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**GPCAH field activities**

by Marsha Cheyney, MPH, GPCAH Evaluation and Outreach Coordinator

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**Director’s Message: Training and outreach**

by Renée Anthony, PhD, CIH, CSP

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health is one of 11 agriculture, forestry, and fishing (AFF) centers funded by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), housed within the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. AFF centers are tasked with both providing high quality research and translating scientific discoveries into practical applications to improve safety and health for these workers. This month, I want to highlight some of our activities that focus on translating lessons learned, from our research and that of investigators around the country.

In June, we completed another week of the Agricultural Safety and Health Core Course. This course provides a week-long immersion into agricultural production safety and health hazards and prevention. Twenty-six participants from 7 states attended this year, including physicians, nurses, and veterinarians. Participants developed skills in hazard recognition and prevention to protect the agricultural workers they serve.

In March’s Alive and Well, we updated everyone on our 2017 pilot grant awardees. The purpose of funding these projects is to build agricultural safety and health skills throughout the region, for both researchers and community groups. Funded projects must both address a relevant and important issue to our region’s agricultural workers and enhance the applicant’s capacity to address future agricultural safety and health challenges. To help community groups unfamiliar with the grant writing process, we conducted a pilot grant-writing webinar in June, with 28 attendees, to guide community groups to prepare effective proposals. If you or someone

(continued on page 3)
Agricultural Safety and Health: The Core Course
June 10-14, 2019
The University of Iowa College of Public Health
Iowa City, Iowa

cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/education/training-opportunities

National Farm Safety & Health Week - September 16-22
The third week of every September is National Farm Safety & Health Week, an effort to bring attention to hazards on the farm and provide a forum to promote health and safety. The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) hosts materials to disseminate best practices to protect farmers. The 2018 theme for National Farm Safety & Health Week is “Cultivating the Seeds of Safety.”

Daily Topics:
• Monday - Rural Roadway Safety
• Tuesday - Health/Suicide/Opioids
• Wednesday - Child/Youth Health and Safety
• Thursday - Confined Spaces in Agriculture
• Friday - Tractor Safety
Visit www.necasag.org for safety and health resources, public service announcements, and links to daily webinars.

National Rural Health Day - November 15

Telling the Story
by Stephanie Leonard, MS, GPCAH Outreach

The new “Telling the Story Project” (TTSP) was unrolled at the 2018 International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health conference in Nova Scotia in June. A collaborative work produced by GPCAH, CS-CASH, and UMASH, the project creates injury prevention messages that highlight personal stories and first-hand experiences. Participating storytellers share their experiences and offer insight about recognizing hazardous scenarios and working safely.

Farmers, family and community members are among the first story-tellers, sharing accounts relating to deadly manure gases, fires, ATV safety, falls, and risk-taking. Their stories are told in their own words and provide both hindsight and insight into what happened and what went wrong, and give advice to avoid a similar experience. The common goal among storytellers is “turning something bad into something good” that could help someone else.

Along with multimedia feature stories, TTSP includes Story Frames, cartoon-format safety reminders created by Iowa farmer Rick Friday; Vignettes, abbreviated safety lessons; and a More page with recommended links to impactful stories created by others. The Resources page provides links to repositories that include the National Ag Safety Database and US Ag Health and Safety Centers YouTube channel.

TTSP is designed for the ag community, media, and educators. Visitors are encouraged to share links and use the stories to start conversations about safety. Guidelines for republishing are at www.tellingthestoryproject.org/use-our-stories. Contact information for the project is reachus@tellingthestoryproject.org

The 2018 “Nominate Your Fire Department Contest,” in honor of Grain Bin Safety Week (GBSW), is moving forward with the delivery of 29 awarded rescue tubes and training sessions for fire departments in 19 states. Nationwide Insurance originally created GBSW to bring attention to the tragedies of grain bin engulfments and partnered with The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) to provide rescue training to rural fire departments. The goal is to have all of the tubes delivered and training completed by September 30th.

Since 2014, GBSW has awarded 77 rescue tubes in 23 states. Three of those rescue tubes have been used in successful rescues: Westphalia, Kansas (2014), Glennville, Minnesota (2017), and Berlin, Pennsylvania (2018).

The “Nominate Your Fire Department Contest” allows communities to nominate their local fire department for a chance to win the rescue tubes and specialized training. Ag companies across the United States have donated funds to ensure the program’s success. For more information visit www.nationwide.com/grain-bin-safety-week.jsp or contact Dan Neenan, director of NECAS at neenand@nicc.edu.

Neenan is the past recipient of two pilot grants from the GPCA H to travel with state-of-the-art grain entrapment, confined space rescue, and anhydrous ammonia simulators for educational sessions across the Midwest. For more information on the NECAS visit www.necasag.org

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**Grain rescue training at NECAS**

by Dan Neenan, MBA, Paramedic, Director NECAS, Safety, Transportation and EMS

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Staff from NECAS provided rescue training to the Kewaunee, WI Fire Department on August 11, 2018. Photo courtesy of NECAS.
“Stressing Resilience” is the title of the 2018 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference to be held November 27-29 at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs, IA. Joining the GPCAH and Iowa’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health as a major sponsor this year is the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH). MRASH kicks off on Tuesday, November 27 with a half day pre-conference workshop on immigrant farmworker health. The workshop will be led by Dr. Mark Grey from the University of Northern Iowa, director of the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration.

Wednesday morning will focus on using best management practices to keep farm families and farm workers safe and resilient. Dick Wittman’s keynote will be followed by a panel of farmers sharing how they are working to incorporate these practices on their farms. The afternoon sessions will feature a broad spectrum of research and outreach presentations, including a session on stress. New at this year’s Wednesday night poster reception will be a series of 5 minute Flashtalks.

The focus on Thursday morning is “Telling the Agricultural Safety and Health Story.” A farmer and a journalist will join outreach staff to speak about how sharing a farmer’s experience can help others make life-saving changes. Following the award luncheon, Dan Neenan from NECAS will conduct a training on anhydrous ammonia safety for conference attendees, area farmers and co-op personnel. Dan will also present an additional anhydrous ammonia safety training, specifically for firefighters and emergency services providers, during the conference. Individuals should register separately for this no-cost training with Ashlee at NECAS by calling (888) 844-6322.

Poster abstracts will be accepted until November 1, and there are still opportunities to become an exhibitor or conference sponsor. Participants can register for single days or the full conference; discounts are available for students and farmers. Visit www.i-cash.org/2018-mrash for additional conference details and registration.