

# Farm families ALIVE & WELL



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

## I-CASH Conference Highlights

Vol. 14, Issue 1 - December 2007

On November 15 & 16, Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) joined forces with the North American Agromedicine Consortium and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health to hold the regional conference, *The Changing Face of Agricultural Health and Safety*, in Omaha, Nebraska. With approximately 100 attendees, the conference opened with presentations on the three focus topics: alternative agriculture, biofuels, and food safety.

Kelley Donham, I-CASH Director, presented certificates of recognition to the 2007 Youth Safety Grant recipients in attendance, and introduced the graduate students in agricultural health and safety at The University of Iowa.

Following a lunchtime presentation on ergonomics, breakout sessions on each of the three tracks were offered. The alternative agriculture session included a panel discussion with alternative agriculture farmers and health and safety professionals. Information presented on the farm operations was followed by



Conference participants toured the Soaring Wings Vineyard in Springfield, Nebraska.

questions and responses from the panel of health and safety professionals, as well as conference attendees.

After the summary reports on Friday morning, the conference participants toured the E3 BioFuels Genesis plant and the Mead Cattle Company in Mead, Nebraska, and the Soaring Wings Vineyard in Springfield, Nebraska.

## New Programs Help I-CASH Mission

The mission of I-CASH is to enhance the health and safety of Iowa's agricultural community by establishing and coordinating prevention and education programs. I-CASH has been working on new initiatives to further support this mission.

### Alternative Agriculture

Alternative agriculture production is growing in our state with many enterprises finding niche markets and emphasizing sustainable systems. According to the Iowa Department of Agriculture there are 450 certified organic farms in Iowa totaling 100,000 acres. Iowa also has 176 farmers markets, ranking third nationally in the number of such markets. To our knowledge, there has been no research into the health and safety issues of these producers. In response, we recently convened a group of alternative agricultural producers in Eastern

Iowa to advise us on their health and safety concerns. We found that two of their main concerns were affordability of health care and safety training for their employees. At the recently held conference, *The Changing Face of Agricultural Health and Safety*, a panel of alternative agriculture producers and a panel of health and safety professionals were featured. These panel members worked together to discuss health and safety risks in their operations, and concerns about affordability and accessibility of health and safety services. Our intent with this forum was to outline a new program to address these issues with our alternative agriculture producers.



Kelley J. Donham  
MS, DVM,  
DACVPM

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**I-CASH Agricultural Occupational Health Training  
June 9-13, 2008  
Iowa City, Iowa**

Information and skills for health care professionals to function as practitioners in the prevention of agricultural illnesses and injuries.

For more information contact Kay Mohling at [kay-mohling@uiowa.edu](mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu) or 319/335-4219

I-CASH is seeking proposals for its **Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grants**. This program is aimed at decreasing the risk of illness and injury to young people living on Iowa farms or involved in production agriculture. Application packets are available at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash). For more information contact Meggan Fisher at 319/335-4226 or [meggan-fisher@uiowa.edu](mailto:meggan-fisher@uiowa.edu). **Application deadline is January 15, 2008.**

◆  
Congratulations to Lavonne Galles and Karla Anthony from the Floyd Valley Hospital AgriSafe Clinic, on receiving the 2007 AgriSafe Provider Member of the Year Award. The award was presented at The Changing Face of Agricultural Health and Safety Conference in Omaha, NE on November 15, 2007.

◆  
I-CASH and the Bluff Creek Wranglers 4-H Club teamed up to promote rural roadway safety on Saturday, Oct. 27th. The *Feed the Farmer* event provided lunch to area farmers delivering grain to the FC Cooperative Grain Elevator in Dayton, Iowa. I-CASH provided free slow-moving-vehicle signs and reflective tape, and the Bluff Creek Wranglers 4-H Club members distributed agricultural safety and health educational materials.

◆  
The National Institute for Farm Safety (NIFS) Annual Conference will be held June 22– 26, 2008 at the Eden Resort and Inn, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. NIFS is currently calling for abstracts and program presentations for the 2008 Annual Conference. For complete information on submitting abstracts visit the NIFS website at [www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm](http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm). Check this site early in 2008 for additional program and registration information. **Submission deadline is January 15, 2008**



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Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

- A partnership of:
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  - ❖ Iowa State University
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**It's Preventable!!!**

This I-CASH Producers Committee-driven initiative was inaugurated during the summer. The program is aimed at preventing rural roadway farm equipment collisions. The goal is to create a broad awareness of the issues by producing a series of collecting cards (like baseball cards) featuring different rural roadway hazards and how to prevent them. We plan to connect this initiative with a new collaborative program with the Iowa State Highway Patrol. PSAs and videos will be developed to educate operators of cars and operators of farm machinery on our rural roadways. This program will build during the harvest season and gain momentum during the spring planting seasons over the next few years.

