

# RFDASH Newsletter

*RFDASH Going International!*



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Issue #8

# Table of Contents

Farm Ag Emergency Response /Training Facebook Group.....	2
RF-DASH Renewal.....	2
RF-DASH Has Gone International! .....	3
Agriculture Rescue Training a Success.....	4-5
Welcome to the Official RF-DASH Website.....	6
RF-DASH Training Manual .....	6



# Join the *Farm & Ag Emergency Response and Training* Facebook Group!

The Farm & Ag Emergency Response and Training group was created by RescueTechs, LLC. and consists of over 2,400 members. Eric Rickenbach, founder of the page and RF-DASH trainer stated, “The mission of this group is to share information and experiences on farm and agricultural emergency training and response including fires, rescues, accidents, etc. Members are encouraged to share their own agency’s experiences and training activities related to any type of agricultural emergencies”. The RF-DASH team encourages you to join the group and help bring awareness to agricultural incidents that are occurring and share your experiences and work in RF-DASH!



Photo courtesy of RescueTechs, LLC

Join the [Farm & Ag Emergency Response and Training](#) group today!

## RF-DASH Renewal

**October 2022-September 2027**

The RF-DASH program has entered its final year of grant funding since its inception in 2016. The team has submitted a proposal for the next phase of the RF-DASH program that would fund it through September 2027. The goal of the next grant would be to research dissemination and implementation strategies of the program by enrolling 15 RFDASH sites ( 5 sites in the Midwest, 5 sites nationally, and 5 sites in Canada), conducting interviews, and sharing successes and challenges throughout the RF-DASH network. Each site would enroll 5 new farm participants for a total of 75 farms. Lastly, we would continue to support future sustainability of the program through more formal alignment and federal standards like those of NFPA and FEMA, as well as providing technical assistance to a growing and now international network.



# Spotlight Story

## RF-DASH Has Gone International!

RF-DASH had its first training in Central Wisconsin back in 2016. Since then the program has trained over 75 trainers in 10 states and we would like to welcome seven new RF-DASH trainers from Canada that will be joining the RF-DASH community.

[The Canadian Agriculture Safety Association](#) (CASA) requested the RF-DASH team to come to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to train their Master Trainers within the RF-DASH program. The group consisted of Fire Chiefs, Training Officers, and Agricultural Safety and Health Specialists from departments in Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, and Ontario. In total, the CASA Master Trainers brought over 180 years of their own rural firefighting experience to the proceedings.

The training took place at the [Glenlea Agricultural Research Station](#) in Winnipeg, Manitoba that had various forms of agriculture ranging from dairy, beef, swine, and crop management. The group ran through the five modules of RF-DASH and discussed the



implementation of the program model within their communities. The group then completed the hands on portion of the training, applying what they had learned to the farming environment.

The second day, the RF-DASH trainers and the trainee's held a round table discussion on their thoughts and opinions on the program, as well as next steps for CASA and emergency responders to take the program back and implement it within their regions.

We want to thank everyone from the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center, National Farm Medicine Center, and the RF-DASH community for making this training possible. We are excited for our Canadian colleagues in building the program within their regions and above all, reducing injuries and fatalities on farms and ranches.



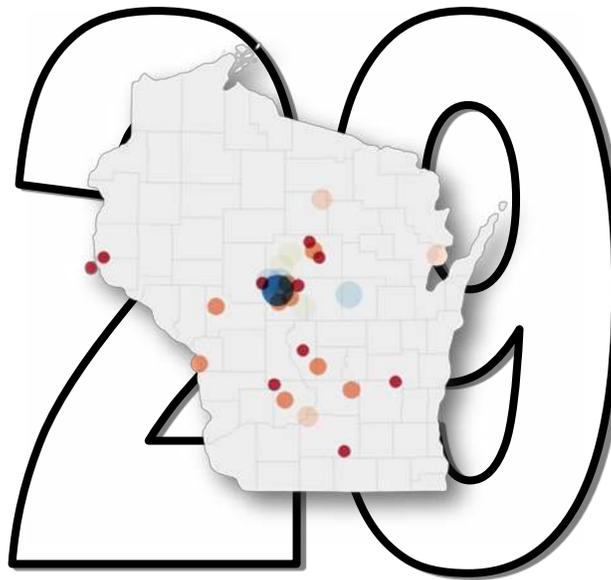
Left to right: Rob Gobeil, Glen Blahey, Dale Feser, Louis-Charles Boisvert, Casper Bendixsen, Brian Kroes, Tim MacRae, Kyle Koshalek, Donna Noble, Jerry Minor, Peter Neufeld

# Agriculture Rescue Training a Success

October 22-23, 2021 the National Farm Medicine Center in partnership with the Pittsville Fire Company, Life Link III, Heiman's Holsteins, and Heeg Farms Inc. brought back the Agriculture Rescue Training to train a new generation of rural fire and EMS personnel on preparing for agricultural emergencies. The goal of the program is to train 500 emergency responders over a period of five years.

Trainee's attended four virtual presentations Friday evening covering *RF-DASH, From the Field to the E.R.-Focusing on Stopping Trauma Triad of Death and Treatment of Agricultural Injuries, Partnering With the Media to Prevent Injuries in Agriculture, and Medical Research and Best Practices to Manage Crush Injuries.*

Saturday consisted of a full day of hands on training with instructors at five workshops covering tractor rollovers, farm familiarization, grain bin rescue, silo rescue, and equipment extrication. In total, 70 personnel from 29 departments across Wisconsin successfully



**Departments Represented**

completed the training. 12 departments that brought three or more personnel from their department received a four gas monitor courtesy of the [Mike Biadasz Farm Safety and Educational Memorial Fund](#) to utilize and share with the farming community and bring awareness to hazardous gasses on farms.

Special thanks to the following sponsors that made this training possible: Auction of Champion Donors, Life Link III, Pittsville Fire Company, Heiman's Holsteins, Heeg Farms Inc., National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield Clinic Health System, and numerous other local community organizations.

Watch the Agriculture Rescue Training highlight video [here](#), as well as the five workshops on the official [RF-DASH YouTube channel](#)

If you are interested in attending the next training October 21-22, 2022 visit [agrescue.org](#) for more information or contact Kyle Koshalek at [koshalek.kyle@marshfieldresearch.org](mailto:koshalek.kyle@marshfieldresearch.org) with any questions.

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the entire training day. If I had to choose what I liked best it would be the intense hands on experiences that we got to participate in, followed closely by the opportunity to network with my brother and sister emergency service providers."*

*- Ag Rescue Training Trainee*

# Agriculture Rescue Training Photos



# Welcome to the Official RF-DASH Website

We would like to present the new official RF-DASH website, [RFDASH.org](http://RFDASH.org), that will be the primary location for the RF-DASH community to network with one another, find resources and information related to RF-DASH and Agriculture Rescue Training programs, receive updates and news from the core team, attend webinars, listen to podcasts, and more! Some features of the website will be

initially limited or unavailable, but we will continue to refine and add content to make this your 'one stop shop' for everything RF-DASH and Ag Rescue. We would appreciate your [feedback](#) on the website, especially what we can improve or include to allow you to be successful.

**Make sure to join the RF-DASH and Ag Rescue community at [rfdash.org/register/](http://rfdash.org/register/).**



## RF-DASH Training Manual

We are excited to present the RF-DASH program training manual! We determined from the feedback given by the RF-DASH community that trainers need streamlined training materials and the ability to re-familiarize themselves with the RF-DASH content. Our solution was to design a training manual to serve as a guide to help trainers and provide in-depth instruction on the methodology for organizing trainings. The training manual dives into the five modules, information on how to conduct and organize a training, media guidelines for emergency responders, and resources to further trainers knowledge in agricultural health and safety. As we continue to identify gaps and additional resources needed, we will update the existing material in



future editions. You can find the complete first edition of the RF-DASH Training Manual on the RF-DASH website.

We are currently polishing the final version, but you can still check out a [draft](#) in the Resources tab on RFDASH.org!