



MIDWEST RURAL AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CONFERENCE

Working in rural Iowa to promote health and safety

CONTACT: BRANDI-JANSSEN@UIOWA.EDU

Issue Addressed:

Agricultural safety and health is a complex topic that requires the engagement of the entire community

Activities:

Since 2000, I-CASH, along with the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, the Heartland ERC, and other partners, present the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) conference. The conference brings together safety and health researchers and professionals, health care providers, farmers, and rural advocates all committed to building a safer and healthier agriculture.

To better reach rural populations, MRASH has been held in rural communities since 2015. **Planning efforts include local businesses, health care professionals, and farmers to reach as many people in the local area as possible.**

MRASH includes research presentations, nationally known

keynote speakers, and small group discussion about topics relevant to the community (see photo above).

In 2015, MRASH was held in Decorah, IA where speakers included officials involved in the Avian Influenza outbreak and area farmers who discussed the role of health and safety on their farms. Attendees included area farmers, nursing students from Luther College. In 2016, MRASH was held in Sioux Center, IA, engaging agricultural students from Dordt College, national experts on grain handling safety, and providers for immigrant workers.

Impact:

I-CASH has added **four new Corresponding Advisory Board members** from Decorah and Sioux Center, expanding our network of local stakeholders

More than **80% of participants** consistently report that they left with a better understanding of the

occupational hazards experienced by farmers and farm workers.

Population:

Agricultural workforce, agribusiness, rural providers

“I learned so much at this conference but I will take back an ability to change the culture of my company towards safety” Sioux Center Participant

“I really enjoyed attending this conference in a rural, small town, and hearing stories from some of the local people.” Decorah Participant