

# 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 Conference Highlights

Vol. 21, Issue 1 - December 2014

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

*Transforming Safety and Health in the Heartland* was a joint effort of the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) forum and the Iowa Rural Health Association (IRHA) annual meeting. Bringing together health care practitioners, farmers, researchers, and agricultural safety and health professionals, the meeting encouraged dialogue between groups who do not always have the opportunity to interact.

Wednesday's keynote, delivered by Rural Policy Research Institute president Chuck Fluharty was an inspiring start to the gathering, encouraging participants to "Think Big about Small Places." The afternoon breakout sessions highlighted diverse and important research addressing rural roadway safety, disease surveillance, pesticide exposure, noise induced hearing loss, and special agricultural populations such as women farmers, youth, and migrant workers. The day ended with



Conference participants enjoyed a poster reception with refreshments and live music.

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## Director's Message

by Brandi Janssen, PhD  
I-CASH Director

As winter settles in across the Midwest, farmers head to their shops for equipment maintenance and to conferences to catch up with the rest of the agricultural community. The health and safety crowd follow a similar pattern, so in November we convened for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual MRASH forum in Ankeny, IA. This year's forum was a collaboration with the Iowa Rural Health Association. The collaborative nature of the meeting continued as the I-CASH Advisory Board met to put the finishing touches on our strategic plan. I-CASH has some exciting initiatives that will roll out over the coming months. We intend to deepen our partnerships around the state, better engaging county level leaders and public health officials. We also aim to encourage more farmer-to-farmer dialogue about health and safety issues. I am delighted to be working with such a sharp, energetic group of people and I know that we will accomplish some very good work over the coming years.

The MRASH conference also allowed me to present the I-CASH Hall of Fame Award for the first time. I was very pleased to make the presentation to Mark Hanna, who was one of the first to welcome me to this new role. Mark has not only made a significant contribution to agricultural safety and health during his long career at ISU Extension, he's also a kind and thoughtful voice of reason in any setting.

Finally, keep a look out for the new "Safety Watch" column in Iowa Farmer Today. The U of I Centers, including I-CASH, GPCAH, the Injury Prevention Research Center, and the FACE (Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation) program will contribute monthly articles on seasonal agricultural safety or health topics. Thus far, there have been articles about recent FACE cases, manure pit fatalities, and fire prevention. I'm pleased that the Centers can play to their strengths and reach out directly to the farming community.



Brandi Janssen  
PhD

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)).



A series of PSAs created by Farm Safety for Just Kids and Eagle Communications in St. Joseph, MO won the 2014 Plambeck Award at the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) convention in Kansas City, on November 13th. The Plambeck Award is named in honor of Past NAFB President and Hall of Fame inductee Herb Plambeck, and recognizes the best single and series radio commercials that air on NAFB stations and networks. The award-winning PSAs are available by request, email [tracy@farmsafetyforjustkids.org](mailto:tracy@farmsafetyforjustkids.org) for more information.

As part of a Susan Harwood OSHA training grant, the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) developed a training program for Confined Space/Grain Bin Entry, and a Grain Bin Rescue program for firefighters. This program is credited with its fourth and fifth documented rescue as a result of the training. In August a six-year-old boy was rescued from a gravity wagon by the Nezperce (ID) Fire Department and an Iowa farmer from Newton was rescued from a bin by the Kellogg (IA) Fire Department. Both departments received training from NECAS. This year the training was offered in 13 states, and courses are already scheduled in 2015. This winter the mobile grain bin prop, used with the training, will be remodeled and placed on a new gooseneck trailer, complete with a Lockout/Tagout station. The height of the prop will be lowered to allow for training indoors during the winter months, and an added gravity wagon will enable rescue training in the gravity box. To schedule a training in your community call Dan Neenan, NECAS director, at 888/844-6322 or via email at [neenand@nicc.edu](mailto:neenand@nicc.edu).

The Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) project held a symposium October 27-28 in Louisville, KY with a large number of nationally renowned safety/health experts in attendance. I-CASH Board member Shari Burgus, Farm Safety for Just Kids (FSFJK) education director, represented FSFJK from historical and educational perspectives. The mission of SAY is to develop a sustainable and accessible national clearinghouse for agricultural safety and health curriculum for youth. For more information visit [www.extension.org/pages/70004/safety-in-agriculture-for-youth](http://www.extension.org/pages/70004/safety-in-agriculture-for-youth)



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To receive this newsletter through the US Mail, notify [kay-mohling@uiowa.edu](mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu)

## Outstanding Youth Project Awarded



Clay Central/Everyly Middle School FFA students received the Outstanding I-CASH Youth Project for 2014.

In 2014, I-CASH funded nine projects through its Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grant program. Clay Central/Everyly Middle School FFA students were honored at the 2014 MRASH Conference awards luncheon for producing the Outstanding I-CASH Youth Project. The project used several delivery methods to educate youth and adults about agricultural hearing loss. An interactive presentation was provided to 4th grade students at the local Progressive Ag Farm Safety Day, reaching nearly 190 children. Proper use of hearing protection, as well as tips to reduce hearing loss, were demonstrated at the Clay County Fair. The FFA students recorded three public service announcements (PSAs) about hearing safety at the local KICD radio station, which aired the PSAs during National Farm Safety Week. Social media was used to tweet photos from the Farm Safety Day event and their chapter's Facebook page promoted a "Feed the Farmer" event where hearing protection was distributed. The students noted that this project helped them improve their communication and leadership skills. Following the awards luncheon, the students joined with other conference participants in small group discussions, providing unique insight on farm safety education.

