

# The **UMASH** Connection Farms and People

A newsletter of the Upper Midwest  
Agricultural Safety and Health Center



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.

## GROWING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION EMBRACING HEALTH AND SAFETY



The 2015 UMASH Annual Forum entitled “*Growing Agricultural Education: Embracing Health and Safety*” was held at the Davies Center on the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire campus on May 28, 2015. The forum was co-sponsored by

UMASH, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, the Southern Minnesota Center of Agriculture and South Central College and MN West Community and Technical College, the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield WI, and the Migrant Clinicians Network.

The forum included presentations highlighting existing efforts to address agricultural health and safety in educational programs. Presenters included: **Jeff Bender**, UMASH Co-Director, **Lisa Schiller**, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, UW-Eau Claire, **Carolyn Sheridan**, Clinical Director, AgriSafe Network, and **Brad Schloesser**, Dean of Agriculture, Southern MN Center of Agriculture, South Central College, MN West Community and Tech College.

**View the presentation slides online.**

Fifty-five attendees from education, occupational health and safety, agriculture production, immigrant services, healthcare, government, human resources, research, media, and communications participated in the forum. The interactive format provided attendees many opportunities to network and take part in discussions with different attendees throughout the day.



### WHAT'S NEXT?

Watch for a summary report with recommendations on how you can **JOIN THE DISCUSSION!**

Email us at [umash@umn.edu](mailto:umash@umn.edu)

Read more at [umash.umn.edu/annualforum](http://umash.umn.edu/annualforum)



## AVIAN FLU OUTBREAK

The CDC has issued a Health Advisory in response to the recent Avian Influenza outbreak. Read the advisory and access Avian Influenza resources at:

[umash.umn.edu/avian](http://umash.umn.edu/avian)

## HIGHLIGHTS

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# 2015 NORA SYMPOSIUM ON TOTAL WORKER HEALTH

The 2015 National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Symposium was held Wednesday, May 6 at Mayo Memorial Auditorium at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety (MCOHS) and the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH).

Over one hundred attendees from diverse backgrounds including healthcare, occupational health and safety, education, research, government, communications, labor relations, and human resources gathered to discuss "Total Worker Health".

Students and researchers from MCOHS and UMASH Pilot Projects took part in a poster presentation session.

View a [photo gallery](#) and a [video](#) of the presentation on our website at [umash.umn.edu](http://umash.umn.edu).



**Pictured at left:**  
UMASH Center Director Dr. Bruce Alexander, Featured Speaker Dr. Kent Anger, MCOHS Director Dr. Sue Gerberich, and MCOHS Deputy Director Dr. Pat McGovern.

## SEGURIDAD EN LAS LECHERÍAS



PHOTO CREDIT: EARL DOTTER.COM

UMASH is proud of its award-winning project, *Seguridad en las Lecherías: Immigrant Dairy Worker Health and Safety*, a collaborative effort of **Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)** and the **National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC)**. The project addresses the safety and health of immigrant Hispanic workers on dairy farms through a culturally and linguistically appropriate approach.

The project uses a popular education model that includes worker training and promotores de salud (or Community Health Workers) to reduce worksite hazards and to improve worker knowledge and practices. Through extensive input from workers, health and safety professionals, and researchers, this project developed an OSHA-approved, five-module, bilingual health and safety training curriculum. The curriculum includes background sections on each topic and a step-by-step facilitator's guide with visuals either as a power point slide presentation or a flip chart. **The full curriculum is now available to download.**

Last month, the Seguridad project partners received the **Stakeholder Collaboration in Occupational Injury Research Award**, sponsored by the National Safety Council (NSC), for their collaborative efforts.

Learn more about the project on UMASH's [Seguridad page](#).

UMASH PARTNERS RECEIVE RESEARCH COLLABORATION AWARD FROM NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL



## CONGRATULATIONS

Alberto Fierro and Consul de México in St. Paul 10th Anniversary

The Consul de México in St. Paul has been a valuable partner with UMASH in outreach efforts within the Hispanic community, and events such as the Finding Common Ground Forum on the changing agricultural workforce.

SRE  
CONSULADO DE MÉXICO  
EN SAINT PAUL



# HEALTH AND SAFETY RESOURCES

## Avian Influenza Outbreak Health Resources for Workers and Families

With the recent avian influenza outbreak, attention must be given not only to animal health, but also the health and well-being of farmers and workers. UMASH, in collaboration with its partners, has gathered information and resources to assist agricultural workers and producers.

