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DATE: February 16, 2011

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Industry speakers share proven strategies at agricultural safety and health workshop

The Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA) convened industry-leading executives, frontline managers and consultants to present evidence-based strategies at a workshop co-located with AG CONNECT Expo 2011.

Miss the workshop? The knowledge shared at “Practical Safety and Health Risk Management in Production Agriculture” has been archived at www.ashca.com. View the detailed program by clicking the “Conferences” tab. Workshop presentations illuminating key aspects of agricultural safety and health -- immediately applicable to the producer -- have been posted in the members section of the Web site.

The workshop, held in Atlanta on January 7, was designed for and by the agricultural industry. Speakers represented Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Agri-Services Agency, AgSafe, C Bar Cattle Company, Driscoll's, Grimmway Farms, Hitch Enterprises, National Pork Board, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Washington State Farm Bureau and Workers Compensation Fund, among others.

A recurring theme was the culture of safety, and fostering employer and employee buy-in. Topics included: culturally relevant training, safety competitions, training with a mobile safety trailer, reducing insurance premiums, and outcomes of a statewide agricultural safety certification program.

At a time when business -- including agribusiness -- is increasingly viewed as a major cause of social, environmental, and economic problems, employee safety

can be embraced as a shared value by both business and society, said ASHCA Chair William Nelson, CHS Foundation.

Citing a commentary by Michael Porter and Mark Kramer published in the January-February issue of Harvard Business Review, Nelson said ASHCA can be an influence in promoting shared values among employers and workers in agriculture.

“This is a moral issue in that people working in production agriculture deserve a safe and healthy work environment, and employers and agribusinesses are in position to create the culture and conditions for safety,” Nelson said.

To join ASHCA, or for more information, go to www.ashca.com or contact ASHCA at 715-221-7270, ashca@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.

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