

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)

Farm Worker Safety Awareness Week

Vol. 24, Issue 3 - June 2018

by Patrick Taggart, Proteus Regional Director

In March, Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation acknowledging Farm Worker Safety Awareness Week from March 25-April 1, 2018. In recognition of this week, Proteus held its annual Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive, collecting a total of 3,617 shirts to be distributed over the summer to migrant and seasonal farm workers. The shirts help protect workers from sun exposure during field work and are distributed as part of the Proteus Heat Stress Training program.

These trainings occur throughout the summer in Iowa; in some cases, there are over 300 trainees in one session. Proteus receives a grant from The Association of Farmworker Opportunities (AFOP) to provide both heat stress and Worker Protection Standard trainings free of charge. The shirts, donated by individuals and businesses across Iowa, help ensure that workers can implement what they learn during the training and stay safe during the hot Iowa summer. In addition, having recognition from the Governor greatly assists Proteus in promoting the importance of safety to all individuals employed in agriculture. For more information on Proteus programs visit www.proteusinc.net.



Director's Message

by Brandi Janssen, PhD

School is officially out in eastern Iowa, and the summer weather has arrived in full force. I-CASH had a busy winter and spring with displays and presentations at the Practical Farmers of Iowa Conference, the Agricultural Safety and Health Conference of America Safety Summit, and the Hills Bank Ag Update meeting. We are looking forward to being at the Farm Progress Show in Boone, IA and the Iowa Women in Agriculture Conference in Ankeny, IA, both events will be held in August.

This winter, we also took some time to evaluate our seasonal campaigns, now in their fourth year. We sent surveys to all ISU Extension and Outreach and Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices to assess how effective the campaigns have been and how the office staff have been using the materials that we send each season. We sent the survey to over 600 email addresses and had 92 people respond. We were pleased to learn that 75% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that our campaigns are an effective way to get health and safety information to farmers. In addition, 61% reported that they had learned more about agricultural hazards thanks to our campaigns, and nearly half (49%) reported using campaign materials in their work with farmers. Finally, 70% recognized that farmers have high rates of injury and illness, and 83% agreed that health and safety issues in agriculture do not get enough attention.

The survey also allowed us to ask about topics that would be important for their particular communities. Chemical safety and grain handling safety were the two most frequently mentioned. Other important topics included mental health, equipment safety, and farm youth safety.



Brandi Janssen, PhD

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Researchers at the University of Iowa are developing a novel system to train farm workers on the hazards of noise in their environment. The system will consist of an inexpensive personal noise monitor and a smartphone application. The system will recognize tasks associated with hazardous noise exposures on the farm, giving farm workers safety precaution recommendations in real time. We will test whether context-sensitive, personalized information from the system delivered through an interactive website will increase the use of hearing protection devices.

We are looking for farmers interested in trying out these new devices. Contact Dr. Thomas Peters (thomas-m-peters@uiowa.edu) for more information.



Nominations are being accepted for the I-CASH 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 health and safety of Iowa's agricultural community. The recipient will receive a plaque and cash award at the 2018 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health Conference in Council Bluffs, IA. Visit www.i-cash.org for details.



Agricultural Safety and Health Courses held in IA and NE

Agricultural Safety and Health: The Core Course will be held at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA on June 11-15. The Agricultural Health and Safety Course for Medical and Safety Professionals will be held at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE on July 10-13. Visit www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcab/education/training-opportunities for course details.



The Alive & Well Newsletter will be moving to a new electronic format later this year. If you currently receive the newsletter as an email attachment, no action is needed. If you currently receive the printed newsletter through the US mail please send your email address to kay-mohling@uiowa.edu.



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I-CASH's mission is to develop prevention and education programs to reduce agricultural injuries and fatalities. Over the past few years, we have tried to take a broad community approach to these efforts, recognizing that there are a lot of stakeholders in rural communities that rely on a healthy farming population. I'm pleased to see that our campaigns have provided useful resources to Extension and FSA personnel. I'm even more pleased that those resources have improved knowledge about agricultural health and safety among two groups who provide critical technical assistance and support to Iowa's farm population.

Our summer 2018 campaign will launch in June. We're focusing on the agricultural exemption for Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use on Iowa roadways. This campaign will combine policy information with safety resources. We hope that it, too, will be useful to both farmers and the offices that help us with distribution.

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).

Youth Grants continued from page 3

Shelby County 4-H

Shelby County 4-H is providing an educational program for youth ages 8-12 on prevention and treatment of animal bites and insect stings. The presentation will also include first aid training for bites and stings, and distribution of first aid kits.

