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September 15, 2010

## **National Institute for Farm Safety promotes solutions through diverse membership: *Contact list available on NIFS website***

In a typical year, 551 workers die while doing agricultural work in the United States and about 88,000 suffer lost-time injuries. Most of these incidents are preventable.

National Farm Safety and Health Week (September 19-25) recognizes the hazardous nature of the agriculture industry and promotes awareness of safety solutions.

In conjunction with the week-long observance, the National Institute for Farm Safety (NIFS) is sharing its collective expertise via an updated list of farm safety and health professionals.

“Our strength is in our professional diversity,” said NIFS President Michael DeSpain, manager of product safety and compliance at John Deere. “NIFS members include engineers, educators, insurers, physicians, nurses, veterinarians, statisticians, communicators, business leaders and others who contribute to a safer and healthier agricultural work place.”

The list can be found on the NIFS website at <http://nifsagsafety.org/news/index.cfm?newsID=14>.

“This list consists of members of NIFS who have agreed to serve as contacts for agricultural safety and health issues, in order to provide access to local professionals,” said Robert (Chip) Petrea, secretary of NIFS and an Extension specialist in agricultural safety and health at the University of Illinois. “The list is alphabetized by state and includes a contact name, the contact’s institution or organization, phone number and email.”

There will also be a link to the list from the website of the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety ([www.necasag.org](http://www.necasag.org)). NECAS is the agricultural partner for the National Safety Council, and has developed a variety of other safety articles and public service announcements on this year’s theme for National Farm Safety and Health Week, *ATVs: Work Smart, Ride Safe*.

National Farm Safety and Health week was initiated by the National Safety Council in 1944 and proclaimed as such by each U.S. president since.