As I write this in late August, the outside air is just beginning to suggest the coming of cooler weather and the blooming goldenrod signals the fall color change. This year has felt transitional; some of our usual programs operated as normal, despite the continuing pandemic, but others remained online. As you’ll read about here, we had another successful online Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) conference. However, we are delighted that our upcoming meeting will be in person in November 2022. Our seasonal campaigns are back up to full levels and we had numerous requests for additional materials from our partners. We funded nine youth grant projects and awarded the Outstanding Youth Grant Award to the Carroll Champs 4-H club. We also had the pleasure of presenting long-time board member and champion of public health Kathy Leinenkugel with the I-CASH Hall of Fame Award.

In addition, I-CASH has begun the process of a center-wide evaluation this year. We are working with the Center for Evaluation and Assessment at the University of Iowa to take a deep dive into all of our programs. The evaluation will include interviews with representatives from many of our partner organizations, surveys to newsletter and seasonal campaign recipients, discussions with our youth grant leaders, and an assessment of our materials. I had hoped to do this evaluation a couple years ago, but the pandemic interrupted many of our activities. As we transition away from full-time attention to COVID-19, this year feels like the right time to take stock of where we are and develop a new strategic plan for the future.

As our portfolio of resources grows with each seasonal campaign, we also recognize the need to ensure that our materials remain current. In March, we conducted a review and update of our Statewide Resources and Hotlines brochure. This is a resource that is often requested and we want to make sure that all websites and numbers that we share are available for those who need them. With help from our partners at the ISU Pesticide Safety Education Program, we also updated the list of respirator fit test resources across the state. The list includes health care sites, public health offices, as well as some extension offices that have taken advantage of respirator fit test training opportunities provided by I-CASH and the Ag Health & Safety Alliance.

We had some transitions on our advisory board as longtime members Kathy Leinenkugel (Iowa Department of Public Health) and Kristine Schaeffer (ISU Pesticide Safety Education Program) retired. We also said goodbye to Keeley Coppess and Chloe Carson from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Wayne Humphreys from the Iowa Corn Growers Association. We are glad to welcome Betsy Danielson (ISU Pesticide Safety Education Program) and Greg Albers (Iowa Corn Promotion Board) to the group.

As always, thanks to our partners across the state who make our programming possible. We benefit from their expertise and feedback and are grateful to those who help us in our work to reduce agricultural injuries and illnesses.

BRANDI JANSSEN
I-CASH DIRECTOR
I-CASH works to make sure that Iowa's rural communities have the health and safety resources they need. We do this by distributing information to our partners, empowering youth to take on safety projects, cost-sharing safety equipment, and training beginning farmers on best practices.

Seasonal Campaigns

I-CASH Seasonal Campaigns are distributed quarterly through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Campaign topics focus on current agricultural health and safety issues and often include printable resources, Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and safety items. This year, more than 30,000 prevention materials were provided to ISU Extension and Farm Service Agency offices in every county and we reached 245,000 people through radio PSAs.

FALL 2021

HAND INJURIES
The fall campaign focused on hand injuries and how to select proper gloves, with an information card outlining the different types of gloves that provide protection from different types of hazards. Several resources were compiled into an easy-to-read handbook that can be used to select the perfect type of gloves for each task. In addition to the cards, packages of cotton work gloves were sent to each FSA and ISUEO office.

WINTER 2021-2022

SAFETY CALENDAR
Each winter I-CASH creates and distributes a safety calendar with evidence-based safety and health information. The calendars also feature Iowa’s remarkable farm landscapes with photo contributions from Ralph Altmaier, Mary Swalla Holmes, Brandi Janssen, Gayle Olson, DeAnn Scott-Harp, and Patti Zwick in 2021.

SPRING 2022

TRACTOR SAFETY
The spring 2022 campaign focused on safe tractor operation, sun and hearing protection, and Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS), as producers geared up for spring planting. Sun protection is very important during spring’s newly long and sunny days, and noise induced hearing loss affects many farmers. A tractor, with or without a cab, can cause exposure to noise levels that could cause irreversible hearing loss. A ROPS is the best way to reduce the risk of injury or death in the event of a tractor rollover. Safety cards with protection information on these topics, along with earplugs and sunscreen lotion packets, were distributed to all FSA and ISUEO offices.

