



I-CASH | Iowa's Center for  
**Agricultural Safety and Health**

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2020 ANNUAL REPORT



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

# Collaboration in the face of disruption

It has become a trite understatement to note that we're living in "uncertain" or "unprecedented" times but frankly, I don't know how else to describe it. Like everyone else, our lives changed drastically starting in March of 2020 as the pandemic struck the U.S. Our staff have been working from home since then and we have moved all our in-person programming to online formats for the rest of this calendar year. Over the course of the spring, I-CASH compiled resources for farmers in response to COVID-19, provided feedback for signage and guidance for farmers markets, and distributed information about mental health and stress management.

Despite the disruptions and necessary focus on the pandemic, we have still had an enormously productive year working to fulfill our broader mission of leading statewide partnerships to promote agricultural safety and health. The statewide partnerships have never been more important, and the collective impact of our work together is clear. Notably, during last year's legislative session, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Committee included line-item funding for I-CASH's operations. This designated funding source allowed us more flexibility in our budgeting and has proven directly beneficial to Iowa's farmers. You'll see these benefits described in this report. We have started piloting a limited rebate program for Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) for tractors, have continued to expand our media connections, and were able to host and participate in several community screenings of the film SILO before the shutdown.

Our partnerships across the state have also helped us develop new programming for the fall. We are currently working with the Ag Health and Safety Alliance to increase respirator fit testing capacity across the state. We are also collaborating with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Peer Support and Family Peer Support Training Program to provide workshops for mental health providers about agriculture. I look forward to sharing more information about these events and potentially building them into our regular I-CASH programming.

The pandemic, coupled with the destructive derecho storm that hit in August, has made the importance of our support networks very clear. This is true for individuals and households, but also for organizations like I-CASH. The willingness of our statewide partners to share information and resources that contribute to improving the health and safety of Iowa's agricultural workforce has been on full display these last months. We have been glad to provide whatever resources, time, and guidance we can, as well as to work toward our shared goals. I can't even begin to predict what the coming year will bring, but I am confident that we will weather it with a collaborative spirit that will provide the best possible support for our farmers and farmworkers.

**BRANDI JANSSEN, PHD**  
**I-CASH DIRECTOR**

### **I-CASH MISSION**

Leading statewide partnerships that promote agricultural safety and health.

### **I-CASH VISION**

Safe and healthy farming for all Iowans.

# REAL CHANGE ON IOWA FARMS

Every Iowa farm is unique, so it can be challenging to identify safety strategies that are appropriate for every situation. We work to implement practical solutions on farms that have been shown to save lives or improve health, including rollover protection on tractors, hearing protection, and engaging Iowa youth as advocates for safe practices.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS WHO HAVE HELPED US IMPLEMENT CHANGE:

Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development  
Louisa County Extension  
Mitchell County Extension  
National ROPS Rebate Program  
National Tractor Safety Coalition  
Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety in Agriculture  
Washington County 4-H  
Wright County Farm Bureau



A 1961 John Deere 3010 Diesel from Johnson County, before and after the ROPS installation.

### ROPS Rebate Program

Installing a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) on a tractor is one of the most effective strategies to prevent a farm fatality. Tractor roll-overs remain the number one cause of death on farms. Data from the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health shows Iowa leads the nation in tractor overturn deaths, accounting for 12% of rollover deaths nationwide. However, when used correctly with a seat belt, ROPS are 99% effective in preventing injury or death in the case of a rollover. The protective frame of the ROPS stops the operator from being crushed, and the seat belt keeps the operator from being thrown from the tractor.

In January 2020, I-CASH began working with the National ROPS Rebate Program to provide funding for Iowa farmers to retrofit older tractors with ROPS. The Rebate Program had a waiting list of 52 Iowa farmers who were in need of funding. As of June 2020, we have assisted with thirteen retrofits in twelve counties, investing more than \$10,000 directly into this lifesaving strategy.

### Safety Plan for Grow: Johnson County

Grow: Johnson County is an organization that grows fresh produce for 15 local hunger relief agencies through the help of volunteers, located at the Historic Johnson County Poor Farm. Since spring of 2019, I-CASH has been working with Grow staff to develop a comprehensive safety plan that will include designated traffic lanes, emergency response procedures, and policies for volunteers. I-CASH has conducted trainings at the farm on tractor safety and field communication strategies for equipment operators and harvesters. We have also provided signage and hearing protection to use at the farm and will continue to advise on safety plan components as the farm evolves and expands.



