

# 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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## The Academy of Agricultural Medicine Instructors



The University of Iowa has conducted educational programs in Agricultural Safety and Health (ASH) since 1974. The *Building Capacity in Agricultural Medicine* (BC) program was introduced in 2006, with funding assistance from the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, to continue the educational programs and also to assist other locations in conducting sustainable ASH training. Most participants attend the course in their geographic region, requiring current trainers to travel long distances. Even though distance learning components are now a portion of most Agricultural Medicine courses, they can only partially replace the face-to-face expert in the room. Initial training programs in other states were primarily provided by University of Iowa faculty, but trained regional instructors are valuable because they are more familiar with health and safety hazards specific to their region. Subsequent training programs have included a small number of regional trainers developed through “train-the-trainer” activities.

*The Academy of Agricultural Medicine Instructors* is a new program developed to upgrade the training effort to a certificate education program. It is designed to recognize resource people in ASH that can effectively teach components of the Agricultural Medicine Core Course. Since specific training in agricultural occupational health care is rare, regional health and safety professionals may know a great deal about their specialty area but may have less experience with the specific processes of agriculture, the cultural issues, and prevention activities. *The Academy of Agricultural Medicine Instructors* is intended to ensure quality, availability, and efficiency of teaching at the various training sites, and will be aimed at a wide variety of health and safety providers. Some of the professionals we hope to recruit include health care providers, safety/extension professionals, and other health or safety professionals. More information on the Academy can be found at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education/academy/index.html](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education/academy/index.html)

## Confined Space Fatalities: An Increasing Reality in Agriculture

by Kelley Donham, MS, DVM, DACVPM

On July 28, 2010, 14 year-old Wyatt Whitehead and Alejandro Pacas age 19, died in a grain engulfment incident in Mt. Carroll, Illinois. This incident headlines the recent rise in the number of grain-related entrapments. Since 1978, over 800 fatal and non-fatal grain entrapment cases have been documented (<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/grainlab/content/pdf/2010GrainEntrapments.pdf>). In 2001, there were 18 incidents recorded, and every year following there has been an increase in this number. In 2010, there were 51 grain entrapment incidents reported, and approximately half of those were fatal.

The reasons for this increase have been attributed to many factors, including increased grain production, larger and more grain storage structures on farms and at local elevators, lack of practices to keep grain from going out of condition, lack of monitoring of grain condition in storage, and lack of safe entry practice when entry is necessary.

Confined space hazards on farms include more than large grain bins. A confined space is a space that:

- 1) is large enough and configured so that a person can enter and perform work;
- 2) has limited means of entry and exit;
- 3) is not designed for continuous occupancy.



Kelley J. Donham  
MS, DVM, DACVPM

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**12th Annual Midwest Rural  
Agricultural Safety & Health Conference**  
“The Many Faces of Agriculture”

**Save the Date**

**November 19-20, 2013  
Ames , Iowa**

Information on sponsorships, exhibitions, and Call for Abstracts available at [cph.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2013/](http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2013/)

Since 1990, I-CASH has designated funds each year for communities to develop farm injury prevention and education programs for Iowa youth. I-CASH is pleased to announce the following recipients for the **2013 Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grant** program: Delaware County Extension, Dike-New Hartford School, Benton County Extension, Guthrie Center FFA, Van Buren FFA, Jefferson County Extension, Kossuth FFA/FSFJK, Washington County Extension, Des Moines County 4-H, Mitchell County Extension, Howard County 4-H, Story County Extension, and Twin Cedars FFA. For more information on the youth grants visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Youth-Ag-Safety-Grants/index.html](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Youth-Ag-Safety-Grants/index.html)

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) announces the availability of small grant project funding. Proposals can be from two areas 1) basic and applied research projects addressing agricultural safety and health priority issues, needs, or gaps, 2) community partnering proposals from community-based organizations and entities with special ability to engage in outreach, education, and translation of evidence-based methods for preventing agricultural injury and illness among agricultural workers. Projects must be completed by September 29, 2014. **Applications must be received by August 5, 2013.** For complete information visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcab/](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcab/).

I-CASH Board Member, Dr. Mike Rosmann, is the author of weekly articles that appear in the “Iowa Farmer Today” and 23 other North American agricultural periodicals and newspapers. His “Farm and Ranch Life” columns reach a million subscribers each week and offer tips and analyses about health and safety issues for the agricultural population, primarily concerning behavioral health. Archived issues are available at [www.agbehavioralhealth.com](http://www.agbehavioralhealth.com).



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

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*Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals* was held June 10-14 in Iowa City, IA. The training program, sponsored by the University of Iowa College of Public Health, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, Iowa’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health and the Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety, provides information for health professionals who treat and help prevent occupational illnesses and injuries in the farm community. Thirty-eight participants from Alaska, California, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Wisconsin, and The United Kingdom attended the training. In addition to the didactic training, the participants toured Amana Farms, Inc., followed by a barbeque dinner at the farm.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) will also host an Agricultural Medicine Training July 9-12, in Omaha, NE. Six additional hours of online training will accompany the on site training. For information on the Agricultural Medicine Training program, visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/education). Course details for the UNMC training are available at [unmc.edu/cce/agrimed](http://unmc.edu/cce/agrimed).

