

NIOSH Ag Centers partner on “Telling the Story”

by Stephanie Leonard, MS, GPCAH Outreach

Outreach specialists from the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) and neighboring Midwest Ag Centers – the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH at Nebraska) and the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH at Minnesota/ Wisconsin) - are collaborating on a new translation activity to tell the story of agricultural safety.

While statistics and numbers are important to identify injury trends and emerging issues related to workplace health and safety, *Telling the Story (TTS)* will create injury prevention messages that highlight personal stories and first-hand experiences.

Who are the storytellers? Farmers, agricultural workers, and family and community members who have been impacted by injuries, fatalities, and close calls. Their experiences provide valuable information to learn what went wrong and how similar incidents can be avoided. Regardless of the type of incident, the common thread among those telling their stories is *We don't want this to happen to anyone else*.

The *TTS* team includes Aaron Yoder and Ellen Duysen at CS-CASH, Scott Heiberger and Melissa Ploeckelman at UMASH, and Stephanie Leonard at GPCAH. Their combined resources bring to the table experience in agricultural extension and outreach, journalism and media communications, incident investigation, occupational safety, and agricultural production.

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Director's Message

by Renée Anthony, PhD, CIH, CSP

The GPCAH has wrapped up projects from the 2011-2016 funding period, with a few projects rolling into the first few months of 2017. Our final progress report is available online for review (www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcab/about).

Throughout this period, we have communicated findings via *Alive and Well*, suggesting prevention methods and new study findings with the shared goal to improve agricultural workers' health and safety. In our research project portfolio, the GPCAH is dedicated to providing evidence-based recommendations to protect farmers. Collaboration with our regional partners has translated research findings into educational materials, helping workers and farm families understand critical hazards and proven prevention recommendations. Highlights of important study findings provide our partners with information and tools to improve health and safety outcomes across our region:

- Farm equipment crashes are more likely to occur when roads are straight and flat, close to town centers, have heavy traffic volume, and allow high speed. Improving lighting and marking has been shown to reduce farm vehicle crashes in our region.
- Whole body vibration generated from farm vehicles is associated with farmer back pain; winter

GPCAH Productivity (2011-2016)

- 35 peer-reviewed scientific publications
- 151 scientific presentations
- 75 community events
- 33 consultations to policy makers
- 57 media articles, written or assisted
- 7700+ interactions with farmers, farm families, and their advocates



Renée Anthony PhD,
CIH, CSP

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National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 17-23

Each year since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety & Health Week. The 2017 theme is *Putting Farm Safety into Practice*. Each day of the week will have its own focus, daily themes are listed below:



- **Monday - Tractor Safety**
- **Tuesday - Farmer Health**
- **Wednesday - Child/Youth Health and Safety**
- **Thursday - Confined Spaces in Agriculture**
- **Friday - Rural Roadway Safety**

Visit www.necasag.org for safety and health resources, public service announcements, and links to daily webinars.

I-CASH is currently accepting nominations for its Agricultural Safety & Health Hall of Fame Award. This annual award recognizes individuals or organizations in the public or private sector who have made substantial or long-term contributions to the safety and health of Iowa's agricultural community. Nomination form and instructions are available at www.i-cash.org; the deadline is October 1.

The AgriSafe Network would like to connect with Nurse Practitioners (NP) who have attended an agricultural medicine or agricultural safety and health training. AgriSafe has developed free continuing education trainings just for NP. If you are interested in learning more about these training options please contact Carolyn Sheridan, AgriSafe Clinical Director at csheridan@agrisafe.org.

Through the Migrant Health Program, Proteus Inc. provides mobile healthcare clinics around the state and can provide vouchers for additional health services. Their bilingual community health aides provide transportation and interpretation for these other services when needed. Visit www.proteusinc.net/programs/migrant-health-project for clinic information and locations.

Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health

Department of Occupational and Environmental Health
University of Iowa College of Public Health
Iowa City, IA 52242-5000

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Kay Mohling, Editor kay-mohling@uiowa.edu 319/335-4219



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

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

Eastern Iowa Feedlot Workshop Focuses on Manure Handling Safety

by Stephanie Leonard, MS, GPCAH Outreach

At a local community meeting held in Clinton County (IA) last spring, Eastern Iowa cattle feeders and commercial manure haulers expressed interest in training related to manure handling hazards and safe practices during pumping and hauling.

In response, an Eastern Iowa Feedlot Conference, co-organized and presented by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, and the Iowa Beef Center, was held in Welton, IA on August 25, 2017. The morning agenda included presentations on manure gas hazards, livestock and human fatalities, ventilation, agitation practices, use of gas monitors, and nutrient value of manure. The afternoon session addressed feed bunk management and beef quality assurance (BQA) certification. Twenty-five beef producers and commercial haulers attended the day-long conference.

