

# 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 2 - 2003

## A new newsletter?

Well, not exactly. Many of you have been reading the "I-CASH Newsletter" for the past several years, and you still are. Look closely at the black bar just above this text and you'll see that we're adding news from the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH), another center in the University of Iowa's College of Public Health. The GPCAH, directed by Dr. Wayne Sanderson, is one of 10 agricultural health centers nationwide funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and dedicated to protecting and promoting the health and safety of farmers, farm workers, and the agricultural community.



Kelley J. Donham  
MS, DVM,  
DACMPM

Faculty and staff of I-CASH and the Great Plains Center conduct research on such questions as "What's causing farmers' respiratory disease?" or "How can we prevent tractor rollovers?" We present the understanding gained from research to farmers, community leaders, education and health care providers, and policy makers. We also train health professionals, such as industrial hygienists, veterinarians, and physicians, on agricultural health and safety. And we provide technical assistance on research methods, training, and education to health professionals and community organizations.

This combined quarterly newsletter will keep you updated on our activities, which are designed to make the working lives of men, women, and children in agriculture healthier and safer. To ensure that the newsletter comes in the most convenient format for you, we'll be asking you to let us know whether you prefer to receive it as a paper copy or electronically. And of course you may receive both.

Agriculture remains a dangerous business, currently the most hazardous way to make a living according to the National Safety Council. In 2000 the Council found the injury death rate of workers in agriculture (22.5 per 100,000) to be higher than mining (21.2 per 100,000) and other industries. But through creative partnerships, like the collaborations between I-CASH and the Great Plains Center, we'll keep more farmers and farm families alive and well.



Wayne Sanderson  
PhD, CIH

*Next issue:* Human Health Problems Caused by Injectable Drugs for Animals

*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. Dr. Wayne Sanderson directs the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, also in the Department of OEH.*



## Certified Safe Farm Program Expands to Dairy Farms

by Risto Rautiainen, PhD

An increasing number of farmers have participated in the Certified Safe Farm (CSF) program since its beginning in 1996. Participants receive an occupational health screening, safety education, and an on-farm safety review (a farmer with a score of 85% or more is "certified"). Conducted through the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) and I-CASH, the CSF program is designed to reduce farm-related injuries and illnesses and their related costs.

*continued on page 4*



A visitor from West Africa joins a CSF dairy farm review. Mr. Jenung Manneh is the principal of The Gambia College.

**Kelley Donham, MS, DVM, DACMPM**, has been appointed Associate Department Head for Agricultural Medicine in the University of Iowa's Department of Occupational and Environmental Health. One of his main tasks will be coordinating I-CASH, GPCAH, and other programs in the UI College of Public Health that focus on ag safety and health.

Sowing the Seeds of Hope has a voucher program to provide **free mental health services** to farm families without mental health insurance coverage. Confidential calls can be made to the Iowa Concern Hotline at 800/447-1985. Callers will be screened for eligibility and given names of participating providers and a voucher good for up to 5 sessions per year.

Nominations are being accepted for the 2003 **Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award** presented by I-CASH. The award recognizes individuals and/or organizations who have played a substantial role (5+ years) in making Iowa's agricultural community healthy and safe. Nomination deadline is July 1. The recipient will receive a \$100 cash award at a ceremony during Farm Safety Week. Nomination forms are available from Eileen Fisher, PhD, associate director of I-CASH, 319/335-4224, [eileen-fisher@uiowa.edu](mailto:eileen-fisher@uiowa.edu) and at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH/HallFameNomForm.pdf](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH/HallFameNomForm.pdf).

Congratulations to the recipients of the **I-CASH Injury Prevention in Agriculture Youth Grants** for 2002-2003:

- ◆ ISU Extension/Floyd Valley Hospital's AgriSafe Clinic – to provide an innovative Farm Safety Day Camp that includes parents
- ◆ Mitchell County 4-H & Youth Development – to offer a Farm Safety Day Camp for youth in grades 1-5
- ◆ Farm Safety 4 Just Kids – to train youth in farm safety and farm safety resources at regional workshops so they can present programs and training in their own communities
- ◆ ISU Howard County Extension – to provide a 4-H Farm Safety Day Camp for youth ages 7-13 and their parents
- ◆ Butler County Public Health/AgriSafe Rural Neighbors – to present a Farm Safety Day Camp featuring “sun safety”
- ◆ Horn Memorial Hospital AgriSafe Clinic – to implement a Farm Safety Event for children ages 4-7 at the Ida County Fair
- ◆ AgriSafe (Spencer) – to collaborate with area Driver's Education instructors to teach young drivers about roadway dangers involving farm equipment

## KCRHS Round 2 Coming to a Close

by Ann Stromquist, PhD

The Keokuk County Rural Health Study (KCRHS), conducted within the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, is beginning the last year of its second round of data collection. The 20-year study of respiratory disease, injury, and environmental exposures in rural Iowa began in 1994 and enrolled 2,256 men, women, and children representing 1,004 households.

