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‘Celebrating Safe and Healthy Ag Workers’ -- National Ag Day, March 18

National Agriculture Day, March 18, spotlights American agriculture and serves as a reminder that agriculture is part of us all. The U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers join producers, agricultural associations, corporations, students and government organizations in marking this occasion.

“National Agriculture Day is an opportunity for us to acknowledge the importance of the people who provide our food,” said Bruce Alexander, Director for the [Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center \(UMASH\)](#) at the University of Minnesota. “We want to highlight how important the health and wellbeing of the people in agriculture is to our whole society.”

The U.S. Ag Centers are promoting the theme, “Celebrating Safe and Healthy Ag Workers,” on this 42nd anniversary of National Agriculture Day. **#AgDay2015 #farmsafety #USAGCenters**

The 10 Centers (www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/agctrhom.html) are funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Visit the Centers’ YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/USagCenters) for new content and fresh ideas about how to stay safe while working in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Topics include: personal protective equipment, livestock safety, tractor and machinery safety, child development, emergency response, grain safety, pesticide safety, heat illness prevention, ladder safety and hearing protection.

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 more information on National Agriculture Day, go to www.agday.org

Visit the UMASH Ag Day page at umash.umn.edu/agday

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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