

**NCERA 197 Agricultural Safety and Health Research and Extension**

**National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA  
800 9th Street SW; Room 3455; Washington, DC 20024**

**May 23-24, 2012**

**Special Notes:**

NIFA is able to arrange call-in service for those that cannot make this meeting.

Wednesday call in number (1PM-5PM): 1-800-526-2655; Passcode: 2304669

Thursday call in number (8AM-5PM): 1-800-526-2655; Passcode: 2304669

**Wednesday, May 23**

Lunch on your own in Wash DC or in route

- 1:00 – 1:05 pm Welcome and introductions (Yoder, Martin)
- 1:05 – 1:10 pm Additions /Approval of previous minutes and agenda (Yoder)
- 1:10 – 1:30 pm Review of 10/1/10 – 9/30/15 project objectives, committee member participation, operational requirements, timing of activities, progress (Midterm Review), etc. (Yoder)
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm *Objective 1. Develop a white paper that addresses agricultural confined spaces.* Review current draft for additional literature, areas of concern, references and educational resources (Field)
- 2:30 – 2:45 pm Afternoon break (on your own, Cantina on 1<sup>st</sup> floor of NIFA)
- 2:45 – 4:15 pm *Objective 2. Sponsor a national conference on agricultural confined spaces* (Aherin, Field).
- 4:15 – 4:30 pm Update on U of I OSHA grant (Aherin)
- 4:30 – 4:45 pm Update on Purdue OSHA grant (Field)
- 4:45 – 5:00 pm Discuss dinner options, adjourn (Rein)

## **Thursday, May 24**

Breakfast on your own

- 8:00 – 8:15 am      Wrap up of whitepaper and conference discussion (Yoder)
- 8:15– 8:30 am      Objective 3: *Encourage research and outreach at Land Grant universities associated with agricultural confined spaces* (AFRI) (Rein, Murphy).
- 8:30 – 8:45 am      *Objective 4. Encourage new standards.* ASABE EP 470 (Field)
- 8:45 – 9:00 am      *Objective 5: Identify the next high priority topic.* Update on New and Beginning Farmer Projects (Murphy)
- 9:00 – 10:00 am      *Objective 6. Work to increase infrastructure support for agricultural safety and health.* eXtension.org (Yoder, Fetzer)
- 10:00 – 10:15 am      Morning break (on your own, Cantina @ NIFA)
- 10:15 – 10:30 am      NIOSH update (Myers)
- 10:30 – 10:45 am      USDA-NIFA and DOL-AgHO update (Rein)
- 10:45 – 11:00 am      ASHCA, Manure project update (Murphy)
- 11:00 – 11:15 am      CASA and FARSHA updates (Hacault, Johnson)
- 11:15 – 11:30 am      Other agency and organization updates (Anyone)
- 11:30 – 11:45 am      Final comments from Administrative Advisor (Marshall)
- 11:45 am – Noon      Wrap up discussion/future meetings/conference calls (Yoder)
- Noon                      Adjourn

# Meeting Minutes

## NCERA-197

**Agricultural Safety and Health Research and Extension Coordinating Committee  
USDA-NIFA Building, Washington, DC  
Wednesday - Thursday, May 23-24, 2012**

**Attendees (in room):** Aaron Yoder – Chair (Penn State); Bob Aherin (Illinois); Connie Baggett (Penn State); Linda Fetzer (Penn State); Bill Field (Purdue); Kitty Hendricks (NIOSH); Dee Jepsen (Ohio State); Marshall Martin – Administrative Advisor (Purdue); Dennis Murphy (Penn State); Larry Olsen (Michigan State); Michael Pate (Utah State); Mark Purschwitz – Secretary (Kentucky); Brad Rein (USDA-NIFA); Chuck Schwab (Iowa State); Cheryl Skjolaas (Wisconsin); John Slocombe (Kansas State);

**Attendees (via phone):**

May 23: Marcel Hacault (CASA); Glen Raines (Georgia)  
May 24: Bruce Johnson (FARSHA); Glen Raines (Georgia)

### **Administrative**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Aaron Yoder at 1:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 23, 2012. Administrative Advisor Marshall Martin welcomed the group and reminded us that the mid-term committee review was due December 1. This follows the federal fiscal year and is done in the middle of the third year. Introductions were made; Kitty Hendricks from NIOSH-DSR was welcomed as the replacement for John Myers.

