

# 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)

## Decorah Welcomes MRASH

by Gayle Olson, I-CASH Assistant to the Director

Vol. 22, Issue 1 - December 2015

We did it! We “Worked Together for a Safer Tomorrow” with so many collaborators to make the 14th annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference (MRASH) a success. Holding the conference in a rural community was a wonderful experience, and the Hotel Winneshiak and Luther College were delightful venues. The involvement of local farmers, the Luther College Student Nursing Association, Decorah Mayor and Area Chamber of Commerce, regional ISU Extension staff, many local foods and riding the Decorah Trolley all contributed to an excellent exploration of the rural area.

Keynote speaker Dr. Joni Scheftel, Minnesota State Public Health Veterinarian, kicked off the conference with an overview of the Avian Influenza outbreak. Carolyn Sheridan, AgriSafe Clinical Director, facilitated a follow-up panel consisting of stakeholders involved with the outbreak. Panel members helped to analyze how we can work together even more effectively in the future to address human health concerns associated with other potential crises. A wide variety of research and outreach projects were presented in afternoon breakout sessions and at the evening poster reception held



Conference participants were welcomed by Decorah Mayor Don Arendt.

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## Director's Message

by Brandi Janssen, PhD

Harvest has wrapped up for another year and most equipment is now parked for the winter. At I-CASH, we're kicking off another seasonal campaign, this one devoted to preventing farm fires, especially in barns and outbuildings. Winter brings an increased risk of fires in both residences and farm buildings. We're focusing especially on the risks posed by heating units and indoor welding and cutting work. The fall rural roadway safety campaign is highlighted on page 4, in the Research to Practice column.

As our cover story shows, I-CASH, along with the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, hosted a successful 14th Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health conference in Decorah, IA. I think I can say with some confidence that we will be holding MRASH in rural communities in future years.

I-CASH also kept a busy outreach schedule during the summer and fall. In July, we co-hosted a workshop for journalists in collaboration with the Iowa Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program. The event brought together journalists, first responders, health and safety practitioners, and farmers to talk about how to report agricultural injuries and fatalities in the media. We had an outstanding group of journalists representing Iowa Farmer Today, the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman, the Iowa City Press-Citizen, the Mount Pleasant News and Penton Farm Progress. Several of them have since written excellent articles related to farm safety.

In the Fall, we sponsored the annual Women Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN) conference and I spoke as part of a class called “Heartbeat of the Farm,” a four part series for farm women hosted by



Brandi Janssen  
PhD

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I-CASH is pleased to welcome four new board members in 2015: **Barbara J. Lykins**, Director of Community Resources, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; **Sonia Reyes-Snyder**, Regional Director and Pesticide Trainer, Proteus, Inc.; **Rachel Young**, Assistant Professor, University of Iowa School of Journalism; **Rawlin Kinney**, Health, Safety, Environment, and Security Lead, Syngenta.

After 8 years as Director at the IDPH State Office of Rural Health, **Gloria Vermie** is starting a new chapter as Quality Improvement Advisor with the State Innovation Model at Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC). IHC is committed to providing Iowa communities with the tools and necessary depth of understanding needed to improve outcomes, increase patient safety, and decrease the cost of healthcare for all Iowans. Gloria was a member of the I-CASH Advisory Committee for seven years.

The **Safety In Agriculture for Youth (SAY)** project has been awarded a one-year grant to continue developing a National Clearinghouse of agricultural safety and health curricula intended to provide agricultural educators with teaching resources that align with the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster Content Standards. Formal curriculum and supporting resources can be submitted for potential inclusion, which can increase the usage of materials by secondary educators. Shari Burgus, Education Director at Farm Safety For Just Kids, serves on the SAY National Steering Committee, which met in October to help articulate the language of future requests for awards from USDA NIFA. At that meeting the committee also discussed the development of a consensus-based youth work guidance document that reflects modern-day agriculture. Visit the SAY Project at <http://articles.extension.org/pages/70004/safety-in-agriculture-for-youth> to access the National Clearinghouse.

The IDPH website recently migrated to a new server, which means many web pages have new addresses. Make sure to update the following Public Health links: Iowa Department for Public Health <http://idph.iowa.gov>; Environmental Health Services Bureau <http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs>; Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance <http://idph.iowa.gov/lpp/occupational-health>; Pesticide Poisoning Surveillance <http://idph.iowa.gov/lpp/pesticide-poisoning>; and Rural Health and Primary Care <http://idph.iowa.gov/obds/rural-health-primary-care>

## Outstanding Youth Grant Awarded



This year I-CASH awarded the Outstanding Youth Grant Award to the Lone Tree FFA Chapter. Led by ag instructor Bridget Mahoney, the chapter used their grant funds to support an annual farm safety day presented to 5th graders. FFA students design and provide instruction for short safety-focused lessons; the I-CASH funds were used to purchase livestock panels that can be used for many years to support safety sessions related to farm animals.

This award emphasizes youth participation and was selected from the nine 2015 youth grant recipients. Award winners receive a cash prize plus an invitation to attend MRASH to present their project.

