

Join us at MRASH in Sioux Center

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by Gayle Olson, MS, I-CASH Assistant to the Director



Safeguarding Farm Livelihoods is the theme for the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference on November 15-16 at the Terrace View Event Center in Sioux Center, IA. This will be the fifteenth year for the annual conference which brings together farmers and ag suppliers with health

care professionals, researchers and educators, all united around a single goal of keeping farm families and workers safe and healthy. The morning session on November 15th will focus on prevention by design, and afternoon breakout sessions will address current research and outreach efforts in the Midwest. The first day of the conference concludes with an evening poster session.

The second day of the conference will begin with a keynote session on immigrant health issues. Three concurrent panels focused on immigrant farm worker health, behavioral health, and grain handling safety will be held in the morning followed by small group discussions. At the luncheon the Outstanding I-CASH Youth Project will be awarded and youth involved with the project will provide a short presentation. The afternoon will feature a Farmers' Health Fair and Safety Exposition, free to area farmers and farm workers.

For more information or to register, visit the conference website at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icasb/2016-mrash or contact Gayle Olson, Conference Coordinator at gayle-olson@uiowa.edu.

Director's Message

by Renée Anthony, PhD, CIH, CSP

This month, farm safety and health are highlighted nationally in the 73rd annual National Farm Safety and Health Week, September 18-24. Extension websites, education centers, and advocates for farm safety have compiled stories and resources to identify best practices to keep farmers safe and healthy. Live web events will be hosted on websites including NECASAG.org, with topics including respiratory health, protecting youth, and grain bin hazards, among others.

The GPCAH works year-round to understand health and safety risks on the farm, to assess the usefulness of interventions to reduce the risk of injury and illness, and to develop messages focused on effective protection of agricultural workers. For example, Stephanie Leonard and Brandi Janssen develop articles for Iowa Farmer Today's Safety Watch, which focus safety messaging within case studies from farmers' perspectives. Center faculty and staff generate fact sheets to share information on many persistent and emerging agricultural hazards. The website contains narratives that summarize research findings with recommendations to farmers, equipment manufacturers, and policy makers to make the farm a safer environment.

This summer, the GPCAH has worked to develop new "visual displays" to provide prevention guidance to farmers using infographic techniques. These succinct displays rely on images and few words to quickly convey risk and prevention messages. They are suitable for sharing via social media, printing for displays, and using in face-to-face interactions. The "Formable Plugs" image on page 3 shows a portion of a hearing protection selection graphic that displays essential factors to consider when selecting a type of hearing protector. In



Renée Anthony PhD,
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National Farm Safety & Health Week is September 18-24.

The theme *Farm Safety...A Legacy to be Proud of* reminds local and rural communities that agriculture is one of the most dangerous occupations in the US and that farm injuries and fatalities are preventable through education. The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) and the AgriSafe Network will be providing webinars each day of the week. For more information on NECAS and National Farm Safety & Health Week events visit www.necasag.org. See the complete schedule of webinar topics and registration information at www.agrisafe.org/nfshweek2016.



Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) is seeking nominations for the **2016 Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award**. This award recognizes individuals or organizations in the public or private sector in Iowa who have made substantial, long-term contributions to the health and safety of Iowa's agricultural community. For more information visit www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/agricultural-safety-health-hall-of-fame-award. **Submissions are due October 1st.**



The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and other state/national rural stakeholders remind you to "Celebrate the Power of Rural" during the sixth annual National Rural Health Day celebration on Thursday, November 17, 2016. NOSORH created National Rural Health Day as a way to showcase the good work of America's 62 million rural citizens and promote the efforts of NOSORH, State Offices of Rural Health and others in addressing those concerns. Additional information about the National Rural Health Day can be found at nosorb.org/nrhd.

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GREAT PLAINS
Center for Agricultural Health

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Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GPCAH

To receive this newsletter through the US Mail notify kay-mohling@uiowa.edu

Youth Grants Announced

Each year I-CASH designates funds for community grants aimed at the prevention of farm-related injury. This year nine projects were awarded.

- **Stay Safe, Take a Break** - Washington County 4-H & Extension
- **SMV and Roadway Safety Material Distribution** - Marengo FFA
- **Hidden Hazards Display** - ISU Extension & Outreach, Buchanan County
- **Farm Safety Field Trip for 4th Graders** - ISU Extension & Outreach, Clayton County
- **Farm Safety Day** - Oskaloosa FFA
- **Farm Safety Day** - ISU Extension & Outreach, Mitchell County
- **Livestock Safety Booklet** - Delaware County Fair Society
- **Ag Safety Day** - Cherokee County Farm Bureau
- **First Aid and Animal Safety** - Butler County 4-H Youth Council

The outstanding project will receive a cash award at the 2016 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference on November 16, 2016. For more information visit i-cash.org

Agricultural Medicine Course

June 12-16, 2017

Iowa City, Iowa

Information and skills to enable safety and health professionals to anticipate, recognize, and prevent occupational illnesses and injuries among members of the agricultural community.

www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcah/continuing-education



conjunction with an outreach project this summer, a regional farm supply store has agreed to display these in poster form by their hearing protection products. We have customized the



images in that poster to match the models for sale in a store. This will help shoppers understand the differences between specific hearing protection types available to them. Contact us if you know someone who would like customizable displays.