SUMMER 2022

NEEDLESTICK PREVENTION
The summer campaign featured the booklet “Preventing Needlesticks on the Farm.” The booklets included injection procedures to reduce the risk of needlesticks, training employees on best practices when giving injections, livestock handling procedures to reduce the risk of injury, and disposals plans. Although most needlestick injuries are minor, they can be life-threatening, so prevention strategies are an important part of livestock-handling procedures. Materials from The Center for Food Security & Public Health at Iowa State University, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Pork Information Gateway, Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH), and Virginia Tech were included in the booklet and all materials were reviewed and assembled by I-CASH. A package of pens resembling syringes was included in the campaign as a “Don’t get stuck” reminder and a radio PSA was produced to reach an additional 250,000 people.

“I really enjoy all of the information as well as the products you supply to our office every season and I know that our visitors and farmers do as well. We had some 4-H members come and pick up baby chickens last Thursday and they also took some ear plugs and sunscreen so that was great. I also really love the calendars and the photography in them and keep one on my refrigerator. My parents do as well, and I like that it supplies my dad with a little safety knowledge every day. Thank you so much for everything you do for Iowans and keep up the amazing work!”

KELLI IRELAND, CLAY COUNTY EXTENSION

In the last year, I-CASH has received requests for nearly 2,500 additional safety and health materials from ISU Extension and Farm Service Agency offices to distribute during pesticide training programs, county fairs, ag update meetings, and other events.

“I would first like to thank you for your amazing materials that you share with our county. We have had many of our clients comment on how much they appreciate the information as well as the accompanying resources that we are able to provide to them because of your program.”

PAULETTE MADSEN, SHELBY COUNTY EXTENSION
Agricultural Youth Grants
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. In 2022 nine projects were funded.

CEDAR COUNTY EXTENSION
The Ag Safety Day included a rotation through stations with the following topics: ATVs, animal safety, chemical safety, emergency situations, and equipment, lawn mower and road safety. Each interactive station provided hands-on activities and education for students to become more aware of farm hazards and safety issues. Two FFA chapters and the Cedar County Youth Council assisted with the program.

CHEROKEE COUNTY EXTENSION
An educational safety day addressed the following safety topics: ATV, animal, electrical, fire, grain, railroad, water, and weather. In addition, home alone safety and first aid topics were presented. High school youth helped with the planning, implementation and delivery of this program.

FLOYD COUNTY EXTENSION AND CHARLES CITY
FFA CHAPTER
Farm safety during the harvest season was the focus of this project. Youth provided safety resources and appreciation to area farmers in the form of a resource filled 5-gallon bucket. Youth planned the program, requesting resources and materials from local businesses and, along with adult volunteers, made the deliveries to farmers during harvest season.

IDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
The Ag Safety Day addressed safety around ATVs, animals, chemicals, electricity, grain bins, machinery, poison, and weeds, using hands-on activities and Ag in the Classroom sessions. FFA students planned and assisted with the activities.

LOUISA COUNTY EXTENSION
An Ag Safety Day included the following safety topics: ATV/UTV, animal, basic first aid, blind spots, dangerous plants, fireworks, grain bin, power take-off, sun, and water. Additional topics included fire extinguisher training, fire safety, and extreme weather preparedness. High school peer mentors assisted with the training. A video created by the Louisa 4-H County Council members and Louisa County

Extension during the Safety Day was distributed via social media, Extension websites, partners leading the training and the participating schools.

O’BRIEN COUNTY EXTENSION
A grain safety unit demonstration for self-paced and hands-on exploration was provided at the O’Brien County Fair. Youth and adults were able to read about grain safety through large posters and displays, and printed flyers and magnets were handed out. This unit was also used with a youth farm tour at the fair, and during a 2nd grade farm safety day with youth led session.

WASHINGTON COUNTY 4-H & EXTENSION
The “Stay Safe, Take a Break” project focused on farmers/farm families in the fall during the busy and long hours of harvest season. The 4-H County Council youth selected, purchased, collected and delivered bags full of items to help promote safety to farmers. The items encouraged general farm safety; however, the special one-on-one delivery of these bags to farmers in the fields is what makes the project unique. It gives the farmers a few minutes to stop, stretch, have a snack and 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 and in previous years this project allowed 4-Hers to meet their neighbors. The Washington County 4-H County Council group (23 youth) were the immediate hands-on youth for this project.

WRIGHT COUNTY EXTENSION
Youth created a kid’s version of the farmer themed “Stay Safe Take a Break” bags. The youth bags included 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 chose the items, put the bags together, and assisted with advertisement and delivery.

WRIGHT COUNTY FARM BUREAU
A hands-on interactive Safety Day Camp for all Wright County third graders was held at the county fairgrounds. Topics including animal, chemical, fire, water, and weather safety were addressed. The students also learned about basic first aid, EMS, and making 9-1-1 calls. A presentation on lawn mower/trimmer safety provided information on protective clothing, as well as ear and eye protection. The presenter demonstrated the importance of staying away from the machine to avoid being hit by objects thrown by a mower. FFA students assisted with the camp.
Equipping Communities with Safety and Health Resources

Grow: Johnson County Tractor Training

In June, I-CASH staff members Brandi Janssen and Ralph Altmaier conducted a tractor safety training at Grow: Johnson County, a program of the Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development that produces fruits and vegetables for the corridor area’s emergency food supplies. In addition, Grow: Johnson County trains aspiring and beginning farmers through its apprentice and farm incubator programs. The training focused on safe tractor operation and practices when working near tractors; roll-over, run over, and noise hazards; as well as precautions to take around PTO-driven equipment and hydraulics. Following the training, Executive Director Jason Grimm and Food & Farm Specialist Claire Zabel helped each participant start and operate one of Grow’s three tractors.

Outstanding Youth Grant

Every fall, I-CASH awards an Outstanding Youth Grant Award. Selected from the recipients of the annual Agricultural Youth Grants, the Outstanding Youth Grant Award provides extra recognition to a project that is particularly creative or reaches a wide audience in a new way. This year, the award went to the Carroll Champs 4-H Club in Carroll County who helped keep their 4-H members and fair attendees safe during the county fair cattle show by raising awareness of the dangers involved when approaching show cattle. Club members designed a poster display that was presented to the public as well as a nine-minute video entitled “Approaching Show Cattle Safely.” Four of the students introduced themselves in the video and then used their own show cattle to point out blind spots and kick zones, demonstrate how to approach cattle safely, and what behaviors will help keep cattle calm during handling. The students emphasized that these skills will help keep both animals and people safe.

ROPS Rebate Program

I-CASH partners with the National ROPS Rebate Program to offer rebates on Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) for Iowa farmers. When used correctly with a seatbelt, ROPS are 99% effective in preventing death in the case of a rollover. The program funds about 70% of the cost of ROPS purchase and installation, with an out-of-pocket maximum of $500 for the farmer. I-CASH has invested an average of $1,004 per tractor since starting the program in April of 2020. Canopies may be included in the installation for added sun protection and participants can self-install or have the dealer install.

I-CASH has retrofitted tractors in 28 Iowa counties. A recent survey of Iowa ROPS Rebate Program Participants showed that 82% were “extremely satisfied” with the program and 94% were “extremely likely” to recommend the program to someone else.

Here’s what ROPS Rebate Program participants have to say:

“Love having ROPS on my 4020.”

“I think the program is very well set up and can help a lot of people.”

“This is a great program, it made the difference in my choice to install the ROPS bar.”

Thank You to Our Partners Who Have Helped Us Equip Communities with Health and Safety Resources

Ralph Altmaier
Carroll Champs 4-H Chapter
Cedar County Extension
The Center for Food Security & Public Health at Iowa State University
Charles City FFA Chapter
Cherokee County Extension
Farm Service Agency
Floyd County Extension
Grow: Johnson County
Mary Swalla Holmes
Ida County Farm Bureau
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
Brandi Janssen
Louisa County Extension
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
National ROPS Rebate Program
O’Brien County Extension
Gayle Olson
Pork Information Gateway
DeAnn Scott-Harp
Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH)
Virginia Tech
Washington County 4-H & Extension
Wright County Extension
Wright County Farm Bureau
Patti Zwick
INSPIRING ACTION

I-CASH works to develop productive partnerships and inspire others to take actions that will improve the health and safety of our rural communities. This year, I-CASH has motivated others to develop media stories, brought together safety and health advocates from around the globe, and recognized an important leader in the field.

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference (MRASH)

The 2021 MRASH conference theme was “Spotlighting Safety and Health for Ag’s Essential Workers: Raising the Cloak of Invisibility.” The virtual conference had 129 attendees from 19 states, Washington, DC, and five countries representing five different continents. Among those who returned the conference evaluation form, 97% rated the conference as excellent or good.

The keynote panel, facilitated by Athena Ramos from the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, kicked off the conference with speakers Knesha Rose Davison from the AgriSafe Network and her research with women in agriculture; Casper Bendixsen from the National Farm Medicine Center and his work on the “Farm Kid Paradox”; Seth Holmes with insights and research on migrant workers in agriculture; and Sean Bear sharing issues related to Native Americans. Following the keynote, Drs. Cornelia and Jan Flora used their Community Capitals Framework to illustrate and analyze important cross-cutting findings of our presenters.

Comments from MRASH participants:

“I was updated on many issues that give me impetus to continue fighting for decision makers to support agricultural health and safety.”

“I thought you did a great job of grouping sessions by topic. This really helped me prioritize as I was not able to clear my schedule to attend the whole time.”

“I liked the online format. If it were not provided this way, I would not have been able to attend any of the conference events.”

To commemorate Veterans Day, Linda Emanuel of the AgriSafe Network organized a panel, facilitated by Shay Fouk, that shared farming risks specific to veterans and resources available to assist them. Additional conference highlights include the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health’s Farm Safety Checklist App pre-conference webinar, and the student career session hosted by Josie Rudolph and Diane Rohlman.

Abstracts for presentations, roundtables and posters were submitted by people throughout the US summarizing new research and outreach projects underway in agricultural safety and health. Topics included feed yard workers, greenhouse staff, mental health, machine learning, natural disasters, and COVID-19. Each day’s session ended with poster presenters giving a 3-to-5 minute flash talk about their work. Conference recordings are available on the MRASH YouTube channel playlists (search for MRASH Conference Playlist) or linked at i-cash.org.

The success of MRASH continues to center on building partnerships. Organizations that collaborated with I-CASH to provide the conference include the AgriSafe Network, Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health, National Farm Medicine Center, University of Illinois, and Upper Midwest Center for Agricultural Safety and Health. Our planning partners and co-sponsors bring a wealth of resources and knowledge to share with us.

Safety Watch: Farmer, doctor share story of serious injury (Lola Lozano)

Lola Lozano is a student in the University of Iowa’s Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), which trains students to become physician-scientists with dual MD and PhD degrees. Lola contacted I-CASH advisory board member Cheryl Tevis with an interest in publishing an article about a farmer’s recent eye injury. Cheryl connected her with I-CASH and her story, “Farmer, doctor share story of serious injury,” was published as the October Safety Watch column in Iowa Farmer Today.

She says:

I grew up in El Paso, Texas on the outskirts of town, across the street from a cotton farm. During my time in high school, I was a member of Future Farmers of America where I took classes learning how to weld and care for livestock. On weekends I taught horse-riding lessons, led trail rides, and cleaned horses and stalls at a local ranch in exchange for the opportunity to ride at my own leisure and enjoy the serenity of the open land. While the wide expanse of land can be peaceful, in times of crisis it can also mean trouble. As shown by this article, many traumatic accidents occur on the farm that require emergency care. It is important for doctors to understand the specific health conditions and injuries their rural patients face. Understanding their lifestyle and available resources better can help doctors educate patients on proper first aid when injuries do occur.
Hall of Fame Award

The 2022 I-CASH Hall of Fame award was presented to Kathy Leinenkugel, who retired from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in January 2022 after 14 years of service. Kathy also received the Iowa Public Health Heroes Award from University of Iowa College of Public Health, both awards recognize her important work in injury surveillance and prevention.

In addition to her main role at IDPH, Kathy was instrumental in funding the Iowa Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program, which notified employers and employees of lead exposures. She was also part of the Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) program, which notified the Iowa Brain Injury Alliance and managed the Iowa Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (Iowa FACE) program, she also collected data regarding brain injuries and 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 also 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.

For Kathy, 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. In addition to her surveillance work, Kathy served on the Advisory Board for I-CASH, joining the board in 2008 at the beginning of her career at IDPH. Tom Newton, IDPH director at the time, wrote in his appointment letter: “Her position on the board will strengthen the linkage between the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (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.” Indeed, Kathy’s presence on the board was a great gift to all of us who worked with her.

Another major project of Kathy’s was coordinating the Health and Safety Tent at the Farm Progress show when it was held in Boone, Iowa, every other year. She recruited and coordinated displays from more than 20 exhibitors in the tent and encouraged them to focus on hands-on activities that showcase the breadth of rural and agricultural health issues. Thanks to Kathy’s leadership, the tent became a major event for public health outreach to the agricultural community and an important space for networking and collaboration among the exhibitors, who came from across the Midwest to participate.

A good injury surveillance program doesn’t usually get a lot of attention. It’s a resource for researchers, public health staff and the general public to learn more about rates and severity of injury, as well as to help us learn how to prevent them. The state of Iowa has benefited from Kathy Leinenkugel’s work for many years, even if most residents have not been aware of her efforts. As her colleagues have shared, the value of her work goes well beyond her skills as a data analyst to include her kindness, collaborative spirit and a dedication to keeping Iowans safe and healthy.

