

GPCAH Partners with ISU Extension to feature Agritourism Safety and Health Workshops

by Jenna Gibbs, PhD, Research Coordinator, GPCAH and Shannon Hoyle, BS, Program Coordinator, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Value Added Agricultural Program

Agritourism is growing throughout the Midwest. Although starting or adding an agritourism segment to an existing farm may seem appealing, numerous risks arise once these farms open and charge a fee for entry. For example, just one illness or injury could be catastrophic to not only the injured party—but also to the entire farm. Some producers believe that insurance will cover all of the liability risks that an agritourism destination will encounter. Although there are multiple options for insurance coverage of agritourism destinations, not even the best coverage can alleviate the burden of an injury or outbreak linked to a destination.

In order to prevent agriculture injury and illness on agritourism destinations, the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) has awarded the Visit Iowa Farms program at Iowa State University pilot grant funds to host three Safety and Health Best Practices Workshops. The workshops will feature several presentations on best practices, and topics will include food safety, public play areas, pesticide safety, biosecurity issues, and farm emergency

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Director's Message: GPCAH Partnerships

by Renée Anthony, PhD, CIH, CSP

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health has had a productive winter, making progress on investigations to help protect agricultural producers throughout the region. Matt Nonnenmann's team has completed its first winter's field deployment of ventilation equipment to improve the air quality in livestock production buildings. Cara Hammond's team has refined a novel roadway observation system to look at interactions between farm vehicles and other automobiles, with pilot testing in local communities during the 2017 harvest season. Partnerships with agricultural producers have been essential to these accomplishments.

In addition, the GPCAH has supported investigators for three pilot projects, with the goal of building safety and health expertise in new investigators and community partners throughout the region. This highly competitive process resulted in the selection of three Iowa investigators who have promising ideas to protect workers and residents of rural communities. Ray Hansen, at Iowa State's Value Added Agriculture program, has received funding to develop a state agritourism workshop that focuses on injury and illness prevention (see article above). Dan Neenan, at the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, has received funding to provide hands-on education for farmers on how to safely prevent and respond to anhydrous ammonia emergencies. Dr. Charavaryamath ("Chandru"), a new researcher at Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine, is investigating the relationship between the combined exposure of hydrogen sulfide and swine barn dust on inflammatory responses in the lung. We thank other applicants who submitted great ideas to the pilot grant in 2017 and

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Renée Anthony PhD,
CIH, CSP

Agricultural Safety and Health: The Core Course will be held June 11-15, 2018. The course provides information and skills needed to enable safety and health professionals to anticipate, recognize, and prevent occupational illnesses and injuries among members of the agricultural community. Continuing education credit is available. Visit cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/education for full course description. Register through the UI Center for Conferences at <https://centerforconferences.uiowa.edu/agricultural-safety-and-health-core-course>.

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The Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference will be held November 28-29, 2018. A pre-conference workshop on immigrant health will be held November 27th. Conference details and information on abstract submission will be available after April 1, linked from the I-CASH and GPCAH websites.

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Young workers are injured at higher rates in agriculture than in any other industry. The University of Iowa has partnered with the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety to develop an online training for supervisors of agricultural youth about actions they can take to protect their workers. **Supervisors of agricultural workers between the ages of 14-21 are invited to take the training and to help evaluate it.** The training and surveys are available in both Spanish and English. The training and initial surveys will take approximately one hour to complete and those participating will receive \$50. Supervisors can also complete a 20-minute follow-up survey six months later for an additional \$50. For more information, please go to AgOSH.org or contact Diane Rohlman at diane-rohlman@uiowa.edu.

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The Burden of Occupational Injury in Iowa, 2009-2013 Summary Report has been posted on the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program (OHSSP) web page at <https://idph.iowa.gov/lpp/occupational-health>. The IDPH OHSSP focuses on Iowa data surveillance related to worker health and safety.

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encourage working with the GPCAH to apply for 2018 grants. Expect a call for new proposals in early April.

Our center is committed to partnerships with organizations providing safety and health advocacy throughout our nine-state region. Early in 2018, we have collaborated with Farm Bureau Federation to provide content for March's Ag Safety Awareness Week, provided a hearing protection webinar for AgriSafe, and participated in the Health and Safety Round Up at the Western Farm Show, providing outreach materials alongside Karen Funkenbusch and team from the University of Missouri Extension. Our schedule of events for spring and summer 2018 outreach events looks to be just as busy. GPCAH-Facebook followers can see our outreach team in action. Let us know if we can help provide materials or assistance with safety and health messaging to events that might be on your calendar in 2018.

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).

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preparedness. The workshops are free to registered attendees, and they include lunch, refreshments, and training materials. The first workshop will be held at the Polk County Extension office in Altoona, IA, on March 22nd, 2018. The other two workshops will be held in the winter season (locations TBA). The workshop flyer, schedule, dates and other workshop information can be viewed on the Visit Iowa Farms webpage (www.visitiowafarms.org). Individuals can register by emailing their name, farm name, and telephone number to visitiowafarms@iastate.edu.

