

MRASH Forum Summary

I-CASH and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health co-sponsored the Midwest Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Forum November 16th in Coralville, Iowa. Dr. Forrest Calico, senior advisor on quality for the National Rural Health Association gave the keynote address focusing on collaboration for rural health and safety. Susan Roberts, Director of the Food & Society Policy Fellows Program, gave a presentation titled "Does the Farm Bill Affect Your Health?" which kicked off a spirited debate on farm policy, nutrition, school lunch programs, and organic vs. conventional farming. Participants were heard talking and debating the issue throughout the day.

Presentations on collaborative research, risk management on the farm, and tools for intervention were designed to provide skills for participants to take home and use. Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Associate Director of the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University, presented a session on implementing biological risk management on a livestock operation. The Forum also included

presentations on avian flu, program evaluation, issues of health and safety for children visiting farms, community-based participatory research, marketing your message, ethics, and relationship building. The conference created an interdisciplinary networking opportunity for over 110 attendees representing farmers, nurses, social workers, state and county public health employees, researchers, rural primary health providers, agricultural safety and health professionals, and the media.



Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Associate Director of the Center for Food Security and Public Health at ISU presented at the Forum.

Rural Roadway Safety

Envision a tractor pulling a wagon carrying four 2,000 pound bales of hay. It's mid July, and the corn on all sides of the road is over six feet high. Imagine a pickup truck approaching the "T" intersection from the right of the tractor at a high rate of speed. The pickup driver can't see the approaching tractor because the tall corn blocks his vision at the intersection. He slows a little and cruises through the intersection, just in time to see the tractor and wagon pull in front of him!

Rural roadway safety is a major concern of the I-CASH Producers Committee, because so many have either experienced a collision or close call, or know someone who has. Farmers and others driving on rural roads are at risk of collision between farm equipment

and motor vehicles. The risk increases as harvesting, planting, and tillage machines are becoming larger and traveling more frequently on rural roads as farming operations become larger and more spread out.

In January 2003, the I-CASH Producers Committee made the following recommendations:

- Changes should be made in the Driver's Education Manual and Exam to include safety issues related to operation of farm machinery on public roads.
- Changes should be made in the Driver's Education Curriculum to include safety issues



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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. Past grantees have conducted community programs on farm safety, including the development of farm safety curricula for elementary and middle school children, educational booths with interactive displays, sun safety education, and rural roadway safety. This year, a total of \$5,000 is available. For more information or an application packet, contact Meggan Fisher at 319/335-4226 or meggan-fisher@uiowa.edu. Applications are also available at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash. The deadline for applications is Jan. 15, 2007.



The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is leading a major campaign to educate riders on the safe use of ATVs. CPSC's campaign includes: new television and radio public service announcements; the creation of www.ATVSafety.gov, a new website for riders, parents, trainers, local and state officials, and the media; use of CPSC's Neighborhood Safety Network; and partnering with organizations and officials dedicated to promoting ATV safety. ATVs are growing in popularity and the knowledge on their safe use must grow as well. For more information visit the CPSC website at www.cpsc.gov.

related to operation of farm machinery on public roads.

- Educational training for driving instructors should be augmented with safety issues related to operation of farm machinery on public roads.
- Farm machinery operated on public roads should have proper lighting and marking that meets ASAE standards (promotions, incentives, or regulations).
- Farmers should receive reimbursement for set-back of crops at corners to increase visibility at rural intersections.
- Awareness programs should be implemented to alert the public during periods of high farm equipment traffic on public roads.

I-CASH has initiated work on these recommendations by having conversations with representatives of the Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Driver Services, Iowa Driver Instructor Training, and the Iowa Highway Patrol. The Iowa Driver's Education Manual and Exam has recently changed to include more material on rural roadway safety. This is just one example of how I-CASH committees help to initiate, develop, and promote agricultural safety and health activities to help keep farmers alive and well.

I-CASH is starting a series of position papers on critical health and safety issues for production agriculture, the first is on rural roadway safety. We hope these papers will be used to facilitate education and policy decisions on these important issues.

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).

