

# RF-DASH Newsletter



Trainings and Their Impact

January 2024  
Issue #11

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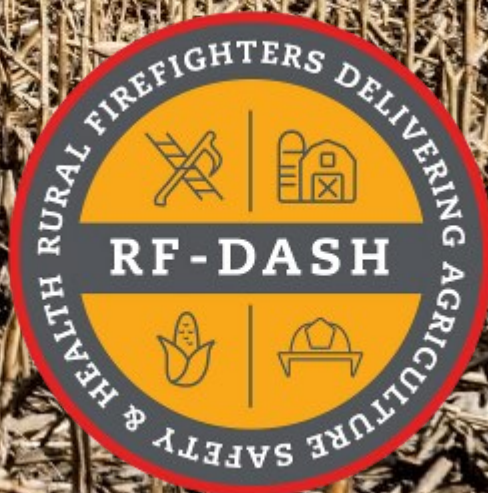
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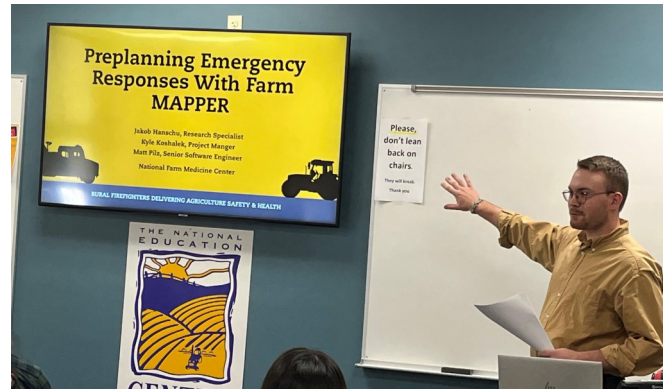
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## Farm MAPPER Presentation at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference

The Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference took place from November 8-9 in Dubuque, Iowa. The RF-DASH team was invited to present on Farm MAPPER as a part of a post-conference workshop on emergency planning and disaster preparedness at the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) in Peosta, Iowa. Jakob Hanschu delivered the presentation on Farm MAPPER to an audience of around 20 agricultural health and safety professionals, extension personnel, students, and educators. The primary message of the presentation involved a discussion of some of the benefits of pre-planning: protection of fire/EMS personnel, improved response times, better resource allocation, and efficient coordination of response efforts.

A tour of the NECAS facility, guided by NECAS director Dan Neenan, followed the presentations. [NECAS](#) is an excellent institution that provides a number of training and other educational



opportunities to promote and improve agricultural safety. It was great to learn about how another institution is working to keep farmers and firefighters safe from agricultural hazards!



By Jakob Hanschu, Research Specialist at the National Farm Medicine Center

## RF-DASH Virtual Training Course Sneak Peek

In the previous edition of this newsletter, we announced plans to develop a virtual version of the RF-DASH curriculum. This virtual training course will utilize 360° imagery to provide users with a realistic experience of being on a farm, assessing hazards, and pre-planning.

Much progress has been made on the RF-DASH virtual training course. While the final product—a full-fledged, multi-module virtual training course with 8 hours of interactive content—likely won't be completed until late in 2024, we wanted to provide the RF-DASH community with a small 'sneak peek' of what is currently under development. We will

provided additional 'sneak peeks' in future newsletters.

Please use the this [link](#) or click the image below for a sneak peek of the RF-DASH Virtual Training Course.



By Jakob Hanschu, Research Specialist at the National Farm Medicine Center

# Farm MAPPER 2.0: What's New? What's Next?

2023 saw a complete overhaul and redevelopment of the Farm MAPPER application at FarmMapper.org. The original version launched back in 2013 and, after a decade of use and continuous maintenance, saw numerous aging features and other deficits that the new product aims to remedy. The central change to MAPPER 2.0 was a switch to the popular ESRI-based mapping service system, which includes more detailed and updated map imagery as well as data derived from county land records. The new ESRI-based framework allows us to integrate additional layers and features, for example a new “Alternate Imagery” toggle is provided to let users switch between two different imagery services, comparing them or choosing the one that is most up-to-date. In time, the new and improved MAPPER 2.0 will help the application accommodate additional datasets and information pertinent to pre-planning, hazard identification and mapping, and other aspects of agricultural emergency rescue and response.

From an end-user’s perspective, MAPPER 2.0 simplifies registration and sign-in. Users can now create an account and login from a singular home page and are able to use either their email address or username to sign-in, which should help mitigate the previously common issue of forgotten usernames. Once signed in, users are immediately taken to the map overview page to begin plotting a site. The interface has been simplified to group related icons into categories, with clean flyout menus to handle icon selection and descriptions of any particular marker. Enhanced tools including measuring widgets (distance and area), image uploading, and multiple site definition and selection all from the map interface have been added.

Moving into 2024, a number of enhancements remain in development. Marker metadata (i.e., the descriptive info associated with a marker/icon) is being improved to accommodate additional fields tailored to the particular marker type. Building icons, for example, may include additional fields to specify the dimensions and, in turn, to automatically

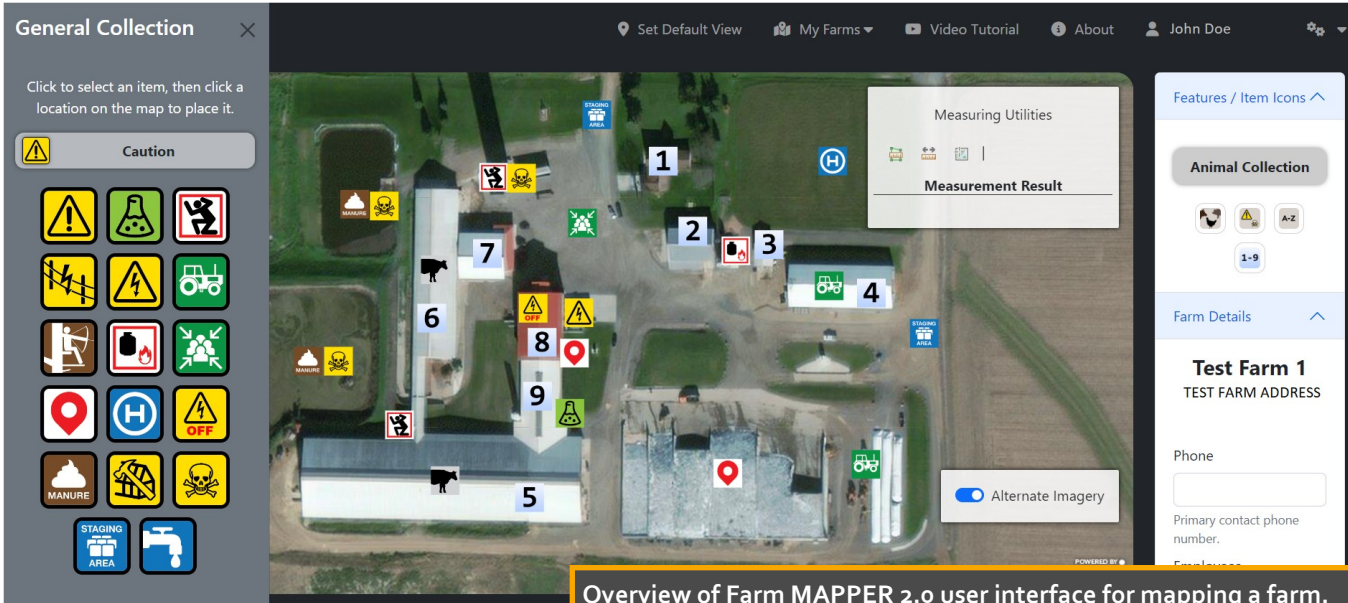
calculate the fire flow rate based on established equations. An additional farm site dashboard will be created to more easily maintain the data for each defined map. Additional convenience features for deleting farms from the map view and an integrated compass that can react in real-time to mobile devices are in progress. Improvements to the mobile experience and a new printer-friendly option for offsite preparedness are ongoing. New icon markers and collections are also in consideration based on feedback from collaborators.

Click on the video below or follow this [link](#) to hear more from Matt about the updates and new features included in Farm MAPPER 2.0. The following page also includes some snapshots of MAPPER 2.0, highlighting the new features.

