

Farm families ALIVE & WELL

I-CASH | Iowa's Center for
Agricultural Safety and Health
The University of Iowa • Iowa State University
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Iowa Department of Public Health • Non-profits for Farm Health

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

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Weathering Change: Behavioral Health Matters

Behavioral health in rural communities was highlighted at this year's Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety Health (MRASH) Forum, with attendees from 10 states and Sweden. Dr. Lorann Stallones, Professor of Epidemiology from Colorado State University, a nationally and internationally recognized expert on occupational and injury epidemiology, opened the conference with her presentation, "Weathering Change: Stress and Behavioral Health." Dr. Stallones explored the mechanisms of stress and how they may affect physical well-being, as well as neuropsychological symptoms associated with a history of acute pesticide poisoning. Dr. Stallones recommends more research in this area, but in the meantime, she emphasized that farmers should avoid high exposure to organophosphate compounds.

Additional plenary sessions were provided by Fred Kirschenmann, Distinguished Fellow at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, who discussed opportunities



Keynote Speaker Dr. Lorann Stallones at the MRASH Forum.

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Facilitating Research to Practice with Community Partners

by Kelley Donham, MS, DVM, DACVPM

Over the past 20 years, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has made a large investment resulting in a high level of research in agricultural safety and health. Success in research to practice (R2P), defined by NIOSH as "the translation of knowledge, interventions, and technologies into highly effective prevention practices and products which are adopted into the workplace," has been challenging in the agricultural setting.

The renewal application of the NIOSH-funded Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) was successful on several of the proposed projects, including one entitled *Community Partnerships: Research-to-Practice with Regional Agricultural Health Organizations*. This project presents an active process to facilitate translation of research findings into active prevention programs that will directly benefit agricultural producers. To accomplish this, a strategic collaboration between the GPCAH and regional agricultural health and safety organizations (community partners) in the nine-state GPCAH region (Midwest) will be developed.

The purpose of the collaboration is to develop an R2P conduit between research projects generated from the NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Program (intramural and extramural) and other institutions' funded research, to the farm community. Working with community partners, we will facilitate their ability to develop, translate, and diffuse evidence-based findings, best practices, tools, and approaches directly to the farming population. Community partners have the potential to reach hundreds of farm families and workers through their existing constituent networks. This program will assist the development of sustained



Kelley J. Donham
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GPCAH Community Partner's Geographic Impact



- ✦ The AgriSafe Network
- AgriWellness
- ★ Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
- ⊕ National Education Center for Agricultural Safety
- Cooperative Extension

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Schouten Receives 2011 I-CASH Hall of Fame Award



Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) has named Mike Schouten of Sioux Center, Iowa the 2011 recipient of its Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award.

Schouten was recognized during the opening session of the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health (MRASH) Forum in Des Moines on November 16, 2011.

Mike Schouten is the Agriculture Stewardship Center Manager at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. He teaches and promotes agricultural safety in the college's agriculture program, where he leads sessions in which students are taught to safely operate agricultural equipment. Schouten also works with the Northwest Rural Electric Cooperative in the teaching and promotion of electrical safety in an agricultural setting, and has assisted the KMEG television station in Sioux City, Iowa in the development of farm safety public service announcements for the harvest season.

Schouten also serves as the central coordinator for the usage of safety demonstration devices for the Farm Bureau, Iowa State University Extension Service, the community hospital, and Dordt College. He provides training to high school students and FFA and 4-H groups that request to use the equipment for safety demonstration purposes. Schouten also encouraged and helped students build a dust explosion simulator (with partial funding provided by I-CASH) that has been utilized by many groups, including the South Dakota Wheat Growers Association, which used the simulator to train elevator personnel in dust explosion prevention.

I-CASH created the Hall of Fame Award in 2002 as a lifetime achievement award for individuals or organizations that have made significant and lasting contributions to agricultural safety and health in Iowa.

For more information on the Hall of Fame Award, visit the I-CASH website at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Hall-of-Fame/index.html.

Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grants

I-CASH is seeking proposals for the **2012 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. For more information contact LaMar Grafft at 319/335-4233 or lamar-grafft@uiowa.edu.

Application deadline is February 15, 2012

Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals will be held June 11-15, 2012 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 University of Iowa College of Public Health, and application will be made for continuing education credits. Contact Kay Mohling at 319/335-4219 or kay-mohling@uiowa.edu for course information.



Ice Cube Press in eastern Iowa has released *Excellent Joy: Fishing, Farming, Hunting, and Psychology* by Dr. Michael Rosmann, of Harlan, Iowa. This collection shares his unique experiences with fishing, farming, hunting, and psychology. Part lessons from the field and part wisdom from the vantage point of a psychologist, parent, and outdoorsman - *Excellent Joy* is a celebration of life through observations of important and subtle nuances about agriculture and its related endeavors: fishing and hunting. It also explains the psychology of why people engage in these aspirations and recreations. The book includes a foreword by Dr. Frederick Kirschenmann with Iowa State University. For more information visit www.icecubepress.com.



