

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

## Message from MRASH: Get the Community Involved

by Eileen Fisher, PhD

Dr. S. Leonard Syme, professor emeritus from the University of California-Berkeley, a nationally recognized expert on community-based participatory research energized the audience with his presentation “The Community as an Empowered Partner in Health Interventions: A Missing Link.” Dr. Syme described the first 25 years of his career as a “normal” epidemiologist trying to identify disease risk factors. For the last 15 years, Dr. Syme has been working to develop more effective ways to use this information to improve peoples’ lives. This requires working with people as partners rather than as subjects, and preventing problems rather than treating or managing them. He described how epidemiologists have failed to recognize the community as partners, and how this has led to the failure of a number of projects designed to improve the health and lives of people and communities. It is his belief that you can’t succeed by treating individuals, you need to treat the community. The public health experts have not done a very good job of addressing the diseases of poverty, race, pollution, aging, and social class. And

yet we know these are the risk factors for almost every disease we want to prevent. What can we do short of a revolution to fix these problems? The public health community



Director of the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, Fred Gerr, keynote speaker S. Leonard Syme, and I-CASH Director Kelley Donham (l to r) at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Forum.

needs to partner with the communities whose behaviors they hope to change. The community has to become engaged in improving their own health and lives and if we do not engage them we are doomed to failure.

Captain Janice Huy, Deputy Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s Office of Research and Technology Transfer, reinforced Dr. Syme’s presentation with the send off keynote on Thursday. Over the 2-day conference, Captain Huy said

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## Celebrating the 20th year of I-CASH

by Kelley Donham, MS, DVM

In 1990, the Iowa Legislature passed House File 2548, which created Iowa’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH). Representatives Josephine Gruen and Wendell Pellett led the bill through the process, with assistance from Representative David Osterberg. Osterberg and Representative Paul Johnson were responsible for several University-based centers during the period from 1985 – 1990, including the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (ISU), the Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contaminants (UI), and the Center for Waste Reduction (UNI).



The development of I-CASH was facilitated by the “Agriculture at Risk” process (1988 – 1990), which provided a model program of agricultural health and safety for both state and federal governments. Gruen, Pellett, and Osterberg used this model document to draft the I-CASH legislation. The legislation gave general guidelines while the details were developed by an interdisciplinary committee with members from The University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa



Kelley J. Donham  
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I-CASH is seeking proposals for its **2010 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. Ten grants of \$500 each are available to decrease the risk of illness and injury from agricultural exposures to youth living on Iowa farms or otherwise involved in production agriculture. This year's theme for all grants is **rural roadway safety**. Application packets are available at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash). For more information contact LaMar Grafft at 319/335-4233 or [lamar-grafft@uiowa.edu](mailto:lamar-grafft@uiowa.edu). **Application deadline is February 27, 2010.**

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK) welcomed Josie Rudolphi to their growing outreach coordinator network. Rudolphi is a graduate student at ISU and was raised on a corn and soybean farm near Williamsburg, Iowa. FS4JK currently has eight, corporately funded, part-time outreach coordinators located in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee. Each outreach coordinator holds at least twenty programs per year in conjunction with ADM, Cargill, and Monsanto sites, community events, county fairs, and local schools. To contact an outreach coordinator call Chapter and Membership Director Tyler Vacha at 800/423-5437.

Since 2003, I-CASH and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health have maintained the free listerv "Alive and Well Updates" ([www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)). It is an efficient way to receive monthly abstracts from research publications on rural and agricultural health and safety issues. Upon request, subscribers receive full-text PDFs of the articles.

**MRASH continued**

"Unlike some conferences I have attended where I hear the same thing, I am learning about work being done in the Midwest that translates research to practice (R2P). They may not call it R2P, but they are doing it." One of Captain Huy's messages to researchers was to involve a multi-disciplinary team of partners from the very beginning stages of planning right through to evaluation of research-based practices. Among the other topics presented at the forum were rural roadway safety, social marketing, methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, and H1N1.

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Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and several farm organizations. The legislative intent was that I-CASH be an organization consisting of those principle state public institutions. However, as new non-profit organizations came into existence, I-CASH began to serve as an umbrella organization for farm safety and health non-profits and producer groups.

In 2002, I-CASH underwent a consensus strategic planning process to renew its organization and structure. During the discussion, Dr. Stuart Melvin presented a concept to describe and guide how I-CASH should function. The model was of a sunflower with I-CASH at the center, and overlapping petals representing the connections to Iowa's agricultural safety and health organizations.

As we enter the 20<sup>th</sup> year of I-CASH's existence, it's time to review and celebrate the sunflower that describes us. The rough diagram used in the past has been renewed into the diagram on page one to carry us into the third decade of I-CASH. We will use this diagram to promote our collaborative organization, mission, and vision, along with our motto "Helping Farmers Stay Alive and Well."