Mark Your Calendars

Agricultural Occupational Health Training June 11- 15, 2007

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



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

A partnership of:
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❖ Iowa State University
❖ Iowa Department of Public Health
❖ Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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Findings from Certified Safe Farm



The Certified Safe Farm (CSF) intervention program aims to reduce occupational injuries and illnesses, and promote wellness to reduce health care costs to farmers, insurers, and other stakeholders. A CSF cost effectiveness study has recently been completed. Three hundred and sixteen farms located in a nine-county area of northwestern Iowa were recruited and randomized into the intervention and control cohorts. The intervention farms received occupational health screenings, health and wellness screening, education, on-farm safety reviews, and incentives. Quarterly calls over three years were used to collect self-reported occupational injury and illness information, including costs to the farmers and their insurers.

Annual occupational injury and illness costs per farmer paid by their insurance companies were 45% lower in the intervention cohort than the control cohort. Although the out-of-pocket expenses were similar for the intervention and control cohorts, combined costs of insurance and out-of-pocket expenses were 27% lower in the intervention cohort compared to the control cohort. Within the cohort of intervention farmers, annual occupational injury and illness cost savings were directly associated with the farm safety scores as determined from the on-farm safety reviews. Reported health care costs were \$237 per farmer in the safest farms (those farms scoring in the highest tertile) vs. \$485 per farmer in the least safe farms (those farms scoring in the lowest tertile).

These results suggest that farmers receiving the intervention had lower health care costs for occupational injuries and illnesses than farmers who didn't. These cost savings more than cover the cost of providing CSF services (about \$100 per farm per year).

For more information on the CSF program contact Aaron Kline at 319/335-4065, aaron-kline@uiowa.edu or visit the CSF website at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/csf/index.htm.

I-CASH Endowment Campaign

Over the last year and a half, I-CASH has been working closely with the Iowa Bankers Association, a lead group in the I-CASH Endowment Campaign. The Banker's Advisory Committee for the campaign set a goal for 15% of all Iowa Bankers Association members to make a contribution to this campaign. We are making great progress, having almost reached the halfway point towards this goal.

We greatly appreciate the commitment and the efforts of our Bankers Advisory Committee, and the contributions of Iowa bankers. We have also received several donations from individuals who believe I-CASH programs need to remain constant and available despite state funding cuts.

To date, we have received over \$17,000 in donations, and continue to build momentum for our effort. Please consider making a donation to this very important cause. For more information on the I-CASH Endowment Campaign visit the I-CASH website at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/campaign/index.html or contact Meggan Fisher at (319) 335-4226.

calendar

January 15, 2007

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

January 21-24

20th Annual Rural Health Care Leadership Conference
Phoenix, AZ.
www.healthforum.com

January 24-25

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

January 26-27

Overall Women Conference
Coralville, IA.
www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html

February 12-14

The Clock is Ticking for Rural America: A Behavioral Health and Safety Conference
Sioux Falls, SD.
www.agriwellness.org

April 3-4

Iowa Public Health Conference: New Directions in Public Health
Ames, IA.
www.idph.state.ia.us/conferences.asp

April 11-14

Western Social Science Association 49th Annual Conference
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
<http://wssa.asu.edu/conferences/default.htm>

May 9-11

National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. 2007 Farmworkers Health Conference
Newport Beach, CA.
www.NACHC.com

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Farm Equipment (FE) - Motor Vehicle (MV) Crashes on Public Roads 2005

	CRASHES ¹				INJURIES			DEATHS		
	PDO ²	Injury	Fatal	Total	FE	MV	Total	FE	MV	Total
Illinois* Dept. of Trans. Div. of Traffic Safety Traffic Statistics Unit	144	56	1	201	29	*	*	1	*	*
Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service	106	78	5	189	35	78	113	4	1	5
Kansas Dept. of Trans.	62	19	2	83	7	18	25	1	2	3
Minnesota Dept. of Trans.	77	44	0	121	14	49	63	0	0	0
Missouri St. Hwy. Patrol Public Info. and Ed. Div.	139	49	2	190	26	56	82	1	1	2
Nebraska Dept. of Roads - Hwy. Safety	41	26	0	67	8	40	48	0	0	0
North Dakota Dept. of Trans. Drivers Lic. and Traffic Safety Div.	18	12	2	32	7	14	21	2	1	3
South Dakota Dept. of Public Safety Office of Hwy. Safety	18	16	1	35	10	14	24	1	0	1
Wisconsin State Patrol Bureau of Trans. Safety	123	57	3	183	16	66	82	0	3	3

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." A "fatal" crash may include more than one fatality.

2) PDO means property damage only.

* complete data not available

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

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