Analysis of data from Round 1 (1994-1998) showed that rates of obesity were high in the entire sample, and more than 67% were overweight or obese. Farm men and women were less likely to smoke, but farm men were more likely than non-farm men to binge drink. These and other findings are now being published in research journals.



At the end of Round 2, we plan to examine the effects that environmental exposures such as farm chemicals and grain dust have had on the health of our research subjects over time. This longitudinal analysis will help us better identify cause and effect in the complex blend of environmental, social and physical factors that contribute to health problems.

*Ann Stromquist, KCRHS Study Coordinator and Co-investigator, is on staff in the UI Department of Occupational and Environmental Health. KCRHS methodology was described in the Fall 2002 "Journal of Rural Health." More information about the study can also be obtained at [www.kcrhs.org](http://www.kcrhs.org).*



### Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health

100 Oakdale Campus  
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242-5000

Farm Families  
Alive & Well  
Published 4/yr  
Kay Mohling,  
Del Bonney, Eds.  
319/335-4219  
fax-319/335-4225  
[kay-mohling@uiowa.edu](mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu)

### I-CASH

UI ◆ ISU ◆ IDPH ◆ IDALS  
Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

A partnership of:

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

If you want to receive this newsletter through the US mail in hard copy, notify [meggan-harrington@uiowa.edu](mailto:meggan-harrington@uiowa.edu)

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

## Health Care Professionals

Get the information and skills you need to prevent occupational illnesses and injuries in the farm community

### I-CASH Agricultural Occupational Health Training

May 14-16 (Session 1) To register, contact Kay Mohling at  
& 319/335-4219 or  
June 18-20 (Session 2) [kay-mohling@uiowa.edu](mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu)

Topics: Agricultural Skin Diseases, Zoonoses, Ergonomics in Agriculture, Resources for Disabled Farm Workers, Agricultural/Rural Cancer, Behavioral Health Issues in the Farming Community, Respirator Fit Testing & Selection, and much more.

Registration forms are available at [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash)



### Plans Proceeding for “Barn Raising IV”

Iowa’s “Governor’s Conference on Public Health: Leading the Charge for Community Health,” also known as Barn Raising IV, is being planned for August 14-15 at Drake University in Des Moines. More than 30 different sessions are planned for this

biennial event that brings together experts from several health care arenas.

The conference is divided into two tracks: 1) Tools for Leaders, and 2) Leading the Charge in Healthy People/Healthy Iowans 2010: The Overarching Goals. Topics will include access to health care; mental, physical, and sexual health issues; confined animal feeding operations; bioterrorism; and many other issues pertinent to today’s health care advocates.

At this stage in the planning, speakers who have agreed to keynote the conference include

- Ed Thompson, MD, deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Irwin Redlener, MD, President of the Children’s Health Fund and CEO of the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore; and
- Martin Collis, PhD, exercise physiologist and motivational speaker.

Some of the workshops to be presented are “Dealing Effectively with Controversy” (Tom Klaus of the Legacy Resource Group), “Addressing the Forces of Change in a Community” (Tyler Norris of Community Initiatives) and “CAFO Concerns: Crafting a Plan to Protect the Environment and the Public’s Health” (Jeffrey Vonk, Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources).

The conference is being convened by the Office of the Governor Thomas J. Vilsack, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor Sally J. Pederson, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and Drake University. The major financial sponsor is The Wellmark Foundation.

Continuing education units will be available for conference attendees. Training sessions for Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Adult Abuse will also be offered for an additional fee.

## calendar

April 28-29

### Safety in Numbers: Working Together from Research into Practice

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta, GA  
Contact: Trevia Pereira  
770-488-4665  
[TPereira@cdc.gov](mailto:TPereira@cdc.gov)  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

May 14-16

### I-CASH Agricultural Occupational Health Training [see box at left]

May 29-30

### The Clock is Ticking for Rural America: A Behavioral Health and Safety Conference

Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel, Kansas City, MO  
Contact: Michael Rosmann  
712-235-6100  
[www.agriwellness.org](http://www.agriwellness.org)

June 18-20

### I-CASH Agricultural Occupational Health Training [see box at left]

June 22-26

### National Institute for Farm Safety 2003 Summer Meeting

Hilton Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada  
[www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/meetings03.htm](http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/meetings03.htm)

July 27-30

### American Society of Agricultural Engineers Conference

Riviera Hotel and Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV  
[www.asae.org/meetings/index.html](http://www.asae.org/meetings/index.html)

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](mailto:llex@idph.state.ia.us)  
[www.idph.state.ia.us/conferences.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/conferences.asp)

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.

