

# Farm Families ALIVE & WELL

I-CASH | Iowa's Center for  
Agricultural Safety and Health  
The University of Iowa • Iowa State University  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Iowa Department of Public Health • Non-profits for Farm Health

News from Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH)

## MRASH Highlights

by Gayle Olsen, I-CASH Assistant to the Director

The “Many Faces of Agriculture” was the theme of the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference (MRASH) held on November 19-20 in Ames, Iowa. Kelley Donham, Professor Emeritus at the University of Iowa, kicked-off the conference with a retrospective look at agricultural safety and health in the past 40 years. He received a standing ovation after his presentation, in recognition of his lifetime of service to promote agricultural safety and health research, education, and policy change over his career.

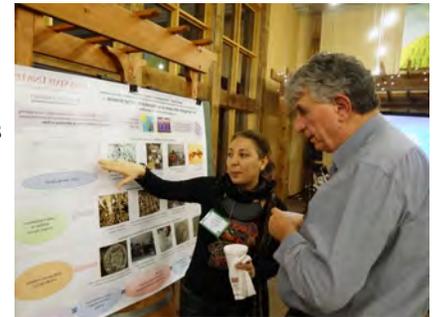
Throughout the conference, participants were engaged in a variety of activities. Mike Duffy, well-known agricultural economist from Iowa State University keynoted the opening session with an overview of the major economic and sociological drivers of the changes

in agriculture. Duffy highlighted trends that are likely, and emphasized audiences and risks that might be emerging concerns in agricultural safety and health.

Paul Gunderson highlighted some of the technological

changes in agriculture and the impacts they have on agricultural safety and health issues. The conference also included professional development sessions, and over 20 breakout sessions with presenters discussing their research and outreach efforts.

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Conference participants enjoyed dinner and a poster session at the Prairie Moon Winery.

## I-CASH Plans for the Future

by Peter S. Thorne, MS, PhD  
I-CASH Interim Director

Yogi Berra said, “The future ain’t what it used to be.” But agriculture is changing rapidly and the future of agricultural safety and health belongs to those who prepare for it. As many of you know, I-CASH has recently undergone a change in leadership with Dr. Kelley Donham’s retirement on October 1, 2013. We are indebted to Kelley for his long-standing commitment to I-CASH and his tireless efforts to ensure the health and well-being of farm families in Iowa and beyond. I-CASH remains a top priority for me and my colleagues in the UI College of Public Health. The search for a new I-CASH Director is underway; in the interim I am working with a leadership team comprised of Drs. Fred Gerr, Diane Rohlman, and Matt Nonnenmann to expand the activities of I-CASH. Recently, we have embarked on a strategic planning effort with the Board of Advisors to chart a path for I-CASH for the next five years. We welcome any and all input to this process.

This issue of *Farm Families Alive & Well* highlights our Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grants, our annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference held in November, and the agricultural safety and health training opportunities at the Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety. If you would like additional information regarding any of the I-CASH programs, please contact us at (319) 335-4438 or visit our website at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash).

Dr. Peter Thorne can be reached at 319/335-4216 ([peter-thorne@uiowa.edu](mailto:peter-thorne@uiowa.edu)).



Peter S. Thorne  
MS, PhD

**Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals** will be held June 9-13 in Iowa City, IA, and July 8-11 in Omaha, NE. The training provides health care professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to anticipate, diagnose, treat, and prevent occupational illnesses and injuries in the rural community. Visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH) for more information.

