

Mission

To proactively address ongoing and emerging occupational safety and health issues affecting U.S. agriculture.

What's inside

- On camera with 60 minutes: NCAE official answers questions about children in agriculture
- Business Briefs
- Journal article captures highlights of 2011 ASHCA Workshop

Membership

A new category of membership, "Benefactor," confers full voting rights, as well as your logo on the ASHCA Web site and all publications. In addition, your designated representative will be eligible for election to the board of directors and your organization will receive two registrations to the annual ASHCA conference. This category (\$3,000 Year 1, \$1,500 subsequent years) is on par with Charter membership. Complete descriptions of membership options are available at www.ashca.com.

Grimmway Farms beats the heat Heat illness prevention plan model for the industry

Since 2005, California law has required that employers provide workers with plenty of water, shade, training and adequate emergency plans.



Grimmway Farms, one **Joel Sherman** of the largest agricultural companies in California, is a leader in heat illness prevention, and has been recognized by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) for demonstrating "proactive ... commitment to workplace safety and health." Grimmway, based in Bakersfield, is a grower, packer and shipper of carrots and organic vegetables employing 7,500 (including contracted employees).

Joel Sherman, Grimmway director of safety, workers' compensation and regulatory compliance for farms, was one of 12 speakers to share best practices at the ASHCA Workshop, "Practical Safety and Health Risk Management in Production Agriculture," January 7, 2011, in Atlanta. Sherman's PowerPoint, "Implementing a Practical Heat Illness Prevention Plan," is among the full slate of presentations available in the resources section of www.ashca.com.

Sherman explained that heat illness kills hundreds of people each year in the United States. There were nearly 500 heat-related fatalities reported annually from 1999 through 2003. But studies show this number is

probably underreported, as is the 423 occupational heat-related deaths reported 1992-2008 in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Sixty-eight of the 423 were related to crop production.

Sherman discussed the practical realities of developing and implementing an effective heat illness prevention program. Special attention was paid to the evolution of the program from the passage of the first emergency regulations to its present iteration. The Grimmway safety team engaged all levels of employment, from the field to the boardroom, to meet the challenge of the new laws. Benefits have been reaped in terms of worker safety and satisfaction. There have been no heat-related fatalities or serious injuries since implementation of the plan.

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On camera with 60 Minutes

NCAE official answers questions about children in agriculture



Frank Gasperini

When 60 Minutes came knocking, ASHCA board member Frank Gasperini answered. And he's very glad he did.

With the backing of the National Council of Agricultural Employers' (NCAE) Executive Committee – and with less than a day's notice – the NCAE executive director went on camera to discuss the topic of children doing agricultural work. No other industry advocate group agreed to speak with the legendary TV news magazine. The segment aired May 22, 2011.

"It amazes me that other, larger groups, many of whom have extensive office backup in the form of professional communications and legal staffing, turned down what for NCAE, I believe, turned out to be a great opportunity," Gasperini said.

"Farm labor: Children in the Fields," focused on Hispanic families hit hard by the recession who began relying on their children to make ends meet. Reporter Byron Pitts also touched on the history of child labor laws and exemptions for agriculture. Pitts spoke to migrant workers, a small farm operator, a farm worker advocate and Gasperini.

"We chose to participate because as NCAE, the advocate for the employer, we believe it is our responsibility to be the voice of labor intensive agriculture, even if

the venues may be uncomfortable," Gasperini said.

Gasperini confessed to a few sleepless nights before the air date, but, "we, and agriculture in general, were treated with great respect and dignity."

Two other ASHCA members – Amy K. Liebman of Migrant Clinicians Network and Barbara Lee of the National Children's Center/National Farm Medicine Center – were interviewed off-camera for the piece. Gasperini said that Pitts told him the direction of the story changed considerably as more research was done.

NCAE has for its members a position statement on "Children Working in Agriculture" and a professionally prepared model policy "Children in the Workplace" to personalize and adopt for their own businesses.

Following is the link to the main program (about 15 minutes – Gasperini is on about 30 seconds) and the "Extra" portion with an additional sound bite from Gasperini.

CBS 60 Minutes air play:
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/05/22/60minutes/main20064397_page3.shtml?tag=contentMain;contentBody

CBS 60 Minutes Extra: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7366924n&tag=contentMain;contentBody>

Gasperini reports that his appearance on 60 Minutes has led to other professional contacts and requests. He was asked to speak at the National Seasonal and Migrant Head Start Association meeting in June, and as a result has an ongoing working relationship with the new executive, Cleo Rodriguez, and also had the opportunity to meet Barbara Mainster of the Redlands Christian Migrant Association. Both Rodriguez and Mainster are very engaged with growers in assuring that all workers, including children, are treated with respect and concern for their safety and well being. "This will be a good way for us to assure that both the workers and employers have safe and fair avenues to communicate and understand how important we are to each other," Gasperini said.

He writes a monthly column for Fruit Grower News/Vegetable Grower News, and August's column was on the topic of youth work rules and needs.

Additionally, Gasperini was interviewed by ADR German Television for a segment similar to 60 Minutes.

"Also as a result of 60 Minutes I have heard a lot more from members and allies about their own experiences and issues," Gasperini said. "This has enabled me to better advise members about specific pitfalls."