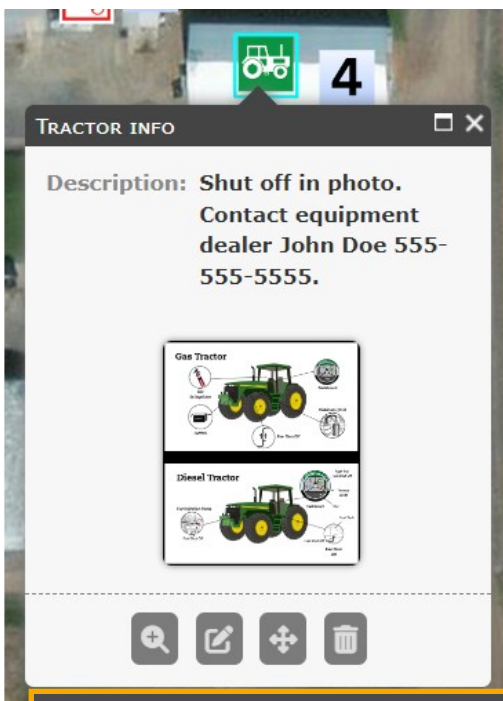


By Matt Pilz, Senior Software Engineer at National Farm Medicine Center

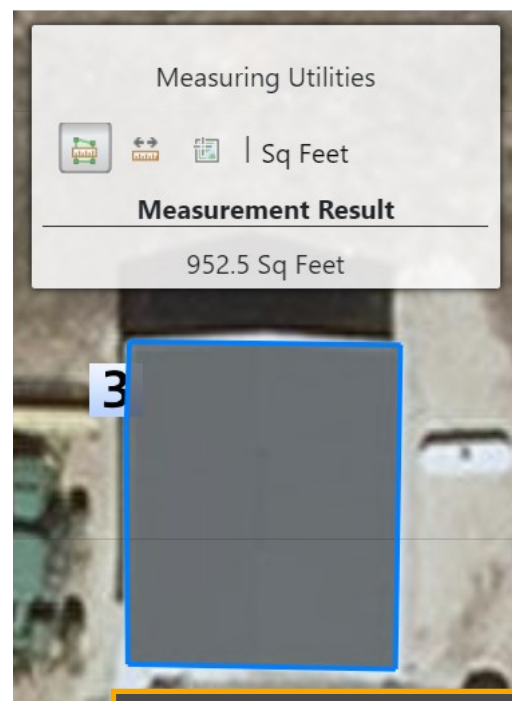
# RE-DASH



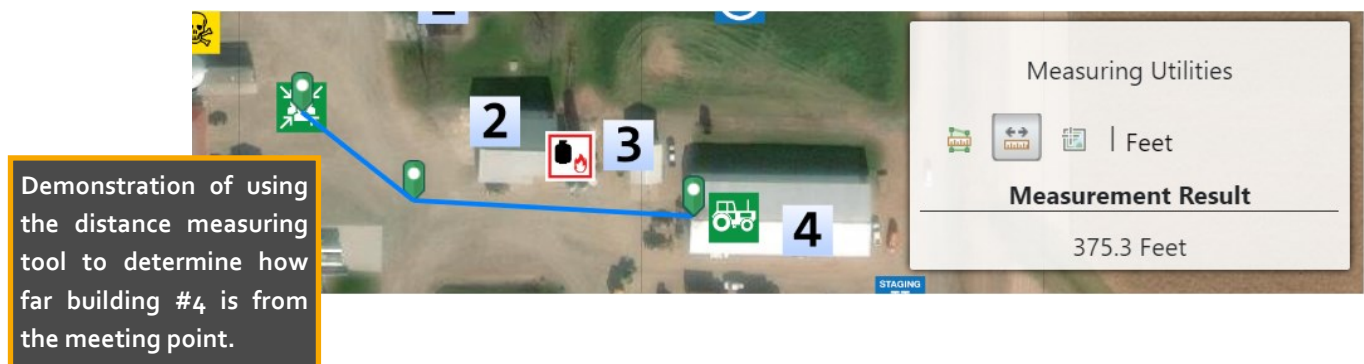
Overview of Farm MAPPER 2.0 user interface for mapping a farm.



Example of how a user might utilize the new ability to add a photo to the descriptive metadata of a marker.



Demonstration of using the area measurement tool to determine the square footage of building #3.



Demonstration of using the distance measuring tool to determine how far building #4 is from the meeting point.

## Spotlight Story

# 2023 Ag Rescue Training: Hands-On Learning Experiences for First Responders

On October 20 and 21, 2023, the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC) in partnership with the Pittsville Fire Company, Life Link III, Heiman Holsteins, and Heeg Farms Inc. hosted Agriculture Rescue Training (ART) just outside Marshfield, WI.

