

farm families ALIVE & WELL



News from The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health

Vol. 11, Issue 4 - 2005

“Connecting farmers and researchers...”

“Agricultural Safety and Health e-conferencing” was the banner for the Great Plains Center exhibit at this year’s Iowa State Fair. NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard provided an introductory video message encouraging farmers to become engaged in guiding agricultural safety and health research and its translation into practice. A steady stream of fairgoers from urban and rural communities in Iowa and surrounding states was treated to a sequence of 14 live *Elluminate* sessions as Dr. Rautiainen and Murray Madsen demonstrated the e-conferencing technology, which is part of a research-translation project funded by NIOSH and led by Dr. Tom Cook at the University of Iowa.

Fairgoers connected with presenters from Australia, Ireland, Canada, and several US states in live, real-time audio and video transmissions on the internet. They experienced the connection and at the same time learned more about agricultural safety and health resources, including those closer to home such as Certified Safe Farm, AgriSafe, AgriWellness, FS4JK, Proteus Migrant/Seasonal Worker Training, Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day Camps, ATV safety training efforts by Missouri Cooperative Extension, hazardous occupations training for youth by Purdue, and grain bin suffocation research at Illinois State. Archived recordings of all 14 presentations are accessible on-line. (Visit <http://globalcampus.uiowa.edu>. Click August 15, recordings, then meeting name.)



NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard provided a video message for the Elluminate sessions.

(continued on page 2)

NIOSH Leadership in Occupational Safety and Health

Since 1996, the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) has served to guide occupational safety and health research in the US. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the federal agency which funds the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) along with nine other agricultural health centers, helped create NORA to develop a plan which would prioritize occupational safety and health research needs. This agenda was created using input from approximately 500 occupational health and safety leaders.

Under the leadership of Dr. John Howard, NIOSH proposes to change NORA to a sector-based approach with sectors representing groups of industries and occupations with similar objectives and likely similar occupational safety and health problems. NIOSH and its partners will form eight Sector Research Councils

which will include participants from academia, industry, labor, and government. Each Council will draft goals, objectives, and action plans for their sector. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing is one of the eight sectors.

NIOSH is seeking help from its partners to identify the top problems within each of the sectors. You may provide advice to NIOSH by visiting their website (www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora) and entering what you consider to be the most important problems where research is likely to make a difference in finding a solution. Your comments will be entered into the NORA docket and the Sector Research Councils will consider your comments when developing their agendas and action plans.

NIOSH has also developed a new initiative entitled Research-to-Practice (r2p) which



Wayne Sanderson
PhD, CIH



(continued on page 2)

National Farm Safety and Health Week 2005 - Stayin' Alive in '05

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the third complete week in September as National Farm Safety and Health Week. Since 1987, **Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK)** has been proud to help support farm safety efforts and raise awareness about children and youth during this important week. In 2005, communities are encouraged to participate in activities through dress up days, tailgating, school assemblies, posters, and more. Participating locations will receive promotional materials, ideas, and program resources. On September 21st, Farm Safety and Health Day for Children and Youth, pep rallies will be held in Iowa City, Iowa and in Indianapolis, Indiana. For more information on attending a pep rally or to plan your own activities call 800/423-5437 or visit www.fs4jk.org. For additional information on National Farm Safety and Health Week visit www.nsc.org/necas.



The **Agricultural Occupational Health Training** was held May 18-20 and June 8-10, 2005. Forty health care professionals from Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, Kansas, Canada, Ireland and Korea were trained in a variety of agricultural safety and health topics. The instructors delivered practical, timely information, and their expertise was highly praised by the participants. In addition to the on-campus course, Session 1 was offered through the web-based technology Elluminate. For information on the 2006 training contact kay-mohling@uiowa.edu or check the I-CASH website at www.public-health.uiowa.edu.



"The Clock is Ticking for Rural America: A Behavioral Health and Safety Conference," was judged the most useful meeting ever attended by many conference-goers, reported Kathy Schmitt, the Madison, WI President of AgriWellness, Inc. The conference, held in Bloomington, MN on July 11 – 13, 2005, drew farmers, ranchers, researchers, academicians, health and safety experts, behavioral health care providers, and state and federal planners. The conference focused on the behavioral health needs of the agricultural population and their rural communities. Coordinated by AgriWellness, Inc., of Harlan, IA, the conference was co-sponsored by the National Rural Health Association, the National Association for Rural Mental Health and the State Public Policy Group. Participants chose from six different conference tracks offered during the three day meeting. The conference proceedings will be made available on the AgriWellness website at www.agriwellness.org.

Madsen and Rautiainen described their experience at the fair as very educational for everyone involved. "We learned more about the functionality of Elluminate and how presenters and farmers interact with it," says Madsen. "We also feel good about the opportunity created for our colleagues to experience presenting via Elluminate (10 of 14 were first-timers) and the information we and they shared with fairgoers."

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

Director's Message, continued from page 1

focuses on transferring research findings, technology, and information into prevention practices and products that reduce worker health and safety risks (www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p). The goal of r2p is to increase the application of research to prevent occupational injury and illness. The r2p concept is driving more efforts to make use of the knowledge that has already been gained to produce a measurable difference in the workplace.

