

## NECAS Courses Accredited by Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau

The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) received accreditation from the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau to offer two agricultural rescue courses for volunteer fire departments across Iowa. The two accredited courses

are Tractor Rollover Extrication and Combine Extrication. Each six-hour program will teach responders how to quickly and safely remove a victim from a tractor rollover or combine entrapment. Iowa-based fire departments will now be able to get the much needed training and have the cost paid for by the Iowa Volunteer Firefighters' Training Fund. NECAS will be submitting the curricula to surrounding states for approval in the near future.

NECAS, in partnership with the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau, is developing a Grain Bin and



Elevator Fire and Explosion DVD-based curriculum sponsored by Nationwide Agribusiness that will be distributed to fire departments later this year.

NECAS has signed a management agreement with the Dubuque County Firefighters Association to manage the new four-story, propane-fired training tower located just west of Dubuque. Plans are underway to schedule a week of training in the fall for firefighters to participate in Ag Rescue training at NECAS, as well as training at the new training tower.

NECAS is a partnership in safety and health between the National Safety Council and

Northeast Iowa Community College serving farmers, agribusiness, and Fire and EMS personnel with hands on training. For more information contact Dan Neenan at 888/844-6322 or [neenand@nicc.edu](mailto:neenand@nicc.edu).

## Certified Safe Farm - The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In 1996, Dr. Susanna Von Essen from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and I met with the President and VP of Mutual of Omaha about the idea of developing a program with insurance companies to reduce injuries and illnesses in agriculture. They were interested in the concept, but told us we would need proof that it would save insurance companies money before there would be widespread interest. The name "Certified Safe Farm" (CSF) came out of that meeting. A proposal was funded by NIOSH, with additional support from the Iowa and National Pork Producers, Pioneer, Monsanto, and Farm Bureau, for the [Certified Safe Farm](#) program.

The program was designed with three main components: 1) a clinical occupational health screening, 2) an on-farm safety audit, and 3) an

individualized education plan. Nurses from the [AgriSafe Network](#) operate the clinical portion of the program. The on-farm auditors are farmers from the local area who have successfully completed a training program by I-CASH staff.

The program was started at the Spencer AgriSafe Clinic and the surrounding counties. Later, projects were initiated in AgriSafe Clinics at Dubuque, Keosauqua, Oskaloosa, Hampton, LeMars, Sioux Center, Ida Grove, Britt, Allison, Grundy Center, and Manchester. Over 600 persons have been involved in the study.

The following results summarize the main findings in the program:



Kelley J. Donham  
MS, DVM,  
DACVPM

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**SAVE THAT DATE**

**Agricultural Safety and Health Forum  
The Changing Face of Agriculture  
Biofuels, Food Safety, Alternative Farming**  
November 14-16, 2007, Omaha, NE

Conference registration information is available at  
[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

**The 2007 Agricultural Occupational Health Training** was held June 11-15 in Coralville, Iowa. Thirty health care professionals from Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin were trained in a variety of agricultural safety and health topics ranging from agricultural respiratory issues to zoonoses. The instructors delivered practical information and their expertise was highly praised by the participants. For information on the 2008 training contact [Kay Mohling](mailto:Kay Mohling) at 319/335-4219

**USDA-CSREES Youth Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Mini-Grant** - If you are offering a youth safe tractor and machinery operation training program for 14 and 15 year-olds for employment in production agriculture under the USDOL Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture, you may be eligible for a USDA CSREES mini-grant to support your certification program. For more information and to apply for support funds go to [www.ystmomg.psu.edu](http://www.ystmomg.psu.edu)

**AgriWellness, Inc.** in Harlan, Iowa is pleased to have been awarded a Rural Health Network Development Grant from the US Office of Rural Health Policy. This grant will run for three years beginning May 1, 2007. Visit AgriWellness, Inc. at [www.agriwellness.org](http://www.agriwellness.org)

The **Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK)** office has moved. Their new address is 11304 Aurora Ave., Urbandale, Iowa 50322. The new phone number is 515/331-6506, and FAX number is 515/331-2947. The website and toll free phone number will remain the same: [www.fs4jk.org](http://www.fs4jk.org) and 800-423-5437.



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

**Farm Families Alive & Well**  
Published 4/yr  
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1) The farms in the study had 47% less cost in occupational illness and injury insurance claims compared to control farms. These cost savings were directly related to the safety score of the farm, the higher the score, the lower the insurance claims.

2) The farms also had significantly higher usage of respirators for lung protection during farm work. Because respirator use increased, there was 50% lower incidence of Organic Dust Toxic Syndrome, an acute respiratory condition. There was also 25% less incidence of acute bronchitis.

3) Farmers in the program have made over 1400 documented safety improvements on their farms. We know from conversations with the farmers that many other safety changes have been made but were never documented.

4) Focus groups and surveys have revealed that farmers like the program and hope it will continue in some form in the future.

There have been many programs to prevent injuries and illnesses in our farming communities. However, few such programs have shown positive results. CSF is one of the few that has shown a reduction in illness and a reduction in costs from these illnesses. We are working hard to draw insurance industry attention to the success of this program. There is ample evidence that this program will pay for itself in cost savings, and provide a rebate to farmers for their compliance with the program. Our work will continue to focus on taking this research to practice.

*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](mailto:kelley-donham@uiowa.edu)).*

## New I-CASH Advisory Council Members

George and Deb Hebl's Iowa roots run deep. Both are fourth generation farmers who grew up in the Iowa City area. The Hebls have been on their land for 13 years, raising a few beef cattle (mostly for friends and neighbors) and 30 acres of hay. Though they are officially retired, there are plenty of chores each day to keep them busy.



