

Farm families ALIVE & WELL

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

Vol. 9, Issue 3 - 2003

Calling All Farmers! I-CASH Seeks Producers' Point of View

Amid all the reports and discussion, everyone at the Spring Meeting of Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) agreed on the value of agricultural producers' input into I-CASH plans.

Producers have always been instrumental in I-CASH as members of both the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board. But now their involvement is being more formally recognized with the creation of a Producers Committee.

Eileen Fisher, I-CASH associate director, emphasizes the value of farmers' experience for ensuring that I-CASH research, education, and outreach activities have practical significance. She says, "If we come up with solutions that farmers can't do or can't afford, we aren't helping them meet their everyday health and safety needs."



So far, five Iowans have volunteered to serve on the Producers Committee: Jeris Petersen (Corning), founder and president, Sharing Help Awareness United Network (SHAUN); Marilyn Adams (Earlham), founder and president of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids; Richard Harves, producer (Dickens); Stephanie Essick, producer (Ayrshire); and Steve Kerns, producer (Clearfield).

Four of the five members met on April 10 as part of the I-CASH Spring Meeting. While still small in number, the group had numerous suggestions and concerns. They thought attention should be paid to safety problems of farm machinery on the roads, as machines get bigger and roads and bridges don't. Safety education is also needed for drivers of four-wheelers (see "It All Adds Up" on [page 4](#)).

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Farmers and ranchers are typically a frugal group,

so one way livestock producers try to reduce costs is to vaccinate livestock themselves, rather than have a veterinarian do it. But farmers can inoculate themselves when an animal jumps or moves suddenly when receiving an injection. Even veterinarians, who inject animals daily, do this—nearly 64% of those who responded to a survey reported having stuck themselves with a needle.

In most cases, the injury is nothing more than a painful reminder to take better precautions next time.



Kelley J. Donham
MS, DVM,
DACVPM

Since the needle used in large animal injections is usually 14 or 16 gauge, the most frequent problem is a soft tissue injury, which can be significant if the needle is dull or slightly bent at the end from repeated use.

A second complication can be localized infection caused by the introduction of bacteria or other foreign material into the wound. The needle is seldom disinfected between animals and can easily be contaminated.

Even more serious is a reaction to either the vaccine or active ingredient, or to the carrier material. Some of the immunization products such as erysipelas are live products, capable of causing an

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Air Quality Publications on the Web

Three new air quality publications have been posted on the ISU Extension publications web page. They can be accessed by the following links or through the Air Quality website at:

www.extension.iastate.edu/airquality/:

- ◆ EDC 162h Air Quality and Animal Agriculture, www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/EDC162H.pdf
- ◆ PM 1936 Air Quality Resources for Iowa Animal Agriculture, www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1936.pdf
- ◆ PM 1935 Gaseous Emissions from Animal Agriculture, www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1935.pdf

Agricultural Health Study Fact Sheets are available on the AHS website at: www.aghealth.org. Click on "Results" in the upper right-hand corner and select entries for Iowa or North Carolina.

Congratulations to **Kelley Donham** who was selected by the faculty of the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine to receive the **Stange Award for Meritorious Service in Veterinary Medicine**. This prestigious award will be presented to Dr. Donham next fall at the ISU Homecoming.

Good Neighbor Award for Iowa Producers

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge announced a new program to honor Iowa livestock producers. The Good Neighbor Award will be based on recognition of the nominated livestock producer family's commitment to caring for their farm (water and soil), neighbors and livestock. Neighbors of livestock producers are asked to write in and tell why their neighbor should be chosen to receive the Good Neighbor Award. Letters should be sent to: Iowa Department of Agriculture, Good Neighbor Award, Henry A. Wallace Building, Des Moines, IA. 50319 or e-mail (make subject of e-mail "Good Neighbor Award") to Agri@idals.state.ia.us. The program is a collaborative effort between IDALS and the Iowa Ag Radio Network. The winner will receive a plaque and be interviewed on the Iowa Ag Radio Program. For more information go to: www.agriculture.state.ia.us/press/press203.htm.

unintended infection in humans. Other immunization products such as those used for E. coli disease, are extremely irritating and inflammatory when injected in the unintended host. There are also pharmaceutical products, such as oxytocin and prostaglandins, that, when injected, have caused abortion in women.

One antibiotic is highly effective in both cattle and sheep but can be deadly in humans and swine. An accidental inoculation of Micotil® (tilmicosin injection) caused the death of a 38-year-old Nebraska dairy farmer this spring. While treating his cattle for pneumonia, he put a loaded syringe in his pocket and was kicked by another animal, injecting about 2 cc into his thigh. Within two hours, he was dead. Accidental injection of humans with this antibiotic is rare, fortunately.

Always remember, prevention is the key. Handle the syringe with care and never place one in a pocket. Know the products you are using and what the hazards are (read the label). Use them only as directed. Restrain large animals to reduce the chance they will jump or react violently. Clean and sterilize needles after use, and change them frequently (especially if one is obviously contaminated, bent, or damaged).

