

Inside Agromedicine

Partners for Health & Safety in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

NORTH CAROLINA AGROMEDICINE INSTITUTE • WINTER-SPRING 2010

From the
Chair, Board of
Directors, NC
Agromedicine
Institute



Deirdre Mageean, PhD

The Institute's Open House and Tenth Anniversary celebrated an important benchmark. It also afforded attendees both the opportunity to look back at many accomplishments and to look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. Throughout the event it was mentioned repeatedly that the NC Agromedicine Institute's success is directly related to strong collaboration with university and community partners.

Looking back, the Institute has established itself as the state's only comprehensive agromedicine program, with a commitment to improving the health and safety of farming, fishing, and forestry communities. Since 1999, the Institute has received more than \$9 million from numerous federal, private, and non-profit organizations to support its research, prevention/intervention, and education/outreach activities.

Looking forward, the Institute is well positioned to continue its role of leadership in agricultural health and safety. Staff is engaged in addressing important issues such as pesticide exposure, farm equipment motor vehicle safety, reduction of on-farm safety hazards, safety and health insurance needs of fishermen, child health and safety in agritourism, student education in agromedicine, and professional discourse.

We invite you to join us in addressing these issues and others as we set sail for a future of success.

10th Anniversary Open House Kicks Off Banner Year of Activity

It's a milestone not all partnerships reach. So, when over 60 attendees gathered on December 10th, 2009 at ECU's West Research Campus in Greenville to celebrate, their faces reflected the pride of accomplishment and the enthusiasm for a bright and active future.

At the core of the NC Agromedicine Institute's partnership are faculty and students of East Carolina University, NC State University and NC A&T State University. They welcomed friends and colleagues from the agricultural community, health care organizations, state agencies, and non-governmental organizations whose partnership has been critical to the success of the Institute.

The Open House featured exhibits giving visitors a flavor of the Institute's work addressing the health and safety risks of farmers, foresters, fishers, their families and communities. From basic research in the human metabolism of pesticides, to fishers giving "voice" to their safety concerns through photography, to helping farm children and youth stay safe through hands-on education, to providing timber safety training to emergency medical personnel, attendees got a sense of the rich landscape that is agromedicine.

The evening was capped off by remarks by members of the Institute's Board of Directors. Dr. Deirdre Mageean, ECU's Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, commended Ms. Robin Tutor, Interim Director of the Institute, for "being responsive to the agricultural community and sparking enthusiasm among faculty for expanding agromedicine projects."

Dr. Alton Thompson, NCA&T's Interim Provost and Dean of the School



Robin Tutor, Stephen Thomas, Greg Cope, and Deirdre Mageean enjoy celebrating 10 years of progress in agromedicine.



Alton Thompson displays the Daily Reflector's story of the Institute's beginnings.

of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, recalled the early days of the Institute. He displayed a copy of the March 2001 Daily Reflector, whose front page featured an article on the Institute's first Open House held at the newly renovated West Research Campus, formerly a Voice of America site.

Dr. James Zuiches, NCSU's Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement and Economic Development, spoke of the Institute's success in light of his role on a 2008 National Academies panel reviewing NIOSH's Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Research Program. Zuiches saw clearly that the NC Agromedicine Institute "was fulfilling the ultimate goal of not only conducting needed research, but making sure that the research was put into practice in the community."

Dr. Ernest Hodgson, NCSU Distinguished Professor Emeritus,

brought humor and history together as he reflected on the pre-1999 years of collaboration that led to the Institute's establishment: "I spent many hours with Dr. Billy Caldwell, then Extension administrator, on the road to Greenville--prior to highway 64 improvements, mind you--to visit with Dr. Paul James, then a faculty physician in Family Medicine at ECU. Luckily, Billy was a great story teller, and the time flew by!"

Ms. Tutor and Dr. Hodgson announced the establishment of two new funds designed to develop private gifts to support the work of the Institute, one at ECU and one at NCSU.