George and Deb Hebl

Prior to taking up farming on a full time basis, George and Deb worked at the Veterans Administration Hospital (VA) in Iowa City. Having been in direct health care services has given them each a unique perspective and insight into health and safety issues. Situational awareness and safety consciousness are the issues they see as the biggest health and safety threats facing farmers today.

One of the newest members of the I-CASH Advisory Council, Bill Furlong is a fourth generation Iowan whose family just celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of farming in Iowa. Bill is the primary operator of 1600 acres of corn, soybeans, hay, and beef cow pasture in Muscatine, Johnson, and Louisa Counties. He lives in Iowa City and commutes to the farm 330 days per year. He cites his father's attitude and the way he was raised as a major influence on making him more safety conscious. Bill also works off the farm as an



Bill Furlong

attorney, occasionally assisting people with agriculture and real estate questions. He supports the work I-CASH does and says, "I-CASH is a wonderful example of public monies well spent. I believe it's something the state of Iowa should support."

For a complete list of I-CASH Board Members visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH)

## I-CASH Spring Meeting

Iowa State University Extension hosted the 2007 I-CASH Spring Meeting on April 27th at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ames, Iowa. Kelley J. Donham, Director of I-CASH, gave a presentation on the "Economic Evaluation of the Certified Safe Farm Intervention Program." Dr. George Beran, Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Preventative Medicine, treated attendees to a history of veterinary medicine at Iowa State and a tour of the R. Allen Packer Heritage Room, a museum of historical veterinary medicine. Dr. Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Associate Director, Center for Food Security and Public Health, gave a presentation on bio-risk management. Brian Adams, College of Veterinary Medicine Facilities Manager, gave an overview of the additions being made to the Veterinary Hospital followed by a tour for all attendees. I-CASH committees also met to review accomplishments and revise action plans for the coming year.

## calendar

August 2-3

**The Governor's Conference on Public Health - Barn Raising VI: Celebrating Healthy Communities**

Des Moines, IA

[www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/barn\\_raising.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/barn_raising.asp)

August 9-19

**Iowa State Fair**

Des Moines, IA

[www.iowastatefair.com](http://www.iowastatefair.com)

August 28-30

**Farm Progress Show**

Decatur, IL

[www.farmprogressshow.com](http://www.farmprogressshow.com)

September 16-22

**National Farm Safety & Health Week**

September 26-28

**Occupational Hearing Conservationist Certification and Recertification Courses**

Iowa City, IA

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/heartland/ce/courses.asp](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/heartland/ce/courses.asp)

October 12-19

**National Safety Council 2007 Congress & Expo**

Chicago, IL

[www.congress.nsc.org](http://www.congress.nsc.org)

November 3-7

**American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition**

Washington, DC

[www.apha.org/meetings](http://www.apha.org/meetings)

November 14-16

**Agricultural Safety and Health Forum: The Changing Face of Agriculture**

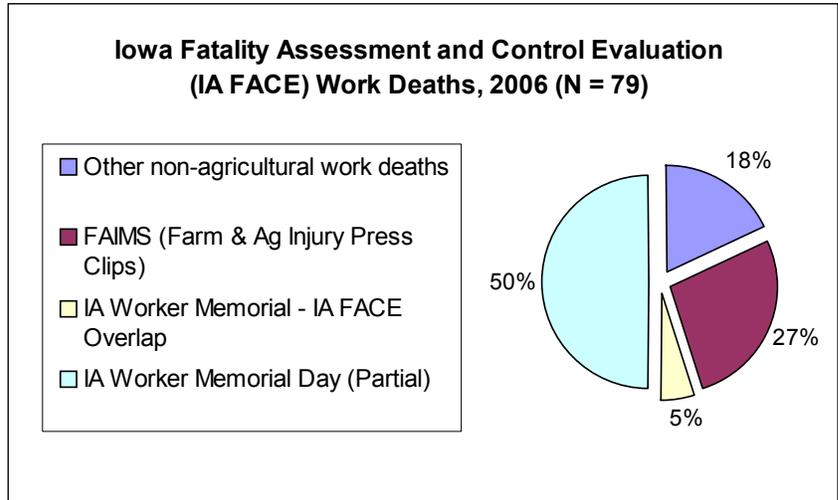
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In May, Iowans gathered in Des Moines to pay tribute to the 44 workers who lost their lives from traumatic injuries while they were at work (50% + 5% in chart). The Iowa Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (IA FACE) program captured information about these incidents, and about that many more that occurred to self-employed workers such as farmers. Information about these additional deaths came from press clippings collected in the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health Farm and Agricultural Injury Monitoring System (FAIMS).



The previous issue of *Alive & Well* showed 25 farm or agricultural fatalities in FAIMS press clippings for Iowa in 2006. They make up nearly a third (27% + 5% in the chart) of the 79 worker deaths recorded in the IA FACE toll of all workers. Nearly three quarters of these 25 farm or agricultural deaths involved a tractor, ATV, or other self-propelled machine. Other machinery, livestock attacks, and other/unknown incidents each added 8% to the death total. The remaining 4% (1 fatality) was an engulfment in a grain storage facility.

**For additional information contact Murray Madsen at 319/335-4481 or e-mail [murray-madsen@uiowa.edu](mailto:murray-madsen@uiowa.edu)**

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