

## Kathy Leinenkugel Receives Awards

by Brandi Janssen, PhD, I-CASH Director and Gayle Olson, MS, CHES, I-CASH Assistant to the Director

In May 2022, Kathy Leinenkugel was recognized for a lifetime of work in health and safety. She received the Iowa Public Health Heroes Award and the I-CASH Hall of Fame award.

Kathy Leinenkugel started her career by working 20 years in hospital and clinic laboratories. She then switched to the field of public health where she has spent 25 years. For the past 14 years, she has been with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), serving as program manager for the Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program (OHSSP), funded by CDC/NIOSH. She was named Program Director and Principal Investigator of OHSSP in which capacity she served until her retirement in January 2022.

From nearly the beginning of her career at IDPH, on April 7, 2008, she was appointed by Tom Newton, IDPH Director at the time, to represent the department on the Board of Directors for Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH). In her appointment letter, Newton said that "Her position on the board will strengthen the linkage between the NIOSH funded program and the work of the I-CASH surveillance committee. I appreciate the relationship that our two organizations maintain

and I-CASH's continued leadership on safety and health issues

facing Iowans." Never were truer words spoken. She has been an active and engaged leader in I-CASH from the beginning and has helped to shepherd the organization through transitions in directors, structures and strategic plans.

In addition to her main role at IDPH as OHSSP Program Manager, Kathy was instrumental in funding the Iowa Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (Iowa FACE) program. She also collected data regarding brain injuries, coordinated with the Iowa Brain Injury Alliance, and managed the Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) program, which notified employers and employees of lead exposures and prepared educational materials. Given all of this experience, Kathy played a major role in putting together the annual Burden of Injury reports to the state of Iowa, with much of it coming from her data.



Kathy Leinenkugel (right) received the I-CASH Hall of Fame Award from Brandi Janssen, I-CASH Director.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Kathy Leinenkugel Receives Awards
- Directors Message
- I-CASH Awards Nine Youth Grants
- Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference November 16-17
- News and Updates

## Director's Message

by Brandi Janssen, PhD

Spring, or maybe summer, has arrived again! I watched and waited for my asparagus to emerge all through April, only to have it come all at once by the bucketload in May. I am grateful for the abundance, but also ready to move on to strawberries and peas for a change.

This winter, I-CASH began a comprehensive center evaluation. We are working with the University of Iowa Center for Evaluation and Assessment to look at the reach and impact of all of our programming. After that, we will work on a new strategic plan that will carry us through the next three to five years. As part of that evaluation, we'd like to know how you use this very newsletter! Please take a few moments to complete [this survey](#) to help us understand how we can best provide information about both I-CASH and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health going forward.



Brandi Janssen, PhD

Our seasonal campaigns continue to share prevention messaging with ISU Extension and Outreach and Farm Service Agency offices across the state. In the winter, we sent our third annual Farm Safety Calendar which combines prevention strategies with beautiful photos of the Iowa landscape. In the spring, we focused on tractor safety and reminded operators to think comprehensively about protecting themselves from sun and noise exposure as well as potential injuries from a rollover. After that campaign, we learned one of our Extension partners, Kelli Ireland, used the information in the campaign to write an Op-Ed in the Spencer Daily Reporter. We are always glad to provide media outreach resources, so please let us know if these would be helpful to you if you are a seasonal campaign recipient!

This summer, we will address needlestick injuries in livestock production. There are already many great resources developed by the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center, the Pork Producers, and from livestock handling experts. We will compile these into a packet and distribute later in June.

Also in this issue, you can read more about our plans for the upcoming Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) conference as well as the recipients of our Agricultural Youth Grants. It was also a pleasure to see our long-time partner Kathy Leinenkugel receive two awards for her incredible work in injury surveillance and prevention. You can read more about her accomplishments on page 1.

Finally, I want to welcome two new members to the I-CASH Advisory Board. We were able to meet mostly in person in May and it was a pleasure to see everyone in "3-D" for the first time in a very long time! Greg Alber is a farmer in Buchanan County and is the Chair of the Iowa Corn Promotion Board, and Betsy Danielson is an extension specialist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP). We are looking forward to working with Greg and Betsy over the next few years!

*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)).*

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## I-CASH Awards Nine Youth Grants

by Ralph Altmaier, MS, I-CASH Administrative Services Coordinator

Each year I-CASH provides funds for small grants to Iowa youth groups who help educate their community members and improve safety on farms in their area. This year nine projects were funded.

### Cedar County Extension

An Ag Safety Day is planned that will consist of a four-station rotation. Each station will be interactive and provide hands-on activities and education for students to become more aware of farm hazards and safety issues, as well as general safety concerns and emergency situations. The four stations will tentatively cover the following topics: emergency situations; equipment, ATV's, lawn mowers and road safety; chemical safety; and animal safety. Two FFA chapters and the Cedar County Youth Council will assist with the program.



### Cherokee County Extension

An educational safety day will be held to address the following safety topics: electrical, fire, grain, water, animal, weather, ATV, and railroad; in addition, home alone safety and first aid will be presented. High school youth will help with the planning, implementation and delivery of this program.

### Floyd County Extension and Charles City FFA Chapter

Farm safety during the harvest season is the focus of this project. Youth will provide safety resources and appreciation to area farmers in the form of a resource filled 5-gallon bucket. Youth will plan the program, request resources and materials from local businesses and, along with adult volunteers, make the deliveries to farmers during harvest season.

### Ida County Farm Bureau

An Ag Safety Day is planned that will address safety around machinery, electricity, grain bins, animals, ATVs, poison, weeds and chemicals. There will be hands-on activities involving combines and anhydrous ammonia along with Ag-in-the-classroom sessions. FFA students will plan and help with some of the activities.

### Louisa County Extension

An Ag Safety Day will include the following safety topics: power take-off, basic first aid, blind spots, grain bin, animal, water, sun, ATV/UTV, dangerous plants and firearms. Additional topics to be covered are fire safety and fire extinguisher training, and extreme weather preparedness. High school peer mentors will assist with the training. A video will be created by the Louisa 4-H County Council members and Louisa County Extension over the course of the day. The video will be distributed via social media, Extension websites, partners leading the training and the participating schools.

### O'Brien County Extension

An in-person grain safety unit demonstration, for self-paced and hands-on exploration, will be provided at the O'Brien County Fair. Youth and adults will be able to read about grain safety through large posters and displays, and printed flyers and magnets will be handed out. This unit is also used at the O'Brien County Fair with a youth farm tour and during a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade farm safety day with youth led sessions.

### Washington County 4-H & Extension

The title of this project is called "Stay Safe, Take a Break" and it targets farmers/farm families in the fall during the busy and long hours of the harvest season. The 4-H County Council youth will select, purchase, collect and deliver bags full of goodies that can help promote safety to farmers. Combined, all of the items encourage general farm safety, however the special one-on-one delivery of these bags to farmers in the fields while they

*continued on page 4*

More important than the number of programs Kathy Leinenkugel helped to advise and strengthen was how she approached her work. She was a meticulous data manager with a keen eye for small details, quite important for an epidemiologist and data manager. She followed contacts to find the right person to notify, the supporting details, categorization of data and so much more. At the same time, she also saw the big picture, focusing on why an effort was being undertaken and who it helped. She has long been a public servant for people in the state and a great colleague.

Kathy Leinenkugel has exemplified the criteria these awards across virtually all of her activities. She has always been a master networker, connecting organizations and departments with data and resources developed in her office or by others. She coordinated among various branches inside and outside the Occupational Health and Safety Program including with the state medical examiner, Health and Human Services, state and private colleges and universities and so many more. While serving on the I-CASH board, she shared her expertise for the benefit of I-CASH, but also did extensive networking with other organizations represented on the I-CASH Advisory Board. Other members didn't hesitate to contact her when they had a question or needed assistance with surveillance data.

The field of agricultural safety and health presents some unique challenges in surveillance due to the overlap of workplace and living space, as well as workers and family. Ms. Leinenkugel was able to ferret out data sets that would help to analyze agricultural safety or health statistics. She always went the extra mile to help people understand the often complicated limitations and appropriate use of the data. But gathering data in and of itself was not her goal. Helping people in the field of public health know how to use the data to tell the story and to make ethical decisions was very much her aim.

Each of us have not only enjoyed working with Kathy over the years, but our program and research efforts have benefited immensely from the information she so readily shared. Perhaps the most important impact, though, has come from the example she set for us all. Her dedication to helping lowans stay safe and be healthy, her integrity in conducting and presenting her work, her friendliness and empathy in interacting with both colleagues and audiences have all been exemplary.

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*Youth Grants continued from page 3*

are working is what makes the project unique. It gives the farmers a few minutes to stop, stretch, have a snack, talk to young people and then use the items in the bags for long term safety. The bags often sit in their combine as a reminder to be safe. In previous years this project has allowed 4-Hers to meet their neighbors and know the people they pass on the roads. The Washington County 4-H County Council group (23 youth) are the immediate hands-on youth for this project.

### **Wright County Extension**

Youth will create a kids version of the farmer themed "Stay Safe Take a Break" bags. The youth bags will include snack items, farm safety information, youth earplugs and other safety items, plus hands-on educational activities to help children stay safe on the farm. The County Council will choose the items, put the bags together, and assist with advertisement and delivery.

