

# The UMASH Connection Farms and People

A newsletter of the Upper Midwest  
Agricultural Safety and Health Center



umash.umn.edu

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Upper Midwest  
Agricultural Safety  
and Health Center  
1260 Mayo  
(Del Code 8807A)  
420 Delaware St SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

612-625-8836

umash@umn.edu



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## ONE HEALTH IN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH



UMASH embraces a One Health philosophy that recognizes connections between human, animal, and environmental health when addressing occupational health and safety issues in agriculture.

## “STRESS” LESS WITH GOOD STOCKMANSHIP

Jeff Bender, DVM, MS  
Veterinarian and UMASH Co-Director



Photo credit: Paul Blakeman

Moving and handling 1400-pound animals is not a job for everyone - it is however, one that dairy farmers do every day. Across the Midwest large dairy cattle are moved to and from the parlor several times each day. Livestock-related injuries account for a high rate of lost work days.

People are a major source of anxiety for the cow. Stressed cattle are more difficult to handle and this puts workers at an increased risk of an injury. Much of a cow's anxiety comes from how they are handled. Studies have shown cows handled by a careless handler had reduced milk efficiency compared to cows with gentle handlers. Cattle learn to recognize individuals and can distinguish between those who treat them gently and those who do not.

Dairy stockmanship focuses on the handling interactions (i.e. communication) between humans and cows and includes low-stress handling techniques. Stockmanship takes advantage of the basic, natural movements of cattle and is a method for humans to interact with cows in a way that cows understand. Knowing cattle behavior is the key to good stockmanship. For instance, walking in the same direction as a cow will tend to slow her down or stop her. Walking in the opposite direction will tend to speed up her movement.

This safe and effective method of cow movements has many benefits including, calm and relaxed cows at milking, minimal defecation and kicking in the parlor, and improved milk let-down. Additionally, farmers using stockmanship methods are less likely to be injured and face fewer challenges moving cattle.

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### Interested in exploring stockmanship principles for your dairy operation?

The University of Minnesota Extension and the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center are sponsoring a one-day workshop to review the principles of dairy stockmanship. The first half of the day will be classroom discussion and the second half will be spent on a dairy farm modeling the principles and interactions.

**What:** Applying Dairy Stockmanship Principles

**Where:** Heintz Center, 1926 Collegeview Rd, Rochester, MN 55904

**When:** January 9, 9:30-3:00 (lunch included)

**Who:** Area dairy producers (SE Minnesota)

**For more information or to register contact:**

Carol Peterson - email: ctrefry@umn.edu  
phone: 612.625.8347 or cell: 507.381.4873

**Learn more about dairy stockmanship at:**

<http://purl.umn.edu/57210>

## HIGHLIGHTS

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## The UMASH Connection Reader Survey

Please take a moment and fill out our online reader survey. Your input helps us provide content relevant to YOU!

[z.umn.edu/umashsurvey](http://z.umn.edu/umashsurvey)



## Finding Common Ground Forum January 16, 2014

### The changing agriculture workforce

Challenges and opportunities for the worker, the employer and the community

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center is pleased to once again collaborate with the Center for Integrative Leadership and the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety to bring a **Finding Common Ground Forum**. This January we will explore the challenges and opportunities that the changing agriculture workforce brings for workers, employers and the community.

Newspapers have recently been full of headlines about immigration reform. The topic is particularly relevant to the agriculture industry in the Upper Midwest and elsewhere as agricultural workers are increasingly recent immigrants or temporary workers. The changing demographics of the agricultural workforce is occurring as the growing global demand for food brings other changes to the industry. A healthy and productive labor force is essential to meeting these new demands. The well being of the work force is not only important to workers, it is essential for producers and the communities in which both producers and workers live. Addressing this complex issue requires broad thinking from people in all sectors.

The forum will bring people from many backgrounds with a variety of expertise to:

- Explore the complexities of the agriculture workforce
- Identify shared interests in worker health and productivity
- Strengthen appreciation and respect for different perspectives
- Contribute to innovative approaches for ensuring healthy and productive workers

The forum will develop consensus ideas to prioritize needs to ensure the new agricultural workforce stays healthy, productive, and adapted to the rural communities in which they live.

**Bruce Alexander**

*Director, Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center*



## FINDING COMMON GROUND FORUM

# The changing agriculture workforce

Challenges and opportunities for the worker, the employer and the community

*Finding Common Ground Forum Series*

The increasing global demand for food has implications for immigration policy, regulatory oversight, and production methods. Often overlooked is the health and well-being of agriculture workers including safety, access to health care, and successful integration into local communities. A comprehensive understanding of what it takes to assure the safety, health and welfare of the worker, reliable and productive employees, and vibrant rural communities will benefit all stakeholders. Ensuring healthy and productive workers requires a broad perspective, inquisitive minds, and a commitment to collaborate.

Please join us on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for a working forum on the challenges and opportunities that the changing agriculture workforce brings for workers, employers and the community.

**JANUARY 16, 2014**  
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
<http://z.umn.edu/commonground>

Agenda and Speaker Information Coming Soon at:  
[umash.umn.edu/commonground](http://umash.umn.edu/commonground)

# NEW RESOURCES



## NEW FACT SHEETS

NEW fact sheets are available for needlestick prevention and rabies. Fact sheets can be downloaded from the UMASH website at:  
[umash.umn.edu/resources/fact-sheets.html](http://umash.umn.edu/resources/fact-sheets.html)

- Needlestick Prevention on the Farm
- Needlestick Prevention for Producers and Veterinarians
- Rabies on the Farm

## EXTENSION

Have you heard about the great resource “eXtension”? It is a website that is user-friendly and chock full of good stuff. This website has features of relevance and use to almost anyone—rural or urban. Check out the Ask An Expert, Upcoming Webinars, Tweets and Blogs entries that are very easy to see and follow. You may want to find out what your state’s land grant university is doing and can easily link to it from the homepage of eXtension. There is a host of resource areas with valuable information and links to other resources that you can use and pass on to others. Get the word out and see how it can work for you! <http://www.extension.org/>



## NIOSH AG CENTERS YOU TUBE CHANNEL



The NIOSH Safety and Health Centers YouTube Channel is now launched! It features videos that can be used during job orientation, safety/health education, 4-H meetings, or high school and college classes.

Check out the videos at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/USagCenters>.

## NEW SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE RABID CALF ON A FARM

Ag Safety and Health

SPOTLIGHT

Stories from the Field



[UMASH.UMN.EDU/SPOTLIGHT](http://UMASH.UMN.EDU/SPOTLIGHT)

## ASHCA HIGHLIGHTS

UMASH was a sponsoring partner of the **North American Agricultural Safety Summit** held Sept 26-28, 2013 in Minneapolis. UMASH hosted the poster session and contributed eight UMASH-related project posters. In addition UMASH project directors and personnel made several presentations.

**Matt Kiefer**, Center and Project Director participated in a Genius Bar - “*Ag Related Ailments: The Doctor Is In*”.

**Jeff Bender** presented on “*Worker Hazards From Veterinary Pharmaceuticals and Livestock Medical Treatment*”.

**Amy Liebman** participated on a panel discussing “*Finding Common Ground: Working Together to Address Farm Worker Family Needs*”.

**Iris Reyes** conducted a learning station on “*Farm Mapper - Using QR Codes*”.

**Tammie Ellis** conducted a learning station on “*Model Play Areas on Farms*”.

**Scott Heiberger** participated in a breakout session discussing “*Child Labor Rules - Lessons Learned the Hard Way*”.

Outreach staff hosted a networking booth with UMASH resources available to all attendees.

View a full list of the posters at:  
[umash.umn.edu/outreach/presentations.html](http://umash.umn.edu/outreach/presentations.html)



Carol Peterson, UMASH project coordinator, networks with Al Rasmussen, Director of the Minnesota AgrAbility Project.

## IN THE FIELD

### Points of Pride Research Day

The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) held its annual Points of Pride Research Day on October 2 to celebrate the CVM's research program and honor faculty, fellows, students, and research partners who contribute to the advancement of biomedical sciences and veterinary medicine. **Mindy Buswell**, UMASH staff and CVM veterinary public health resident, presented "*Needlestick Injuries in Livestock Workers and Prevention Programs*" in the Poster Session. **Darby Murphy**, UMASH staff and CVM veterinary public health resident, presented "Characterization of air contaminants associated with type of swine production facilities" in the poster session.



### Southern Research and Outreach Center Centennial Celebration

UMASH staff participated in celebrating 100 years of research and outreach activities of the University of Minnesota at the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca, MN on September 19, 2013.

Formerly known as the Southeast Demonstration Farm and Experiment Station, the Waseca facilities have been the birthplace of many new technologies and innovative production practices that have affected agriculture not only in Minnesota but around the world. The birthday celebration that drew a big crowd included informational displays, door prizes, and a free picnic supper meal. Learn more about the Southern Research and Outreach Center at <http://sroc.cfans.umn.edu/>



*Pictured at right:* Ruth Rasmussen, UMASH Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, at the Southern Research and Outreach Center Centennial Celebration.

### Allen D. Lemans Swine Conference

UMASH had a strong presence at the Allen D. Lemans Swine Conference at the St. Paul River Center on September 16-17, 2013. **Peter Davies**, Project Director presented a Keynote Lecture on "*Livestock Associated MRSA: Tiger or Pussycat?*" and **Bruce Alexander** and **Jeff Bender**, Center Directors, participated in an Occupational Safety workshop presenting "*Worker Health and Safety in Animal Agriculture*". **Joni Sheftel**, Project Director, participated in a workshop on Influenza & the Human-Animal Interface presenting "*Swine influenza: The human and animal interface at Minnesota fairs and live animal markets*". Outreach staff hosted a UMASH booth with resources such as Needlestick Prevention fact sheets available to all attendees.

### SafePork 2013

**Peter Davies**, UMASH Project Director, received the award for best overall presentation "*Longitudinal study of Staphylococcus aureus in US swine veterinarians*" at SafePork 2013 held in Portland, Maine, September 9-12, 2013. Jisun Sun, Dr. Davies' student, also conducted a poster presentation.

*Pictured at right:*

Peter Davies, UMASH, best overall presentation, Luís Pedro Gomes do Carmo, Abel Salazar Institute of Biomedical Science, University of Porto, best student presenter, and Steve Larsen, National Pork Board, chair of the organizing committee.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 12th Annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference

"The Many Faces of Agriculture"

November 19-20, 2013

Ames, Iowa

### National Rural Health Day

November 21, 2013

### Applying Dairy Stockmanship Principles

January 9, 2014

Rochester, Minnesota

### Finding Common Ground Forum

*The Changing Agriculture Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities for the Worker, the Employer and the Community*

January 16, 2014

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Learn more and view full event list at:  
<http://umash.umn.edu/events.html>

UMASH is a collaboration of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, the National Farm Medicine Center of the Marshfield Clinic with the Migrant Clinicians Network, and the Minnesota Department of Health. This collaboration brings together unique and complimentary expertise to address existing and emerging occupational health and safety issues in agriculture.



Research • Education • Prevention