The Open House ushered in a banner year of activity for the Institute. Articles in this

(continued on page 2)

10th Anniversary Open House *(continued from page 1)*

issue touch on the many health and safety interests of the agricultural community that Institute initiatives are tackling: rural roadway and farm equipment safety, AgriSafe health provider training and development of local services, Certified Safe Farm training and

implementation of local on-farm safety reviews. The next issue will highlight a major effort of the Institute and its partners: hosting the 2010 National Institute for Farm Safety Annual Conference in Wilmington, NC on June 26-July 1, 2010.



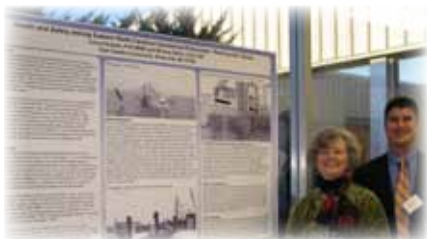
John Owens, Alton Thompson, Shirley Hymon-Parker, Richard Robbins, and Mobammed Ahmedna (all of NCA&T) enjoy the reunion with colleagues.



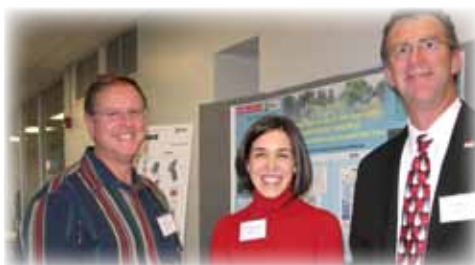
Roger Pyle shares information about the NC Forestry Association with guests.



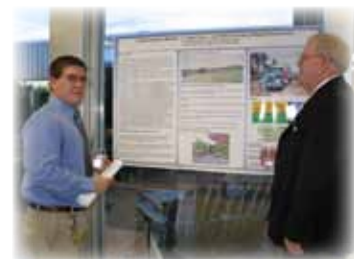
James Zuiches (NCSU), Tom Irons (ECU), and Paul Gempertline (ECU) toast the Institute's 10th anniversary.



Lena Carawan and Michael Behm (both of ECU) collaborate on safety research with fishermen.



Greg Cope, Catherine LePrevost and Ed Jones (all of NCSU) discuss Catherine's pesticide safety project for Spanish speaking farmworkers.



Trey Schneller (ECU) discusses his farmworker safety research with John Owens (NCA&T).



The Open House concluded with remarks by representatives of ECU, NCSU, and NCA&T.

NCSU Hosts Pesticide Safety and Health Training for State Agencies

On February 17, over 30 employees from the NC Department of Labor Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Structural Pest Control and Pesticide Division, and AgriSafe staff gathered for a professional development session focusing on pesticide safety and health. These state agency personnel are responsible for regulations affecting the safety of the agricultural workplace, including the safe use of pesticides. Their responsibilities sometimes overlap, and coordination of activities is a key to success. James Burnette, NCSU Pesticide Division Director and Regina Luginbuhl, NCDOL ASH Bureau Chief opened the session by providing an overview of regulations and showcasing a new safety video on hazard communication. Dr. Wayne Buhler, NCSU Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator highlighted many safety education initiatives for pesticide applicators. Sheila Higgins, Occupational Health Nurse with the NC Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health presented the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program and provided advice on how to refer cases and coordinate information follow-up. Julia Storm of NCSU Toxicology covered the topic of pesticide toxicology. Afternoon sessions involved interactive exercises. Catherine LePrevost of NCSU Toxicology demonstrated new pesticide safety resources for Spanish-speaking farmworkers. Robin



Robin Tutor shows participants how to search online for safety equipment required by the pesticide label.

Tutor, of the Institute and AgriSafe of North Carolina, and Barbara Gallagher and Karen Sirucek of AgriSafe of CommWell Health facilitated exercises on selecting personal protective equipment.

