

# 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)

## Stutsmans Receive Hall of Fame

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by Brandi Janssen, PhD

The I-CASH Hall of Fame Award recognizes individuals or organizations in the public or private sector who have made substantial or long-term contributions to the health and safety of Iowa's agricultural community. This year's award was presented to Roger and Sally Stutsman at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference in Pella, IA.

Roger and Sally farm in Hills, Iowa and have been married for 48 years. Roger is also a partner in Eldon Stutsman, Inc., his family's farm service, supply, and equipment company. Sally served on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors and was later elected to the Iowa House of Representatives, serving two terms. She was well known for being willing to tackle difficult issues and find solutions, particularly for rural farm families.

Roger and Sally had one child, Michael, who grew up on the farm. Mike moved away to attend college and then worked for the state of Washington's Conservation Corps in fish and wildlife conservation. In the mid 2000's, Mike moved back to the Hills area to join the family farming operation. He and his wife Jessica started a local food production farm called "Dirty Face Creek Farm" and had a daughter, Sophie. Mike also helped with the family commodity operation. In late November of 2008, Mike was killed in a farm harvesting injury event.



Roger and Sally Stutsman were presented with the 2017 Hall of Fame Award by Brandi Janssen, I-CASH Director.

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## Director's Message

by Brandi Janssen, PhD

Harvest is nearly complete and the holidays are quickly approaching as another production season winds to a close. I-CASH and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) at the University of Iowa, along with the Central States Center for Agricultural Health at the University of Nebraska, just came from an engaging and motivating MRASH Conference. Awards were presented to Roger and Sally Stutsman and the Washington County 4-H group for their contributions to agricultural safety and health in Iowa.



Brandi Janssen, PhD



The 2017 Outstanding Youth Grant was awarded to Washington County 4-H.

The Washington County 4-H group inspired I-CASH's 2017 fall seasonal campaign. Their ongoing and award-winning project, *Stay Safe, Take a Break*, has 4-H members interrupt farmers in the field during harvest to present them with a bag of safety materials and information. In fall 2017, I-CASH invited FFA and 4-H groups statewide to participate in their own counties with similar projects, and I-CASH provided a starter kit of materials for their resource bags. Twenty groups participated, distributing nearly 2,000 bags across the state this fall. Washington County 4-H/Youth Coordinator Amy Green says the project is a win-win for farmers and 4-Hers. The farmers take a break from the long workday, and receive snacks and injury prevention tools. Green points out that the 4-H members also learn new skills. They get a lesson about taking care of others, even people they might not know, and build communication skills as they introduce themselves and describe the project. They also get a review of safe

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## NewsUpdatesNewsUpdatesNewsUpdatesNews

The Iowa Institute of Public Health Research and Policy (IIPHRP) named Brandi Janssen, UI Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health and I-CASH Director, as a member of its Policy Fellow Program. The year-long program creates opportunities for faculty to enhance their skills translating public health research into practice and policy. Each Policy Fellow develops and implements an action learning project focused on a critical public health topic, and IIPHRP provides funds for Fellows to attend specialized conferences and activities that enhance their learning.

T. Renée Anthony, UI Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health and Director of the GPCAH, has been selected as the new editor in chief of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene. Dr. Anthony's research includes studies of how particles enter the human respiratory system; aerosol sampler design and evaluation; and indoor air quality in swine concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

**I-CASH Agricultural Youth Grant Applications** are now available. Each year I-CASH has funds available for small grants to community youth groups for farm safety-related projects. In addition, I-CASH awards an Outstanding Youth Grant Award and the winners are invited to present their project at the annual MRASH Conference. **Grant applications are due February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

The International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) invites abstract submissions for the 2018 Annual Conference, which will be held June 24-27, 2018 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The theme for 2018 is *Farm to Sea: Anchoring Agricultural Health and Safety*. Visit <http://isash.org/call-for-abstracts-and-program-presentations> for details and deadlines.

*Hall of Fame continued from page 1*

Kelley Donham, one of those who nominated Roger and Sally, noted "in too many instances like this, the grieving of surviving relatives can be overbearing. But Roger decided that he was going to do what he could to make sure no other family experienced this kind of tragedy."

Roger co-founded the Rural Health and Safety Clinic of Eastern Iowa (RHC). He has served as president of this organization and has given effective talks to various groups on the subject of farm safety. He has assembled an impressive and committed board to guide the RHC, and has raised funds to support its activities. He has been a member of the National Certified Safe Farm Coalition and serves on the advisory board of I-CASH.

Donham stated, "Roger and Sally's commitment and energy to the mission of farm safety has been infectious and effective. There have been few active farm families to receive the I-CASH Hall of Fame award; the Stutsmans are duly qualified to receive it."

For more information on the I-CASH Hall of Fame Award visit [www.i-cash.org](http://www.i-cash.org)

*Director's Message continued from page 1*

behaviors around farm equipment.