In addition to a hearing protection series, other infographics have been developed in 2016. The Farm Equipment Crash Study team has key recommendations on safe rural driving (see R2P article on page 4). A Gas Monitors in Agriculture series has been prepared in response to questions from pork producers at farm events, following several manure pit fatalities in 2015. Additional infographics will be available in the coming months, summarizing surveillance study findings, whole body vibration, and air quality in livestock buildings.

If you haven't looked at the GPCAH.org web site in a while, take a few minutes to check it out before Farm Safety and Health week gets underway. You will find the "Visual Data" on the "For Farmers" tab. All materials on the GPCAH site are available to distribute and use in efforts to protect the safety and health of farmers. Let us know if you have any comments on our current displays or if you have an idea/need for a new topic.

Dr. Renée Anthony directs the GPCAH, housed in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health of the College of Public Health. She can be reached at 319/335-4429 (renee-anthony@uiowa.edu).

Farm Equipment Crash Study continued from page 4

Beginning at the Farm Progress Show, farmers visiting GPCAH booths throughout the region will receive reflective marking kits. This will help everyone understand that these markings fade over time and replacing reflective stickers on equipment is part of maintaining a safe vehicle.

We would like to thank David Scott of SMV Industries in Council Bluffs, IA. David's family-owned company started in 1963, after use of the SMV emblem was mandated. David and his staff have assembled over 300 reflective marking kits for our outreach team to distribute at the farm shows.

*"It is easy to say, 'I can't control what the other drivers do.' But we really do need to do everything we can to make sure that drivers see us when we are on the roads. This [information card] will help my boys know what needs to be replaced."
- Farmer and mother of 4, from South Dakota*

calendar

September 12-14
Ag Innovation Showcase
St. Louis, MO
www.agshowcase.com

September 13-15
Husker Harvest Days
Grand Island, NE
<http://huskerharvestdays.com>

September 18-24
National Farm Safety and Health Week 2016
www.necasag.org/nationalfarmsafety-andhealthweek

October 4-6
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) Annual Conference
Charlottetown, PEI, Canada
<http://conference.casa-acsa.ca>

October 4-8
World Dairy Expo
Madison, WI
<http://worlddairyexpo.com>

October 7-9
Ozark Fall Farmfest
Springfield, MO
www.ozarkempirefair.com

October 29-November 2
American Public Health Association Annual Meeting
Denver, CO
www.apha.org

October 31-November 2
Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health
San Antonio, TX
www.ncfh.org

November 15-16
Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health Conference
Sioux Center, IA
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/2016-mrash

November 17
National Rural Health Day
<https://nosorh.org/nrhd-resources>

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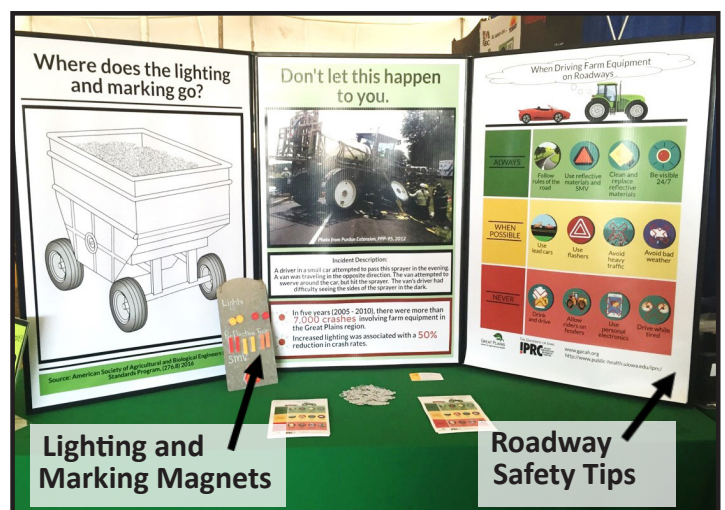
Research to Practice

Farm Equipment Crash Study continues outreach activities at regional farm shows

by Jenna Gibbs, MPH, PhD and Marsha Cheyney, MPH

Surveillance data indicate that transportation is the leading cause of work-related deaths among farmers. For the past five years, Dr. Marizen Ramirez and her Farm Crash research team have examined factors linked to more than 7,000 crashes involving farm equipment throughout our region. One important finding was that more farm equipment lighting and marking reduces the likelihood of crashes.

As this project comes to an end, the GPCAH has developed materials to share what we found. This summer, and continuing into the fall, we have been engaging farmers at regional agricultural shows to remind everyone of best-practices driving farm equipment on roadways. We have incorporated a “Pin the Lighting on the Grain Cart” activity to make sure everyone understands the many places to mark.



GPCAH Farm Equipment Crash Prevention Display at Dakotafest in Mitchell, SD.

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