

# 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)

## I-CASH Hall of Fame Awarded

by Brandi Janssen, PhD

Dan Neenan, director of the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), is the recipient of the 2016 I-CASH Hall of Fame Award. I-CASH created the award in 2002 to recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to agricultural safety and health in Iowa.

A trained first responder, Dan serves as a Paramedic Specialist, Fire-fighter II with the Epworth and Centralia/Peosta Iowa Fire Department and received an MBA from the University of Dubuque in 2012. He serves on the Iowa EMS and I-CASH advisory boards, chairs the Iowa Community College Fire Program Manager task force, is treasurer of the Dubuque County EMS Association, and has served on the Progressive Ag Foundation Board.

Dan has conducted numerous education programs on site at NECAS, across Iowa and the US. One of his most recent efforts has been related to grain safety, which has been supported by OSHA and other resources. He has built traveling confined space demonstrations related to both grain rescue and manure pits that have been extremely effective for training first responders, farmers, and employees about the hazards, prevention strategies, as well as the rescue methods in response to confined space incidents. Dan's trainings not only exceed their objectives, they save lives. His grain rescue training has resulted in communities taking successful action when grain entrapment occurs.



Dan Neenan provides training with the confined space simulator. Photos courtesy of NECAS.

*Continued on page 2*

## Director's Message

by Brandi Janssen, PhD

There is a definite winter chill in the air as we wrap up 2016. You can read about our busy fall in this issue of the newsletter. A successful Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) conference in Sioux Center, IA allowed our UI students, and many researchers, to go to a part of the state we don't visit often enough. We were glad to present the 2016 Outstanding Youth Grant Award to the Butler County 4-H club and the I-CASH Hall of Fame Award to Dan Neenan. You can read more details about those awards in this issue.

In December, I-CASH is also kicking off our winter campaign, focusing on mental and behavioral health. This is a challenging topic, especially for rural areas. Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a report that looked at suicide rates for different occupational groups. The statistic that was surprising to many was that suicide rates for workers in agriculture were the highest of any other occupational group, and exceeded rates in other high-risk populations, including veterans.

I think many of us continue to think of the farm crisis as the peak of mental and behavioral health challenges for rural areas. The National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield, Wisconsin tracked farm suicides in the Upper Midwest during the 1980s. They found that 913 male farmers in the region committed suicide during that decade, with rates peaking in 1982 at 58 suicides for every 100,000 farmers and ranchers. Rates among the general population were around 31 suicides per 100,000 white males over the age of 20 during that same time period.



Brandi Janssen, PhD

*Continued on page 2*

The **2017 I-CASH Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grant** applications are available. Every year I-CASH provides funds to community youth groups in Iowa for farm safety-related projects. In addition, the outstanding project receives a cash award and the winners are invited to the annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference. Applications are available at [www.i-cash.org](http://www.i-cash.org) and the **deadline is February 15, 2017**. For more information or assistance with this program, contact Brandi Janssen at [brandi-janssen@uiowa.edu](mailto:brandi-janssen@uiowa.edu) or 319-335-4190.

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health **Agricultural Safety and Health Course** will be held June 12-16, 2017 in Iowa City, IA. The recently revised course presents current research with an emphasis on prevention. The course brings together participants from a wide range of backgrounds and utilizes case studies, field trips and hands on activities. Visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcab/education/training-opportunities](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcab/education/training-opportunities) for more information.



Through the Farmworkers Program, Proteus, Inc. provides scheduled health clinics throughout the state for farmworkers. During the winter months clinics will be held in Clarion, Des Moines, and Ft. Dodge, see the full schedule at [www.proteusinc.net](http://www.proteusinc.net). Anyone interested in receiving health care services that is unable to attend on the scheduled dates can call the locations toll free to schedule an appointment. Proteus has bilingual staff on hand and the clinics are staffed with a Provider (either a Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant) that can prescribe medications on hand or provide vouchers for nearby pharmacies. Fees are based on the patients income and a sliding scale, rarely does a patient pay more than \$5-\$10. Clinic locations are as follows:

- 3850 Merle Hay Rd. Suite 500 and 100, **Des Moines**, IA; phone 1-800-372-6031
- 115 1st St. SE, **Clarion**, IA; phone 1-800-498-8225
- 107 N. 7th St., **Fort Dodge**, IA; phone 1-800-798-8225
- 1548 S. Gilbert St., **Iowa City**, IA; phone 1-800-397-9675

For more information visit [www.proteusinc.net](http://www.proteusinc.net) or contact Patrick Taggart, Regional Director at 800/397-9675.

*Hall of Fame continued from page 1*

He is passionate about his work and is an innovative educator. Dan is a regular lecturer at the University of Iowa's courses in Agricultural Safety and Health and regularly hosts very successful farm safety days for youth at his center. His hard work, and collegial style and manner over several years have made him a worthy recipient of the 2016 I-CASH Hall of Fame Award.



Dan Neenan received the 2016 I-CASH Hall of Fame Award.

See [www.i-cash.org](http://www.i-cash.org) for more information on the I-CASH Hall of Fame Award.

*Director's Message continued from page 1*

Compare that with this year's CDC report, which found that current national suicide rates for people working in agriculture are 84.5 per 100,000 overall and 90.5 per 100,000 among males. This means that suicide rates among male farmers are now more than 50% higher than they were in 1982, at the peak of the farm crisis. Although the CDC report is national, and the National Farm Medicine's research was regional, the difference is striking.