**I-CASH is now on Facebook!**

I-CASH has a new venue for the promotion of agricultural safety and health. The new I-CASH Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/laCenterAgSafetyHealth](http://www.facebook.com/laCenterAgSafetyHealth). “Like” this page to receive updates in your Facebook news feed. Contact Julia Venzke with questions or suggestions at [julia-venzke@uiowa.edu](mailto:julia-venzke@uiowa.edu)



## I-CASH Hall of Fame Award



Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) seeks nominations for the 2013 Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award. This award recognizes individuals or organizations in the public or private sector in Iowa who have made substantial, long-term contributions to the health and safety of Iowa's agricultural community. Nominees should have contributed in a leadership role to agricultural safety and health issues through promotion and awareness over a considerable length of time. Prevention, education, program evaluation, policy education, policy development, and organizational infrastructure are potential areas for outstanding merit. The entry deadline is August 31, 2013. For more information contact Julia Venzke at [julia-venzke@uiowa.edu](mailto:julia-venzke@uiowa.edu), or visit the I-CASH website at <http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/programs/Hall-of-Fame/index.html>

### Confined Spaces continued from page 1

Confined spaces on swine farms can include grain bins, feed bins, and manure pits. The common denominator is that all confined space injuries are preventable. There are specific confined space entry procedures that must be followed to prevent these tragedies:

1. Never enter a confined space (grain bin, feed bin, or manure pit) when working alone.
2. Notify co-workers of a planned entry, and do not enter unless there are at least two trained people, on site, with the ability to rescue the person without having to enter the confined space themselves. Nearly half of the victims of grain entrapment incidents are attempting rescue and are not properly prepared. Proper preparation includes rescue harnesses and ropes attached so the person outside can extract them.
3. Lock out all equipment so it can't be started with someone inside.
4. Have an accident response plan in place prior to entering bins. Train employees, family members, visiting contractors, and emergency response personnel.

In response to increasing recognition of confined space hazards on farms, this issue was a focus of our Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference held in November 2012. In the short aftermath of all this publicity, on March 14th of this year, a father and son died in a grain bin, at a grain storage facility in Waverly, Iowa. **Our work is not done.**

For more information on the stories mentioned in the article visit the following websites: [www.npr.org/2013/03/26/174828849/fines-slashed-in-grain-bin-entrapment-deaths](http://www.npr.org/2013/03/26/174828849/fines-slashed-in-grain-bin-entrapment-deaths), and [www.kwwl.com/story/21643276/2013/03/14/grain-bin-rescue-in-waverly](http://www.kwwl.com/story/21643276/2013/03/14/grain-bin-rescue-in-waverly).

For additional information on confined space entry procedures see <http://sp.ehs.cornell.edu/osh/occupational-safety/confined-spaces/Documents/Confined%20Spaces%20in%20Agriculture%20Toolbox%20Talk.pdf>

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

## calendar

July 9-12

### Agricultural Medicine Training

Omaha, NE

[www.unmc.edu/publichealth/cscash](http://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/cscash)

July 21-24

### 2013 ASABE Annual International Meeting

Kansas City, MO

[www.asabe.org/meetings-events.aspx](http://www.asabe.org/meetings-events.aspx)

August 27-29

### 2013 Farm Progress Show

Decatur, IL

<http://farmprogressshow.com>

September 11-12

### Fall Harvest Safety Days

Peosta, IA

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

September 15-21

### National Farm Safety & Health Week

*Working Together for Safety in Agriculture*

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

September 25-27

### 2013 North American Agricultural Safety Summit

Minneapolis, MN

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

October 24-25

### Agricultural Medicine Training

San Antonio, TX

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

November 14-16

### 23rd Annual Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum

South Padre Island, TX

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

November 19-20

### Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum

Ames, IA

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

November 21

### Iowa Rural Health Association and Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics 2013 Joint Fall Meeting

Des Moines, IA

[www.iaruralhealth.org/index.php/educational-events-mainmenu-34](http://www.iaruralhealth.org/index.php/educational-events-mainmenu-34)

November 21

### National Rural Health Day

*Celebrating the Power of Rural*

<http://celebratepowerofrural.org>

The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment and in its educational programs and activities on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or associational preference. The University also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to University facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Coordinator of Title IX, Section 504, and the ADA in the Office of Affirmative Action, (319) 335-0705 (voice) and (319) 335-0697 (text), 202 Jessup Hall, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1316.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Research to Practice

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by Andy Winborn, Program Manager RHSC

The Rural Health and Safety Clinic of Greater Johnson County (RHSC) aims to apply university research, combined with on-the-job experience, and AgriSafe Network and farmer input, to create a culture of safety on farms. The RHSC is an AgriSafe clinic that was born out of a local tragedy. Startup funds were received from a competitive I-CASH grant, with matching dollars from Johnson County. We believe a culture of safety will not happen without first addressing the farmers' personal safety concerns.



An example is the development of the “E.T.” device ([www.news.iastate.edu/news/2013/02/22/tractor-rollover](http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2013/02/22/tractor-rollover)) created by the Iowa State University Industrial Design Department, in response to tractor rollover incidents. This device monitors tractor location and sends out a signal if a rollover occurs. It also visually informs the driver if the tractor is close to tipping. Local farmer feedback on this device led us to recommend incorporating E.T. into updates to a tractor's roll-over protective structure (ROPS) with the addition of lighting, cell phone charger, and radio features. The added value is important because a farmer may not see the value of ROPS alone, but might highly value seeing clearly and being visible on the roadway at night.

The RHSC is currently expanding into a full service agricultural safety and health center. Over the next 12 months we will be promoting the E.T. device, and other safety products using our new outreach trailer. The Clinic plans to provide equipment and support at farm and rural events, accompanied by our safety message. With the help of the research community we will evaluate this approach, document its effectiveness, and work to improve our methods.

For more information visit the Rural Health and Safety Clinic of Greater Johnson County (RHSC) website at [www.ruralhealthandsafety.org](http://www.ruralhealthandsafety.org)  
Contact Andy Winborn, RHSC Program Manager at [andy@ruralhealthandsafety.org](mailto:andy@ruralhealthandsafety.org)