

GPCAH field activities

by Marsha Cheyney, MPH, GPCAH Evaluation and Outreach Coordinator

The GPCAH outreach team traveled across the Midwest in 2018, providing agricultural safety and health information to farmers, farm families, and rural youth. Early in the summer, they presented information on farm warning sign symbols and lawn mowing safety to nearly 400 youth at Progress Ag Safety Days in Montezuma and Peosta, IA.

In late July, the outreach team presented new agricultural health and safety “mini-displays” to Extension agents attending the National Association of County Agricultural Agents annual meeting in Chattanooga, TN. August was focused on rural roadway safety and identifying farmers’ health and safety concerns at the Minnesota Farmfest and the Farm Progress Show. These exhibits were in collaboration with the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH) and the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH), the newest Agricultural Safety and Health Centers in the Midwest. The new lawn mowing safety display will debut on September 11-13 at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island, NE. We’d love to see you at one of our future events - we’ll be at the Western Farm Show in Kansas City, MO on February 22-24, and the Triumph of Ag Expo in Omaha, NE on February 27-28. If you can’t make it to one of the shows, you can find all of our print materials on the resources pages on www.gpcab.org.



Health and Safety Tent staff from AgriSafe, Iowa Department of Public Health, CS-CASH, Iowa’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, GPCAH, and UMASH are ready to meet the Farm Progress Show attendees in Boone, IA.

Director’s Message: Training and outreach

by Renée Anthony, PhD, CIH, CSP

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health is one of 11 agriculture, forestry, and fishing (AFF) centers funded by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), housed within the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. AFF centers are tasked with both providing high quality research and translating scientific discoveries into practical applications to improve safety and health for these workers. This month, I want to highlight some of our activities that focus on translating lessons learned, from our research and that of investigators around the country.

In June, we completed another week of the Agricultural Safety and Health Core Course. This course provides a week-long immersion into agricultural production safety and health hazards and prevention. Twenty-six participants from 7 states attended this year, including physicians, nurses, and veterinarians. Participants developed skills in hazard recognition and prevention to protect the agricultural workers they serve.

In March’s Alive and Well, we updated everyone on our 2017 pilot grant awardees. The purpose of funding these projects is to build agricultural safety and health skills throughout the region, for both researchers and community groups. Funded projects must both address a relevant and important issue to our region’s agricultural workers and enhance the applicant’s capacity to address future agricultural safety and health challenges. To help community groups unfamiliar with the grant writing process, we conducted a pilot grant-writing webinar in June, with 28 attendees, to guide community groups to prepare effective proposals. If you or someone



Renée Anthony PhD,
CIH, CSP

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Agricultural Safety and Health: The Core Course June 10-14, 2019

The University of Iowa College of Public Health
Iowa City, Iowa



National Farm Safety & Health Week - September 16-22

The third week of every September is National Farm Safety & Health Week, an effort to bring attention to hazards on the farm and provide a forum to promote health and safety. The National Education



Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) hosts materials to disseminate best practices to protect farmers. The 2018 theme for National Farm Safety & Health Week is “Cultivating the Seeds of Safety.”

Daily Topics:

- Monday - Rural Roadway Safety
- Tuesday - Health/Suicide/Opioids
- Wednesday - Child/Youth Health and Safety
- Thursday - Confined Spaces in Agriculture
- Friday - Tractor Safety

Visit www.necasag.org for safety and health resources, public service announcements, and links to daily webinars.



National Rural Health Day - November 15

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and its partners annually set aside the third Thursday of November to celebrate National Rural Health Day. Visit www.PowerofRural.org for a complete listing of news and events.

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Telling the Story

by Stephanie Leonard, MS, GPCAH Outreach

The new “Telling the Story Project” (TTSP) was unrolled at the 2018 International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health conference in Nova Scotia in June. A collaborative work produced by GPCAH, CS-CASH, and UMASH, the



project creates injury prevention messages that highlight personal stories and first-hand experiences. Participating storytellers share their experiences and offer insight about recognizing hazardous scenarios and working safely.

Farmers, family and community members are among the first story-tellers, sharing accounts relating to deadly manure gases, fires, ATV safety, falls, and risk-taking. Their stories are told in their own words and provide both hindsight and insight into what happened and what went wrong, and give advice to avoid a similar experience. The common goal among storytellers is “turning something bad into something good” that could help someone else.

Along with multimedia feature stories, TTSP includes *Story Frames*, cartoon-format safety reminders created by Iowa farmer Rick Friday; *Vignettes*, abbreviated safety lessons; and a *More* page with recommended links to impactful stories created by others. The *Resources* page provides links to repositories that include the National Ag Safety Database and US Ag Health and Safety Centers YouTube channel.

TTSP is designed for the ag community, media, and educators. Visitors are encouraged to share links and use the stories to start conversations about safety. Guidelines for republishing are at www.tellingthestoryproject.org/use-our-stories. Contact information for the project is reachus@tellingthestoryproject.org

Visit www.Tellingthestoryproject.org for additional information.

