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Celebrating Safe and Healthy Ag Workers -- National Ag Day, March 15

The United States is home to some of the most productive agriculture in the world. While this industry can be hazardous the U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers believe that the people who produce our food can do their jobs without risking their health and well being.

The U.S. Ag Centers join agricultural associations, corporations, students, producers and their employees in marking the celebration known as National Agriculture Day, March 15.

“National Agriculture Day serves as a reminder that agriculture is part of us all and we benefit every day from the work people in agriculture do,” said Bruce Alexander, Director for the [Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center \(UMASH\)](#) at the University of Minnesota. “We want to highlight the importance of the health and well-being of the people in agriculture to our whole society.”

The U.S. Ag Centers are promoting the theme, “Celebrating Safe and Healthy Ag Workers,” on this 43rd anniversary of National Agriculture Day. **#AgDay2016 #farmsafety #USAGCenters**

[The Centers](#) are funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Visit the [Centers' YouTube channel](#) for fresh ideas about how to stay safe while working in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Nearly 90 videos cover topics such as: personal protective equipment, needlestick prevention, livestock safety, chainsaw safety, tractor and machinery safety, child development, emergency response, grain safety, pesticide safety, heat illness prevention and more.

National Agriculture Day is being hosted by the Agriculture Council of America (ACA). National Ag Day is celebrated in classrooms and communities across the country.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

For the latest information on National Agriculture Day, go to www.agday.org

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The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health (UMASH) Center is a collaboration of the [University of Minnesota School of Public Health](#) and [College of Veterinary Medicine](#), the [National Farm Medicine Center](#) of the Marshfield Clinic with the [Migrant Clinicians Network](#), and the [Minnesota Department of Health](#). This collaboration brings together a unique combination of multidisciplinary expertise and resources of public health, medicine, and veterinary medicine in academic, government, and health care environments. The current focus of the UMASH center is animal agriculture, with specific attention to dairy and pork production. A central theme is the interrelationship between the production practices, which are primarily driven by social, economic and animal health considerations, and the health and safety conditions in the workplace. UMASH embraces a One Health model philosophy that recognizes the connections between human, animal and environmental health when addressing occupational health and safety issues in agriculture

For more information or to request an interview with one of the UMASH directors, contact Ruth Rasmussen, Outreach Director, rasmu048@umn.edu or 612-625-8836. Visit us at: umash.umn.edu