The best part for Green is the interaction between the 4-H members and farmers. "The 4-Hers enjoy delivering them because the farmers are so surprised even when they have gotten one before," she says. "It's always a bright spot in someone's day, or even week, to get an unexpected gift."

Coming up this winter, I-CASH will be distributing calendars across the state with monthly tips for injury and illness prevention on the farm. The calendars will be available at county Extension and FSA offices in mid-December.

*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)).*

**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/gpcah/education](http://cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/education)

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# MRASH Highlights

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

The 16<sup>th</sup> Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference, *Best Practices for New Horizons*, was held in Pella, Iowa on November 14-15. It was a wonderful opportunity for great networking, learning the latest research results and exploring program opportunities through breakout sessions and the poster reception. Regular attendees commented how MRASH has an atmosphere similar to a family reunion, always adding some new members and missing others. A new attendee remarked that this conference provided the opportunity to have real conversations, incorporating many perspectives, that would make a difference in keeping farm families safe.



The opening panel addressed how to create a culture of safety by integrating safety and health into best business practices. Leadership styles, risk and business management aspects, workplace decision making and behavior, as well as emergency preparedness, were discussed.

AgrAbility was a featured topic throughout the conference. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about resources available to help farmers with disabilities continue to farm successfully. Special thanks to the National AgrAbility Project for sharing their resources.

Another thread through the conference was responding to farm emergencies. A panel of emergency responders – fire, law enforcement, EMT – from the Pella area described what can be done by farm families, and what emergency responders need to know, to respond more effectively. In-depth workshops on both AgrAbility and basic strategies for farm related emergencies were held following the conference.

Graduate students, Central College students and ag safety and health professionals joined in a career luncheon that gave students an opportunity to discover safety and health related careers available in both the public and private sectors.



The second day of the conference focused on effective messaging and immigrant farm worker health issues. Participants worked in small groups to create messages for specific topics, then Mark Grey and Michele Devlin from the University of Northern Iowa concluded the conference with their presentation on immigrant farm worker health. This issue continues to get more complex and they spoke of the increasing “micro-diversity” of the midwest, special concerns of immigrants with territory status, how cultural traditions impact health and cross-cultural health strategies. MRASH 2017 conference information is available at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/mrash-conference/2017-mrash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/mrash-conference/2017-mrash).

## calendar

January 5-10

**American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention**  
Nashville, TN  
[www.fb.org/events/afbf-annual-convention](http://www.fb.org/events/afbf-annual-convention)

January 10-11

**Northern Illinois Farm Show**  
DeKalb, IL  
[www.ideagroup.com/illinois](http://www.ideagroup.com/illinois)

January 18-20

**Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference**  
Ames, IA  
[www.practicalfarmers.org](http://www.practicalfarmers.org)

January 18-19

**Farm Futures Business Summit**  
Coralville, IA  
<https://farmfuturesummit.com>

January 23-27

**Sioux Empire Farm Show**  
Sioux Falls, SD  
[www.siouxempirefarmshow.org](http://www.siouxempirefarmshow.org)

February 2-3

**Iowa Farm Bureau Young Farmer Conference**  
Altoona, IA  
[www.iowafarmbureau.com/Farmer-Resources/Farm-Bureau-Leaders/Young-Farmer-Program](http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/Farmer-Resources/Farm-Bureau-Leaders/Young-Farmer-Program)

February 15

**I-CASH Youth Grant Deadline**  
[www.i-cash.org](http://www.i-cash.org)

February 21-23

**North American Agricultural Safety Summit**  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
<http://ashca.org/2018-safety-summit>

February 23-25

**Western Farm Show**  
Kansas City, MO  
[www.westernfarmshow.com](http://www.westernfarmshow.com)

March 19-22

**AgrAbility National Training Workshop**  
Portland, ME  
[www.agrability.org](http://www.agrability.org)

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## Research to Practice

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### Engaging Iowa Undergrads with Ag Safety and Health

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

Moving the MRASH Conference to rural communities has allowed us to work with local colleges, introducing undergrad students to issues and careers in agricultural safety and health. Since the field is so multi-disciplinary, students from a variety of majors learn about targeting their skills and interests to help farm families and farm workers stay safe and healthy.

The relationship and mix of engagement looks different in each case. In 2015, Luther College students in Community Health Nursing helped organize logistics for our poster reception and took notes during the small group discussions. At Dordt College in 2016, twenty ag students worked in teams to create and present posters on safety and health topics at both the poster reception and health fair, and the keynote speaker conducted a program on grain safety specifically for the Dordt students. This fall, Central College Health Communications class members attended either the poster reception, small group workshop or panel discussions and summarized information. Students from the Health Professions Club participated in the career luncheon and a student video-taped our plenary sessions.

According to their professors, students built an awareness of career opportunities they never knew existed, were able to practice real-world application of skills they were learning, gained a much better appreciation of the importance of safe and healthy work habits and developed networking skills. Conference attendees frequently comment on how much they appreciate the contributions and involvement of the students.