Washington County 4-H

Washington County 4-H is conducting the "Stay Safe, Take a Break" program. Youth select, purchase, collect, and deliver bags of items that can help promote safety to farmers. Bags are delivered to farmers in the field while they are working, allowing them to take a break and talk to youth.

Wright County Farm Bureau

Wright County Farm Bureau is educating youth through a safety day camp for county third graders. First aid, machinery, and chemical safety are incorporated into the day camp through hands-on activities.

Visit www.i-cash.org for Youth Grant information

I-CASH Agricultural Youth Grants Awarded

by Kyle Godwin, I-CASH Program Assistant

Each year I-CASH provides funds 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. This year ten youth grants were funded.



Central City FFA

Central City FFA is putting on a Career and Technical Education Safety Day. The purpose is to encourage interest in agriculture and industrial technology. Middle school students will learn about ATV, machinery, grain bin, livestock, and work site safety.

Des Moines County 4-H Teen Council

The Des Moines County 4-H Teen Council is hosting an educational safety day camp for grades K-5. Youth will be able to participate in hands-on activities that enhance their appreciation for safety education; a highlight includes putting together their own first aid kit.

Howard County Extension

Howard County is holding a farm safety day open to all fourth grade students in the county. The intent is to make children aware of issues and hazards surrounding agricultural related settings. Topics to be covered include electrical, driving, and animal safety, among others.

Ida County Farm Bureau

A farm safety day is being conducted by the Ida County Farm Bureau. Students will learn to be aware of their surroundings on the farm, especially during planting and harvest seasons. Nine safety stations will include fire, chemical, and outdoor safety.

Jones County 4-H Teen Council

The Jones County 4-H Teen Council is creating safety posters for the county fair with a scavenger hunt to encourage viewing the posters. The prize for visiting each poster is a farm safety kit. In addition, farm safety facts will be displayed on grandstand monitors throughout the fair.

Mitchell County Extension

An educational day camp for fourth graders is being hosted by Mitchell County Extension. The purpose is to help students understand the impact incidents have and how quickly they can happen. Hazards associated with machinery, animals, ATVs, and lawn equipment are covered.

North Mahaska FFA

A resource distribution program is being developed by the North Mahaska FFA. Sunscreen, safety glasses, ear plugs, and cotton gloves will be distributed to farmers at the county fair in the FFA building. A short safety presentation will accompany the distribution of safety materials.

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calendar

July 10-13

Agricultural Health and Safety Course for Medical and Safety Professionals
Omaha, NE
www.unmc.edu/cce/catalog/clinimed/agmed

July 29-August 2

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

July 29-August 1

American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Annual Meeting
Detroit, MI
www.asabemeetings.org

August 7-9

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

August 28-30

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

September 10-12

Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health
www.ncfh.org/midwest-stream-forum.html

September 16-22

National Farm Safety and Health Week
www.necasag.org/nationalfarmsafetyand-healthweek

October 2-6

World Dairy Expo
Madison, WI
<https://worlddairyexpo.com>

October 24-27

National FFA Convention & Expo
Indianapolis, IN
www.ffa.org

November 15

National Rural Health Day
www.ruralhealthweb.org

November 28-29

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference
Council Bluffs, IA
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Research to Practice

MRASH held November 27-29 in Council Bluffs, IA

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

We are preparing our 17th annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference! In addition to our regular breakouts, awards, posters and panels, new features in this year's conference include the following:



- A preconference workshop on Immigrant Farmworker Health will be held Tuesday, November 27. It is an expansion of last year's popular closing session with Michele Devlin, Director of Iowa Center on Health Disparities and Mark Grey, Director of Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership & Integration, both at the University of Northern Iowa.
- The keynote session on November 28 is entitled "Planning & Management: Keys to Reducing Stress & Improving Resilience in Agriculture," with speaker Dick Wittman, Idaho rancher, management consultant and author. The keynote panel will include farmers working to integrate safety and health into management of their farms.
- Flashtalks will be at the poster reception! A flashtalk is a 5-minute or less presentation using slides that are timed to automatically advance.
- Storytelling as an effective outreach tool will be covered on Thursday morning, November 29.
- A post conference workshop on Anhydrous Ammonia Safety will be presented on the afternoon of the closing day, November 29.

We would love to include you as a sponsor, exhibitor, poster presenter or attendee. Conference registrations will be available beginning this fall. Visit www.i-cash.org/2018-MRASH or contact gayle-olson@uiowa.edu for details.