The GPCAH is grateful to be a partner with NIOSH in striving to improve the lives of working men and women and to prevent death and injury associated with their work. We encourage your participation in the NORA and r2p initiatives.

Dr. Wayne Sanderson directs the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, housed in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health of the College of Public Health. He can be reached at 319/335-4207 (wayne-sanderson@uiowa.edu).



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Farm Families Alive & Well
Published 4/yr
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**I-CASH
Injury Prevention in
Agricultural Youth
Grant**

Applications are available at
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash

Deadline is Jan. 15, 2006

For more information contact Kay Mohling at 319/335-4219 or kay-mohling@uiowa.edu

ATVs in Press Clippings

Among the press clippings of farm and agricultural injuries received at the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) are frequent articles about tragic ATV incidents. Sometimes these incidents truly are farm or agriculturally-related, but many times they are not, although the incident occurred on or near a farm. ATVs are being increasingly used in rural America for a variety of non-agricultural purposes, both work and recreational.

A recent press clip described an ATV death at a piglet production facility in northeast Iowa resulting in a Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) site visit, (press clippings are used for both summary incident reporting to colleagues in our Region and to identify fatalities for the Iowa FACE program). It turns out the young herdsman struck his head against a fence post and died when his ATV flew off an embankment during a return visit to the facility after his shift ended.

We are again reminded that what matters is not whether this is work or recreational. It's about the helmet left on the front seat of the vehicle that towed the ATV to work. It's about the recent bride and young child left behind in an agricultural community that suffers the loss. For all ATV users the message contains the same two parts. First, take advantage of the safety training available. The GPCAH currently provides financial support for ATV safety projects with Missouri's Cooperative Extension Service and Farm Safety 4 Just Kids. The 4-H Community ATV Safety Program's "ATV Adventures! Fit to Ride Leader's Guide" is another new resource available (www.ATV-Youth.org). And, secondly, put the safety training into practice...at work and play.

Proteus Provides Training

An update in the Worker Protection Standard has required that agricultural workers be trained in basic pesticide safety. Proteus, Inc. has taken this requirement and incorporated it along with their other services. Their "Workplace Safety and Pesticide Training" allows many seasonal and migrant farmworkers the opportunity to learn pesticide basics in a bilingual setting. The training focuses on proper pesticide protection, where pesticides are found, harmful effects of pesticides, symptoms of pesticide poisoning, procedures to follow if someone is poisoned, and worker rights.

Following the training, workers receive a card certified by the Environmental Protection Agency verifying completion of the training. The certification is good for five years. Workers receive informational brochures in both English and Spanish, along with hats, ponchos, fans and other materials useful for fieldwork in Iowa.

Proteus, Inc., a non-profit organization funded through federal grants, provides this training and many other services for low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers. This pesticide program is funded by the Department of Labor through the National Farmworker Jobs Program and is designed to provide education, training, and other employment related services to low-income farmworkers.

For additional information on the Workplace Safety and Pesticide Training contact Marisol Lopez, Program Specialist with Proteus, Inc. at 515/271-5303. More information on Proteus can be found at <http://showcase.netins.net/web/proteus>.

calendar

September 10-18

Clay County Fair

Spencer, IA

www.claycountyfair.com

September 17-23

National Safety Council Congress & Expo

Orlando, FL

www.nsc.org

September 18-24

National Farm Safety and Health Week

October 27-28

I-CASH Fall Meeting

Stoney Creek Inn

Johnston, IA

www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash

November 5-9

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

New Orleans, LA

www.apha.org

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum October 27-28, 2005

The theme for the conference, hosted by I-CASH and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, is **"Bridge Building ...Research to Practice."**

Registration information is available at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash. A limited number of free registrations and \$75 stipends are available for farmers attending. Contact Eileen Fisher at 319/335-4224 or eileen-fisher@uiowa.edu for information on the free registrations and stipends.

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+++++It All Adds Up

Production Agriculture Injuries on Farms Region VII (IA, KS, MO, NE) Press Clippings Average Harvest Quarter (SEP-NOV, 2002-4)

		Average Incidents in Harvest Quarter			% of Average Annual Total Reported in Harvest Quarter
		Fatal	Nonfatal	Total	
Tractors, ATVs, Self-propelled Machinery	Overturn	7.6	5.0	12.6	26%
	Runover	2.7	1.3	4.0	27%
	Crash	2.7	5.7	8.4	34%
	Other	4.3	2.7	7.0	26%
Other Machinery	Entangle	1.7	2.0	3.7	35%
	Runover	1.3	1.0	2.3	51%
Grain Storage	Engulf	2.3	0.6	2.9	39%
	Fell from	—	0.6	0.6	20%
Livestock	Crushed by	1.0	1.3	2.3	33%
	Fell from	1.0	0.6	1.6	53%
	On road	0.6	2.3	2.9	48%
Other		5.7	3.3	9.0	22%
Total - All Types		30.9	26.4	57.3	28%

Sources: GPCAH Farm and Agricultural Injury Monitoring Service (FAIMS) and IA Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE). For more information on FAIMS or FACE contact Murray Madsen, murray-madsen@uiowa.edu or 319/335-4481.

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