

Mission

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

ASHCA to sponsor safety award

ASHCA and CHS Foundation will sponsor the "Search for Excellence in Farm Health and Safety" award at the 2012 meeting of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, July 18, in Charleston, South Carolina. The safety award recognizes state and regional winners as well as a national winner.

In support of AgFF funding

Throughout 2011 ASHCA sent letters of support to policy makers urging continued annual funding for the NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AgFF) program. The letters emphasized return-on-investment and the leadership role of NIOSH in implementing evidence-based safety interventions for large and small agricultural enterprises. The letters also stated that ASHCA is uniquely positioned to "guide research and programs of federal agencies to ensure the priorities of agriculture-related businesses are addressed."

Register Now! January workshop set for D.C.

"Agricultural Safety and Health: Implications of Public Policy and Corporate Practice," is the theme of the ASHCA annual workshop, January 26, 2012, at the Holiday Inn Capitol (<http://www.hicapitoldc.com>) in Washington, D.C.

Join agribusiness leaders, federal agency representatives, safety and health researchers, farmworker advocates and medical practitioners for this update from Capitol Hill. Presentations and panels will focus on the:

- 2012 Farm Bill
- H2-A temporary agricultural worker program
- Internet-based E-Verify
- Children's Act for Responsible Employment (CARE)
- NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing program
- Proposed changes to child agricultural labor regulations

Scheduled speakers include: Reid Maki, Child Labor Coalition; George Conway, M.D., National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Brittany Jablonksy, National Farmers Union; Art Kerschner, U.S. Department of Labor; Paul Gunderson, Ph.D., Dakota Center for Technology-Optimized Agriculture; and Matthew Fischer-Daly, SAI Project Cultivar.

In addition, hear case presentations from companies



who succeeded in "Putting Corporate Social Responsibility into Agricultural Practice." For more on the workshop, go to www.ashca.com.

"We all agree that the safety and health of agricultural workers is a non-competitive issue," said ASHCA Chair William Nelson, CHS, Inc. "This workshop is about sharing best practices and conveying the latest public policy affecting the farm workplace."

A one-year individual membership (workshop included) is being offered for a special rate of \$100. Workshop fee-only is \$40 for ASHCA members, \$70 for non-members. If you already are a member, don't forget to renew. Contact the ASHCA office, 715-221-7270, ashca@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.

Board focuses on Corporate Social Responsibility

At the Board's September 2011 strategic planning session, convened in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and hosted by William Nelson of CHS, the concepts of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Shared Values (SV) were featured in light of global trends in production agriculture. The Strategic Planning and Program committee will propose updates to ASHCA's future plans based on these concepts.

What are CSR and SV?

Corporate Social Responsibility is also known as corporate conscience, corporate citizenship, social performance, and sustainable responsible business.

Shared Values is also described as corporate social integration, creating shared values, and linking business strategies with social responsibility.

Core principles of CSR and SV include:

- Achieve business success in ways that honor ethical values and respect people, communities and natural environments.
- Move beyond mitigating harm to finding ways to reinforce business goals and reputation by advancing social conditions such as employee safety and child care programs.
- Understand issues important to employees to increase staff satisfaction and improve productivity
- Enhance the value of corporate philanthropy.



Examples of CSR practiced in agribusiness are posted by Cargill (www.cargill.com) and Darigold/Northwest Dairy Association (www.darigold.com).

Upcoming Events

January 8-11, 2012

American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting
Honolulu, Hawaii, www.fb.org

January 26, 2012

Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America, Workshop and Annual Meeting
Washington, DC, www.ashca.com

February 12-16, 2012

18th World Congress on Ergonomics
Recife, Brazil, <http://www.iea2012.org/>

February 15-17, 2012

Western Migrant Stream Forum
Portland, Oregon, <http://www.nwrpca.org/>

March 18-23, 2012

30th International Congress on Occupational Health
Monterrey, Mexico, <http://www.iaamrh.org/>

May 9-11, 2012

National Farmworker Health Conference
Denver, Colorado,
<http://meetings.nachc.com/>

June 7-8, 2012

Workshop on Research Translation with Vulnerable Worker Populations
Fort Collins, Colorado,
<http://www.r2p.colostate.edu/>

June 24-28, 2012

International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health
Burlington, Vermont, www.isash.org

July 29-August 1, 2012

American Society for Agricultural and Biological Engineers Annual International Meeting - Dallas, Texas
<http://www.asabemeetings.org/>

This newsletter is a publication of the Agricultural Safety & Health Council of America, 1000 N. Oak Ave., ML1, Marshfield, WI 54449-5790.

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Financial Support

Initial support for assessing the feasibility of a Council was provided by the Farm Foundation. As of January 2008, ASHCA is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization funded by members and sponsors.

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Charter Members:

