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FEATURED

Young Iowans work to improve farm safety

By Tabitha Kuehn, Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

Feb 12, 2024



Southwest Valley FFA members Ethan James, Tyler Jar tape and SMV signs at a local tractor ride event. Photo courtesy Blake Anderson/Southwest Valley FFA

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Many young farmers have a men
Grandparents, p
provide valuable life and

An advertisement for sharecare. It features a dark green background with the sharecare logo at the top. Below the logo is a white circle with a muted speaker icon. The main text reads "Ask the Experts" in white. On the right side, there is a circular inset showing a close-up of a woman's smiling face.



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Oftentimes overlooked is the impact that young farmers can have on their mentors.



Between May and November 2023, agricultural youth groups across Iowa carried out agricultural safety projects in their communities as part of Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health Annual Agricultural Youth Grant Program. I spoke with a few students and advisors involved in these projects as they reflected on their experiences, and the effect on the farmers in their respective communities was evident.

In Corning, Southwest Valley FFA provided local farmers with reflective tape and slow-moving vehicle signs for farm equipment at a local tractor ride event. Southwest Valley FFA members recognized the importance of farmers continuing to learn about safety and having access to safety materials. RELATED NEWS: - Car safety tips for kids

“I believe the best way to get farmers to have all the necessary safety equipment Southwest Valley FFA members, said. “ different types of situations and problems willing to implement safety measures if

The experience also provided learning opportunities for the students.

“A lot of the safety information provided to the farmers was actually new information that I had never heard of before,” said James.

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Meghan Bond, FFA advisor and agriculture teacher at Central Community Schools in Elkader, also noted the importance of students learning about agricultural safety through the project.

“Get the buy-in from the younger generation, then you’ll see the change in the generations to come,” said Bond.

A group of Central Community FFA members conducted a project that supplied farmers with a lunch and tools, like sunscreen, to implement UV safety on the farm. Students were able to speak with farmers about the importance of protecting their skin and hear farmer’s health experiences from sun exposure.

Bond viewed the benefits of this project as a “trickle-down effect.” Students learn and engaging with farm health and safe implement these best practices as they t culture in their children.

“I truly believe you have to get the chan

... “trickle-down effect.” Students learn
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