



2010 ASHCA Officer and Board of Director Profiles

Officers

Chair William Nelson, MA is President of the CHS Foundation and The Cooperative Foundation, and the Director of the New Leader Institute. He serves as a member of the National Council on Farmer Cooperatives' Executive Education Committee and coordinates the National Directors Conference for NCFC.

Vice-President Dan Hair, MS is the Senior Vice President, Safety and Underwriting for the Workers Compensation Fund. He is responsible for the loss control and underwriting operations of the company. Mr. Hair began his insurance career with the State Compensation Insurance Fund of California in 1976, and spent 25 years with Zenith Insurance Company in a variety of technical and management positions ending as Senior Vice President and National Director of Safety & Health.

Secretary-Treasurer Marsha Purcell is Director of Program Development for the Organization Team of the American Farm Bureau Federation. She is directly responsible for women's leadership development programs, agricultural promotion and education programs, and the Farm Bureau safety program. Prior to her current position, she also served as Managing Director of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

Board of Directors

Cornelius Blanding serves as the Director of Field Operations & Special Projects for the Federation of Southern Cooperatives – in which he is responsible for developing strategies that create an environment where cooperatives and state associations thrive within the organization's mission and supporting field staff with identifying and assessing the resources needed in the field. His experiences include business development, management and marketing.

Michael DeSpain, MBA is the President-Elect of the National Institute for Farm Safety, a professional society dedicated *to the professional development of agricultural safety and health professionals, providing national and international leadership in preventing agricultural injuries and illnesses to the agricultural community*. Mr. Despain is employed as the Product Safety Engineer for Deere & Company located at the Worldwide Headquarters in Moline, IL where he has responsibility for training, promoting, and governing John Deere product safety activities at design units worldwide.

Darrin Drollinger is Vice President, Statistical, Technical and Safety Services, with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), where he is responsible for the association's technical, regulatory and safety activities. AEM is the North American-based international trade association whose members manufacture equipment, products and services used worldwide in the construction, agriculture, forestry, mining and utility fields.

Frank Gasperini, MSc is the Executive Vice President of the National Council of Agricultural Employers (NCAE) located in Washington, DC. NCAE focuses on agricultural labor issues from the employer perspective and is active in broad coalitions to promote positive immigration reform and labor enforcement at the federal level. Mr. Gasperini's background includes both specialty and production agricultural markets and issues.

Leon Graves is the Vice President of Dairy Marketing Services, LLC. Prior to assuming this position he was the Director of Operations & Regulatory Affairs for Dairy Marketing Services, a position held since January of 2006. He was raised on a 350 acre dairy farm in Fairfield, VT, which he leased from his parents in 1973, milking Brown Swiss and Holstein cows through 1995, raising his own replacements and feed for his dairy operation. He was a State Senator from Franklin County (1995) serving on the Agriculture, Health and Welfare, and Judiciary Committees; and Member of the Vermont House of Representatives (1987-1994) serving on the Agriculture, Appropriations and Education Committees.

Paul Gunderson, Ph.D. is Director of the Dakota Center for Technology Optimized Agriculture, Devil's Lake, North Dakota. Dr. Gunderson's career exploring the health impact of human activity in agricultural work settings began in 1976 with research on the respiratory effect of working in poultry barns, and continued until his initial retirement in 2000. He has conducted numerous research initiatives exploring the health effects of agricultural exposures, convened scientific meetings and seminars, chaired scientific review mechanisms that rate applications for federal funding, and repeatedly testified before Congress about the need for a national agenda for agricultural health and safety.

Brittany Jablonsky is the Government Relations Representative for the National Farmers Union in Washington, DC. National Farmers Union is a national federation of State Farmers Union organizations in the United States. It is the second largest general farm organization in the country.

Mark M. Jansen is Vice President, Corporate Safety & Health for Zenith Insurance Company. Mr. Jansen, headquartered in Woodland Hills, California is responsible for directing the department's function on a national level with ten regional offices throughout the country. The staff provides policyholder services to reduce potential injuries and their associated causes. He has 30 years experience in loss control. He has an Associate in Risk Management and earned a Masters of Business Administration from Pepperdine's President/Key Executive program. Zenith Insurance Company provides Workers' Compensation coverage to over 4,000 accounts nationwide.

Jan Klodowski, MBA is the Vice President of Agri-Services Agency, LLC, located in Syracuse, New York. She has over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry, working closely with loss control, claims, and insurance professionals to develop and share strategies promoting safety awareness on the farm.

Kerry Leedom Larson, DVM, MPH is a veterinarian trained in public health. She works as a consultant for the National Pork Board and is currently completing a PhD in Agricultural Safety and Health from the University of Iowa.

Dennis Murphy, PhD, is a distinguished professor of agricultural safety and health and extension safety specialist, and leads Penn State's agricultural safety and health extension, research and teaching program. He is a nationally and internationally recognized leader in agricultural safety and health. His interests include: applied research and education for: tractor and machinery safety issues; youth safety; classification of agricultural deaths and injuries; methods of modifying farm worker safety behavior; evaluating safety interventions; and responding to farm injury emergencies.

Rex Runyon, MS is the Vice President of Media Relations and Stewardship of CropLife America, Washington, DC. Established in 1933, CropLife America represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CropLife America's member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers