We invite you to participate in a research study by becoming a Registry Volunteer. The purpose of the study is to develop a registry of farmers/ranchers/farmworkers who are interested in participating in research studies that may be useful for improving health and safety on the farm. Information we compile from our Registry Volunteers will be stored in a centralized database that we will access to connect farmers to relevant agricultural safety and health research, where researchers need farmer input. These researchers will not contact you directly, but we will send information to you when opportunities match your interests in ag safety and health, as you indicated in the registry.

We are inviting you to be in this study because you are a farmer in our region who has expressed interest in health and safety on the farm. We hope to enroll 2000 farmers/ranchers into the Registry.

If you agree to participate, we would like you to complete a survey, which will ask you questions regarding yourself, your farming operation, and your interests in health and safety. You can complete this survey on paper and mail it to us or hand it to us at the show, or you can complete the online survey at your convenience. If you decide not to become a member of the registry, simply do not turn in or complete the form. If there are required questions you do not feel like answering, we will not include you in the registry. You are free to not answer any questions that are optional and still be in the registry. Signing up for the Registry will take approximately 10 minutes.

Once you are enrolled, we will send you confirmation using the contact method you indicated as preferred (in the survey). We will contact you when studies are looking for farmer participants that match your interest and farming operations. At this time, only researchers affiliated with the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health at the University of Iowa’s College of Public Health -- who are interested in protecting the health and safety of farmers, agricultural workers, and their families -- will be approved for registry use. We will share information about these studies from these approved researchers to tell you about the opportunity presented by the Registry.

We will keep the information you provide confidential, however federal regulatory agencies and the University of Iowa Institutional Review Board (a committee that reviews and approves research studies) may inspect and copy records pertaining to this research. In our Registry, we will record:

- Your personal ID code number,
- Your name, residence, and contact information so we can contact you about studies of interest to you

You can withdraw from the registry at any time, where we will remove your name, ID, address, and contact information from the registry.

We will report demographic summaries of those in our registry, but at no time will we identify participants or group data that may identify you in any way.

There are no known risks from being in this study, and you will not benefit personally. However, we hope that being in the Registry may help you become aware of research studies relevant to your interests in improving farmer health and safety.

You will not have any costs for being in this Registry.
You will not be paid for being in this Registry.

Taking part in this Registry is completely voluntary. If you decide not to be in this study, or if you stop participating at any time, you won’t be penalized or lose any benefits for which you otherwise qualify.

If you have any questions about the Registry itself, please contact Renee Anthony at University of Iowa, College of Public Health, S333, Iowa City, IA, 52242 or at renee-anthony@uiowa.edu or at 319-335-4429. If you experience a research-related injury, please contact: Renee Anthony, 319-335-4429. If you have questions about the rights of research subjects, please contact the Human Subjects Office, 105 Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, 600 Newton Rd, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1098, (319) 335-6564, or e-mail irb@uiowa.edu. To offer input about your experiences as a research subject or to speak to someone other than the research staff, call the Human Subjects Office at the number above.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Returning the completed survey will indicate your willingness to participate in the Farmer/Rancher Registry.

Sincerely,

Renee Anthony
Professor, University of Iowa, College of Public Health
Director of the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health