

# Farm families ALIVE & Well



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

## I-CASH Celebrates 20th Anniversary at MRASH Banquet

Vol. 17, Issue 1 - January 2011

Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) marked its 20th anniversary at a November 17th celebration banquet held in conjunction with the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) forum in Iowa City. The after-dinner program was emceed by David Osterberg, clinical associate professor of occupational and environmental health, and College of Public Health Dean Sue Curry welcomed the 103 attendees to the campus.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Paul Gunderson, director of the Dakota Center for Technology-Optimized Agriculture at Lake Region State College in North Dakota. In his presentation, "Historical Perspective on I-CASH: Where We've Been and Where We're Going," Gunderson reflected on the influence of I-CASH on reducing farm injury and illness.

Other highlights of the evening included recognition of the 2010 I-CASH Hall of Fame Award winners, Shari Burgus and Michael Rosmann. This annual award recognizes individuals or organizations in the public or private sector who have made significant contributions to agricultural safety and health in Iowa.

Shari Burgus is the Education Director at Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK), a nonprofit organization that



Paul Gunderson with Dean Sue Curry.

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## Building Capacity Down Under

by Kelley Donham, MS, DVM, DACVPM

In 1987 I-CASH initiated a 40-hour training course in agricultural occupational and environmental health primarily aimed at preparing nurses to initiate and serve AgriSafe clinics in Iowa. The program has allowed expansion of AgriSafe in Iowa, building up to 13 clinics scattered across the state today. Over the years the program has gained a regional, national, and international audience. It was evident that if we were ever to supply enough trained providers to serve the

agricultural community in a more geographically representative way, we would need to provide and assist other entities to establish agricultural medicine training in their regions. In 2006, we expanded the I-CASH program with the Building Capacity training grant, as the Education and Translation program of the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health. The program has been quite successful with new programs set to begin this year in North Dakota and Nebraska, as well as recurring courses in Illinois, Wisconsin, Vermont, North Carolina, and even in Australia.



Kelley J. Donham  
MS, DVM, DACVPM

In 2006, Sue Brumby from Hamilton, Victoria, Australia traveled to Iowa to attend the Agricultural Medicine Course. In 2009, her colleague Scott McComb attended the course. This summer their inaugural national conference, *Opening the Gates on Farmer Health*, introduced the

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## Be careful on the icy spots around farm

by LaMar Grafft

In 1946, Ed Evers, who was in his 40's at the time, moved in with my family as a hired hand. Over the years, I learned a lot from this fine gentleman about being careful on the farm. Evers' sense of balance worsened as he aged, and he was afraid of falling. He made ice grips for his shoes long before they were readily available, and escaped serious falls by using them whenever he was out in our ice-covered barnyard.

As a youngster, I thought it funny that a grown man was afraid of the ice. Having fallen several times since, I'm no longer laughing. Slips and falls are one of the most frequent causes of injury, both on and off the farm, and they're hard to prevent when ice is everywhere. I guess the easiest way to avoid them is to move south — wait, they're having a rough winter, too.

When we evaluate farms for safety hazards, one of the things we look for is drainage. Ice and snow builds up in low places first. In the summer, puddles are not such a problem, but in the winter, those icy spots become hazardous. The obvious solution is to fill in low areas, and gently slope the ground away from building entrances. Since it's impossible to move frozen dirt now, the next best solution is a mixture of sand and salt, or sand and a commercially available ice-melting product. The sand will provide traction, and when it warms just a little, the product will melt the ice. This spring, you can fill in the holes.

Reduce your trips across icy areas, and walk slowly. It only takes an instant to slip and fall, as my sister found out a few winters back; she dislocated her hip. Injuries like that take time to heal, time that you don't have to spare right now, especially if you have livestock.

*LaMar Grafft, MS, Rural Health and Safety Specialist at I-CASH, can be reached at 319/335-4233 (lamar-grafft@uiowa.edu).*

The *Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals* course will be held **June 13-17, 2011** in Iowa City, Iowa. Nurses, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, veterinarians, and other interested health care professionals are invited to participate. The training provides information and skills to enable the health care professional to function in the anticipation, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of occupational illnesses and injuries in the farm community. The course may be taken for three graduate credit hours from the U of I College of Public Health. Contact Kay Mohling at 319/335-4219 or [kay-mohling@uiowa.edu](mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu) for more information.



The I-CASH website, [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH), has been updated and includes an "Our Services" tab featuring online request forms to consult with an expert, request a literature search, and request a Certified Safe Farm review. The 2010 I-CASH Annual Report is also available on the website.

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brand new National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH)  
[www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au).

It is most rewarding to see the energy and professionalism these folks are putting into the effort. With funding from the State of Victoria and an Australian foundation, they have launched an ambitious program of health education and research for the farming population of Australia. We have great opportunities to collaborate with their Centre and are planning future educational opportunities using distance learning.