Prior to approval of the 11-23-11 minutes, Brad Rein noted that under “Agency Reports” it should have said that USDA-NIFA funding was down 2% for FY12, not USDA funding down 1%. The minutes were unanimously approved with that correction.

Chair Yoder then passed out the list of committee objectives prior to committee discussion of each objective. He asked that we let him know about anything we did individually or jointly to help NCERA-197 meet its objectives.

### **Objective 1 – Develop a white paper that addresses agricultural confined spaces**

Bill Field handed out a list of Objective 1 recommendations with a draft summary beneath each recommendation of what had been accomplished to date, which was extensive. He said this document was not for release or inclusion in the minutes. Advisor Martin reminded us to include impacts as much as possible in our reporting. Field said the draft white paper had been handed out and discussed at various meetings and the comments logged. He then handed out copies of a 2011 summary of grain entrapments in the United States, as documented by Purdue, which included 2011 data as well as data from previous years. He explained the daily searches conducted for cases, using everything from Google to Westlaw. He also handed out copies of a manuscript

submitted to JASH reporting on 1255 cases of confined space injuries and deaths, and said he believed the manuscript had been accepted.

Field reported that as a result of his talks with the grain vacuum industry, which did not think its machines could cause entrapment, these machines are now labeled accordingly.

After continuing down the list of accomplishments relative to the recommendations, Field said the list would be rewritten and also suggested changing the draft white paper to more of a progress report. There were no objections from the committee to this suggestion.

There was a discussion of OSHA exploitation of loopholes in the regulations and OSH Act relative to enforcement.

A break was taken from 2:40 to 2:55 pm.

**Objective 2 – Sponsor a national conference on agricultural confined spaces**

Bob Aherin discussed this objective. He has worked out an agreement with Kelley Donham of the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) at the University of Iowa to use the annual GPCAH November conference as a vehicle for presentation of the work being done on agricultural confined spaces. This conference would be held in Cedar Rapids, IA, on November 14-16, 2012, and would include a half-day field trip to the large Amana Farms complex nearby. There was a long discussion about the conference, potential program ideas and plans, etc. Aherin and Dennis Murphy indicated they would explore with Kelly Donham the idea of promoting the conference as not just a GPCAH conference but a collaborative event with NCERA-197.

Field and Aherin discussed their OSHA-funded projects, and indicated they were working together to avoid duplication. Purdue is focusing on surveillance, development of four training modules for the FFA curriculum website, and an eight-hour training course on grain entrapment rescue. Illinois is developing four training modules for adult workers; a fifth will be developed by GPCAH. Each module will be designed to be taught in 1.5 to 2 hours. Illinois has developed a coalition on grain storage safety and OSHA has indicated it likes the coalition. There will be a curriculum committee to develop the modules and community-based training methods. Eventually this will all be translated into Spanish.

Michael Pate reported on his grain storage survey and also on working with the Utah educational network. Murphy said Penn State is working on a 2 to 3-year project to develop online design software for engineers to use in designing manure pit ventilation.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 4:45 pm.

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The meeting resumed at approximately 8:20 a.m. on Thursday, May 24. There was more discussion of the Iowa conference and potential agenda. That conference will end at noon on November 16.

**Objective 3 – Encourage research and outreach at land grant universities on agricultural confined spaces**

Murphy provided stakeholder input for AFRI grants to help get farm safety written into RFAs. Rein has worked hard on this. Dee Jepsen noted that the Priester conference had several farm safety presentations. Field discussed his conversations with Kareem Dale, President Obama's special assistant on disability issues, and noted that AgrAbility was written into the Farm Bill.

**Objective 4 – Encourage new and improved ASABE Standards.**

It was noted that ASAE EP470 JAN1992 (R2005), Manure Storage Safety, needs revision to incorporate the latest information. (Secretary's Note: Since its adoption in 1992, it has not been revised, and was last reconfirmed in February 2005.) There is a need to find someone to lead a revision of this standard. (Secretary's Note: In the minutes of the May 17-18, 2011, meeting, it was reported that Randy Beaver at Purdue had been developing suggested revisions to EP470 and that Field would be forwarding those to Murphy.)