# 2020 Agricultural Youth Grants

Each year I-CASH provides funds for small grants to Iowa youth groups who help educate their community members and improve safety on farms in their area. In November at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) conference, I-CASH presents an Outstanding Youth Grant Award to a group who made a direct contribution to farm safety. This year six projects were funded.

## FAYETTE COUNTY EXTENSION

Fayette County 4-H Council Members and FFA youth will work together to plan a farm safety day targeting upper elementary and middle school youth. They will be providing education on the importance of staying alert and attentive on a farm.

## IDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Ida County youth will be assisting at a farm safety day by managing education stations covering topics of machinery safety, animal safety, grain bin safety, ATVs, poisonous weeds, and chemicals.

## LOUISA COUNTY EXTENSION

Louisa County youth will be planning topics to be included in a farm safety day and assisting with producing safety videos after the event. The videos will cover safety with power take-offs (PTO), grain bins, animals, fire, water, sun, and include information on first aid and extreme weather preparation.

## MITCHELL COUNTY EXTENSION

The Mitchell County Council and Intermediate Leadership League will prepare and distribute safety goodie bags, including personal protective equipment and safety handouts, at the local Mitchell County Ag Breakfast.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY 4-H

Washington County 4-H members will again conduct the "Stay Safe, Take a Break" project where students deliver items intended to promote health and safety to farmers during the long hours of harvest.

## WRIGHT COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Eagle Grove FFA students will assist with a safety day camp, specifically their role is focusing on the animal handling portion of farm safety. They will teach 3rd graders how to stay safe around livestock and pets.



## Outstanding 2019 Youth Grant

The Delaware County Fair Society received the I-CASH Outstanding Agricultural Youth Grant Award. Jeannie Domeyer, Delaware County Fair Manager and Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter members Amber Engelken, Shelby March, and Alyssa Langel provided a presentation on the project at the MRASH Conference. The Delaware County Fair Society, with the help of Dr. Temple Grandin and FFA members, provided a livestock handling program for over 300 county youth. The FFA members worked with Dr. Grandin to learn safe animal handling practices and then prepared an educational program for the younger livestock exhibitors.



# BUILDING THE FARM SAFETY COMMUNITY

Community engagement and awareness helps ensure safe and healthy farms. I-CASH works to include as many partners as possible in this effort, through community events, workshops, conferences, and campaigns.

## Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference

The 2019 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference focused on disaster response and mental health with the theme “Reframe, Refocus, Rebuild”. Marshalltown, with their recent tornado experience, was a wonderful host community for the conference, a joint effort between MRASH and the Iowa Rural Health Association (IRHA). More than 110 people attended the conference, which was supported by 19 sponsors and exhibitors.



### HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS OF EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS PANEL

- Elayne Saejung, Director of Emergency Management for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)
- Linda Emanuel, Ag Producer and AgriSafe Network Community Health Nurse
- Clarissa Thompson, Executive Director, Mid-Iowa Community Action



### WHAT'S CURRENT IN MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PANEL

- Tammy Jacobs, Iowa Concern Hotline
- Mark Smith, counselor and state legislator
- Rochelle Honey-Arcement, CommUnity Crisis Center
- David Brown, Behavioral Health Specialist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach



### PRESENTATIONS

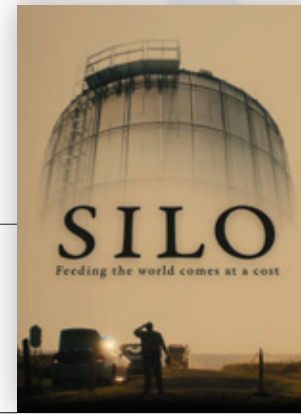
- Shay Foulk, AgView Solutions: Developing an Emergency Readiness Plan
- Kim Elder, Marshall County Emergency Management Director: Lessons Learned from the 2018 Tornado
- Researchers from across the region presented on topics such as telehealth, feed yard safety, HRSA rural health programs and resources, and engaging critical access hospitals in cancer control initiatives.