### **Wright County Farm Bureau**

A hands-on interactive Safety Day Camp for all Wright County third graders will be held at the county fairgrounds. Safety and health topics to be addressed include animal, chemical, water, weather, and fire. Basic first aid, learning about EMS, and making 9-1-1 calls will also be included. A presentation on lawn mower/trimmer safety will teach the children about protective clothing, as well as ear and eye protection. The presenter will also demonstrate the importance of staying away from the machine to avoid being hit by objects thrown by a mower. FFA students will assist with the camp.

Visit [www.i-cash.org](http://www.i-cash.org) for information on the I-CASH Youth Grant Program

# Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference (MRASH) November 16-17

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

**Summer is the time to submit your MRASH abstract!** This year, the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference (MRASH) will be a hybrid conference, held **November 16-17, 2022 at the Hotel at Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa**. There will be a pre-conference workshop on November 15 to train people to properly fit-test respirators, led by the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health. Our theme this year is **“Re-imagining a Safe and Healthy Future for Agriculture.”** After two years of virtual conferences, we are delighted to gather again in person in addition to welcoming our online participants.



The disruptions of the past couple years provide us with an opportunity to consider current and future trends in agriculture and in health. What is their potential impact on the health and safety of those in agriculture? What do we need to do to be prepared? Here are some of the ways we are re-imagining our MRASH Conference:

- Beginning in September, our conference website will contain curated links to articles and videos about both ag and health trends. **If you know a good resource, please share it** with Gayle Olson for possible inclusion.
- In early November, we will hold a Zoom session featuring speakers on ag and health trends and potential game-changers.
- At the conference, our emphasis will be engaging participants to discuss the significance of how these new trends change the health and safety needs of farm families and farm workers.
- Since our conference is located at one of the top agricultural community colleges in the world, we plan to learn from Kirkwood Community College how ag safety and health is integrated into their programs.
- Presenters can elect to give in-person, online live (via Zoom), or pre-recorded presentations posted on our website. Conference attendees can participate either virtually or in Cedar Rapids, IA.
- A “Taster Session” will replace our traditional poster reception. Posters will use a format designed to clarify a main point and increase audience engagement (search for #betterposter). In addition to posters, we are asking people to think of creative ways to share a taste of their research or outreach projects. Flashtalks, photo essays, artwork, demonstrations – these are just a few suggestions. As much as possible, these will be available both in-person and online.



**Abstracts are now being accepted!** This year, there are two separate forms, one for those applying to be part of the Breakout Sessions **in concurrent oral presentations or roundtables, due August 1**. The second form is for the **“Taster Sessions” with a due date of October 15**. Links to both forms are available on our [website](#).

Questions or ideas? Contact Gayle Olson, MRASH Conference Coordinator at [gayle-olson@uiowa.edu](mailto:gayle-olson@uiowa.edu). Hope to see many of you in November!

# NEWS AND UPDATES

**Abstracts are now being accepted** for the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference (MRASH). This year, there are two separate opportunities and submission forms:



- **Concurrent Session Abstracts** - Those applying to be part of the breakout sessions in concurrent oral presentations or roundtables. **Submit by August 1.**
- **Taster Session Abstracts** - Those applying to be part of the *Taster Sessions*, which will replace the traditional poster reception. During these sessions participants will share a taste of their research or outreach projects. **Submit by October 15.**

Links to both forms are available on the [conference website](#).



September 18-24, 2022 is **National Farm Safety and Health Week**. The theme this year is “Protecting Agriculture’s Future.” Daily topics of focus include: Tractor Safety & Rural Roadway Safety; Overall Farmer Health; Safety & Health for Youth in Agriculture; Confined Spaces; and Safety & Health for Women in Agriculture. Visit the [website](#) for details.



## Newsletter Survey

**We’d like to know how YOU use the newsletter**

Please complete a short survey so we can best provide information about I-CASH and the Great Plains Center.

[Click here for survey](#)



## Upcoming Events

July 12-15

**Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH) Agricultural Health and Safety Course**  
Omaha, NE

July 17-20

**ASABE Annual International Meeting**  
Houston, TX

August 2-4

**Minnesota FarmFest**  
Redwood County, MN

August 4

**Iowa Women in Agriculture Annual Conference**  
Ankeny, IA

August 30 - September 1

**Farm Progress Show**  
Boone, IA

September 13-15

**Husker Harvest Days**  
Grand Island, NE

September 18-24

**National Farm Safety and Health Week**

October 2-7

**World Dairy Expo**  
Madison, WI

October 26-29

**National FFA Convention & Expo**  
Indianapolis, IN

November 16-17

**Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference (MRASH)**  
Hybrid Event / Cedar Rapids, IA

November 17

**National Rural Health Day**



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