

Ag Health and Safety Alliance™

# GEAR UP FOR AG™ YEAR IN REVIEW 2025-2026



 [www.aghealthandsafety.com](http://www.aghealthandsafety.com)

 Greenville, Iowa, USA

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# AG HEALTH AND SAFETY ALLIANCE™

## Protecting Agricultural Workers

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### WHO WE ARE

**Ag Health and Safety Alliance™** is an international nonprofit organization, registered in the US and Canada, that focuses on health and safety for the next generation of agriculture. Our programs are tailored specifically to our audience with ongoing development and promotion of dynamic programs.

### CORE PROGRAM

Our **Gear Up for Ag Health and Safety™ (Gear Up for Ag™)** program is trademarked in 5 countries (US, Canada, Australia, Denmark & Sweden) and focuses on educating the next generation of agriculture by interacting with students at ag colleges and high schools. This program applies to any student engaged in agriculture.

### WHAT WE DO

By delivering comprehensive programs and resources, we empower young workers to understand the **importance of health and safety in agriculture**. Our initiatives aim to reduce risks and promote well-being among all agricultural workers. We believe that informed individuals can make safer choices, ultimately contributing to a healthier farming sector for future generations. Through the development of innovative resources and programs, we provide essential education, prevention strategies, and practical training to ensure safety in agricultural environments.

Our mission focuses on fostering a culture where health and safety are valued, practiced, and embedded across the agricultural community.



# GEAR UP FOR AG™

## Protecting the Next Generation of Agriculture

The Gear Up for Ag Health & Safety™ Program engaged **over 1200 participants** across Canada and the US in 2025-2026. From September 2025 to May 2026, our team successfully delivered **28 programs** across the US and Canada. This work was made possible through collaboration with partners, instructors, and contributions from our dedicated sponsors.

### 2025 - 2026 Program Year

#### Student Profile

##### Gender

##### Canada

Male: 49%

Female: 51%

##### US

Male: 56.7%

Female: 43.3%



#### Student Profile

##### Type of agriculture with the highest %

##### Livestock

Canada: 65%

US: 66%

##### Row Crop

Canada: 61 %

US: 68%



# AWARENESS AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

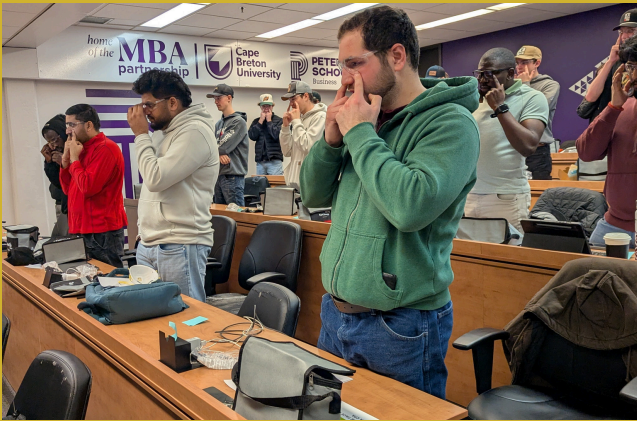
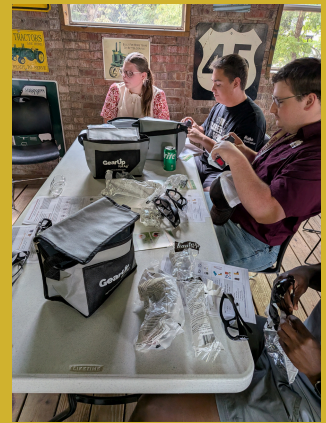
The Ag Health & Safety Alliance is transforming agricultural health and safety by recognizing that simply raising awareness of risks is rarely enough to change deeply ingrained behaviors, cultural norms, or long-standing farming practices. Instead, AgHSA develops engaging, tailored educational programs that address the behavioral factors influencing safety decisions.

By combining social and psychological insights with innovative technologies such as mobile learning platforms and immersive Virtual Reality (VR/360) experiences, AgHSA provides personalized, risk-free training that strengthens risk perception, increases the adoption of personal protective equipment, and promotes lasting behavior change. Through this approach, AgHSA is helping cultivate a sustainable culture of safety for the next generation of agricultural workers.



Participants reported a **significant increase** in their awareness of agricultural health and safety, with **92.6%** feeling more informed about their own safety practices and **93.1%** recognizing the safety of their family and peers. This change in mindset reflects the effectiveness of the programs in promoting a culture of safety within the agricultural community.