Grain rescue training at NECAS

by Dan Neenan, MBA, Paramedic, Director NECAS, Safety, Transportation and EMS

The 2018 “Nominate Your Fire Department Contest,” in honor of Grain Bin Safety Week (GBSW), is moving forward with the delivery of 29 awarded rescue tubes and training sessions for fire departments in 19 states.

Nationwide Insurance originally created GBSW to bring attention to the tragedies of grain bin engulfments and partnered with The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) to provide rescue training to rural fire departments. The goal is to have all of the tubes delivered and training completed by September 30th.

Since 2014, GBSW has awarded 77 rescue tubes in 23 states. Three of those rescue tubes have been used in successful rescues: Westphalia, Kansas (2014), Glennville, Minnesota (2017), and Berlin, Pennsylvania (2018).

The “Nominate Your Fire Department Contest” allows communities to nominate their local fire department for a chance to win the rescue tubes and specialized training. Ag companies across the United States have donated funds to ensure the program’s success. For more information visit www.nationwide.com/grain-bin-safety-week.jsp or contact Dan Neenan, director of NECAS at neenand@nicc.edu.

Neenan is the past recipient of two pilot grants from the GPCAH to travel with state-of-the-art grain entrapment, confined space rescue, and anhydrous ammonia simulators for educational sessions across the Midwest.

For more information on the NECAS visit www.necasag.org



Staff from NECAS provided rescue training to the Kewaunee, WI Fire Department on August 11, 2018. Photo courtesy of NECAS.

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you know is interested in demystifying the pilot grant application process, the recording is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LEYzP1rnZs. In August, the GPCAH team provided grant writing workshops at both Missouri and Ohio Rural Health Association meetings. While these sessions demonstrate the grant application process with examples customized to the GPCAH pilot grant solicitation, the tips given are universal.

As mentioned on page 1, we’re wrapping up our summer and fall outreach at farm shows throughout the region. We always have information to share at the GPCAH and NIOSH AFF booths at these shows, and we thank everyone for stopping by and completing this year’s survey.

Once the farm show season slows down, we hope to see many of you in Council Bluffs for the 2018 MRASH conference. This forum shares research findings, lessons from outreach, and education on emerging hazards and prevention solutions; conference details are on page 4.

Dr. Renée Anthony directs the GPCAH, housed in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health of the College of Public Health. She can be reached at 319/335-4429 (renee-anthony@uiowa.edu).

calendar

September 16-22

National Farm Safety & Health Week

www.necasag.org/nationalfarmsafetyandhealthweek

October 2-6

World Dairy Expo

Madison, WI

<https://worlddairyexpo.com>

October 5-7

Ozark Fall FarmFest

Springfield, MO

www.ozarkempirefair.com/events/2018/ozark-fall-farmfest

October 24-27

National FFA Convention & Expo

Indianapolis, IN

www.ffa.org

November 2-3

2018 WFAN Annual Conference

Des Moines, IA

www.wfan.org

November 10-14

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo

San Diego, CA

www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual

November 15

National Rural Health Day

www.PowerofRural.org

November 27-29

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference

Council Bluffs, IA

www.i-cash.org/2018-mrash

December 4-6

Nebraska Power Farming Show

Lincoln, NE

www.nebraskapowershow.com

January 17-19

Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference

Ames, IA

www.practicalfarmers.org/news-events/events/annual-conference/

January 30-31

Iowa Power Farming Show

Des Moines, IA

www.iowapowershow.com

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Research to Practice

MRASH to be held in Council Bluffs, IA

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



“Stressing Resilience” is the title of the 2018 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference to be held November 27-29 at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs, IA. Joining the GPCAH and Iowa’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health as a major sponsor this year is the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH). MRASH kicks off on Tuesday, November 27 with a half day pre-conference workshop on immigrant farmworker health. The workshop will be led by Dr. Mark Grey from the University of Northern Iowa, director of the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration.

Wednesday morning will focus on using best management practices to keep farm families and farm workers safe and resilient. Dick Wittman’s keynote will be followed by a panel of farmers sharing how they are working to incorporate these practices on their farms. The afternoon sessions will feature a broad spectrum of research and outreach presentations, including a session on stress. New at this year’s Wednesday night poster reception will be a series of 5 minute Flashtalks.

The focus on Thursday morning is “Telling the Agricultural Safety and Health Story.” A farmer and a journalist will join outreach staff to speak about how sharing a farmer’s experience can help others make life-saving changes. Following the award luncheon, Dan Neenan from NECAS will conduct a training on anhydrous ammonia safety for conference attendees, area farmers and co-op personnel. Dan will also present an additional anhydrous ammonia safety training, specifically for firefighters and emergency services providers, during the conference. Individuals should register separately for this no-cost training with Ashlee at NECAS by calling (888) 844-6322.

Poster abstracts will be accepted until **November 1**, and there are still opportunities to become an exhibitor or conference sponsor. Participants can register for single days or the full conference; discounts are available for students and farmers. Visit www.i-cash.org/2018-mrash for additional conference details and registration.