The ART program emerged out of the Farm Accident Rescue Program, started by the National Farm Medicine Center in 1982. That program lasted 20 years, due largely to the support and enthusiasm of multiple central Wisconsin fire departments. The

first ART training took place in 2020 and aimed to carry forward NFMC's strong legacy of preparing firefighters for agricultural emergencies. While numerous sponsors and NFMC donors help to make the ART program possible each year, it would be nothing without the enthusiastic support of the many fire departments in Central Wisconsin.

The ART program could be considered a sister program to RF-DASH. While RF-DASH focuses on agricultural emergencies from the prevention angle,



ART participants work to free a 'patient' from a mock tractor rollover incident.



Howard Ketover, DVM instructs ART participants during the Large Animal Technical Rescue workshop.

ART is more concerned with the rescue side of things. ART participants attend evening lectures on Friday night, followed by a full day of hands-on training on Saturday. Some participants also opt to complete a train-the-trainer course during the day on Friday. This year, 64 individuals attended the ART training and 17 completed the train-the-trainer workshop. Participants came from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, and Colorado. Additionally, three participants were instructors at the US Army Urban Search and Rescue Department. It was great to see ART drawing first responders from multiple states and institutions!

The Friday lectures covered the following topics: Agrochemicals/Poisons on the Farm, Silo Rescue, Farm MAPPER 2.0, and Large Animal Technical Rescue. The Saturday hands-on part of the training involved rotating through a series of four workshops. Though six workshops are offered, time constraints make it impossible for participants to complete all six, so they are put into groups and rotate through four of the workshops based on the preferences they indicated when registering. The six workshops offered in 2023 included: 1) Farm Familiarization; 2) Tractor Rollover; 3) Silo Rescue; 4) Grain Bin Rescue; 5) Equipment Extrication; and 6) Large Animal Technical Rescue. This was the first year that the

Large Animal Technical Rescue workshop was offered as a part of ART. It ended up being one of the highest rated workshops of the entire training event!

Another addition to ART that was new this year was the involvement of EMS folks in the workshops. Personnel from Washura County EMS were present at all workshop stations to provide insight into EMS-relevant considerations to be taken into account during the rescue activity. A presentation on Stop the Bleed was given over lunch time.

The scenarios were designed to be as realistic as possible. Instructors provided an introduction/overview of the rescue scenario and then participants worked as a team to free the 'patient' from the emergency situation. Some of the tools used by participants in the various rescue scenarios included jaws of life, torch kit, reciprocating saw, cribbing, wedges, and jacks, among others. Participants were also introduced to and gained practice at concrete skills, such as how to approach a prone horse, ropes and tension considerations, and the correct technique for cutting into a grain bin to free grain.

Additionally, the ART staff, led by Kyle Koshalek, decided to surprise Pittsville Fire Chief Jerry Minor with an award plaque as recognition of his unwavering commitment to providing fellow first responders with the skills and knowledge required for responding to agricultural emergencies. Chief Minor has been involved with both ART and RF-DASH since their beginnings, and the accomplishments of these programs would not have been possible without him.

Overall, the training was a hit. After completing the training, participants were asked to complete an evaluation survey. Most ART participants rated the training as 'very good' and indicated that they were very likely to recommend the training to someone they know. The survey also included a couple questions of interest to the broader RF-DASH



Pittsville Fire Chief Jerry Minor received recognition for his commitment to training fellow first responders to respond to agricultural emergencies.

community because they point to the value of agriculture-related trainings for firefighters. Coming into training, only 27% of participants stated that they were very familiar with agriculture and 44% were moderately familiar. The remaining 29% were only somewhat or slightly familiar with agriculture. In other words, greater than 1 out of every 4 ART participants was only slightly or somewhat familiar with agriculture prior to the training. However, 90% of participants reported that they would be confident responding to an agricultural incident following their involvement in the ART workshops. Further, 88% of ART participants stated that their participation in the training would help their department better respond to agriculture-related incidents. Lastly, 94% of participants reported that attending ART increased their consciousness of the hazards present on agricultural operations (only three participants stated that the training had no impact on their consciousness of agricultural hazards—notably, each of these individuals reported that they were already highly familiar with agricultural operations).