The International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) invites abstract submissions for the 2014 Annual Conference to be held in Omaha, NE June 22-26, 2014. The theme for 2014 is *Cultivating Ag Safety and Health*. Submission deadline for posters and educational displays is January 27th. Submission information is available at <http://isasb.org>

**Agricultural Safety Featured on New YouTube Channel**

The best agricultural safety videos are one click away on the new YouTube channel, "U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers." The channel is a joint project of the 10 Agricultural Centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Topics include: respiratory protection, livestock safety, tractor and machinery safety, emergency response, grain safety, pesticide safety, heat illness prevention, ladder safety and hearing protection. Visit the website at [www.youtube.com/USAgCenters](http://www.youtube.com/USAgCenters)

The new Farm Safety For Just Kids Rural Roadway Safety educational packet is now available at [www.farmsafetyforjustkids.org](http://www.farmsafetyforjustkids.org). The packet, available in English and Spanish, includes educational information, lesson plans, and puzzles. Additionally, PSAs are available focusing on seat belt use and factors unique to rural roads. Funding was provided by Nationwide and the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau to complete the packet.



**2014 Summer Internship Opportunity** available at the National Farm Medicine Center. Activities include conducting outreach to farmers and workers, evaluating worker trainings and developing resources for clinicians, therapists, farmers and farm workers to prevent and treat agricultural injuries and illnesses. Application deadline is January 15, 2014. For more information visit [http://tiny.cc/MCRF\\_SSRIP](http://tiny.cc/MCRF_SSRIP)

**I-CASH Youth Grants Announced**

I-CASH is seeking proposals for its **2014 Injury Prevention in Agricultural Youth Grants**.



Each year I-CASH designates funds for community grants targeted at the prevention of farm-related injury in young people and their families. This year nine grants of \$500 each are available. Application packets are available at <http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Youth-Ag-Safety-Grants/index.html> and are due **March 3, 2014**. Approved applications will be announced by March 31, 2014. For more information or assistance with this program, contact Shari Burgus at [shari.burgus@farmsafetyforjustkids.org](mailto:shari.burgus@farmsafetyforjustkids.org)

**MRASH Conference continued from page 1**

Purdue University faculty and staff ran a concurrent training for emergency rescue personnel on basic awareness and rescue in grain and confined spaces. Farm visits included the ISU Dairy Farm, the ISU Horticulture Farm and Prairie Moon Winery. Tuesday night's dinner was held at the winery and featured a poster session with many excellent projects displayed. The closing session, led by Risto Rautiainen, Director of the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, projected what the next 40 years might bring. The conference provided networking opportunities and collaboration among the NIOSH Agricultural Health and Safety Centers of the upper Midwest states and many other organizations interested in agricultural safety and rural health.

For MRASH information, including presentations from 2013, visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2013/index.html](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2013/index.html)



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## Grafft Receives Hall of Fame Award

I-CASH has named LaMar Grafft of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the 2013 recipient of its Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award. Grafft was recognized during the MRASH Conference in Ames, Iowa on November 20, 2013.

Following graduation from Iowa State University, Grafft operated his family's farm and later worked as an ISU Extension livestock specialist. He started work as the I-CASH "farm safety educator" in 1993. In addition to working for I-CASH, Grafft served many years as an ambulance crew member and as a flight paramedic. He completed the Farm Medic training and later became a Farm Medic trainer, educating paramedics and first responders in the specific details of farm injury rescues and on-site paramedic treatment of persons injured on the farm. As an assistant in the University of Iowa's MS/PhD program in Agricultural Safety and Health, Grafft took students on farm tours to increase their understanding of the equipment, processes, and exposures on farms. He also provided numerous continuing education presentations each year, made significant contributions to the Certified Safe Farm Program, helping to design the audit tool, and acted as principal trainer for CSF auditors in Iowa, Nebraska, and North Carolina.

I-CASH created the Hall of Fame Award as a lifetime achievement award for individuals or organizations that have made significant and lasting contributions to agricultural safety and health in Iowa.

For more information on the Hall of Fame Award, visit the I-CASH website at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Hall-of-Fame/index.html](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Hall-of-Fame/index.html)



LaMar Grafft (left) receives I-CASH Hall of Fame Award from Kelley Donham at the MRASH Conference.