During 2010, I will continue to use the sunflower to promote Iowa's health and safety organizations. When we look back 20 years, it's apparent that we have come a long way with the development of Iowa as a national leader in agricultural health and safety. We can also celebrate that the numbers, and yes, even the risk rates for agricultural injuries and illness have been reduced from when we started – a tribute to everyone working in a collaborative fashion "helping farmers stay alive and well."

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The University of Iowa ■ Iowa State University  
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## NECAS Farm First Aid Kits

by Dan Neenan, Manager, NECAS

Over the past couple of years, the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) staff has received several requests for the Farm First Aid kit. In response, this year marks the birth of the second generation for the kit, developed to meet the needs of people working in agriculture. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the first shipment of kits were available for purchase by the third week in December and are priced at \$35. The original Farm First Aid kit garnered a very positive response and approximately 40,000 kits were sold. These kits have been placed in tractors, combines, farm shops, dairy and hog barns, automobiles, boats and have traveled to college with students.



By the very nature of their work, farmers and ranchers are exposed multiple times each day to the opportunity for injury. In addition, the elements of nature such as heat, cold, and rain contribute to the risk factors for injury and illness. As part of a community needs assessment in the early years of NECAS, the need for accessible and practical first aid care was identified. Part of our response was the development of a first aid kit that would address the types of injuries that happen in an agriculture working day. Cuts and scrapes usually require more than a tiny adhesive bandage. Distance from immediate aid often requires a responder to leave an injured person and go for help; protecting that person from the elements may be vital. A small scissors found in many kits will not cut through coats, jeans, and zippers. Sometimes, an amputated digit that is properly recovered can be reattached. Obviously, a first aid kit is not going to replace caution and safe work practices. A Farm First Aid kit is meant to be just one tool to promote a safe and healthy work environment.

*For more information or to purchase a Farm First Aid kit visit the NECAS web page at [www.necasag.org](http://www.necasag.org). You can also contact us at 563-557-0354, 888-844-6322, or by email at [reiterg@nicc.edu](mailto:reiterg@nicc.edu).*

## Goldsmith receives 2009 I-CASH Hall of Fame Award

I-CASH named Jan Goldsmith of Des Moines, Iowa, the 2009 recipient of its Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award. Goldsmith is an advanced practice registered nurse who led a 17-year career in the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau and joined the I-CASH Advisory Council in 1998. As chair of I-CASH's Producer's Committee, Goldsmith has helped spearhead the initiative to raise rural roadway safety awareness through the "It's Preventable" campaign. Jan continues to provide leadership to the Iowa stakeholders, who have developed an action plan to improve safety on rural roads. The award was presented on November 18, 2009 at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum held in Johnston, IA.



2009 Hall of Fame recipient Jan Goldsmith, on right, with 2007 Hall of Fame recipient Cheryl Tevis.

## calendar

January 27-28

**ASHCA-NIOSH Joint Conference - Be Safe, Be Profitable: Protecting Workers in Agriculture**  
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX  
[www.ashca.com](http://www.ashca.com)

January 27-28

**2010 Iowa Pork Congress**  
Des Moines, IA  
[www.iowaporkcongress.org](http://www.iowaporkcongress.org)

February 4-5

**Overall Women Conference**  
Bettendorf, IA  
[www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html](http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html)

February 27

**I-CASH Youth Grant deadline**  
[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

March 18-20

**Agricultural Medicine Training**  
Marshfield, WI  
[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

April 7-11

**Agricultural Medicine Training**  
Fairlee, VT  
[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

June 7-11

**Agricultural Medicine Training**  
Iowa City, IA  
[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

## Save the Date

### Agricultural Medicine:

### The Core Course

**June 7-11, 2010  
Iowa City, Iowa**

For more information contact  
Kay Mohling at 319/335-4219 or  
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[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

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+++++**It All Adds Up**  
**Production Agriculture, Forestry, and Commercial Fishing,  
Hunting, and Trapping (AgFFHT)**  
**Worker Deaths 2003-2008**

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

\*The AgFFHT industry sector began including logging for the first time in 2003.

	IA	IL	KS	MN	MO	ND	NE	SD	WI	GPCAH Region Toll	GPCAH Total for Year as % of US AgFFHT Deaths	US AgFFHT Deaths
2003*	33	15	13	19	34	10	15	13	30	182	25.7%	709
2004	27	32	23	19	46	13	14	7	20	201	30.0%	669
2005	41	32	15	22	43	11	15	12	30	221	30.9%	715
2006	16	18	9	23	31	15	21	17	22	172	26.2%	655
2007	29	21	24	17	28	11	18	10	20	178	30.4%	585
2008	27	30	23	25	21	13	20	16	24	199	30.6%	651
Sum	173	148	107	125	203	73	103	75	146	1153	28.9%	3984
% of 6-yr Total	15.0	12.8	9.3	10.8	17.6	6.3	8.9	6.5	12.7			