**Certified Safe Farm Program Expands to Dairy Farms** (continued from page 1)

Certified Safe Farm is currently a research project along with a service project. In collaboration with the Spencer Agrisafe Clinic, researchers are testing its effectiveness with more than 250 farmers in a 9-county area in northwest Iowa and in the Dubuque, Ida Grove, Hampton, and Manchester areas. But the program is designed to be made widely available to farmers in Iowa and other states.

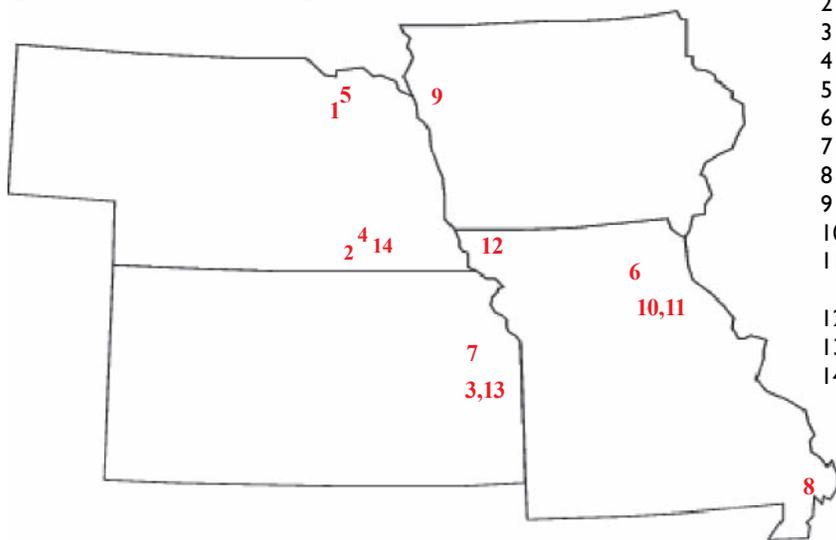
Starting in 2001, we began pilot testing CSF on 25 dairy farms in northeast Iowa. We developed items for our farm review checklist to evaluate hazards involving stanchion barns, free-stall barns, and other structures, as well as the machinery common to dairy farms. We now examine the safety of tasks related to milking, feeding, removing manure, and making hay and silage. Health screenings were previously offered only to the principal farm operators; now Dubuque Mercy Hospital is offering screenings to farm spouses as well.

The dairy farm CSF project is funded for 5 years by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and is being implemented through a partnership between GPCAH and the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) in Peosta, Iowa. Sam Steel, NECAS director of projects and grants, co-directs the CSF project, NECAS Manager Dan Neenan conducts farm reviews, and Charlotte Halverson, a Mercy Hospital nurse, performs health screenings.

*Risto Rautiainen is the principal investigator for the CSF Dairy Study and a faculty member in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Iowa. For more information on the Certified Safe Farm program, visit [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/licash/csfl](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/licash/csfl)*

+++++It All Adds Up

**Farm Injuries in Region 7  
(from Press Clips - Dec 02-Feb 03)**



| Key | Description                       | Age             | Injury         |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1   | Hay fell while loading            | Unkn            | Broken back    |
| 2   | Tractor overturn clearing ditch   | 73              | Fatal          |
| 3   | ATV                               | 11              | Fatal          |
| 4   | Train hit frt-end ldr at crossing | 20              | Fatal          |
| 5   | No details                        | Unk             | Serious        |
| 6   | Auto rear-ended tractor           | 93              | Minor          |
| 7   | Shot self when dropped gun        | 22              | Chest & arm    |
| 8   | Entangled in auger cleaning bin   | Unk             | Serious leg    |
| 9   | Suffocated in corn bin            | 48              | Fatal          |
| 10  | Entangled in grain bin auger      | 22              | Fatal          |
| 11  | Collision w/cattle on the road    | 30,24, 11, 10,6 | Treated/Minor  |
| 12  | Pickup rear-ended tractor         | 21, 59          | Serious, Minor |
| 13  | Drowned in pond fixing pump       | 61              | Fatal          |
| 14  | Pinned under truck box that fell  | 64              | Fatal          |

Sources: Newz™ Group and LUCE Press Clippings, Inc. Clipping services do not catch all incidents. FAX Murray Madsen at 319/335-4290 or email him at [murray-madsen@uiowa.edu](mailto:murray-madsen@uiowa.edu) if you have information on a clipping not documented here.



Dept. of Occupational & Environmental Health  
100 Oakdale Campus  
Iowa City, IA 52242-5000



GREAT PLAINS CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA