

IOWA'S CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH



Empowering youth to prevent agricultural injuries

YOUTH INJURY PREVENTION GRANTS

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Issue Addressed:

Youth on farms are injured at higher rates than in other settings.

Activities:

Since 1990, Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) has administered a grant program for Iowa youth related to agricultural safety and health. The key aim of this grant program is to decrease the risk of injury to youth living on Iowa farms as well as to empower agricultural youth to implement safety protocols on their own families' farms.

The request for proposals assumes that although this is primarily an educational project, education alone may not be effective at reducing risk. **The grantees are encouraged to develop projects where education can be combined with peer and family support, that include activities promoting behavioral change, or that work to remove an identified risk.**

Past projects have included Farm Safety Days for elementary students and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members, Public Service Announcements directed at farmers. Others have built "hidden hazards on the farm" displays and developed livestock safety signs for their local county fair barns. A "Stay Safe, Take a Break" initiative in which youth distributed PPE to farmers during the harvest season, encouraging them to combat fatigue related injuries and accidents (see photo above).

Impact:

I-CASH has distributed nearly \$120,000 in total funds to youth around the state of Iowa. Grants have been distributed across the state, with recipients representing 54 of Iowa's 99 counties.

Each grant encourages the engagement of youth with partner organizations, such as FFA, 4-H, ISU Extension, local colleges, or local health care providers or first responders, in addition to

the core I-CASH statewide partners (ISU, IDALS and IDPH). Given that many of the projects involve county fairs, field days, school workshops or community events, the number of people reached with our grant support has been extensive and statewide.

Population:

Rural youth, both farm and non-farm populations.

"Our goal is to make all youth (and their families) aware of the dangers. If it saves one life or prevents serious injury, it is well worth it!" Tracy Scharper, Mitchell County Extension.