Sharing the Road: Farm Equipment and Motor Vehicles

The Institute partnered with NC Farm Bureau to conduct a Farm Equipment Motor Vehicle Roadway Safety Conference on Thursday, April 8 at NC Farm Bureau's office in Raleigh. The day-long conference presented many perspectives on this safety issue of critical concern to farmers.

The impact of the safety issue was brought home at the outset of the conference as Sean Harding of Southside Farms shared his family's personal experience of loss. Presenters went on to share the latest research and incident statistics, as well as the perspectives of federal, state, and local agencies, law enforcement and insurers. Effective safety education programs conducted by NC Cooperative Extension, NC Department of Labor, and the Governor's Highway Safety Program were shared.

The goal of the conference was to identify the extent of farm equipment and motor vehicle safety problems in the state of North Carolina and to discuss with partners how to best address these problems at a state, regional and local level. After the presentations, participants were divided into groups to prioritize problems, discuss future opportunities for collaboration on identified solutions and to identify other organizations/resources that might be available to assist with solutions.

Presenters included: Richard Blaylock, District Director, US Department of Labor, Wage Hour Division, Cliff Braam, Engineer, NC Department of Transportation Safety Division, Steve Brinn, Regional Claims Manager, NC Farm Bureau Insurance, Theresa Costello, PhD., Center for Holistic Transformation, Social Research and Action, Bryan Crook, Senior Executive, NC Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance, Sean Harding, Southside Farms, Norman Harrell, Agriculture Extension Agent, Wilson County Cooperative Extension, Regina Luginbuhl, Agricultural Safety & Health Bureau, NC Department of Labor, Don Nail, Asst. Director, Governor's Highway Safety Program, Eric Rodgman, MPH, UNC Highway Safety Research Center, and Michael Schulman, PhD., NC State University.



Norman Harrell describes the Be Seen, Be Safe Cooperative Extension educational program.



Workshop participants brainstorm solutions during breakout sessions.



Child Health and Safety in Agritourism

Free Open House and Workshop -
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 • 10 am - 2 pm
Lazy O Farm, Smithfield

RSVP by Wednesday, September 1st

to Marylee Lannan:
lannanm@ecu.edu or
252.744.1008



Storm Damage and Salvage Safety Video Available



The video was made possible with support from Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety Foundation, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company, NC Association of Professional Loggers, Inc., the NC Agromedicine Institute, Cobbler Logging, Ricky Brewer Logging, and Virginia Carolina Timber. Members of NC Association of Professional Loggers, Inc. and insured businesses with Forestry Mutual Insurance Company can obtain the video from those organizations at special pricing.



North Carolina Agromedicine Institute
 West Research Campus
 1157 VOA Site C Road
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CALENDAR

September 1, 2010: Deadline to RSVP for Child Health and Safety in Agritourism at Lazy O Farm; contact Marylee Lannan: lannanm@ecu.edu or 252.744.1008.

September 1, 2010: Deadline to apply for FS4JK Farm Family Safety Grant; Contact Shari Burgus at shari@fs4jk.org; www.fs4jk.org.

September 14, 2010: Child Health and Safety in Agritourism Open House and Workshop at Lazy O Farm, Smithfield, NC, <http://www.ecu.edu/ncagromedicine/>.

September 17, 2010: Early Registration ENDS for 2010 AgrAbility National Training Workshop, the premier training event addressing issues of disability in agriculture. Visit www.conf.purdue.edu/agrability/. No onsite registration.

September 17, 2010: Early Registration ENDS for 23rd East Coast Migrant Stream Forum, <http://www.ncchca.org/369989.ihtml>.

September 19-25, 2010: National Farm Safety and Health Week, ATVs: Work Smart. Ride Safe. <http://www.necasag.org/>.

October 11-14, 2010: 2010 AgrAbility National Training Workshop, Marriott Town Center, Charleston, West Virginia, <http://www.conf.purdue.edu/agrability/>.

October 21-23, 2010: 23rd East Coast Migrant Stream Forum, Charleston Marriott Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina, <http://www.ncchca.org/369989.ihtml>.



