

The **UMASH** Connection Farms and People

A newsletter of the Upper Midwest
Agricultural Safety and Health Center



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ONE HEALTH IN
AGRICULTURAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH



FIREFIIGHTERS COULD BE KEY TO FARM SAFETY

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National Farm Medicine Center

Agriculture remains one of the most dangerous industries despite many notable advancements in agricultural health and safety, e.g. work guidelines, guards, respirators, gas detectors, harnesses, and rollover protection structures. Agricultural health and safety specialists have generated brilliant ideas, but struggle with how to implement them. Part of the difficulty comes from the lack of health and safety experts embedded in the farm community. These experts are often tethered to urban settings near their university or research center. Furthermore, even if the experts were all living in rural areas, there are simply not enough of them to go around. Therefore, **we need influential members of the farm community to become active in gaining and implementing agricultural health and safety knowledge.**

Through a series of interviews, researchers at the National Farm Medicine Center found that farmers trust each other and family the most but also understand that others might have more expertise in health and safety. The researchers also discovered who farmers would listen to, trust, and make changes if they were giving advice.

Among the conclusions that emerged was that farmers trust firefighters. Rural firefighters are farmers' neighbors, friends, family, or are farmers in their own right. They are a highly trainable and trusted workforce. Moreover, they are in every rural county in the U.S. and will always outnumber agricultural health and safety experts - unless they become experts themselves.

The **Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health (RF-DASH) Project** aims to equip firefighters with tools and knowledge to teach farmers to keep themselves safe.

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Learn more about RF-DASH at:
umash.umn.edu/spotlight-rfdash

AG HEALTH AND SAFETY SPOTLIGHT: ROADWAY SAFETY



When machines meet the road: resources to prevent farm equipment crashes on roadways

It is important to take special precautions on the roadways during planting and harvesting season, whether you are a farmer or driver of a motor vehicle.

READ THE ARTICLE AT:

umash.umn.edu/spotlight-roadway-safety

CAN YOU PASS THE UMASH FARM SAFETY CHECK?



FARM SAFETY CHECK



The **UMASH Farm Safety Check** is a quick monthly review farmers can use to identify and fix potential hazards before they cause harm to family and employees. Each month, the Farm Safety Check will focus on a different topic, offering checklists and tips for identifying hazards, along with resources to remedy any problems.

PREVIOUS TOPICS:

- » January - Farm Buildings and Shops
- » February - Grain Handling Safety
- » March - Chemical Storage Area
- » April - Keeping Children Safe
- » May - Electrical Safety

WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING TOPICS:

- » ATV Safety
- » Heat Related Illness
- » Agritourism Preparedness



Farm Safety Check:
Electrical Safety

BECOME A FARM SAFETY CHAMPION

Be a voice for farm safety in your community. Help us improve the safety and health of farmers, agricultural workers and farm families by sharing farm safety education and training resources.

- ✓ Visit umash.umn.edu for **FREE resources** on ag health and safety, farm safety checklists, and employee training resources.
- ✓ **Share** our resources in newsletters or agricultural articles.
- ✓ **Connect** with us on **Facebook** ([umashcenter](https://www.facebook.com/umashcenter)) and **Twitter** ([@umash_umn](https://twitter.com/umash_umn)).

For more information on the UMASH Farm Safety Check, including archived Safety Check topics, visit umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check

2017 NORA SYMPOSIUM

The **2017 NORA Symposium** was held Friday, May 5 at the Mayo Memorial Auditorium at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The featured speaker was Dr. Thomas Wickizer of The Ohio State University College of Public Health. The topic was ***“Prescription Opioid Use in Occupational Health Care: Reducing Risk and Improving Safety.”***

The event featured a presentation by Dr. Wickizer, Q&A discussion, research poster session, and reception.



FARMS, FAIRS, AND FUN - REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS!



As Agritourism season kicks-off with farm tours, breakfasts, u-pick, and other events, UMASH is ready to provide you with resources to keep visitors on your farm healthy and safe.



NEW! HANDWASHING POSTER

This colorful 11 x 17 laminated poster will remind visitors how to properly wash their hands and why it's important—especially when visiting animal areas on the farm. Use at handwashing stations, at entrance and exits to all animal areas, and at the entrance and exits of food/eating areas.

Contact Diane Kampa (dkampa@umn.edu) to request up to six posters for your event (while supplies last). Or, download the **free 11x17 full-color print-ready PDF** to have your own copies printed and laminated for outdoor use.

Are you hosting school groups, daycare groups, summer camp or other youth on the farm?

Check out our handwashing video: **Farms, Fairs and Fun: Be sure to wash your hands.** It is a fun way to teach children and youth a 6 step handwashing method and why handwashing is important when visiting farm animals and petting zoos. Teachers, adult chaperones, and others will also enjoy this creative teaching tool. The video can also be downloaded for viewing off-line.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Farms, Fairs and Fun: Be sure to wash your hands brochure describes the 6-step handwashing method, as well as agritourism information and resources.



Stay Safe and Healthy on the Farm handout developed by the Minnesota Department of Health has tips for preventing illness when visiting a farm.

These and other resources are free to download, print and share with teachers, chaperones or others visiting the farm.

VIEW THESE AND OTHER AGRITOURISM SAFETY RESOURCES AT:
umash.umn.edu/agritourism

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Integrating Safety into Agritourism

safeagritourism.org

As agritourism continues to grow in popularity, implementing safety strategies to help maximize fun and minimize liability is increasingly important. This website provides tools and resources that can assist and educate.

Cultivate Safety

cultivatesafety.org

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS) has produced the Cultivate Safety website to further their mission of enhancing the health and safety of all children exposed to hazards associated with agricultural work and rural environments.

Safe Play

www.marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/safe-play

Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms provides the first comprehensive guide for designing and building an outdoor safe play area on a farm.

Lyme Disease/Tick Resources from NFMC

www.marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc/lyme-disease

Lyme Disease/Tick Resources can help you avoid and identify disease-carrying ticks, and tell you what to do if you are bitten.

National ROPS Program

www.ropstr4u.com

The National ROPS Rebate Program provides rebates for purchasing and installing a ROPS (Rollover Protective Structure; rollbar) kit.

UMASH IN THE FIELD

Want to know what UMASH has been up to?

The **In the Field** section of our website highlights the latest research and outreach activities of UMASH staff and researchers.

Read the latest at:

umash.umn.edu/umash-in-the-field



UPCOMING EVENTS

**AgriSafe Network Webinar
Designing, Evaluating and Using
Apps and Wearable Technology for
Agricultural Workers' Safety and
Health**

June 5 @ 12pm

**Agricultural Safety and Health:
The Core Course**

June 12-16
Iowa City, Iowa

**Dakota Conference on Rural and
Public Health**

June 13-15
Minot, North Dakota

**Expanding Research Partnerships:
NIOSH State of the Science**

June 21-23
Aurora, Colorado

**International Society for Agricultural
Safety and Health (ISASH)**

June 25-29
Logan, Utah

Minnesota Farmfest

August 1-3
Redwood Falls, Minnesota

Learn more and view full event list at:
umash.umn.edu/upcoming-events

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