



For Immediate Release
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UMASH to host Online Community Forums: Aging on the Farm

The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) is hosting a series of **online, regional community forums** addressing challenges and opportunities related to working and aging on the farm. The program will be hosted through Zoom video conferencing and will include short presentations on aging, healthy living, and how health conditions and aging can impact safety on the farm. Online breakout discussions will connect community members and professionals to discuss challenges, share resources, identify needs, gaps in resources, and generate ideas for potential collaboration.

These events are free and open to the public.

Each forum features regional speakers in an effort to foster connections between area organizations and participants

- **June 15, 2020:** Western Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota
- **June 30, 2020:** North Dakota and Western Minnesota

“As we age, we need to be mindful of how we do physical work and support our agricultural workers and producers,” said Jeff Bender, Director of UMASH. “This forum is a great way to bring community members together to identify the needs of farmers and support our rural communities.”

Why is this important? The average age of farmers is approaching 60. Many continue to live and work on the farm well beyond typical retirement age. These forums will consider the following questions: What can we do to support the health and safety of aging farmers, and farm families? What are the challenges? What are the opportunities?

Who should attend? Farmers and farm families, professionals in healthcare, including occupational health, public health, social work, community organizations, agribusiness, and others interested in supporting aging in rural communities. Continuing education credit is available.

The Community Forums are sponsored by the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) and the Center on Aging in the University of Minnesota’s School of Public Health.

Join the conversation on how to ensure aging on the farm is safe and healthy for farmers and their families. Find more information and access registration at: <http://umash.umn.edu/aging-on-the-farm>

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UMASH is one of eleven Centers of Excellence in Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) throughout the United States to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of agricultural workers and their families.