Business Briefs

Board to meet Sept. 13-14

The ASHCA Board of Directors has scheduled a two-day retreat in Minneapolis, Sept. 13-14, 2011. The agenda includes reports on key initiatives (rollover protective structures, eXtension, 2013 conference), ASHCA's role in agricultural trends, its finances, and a reception for potential new ASHCA members. Day 1 will be at the Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. On Day 2, attendees will be shuttled to nearby CHS headquarters. To suggest names of individuals, businesses or organizations to be invited, contact ashca@mcrf.mfldclin.edu or 715-221-7270.



Proud Member of ASHCA

Show the world that your organization believes in safety, profitability and protecting workers in agriculture: put the "member" logo on your Web sites, publications and PowerPoint presentations.

Put ASHCA into your resumes

Please take a moment and update your resumes and bios with your ASHCA affiliation. It's a great way for ASHCA to be picked up on a Web search.

ASHCA on Capitol Hill

With the onset of proposed federal budget cuts, ASHCA came out in support of continued funding for research and outreach programs within the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing program. In an effort to educate senators and members of Congress on the safety and health stakes involved, letters signed by Chair William Nelson were sent to key legislators in March 2011.

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers safety proposal submitted

ASHCA wrote a letter in support of Dennis Murphy and Penn State's proposed project, "Safety and Health Best Practices Resource Manual and Instructor's Guide for New and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers." The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. A final decision on the proposal is pending. Dr. Murphy, an ASHCA board member, is also chair of the Public Relations Committee.

Child labor law changes proposed

The U.S. Department of Labor will be issuing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the Federal Register regarding updates in the Child Labor in Agriculture regulations. Following a 60-day period for public comments, regulations associated with hazardous orders will be revised. Resources and references regarding these updates can be requested via the ASHCA Web site.

ASHCA outreach

Events with ASHCA visibility (speaker, key participant and/or exhibitor):

- AgSafe Conference, February 23-25, 2011, Monterey, California (Dan Hair, presentation)
- Annual Conference of the Farm Bureau Safety & Health Network, May 23-25, 2011, Albany, New York (Marsha Purcell)
- International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health, June 26-30, 2011, Boise, Idaho (Multiple ASHCA members, exhibit)
- Agricultural Media Summit, July 23-27, 2011, New Orleans, Louisiana (Scott Heiberger, exhibit)

Have you or your organization represented ASHCA at an event? Please contact newsletter editor Scott Heiberger at: heiberger.scott@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.

Grimmway Farms

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A graduate of California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB), Sherman has more than 30 years experience. A certified self-insurance administrator, he teaches Introduction to Workers' Compensation at CSUB. Sherman is in his second term as chairman of the board of directors of the California Coalition on Workers' Compensation (CCWC). Last December he was one of two Grimmway employees appointed to statewide posts, being named a member of the Fraud Assessment Commission, which looks at insurance fraud issues. Sherman can be contacted at jsherman@grimmway.com, 661-363-4732.

Sherman will be featured in an upcoming Webinar on heat-related illness. Check www.ashca.com for the latest.

Additional information can be found in "Preventing heat-related illness among agricultural workers," by Larry Jackson, Ph.D., and Howard Rosenberg, Ph.D., *Journal of Agromedicine*, 2010;15(3):200-215. The article is based on a panel presentation at the January 2010 conference co-hosted by ASHCA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. To read the abstract of this and other articles from the 2010 ASHCA-NIOSH conference, go to <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wagr20/15/3>.



This poster is part of an OSHA campaign to prevent heat-related illness.

Article Captures Highlights of 2011 ASHCA Workshop



“Practical safety and health risk management in production agriculture: report on the 2011 ASHCA Workshop,” has been

published in the Journal of Agromedicine, 2011;16(3):233-237. Authors Barbara Lee, ASHCA administrative director, and Dan Hair, ASHCA vice-chair, summarized the presentations and other elements that made the workshop successful. Attendees cited several highlights in

their evaluation feedback, including networking, brief (20-minute) presentations that emphasized “take-home” messages, and the diversity of people with common interests but different backgrounds. The presentations and networking provided insights for researchers and academics regarding future needs, and the overriding principle that “being safe equates to being profitable” was evident throughout.

Upcoming Events

September 13-14, 2011

ASHCA Board of Directors strategic planning meeting
Minneapolis, Minnesota

October 18-20, 2011

National Occupational Injury Research Symposium
Morgantown, WV, noirs@cdc.gov

October 20-22, 2011

24th Annual East Coast Migrant Stream Forum
West Palm Beach, Florida, www.ncchca.org

October 29-November 2, 2011

American Public Health Association
Washington, DC,
<http://www.apha.org/meetings/contact>

October 30-November 4, 2011

National Safety Council Congress & Expo
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
<http://congress.nsc.org>

November 7-10, 2011

National AgrAbility Training Workshop
Indianapolis, Indiana
www.agrability.org

November 9-11, 2011

National Association of Farm Broadcasting
Kansas City, Missouri, www.nafb.com

November 10-12, 2011

21st Annual Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum
Albuquerque, New Mexico, www.ncfh.org

November 16-18, 2011

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association annual conference
Vancouver, British Columbia,
www.casa-acsa.ca

November 16-17, 2011

2011 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum
Des Moines, Iowa, <http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2011/>

December 7-8, 2011

Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference
Daytona Beach, Florida,
<http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/mm>

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Charter Members:

