

Farm families ALIVE & WELL



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

Vol. 12, Issue 3 - 2006

I-CASH Names New Advisory Council Members

Five new members have joined the I-CASH advisory council. The advisory council is composed of up to 18 persons representing a cross-section of organizations and constituencies who share an interest in improving agricultural health and safety in the state of Iowa. The role of the advisory council is to provide input and advice to the I-CASH director and board of directors.

Bill Furlong is a lawyer and farmer who lives in Iowa City and farms by Muscatine. He is interested in working to reduce injuries from tractor overturns. Bill has joined the Tractor Risk Abatement and Control (TRAC) Committee which among other issues works to increase the number of tractors with Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS).

George and Deb Hebl operate a 120 acre farm near Solon in Johnson County. George and Deb were introduced to I-CASH when they attended the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference last year. George is a retired safety program analyst from the V.A. Hospital in Iowa City. He was one of 57 residents in Johnson County to complete a preparedness training program designed to bolster knowledge in public health

science, emergency response systems, and community leadership. Deb Hebl, a retired R.N. also from the V.A. Hospital, grew up on a farm, helps in the farming operation, and is interested in the safety issues of special needs populations on the farm.

Susan Roberts is a consultant to the Drake Law School Agricultural Law Center, a dietitian, a lobbyist, and Director of Food and Society Policy Fellowship. She has a law degree and a Master's degree in public health from the University of Iowa. She is interested in nutrition, pesticides, and food security.

Sandra Ehrhardt and her husband Mark, operate a diversified operation near Monona in the northeastern part of Iowa. Sandra and Mark are primarily dairy farmers, but also have 850 acres in corn and beans, as well as a beef cow enterprise. Sandra has three daughters, all of whom have been crowned dairy princess of Allamakee County. After retiring from five years working for the local 4-H chapter, Sandra started up her own soy candle company last year called *Sandra's Soy Scents*.

The Legislative Basis for Agricultural Health and Safety in Iowa

In the 1980s and early 1990s, our legislature developed mandates to several state organizations for the health and safety of the agricultural community in Iowa. Changes in administrations and priorities occur over time, causing awareness and commitment to the mandates to drift. Therefore, review of intent is important to retain institutional memory and support.

The laws of the 1989 and 1990 General Assembly and Administrative Code outline the responsibilities for I-CASH and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). These mandates are in the following areas:

1. The University of Iowa (UI) was to develop the Agricultural Health and Safety Service Pilot Program to provide medical and engineering services to anyone

engaged in farming

2. UI was to establish I-CASH as a joint venture with Iowa State University (ISU) to develop farm health and safety programs.

3. IDPH was to establish the Center for Rural Health and Primary Care (CRHPC).

4. The CRHPC was to coordinate services to provide research to examine the prevalence of rural occupational health injuries, surveillance and reporting of farm illnesses and injuries, and to indicate the effectiveness of interventions.

5. The CRHPC was to coordinate services



Kelley J. Donham
MS, DVM,
DACVPM

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Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) is scheduled as the second stop on the annual **Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce Tour** on August 8, 2006. The theme of the I-CASH sponsored portion of the tour will be rural roadway safety. Presentations will be made during an informal luncheon at the Institute for Rural and Environmental Health (IREH) and will begin at 11:00 a.m. This tour is open to the public. **Seating at IREH is limited.** Contact Jim Dane, Chairperson of the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee, at 319/530-3263, or the Chamber of Commerce at 319/337-9637 for information about the tour.



Nominations Sought For I-CASH Hall Of Fame Award

I-CASH is accepting nominations for its fifth annual Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award. The award recognizes individuals and/or organizations in Iowa who have made substantial and long-term contributions to the health and safety of the state's agricultural community. **The nomination deadline is June 15.**

Nomination forms and additional award information are available at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH/Hall_of_Fame_Award.html, or contact Eileen Fisher, Ph.D., Associate Director of I-CASH, at 319/335-4224 or eileen-fisher@uiowa.edu.

Mark Your Calendars

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum November 16, 2006

I-CASH is partnering with the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health and other safety and health specialists from Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin to organize a fall conference on rural agricultural safety and health. The conference theme will be "Collaboration." Participants will choose from a variety of skills building workshops on collaboration including community-based participatory research, collaborative partnerships, biosecurity risk management, project evaluation, and tools for interventions. Mark your calendars for November 16, 2006. Check the I-CASH web site at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash for details on registration.

to provide research to assess training and continuing education, determine support needed for rural practitioners to treat farm illnesses and injuries, and identify activities that help prevent agricultural injury incidents.

6. I-CASH was to establish farm health and safety programs and collaborate with ISU, IDPH (CRHPC), the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), and private farm health and safety organizations.

Are we doing what we are mandated to do? Partially. I-CASH has worked to organize groups, foster the development of many health and safety organizations, establish preventive programs, and create a nationally recognized didactic and continuing education program in agricultural health and safety.

There are a few areas in which we are behind. IDPH has lost NIOSH funding for an agricultural health and safety surveillance system. We are working with IDPH through our Surveillance Committee to develop a new system in conjunction with the State Trauma Registry. We do not have the resources to conduct our mandates and there are no specified resources for agricultural health surveillance. I-CASH funding has been reduced from the original legislative funding amount.

We need to ensure our mandates, and resources needed for those mandates, continue to be communicated to all I-CASH affiliates and concerned citizens. Otherwise, we will not be able to protect the health and safety of our farm community.

