

# Iowa Farm Safety Council

*with over 60 years of service*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **IOWA FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK**

Iowa Farm Safety and Health Week is being held in conjunction with the National Farm Safety and Health Week, which is also September 18-24. The national theme is “Harvesting Safety and Health.” The event is coordinated by the National Safety Council and joined by a host of other farm safety groups.

Since agriculture has one of the highest annual death rates for workers in the nation, it is imperative that Iowans implement and use safe farming practices throughout the year. This week during September is the traditional kick off campaign to reinforce this safety message that began with President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing of the first proclamation for farm safety in 1944.

In Iowa, farm safety efforts are a unique partnership between insurance companies, equipment dealers, educators, farmers, and medical professionals. Hillers, president of the Iowa Farm Safety Council estimates over 10,000 youth learn about safety in different educational programs like farm safety day camps and in-school programs, which require many volunteers. In addition, the Iowa Farm Safety Council has several thousand elementary school children who participate in an annual fire safety education and poster program. Its programs like these that emphasize this year’s theme of harvesting the safety and health.

The Iowa Farm Safety Council urges Iowans to devote valuable time and resources in agricultural safety and health this year. You can harvest a lifetime of safety and health benefits by:

- retrofitting tractors with rollover protective structures, ROPs,
- installing and using all safety shields,
- following safety recommendations for all equipment operation, and
- making sensible choices while operating agricultural equipment this harvest.

As president of the Iowa Farm Safety Council, Hillers represents more than 150 safety volunteers in agriculture, business, industry and the medical community. The Iowa group joins

the National Safety Council to celebrate the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 18-24.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: More information about the Iowa Farm Safety Council can be downloaded from the web site: <http://www.abe.iastate.edu/Safety/ifsc.htm>.