The goal of I-CASH's winter seasonal campaign is to raise awareness about the issue, and highlight the hotline resources that are available in Iowa. Our partners at the Iowa Concern Hotline at ISU, which was started in 1985 in response to the farm crisis, remain on the front lines providing crisis assistance for those who need it. The I-CASH seasonal campaign will advertise their work, as well as other crisis response resources, statewide through Extension and FSA offices. As always, the campaign materials will be available on the I-CASH website.

*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)).*



Farm Families Alive & Well  
Published 4/yr  
Kay Mohling, Ed.  
319/335-4219  
[kay-mohling@uiowa.edu](mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu)

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

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/IaCenterAgSafetyHealth](https://www.facebook.com/IaCenterAgSafetyHealth)

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



## MRASH Conference Travels to Sioux Center

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

The 15th annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference was held November 15-16 in Sioux Center, featuring the first ever Agricultural Health Fair and Safety Exposition. Learning from colleagues across so many disciplines, all passionate about keeping farm families and workers safe and healthy, is always energizing! A huge thanks to all who helped in so many different ways.



The 2016 MRASH Conference featured an Agricultural Health Fair and Safety Exposition.



Wayne Bauer, founder of the Grain Entrapment Prevention Initiative provided the keynote.

The conference kicked off with a keynote by Wayne Bauer, former international president of the Grain Elevator and Processing Society and founder of the Grain Entrapment Prevention Initiative. While in Sioux Center, Wayne also met with hog contractors at Farmers Cooperative Society, agriculture students at Dordt College, the I-CASH Advisory Board and area FFA advisors.

Several breakout session and poster topics were offered on various subjects, with a number of new organizations represented. Over 20 Dordt College students from the agriculture program and nursing department participated in the conference this year. Ag students prepared posters on hazards and displayed them in both the poster reception and the health fair. In addition, Duane Bajema and Mike Schouten, both professors at Dordt College, served on resource panels focusing on “Prevention by Design” and “Grain Handling Safety.” We plan to build on this great relationship with Dordt College in future efforts.

Grassroots panels on the second day of the conference were crowd favorites. Sonia Reyes-Snyder facilitated a panel on immigrant farm worker issues and Rich Gassman moderated the grain handling safety panel. In each case, panelists were able to share their perspectives and fielded excellent questions from their audiences.

The conference closed with the awards luncheon and I-CASH Hall of Fame presentation to Dan Neenan, director of NECAS and the Outstanding Youth Grant Award to the Butler County 4-H Youth Council. Led by Holly Merritt, the youth group developed permanent signs about animal handling safety for the livestock barns at the Butler County Fair and distributed first aid kits.



The Butler County 4-H Youth Council received the I-CASH Outstanding Youth Grant Award.



Panelists on the Immigrant & Migrant Workers panel shared their experiences and perspectives.

Following the conference, the Agricultural Health Fair and Safety Exposition featured a mix of local state and regional organizations. There was ample opportunity for networking and exhibitors were able to share resources with many participants.

## calendar

January 4-6

**Dakota Farm Show**  
Vermillion, SD  
<http://dakotafarmshow.com>

January 10-12

**Ag Cooperative Safety Director's Leadership Conference**  
Council Bluffs, IA  
[www.facebook.com/ACSConfer-ence](http://www.facebook.com/ACSConfer-ence)

January 11-12

**Northern Illinois Farm Show**  
DeKalb, IL  
[www.ideagroup.com/illinois](http://www.ideagroup.com/illinois)

January 20-21

**Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference**  
Ames, IA  
[www.practicalfarmers.org](http://www.practicalfarmers.org)

January 25-26

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

January 27-28

**Iowa Farm Bureau Young Farmer Conference**  
Des Moines, IA  
[www.iowafarmbureau.com/Article/2017-Young-Farmer-Conference](http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/Article/2017-Young-Farmer-Conference)

January 31-February 2

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

February 15

**I-CASH Youth Grant application deadline**  
<http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash>

February 28-March 2

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

June 12-16

**Agricultural Safety and Health: The Core Course**  
Iowa City, IA  
[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcah/education/training-opportunities](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcah/education/training-opportunities)

The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, the University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA, 52242-1316, 319-335-0705 (voice), 319-335-0697 (TDD), [diversity@uiowa.edu](mailto:diversity@uiowa.edu).

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## A Year of Seasonal Campaigns

by Kay Mohling, MA, I-CASH Program Coordinator

Over the past year, seasonal campaigns have been developed by I-CASH and distributed throughout the state to raise awareness of rural safety and health issues. The promotions regularly partner with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) and the Farm Service Administration (FSA). In addition to the educational materials and giveaways, radio public service announcements have aired statewide and articles have been written for the Iowa Farmer Today to promote the campaign topics.

The first campaign of 2016 focused on farm fire prevention and provided packets filled with educational brochures, equipment coupons, decals and signs. The spring campaign kicked off in March, focusing on slips and trips, and offered informational cards, equipment coupons and packets of slip resistant treads at ISUEO Regional Offices.

Farm employer and employee responsibilities was the theme for the summer campaign. Young worker information cards were distributed to all ISUEO county offices and Iowa Farmer's Market Association members. Resources were compiled on the I-CASH website with links to training and information for young farm employees, as well as employers of young workers on the farm.

The fall campaign focused on the legacy of farming and farm safety. Posters and flashlights with the reminder that “a safe farm has a bright future” were distributed to the ISUEO Regional Offices and an Op-Ed was sent out through the Iowa Newspaper Association.

The winter campaign will focus on behavioral health, encouraging individuals to “stay connected.” Brochures listing crisis and referral contacts will be available at all ISUEO and FSA county offices. In 2017 materials will be distributed to different county ISUEO and FSA offices each season. Visit [www.i-cash.org](http://www.i-cash.org) for more information.