For additional information on the I-CASH Youth Injury Prevention Grant program visit <http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/prgrams/Youth-Ag-Safety-Grants>

## Hanna Awarded Hall of Fame

Mark H. Hanna, PhD, received the 2014 Hall of Fame award from I-CASH Director Brandi Janssen at the I-CASH Advisory Board Meeting in Ankeny, IA on November 18, 2014. I-CASH created the Hall of Fame Award in 2002 to recognize individuals or organizations, in the public or private sector, that have made significant contributions to agricultural safety and health in Iowa. Prevention, education, program evaluation, policy education, policy development, and organizational infrastructure are potential areas for outstanding merit.



Brandi Janssen, I-CASH Director presents Mark Hanna the I-CASH Hall of Fame Award.

Hanna holds a BS, MS and PhD from Iowa State University and has been an Agricultural Engineer at ISU Extension for many years. As a machinery expert, Hanna works to include safety messaging in all of his programming. As a researcher, he applies his engineering skills to improve both economic efficiencies for farmers and reduce the environmental impact of agriculture. His research topics include reducing off-target chemical drift and improving precision nutrient application to reduce input costs and negative environmental consequences associated with overuse. He has also examined ways to improve fuel efficiencies and alternative tilling strategies to increase producer profits while preserving non-renewable resources.

Mark has won numerous awards during his long career, including the Outstanding Achievement in Extension from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University, the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Engineer of the Year Award, and the Mission Award for Extension from Gamma Sigma Delta, as well as serving multiple terms on the I-CASH Advisory Board.

View past I-CASH Hall of Fame recipients and their accomplishments at <http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Hall-of-Fame>

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### **MRASH continued from page 1**

a poster reception where participants could informally gather for refreshments, live music, and conversation.

The second day of the conference celebrated National Rural Health Day by recognizing award winners committed to making a difference in their communities. Two keynote speakers, US Department of Human Services Regional Director Stephene Moore and CoOpportunity Health Vice President Judy Stark addressed recent changes in health care policy and the effects on rural communities. Afternoon sessions encouraged participants to share concerns, goals and new ideas related to rural health and agricultural safety. This year's conference theme was a timely reminder of the inherent connections between farming, rural economic viability and the health and wellbeing of rural residents.

Conference materials will be available at <http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash>

## calendar

January 23-24

**Practical Farmers of Iowa 2015 Annual Conference**  
Ames, IA  
<http://practicalfarmers.org>

January 28-29

**Iowa Pork Congress**  
Des Moines, IA  
[www.iowaporkcongress.org](http://www.iowaporkcongress.org)

February 3-5

**Iowa Power Farming Show**  
Des Moines, IA  
<http://iowapowershow.com>

March 3-5

**Hawkeye Farm Show**  
Cedar Falls, IA  
<http://hawkeyefarmshow.com>

April 13-16

**2015 AgrAbility National Training Workshop**  
Rochester, NY  
<http://agrability.org/ntw>

April 14-15

**Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health**  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
[www.iowapha.org](http://www.iowapha.org)

June 8-12

**Agricultural Medicine Training**  
Iowa City, IA  
<http://cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/training>

June 21-25

**International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health Conference**  
Normal, IL  
<http://isash.org/2015-isash-conference>

July 26-29

**American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Annual International Meeting**  
New Orleans, LA  
[www.asabemeetings.org](http://www.asabemeetings.org)

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## Research to Practice

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by Brandi Janssen, PhD  
I-CASH Director

The *Transforming Safety and Health in the Heartland* conference included a panel discussion entitled “Working Together to Make a Difference: ATV Safety Case Study in Policy/Prevention/Practice Collaboration.” Participants Katrina Altenhofen, EMT-P, EMS for Children Program Director at IDPH, Charles Jennissen, MD, University of Iowa Medicine and Gerene Denning, PhD, Director of Emergency Medicine Research at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine addressed the benefits of diverse collaborations in their efforts to reduce injuries and fatalities associated with ATVs in Iowa. The group has worked for many years researching the key factors that lead to injuries and fatalities, to improve ATV education, and to advocate for sensible policy regarding ATV road use.

The discussion, moderated by I-CASH’s Gayle Olson, showed how the group’s diverse participation has helped successfully move their research from the academy to the public. One key point is to take advantage of every opportunity to tell others about your research and priorities. They have developed new partners, including educators, community leaders and parents, using this strategy. They also emphasized the importance of being inclusive by inviting community members to public forums and events. Asking for consistent input from community members has provided new ways to make their message heard and helped them understand how to best approach the public.



ATV safety panelists (left to right) Gerene Denning, Charles Jennissen, and Katrina Altenhofen convey the importance of collaboration during the panel discussion moderated by Gayle Olson.