

## THE AGRISAFE NETWORK FOR FARMERS

Farmers suffer from an increased incidence of:

- respiratory diseases
- zoonotic diseases
- skin cancer
- chronic back pain
- musculoskeletal disorders
- arthritis
- hearing loss
- depression
- disabling injuries
- occupational fatalities

*AgriWellness welcomes a guest author this month:*

Natalie C. Roy, M.P.H.  
Executive Director  
AgriSafe Network

For further information about the AgriSafe Network and its important work, please visit

[www.agrisafe.org](http://www.agrisafe.org)

*Thank you Natalie.*

Despite their occupational risks, farmers are unlikely to receive preventive health care from a professional specially trained in the field of agricultural occupational health. Rural practitioners are well positioned to integrate occupational agricultural health care into the primary care setting. Rural providers must be trained to recognize symptoms that are agriculture-related and then must be capable of recommending personal protective equipment and education to improve the symptoms. AgriSafe aims to shift the quality of care towards an occupational approach so that farmers can receive the same occupational care afforded to other industries.

The AgriSafe Network is a national membership organization founded in 2003 by health professionals trained to serve the unique health care needs of farm families.

### *Mission*

To support a growing network of trained agricultural health and safety professionals who assure access to preventative services for farm families and the agricultural community.

### *Vision*

We envision a day when farmers across the country have access to highly trained AgriSafe professionals. That local AgriSafe clinician will provide superior disease management and prevention services to match a farmer's specific exposures.

AgriSafe has come to embody an innovative movement, a true shift in perception. The message is simple.

*Farmers deserve the right health care,*

*At the right time*

*From the right person.*

That “right person” is the AgriSafe healthcare provider. AgriSafe providers are especially trained to care for the occupational health care of farm families. For many farmers, they provide a point of entry into the health care system before serious conditions develop. AgriSafe Providers deliver disease management, individualized recommendations for personal protective equipment and refer, as necessary, to specialized health care services.

Developing collaborative sustainable programs and designing future federal funded projects to include agricultural occupational health services is necessary to fully meet the needs of our nation’s farmers and their families.

AgriSafe will continue to collaborate with university and non-profit organizations to strengthen health care services and training of rural providers. Research-to-Practice initiatives utilizing university expertise will strengthen the quality of services provided to the farming community by AgriSafe clinicians.

AgriSafe clinics are located in many states.  
Please visit [www.agrisafe.org](http://www.agrisafe.org) to learn more.



## Training Opportunities

(for more information and to view other trainings please visit [www.agrisafe.org](http://www.agrisafe.org))

### AgriSafe Webinars

AgriSafe monthly web-based sessions combine an opportunity to collaborate with safety and health professionals from across the country. Previous topics included; respiratory PPE, H1N1, farming with a disability, childhood guidelines for agricultural tasks, ATV safety, rural advocacy, safe ergonomic practices, depression, hearing conservation, and migrant health. Visit [www.agrisafe.org](http://www.agrisafe.org) for a listing of upcoming sessions.

**Training Workshops** are designed to give health providers, safety personnel and educators useful information so they may serve the occupational health needs of the agricultural community. Trainings can be customized to meet the needs of various audiences and can be arranged on site. Most workshops can be offered within a three-four hour time frame.