An impressive **97.1%** of respondents reported learning at least one new, useful thing, demonstrating the program's capability to impart valuable safety knowledge. Furthermore, **89.7%** of participants expressed the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE) in their agricultural practices, underscoring the need for ongoing education in safety measures.



# GEAR UP FOR AG OUR MEMORIES

2025- 2026

# eLEARNING

Learn more about agricultural health and safety with Ag Health and Safety Alliance's eLearning program.

The eLearning program complements the Gear Up for Ag™ onsite program or can be used as a standalone training tool. It features videos, infographics, checklists, web links, virtual 360° activities, and fact sheets delivered through interactive activities such as quizzes, matching exercises, card sorting, clickable content, and slide navigation.

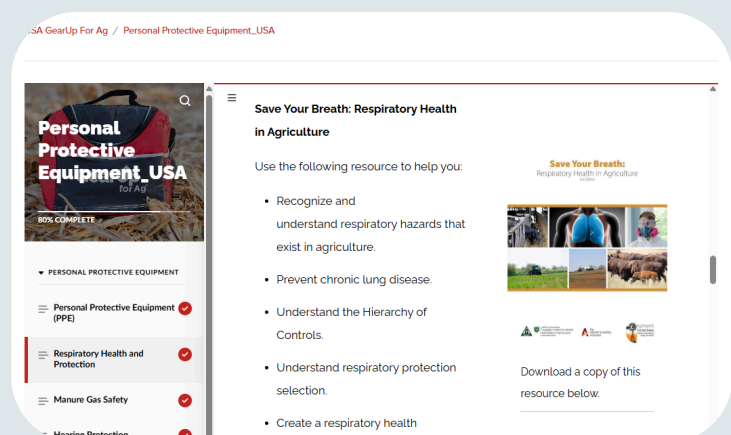
We are pleased to announce that our eLearning modules have transitioned to the Ag Health and Safety Alliance website. The courses will be available, with a coupon code, to participants attending Gear Up for Ag programs. Demo courses are also available for anyone interested in learning more about the eLearning program and the many ways it can be used.

**We recognize that not every college or organization is able to host an in-person Gear Up for Ag program, and we want to ensure this important training remains accessible as an eLearning option.**

## eLearning Content

- Ag Health and Safety Topics
- Regional & Partner Resources
- Downloadable Resources
- Knowledge Checks
- Certificate of Completion

**Demo Courses  
Available**



**Learn More**

<https://aghealthandsafety.com/shop/>

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# SURVEY RESULTS AND FOCUS AREAS

Pre-surveys identify students' agricultural health and safety knowledge, behaviors, and risk exposures, while post-surveys measure learning outcomes and program impact. Key findings from the 2025-2026 evaluation data across Canada and the United States highlight several priority areas.

- **Livestock:** 70% worked with livestock before age 14, 67% have handled treatment needles, and 28% have experienced a needle stick.
- **ATV/QUAD/UTV Safety:** 85% use ATVs/UTVs for farm work, 29% have rolled one, yet only 11% always wear a helmet.
- **Respiratory Health:** Nearly half (45%) experience symptoms after dusty work, while only 13% consistently wear an N95 respirator.
- **Hearing Protection:** 62% report ringing in their ears after loud noise exposure, but only 11% always wear hearing protection.
- **Pesticide Safety:** Although 43% mix or apply pesticides, only 22% consistently use appropriate PPE.

**Improvement in knowledge:** The evaluation data demonstrated a significant improvement in safety knowledge and intended behaviors. Correct identification of respiratory protection for potential H<sub>2</sub>S exposure increased from 15.6% to 51.6%, while "I don't know" responses fell from 40.8% to 6.6%.

**PPE remained a major strength:** 89.7% found value in receiving PPE, and approximately 70-80% of participants reported they had already used or planned to use the PPE provided. Nearly 60% planned to purchase additional protective equipment, indicating increased commitment to safer agricultural practices.

## Program Reception

Program reception was very positive: 97.1% reported learning at least one or several useful things, and 86.8% said the amount of information was just right. 73.4% shared or planned to share health and safety information with peers or family.