**New Graduate Programs in Agricultural Health and Safety**

One of our long term goals has been to educate health professionals about agricultural health and safety hazards. This year we have gained approval for a new graduate certificate program in agricultural health and safety, and new MS/PhD degrees in agricultural health and safety. These programs will help to increase the professionalism of the individuals involved in agricultural health and safety. To go along with these new degrees, we have published a textbook which highlights important information to identify, treat, and prevent agricultural illnesses and injuries. *Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for the Health Professions*, by Kelley Donham and Anders Thelin, was published in 2006 by Blackwell Scientific.

*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)).*

## Farm Shop Safety

By LaMar Grafft, I-CASH Rural Health and Safety Specialist

Now that the harvest is completed, it's time to get a few things done that have been put on hold all fall. One thing that I have really noticed on trips to farms this year is disarray in farm shops. This not only includes parts left over from hurried repair jobs during harvest, but also tools, dirt and debris from the jobs. Now it's time to clean up.

Start by first cleaning up the mess. Sweep dirt out, put tools away and take care of left over parts. After that, you can start attacking some of the other potential safety problems in the shop.

First and foremost is the need for a fire extinguisher mounted on the wall near the doorway. It should be Type A, B, C, and have at least a 10 lb. rating. This will be capable of

extinguishing nearly all types of fire. More importantly, study the instructions and learn how to use it properly.

The second most important safety concern is electrical safety. I have been in a number of shops that have lightweight, frayed extension cords, power tools with the grounding plug cut off, and circuits not protected by a



ground fault circuit interrupter. These are really pretty easy to fix, but most people don't take the time as long as things work.

The third most important safety concern for the shop is the tools themselves. Take the time now to replace damaged tools and upgrade to a better quality. With the gift giving holiday right around the corner, the timing is nearly perfect.



## Grain Bin Safety

by Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey

At this time of year especially, it is important to stop and think of grain bin safety. Farmers are done with the long days trying to finish harvesting and now it is time for the next step. In occasions like this we often aren't as careful as we could be. Let's take a moment to remember those safety tips we all know: label grain bins, lock entrances to grain handling areas, install ladders inside, wear hearing protection, do not enter the bin when it is being loaded or unloaded, and if you must enter the bin turn the power off and have several people available outside. It is essential to let someone know where you are and check in regularly, keeping bystanders and children away from grain bins and equipment.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is located in the Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA. [www.agriculture.state.ia.us](http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us)

## calendar

January 15

**I-CASH Youth Grant deadline**

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH)

January 23-24

**2008 Iowa Pork Congress**

Des Moines, IA

[www.iowaporkcongress.org](http://www.iowaporkcongress.org)

January 25-26

**Overall Women Conference**

Coralville, IA

[www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html](http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html)

January 27-30

**21st Annual Rural Health Care Leadership Conference**

San Diego, CA

[www.healthforum.com/healthforum/html/conferences/conf\\_ruralhealth.html](http://www.healthforum.com/healthforum/html/conferences/conf_ruralhealth.html)

February 10-13

**Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference**

Louisville, KY

[www.asabe.org/meetings/aetc2008/index.htm](http://www.asabe.org/meetings/aetc2008/index.htm)

May 31-June 5

**American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Expo 2008**

Minneapolis, MN

[www.aiha.org/Content/CE/aihce](http://www.aiha.org/Content/CE/aihce)

June 9-13

**Agricultural Occupational Health Training**

Iowa City, IA

[www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)

June 22-26

**National Institute for Farm Safety Annual Conference (NIFS)**

Lancaster, PA

[www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm](http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm)

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## Farm and Agricultural Injury INCIDENTS in Press Clippings October 2006-September 2007

<b>FATAL (121)</b>		<b>NONFATAL (116)</b>	
<b>Tractors and Machinery</b>	<b>64.2%</b>	<b>Tractors and Machinery</b>	<b>72.4%</b>
(Incl ATV utility haulers at work)		(Incl ATV utility haulers at work)	
Overturn	26.7%	Overturn	10.3%
Runover	10.0%	Runover	9.5%
Crushed	10.0%	Crushed	2.6%
Collision	8.3%	Collision	26.8%
Entangled	4.2%	Entangled	10.3%
Other	5.0%	Other	12.9%
<b>Grain Storage and Handling</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>Grain Storage and Handling</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>Livestock Handling</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>Livestock Handling</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>17.3%</b>

  

<b>Number of Press Clips from each state (October 2006-September 2007)</b>									
	<b>IL</b>	<b>WI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>IA</b>	<b>MO</b>	<b>KS</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>ND</b>
<b>Fatal Incident Clips</b>	5	15	12	27	17	19	20	2	4
<b>Nonfatal Incident Clips</b>	5	19	2	34	19	12	15	3	7

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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