

Stone Receives I-CASH Hall of Fame Award

Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) has named Janis F. Stone, PhD, of Ames, Iowa, the 2005 recipient of its Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award. 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. Stone retired in September 2003 as a professor at Iowa State University (ISU) and a textiles and clothing specialist with ISU Extension. She spent most of her career working with safety issues. Her research focused on protective clothing for pesticide applicators and sun exposure.

Stone's safety-related work goes beyond research, integrating her research efforts into outreach programming. During the national Farm Progress Shows she created, organized and staffed effective farm safety education demonstrations. These included a sun cancer screening display that examined farmers for skin cancer; a sun hat survey display evaluating farmers' options about protective sun apparel; and a chemical glove display that provided information for chemical applicators.

Stone's work has changed the way Iowans and others think and act in relation to sun safety and pesticide practices. Her publications and presentations on applied research have been shared nationally and internationally.

Stone received the award October 27th during the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum in Johnston, Iowa, a two-day conference hosted by I-CASH and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (see page 3 for conference report). The award was presented by Marilyn Adams, previous Hall of Fame Award recipient.



Janis Stone, recipient of the 2005 Hall of Fame Award, with Kelley Donham and Marilyn Adams.

Hurricane Katrina & Agricultural Injuries and Illnesses: Acute Tragedy and Chronic Tragedy

On August 29th and the following months, the international media was filled with images of wind, floods and human misery left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Estimates indicate 579 people lost their lives in metropolitan New Orleans. This media coverage and response to the acute tragedy of Katrina are in stark contrast to the chronic tragedy that occurs on farms and ranches across the country. Every year our nation's agricultural communities experience the equivalent of one Katrina in terms of death loss. However, there are no newspaper headlines, television cameras, or outpouring of public and private responses devoted to agricultural injuries or illnesses. I bring this up to

remind us of the importance of the I-CASH vision "to make Iowa the world's healthiest and safest agricultural environment in which to live and work." To reach this goal we must have vigilance in our work, and we must continue collaboration and coordinated efforts with our public and private partners.

I use an analogy to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to suggest how most farm families prioritize health and safety, which usually follows in

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Kelley J. Donham
MS, DVM,
DACVPM

I-CASH is seeking proposals for its grant program aimed at decreasing the risk of illness and injury to young people living on Iowa farms or involved in agriculture. Each year I-CASH designates funds for communities to develop farm injury prevention and education programs targeted for Iowa's youth. This year, a total of \$5,000 is available. For more information or an application packet, contact Kay Mohling at 319/335-4219 or by e-mail at kay-mohling@uiowa.edu. Applications are also available at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash. **The deadline for applications is Jan. 15, 2006.**



The rural environment holds health hazards that are often invisible and can have a cumulative effect with prolonged exposure. Health related issues can make the farm a dangerous place if precautions are not taken to prevent injury or death. **Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK)** is addressing this issue by producing an educational resource kit with six different rural health issues: food safety, drinking water safety, ergonomics, hearing protection, sun safety, and respiratory health. FS4JK, in conjunction with Dr. Robert Petrea, ASH-NET Executive Director, is determining the usefulness of this resource through surveys measuring pre and post intervention rural health knowledge, attitude, and behavior. The educational resource and the evaluation are both funded through Cargill.



Since Iowa's new law restricting most pseudoephedrine sales went into effect in late May, state officials report Iowa's meth labs have dropped an average of 75% compared with the same months last year. Despite the drastic reduction in the number of these labs, they still exist. In both rural and urban areas, anyone can unexpectedly come across an illegal drug lab. These labs may be set up in parks, motels, apartments, garages, storage sheds, barns and fields. A typical lab contains a collection of cold tablets, camp stove fuel, anhydrous ammonia, toluene, alcohol, paint thinner, bottles, hoses, and pressurized cylinders (such as propane tanks, fire extinguishers, scuba tanks or pop dispensers). Many of these items are toxic to humans, animals, and the environment. Labs are frequently abandoned, leaving behind potentially explosive and very toxic chemicals. If you discover this type of debris, leave the area at once and contact law enforcement immediately by calling 911. Illegal drug labs have been known to cause serious injuries, explosions, and fires.

relative importance after basic food and shelter, economic security, children and family health, and necessities for the farm operation. Only after the basic needs have been secured, can the family and farm worker focus on their farm wellness and risk reduction. Therefore, our job is to find ways to reposition health and safety as a more fundamental concern of the farm family and agricultural enterprises. One way is to find immediate incentives. Money is a good incentive, and programs like **Certified Safe Farm** have been developed to raise the value of farm health and safety. We have shown that participation in this program saves 47% of the cost incurred by occupational injuries and illnesses. The program can pay for itself, and put money in the pocket of the farmer.

It is unlikely that the chronic problem of farm health and safety in agriculture will ever have the publicity and urgency of a Hurricane Katrina. However, we cannot accept and become complacent about the chronic tragedy of agricultural occupational injury and illness. We must design and invest in new programs that can be integrated into agricultural enterprises, and raise the value of farm health and safety. Then perhaps we can make greater strides toward our goal of making Iowa the world's healthiest and safest agricultural environment in which to live and work.