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# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Conferences and Presentations

- ISASH Conference 2025-Portland, Maine - June 2025
  - CS- CASH Ag Health and Safety, Omaha, Nebraska -July 2025
  - Nordic Meeting, Ystad, Sweden - September 2025
  - MRASH Conference, Amana, Iowa - November 2025
  - WA Agriculture WHS State Conference, Perth, Australia - February 2026
  - FS Grow Mark Safety Meeting, Ames, Iowa - March 2026
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## High School

In January 2026, a maternity leave for an instructor at the Lennox School District in South Dakota created a unique opportunity to deliver a customized **Gear Up for Ag eLearning** program to high school students. The flexible online format ensured students continued to receive engaging and practical agricultural health and safety education, demonstrating the program's ability to adapt to diverse learning environments. This initiative proved to be an excellent example of how innovative approaches can expand access to high-quality safety education.

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## Indigenous Program

In April 2026, we collaborated with Lethbridge Polytechnic in Alberta, Canada, to deliver our first Indigenous **Gear Up for Ag** program for their Ag students. The initiative included the customized eLearning course and personal protective equipment (PPE) provided through the generous support of our sponsors. The program marked an important milestone in expanding culturally relevant agricultural health and safety education with additional programs planned for the 2026-2027 program year.

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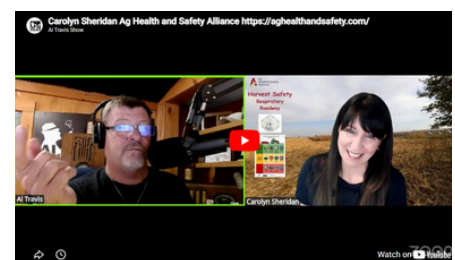
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## Radio

**6 years & 300 + radio shows**

Over the past 6 years, Carolyn Sheridan and Al Travis have met every Friday at 8:30 am to talk about ag health and safety on the **Al Travis Radio Show**. The over 300 (live on Zoom) radio shows have been entertaining, serious, and informative, with the main message being how to protect farmers and their families while promoting AHSA and partner resources. See those shows on our [NEWS tab](#).

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## Publications

[Filtering facepiece respirator use among farm youth in the US: A review](#)

JL Gibbs, B Vollmer, CE Sheridan, K Pinkerton, RT Anthony, S Holm, Holm, Catherine Karr, Anna Proctor, Andrea Swenson *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene* 23 (3), 178-190

[Organization of Community-Based Respirator Fit Testing Programs for Agricultural Workers](#)

JL Gibbs, CE Sheridan, E Duysen, E Danielson, R Tutor, TR Anthony *Workplace health & safety* 74 (2), 89-97

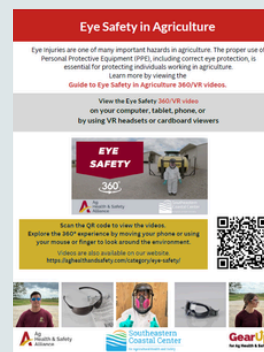
**View more publications on our website: <https://aghealthandsafety.com/resource-publications/>**



# NEW RESOURCES

## Ag Health and Safety Resources Developed in 2025-2026

Eye Injuries are one of many important hazards in agriculture. The proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including correct eye protection, is essential for protecting individuals working in agriculture. Learn more by viewing the [Guide to Eye Safety in Agriculture 360/VR video](#). Instructions on how to view the 360/VR video are located on our website. Funded by: [Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety](#).



The [HPAI Exposure Prevention in Dairy & Poultry Facilities Videos](#) show how to properly put on, remove, discard, sanitize, and store reusable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to minimize the risk of contamination from diseases like avian influenza. [Watch the videos on the Ag Health and Safety Alliance and CS-CASH website](#).

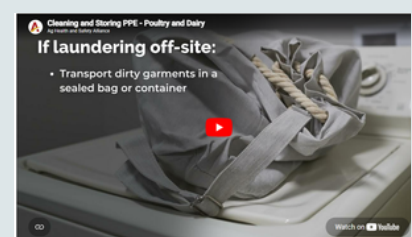
Funded by the [Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health](#)



**Donning (putting on) PPE**



**Doffing (taking off) PPE**



**Cleaning & Storing PPE**

These resources are examples of using **innovative technologies** such as mobile learning platforms and immersive Virtual Reality (VR/360) experiences, which result in personalized, risk-free training that strengthens risk perception, increases the adoption of personal protective equipment, and promotes lasting behavior change.