Dr. Kelley Donham is the director of Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH), and the Associate Department Head for Agricultural Medicine in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health. He can be reached at 319/335-4190 (kelly-donham@uiowa.edu).

I-CASH

UI ✦ ISU ✦ IDPH ✦ IDALS
Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

A partnership of:

- ✦ The University of Iowa
- ✦ Iowa State University
- ✦ Iowa Department of Public Health
- ✦ Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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Kay Mohling, Ed.
319/335-4219
fax-319/335-4225
kay-mohling@uiowa.edu

www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash

To receive this newsletter through the US mail notify meggan-fisher@uiowa.edu

AgriSafe Network Update

The AgriSafe Network is a non-profit national membership organization representing health professionals who work in the field of agricultural health and safety. The Network is pleased to announce several new initiatives that will directly benefit farmers throughout Iowa and nationwide.

- By the end of 2006, there will be AgriSafe clinics operating in Wisconsin, Ohio, Alabama, Kansas, North Dakota, and Missouri.
- In collaboration with the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, the AgriSafe Network is offering distance learning workshops free of charge.
- Personal protective equipment start-up kits are now available to farmers.
- An informational brochure for farmers on respiratory protection and selection of respirators is now available.
- The AgriSafe Network has convened a group of experts to develop a model for integrating mental health services in the AgriSafe clinic setting.

For more information about the [AgriSafe Network](#), membership opportunities, and resources contact Kristi Fisher at 866/312-3002.

“Ride Smart” ATV Educational Packet Released

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use by farm youth is on the rise and so is the need for ATV education and training. To reach this growing segment of the farm population, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK) has released its new ATV educational packet “Ride Smart.” The packet teaches children the importance of ATV safety and training, stresses the significance of wearing protective equipment, riding a properly sized ATV, and not allowing passengers.

To identify how ATVs are being used by these youth, FS4JK worked with the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health to develop and conduct a survey among those attending the 2005 National FFA convention in Louisville, Ky. The 624 survey returns were used in the creation of the “Ride Smart” educational packet and will guide the direction of future ATV injury prevention. Funding for the educational packets was provided by Syngenta and pilot sites were funded by Monsanto.

The cost of the ATV “Ride Smart” educational packet is \$37.50 for FS4JK members and \$50 for non-members. The packets can be ordered by calling FS4JK toll-free at 800/423-5437, or by sending an email to tammy@fs4jk.org. The packet can also be viewed at www.fs4jk.org.



calendar

June 25-30

National Institute for Farm Safety, Inc. Annual Conference
Sheboygan, WI.
www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/meetings2005.htm

July 9-12

American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers 2006 Annual International Meeting
Portland, OR.
www.asabe.org/meetings/aim2006/index.htm

July 26-28

National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual 2006 Conference
San Antonio, TX.
www.naccho.org/conferences

August 10-20

Iowa State Fair
Des Moines, IA.
www.iowastatefair.com

August 15-17

2006 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Conference: A Midwest Homecoming: Sharing a New Tradition of Sustainability
Oconomowoc, WI.
www.sare2006.org/

August 29-31

Farm Progress Show
Amana, IA.
www.FarmProgressShow.com

September 17-23

National Farm Safety & Health Week

November 16

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum
Coralville, IA.
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash

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Third Quarter Farm Injury Profile

If you were injured performing a farm or agricultural task during the third quarter of a year (Q3: July, August, and September) you would be among the 6 to 16% injured in a year nationally. If your injury event occurred during Q3 in our 4-state region (IA, KS, MO, NE) chances are slim it would make the newspaper. BUT, if it did...

If your injury incident made the newspaper, it would be one of 63 captured by the GPCAH Farm and Agricultural Injury Monitoring System (FAIMS). For a typical Q3, history indicates your injury would be least likely to have occurred in Kansas, but otherwise equally likely to have occurred in one of the other Region's states. Overall, there's a 50/50 chance it would be a fatality. If it resulted in death, odds are twice as great the incident happened in Iowa or Missouri.

Farm equipment such as tractors, tractors with implements, self-propelled machines and, increasingly, ATVs or compact utility haulers would most likely be involved. Collectively, chances are 3-to-1 the incident would involve one of them, 9 out of 20 times the injury would be fatal, and when fatal most often the result of an

overturn, which account for about 45% of machinery events and 60% of machinery deaths.

Crashes with motor vehicles, and likewise runovers of operators, passengers, or bystanders, are both reported in about 15% of machinery events and 5% of deaths involving mobile machines. However, deaths in crashes on roadways typically are to occupants of the motor vehicle, according to past years' press clippings.

Even if your incident was in the 25-35% that didn't involve mobile farm machinery, it's still about 50/50 it would be a fatality. Death would have most likely resulted from a grain storage or handling event, an encounter with livestock, asphyxiating or toxic environments, electrocution, or something unusual.

The extent to which press clips or any other indicator of experience translate into a forecast for the future is influenced by many factors. Among them are hazard elimination, awareness of past experiences, new safety technology, and broad application of safe operating practices. These we can encourage and apply in advance.

For additional information contact Murray Madsen at 319/335-4481 or e-mail at murray-madsen@uiowa.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
UI College of Public Health
Dept. of Occupational & Environmental Health
100 Oakdale Campus
Iowa City, IA 52242-5000



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