

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)

MRASH Forum Held

Vol. 15, Issue 1 - December 2008

Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health hosted the Midwest Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Forum November 20-21, 2008 at the Radisson Quad City Plaza in Davenport, Iowa.

The theme of this year's conference was "Staying Afloat." Ellen Huntoon, Senior Aide to Senator Tom Harkin gave the keynote address, and speakers included Robert L. Thompson, PhD, Garner Endowed Chair in Agricultural Policy, University of Illinois, Paul Lasley, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University, and Jon Bailey, JD, MPP, Director of Rural Research and Analysis, Center for Rural Affairs, Lyons, Nebraska.

The forum held sessions on rural roadway safety, community outreach, youth safety on the farm, farm safety for alternative agriculture and hobby farmers, skin cancer, personal protective equipment, and surveillance of agricultural injuries and illness. On the second day of the conference the keynote speaker was Brad Husberg, Captain, US Public Health Service, NIOSH, and the focus was on tractor safety initiatives. Robert A. Aherin, PhD, Professor of Agriculture and Biological Engineering, University of Illinois-Urbana moderated a panel discussion with Andrew Goodman, Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association, Michael DeSpain, Deere & Co., and Kevin Rund, Illinois Farm Bureau.



Kelley Donham, Wayne Sanderson, Ellen Huntoon, and Robert L. Thompson at the MRASH Forum in Davenport, IA.

Why Agricultural Behavioral Healthcare is Needed

by Kelley J. Donham and Michael R. Rosmann

Have you noticed there is still a stigma associated with mental health conditions, especially among rural and agricultural populations? To help minimize that stigma and assist affected persons to seek care, mental health professionals prefer the term behavioral health. Behavioral healthcare for the agricultural population needs the same commitment of federal resources that has been made to reduce farming-related illnesses and injuries.

There is some good news, the new farm bill (2008) has created language for a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN). This would provide a network of telephone hotlines and a host of additional services to assist farm persons in managing behavioral health issues. However, appropriations to implement the Network have not been made. Appropriations would bring much needed support to behavioral healthcare of the agricultural population.

For the first time, the draft National Occupational Research Agenda specifically includes behavioral healthcare as an area of focus. This is an important step because the suicide rate among persons engaged in agriculture is twice that of non-agricultural people. It appears that progress has been made in the reduction of physical illnesses and injuries in agriculture, and in farm youth over the past two decades. However, behavioral health perils such as substance misuse, psychological distress and suicide have all increased among people engaged in agriculture.

The recently authorized FRSAN would make competitive grants to nonprofit



Kelley J. Donham
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Michael R. Rosmann
PhD

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I-CASH is seeking proposals for its **2009 Injury Prevention in Agricultural Youth Grants**. Each year I-CASH designates funds for community grants targeted at the prevention of farm-related injury in young people and their families. Ten grants of \$300 each are available to decrease the risk of illness and injury from agricultural exposures to youth living on Iowa farms or otherwise involved in production agriculture. This year's theme for all grants is **rural roadway safety**. Application packets are available at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash. For more information contact LaMar Grafft at 319/335-4233 or lamar-grafft@uiowa.edu. **Application deadline is February 27, 2009.**

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Kelley J. Donham, MS, DVM, has been named the Journal of Agromedicine "Leader in the Field" for 2009. The recognition goes to an individual who has made significant contributions in agricultural safety and health practice, policy and research. Donham is a professor of occupational and environmental health at the University of Iowa's College of Public Health, and directs Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, the Agricultural Health and Safety Training Core of the Heartland Education and Research Center, and is Deputy Director of the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health. Congratulations Kelley!

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The AgriSafe Network is rapidly expanding to other states and is now selling personal protective equipment online at www.agrisafe.org. All of the proceeds support AgriSafe's non-profit work in the delivery of occupational health care to farmers. Non-profits across the country are working to diversify their income as foundation and grant sources become harder to attain, AgriSafe developed this business venture after many years of evaluating their internal assets. For more information about this approach to sustainability please contact Natalie Roy, AgriSafe Executive Director, at nroy@agrisafe.org or 985/845-1116.

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The National Institute for Farm Safety (NIFS) Annual Conference will be held June 14-18, 2009 in New Orleans, LA. NIFS is currently calling for abstracts and program presentations for the 2009 Annual Conference. For complete information on submitting abstracts visit the NIFS website at www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm. **Submission deadline is January 15, 2009.**

organizations to establish farm crisis hotlines, and to provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling, referral for other forms of assistance through telephone helplines and websites, community education, support groups, outreach services and activities, and home delivery of assistance for homebound farm residents. The 2009 U.S. Congress will take up the appropriations request, if you are interested in supporting this legislation, please contact your senators and representatives, or contact AgriWellness, Inc. AgriWellness is a nonprofit organization located in Harlan, Iowa that is providing education and information about the proposed network of assistance.

The current economic climate of volatile markets, high energy costs and biofuel production subsidies has created a whiplash in many agricultural markets and production costs. This is likely to manifest in even increased stress in many sectors of the agricultural community. The need for behavioral healthcare will likely increase in the future and we should be prepared to meet the need.

