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WELCOME FROM ISASH PRESIDENT, STEVE FREEMAN



A Message on Inclusion and the Future of ISASH

I consider the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health to be an umbrella organization where agricultural and rural safety and health professionals from many professions and backgrounds can come together because of their shared interests. ISASH exists for all affiliated safety and health professionals, not just some of them.

Our members reflect the rich diversity of cultures from around the world, representing every race and ethnicity. We encompass the full spectrum of religious and philosophical beliefs—Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, traditional folk religionists, agnostics, atheists, and those who find meaning everywhere in between. Our members, clients, students, and stakeholders represent all sexual orientations and gender identities, including heterosexual, gay, bisexual, asexual, transgender, gender fluid, and non-binary individuals. Many of us live with visible and invisible disabilities that bring unique perspectives to our work.

Professionally, we are equally diverse. Our members include engineers, researchers, educators, medical and public health professionals, labor advocates, and specialists across numerous disciplines. We work in education, government, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations, each bringing distinct experiences, knowledge, and ways of thinking to our collective mission.

This diversity is not incidental—it is fundamental to our strength and effectiveness in creating safer, healthier agricultural communities worldwide. Inclusion is not just a concept—it's a commitment. Every ISASH member should feel welcomed and valued. As President of ISASH, I want to be clear: all our members should feel that ISASH is a place where they belong, are welcomed, and where they can succeed and prosper both as professionals and as individuals. We must also stand up and defend our members who may feel marginalized or vulnerable.

Our Heritage and Evolution

ISASH's work began in the late 1940s, decades before our incorporation as the National Institute for Farm Safety in 1962. After extensive discussion and planning, we changed our name to the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health in 2011. Throughout our history, we have adapted to the ever-changing landscape of the agricultural sector, and our membership has evolved alongside these changes.

To remain viable and relevant, we must continue this evolution. We must expand our membership to welcome new groups and work diligently to prepare the next generation of agricultural safety and health professionals. Most importantly, we need to ensure that every member feels our supportive sense of community and belonging so they remain engaged as their careers evolve. We need to stay positive while supporting colleagues who are negatively impacted by uncertainty and change.

Our Strength in Unity

We are not a great organization simply because of the research or educational programs we conduct as individual professionals. We are great because of the networking and sense of community we create when we come together to advance this important work and support each other.

I am excited to work with all of you to secure ISASH's future and continue making our rural workplaces and communities safer and healthier places to work, live, and thrive. Please reach out to me at any time. Your engagement and ideas are what make ISASH strong. Let's continue to build the future of agricultural safety and health together.

Steve Freeman

President, ISASH










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2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are excited to welcome Serap Gorucu and Richard Franklin to the ISASH Board of Directors! Their expertise and passion for agricultural safety and health will be invaluable as we continue advancing our mission.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to Wendy Bennett and Athena Ramos for their dedicated service on the Board. Their leadership and commitment have made a lasting impact on our organization and the communities we serve.

The 2025-26 ISASH Board of Directors looks forward to another great year!

2023-2026	 Brian Kuhl Progressive Agriculture Foundation (2 nd Term)	 Melissa Ploeckelman National Farm Medicine Center (1 st Term)	 Briana Hagen Canadian Centre for Agricultural Wellbeing (1 st Term)
2024-2027	 Josie Rudolphi University of Illinois (2 nd Term)	 Gloria Brock Deere & Company (2 nd Term) (Serving as Past-President)	 Benton Mosely Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (1 st Term)
2025-2028	 Steve Freeman Iowa State University (2 nd Term) (Serving as President)	 Richard Franklin James Cook University (1 st Term)	 Serap Gorucu University of Florida, IFAS (1 st Term)

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2025 CONFERENCE WRAP UP

Thank you everyone who joined us in Portland, Maine at the 2025 Conference! This year's conference welcomed 140 attendees from across the world.

ISASH was proud to offer valuable content through exciting plenary sessions, collaborative presentations, and ample networking opportunities. Hands-on workshops on mental health, economic hardships, the use of technology and more equipped attendees with the tools to enhance safety and knowledge in agricultural settings.

ISASH extends another congratulations for our 8 scholarship winners from 7 different institutions who showcased their research at the 2025 Conference. These bright minds represented institutions like the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Pennsylvania State University, University of Missouri - Columbia, Walden University, and more!

ISASH is proud to present the award winners at the 2025 Awards Luncheon, and a special thank you to the ISASH Endowment Committee for making it all happen! This year's winners included:

- **Maynard Coe Professional Achievement Award:** Barbara Lee, RN, PhD, National Children's Center, Marshfield Clinic
- **Practitioner Achievement Award:** Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Program
- **Research Achievement Award:** Bryan Weichelt, PhD, MBA, National Farm Medicine Center
- **Jim Williams Early Career Achievement Award:** Dr. Florence Becot, Penn State University and Dr. Josie Rudolphi, University of Illinois

The 2025 conference was made possible through the generous support of sponsors. A special thank you to the following:

Gold Sponsors: North Carolina Agromedicine Institute

Silver Sponsors: Ag Health Central States, SMV Industries, CHS Foundation, Northeast Center of Occupational Health & Safety

Bronze Sponsors: UMASH, SAY Project, Penn State NSTMOP, The Veteran's Farm, WCAHS-Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, Southeastern Coastal Center

Friends of ISASH: Ag Health & Safety Alliance, AgInjuryNews, AgriSafe Network, Lutz Feed, Raising Hope.

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2026 SAVE THE DATE



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CALL FOR WINTER 2025 ISASH NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Do you have news to share? The ISASH Public Relations Committee, in collaboration with ASG, is seeking items for upcoming ISASH newsletters. Information needed includes:

- ISASH committee and interest group updates and announcements
- Details on upcoming agriculture safety and health meetings and conferences (dates, locations, and registration links)
- Comings (new faces/hires)
- Goings (retirements and passing of current/former ISASH members)
- ISASH member awards and achievements
- Peer-reviewed, published journal articles (please include clickable links)

Please send all content and member updates to info@isash.org.

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