“Kathy was a meticulous data manager who saw the small details and paid attention to those to ensure accuracy.”

STEPHANIE LEONARD, Ui SAFETY MANAGER AND INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST

“I have enjoyed working with Kathy on the I-CASH Advisory Board for several decades. She often provided informed insights and excellent ideas during our group discussions. Kathy was always interested in what we were doing to educate the public regarding ATV safety and injury prevention. She helped promote efforts in this area at the state level which I always appreciated.”

DR. CHARLES JENNISSEN, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA CARVER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Editorial in the Spencer Daily Reporter

Following our spring campaign this year, Kelli Ireland at Clay County Extension published an editorial in the Spencer Daily Reporter. She used quotes and data from the I-CASH materials to remind area farmers of the importance of sun protection, hearing loss prevention, and rollover protection on tractors. Kelli has continued her media outreach each season. Because of her initiative, I-CASH now includes a media guide with suggestions for messages to print and social media with each campaign.
**SafeWatch**

SafeWatch is a monthly column published by Iowa Farmer Today which features agricultural safety and health prevention information, success stories, and producer profiles. A partnership between the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health and I-CASH, the column reaches nearly 73,000 households in print and is distributed online through AgUpdate.com, reaching over 120,000 visitors per month.

**Farm Safety Calendar**

Each winter I-CASH creates and distributes a safety calendar with evidence-based safety and health information. Using principles from the Extended Parallel Processing Model and best practices for adult learning, the messages focus on achievable safety and health actions that can be taken each month. In 2021, topics included PTO safety, preventive health screenings, combine fire prevention, skid steer safety, and confined space entry plans.

**Updates from the Field**

Since 2003, I-CASH has maintained a free monthly listerive providing abstracts from recent research publications on rural and agricultural health and safety issues. The updates have become an efficient way for health and safety professionals to receive timely information, and subscribers can be sent the full-text articles upon request. This year the topics included: combine fires, confined space, falls from heights, farm transition planning, hand injuries, needlestick prevention, operator and bystander safety, personal protective equipment (PPE) selection while handling chemicals, preventive health screenings, protecting young agricultural workers, rollover protective structures (ROPS), and telehealth.

**I-CASH Advisory Board**

The I-CASH Advisory Board, a diverse group of agricultural stakeholders and health and safety professionals, provides the organization with deep expertise and statewide engagement. Advisory Board members bring experience with agriculture, youth safety, migrant farm worker issues, academic research, rural health, health care, and outreach. In addition to their expertise, Advisory Board members help develop and implement all of I-CASH’s initiatives.

**Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship**

Chloe Carson Communications  
Keely Coppess Communications  
Matt Gronewald Administration  
Jennifer Lara Pesticide Bureau

**Iowa Department of Public Health**

Samra Hirots State Office of Rural Health  
Kathy Leinenkugel Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program

**Iowa State University**

Betsy Danielson Pesticide Safety Education Program  
Tammy Jacobs Iowa Concern Hotline  
Gretchen Mosher Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering  
Kristine Schaefer Department of Entomology

**University of Iowa**

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Diane Rohlman Department of Occupational and Environmental Health  
Rachel Young Department of Journalism and Mass Communication

**Producers**

Bill Furlong Muscatine County  
Chris Petersen Cerro Gordo County  
Roger Stutsman Johnson County

**Agricultural Business**

Greg Alber Iowa Corn Promotion Board  
Shay Foulk Ag View Solutions  
Rich Gassman Engineering Services and Products Company  
Wayne Humphreys Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Rawlin Kinney Syngenta  

**Non-Governmental and Safety Organizations**

Kelley Donham Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa  
Charlotte Halverson AgSafe Network  
Dan Neenan National Education Center for Agricultural Safety  
Carolyn Sheridan Ag Health and Safety Alliance  
Patrick Taggart Proteus, Inc.  
Cheryl Tevis Iowa Women in Agriculture

**Policy Leaders**

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Sonia Reyes Iowa Department of Human Rights

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Kay Mohling, MA Program Coordinator  
Gayle Olson, MS, CHES Assistant to the Director  
Kelsey Strandberg Program Assistant

**Thank You to Our Partners Who Helped Broadcast Best Practices**

AgUpdate  
Brownfield Ag Network  
Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health  
Illinois Farmer Today  
Iowa Farmer Today  
Lee Ag-media channels  
Missouri Farmer Today
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