For more information on GPCAH events and projects, visit www.gpcah.org

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Look for more information from *Telling the Story* later this month on the GPCAH website and Facebook pages. Our first stories will include video interviews and multimedia articles that center on a common theme: fatal and nonfatal exposure to dangerous hydrogen sulfide gas from stored manure. Our storytellers will share their experiences of loss of a loved one, a close call that could have been fatal, and how they are working to inform others. We add important prevention messages aimed to help producers identify the best practices to work safely.

If you have a personal story to tell about agricultural safety that can help others, we'd like to hear from you. E-mail reachus@tellingthestoryproject.org or stephanie-leonard@uiowa.edu.

Registration is now open for MRASH 2017

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



Join us for the 16th annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health (MRASH) Conference in Pella, IA on November 14-15, 2017. This engaging conference presents research and best practices related rural and agricultural health and safety surveillance, education, outreach, and public health interventions. In an era of constantly changing technology, weather and policies, "Best Practices for New Horizons" was selected as the theme for the conference, co-sponsored by the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health and Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.

The conference will explore ways to integrate farm safety and health into farm management practices, and will feature breakout sessions on research and outreach topics in the Midwest region. A poster session and reception on November 14th will allow additional projects to be shared and networking opportunities. The second day of the conference will include producer and practitioner panels, a safety and health messaging workshop, and immigrant farmworker health and safety presentations. Two additional workshops will be offered in the afternoon (at no extra cost) focusing on response to farm emergencies and AgrAbility efforts to help farmers with disabilities farm successfully. Conference participants can register for one or both days; sponsors and exhibitors receive exhibit space and a free registration. Conference information is available at www.i-cash.org/2017-mrash.

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rates of low back and neck/shoulder pain are significantly lower than other seasons. Combines have lower whole body vibration risks than all other farm vehicles.

- Standard engineering methods were found to improve dust concentrations (installing filtration unit) and carbon dioxide (replacing heaters) in swine production buildings.
- Traumatic injuries on the farm happen as frequently with non-work activities as with farming tasks. The time to receive care for an injury on the farm is greater than it is for other rural injuries: improved emergency action planning is needed on the farm.

Visit GPCAH.org to access posters, videos, media articles, and other project summaries. Let us know if there are materials you need developed.

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).

calendar

September 17-23

National Farm Safety and Health Week: Putting Farm Safety into Practice

www.necasag.org/nationalfarmsafetyandhealthweek

September 18-20

Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health

Grand Rapids, MI

www.ncfh.org/midwest-stream-forum.html

October 3-7

World Dairy Expo

Madison, WI

<http://worlddairyexpo.com>

October 6-8

Ozark Fall Farmfest

Springfield, MO

www.ozarkempirefair.com/events/2017/ozark-fall-farmfest

October 25-28

National FFA Convention & Expo

Indianapolis, IN

www.ffa.org/events/convention

November 2-4

Women Food & Ag Network Annual Conference

Madison, WI

www.wfan.org/2017-wfan-annual-conference-celebrating-20-years

November 4-8

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

Atlanta, GA

<https://www.apha.org>

November 12-17

National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference

Indianapolis, IN

www.nae4ha.com

November 14-15

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health Conference

Pella, IA

www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/mrash-conference/2017-mrash

November 16

National Rural Health Day

<https://nosorh.org/about-national-rural-health-day>

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Save the Date

June 11-15, 2018

Agricultural Safety and Health: The Core Course

The University of Iowa, College of Public Health Building
Iowa City, Iowa

Course details will be available at
cph.uiowa.edu/gpcach/education



Research to Practice

GPCAH Field Activities

by Marsha Cheyney, MPH, GPCAH Evaluation and Outreach Coordinator

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) outreach team traveled to several locations in 2017 providing agricultural safety and health information to producers, farm families and youth. In June and July the outreach team traveled to the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) for the Progressive Agriculture Safety Days. Over 200 youth played the “Safety Signs” game, which teaches kids about the symbols on warning signs commonly used on farms, and what to do when they see that symbol. The game was also used at the Garrison Ag Safety Day and the Poweshiek County Ag Safety Day, providing this important information to over 350 additional youth.

During August, outreach displays and activities focusing on whole body vibration, heat illness prevention and hearing conservation were provided at the Minnesota FarmFest in Redwood Falls, MN and the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, IL.

Look for the GPCAH staff at the Big Iron Farm Show in West Fargo, ND (September 12-14) and at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in Indianapolis, IN (November 12-16). Many of the posters, handouts, and activities used at the outreach events are also available on the GPCAH website at www.GPCAH.org



The GPCAH was at the Farm Progress Show, providing information on hearing loss prevention, whole body vibration and heat illness prevention.