

Healthy Farmer

January 2011

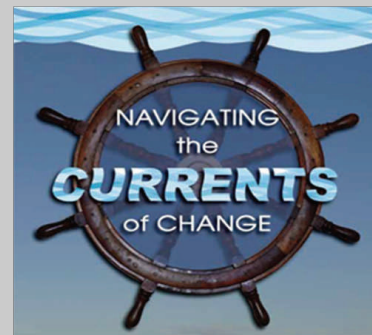
A publication by AgriWellness, Inc.

Are You Making Summer Plans Yet?

Yes, we know there is snow piled up all over and the temperatures are at freezing, but believe it or not, summer is just a few months away. If you would like a short getaway this summer, AgriWellness has an opportunity for you! Our 5th biennial conference will be held in partnership with the National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) annual conference in Dubuque, IA. Mark your calendars and plan to attend:

Navigating the Currents of Change
June 22-25, 2011

**Grand Harbor Hotel and
Grand River Conference Center**
Dubuque, Iowa



We are excited about this conference because it will bring together experts, service providers, researchers and agricultural people to learn and discuss the future of agricultural behavioral health. There are already three keynote presenters confirmed:

Dr. Ron Manderscheid, Executive Director of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Directors, has agreed to open the conference with his address about national healthcare reform and its implications for reducing disparities in delivering behavioral healthcare to rural Americans.

Mr. Mark Rukavina, Executive Director of the Access Project, will also be providing a keynote address. The Access Project addresses health disparities that exist for the residents of rural America and conducts many studies about health insurance and health care in rural America.

Ms. Cheryl Cook, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development, has agreed to deliver two plenary addresses at the conference, one devoted to the role of the USDA in enhancing healthcare in rural and agricultural areas of the country and the other devoted to indicating how the USDA can impact rural diversity, disparities, disasters, deployment issues and domestic violence.

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There will be many workshops over the four-day period that will be excellent resources for agricultural people. Break-out sessions will address domestic violence in rural areas, the proper role of the USDA in serving agricultural people, the future of the new national AgriWellness, soldiers returning to rural areas and health care disparities. The conference will be a time to learn and talk with others who understand the agricultural life in all its distinctiveness.

Of course, conferences are not *all* about learning so there will be plenty of time to relax and enjoy the many activities that are available around the Port of Dubuque. This area was recently renovated and now contains some fun for everyone. Kids and families will enjoy the fun-filled indoor water park that is in the conference hotel and also a trip to the hands-on National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.



Just a short drive away at Dyersville, is the popular Field of Dreams where the 1989 movie was filmed. Be sure to load up your bats and balls when you visit the diamond. The National Farm Toy Museum is also located in Dyersville and will be a delight to the child in all of us. NARMH will be hosting a twilight riverboat dinner cruise on that Thursday evening which is open to all participants and families for a small additional cost.

The historical areas of Dubuque and Galena, IL offer shopping and attractions for the history buffs. The New Melleray Abbey is located just south of Dubuque in Peosta. The Trappist monks who live there support themselves by making caskets and by farming one of the first organic farms in Iowa. A visit to this monastery brings serenity and stirs our contemplative nature, especially if you are able to attend one of the daily liturgical prayers.

The Mines of Spain Recreation Area features an interpretive trail and miles of hiking paths through wooded and prairie lands. Lead was mined here and Julien Dubuque is buried here. To find out more about all that the Port of Dubuque has to offer, please visit www.grandharborresort.com

There will likely be a limited number of scholarships available for people who are engaged in agriculture to attend the conference. To find out more about the conference, please visit www.narmh.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to our 5th biennial conference in June. Look for more information about registration soon!

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.