For more information on the GPCAH Pilot Grant Program visit www.gpcah.org

Farmers operating equipment on roads should be cautious of alcohol-impaired drivers, especially during nighttime work

Jenna Gibbs, PhD, Research Coordinator, GPCAH

Three-quarters of farm equipment-related crashes involving alcohol result in an injury or death.

Rural roads can be hazardous for drivers due to poor roadway conditions, high travel speeds, and frequent encounters with farm equipment and other slow moving vehicles. A recent five-year study published in *Traffic Injury Prevention* identified more than 60 alcohol-related crashes involving farm equipment in four Midwestern states.



“We found that the passenger vehicle drivers were more often impaired than the farmers operating their equipment. This is important because these impaired drivers may be slower to recognize and react to farm equipment, and more likely to misjudge the differences in speed of the equipment on the roadway,” said Karisa Harland, the lead investigator.

The team of researchers from the University of Iowa and University of Minnesota found that the percentage of alcohol-impaired crashes involving farm equipment varied by state. North Dakota and South Dakota, respectively, had the highest proportions of alcohol-impaired driver crashes when compared to the other states in our region. Most crashes resulted from the impaired passenger vehicle driver who rear-ended or ran head-on into the farm equipment.

Not surprisingly, a greater percentage of the alcohol-impaired crashes occurred at night and on weekends. “We know that during critical times of the year, farmers have to work around the clock. Overall, the proportion of alcohol impairment in crashes involving farm equipment is low—less than three percent,” said Harland. “However, when these crashes occur they can be devastating, because most of them result in an injury or death. There is a continued need for educating all road users about alcohol use while driving and the appropriate ways to interact with farm equipment on roads.”

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

calendar

April 10-11

Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health
Des Moines, IA
www.iowapha.org/IGCPH

May 8-11

National Rural Health Association Rural Health Conference
New Orleans, LA
www.ruralhealthweb.org

May 21-23

American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Expo
Philadelphia, PA
www.aihce2018.org

June 11-15

Agricultural Safety and Health: The Core Course
Iowa City, IA
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcah

June 24-27

ISASH Annual Conference
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
<https://isash.org>

July 10-13

Agricultural Health and Safety Course
Omaha, NE
www.unmc.edu/cce/catalog/clinicmed/agmed

July 29-August 2

National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting
Chattanooga, TN
www.nacaa.com

July 29- August 1

ASABE Annual International Meeting
Detroit, MI
www.asabemeetings.org

August 4-8

Agricultural Media Summit
Scottsdale, AZ
<http://agmediasummit.com>

August 7-9

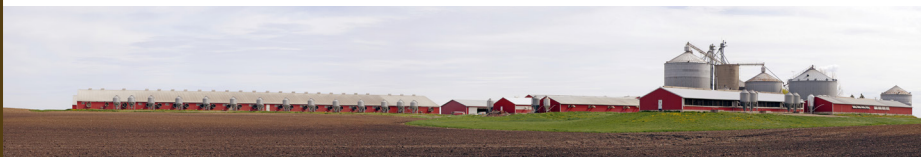
Minnesota Farmfest
Morgan, MN
www.ideagroup.com/farmfest/the-show

August 28-30

Farm Progress Show
Boone, IA
<http://farmprogressshow.com>

Agricultural Safety and Health: The Core Course **June 11-15, 2018**

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



cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/education



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Research to Practice

Cold weather hazards are main focus at winter farm shows

by Jenna Gibbs, PhD, Research Coordinator, GPCAH

GPCAH Outreach Coordinator, Marsha Cheyney, and Center Coordinator, Jenna Gibbs, traveled to two farm shows this winter to present a display on Cold Weather Hazards. We presented information on how quickly frostbite occurs at different wind chills and discussed how to make safe decisions for activities on ice by knowing its thickness. Cheyney traveled to the Sioux Empire Farm Show in Sioux Falls, SD on January 24-28. Gibbs traveled to the Western Farm Show in Kansas City, MO on February 23-25. More than 30 farmers provided direct feedback on cold weather safety. “You definitely need a good pair of work gloves,” stated a 16-year-old female FFA student from Moberly, MO. “It is important to move your fingers around, especially when breaking ice for the sheep. It is not easy to keep stock water ice-free—we have to do it almost every day.” Many farmers noted that good base layers, insulated bib coveralls, and muck boots with a thick tread were helpful in cold weather. More than half of the farmers also stated that they had previously experienced a slip, trip, or fall on ice while doing farm work.

“The Health and Safety Roundup area has been a big success, and we have been doing it for a couple decades,” said Diane Olson, Missouri Farm Bureau Director of Promotion and Education. “The 2018 event, and our safety area, was very well attended.”



Jenna Gibbs (GPCAH) and Dr. Jeff Henson, UI Occupational Medicine Resident, at the Health and Safety Roundup displays in Kansas City.