### AWARDS

- Jon-Michael Rosmann received the IRHA Jerry Karbeling Award
- The Delaware County Fair Society and FFA received the I-CASH Outstanding Agricultural Youth Award

### WORKSHOPS

- Stop the Bleed Training for traumatic injury intervention
- Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Workshop for suicide prevention



## SILO Screenings

In fall 2019, SILO premiered at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, IL. Inspired by true events, SILO follows a harrowing day in an American farm town. Disaster strikes when teenager Cody Rose is entrapped in a 50-foot-tall grain bin. When the corn turns to quicksand, family, neighbors and first responders must put aside their differences to rescue Cody from drowning in the crop that has sustained their community for generations (from silothefilm.com). In addition to supporting screenings of the film, I-CASH staff has provided technical input and provided feedback during the development of a community discussion guide now distributed by the filmmakers.

### Ainsworth March 7, 2020

I-CASH hosted a screening and panel discussion with Ainsworth Fire Chief Waylon Schultz, Farmers Co-op Association manager Brian Wood, and local farmer and volunteer firefighter Michael Cavin. They discussed how Washington County officials and grain handling experts are prepared to deal with a potential grain entrapment.



Local farmer and volunteer firefighter Michael Cavin and Ainsworth Fire Chief Waylon Schultz (l to r) displayed a grain safety tube at the SILO screening.

### Grinnell January 27, 2020

I-CASH staff member Gayle Olson joined a panel discussion following a SILO screening in Grinnell that also included the film's producer Sam Goldberg and other local safety experts. The screening was sponsored by Grinnell Mutual and the Center for Prairie Studies at Grinnell College.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS IN THE FARM SAFETY COMMUNITY:

Ag Health & Safety Alliance  
Ainsworth Fire Department  
AllHealth Choice  
American Lung Association  
American Red Cross  
Amerigroup  
Bill Menner Group  
Center for Prairie Studies at Grinnell College  
Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health  
CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank  
Farm Service Agency  
Farmers Coop Association  
Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance  
Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health  
Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics

Iowa Concern Hotline  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Iowa State University Center for Food Security & Public Health  
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach  
Learfield IMG College  
Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Ready Iowa at Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management  
Relay Iowa  
Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

# Seasonal Campaigns


I-CASH Seasonal Campaigns are distributed quarterly through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Farm Service Agency offices. We have also partnered with the Iowa Farmers Market Association, 4-H groups, and FFA chapters to provide prevention materials across the state. These multi-media campaigns may include printable handouts or posters, newspaper columns, or radio public service announcements.

## FALL 2019 LADDER SAFETY

Falls from height are a leading cause of injuries in all workplaces, including on farms. There are additional factors, including advancing age, that can increase your risk for falling. On farms, ladders are necessary, everyday tools used on equipment, buildings, and for doing repair and maintenance. This campaign included a ladder safety card and non-slip treads that can be applied to ladder rungs.




**No Matter the Ladder**



**Always maintain 3 points of contact**  
(two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand)

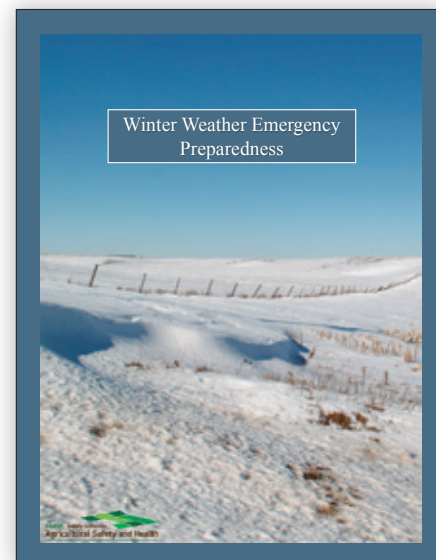
- Falls from height are a leading cause of fatalities and injuries in all occupations, including farming.
- Simple safety measures can reduce the danger to yourself, your family, and other farm workers.
- If you have health factors that increase your risk of falling, such as advancing age or a chronic medical condition, consult with your doctor for advice.