Visit [I-CASH.org](http://I-CASH.org) in January for the 2016 Agricultural Youth Grant applications.

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

Annie's Project at ISU Extension and Outreach. I-CASH also supported an Equipment 101 Workshop, hosted by our partners at Amana Farms and the Iowa Valley RC&D.

We remain busy through the winter and will sponsor the Practical Farmers of Iowa Conference and be part of the 2016 Iowa Farm Bureau Young Farmer Conference in January. Finally, be on the look-out for the call for Agricultural Youth Grants after the first of the year!

*Dr. Brandi Janssen directs I-CASH, housed in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health of the College of Public Health. She can be reached at 319/335-4190 ([brandi-janssen@uiowa.edu](mailto:brandi-janssen@uiowa.edu)).*



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To receive this newsletter through the US Mail, notify [kay-mohling@uiowa.edu](mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu)

at Luther College. The music, food, and several exhibits from the Decorah area each added their own spark.

Wednesday morning, Paul Johnson, Decorah area farmer, former Chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service, and a survivor of a serious tractor injury received a standing ovation for his remarks. He related his experience the day of his injuries and encouraged conference attendees to continue their important work, but also to appreciate the progress that has been made in both environmental and agricultural health and safety. Conference participants learned about lifestyle, safety and health concerns from the beginning farmer and dairy farmer panels. Small group discussions were held on a variety of topics to plan important follow-up steps to the conference. The conference ended with a 25th anniversary luncheon and a presentation from the Lone Tree FFA Chapter, winners of the 2015 I-CASH Outstanding Youth Award.

Many positive outcomes resulted from holding the conference in a rural area. Besides the conference itself, we learned a great deal about some of the important organizations and support available in Northeast Iowa. Working with the Luther College nursing program was not only helpful to us, but we made connections to assist them with guest speakers, and helped to integrate content into their program. Special thanks to the planning committee, conference sponsors and exhibitors, presenters and all participants in what we think was a very hands-on conference. Decorah, Hotel Winneshiek and Luther College were fantastic hosts. As we wrap up this year's MRASH, we are already planning for next year's conference site and program.



Small group discussions were held on a variety of topics.



Conference participants enjoyed a poster reception with refreshments and live music.

## calendar

January 5-7, 2016

**Dakota Farm Show**  
Vermillion, SD  
dakotafarmshow.com

January 6-7

**Northern Illinois Farm Show**  
DeKalb, IL  
www.ideagroup.com/illinois

January 22-23

**Practical Farmers of Iowa Conference**  
Ames, IA  
http://practicalfarmers.org

January 25

**2016 Public Health Day on the Hill**  
Des Moines, IA  
www.iowapha.org/Events

January 27-28

**Iowa Pork Congress**  
Des Moines, IA  
www.iowaporkcongress.org

January 29-30

**Iowa Farm Bureau Young Farmer Conference**  
Des Moines, IA  
www.iowafarmbureau.com/Farmer-Resources/Farm-Bureau-Leaders/Young-Farmer-Program

February 2-4

**Iowa Power Farming Show**  
Des Moines, IA  
http://iowapowershow.com

March 1-3

**Hawkeye Farm Show**  
Cedar Falls, IA  
http://hawkeyefarmshow.com

April 11-14

**2016 AgrAbility National Training Workshop**  
Fort Collins, CO  
http://agrability.org/ntw

June 13-17

**Agricultural Medicine Training**  
Iowa City, IA  
http://cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/education/iowa-ag-med-course

## Save the Date

### **Agricultural Medicine Course**

**June 13-17, 2016**

Course provides information and skills needed to enable health and safety professionals to anticipate, recognize and prevent occupational illnesses and injuries among members of the agricultural community. Graduate and CE credits are offered.

### **Networking Reception**

**June 13, 2016**

Discover innovative programs and the latest research findings while networking with colleagues and University of Iowa faculty, staff and students.

**College of Public Health Building - Iowa City, IA**

Visit <http://cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/education/iowa-ag-med-course> for details.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Research to Practice

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by Brandi Janssen, PhD



The I-CASH Seasonal Campaigns are designed to raise awareness about issues relevant to our rural communities throughout the year. In the fall of 2015, the Advisory Board selected the topic of rural roadway safety, as I-CASH has been a champion of the issue for many years.

This fall, we worked with both Farm Services Agency (FSA) and ISU Regional Extension offices to distribute information. Each office received a poster to display and a packet of rural roadway driving tips cards, designed with both automobile and equipment drivers in mind. In addition, we produced two radio PSAs directed at automobile drivers, one specifically

aimed at young drivers. The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, the UI Injury Prevention Research Center, and the Iowa Farm Bureau all contributed to these announcements, helping us reach more Iowans. The spots aired over 1800 times across the state.

Finally, we reached out to several FFA chapters across the state to help us distribute posters and Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) decals. We know that the fluorescent decals can fade over time and thought that our future farmers would be excellent delegates to farmers, encouraging them to update the emblems on their equipment. Thanks to eleven FFA chapters, we distributed 200 new SMV decals across the state.