The CDC has issued a Health Advisory in response to the recent outbreak. The advisory and additional Avian Influenza resources are available on the UMASH website:

[umash.umn.edu/avian](http://umash.umn.edu/avian)



## Safe Agritourism

Agritourism - activities that bring visitors to a farm or ranch - is seen more often today than ever before. Most visitors are unfamiliar with the agricultural environment - and the hazards found there. Owners need to ensure the safety and health of all guests visiting their operations.

[www.safeagritourism.com](http://www.safeagritourism.com)



## Immigrant Mental Health Resources

Mental health issues including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anxiety are common among immigrant workers and their families. Feelings of loss, shock, separation from family, stigma, and language and cultural barriers can all contribute to the stress.

To help bridge this gap in mental health services, UMASH has compiled the following list of mental health resources for immigrant workers and families.

[umash.umn.edu/resources/mentalhealth.html](http://umash.umn.edu/resources/mentalhealth.html)



## Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms

Childhood farm injuries and fatalities most often occur while children are playing in an agricultural worksite, or are bystanders to agricultural work. *Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms* provides the first comprehensive guide for designing and building an outdoor safe play area for children who live on or visit farms.

[www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay)



## Needlestick Prevention Videos

UMASH has produced needlestick prevention videos featuring tips on proper techniques to avoid needlestick injuries, and what to do if you are accidentally stuck.

Videos and fact sheets are also available in Spanish (disponible en español)

[umash.umn.edu/needlestick](http://umash.umn.edu/needlestick)



## Preventing Melanoma

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the US. This is an invisible but serious danger for agricultural workers who spend many hours exposed to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays. The CDC has created fact sheets and resources on melanoma and steps for prevention.

[www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/melanoma](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/melanoma)



## Healthy Fairs and Petting Zoos

Fair season is approaching! Fairs are great opportunities for people, especially families with children, to learn about animal agriculture and enjoy spending time with farm animals. However, human-animal interactions also have the potential to spread illness or cause injury.

[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/animal/animal.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/animal/animal.html)



# FARMERS COULD BENEFIT FROM SKIN CANCER RESEARCH RESULTS

Researchers from **Marshfield Clinic**, a UMASH partner, have identified unique characteristics of farmers that can assist providers in caring for this population and also guide development of skin cancer awareness, prevention, and screening initiatives. Dermatologists Alexandra Carley, M.D., and Erik Stratman, M.D., used data collected during skin cancer screening conducted at the 2011 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in Marshfield, Wisconsin. The screening was sponsored and organized by the **National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC)**, **Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation**.

*"Farmers have high levels of sun exposure and increased risk of skin cancer," Dr. Carley said. "Although most farmers understand their risk and believe sun-protective behaviors reduce skin cancer risk, most do not routinely use adequate sun protection."*



## KEY FINDINGS:

- Only 23% of farmers who reported using sunscreen used it "always" or "frequently" when in the sun 15 minutes-plus.
- 34% of farmers and 22% of non-farmers were referred for additional evaluation due to identification of a concerning lesion.
- Common barriers to sun protection included discomfort with wearing long pants and long shirts, forgetfulness with sunscreen use, and inconvenience with wearing wide-brimmed hats.

Read the article in the **Journal of Agromedicine**

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CENTER AG SAFETY GRANTS UP TO \$20,000  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 17, 2015

LEARN MORE @ [WWW3.MARSHFIELDCLINIC.ORG/NCCRAHS/](http://WWW3.MARSHFIELDCLINIC.ORG/NCCRAHS/)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2015 ISASH Conference**  
**Making Ag Safety and Health the New Normal**  
June 21-25  
Normal, IL

**Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals - The Core Course**  
July 8-12  
Iowa City, IA

**National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM-PIC)**  
July 12-16  
Sioux Falls, SD

**National Farm Safety & Health Week**  
September 20-26, 2015

Learn more and view full event list at:  
[umash.umn.edu/events.html](http://umash.umn.edu/events.html)

## AG HEALTH AND SAFETY WEBINARS

### MIGRANT CLINICIANS NETWORK (MCN)

MCN is a trusted source of essential clinical information about emerging primary care issues that occur at the intersection of health and mobility. MCN engages in research, develops appropriate resources, advocates for migrants and clinicians, trains providers, engages outside partners, and runs programs that support clinical care on the frontline of migrant health.

[www.migrantclinician.org/services/education/webinars.html](http://www.migrantclinician.org/services/education/webinars.html)



### AGRISAFE

AgriSafe's mission is to support a growing network of trained agricultural health and safety professionals that assure access to preventative services for farm families and the agricultural community.

[www.agrisafe.org/training](http://www.agrisafe.org/training)



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.

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Research • Education • Prevention