Field noted that there is no ASABE standard on grain storage safety. However, he reported that an external committee chaired by ASABE Past President Harmon Towne, who is a retired president of a grain bin manufacturer, has a subcommittee to draft a standard to be submitted to ASABE. Field passed out the Purdue Extension bulletin S-77, Beware of Flowing Grain Dangers.

In other standards news, Jepsen reported on the pony cart standard in progress, and Field reported on a newly-published JASH paper proposing the need for a hitch-pin standard.

**Objective 5 – Identify the next high priority topic for the Committee**

There was discussion on various issues, including the need for training of operators and workers. No conclusion was reached.

Murphy reported Penn State was developing a safety and health resource manual for new and beginning farmers; was developing a manual for farm operators/managers to use in teaching safety and health to new employees; was holding tractor driving workshops; and was developing a manual on how to teach tractor driving. Secretary Purschwitz asked to be kept in the loop on the last manual, as the issue of teaching tractor driving has come up in Kentucky.

Jepsen reported that an email with online survey about agricultural safety and health teaching had been sent to members of the agricultural safety community, and that she really needs that to be completed by those who have not done so.

### **Objective 6 – Work to increase infrastructure support within the land grant system for agricultural safety and health**

Chair Yoder passed out several documents pertaining to the new Community of Practice known as FReSH, or “Farm and Ranch eXtension in Safety and Health.” The CoP is in operation and has been focusing on new and beginning farmers. Linda Fetzer provided more information on the CoP and eXtension, and Michael Pate passed out and explained a document of Google Analytics on the CoP. There was a long discussion about eXtension, including its relationship to NASD, and funding and cost recovery. One of the documents passed out included the 2012 FReSH Business Plan.

Murphy agreed to develop a roll-up banner that promoted the activities of NCERA 197 to be used at ISASH and other conferences where members participate.

A break was taken from 10:30 to 10:45 am.

### **Agency Reports**

#### **USDA-NIFA**

Rein reported that USDA-NIFA welcomed a new director, Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy. He also reported that they are providing information to the USDOL related to the current programs that the USDA-NIFA provides related to child labor standards.

#### **ASHCA**

Murphy reported that ASHCA was planning a “big tent” event to be open to everyone in the agricultural safety and health community. This would be held in Minneapolis in September 2013 as an Agricultural Safety and Health Summit, focusing on best practices. George Conway, director of the NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (AFF) Sector would be speaking.

The next ASHCA meeting will be held in Kansas City in January 2013.

#### **FARSHA**

Bruce Johnson reported on FARSHA’s confined space activities. They have been working with a leading expert in confined spaces and have developed templates for clientele to use in identifying confined spaces, making hazard assessments, and developing entry procedures. FARSHA is developing training programs for safe confined space entry.

He discussed a Coroner's Inquest into a 2008 incident at a mushroom production facility that resulted in three worker fatalities and two workers with brain injuries.

Johnson also said a Center of Excellence is being developed at FARSHA for confined space entry training for all industries.

### **NIOSH**

Kitty Hendricks was welcomed as the replacement for John Myers on NCERA-197. Appreciation was expressed for John's years of excellent service to the Committee.

### **Other Discussion**

There was some discussion on the USDOL Wage and Hour Division notice of proposed rulemaking on child labor in agriculture and its withdrawal by DOL.

Secretary Purschwitz expressed the desire to step down as secretary after four years of service. Michael Pate was elected as the new secretary, effective after this meeting. Dee Jepsen said that if she gets tenure, she will take over as secretary. (Secretary's Note: It was not clear whether that was a serious proposal or not.)

Administrative Advisor Martin thanked the Committee and said that we are doing a good job, and anticipated no problems with the upcoming mid-term review.

In response to a question about the status of Emily Morehouse, Rein reported that she had left USDA and moved back to the Midwest. He provided the names of his program assistants: Patricia McAleer, Cami Compton, and Lexi Wilson.

Chuck Schwab reminded everyone to tell their department heads and research directors about the activities of NCERA-197.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Purschwitz, secretary