Collaborative research has already started. We are working with a veterinarian in Australia to publish research on unintended needle sticks among livestock producers. Staff at the NCFH have also teamed up with Dr. Chuck Jennissen, I-CASH Board member, and Dr. Jamie Wallace, former Agricultural Medicine student and current family practice resident, to publish an article in the Journal of Agromedicine.

We feel honored to have some part in the process of expansion of education and service to the health of the farming community nationally and internationally. Making new professional colleagues and friends will hopefully translate into helping to keep farmers worldwide alive and well in agriculture.

*Kelley Donham, MS, DVM, DACVPM is the Director of I-CASH, he can be reached at 319/335-4190 (kelley-donham@uiowa.edu).*



**I-CASH | Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health**

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**www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash**

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Kelley Donham with 2010 Hall of Fame recipients Shari Burgus and Michael Rosmann.

promotes a safe farm environment to prevent health hazards, injuries and fatalities to children and youth. Joining FS4JK in 1991, she initiated the first chapter system and now develops educational materials and programs, including the "Great

Grain Harvest" packet for educating youth about hazards associated with grain. Additional efforts range from offering family farm safety seminars to working on child safety interventions for Anabaptist audiences.

Dr. Michael Rosmann is a clinical psychologist in agricultural behavioral health. He is known nationally as an advocate and spokesperson for better behavioral health care for agricultural producers. In 2001, Rosmann founded, and is currently Executive Director of, the AgriWellness, Inc. non-profit organization, which promotes accessible behavioral health services for the underserved and at-risk populations in agricultural communities.



I-CASH director Kelley Donham received the inaugural I-CASH Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his 20 years as director and his steadfast commitment to enhancing the health and safety of Iowa's agricultural community. Donham received the surprise award during the MRASH banquet. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by longtime I-CASH collaborators from three partner organizations: Mike Rosmann, executive director of AgriWellness; Marilyn Adams, founder and president of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids; and Carolyn Sheridan, clinical director of the AgriSafe Network.

Selected MRASH Conference presentations are available at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2010/presenter-slides.html](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2010/presenter-slides.html)

## Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grants

I-CASH is seeking proposals for its **2011 Injury Prevention in Agricultural Youth Grants**. Each year I-CASH designates funds for community grants targeted at the prevention of farm-related injury in young people and their families. Application packets will be available at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash). For more information contact LaMar Grafft at 319/335-4233 or [lamar-grafft@uiowa.edu](mailto:lamar-grafft@uiowa.edu).



**Application deadline is February 28, 2011.**

## calendar

January 26-27

**2011 Iowa Pork Congress**

Des Moines, IA

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

February 21-25

**Agricultural Medicine Training**

Greenville, NC

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

February 28

**I-CASH Youth Grant deadline**

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

March 22

**Agricultural Medicine Training**

Bismarck, ND

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

March 31-April 2

**Agricultural Medicine Training**

Marshfield, WI

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

April 5-6

**Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health**

Ames, IA

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

April 6-8

**Safe States Alliance, SAVIR, and CDC Core I & II State Injury Grantees Annual Meeting**

Coralville, IA

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

May 3-6

**Annual Rural Health Conference**

Austin, TX

[www.ruralhealthweb.org/annual](http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/annual)

May 11-13

**Arthritis, Agriculture and Rural Life Conference**

West Lafayette, IN

[www.arthritis-ag.org](http://www.arthritis-ag.org)

June 13-17

**Agricultural Medicine Training**

Iowa City, IA

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

June 22-25

**National Association for Rural Mental Health Conference**

Dubuque, IA

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

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+++++ **It All Adds Up**

**Worker Deaths: Production Agriculture, Forestry, and Commercial Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping (AgFFHT) 2003-9**

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

	IA	IL	KS	MN	MO	ND	NE	SD	WI	GPCAH Region Total	US AgFFHT Deaths	GPCAH Total for Year as % of US AgFFHT Deaths
2003*	33	15	13	19	34	10	15	13	30	182	709	25.7%
2004	27	32	23	19	46	13	14	7	20	201	669	30.0%
2005	41	32	15	22	43	11	15	12	30	221	715	30.9%
2006	16	18	9	23	31	15	21	17	22	172	655	26.2%
2007	29	21	24	17	28	11	18	10	20	178	585	30.4%
2008	27	30	23	25	21	13	20	16	24	199	672	29.6%
2009	24	14	30	20	45	11	18	9	23	194	551	35.2%
<b>Sum</b>	197	162	137	145	248	84	121	84	169	1347	4556	29.6%
State's % of Region	14.6	12.0	9.3	10.2	18.4	6.2	9.0	6.2	12.5			

\*The AgFFHT industry sector began including logging for the first time in 2003

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