Michael R. Rosmann, PhD, is Executive Director of AgriWellness, Inc., and member of the I-CASH Advisory Council. He can be reached at 712/235-6100 (info@agriwellness.org).

Kelley Donham, MS, DVM, is the Director of I-CASH, and the Associate Department Head for Agricultural Medicine in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health. He can be reached at 319/335-4190 (kelly-donham@uiowa.edu).



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Save the Date!
**Agricultural Occupational
Health Training**
June 8-12, 2009
Iowa City, Iowa

For more information contact
Kay Mohling at 319/335-4219 or
kay-mohling@uiowa.edu

Great Plains Pilot/Feasibility Projects for 2009

Nine proposals were submitted to the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) for 2009 pilot/feasibility project funding. The three projects listed below represent an investment of the entire pilot/feasibility budget allocation to GPCAH from NIOSH.

Prevalence of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Colonization in Rural Iowa

The majority of studies examining the epidemiology of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) have taken place in urban areas affiliated with large academic hospitals. As a result, significantly less is known about the epidemiology of this important emerging bacterial pathogen in rural areas, despite the fact that several recent studies have shown that livestock, especially swine, can carry the organism and transmit it to humans. This study proposes to investigate the epidemiology of MRSA in rural areas of Iowa, combining population-based screening of both humans and animals, coupled with analysis of MRSA samples collected from small local hospitals.

Injury Risk in Part-time Farming

Injury prevention efforts have traditionally focused on full-time family farms, but an increasing number of farms are part-time operations. This project will link injury survey data with existing 2007 Ag Census data in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The aim is to measure injury risks for the current USDA farm types, focusing on part-time farms, and examine preventive strategies to better reach these populations. This pilot project establishes a research protocol, produces baseline injury risk data, and forms the scientific basis for intervention research designed for specific farm populations at greatest risk.

Development of a Task-based Noise Exposure Database for Agricultural Grain Farming Operations

This project proposes to collect task-based noise exposures for farmers and farm workers involved in grain farming operations. This information will be used to develop a task-based noise exposure database. Development of this database will involve collecting full-day noise measurements and shadowing subjects the entire work day to identify potential factors that influence noise exposure. The methodology of this proposed study is an improvement because direct observation by knowledgeable investigators will help ensure accuracy.

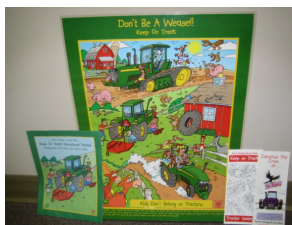
For more information visit www.public-health.uiowa.edu/GPCAH.

FS4JK Develops Tractor Safety Packet

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK) has developed a new *Keep on Track* tractor safety educational packet to teach children and youth about the dangers associated with working around tractors. *Keep on Track* features content appropriate for early elementary through middle school youth, and was generously funded by John Deere.

Monsanto Fund has donated funds to support tractor safety programs at Monsanto Seed sites. Programs are currently planned in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri.

For more information contact FS4JK at www.fs4jk.org.



calendar

January 18-21

22nd Annual Rural Health Care Leadership Conference
Phoenix, AZ
www.healthforum.com

January 28-29

Iowa Pork Congress 2009
Des Moines, IA
www.iowaporkcongress.org

January 29-30

Overall Women Conference
Bettendorf, IA
www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html

February 9-12

Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference
Louisville, KY
www.asabe.org

February 27

I-CASH Youth Grant deadline
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH

March 25-27

11th Annual Occupational Health Symposium
Iowa City, IA
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/heartland/ce/courses.asp

May 18-22

Agricultural Occupational Health Training
Marshfield, WI
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash

May 30-June 4

American Industrial Hygiene Association Conference: Discoveries Beyond Borders
Toronto, Canada
www.aiha.org/aihce09/default.htm

June 8-12

Agricultural Occupational Health Training
Iowa City, IA
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash

June 14-18

National Institute for Farm Safety, Inc. Annual Conference
New Orleans, LA
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm>

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

+++++ **It All Adds Up**
Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health Region
Farm and Agricultural Injury **INCIDENTS** in Press Clippings
(ND, SD, NE, KS, MO, IA, MN, WI, IL)

	LAST YEAR: Oct 06 thru Sep 07		THIS YEAR: Oct 07 thru Sep 08	
	Fatal (121)	Nonfatal (116)	Fatal (141)	Nonfatal (184)
Tractors and Machinery (Incl. ATV and similar at work)	64.2%	72.4%	70.9%	70.6%
Overturn	26.7	10.3	20.5	9.2
Runover	10.0	9.5	14.9	10.3
Crushed/Struck by	10.0	2.6	10.7	3.3
Collision	8.3	26.8	10.7	31.0
Entangled	4.2	10.3	5.7	9.2
Other	5.0	12.9	8.4	7.6
Grain Storage and Handling	9.2%	6.0%	8.5%	8.7%
Livestock Handling	5.8%	4.3%	6.4%	6.5%
Other	20.8%	17.3%	14.2%	14.2%