



Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

February 2018

What are our priorities?

The Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH) is one of 11 agricultural education, research and prevention centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. CS-CASH completed its first cooperative agreement period (2011-2016) and entered the second (2016-2021) with new research projects. CS-CASH works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia, focusing on the following areas:

- Protecting the hearing and respiratory health of agricultural workers.
- Improving the safety and health of workers in the livestock industry.
- Reducing the risk of serious traumatic injuries among farmers, ranchers and their family members.

What do we do?

Conduct research to:

- Determine targets and approaches to accelerate lung repair following agriculture dust-induced airway injury and to improve the respiratory health of exposed workers.
- Improve acceptance and use of hearing and respiratory protection among farmers and workers by storing personal protective equipment at the sources of noise and dust.
- Improve the safety of tribal bison handlers by gaining a better understanding of the hazards and using culturally appropriate safety materials and methods for training.
- Understand the incidence, risk factors and sources of agricultural injuries through yearly surveillance, and translate the findings into practical prevention measures.
- Reduce injury and fatality rates of workers in cattle production by improving worker safety training practices and distributing educational materials in collaboration with feedyards and the insurance industry.
- Disseminate information on prevention of respiratory, hearing and injury risks to agricultural workers and their families via face-to-face and electronic outreach methods.

What have we accomplished?

- Identified previously unknown processes that occur during recovery from agricultural dust-induced inflammation. A biological factor in reducing inflammation following exposure to dust has been identified and is being tested.
- Partnered with feedyards in Nebraska and Kansas to conduct face-to-face surveys to determine the health status and occupational risks among Latino immigrant cattle feedyard workers.
- Assessed hazards on ten tribal bison handling sites. Meetings with herd managers have resulted in notable improvements in equipment and bison handling techniques.
- Published 33 peer reviewed publications between September 2016 and August 2017, including an [article](#) on knowledge, attitudes, and practices for respiratory and hearing health among Midwestern farmers.
- Awarded seven community and research pilot grants in 2017, bringing the Center's 6-year total to 33 awards. These grants address a wide range of agricultural safety and health concerns, including emerging issues.
- Collaborated with Nebraska Extension to provide tractor safety certification training to over 100 young farmers in 2017.

What's next?

- Improve approaches to treatment and prevention of respiratory disease in affected workers.
- Assist tribal and non-tribal bison producers in implementing best practices and employing effective training to enhance bison worker safety.
- Develop, disseminate and evaluate the effectiveness of bilingual (English/Spanish) health and safety training, educational and policy materials for cattle feedyard operations. Enhance injury surveillance and extend it to include alternative, innovative surveillance methods using 'big data'.
- Develop outreach safety and health "toolkits" for women and military veterans in agriculture, and provide education and training through webinars and face-to-face meetings.

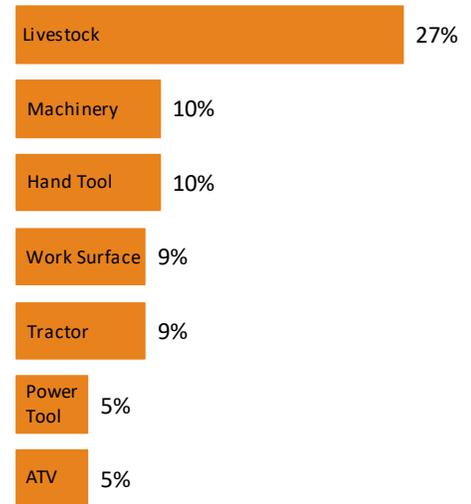
At-A-Glance

The Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health serves the farming community by discovering causes of injury and illness, and communicating information about prevention in ways that reach as many farmers as possible. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

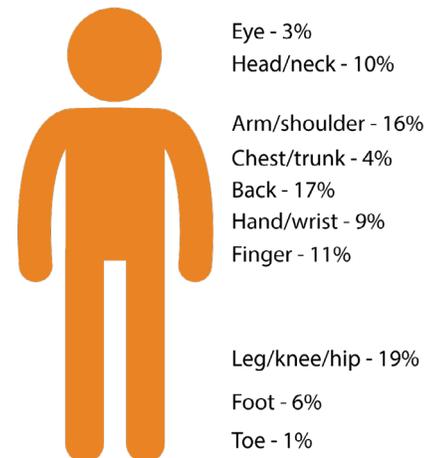
CS-CASH, located in Omaha, NE, serves seven central U.S. states



Top sources and sites of agricultural injury in CS-CASH states, 2011-2016



Source: CS-CASH Injury Surveillance Surveys 2011-2016



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