Additional resources at [www.i-cash.org](http://www.i-cash.org)

## WINTER 2019-20 WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

To help families prepare for winter weather hazards, I-CASH compiled resources from ISU's Center for Food Security & Public Health and Ready Iowa at Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management, into one easy to read packet. The packet includes guides on how to keep your family, your farm, your livestock, and your business safe during winter weather emergencies, as well as definitions of types of advisories, an emergency contact form, and a supply kit checklist.



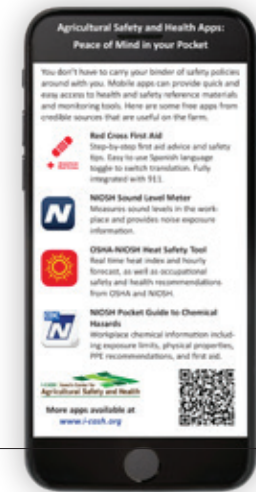
### Safe Burn Checklist

- Check for local burn ordinances or permit requirements.
- Take note of weather conditions, especially wind and humidity. The ideal relative humidity range is 25% to 50%.
- Never burn in gusty or variable wind conditions.
- Have a "Burn Buddy" who can stay until the burn is completed.
- Never use an accelerant, like gasoline.
- Have fire extinguishment tools on hand, including a water supply, shovels and rakes.
- Do not delay a call for help. Call the fire department immediately at the first sign of the fire getting out of control.



## SPRING 2020 SAFE BURNING PRACTICES

Burning brush and debris is a common farm task, but it can have deadly consequences. University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics reported that in some southern Iowa counties, the majority of flame-related emergency room visits were the result of burning trash or brush. This campaign distributed a safe burn checklist and safety glasses. The checklist included best practices about site preparation, personal protective equipment, and knowing local burn ordinances. In addition, it reminded people to not use any accelerants, such as gasoline or diesel, to stay with the fire until it is completely burned out, and check old burn piles to watch for hot spots that may rekindle.



## SUMMER 2020 AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH APPS

As the COVID-19 pandemic began to emerge and strain health care resources, the I-CASH Summer Campaign adapted to a different format while still providing statewide resources. Rather than mailing out printed resources to offices, I-CASH compiled information on the website about agricultural safety apps using resources from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the American Red Cross, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. A graphic encouraged farmers to use these tools and have "peace of mind in their pocket."

I-CASH also launched a public service announcement on agricultural radio networks across the state highlighting the safety apps.

# COMMUNICATING ISSUES

Communication is key, on the farm and in the community. I-CASH shares evidence-based best practices, information about emerging issues, and resources for farm families through a variety of channels.

## COVID-19 Response

As the COVID-19 pandemic affected all parts of the agricultural supply chain, I-CASH assembled statewide resources that included information about virus transmission, as well as updates to financial programs for farmers, prevention best practices, and opportunities to stay connected through webinars and other online offerings. In addition, I-CASH staff has provided input for farmers market managers during the pandemic; statewide guidances and signage for markets is available on the I-CASH website. I-CASH staff participated in Practical Farmers of Iowa's web series "Strategies for Strange Times," sharing mental health and crisis resources.

## I-CASH Updates from the Field

Since 2003, I-CASH has maintained a free monthly listserve providing abstracts from recent research publications on rural and agricultural health and safety issues. The updates have become an efficient way for health and safety professionals to receive timely information, and subscribers can be sent the full-text articles upon request. This year the topics included: heat stress, hearing protection, falls from heights, farmer suicide, gas monitors, emergency planning, extreme cold, One Health, zoonotic disease control, brush burning safety, resiliency and economics during stress, ticks, and COVID-19.

## Media Partnerships

I-CASH is a resource for statewide and national media. Over the course of this year, we have contributed to stories on Iowa Public Radio, IowaWatch, Agribusiness Report, GrayTV, *Wallaces Farmer*, *US News and World Report*, and *USA Today* on topics including general farm safety, stress and mental health, and farmers and COVID-19. I-CASH director, Brandi Janssen, also consulted with NPR's Science Friday, which aired a segment on farmers and mental health in March of 2020. In addition, we contributed six SafetyWatch columns in *Iowa Farmer Today* that addressed ladder safety, rural roadways, rollover protective structures (ROPS), farm safety planning and policies, stress and mental health, and public health science for COVID-19.



## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS WHO HELP US COMMUNICATE WITH FARM FAMILIES:

Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health  
Farm Service Agency  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Iowa Farmer Today  
Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development  
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach  
Learfield IMG College  
Practical Farmers of Iowa

## Calendar

Each year, I-CASH creates and distributes a calendar that includes evidence-based tips for safety and health on the farm. This year, five thousand calendars were distributed through ISUEO and FSA offices, farm shows, fairs, and internationally, thanks to our staff's travel. The calendars also showcase Iowa's stunning farm landscapes with contributions in 2020 from Patti Zwick, Nancy Mast, and DeAnn Scott-Harp.



Farmers in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania enjoyed copies of the I-CASH calendar.

# I-CASH Counts

Although our face-to-face activities were curtailed in March, we used our media partners and online resources to continue to connect with farmers and their families all year.

## THIS YEAR I-CASH:

Provided prevention materials throughout the year to ISU Extension and Farm Service Agency offices **in every county**.

Connected with nearly **2,000 Iowa farmers**, farmworkers and youth in person, and distributed more than **37,000 prevention resources** statewide.

Awarded **6 safety grants** to Iowa youth groups.

Hosted **112 participants** from **7 states** at the 2019 MRASH Conference.

Delivered **14 public presentations** on topics including stress and mental health, general farm safety, Iowa agriculture, and crisis management.

Contributed to media stories on Iowa Public Radio, IowaWatch, Agribusiness Report, Gray TV, Wallaces Farmer, US News and World Report, and USA Today and authored **6 Safety Watch columns** in Iowa Farmer Today, reaching nearly **150,000 households** in print.

Distributed the *Alive and Well* Newsletter to over **2,000 households** each quarter.

Engaged **8,815 visitors** on the I-CASH website.

Reached **239,000 listeners** in the upper Midwest through radio Public Service Announcements.

Retrofitted **13 tractors** with Rollover Protective Structures.

# Advisory Board

I-CASH's commitment to collaborative work is reflected in the Advisory Board. The four "core" institutions, as defined by Iowa code, join non-profit organizations, agricultural advocacy groups, members of the state legislature, and producers to improve safety and health in agriculture. The collective impact of this coalition is much greater than any one of the organizations could accomplish alone.

## Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

**Keely Coppess**  
Communications Director

**Matt Gronewald**  
Chief of Staff

**Jenifer Lara**  
Pesticide Bureau

**Jacob Swanson**  
Special Assistant to the Secretary

## Iowa Department of Public Health

**Megan Hartwig**  
State Office of Rural Health

**Samra Hiros**  
State Office of Rural Health

**Kathy Leinenkugel**  
Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program

## Iowa State University

**Tammy Jacobs**  
Iowa Concern Hotline

**Gretchen Mosher**  
Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

**Kristine Schaefer**  
Department of Entomology

## University of Iowa

**Charles Jennissen**  
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics

**Diane Rohlman**  
Department of Occupational and Environmental Health

**Rachel Young**  
Department of Journalism and Mass Communication

## Producers

**Bill Furlong**  
Muscatine County

**Chris Petersen**  
Cerro Gordo County

**Roger Stutsman**  
Johnson County

## Agricultural Business

**Shay Foulk**  
Ag View Solutions

**Rich Gassman**  
Engineering Services and Products Company

**Rawlin Kinney**  
Syngenta

## Policy Leaders

**Tim Kapucian**  
State Senator, District 38

**Norlin Mommsen**  
State Representative, District 97

**Sonia Reyes-Snyder**  
Iowa Department of Human Rights

## Non-Governmental and Safety Organizations

**Kelley Donham**  
Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa

**Charlotte Halverson**  
AgriSafe Network

**Dan Neenan**  
National Education Center for Agricultural Safety

**Carolyn Sheridan**  
Ag Health and Safety Alliance

**Patrick Taggart**  
Proteus, Inc.

**Cheryl Tevis**  
Iowa Women in Agriculture

# Staff

**Brandi Janssen, PHD**, I-CASH Director

**Ralph Altmaier, MS**, Administrative Services Coordinator

**Stephanie McMillan**, Program Assistant

**Kay Mohling, MA**, Program Coordinator

**Gayle Olson, MS, CHES**, Assistant to the Director

**Madison Stewart, MS**, Program Assistant





**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

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