



2020 North American Agricultural Safety Summit

Media Kit

BIG-PICTURE QUOTES ON SAFETY

In order to keep pace with world population growth, we need to double food production in the next 20 years without doubling land in agriculture, said Joel Sherman, vice president, safety and corporate affairs, Grimmway Enterprises. “That should be in the back of everyone’s mind who is concerned about agriculture and concerned about safety.”

As food production ramps up, so will the percentage of workers who are new to agriculture, posing a large safety challenge. “We get these in-and-out employees through guest worker programs as a stop-gap, and then the question becomes, ‘How do we train them in such a short timeframe,’” said Lourdes Gonzales, director of human resources, Gowan Group.

“ASHCA is a big tent,” said Dan Hair, senior vice president and chief risk officer, WCF Insurance. “Our summits demonstrate how much more we can do when producers, researchers, product groups, risk managers, and regulators work together on problems.”

“I hate the term ‘Safety First,’ because it makes you think of it as something separate from your work,” said Joel Sherman, vice president, safety and corporate affairs, Grimmway Enterprises. “Safety is not an interruption to your work. It’s the way you get your work done.”

“We’re in this together -- academics, ag businesses, ag producers and ag safety risk managers -- and we share a focus on raising the bar on ag safety and health,” said Scott Heiberger, President-Elect, International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health.

“Safety in agricultural production is not a luxury, nor is it something that we can afford to leave to regulators to decide for us,” said Jose Perez of Wonderful Co. “Intentionally and systematically building a culture of safety in agriculture, from the smallest to the largest producers or agriculture related businesses is more than an ethics issue, it is also the only way to build profitable and sustainable businesses.”