If a needle stick occurs, try to express blood and the fluid from the wound, then wash immediately with soap and water. Call the emergency number on the label or your physician, especially if the product is one of the more dangerous ones that can cause serious reaction or death. If you're not sure of its effects, always err on the side of caution.

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.



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I-CASH

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A partnership of:

- ◆ The University of Iowa
- ◆ Iowa State University
- ◆ Iowa Department of Public Health
- ◆ Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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

Farm Families Participate in Home Pesticide Exposure Study

In collaboration with the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health and the National Cancer Institute's Agricultural Health Study, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducted a study in the summer of 2001 to measure pesticide levels



inside the homes of farm families. Mr. Brian Curwin, a research industrial hygienist with NIOSH, was the lead investigator for the study, and participants were recruited by the Keokuk County Rural Health Study team.

Air, dust, and surface wipe samples were collected inside 25 farm homes a few days after atrazine, acetochlor, metolochlor, glyphosate, 2,4-D, or chlorpyrifos had been applied to their fields. Air samples were collected over a 24-hour period. Dust samples were

collected with a modified vacuum cleaner. Measurements in the farm homes were compared to measurements in 25 non-farm homes.

Results of the measurements were recently sent to the families who participated in the study. Analysis revealed that the farm homes

were more heavily contaminated with pesticides than the non-farm homes, with the dust samples containing higher pesticide concentrations than the surface wipe samples. Results indicate that the farmer operator's clothes and shoes should be removed outside the living area of the home and laundered separately from the rest of the family's clothing. Also, pesticides should be safely stored outside the home environment in enclosures that are inaccessible to children.

Calling All Farmers!

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Concerns were expressed about the health effects of exposures to farm chemicals and of working in and living near confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). At the same time, the need for affordable insurance was stressed, both for a farm family's health care and for coverage of farm workers.

The group wants to expand, adding producers who would represent various types of farming and farm organizations. Jeris Petersen, who chairs the committee, believes it "will add new dimensions to the I-CASH program, since our experiences and points of view can



Producers Committee members Steve Kerns and Jeris Petersen at the I-CASH Producers Meeting in April.

only enhance the overall work."

Anyone with an interest in or questions about the I-CASH Producers Committee should contact her at 641/322-4555 or jpetersen@shaunnetwork.org.

calendar

July 1

I-CASH Hall of Fame Nomination Deadline

Nomination forms are available from Eileen Fisher, PhD, associate director of I-CASH, 319-335-4224, eileenfisher@uiowa.edu and at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH/Hall_of_Fame_Award.html.

July 27-30

ASAE Annual Meeting and Conference

Riviera Hotel and Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV

Aug 14-15

Governor's Conference on Public Health: Leading the Charge for Community Health

Drake University, Des Moines, IA
Contact: Louise Lex, PhD
Iowa Department of Public Health
515-281-4348
llex@idph.state.ia.us
www.idph.state.ia.us

Sept 7-9

Challenges in Agricultural Health & Safety

Holiday Inn Golden Gateway
San Francisco, CA
Sponsored by the Western Center for Agricultural Health & Safety and The Pacific Northwest Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
530-752-5253
<http://agcenter.ucdavis.edu>

Oct 19-23

Future of Rural Peoples: Rural Economy, Healthy People, Environment, Rural Communities

Delta Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
<http://iareh.usask.ca/symposium2003>

Nov 5-6

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum

Des Moines, IA
Check the I-CASH web site
www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash for details and Call for Abstracts. Abstracts due July 15.

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Mark Your Calendars

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum November 5-6, 2003

I-CASH is partnering with the Iowa Rural Health Association and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health to organize the fall conference on agricultural safety and health this year. The dates have been changed from Nov. 6-7 to Nov. 5-6 to accommodate the combined conference. Mark your calendars and check the I-CASH web site at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash for details and Call for Abstracts.

+++++It All Adds Up

ATV-related Deaths*

1997 1999

241 357

*deaths in IA, NE, KS, MO:
6.2% (of 1982-99 total)

ATV Injuries

1997 2001

54,700 111,700

(104% increase)

ATV Injuries Treated in ERs

1990 1999

59,500 84,300



- ◆ATV's purchased from a previous owner: 83%
- ◆ATV's purchased used: 44%
- ◆Only 7% learned to operate an ATV through a dealer, salesman, or organized program (2001 data)
- ◆95% of injured drivers under 16 were riding adult-sized machines (1982-2001 data)

For your ATV safety training contact:

- **NECAS** - National Education Center for Agricultural Safety
(888/844-6322)
- **ATV Safety Institute** (www.atvsafety.org)

Sources: 1) Federal Register - 23 April 2003, Vol 68 No 78, pg 19975-6 2) www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtm103/03112.html
3) www.cpsc.gov/LIBRARY/FOIA/FOIA03/atvex2001.pdf 4) Farm Safety 4 Just Kids



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