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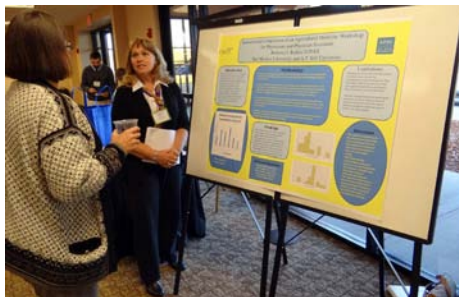
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for sustaining rural communities in the face of future challenges. Nancy Hale, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) IOWA discussed a variety of educational mental health programs. A plenary panel with Mike Rosmann, (Executive Director of AgriWellness, Inc.), Marcie Moran, (Director of Catholic Family Services of Sioux Falls), Roger Hannan, (Executive Director of the Farm Resource Center), and Margaret Van Ginkel, (Coordinator of Iowa State University Extension's Iowa Concern Hotline), discussed access to behavioral health services in rural communities. Additional topics presented at the Forum were youth safety, pesticide and herbicide safety, ATV safety, and personal protective equipment (PPE). Conference participants also had the opportunity to view agricultural safety and health poster presentations from various organizations.



One of the many poster presentations at the MRASH Forum.



Michael Rosmann, Shari Burgus, 2011 Hall of Fame Award recipient Mike Schouten, and I-CASH Director Kelley Donham. (left to right)

Other highlights of the conference included recognition of the 2011 I-CASH Hall of Fame Award winner, Mike Schouten. This annual award recognizes individuals or organizations in the public or private sector who have made significant contributions to agricultural safety and health. See full story on page 2.

NIOSH Pesticide Handler Personal Protective Equipment Seminar Series

The NIOSH National Personal Protective Equipment Surveillance and Intervention Program for Pesticide Handlers is hosting national seminars on the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). NIOSH carefully selects seminar topics to facilitate learning and also to stimulate discussions among diverse expert stakeholder partners on complex and important topics. Seminars began in September, and will be held on the third Wednesday in January, March, and May 2012, normally starting at 1PM eastern standard time (EST).

Pre-registration is required at <https://www304.livemeeting.com/lrs/1100003614/PublicEvents.aspx>. Registration confirmation will include the meeting connection information and instructions to join the meeting. Upcoming topics include *How Pesticide PPE Requirement are Developed on EPA Registered Pesticides* (January 18), *NIOSH 2012 Personal Protective Technology Stakeholders Meeting: "A Safety Roadmap for Pesticide Handlers: Overcoming Barriers to Optimal Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use"* (March 20), and *Reducing the Risk of Heat-Related Illness in Agricultural Workers* (May 16).

calendar

January 20

Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals
Greenville, NC
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education/agmedtraining.html

January 25-26

2012 Pork Congress
Des Moines, IA
www.iowaporkcongress.org

February - March

Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals - Video conferences
Greenville, NC
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education/agmedtraining.html

February 15

Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grant Deadline

March 22-24

Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals
Marshfield, WI
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education/agmedtraining.html

March 30

I-CASH Spring Meeting
Des Moines, IA

April 17-18

Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health
Ames, IA
www.iowapha.org

April 17-20

National Rural Health Association's 35th Annual Rural Health Conference
Denver, CO
www.ruralhealthweb.org

June 11-15

Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals
Iowa City, IA
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education/agmedtraining.html

June 24-28

International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) Conference
Burlington, VT
www.isash.org

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collaborations, increase GPCAH interaction in the region, and bring NIOSH and other institutions' research into practice at the grassroots level.

The first step to achieving this goal is to develop and implement a translational R2P process merging the academic resources of the GPCAH with the delivery capabilities of our community-based partners. Our community partners will then be better prepared to deliver evidence-based preventive programs to their target populations. The second step is to provide an infrastructure of support to the community partners that includes an educational program on current agricultural health and safety research, information technology services, timely consultation with agricultural and occupational health and safety specialists, and a competitive outreach grant program.

To accomplish these aims, specific activities are planned.

- The *Alive and Well Newsletter* will have a special column on R2P that will provide quick access to new applicable research from around the country.
- Quarterly conference calls and webinars will be held, and a compendium of research activities for community partners in our region will be developed.
- A new R2P Session at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum will be introduced in 2012. This session will highlight research around the country applicable to prevention in our region, and provide for discussion with community partners.
- A "Hot Line" for consultation with community partners will be provided to answer questions or access to resources.
- There will be a competitive grant process to assist community partners in designing and implementing prevention programs based on research and other evidence-based data.