Agritourism is growing throughout the Midwest. Although starting or adding an agritourism segment to an existing farm may seem appealing, numerous risks arise once these farms open and charge a fee for entry. For example, just one illness or injury could be catastrophic to not only the injured party—but also to the entire farm. Some producers believe that insurance will cover all of the liability risks that an agritourism destination will encounter. Although there are multiple options for insurance coverage of agritourism destinations, not even the best coverage can alleviate the burden of an injury or outbreak linked to a destination.

In order to prevent agriculture injury and illness on agritourism destinations, the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) has awarded the Visit Iowa Farms program at Iowa State University pilot grant funds to host three Safety and Health Best Practices Workshops. The workshops will feature several presentations on best practices, and topics will include food safety, public play areas, pesticide safety, biosecurity issues, and farm emergency

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preparedness. The workshops are free to registered attendees, and they include lunch, refreshments, and training materials. The first workshop will be held at the Polk County Extension office in Altoona, IA, on March 22nd, 2018. The other two workshops will be held in the winter season (locations TBA). The workshop flyer, schedule, dates and other workshop information can be viewed on the Visit Iowa Farms webpage (www.visitiowafarms.org). Individuals can register by emailing their name, farm name, and telephone number to visitiowafarms@iastate.edu.

For more information on the GPCAH Pilot Grant Program visit www.gpcah.org

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Farmers operating equipment on roads should be cautious of alcohol-impaired drivers, especially during nighttime work
Jenna Gibbs, PhD, Research Coordinator, GPCAH

Three-quarters of farm equipment-related crashes involving alcohol result in an injury or death.

Rural roads can be hazardous for drivers due to poor roadway conditions, high travel speeds, and frequent encounters with farm equipment and other slow moving vehicles. A recent five-year study published in *Traffic Injury Prevention* identified more than 60 alcohol-related crashes involving farm equipment in four Midwestern states.

“We found that the passenger vehicle drivers were more often impaired than the farmers operating their equipment. This is important because these impaired drivers may be slower to recognize and react to farm equipment, and more likely to misjudge the differences in speed of the equipment on the roadway,” said Karisa Harland, the lead investigator.

The team of researchers from the University of Iowa and University of Minnesota found that the percentage of alcohol-impaired crashes involving farm equipment varied by state. North Dakota and South Dakota, respectively, had the highest proportions of alcohol-impaired driver crashes when compared to the other states in our region. Most crashes resulted from the impaired passenger vehicle driver who rear-ended or ran head-on into the farm equipment.

Not surprisingly, a greater percentage of the alcohol-impaired crashes occurred at night and on weekends. “We know that during critical times of the year, farmers have to work around the clock. Overall, the proportion of alcohol impairment in crashes involving farm equipment is low—less than three percent,” said Harland. “However, when these crashes occur they can be devastating, because most of them result in an injury or death. There is a continued need for educating all road users about alcohol use while driving and the appropriate ways to interact with farm equipment on roads.”

For more information on GPCAH projects, visit www.gpcah.org

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**Agricultural Safety and Health: The Core Course**
**June 11-15, 2018**

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Cold weather hazards are main focus at winter farm shows

by Jenna Gibbs, PhD, Research Coordinator, GPCAH

GPCAH Outreach Coordinator, Marsha Cheyney, and Center Coordinator, Jenna Gibbs, traveled to two farm shows this winter to present a display on Cold Weather Hazards. We presented information on how quickly frostbite occurs at different wind chills and discussed how to make safe decisions for activities on ice by knowing its thickness. Cheyney traveled to the Sioux Empire Farm Show in Sioux Falls, SD on January 24-28. Gibbs traveled to the Western Farm Show in Kansas City, MO on February 23-25. More than 30 farmers provided direct feedback on cold weather safety. “You definitely need a good pair of work gloves,” stated a 16-year-old female FFA student from Moberly, MO. “It is important to move your fingers around, especially when breaking ice for the sheep. It is not easy to keep stock water ice-free—we have to do it almost every day.” Many farmers noted that good base layers, insulated bib coveralls, and muck boots with a thick tread were helpful in cold weather. More than half of the farmers also stated that they had previously experienced a slip, trip, or fall on ice while doing farm work.

“The Health and Safety Roundup area has been a big success, and we have been doing it for a couple decades,” said Diane Olson, Missouri Farm Bureau Director of Promotion and Education. “The 2018 event, and our safety area, was very well attended.”

For more information on the GPCAH outreach activities follow us on facebook at www.facebook.com/GPCAH