

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 4, 2014

Head Start Ag Safety Program Offered

Owensboro, Kentucky - Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association (IFCA), in partnership with the Asmark Institute, are offering a training curriculum for Illinois community college students enrolled in agriculture programs at their respective colleges. The Head Start Program offers students a training curriculum that prepares them for work at agricultural retail facilities. "One thing missing in the agricultural workforce is a variety of young, talented and properly trained individuals prepared to enter the ag retail industry", stated Allen Summers, President, Asmark Institute. "If we can assist by offering agricultural students basic safety training, then we help the industry by preparing the next generation for a career in the ag retail industry," stated Summers.

The Head Start Program will focus on training agriculture students proper methods to prepare driver qualification files as well as receive training in the following subjects: confined space entry, forklift safety training, bloodborne pathogens, anhydrous ammonia safety, HAZMAT, Hazard Communication, Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Worker Protection Standards (WPS), Fire Extinguisher, Lockout/Tagout and Respirator basics. One of the goals of the Head Start program is to reduce accidents at the workplace, while at the same time giving students a head start on safety and training requirements prior to entering the ag retail workforce.

The course curriculum will be offered at the Asmark Institute Agricenter in Bloomington, IL on Thursday, May 1, 2014. "We were approached by Rich Teeter, Assistant Professor of Agriculture at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL to once again offer a training program for their students prior to graduation." "We decided to offer training courses that satisfy USEPA, OSHA, IDA and USDOT training requirements," stated Kevin Runkle, Directory of Regulatory Services for Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association. "This unique program is now in its second year and if it generates continued interest from other community colleges in Illinois, we will offer more training programs," stated Runkle. The Head Start Ag Safety Program won the 2013 Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) Innovation Award. If you have questions about the Head Start Training Program, contact Kevin Runkle at 309-827-2774.

Asmark Institute:

Asmark Institute is a national resource center serving the retail agricultural industry, consisting of retail agribusinesses, state and national trade associations, educational institutions and government agencies. The Institute provides compliance materials and services, develops common sense solutions to new regulatory requirements, assists the government in its mission of protecting life, property and the environment, monitors enforcement activity for uniformity, supports industry efforts to arrive at fair and reasonable regulation and provides a wealth of unique resources to give wings to the ideas designed to help lift an industry. The Institute is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides a forum for organizations to effectively collaborate on issues for the benefit of the retail agricultural industry.