One of the things the RF-DASH project staff regularly talk about is how to measure whether the RF-DASH program is having an impact in the 'real world.' It is nigh impossible to determine whether a life was saved or the harm from an emergency mitigated directly because of RF-DASH or ART. However, one way to measure the impact of these programs is through the impact they have on those they were created for—firefighters and other first responders. The results of the ART evaluation survey clearly indicate that that program is having a positive impact on firefighter familiarity with agricultural operations, confidence in responding to agricultural emergencies at both the individual- and department-levels, and risk consciousness. As a training *for* firefighters, then, it is safe to say that the 2023 ART event was wildly successful.

**Note:** If you are conducting a training of your own in the future and are interested in measuring the impact of your training, please reach out to the RF-DASH team ([rfdash@marshfieldresearch.org](mailto:rfdash@marshfieldresearch.org)).

By Jakob Hanschu, Research Specialist at  
the National Farm Medicine Center



# 2024, Or, The Year of RF-DASH Trainings

With the onset of the 2024 New Year, many of us are likely setting goals, making resolutions (whether we will actually keep them is another matter...), and drawing up our plans for the next twelve months. For the RF-DASH program it is no different. When we look at the coming year, the thing that stands out most is trainings. The RF-DASH program will plan or assist in planning **seven** trainings over the 2024 calendar year.

Two trainings will take place outside of Wisconsin: one around Shiprock, New Mexico in late March and the other elsewhere in the US, with date and location yet to be determined. Five trainings will take place in Wisconsin as part of the Evidence to Implementation (E2I) grant that the RF-DASH program received from the University of Wisconsin

Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR). The first Wisconsin training will be a 'refresher.' It will likely take place in early- to mid-May and is meant to be attended by previous RF-DASH trainees interested in 'refreshing' their knowledge. The aim is for the other four Wisconsin trainings to be planned and hosted by a prior RF-DASH trainee, with RF-DASH staff moving into a more of a technical and logistical assistance role.

Seven trainings is by the most trainings the RF-DASH program has ever been involved with over the course of a single year. The RF-DASH team is excited at the prospect of reaching many more first responders with the 2024 trainings.

By Jakob Hanschu, Research Specialist at the National Farm Medicine Center

## Farewell to Kyle Koshalek

On behalf of the RF-DASH and Ag Rescue Team here at the National Farm Medicine Center, we would like to thank Kyle Koshalek for 5 years of dedication and hard work for the program. We are sad to see him move onto a new position, but we wish him all the best as he takes on new challenges. The RF-DASH National Summit in Minneapolis was Kyle's first assignment and the program has simply gotten better every day afterwards. Kyle touched every part of our program from executing high quality trainings, designing and polishing marketing and education materials, and innovating the manner in which we disseminate through virtual and asynchronous options. Thank you, Kyle! Our team looks forward to making you proud of something you have been critical in building.



Pittsville, WI Fire Chief Jerry Minor, Kyle Koshalek, and Dr. Casper 'Cap' Bendixsen. Jerry and Cap presented Kyle with a retired PFD ax on his last day as a show of gratitude for his devotion and hard work on the RF-DASH and ART projects over the years.



By Dr. Casper Bendixsen, Director of the National Farm Medicine Center

*"I want to express my deep gratitude for the opportunities for professional and personal development that I have been afforded during my time working with you all on RF-DASH and Fire/EMS related activities. Working with such a dedicated and talented team has been an invaluable experience." ~Kyle on RF-DASH*

## RF-DASH Resources Reminder

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The RF-DASH team wanted to remind folks that there are many resources freely available to download, save, and print on the 'Resources' page of the RF-DASH website (<https://rfdash.org/resources/>). The materials on this page are handy if you're looking to promote the program, host your own training, or simply spread the word about RF-DASH. They will be updated as possible. Resources include:

- Training Materials
  - Training Manual coming SOON!
  - Slides and print outs for RF-DASH modules 1-5.
  - RF-DASH media guidelines ([link](#)).
  - Additional farm first aid scenarios from Penn State.
- Informational Materials
  - RF-DASH info sheets for US ([link](#)) and Canada ([link](#)).
  - RF-DASH brochure ([link](#)).
  - Farm MAPPER flyer ([link](#)).
  - Safer Farm flyer ([link](#)).
- Resources
  - Customizable RF-DASH business card ([link](#)).
  - Directory of fellow RF-DASH trainers ([link](#)).
  - RF-DASH posters ([link](#) & [link](#)).
  - List of the top hazards to watch for on farms ([link](#)).
- RF-DASH Newsletter
  - All previous RF-DASH newsletters.
- Training Videos
  - Video overviews of modules 1-5 as well as an introduction to the Safer Farm tool.



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