## Agricultural Safety and Health at the Heartland Center

Located in the University of Iowa's College of Public Health, the Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety is a NIOSH-funded Education and Research Center serving Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

The Center was established in 2000, and provides graduate training, continuing education and outreach in the area of occupational health and safety. Agricultural Safety and Health (ASH) training became a component program of the Center in 2001, making the University of Iowa the only institution in the US to offer a specific graduate degree in ASH. All students admitted to a Heartland Center training program are automatically considered for funding in the form of full or partial tuition, and a monthly stipend. Heartland Center trainees in ASH become professionals with the knowledge and skills to anticipate, detect, diagnose, evaluate and control the health and safety hazards of agricultural workers. Graduates have gone on to set up medical practices in rural areas, to conduct research for NIOSH, to serve as professors in academic institutions, and many other activities that promote greater protection for this important population.

For information on ASH training at the Heartland Center, visit <http://cph.uiowa.edu/heartland/> or contact David Asa, Graduate Program Coordinator at [david-asa@uiowa.edu](mailto:david-asa@uiowa.edu)

## calendar

January 22-23, 2014

**Iowa Pork Congress**

Des Moines, IA

[www.iowaporkcongress.org](http://www.iowaporkcongress.org)

January 30-31

**Agricultural Medicine Training - Session 1**

Greenville, NC

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

February 4

**Public Health Day on the Hill**

Des Moines, IA

[www.iowapha.org](http://www.iowapha.org)

March 3

**I-CASH Injury Prevention in Agricultural Youth Grant Deadline**

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

March 27-28

**Agricultural Medicine Training - Session 8**

Greenville, NC

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

March 31-April 4

**AgrAbility National Training Workshop**

Lexington, KY

<http://workshop.agrability.org/2014/index.html>

April 1-2

**Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health**

Ames, IA

[www.iowapha.org](http://www.iowapha.org)

May 12-16

**Agricultural Medicine Training**

Tuscaloosa, AL

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

May 14-16

**National Farmworkers Health Conference**

Delray Beach, FL

<http://meetings.nachc.com/c-training/national-farmworkers-health-conference/>

June 9-13

**Agricultural Medicine Training**

Iowa City, IA

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

June 22-26

**ISASH Annual Conference**

Omaha, NE

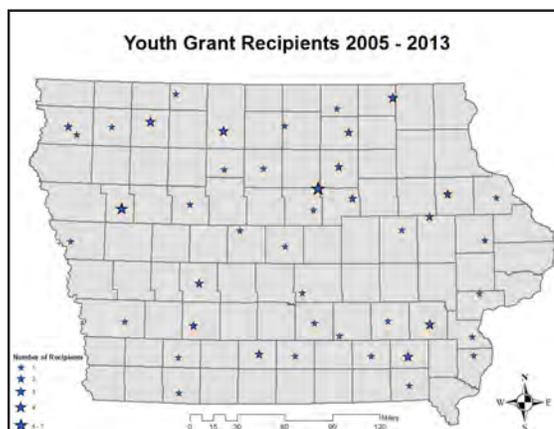
<http://isash.org/events>

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Research to Practice

Each year I-CASH designates funds for community grants targeted at the prevention of farm-related injury in young people and their families. The program typically provides grants of up to \$500 each for projects designed to decrease the risk of illness and injury from agricultural exposures to youth living on Iowa farms or otherwise involved in production agriculture. Since 2005, seventy-three grants have been awarded to forty-eight organizations totaling over \$35,000.



Map by Mitch Greenan, University of Iowa

In 2013, Washington County Extension and 4-H leveraged the \$500 I-CASH grant to obtain \$2,000 from 27 local sponsors including banks, grain elevators, co-ops, farm bureau, equipment dealers, seed dealers and insurance agents. The 4-Hers personally delivered bags of safety and health items to 200 farm families. Farmers



were encouraged to 'stay safe and take breaks' while working long hours during the harvest.

Application packets for 2014 are available at <http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Youth-Ag-Safety-Grants/index.html> with a deadline of **March 3, 2014**. Approved applications will be announced by March 31, 2014. For more information or assistance with this program, contact Shari Burgus at [shari.burgus@farmsafetyforjustkids.org](mailto:shari.burgus@farmsafetyforjustkids.org).