

CARPE DIEM

Seize the day. The AgriWellness Board of Directors has done just that. When the board members and staff gathered for a strategic planning session in November, Congress still had not funded the Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) even though it was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. The future of behavioral health supports for farm people looked uncertain.

And then the discussion started. Directors, some present in person and some linked in by conference call, determined to lead the nation in developing behavioral health supports for farm people.

“The decision to go forward with a new vision will bring AgriWellness’ very unique and successful model of agricultural behavioral health services closer to our nation’s farm and ranch families and workers at a time when the need never was greater.”

--Dr. J. Patrick Hart, Hart & Associates,
Rural2Rural Consulting

AgriWellness dedicated itself to serving as the **leading national voice** for individuals and organizations that respond to the behavioral health needs for farm people. AgriWellness and its partners will offer the expertise, experience and resources acquired through the eleven years of the Sowing the Seeds of Hope (SSoH) program to the rest of the nation. AgriWellness and its partners can provide culturally appropriate trainings, evaluation and standardized data collection expertise and research to the rest of the country. Another exciting effort that AgriWellness is leading is the development of a textbook and curriculum that will be able to be used in medical schools and other arenas to educate health providers. AgriWellness believes that the timing is right, with this year bringing a confluence of factors including the national recognition of the importance of behavioral health of farm people (e.g. the NORA document), the inclusion of FRSAN in the Farm Bill, the success of the SSoH program and the interest in such behavioral health supports by officials in many other states.

The AgriWellness board has already taken initial steps to make this national vision a reality, including approving a number of options for the future and beginning the process of revising bylaws and other necessary documents.

The AgriWellness board and staff are enthusiastic about this new national vision for agricultural behavioral health supports. Everyone involved is looking toward the future that expands the support for farm people and addresses even more fully the need that we all know exists across the country.

Thank you to the AgriWellness board for “seizing the day” and electing to carry on the mission of AgriWellness with thoughtfulness and foresight.

Keep tuned to AgriWellness for exciting developments.

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The AgriWellness Executive Director, Dr. Michael Rosmann, has recently been recognized by two Iowa organizations for his dedication to providing behavioral health supports for farm people in Iowa.

Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) named Mike as one of two 2010 recipients of its Agricultural Safety and Health Hall of Fame Award. I-CASH says that it created the Hall of Fame Award in 2002 as a lifetime achievement award for individuals or organizations that have made significant and lasting contributions to agricultural safety and health in Iowa.

The other recipient was Shari Burgus from Iowa's Farm Safety4Just Kids. Mike and Shari were recognized on November 17, 2010 at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health forum banquet.

The Iowa Psychological Association named Mike as one of two recipients for its 2010 Ann Ernst Public Service Award. The other recipient was Dr. Darshan Singh, formerly the Director of Counseling Services for the Des Moines schools.

This award honors an IPA member who has rendered outstanding service of a psychological nature to society at large. IPA members nominate and select the award recipient. Mike's contributions to the field that were noted in his nomination include: The creation of AgriWellness, Inc.; his major role in the development of the Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network; his work with the American Psychological Association in the mid-1990's that served to help modify the rules so that the National Health Service Corps could provide incentives to psychologists who work in designated rural mental health shortage areas, and his leadership and efforts with other organizations that were successful in getting legislation passed in Iowa that required insurance companies to reimburse nurse practitioners for their services.

*Congratulations to Mike and Thank You to I-CASH and the IPA for the
kind words and recognition.*

AgriWellness, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation and gratefully accepts donations for its work. If you would like to make a donation to AgriWellness, please call 712-235-6100 or email us at info@agriwellness.org, or send a contribution to AgriWellness, Inc., 1210 7th St. Ste. C, Harlan, IA 51537.

We thank you for your consideration.