# GEAR UP FOR AG AUSTRALIA



## Expanding Our Global Impact

The Ag Health and Safety Alliance is proud to partner with [SafeFarms WA](#) to bring the Gear Up for Ag program to Western Australia. Working closely with the SafeFarms WA team, led by David Sullivan, we adapted and customized resources to meet local needs, resulting in more than 230 Murdoch University students participating in an engaging and practical health and safety learning experience. The combination of the traditional farm visit, the Gear Up for Ag program, and the [SafeFarms WA Green Card](#) created a highly effective educational model, with special thanks to [Moldex](#) for providing PPE.

This partnership demonstrates how collaboration and innovation can successfully expand agricultural health and safety education across borders. SafeFarms WA is now offering these programs to agricultural colleges, schools, and universities throughout Western Australia, creating new opportunities to prepare the next generation of agricultural leaders. It serves as an excellent example of how the Ag Health and Safety Alliance works with international organizations to adapt and deliver the Gear Up for Ag program in new countries and regions. [Contact us](#) to learn how we can partner with your organization.

**SafeFarms WA - Gear Up for Ag™ Program Details**

The Gear Up for Ag™ Program is a unique health and safety training initiative designed for the next generation of agriculture. The program uses a combination of live demonstrations, virtual reality, 360° learning tools, and storytelling to engage participants. Content is customized for each group of young adults based on their location, feedback from instructors, partners, and responses to a pre-program survey. Programs typically range from 1.5 to 2 hours in length. Pre- and post-program surveys are used to tailor content and evaluate program impact.

**Ag Health and Safety Topic Examples**

- Proper PPE use and care
- Machinery safety
- Quad bike safety
- Eye safety
- Hearing conservation and protection
- Respiratory health and protection
- Reducing pesticide exposures
- Livestock safety
- Zoonosis
- Heat stress and sun safety
- Cold weather safety
- Stress and mental health in agriculture

Topics are customized for each program based on pre-survey data and instructor feedback.

**Green Card for Ag Safety™ is part of the Gear Up for Ag program.**

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**  
Gear Up participants receive PPE as part of interactive demonstrations. The type of PPE is based on available PPE and funding.

**PPE Examples include:**

- N95 filtering facepiece respirators
- Safety glasses
- Hearing protection
- Chemical gloves
- Gear Up for Ag PPE Bag

## Customized Gear Up for Ag Resources

**REST IN A COOL AREA**

- Under shade
- Air conditioned
- Avoid direct sunlight

**BE VISIBLE**

- NO EXTRA RIDERS
- WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
- INFORM FAMILY & PEERS ABOUT LOCATION



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# SPONSORS & PARTNERS

The success of our programs is made possible through the generous support of our partners and sponsors. Their contributions help fund essential resources, including personal protective equipment (PPE) for every student, while supporting the development, customization, and delivery of our educational programs.

Our Canadian partner organizations collaborate with the Ag Health and Safety Alliance to develop, customize, and deliver programs tailored to their regions. Each program also includes the distribution of local resources, ensuring students are aware of services and supports available after the program is completed. Key 2025-2026 partners include [AgSafe Alberta](#), the [Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health \(CCRAH\)](#), and [Vital Insight](#).

In Canada, our long-term sponsors include [Farm Credit Canada](#), [Syngenta Canada](#), and [TC Energy](#). In addition to their financial support, these organizations provide valuable topic-specific health and safety resources that enhance both the Gear Up for Ag program and its eLearning course. We are also pleased to welcome [SouthBow](#) as a new partner, supporting the expansion of Gear Up for Ag programming in selected provinces in Canada and states in the United States.

In the United States, many of our supporters continue to be NIOSH Agricultural Safety and Health Centers, where Gear Up for Ag programs are integrated into research projects and resource development initiatives. Colleges are also essential partners, providing ongoing program delivery while contributing funding for additional PPE and continued program expansion.

Agricultural health and safety organizations across North America are invaluable partners, sharing expertise and educational resources that strengthen our ability to customize both our eLearning course and onsite programs to meet local needs.

We extend our sincere thanks to our 2025-2026 program sponsors and partners for their commitment to protecting the next generation of agriculture. Learn more about our sponsors and partners and discover how you can help support the future of agricultural health and safety.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
Canadian Centre for Rural  
and Agricultural Health  
CCHSA-CCSSMA.USASK.CA



# International Team & Partners



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# GET IN TOUCH

**We believe that creating a safer and healthier future for agriculture requires collaboration. Whether you are an educator, industry partner, sponsor, employer, or community organization, we invite you to connect with us and be part of the solution. Together, we can develop innovative programs, expand access to life-saving resources, and empower the next generation of agricultural workers. Contact us to learn how you can partner with us, support our mission, or bring our programs to your community.**

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