Special thanks to AgriSupply for enhancing the NCAI logo.

NC Agromedicine Institute

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Printed on recycled paper with non-state funds; 500 copies of this newsletter were printed at a cost of \$560 or \$1.12 per copy.

Agricultural Medicine Course is a First for the South

In early December 2009, the Institute offered the week-long Agricultural Medicine core course in Greenville. “This is the first year the agricultural medicine course has been offered anywhere in the South. We have physicians, nurses, extension agents, fire and rescue folks—just all kinds of people here—learning about respiratory diseases, skin diseases and other exposures and health hazards farmers and farm workers are at risk for,” said Robin Tutor, interim director of the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute.

Sally Messick, a family nurse practitioner in rural Hyde County, was one of 34 participants from three southeastern states to participate. “I’m the only health-care provider in Hyde County right now,” she said. “To have this training offered so close is wonderful.”

The course prepares health providers with the knowledge and skills to offer AgriSafe health services—occupational health screenings and assistance in selecting personal protective equipment such as respirators. Fifteen participants sat for the course exam, all of whom passed.

While participants spend most of the course in a conference setting, they also tour a real working farm where they can see potential hazards first hand. Participants visited Stancill Farms, a family owned, 4,500-acre, row-crop operation near Gardnerville, North Carolina.

Along with many faculty from ECU and NCSU, the course also drew experts from all over the United States to serve as presenters. The institute was particularly honored to welcome Michael C.R. Alavanja, DrPH, of the National Cancer Institute, and a team of AgriSafe pioneers from Iowa, including the program’s founder, Dr. Kelley J. Donham.

“It’s very rewarding to see this course being offered here in North Carolina,” said Donham. “I’ve been working with the folks here for about 12 years, since they were just starting to think about forming an institute. If you think about an investment, of time or money, and you hope to get a return, this has been a fantastic return on investment.”



Iowa’s LaMar Grafft highlights equipment safety during the Stancill Farm visit.



Carolyn Sheridan, AgriSafe Network Clinical Director and course instructor and course coordinators Kelley Donham, Director of Iowa’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, and Robin Tutor, Interim Director of NC Agromedicine Institute share a commitment to the agricultural community.



Carolyn Sheridan demonstrates a half-face respirator with participant Sharon Brown of CommWell Health.

Dr. Tom Irons Brings Wealth of Experience and Service to Agromedicine

Known for his bowtie and renowned as a pediatrician, Dr. Tom Irons is no stranger to the health needs of rural eastern North Carolina.

As a physician, Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine, Medical Director of Health Assist, and Co-Medical Director of the Community Care Plan of Eastern North Carolina, Dr. Irons encounters these needs on a daily basis and works diligently to address them.

A native of Greenville, Dr. Irons has only lived away from the area for a short time during his nearly 40 year career. He counts among his closest friends some of Pitt County's largest farmers and serves as volunteer Medical Director for the NC Agromedicine Institute. Still this busy physician took time to assist with planning for the Institute's first Agricultural Medicine course and to participate in the week-long event.

'I was reminded that there truly is a marked difference in rural vs. agricultural medicine,' Dr. Irons said. 'Being able to get out on the farm, see the different types of equipment, and talk to the farmer was a great help'. When asked if he would be willing to share this insight with other physicians at the 2010 North Carolina Academy of Family Practice's annual meeting, Dr. Irons gladly accepted. 'Absolutely', he said. 'It's an important subject and I'm happy to share.'



2010 Farm Show Exhibit Features AgriSafe, Certified Safe Farm and Tractor Safety



Gallagher shares Certified Safe Farm information with Jerry and Pam Schill. Jerry is the former president of the NC Fisheries Association.



AgriSafe of CommWealth Health nurse Barbara Gallagher and outreach worker Karen Sirucek offered health screenings and information to Farm Show attendees.



Visit www.necasag.org for National Farm Safety and Health Week info and PSAs.