness among agricultural producers in the Midwest United States. The Great Plains Center team of safety and health professionals is committed to partnering with agricultural producers, agricultural safety and health professionals, agricultural businesses, and government agencies to deliver the most effective agricultural safety and health programs possible. We have a wide range of educational materials available online at <http://cph.uiowa.edu/gpcab> and offer in-person training and small grant opportunities. Feel free to contact us for more information.

*Dr. Fred Gerr directs the GPCAH, housed in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health of the College of Public Health. He can be reached at 319/335-4212 ([fred-gerr@uiowa.edu](mailto:fred-gerr@uiowa.edu)).*

**NewsUpdatesNewsUpdatesNews**

Farm Safety for Just Kids is providing more resources and educational packets on their website. Free grain safety resources and educational packets are now available. The educational packets include background information, lesson plans, and ready-to-use activities. These materials provide a fun way to help youth understand the hazards of being around and working with grain. Additional safety resources for ATV use, animals, rural roads and tractors are also available on the website at [www.farmsafetyforjustkids.org](http://www.farmsafetyforjustkids.org).



This summer GPCAH outreach staff traveled to county fairs, ag safety days, and farm shows in Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska, to provide information on preventing hearing loss and heat illnesses. Ear plugs and water bottles were distributed to hundreds of visitors to remind them to stay hydrated in the heat and protect

their hearing in loud environments. For more information on GPCAH outreach activities, contact Marsha Cheyney, Evaluation and Outreach Coordinator at 319/384-4377 or [marsha-cheyney@uiowa.edu](mailto:marsha-cheyney@uiowa.edu).



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**GREAT PLAINS**  
 Center for Agricultural Health

Farm Families Alive & Well is published 4 times per year  
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# Transforming Safety and Health in the Heartland

by Gayle Olson, MS, CHES

If you have ever attended the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference or the Iowa Rural Health Association's Fall Meeting, you know the excellent opportunity each offers to learn leading edge research and intervention information, and the wonderful networking that occurs. This

year, the best of these two conferences will come together at *Transforming Safety and Health in the Heartland*.

The joint conference will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, November 19-20, 2014 at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa. Conference highlights include the following events:

- Wednesday keynote by Charles Fluharty, President and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Center (RUPRI) speaking on the Impact of Health Care Policy Changes on Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health.
- Thursday keynote by Stephene Moore, Region VII Director of the US Department of Health & Human Services with an update on Health-care and Rural Communities.
- Concurrent breakouts, poster sessions and promising practices presented by safety and health professionals across the Midwest with topics ranging from emergency services to hearing protection to ATV safety.
- A primer on health and wellness plans and how the insurance marketplace works.
- A celebration of National Rural Health Day, recognizing people who have contributed greatly to rural health and agricultural safety.
- Networking opportunities throughout the conference, including small group discussions.

The conference is targeted to participants representing many different perspectives of agricultural safety and health including farmers; health care professionals; agricultural safety and health, occupational/environmental health professionals; educators; agricultural engineers; commodity group and agribusiness representatives; employers and advocates of migrant farm workers; media; and local, state and national policy makers.

Hosts of the conference include the Iowa Rural Health Association, Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, and the Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety.

**There is still time to become a sponsor or an exhibitor!** Conference information is available at <http://cph.uiowa.edu/Icash/events/MRASH-IRHA/2014>.

*Gayle Olson is the Assistant to the Director at Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, housed in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health of the College of Public Health. She can be reached at [gayle-olson@uiowa.edu](mailto:gayle-olson@uiowa.edu)*



## calendar

September 21-27

**National Farm Safety & Health Week**  
*Safety Counts Protecting What Matters*

September 26-28

**World Beef Expo**  
Milwaukee, WI  
[www.worldbeefexpo.com](http://www.worldbeefexpo.com)

October 3-5

**Ozark Fall Farmfest**  
Springfield, MO  
[www.ozarkempirefair.com](http://www.ozarkempirefair.com)

October 19-22

**Safety & Health in Agricultural & Rural Populations: Global Perspectives (SHARP)**  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada  
[www.sharp2014.usask.ca](http://www.sharp2014.usask.ca)

November 15-19

**American Public Health Association Annual Meeting**  
New Orleans, LA  
[www.apha.org/meetings/annual](http://www.apha.org/meetings/annual)

November 17-18

**Agricultural Medicine Training**  
Fort Worth, TX  
<http://cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/training>

November 19-20

**Transforming Safety and Health in the Heartland**  
Ankeny, IA  
<http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH-IRHA/2014>

November 20

**National Rural Health Day**  
<http://celebratepowerofrural.org>

November 20

**Rebalancing Health Care in the Heartland 7: Fulfilling the Promise of Health Care Innovation**  
Des Moines, IA  
<http://rebalancinghealthcare.uiowa.edu>

November 20-22

**Annual Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum**  
San Antonio, TX  
[www.ncfh.org](http://www.ncfh.org)

January 28-29, 2015

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

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participate in focus groups to discuss air filtration systems for hog barns, currently in development at the University of Iowa. I-CASH also promoted the rural roadway safety billboards, a collaboration between I-CASH and the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, that remind drivers to *Be Patient. Slow Down. Buckle Up* to prevent crashes on rural roads.

Students from Iowa State University displayed new tractor-rollover technologies, including a sensor that alerts the operator when the tractor is at a dangerous angle, and can also alert emergency personnel in the event of a rollover. Charlotte Halverson from the AgriSafe Network handed out informational packets and IDPH promoted colon cancer screening and Quitline Iowa, the statewide smoking cessation program.

Outside the tent, Dan Neenan from the National Educational Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) parked a manure pit safety demonstration trailer. The trailer is designed to simulate conditions in a manure pit and is partially filled with water during demonstrations. NECAS staff use the trailer to train farmers and emergency personnel about safe procedures when entering confined spaces. Iowa's Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) provided information on a manure pit fatality involving a farmer and one of his employees in eastern Iowa. Safety messaging spread beyond the tent with the Rural Health Clinic of Greater Johnson County trailer parked in the Annex, just outside the show gates.

Progressive Farmer recognizes the importance of promoting farm safety and donates the tent space, tables and chairs for the Health and Safety Tent each year. Interacting with attendees at the Farm Progress Show is an opportunity to share our message, and, more importantly, to listen to farmers and learn from them.

