Iowa Farm Safety Council

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Iowa Farm Safety Council with over 60 years of service

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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# **IOWA FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK**

The Iowa Farm Safety and Health Week promotion is held in conjunction with the National Farm Safety and Health Week, during September 20-26, 2015. The national theme is “*Ag safety is not just a slogan, it’s a lifestyle”* The event is coordinated by the National Safety Council and supported by other organizations and groups with interest in agricultural safety.

Agriculture has the highest annual death rates per 100,000 workers in the nation at surpassing all the other industries including mining, construction, and manufacturing. It is typically more than 5 times higher than the average death rate for all industries combined. This high death rate is why Iowans must use safe farming practices during harvest and throughout the year. This special recognition week began with President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the first proclamation for farm safety in 1944 because the high injury rate in agriculture impacted the war effort. Proclamations are still used today to reinforce the safety message during this hazardous time of harvest.

In Iowa, farm safety efforts are a unique partnership between various organizations. As president of the Iowa Farm Safety Council, I represent safety volunteers in Iowa that come together under the umbrella of the council. The Iowa Farm Safety Council with their volunteers strives to increase knowledge about agricultural hazards and dangers.

The Iowa Farm Safety Council encourages Iowans to make safe and healthy decisions this harvest season. Choose that lifestyle to prevent serious injuries and death by:

* preparing
* making safe choices when completing field adjustments or repairs,
* taking precautions to avoid slips and falls,
* making smart decisions while assigning tasks to youth,
* using and maintaining the slow moving vehicle emblem SMV correctly, and
* retrofitting tractors with rollover protective structures, ROPS.

Join the Iowa Farm Safety Council and the National Safety Council to participate in the 72nd annual National Farm Safety and Health Week September 20-26, 2015. We also urge Iowans to support the Iowa Farm Safety and Health Day for Children and Youth on September 24, 2015. During this time please encourage others to adopt safe practices and behaviors as we prepare to prevent injuries during this harvest season.

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