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 (kelley-donham@uiowa.edu).

For more information on the Certified Safe Farm (CSF) program, contact Sara Schneiders at 319/335-4065 (sara-schneiders@uiowa.edu) or visit the CSF web page at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/CSF/index.htm



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Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

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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

“Bridge Building...Research to Practice” MRASH Forum Report

Iowa’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health co-sponsored the Midwest Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health Forum (MRASH) October 27-28 in Johnston, Iowa. Dr. John Howard gave the keynote address “Occupational Safety and Health Challenges for the 21st Century.” Howard is the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

The focus this year was on research to practice in agricultural health and safety. Several attendees described this as the best MRASH forum yet, and added that the presentations and discussions this year were especially helpful for their work. Most of the 101 attendees were public health practitioners and appreciated the emphasis on applied research and interventions. Twenty abstracts were accepted for presentation in breakout sessions with a focus on migrant farmworker health, mental health, and research to practice. Participants came from Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.

Friday’s session featured Dr. Paul James, professor and head, Department of Family Medicine, The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, speaking on “Creating Opportunities for Health in Rural Communities through Collaboration.” A panel of presenters followed featuring Carolyn Raffenberger, Science and Environment Health Network, Denise O’Brien, Women, Food, & Agriculture, Kevin Paap, Minnesota Farm Bureau, and Robert (Chip) Petrea, Department of Agriculture and Biological Engineering, University of Illinois. David Osterberg, College of Public Health then led a facilitated discussion on how to match farmers needs to federal funding priorities.

FS4JK Hosts Regional Workshops for National Farm Safety and Health Week

On September 21st Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK) held a Farm Safety & Health Week “Rally” in Iowa City, Iowa. Approximately 25 people attended from Iowa and Wisconsin, including farmers, teachers, Farm Service Agency staff, Monsanto representatives, University of Iowa employees, FS4JK Chapter members, and FFA members.

The rally gave participants an opportunity to learn new and exciting ways to teach children and youth about farm safety. The speakers included Brent Halling, the Iowa Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Wayne Sanderson, Director of the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, Gloria Reiter, from the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), and Louise VanErsvelde from the Partners 4 Farm Safety FS4JK Chapter in Brooklyn, Iowa. Session topics included hands-on farm safety and the mechanics of teaching farm safety.

A simultaneous rally was hosted in Indianapolis, Indiana with funding from the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA). The Iowa and Indiana rallies mark the 6th and 7th regional workshops hosted by FS4JK in 2005. Other workshops have been held in Pennsylvania, California, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Saskatchewan, Canada.

For more information on Farm Safety 4 Just Kids visit their website at www.fs4jk.org

calendar

January 15, 2006

**I-CASH Injury Prevention in
Agricultural Youth Grant deadline**
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash

January 25-26

Iowa Pork Congress
Des Moines, IA.
www.iowaporkcongress.org

February 7-9

**2006 National Health Policy
Conference**
Washington, D.C.
www.peopleware.net

March 28-29

**Iowa Public Health Conference
Strengthening Our Voices: Making
Public Health a Priority**
Ames, IA.
www.iowapha.org

April 12

I-CASH Spring Meeting
Urbandale, IA.
Check the I-CASH website for updates
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash

June 18-21

**The 16th International Congress of
Agricultural Medicine and Rural
Health**
Lodi, Italy
www.ruralhealth-lodi.net

I-CASH Agricultural Occupational Health Training

May 30 - June 3, 2006

Information and skills for health care professionals to function as practitioners in the prevention of agricultural occupational illnesses and injuries. For more information contact Kay Mohling at 319/335-4219 or kay-mohling@uiowa.edu

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Farm Equipment (FE) - Motor Vehicle (MV) Crashes on Public Roads 2004¹

Iowa ranked 16th among states in 2003 when almost 75% of all traffic deaths happened on one of its 10,000 miles of rural roads. Across the GPCAH Region during 2003 there were 205 such crashes that resulted in 11 deaths and 279 injuries. The chart below shows the four-state Region's data for 2004.

	CRASHES				DEATHS			INJURIES		
	Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO ²	FE	MV	Total	FE	MV	Total
Iowa IA Department of Transportation Office of Traffic and Safety	201 ³	11	39	117	5	6	12 ⁴			117
Missouri MO Statistical Analysis Center	202	2	62	138	1	1	2	27	59	86
Nebraska NE Department of Roads	76	2	31 ³	43	1	1	2	8 ³	30 ³	38 ³
Kansas KS Department of Transportation	88	1	30	57	0	1	1	7	29	36

NOTES:

- 1) Data excludes non-collision events, collisions with parked motor vehicles, fixed objects, animals, trains, pedestrians, and various other categories of "first harmful events."
- 2) PDO means Property Damage Only.
- 3) Includes events and injuries where counts are subject to final investigations.
- 4) Includes one fatality of a bicyclist.

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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