



What is Certified Safe Farm?

Certified Safe Farm (CSF) is a research project that began in 1998, with the goal of reducing the number and the cost of injuries and illnesses to farmers through a voluntary, incentive-driven intervention program. The program currently operates in Iowa with plans for expansion outside the state.

Who is involved in Certified Safe Farm?

The University of Iowa—The UI is responsible for implementing CSF.

The AgriSafe Network—The AgriSafe Network of clinics provides health screenings to farmers through trained agricultural occupational nurses.

Farm Reviewers—39 people have been trained to conduct on-farm safety reviews for CSF

Farmers—450 eligible Iowa farmers are currently enrolled in the program

Funding Sources—Past and present funders include the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Wellmark Foundation, Monsanto, Pioneer Hi-Bred Int., Iowa Pork Producers Association, and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.



What does Certified Safe Farm provide to enrolled farmers?

Certified Safe Farm includes a triad of services:

A free occupational health screening which includes cardio, respiratory, vision, skin, hearing, cholesterol, musculoskeletal, and cholinesterase tests (if necessary).

A free on-farm safety review conducted by trained reviewers who look for hazards on the farm that may contribute to occupationally related injuries and illnesses.

An educational component that includes one-on-one education during the clinical screenings and the on-farm review, regular newsletters, and educational meetings.

Certified Safe Farm includes incentives for farmers who participate in the study. Currently, farmers receive a small payment for participating and an additional payment when their farm becomes “certified safe” through the on-farm review.

What is the future of Certified Safe Farm?

Certified Safe Farm is nearing the end of its research period. Our goal is to create a sustainable program that can be implemented in other states. With the support of agribusinesses and insurers, CSF plans to provide discounts and incentives to farmers for becoming “certified safe.”

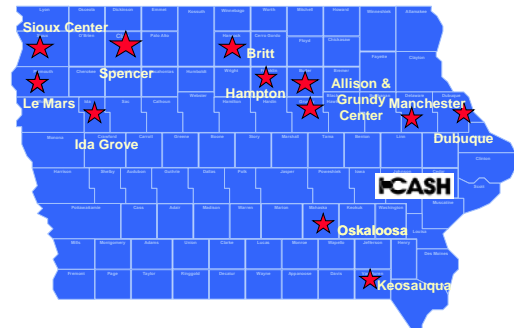


Certified Safe Farm Results

CSF IN IOWA

How many farmers have been served through the CSF program?

Six hundred thirty-two (632) farmers in 34 Iowa counties, in addition to 17 Nebraska farmers, have participated in the CSF program since 1998. AgriSafe Network nurses have performed over 1,400 occupational health screenings and farm safety reviewers have conducted over 1,200 farm site evaluations.



What are some results from the CSF study?

- It is estimated that, on average, each CSF farmer spent \$130/year making safety improvements on the farm.
- A smaller percentage of intervention farmers (those receiving CSF services) had symptoms of organic dust toxic syndrome following an on-farm dust exposure, compared to control farmers.
- The top three services provided through CSF, ranked by level of importance to farmers, were the lung function testing, the on-farm safety review, and the hearing screening.
- CSF hog farmers had more exposure to dusts and fumes, increased rates of respiratory disease, and increased use of PPE when handling grain, than did non-hog farmers.
- Dust exposure, age, and number of acres farmed were major predictors of self-reported hearing problems.

What kind of farm-related injuries have you found to be most common in CSF farmers?

Getting pinched, struck by, or hit by machinery parts or tools, falling or slipping on ice or off of machinery, animal encounters, and muscle sprains or overexertion.

Have you found any economic benefits for farmers enrolled in the CSF program?

Yes, we found that during a three-year period of quarterly telephone calls made to CSF farmers, yearly self-reported illness and injury costs were lower in intervention farmers (\$374) than control farmers (\$512). And annual injury and illness costs for intervention farmers were inversely associated with farm safety scores, meaning the higher the farm score, the lower annual costs.

Farm Safety Scores and Annual Illness and Injury Costs

