

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

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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.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) is dedicated to building partnerships to reduce the burden of injury and illness in agricultural workers and their families. This issue of the UMASH Connection newsletter highlights some developing partnerships and activities that are focusing on changes in the industry and the needs of operators and workers in the food animal industry.

In recent years, animal welfare has become a prominent discussion topic among consumers, the food industry, and producers alike. The welfare of food animals and the health and safety of the people who tend them are directly linked. The UMASH is partnering with the Center for Animal and Food Safety and the Center for Integrative Leadership to begin a dialog through a **Finding Common Ground forum** to simultaneously address the health and welfare of animals and the agricultural worker. We anticipate this forum will lead to partnerships with producers, the food industry, the health care community, and advocates for worker health and animal welfare.

The **Agriculture Safety Consulting (ASC)** program developed by the National Farm Medicine Center, a UMASH partner, is responding to the needs of dairy farmers as they navigate the complexities of running large and increasingly sophisticated operations that are a special emphasis for OSHA in Wisconsin. Agricultural operations, like large dairies, are complex and ever changing, which complicates the implementation of workplace safety protocols. The ASC program is developing systematic tools that producers can use to improve safety and comply with regulatory requirements. The trained safety professionals from the National Farm Medicine Center are helping producers translate standard safety protocols from other industries to be most helpful in the dairy operations.

The evolution of dairies from small family owned farms to high capacity production units has notably changed the demographics of the people tending the cows. To meet the labor demands operators are frequently turning to new immigrant worker populations. In Wisconsin and other midwestern states Hispanic workers, many of whom have recently come to the United States, make up a large portion of this population. The partnership the UMASH has with the **Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)** is developing health and safety training protocols to address this new worker population with the Seguridad en Las Lecherias: Immigrant Dairy Worker Health and Safety Project. The MCN brings decades of expertise in improving the health of migrant and immigrant working populations to the UMASH.

Bruce Alexander
Director, Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center

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WELFARE & IMPACTS

Improving Animal and Worker Health and Welfare

**Finding Common Ground
Improving Animal and Worker
Health and Welfare**

**January 17, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Learn More
umash.umn.edu/commonground

Register Online
z.umn.edu/commonground

SAFETY CONSULTING SERVICE FOCUSES ON CHANGING DAIRY INDUSTRY, INCREASED SCRUTINY

The dairy industry is changing, with fewer dairies and larger herds. Larger herds mean more milking shifts, longer hours and an increased reliance on hired workers. Dairy farmers find themselves in ever expanding business management roles, dealing with human resource requirements and insurance coverage that includes workers' compensation and government safety regulations and practices.

Agriculture Safety Consulting (ASC) is a program of the National Farm Medicine Center at Marshfield Clinic that was developed to assist and support dairy farmers and this changing industry. ASC (www.marshfieldclinic.org/AgriculturalSafetyConsulting) offers assistance in safety program development, implementation and management. ASC, with its multicultural and bilingual staff, has unique capabilities in addressing the Spanish-language training needs of Hispanic employees. Dennis Ray, Occupational Safety Manager, and Francisco Guerrero Silva, Bilingual Community Outreach Specialist, are providing tailored service packages to farm owners. While the overall number of occupational deaths in Wisconsin dropped slightly from 2009 to 2010, agricultural deaths increased 66 percent, accounting for 32 of the 91 total occupational deaths. In 2011, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) initiated a Local Emphasis Program to begin to inspect large dairy farm operations in Wisconsin, focusing on common hazards in dairy farm activities. At about the same time, ASC conducted free safety walkthroughs on nine large dairy farms in Wisconsin and found an average of 19.3 OSHA-defined hazards per farm.

ASC's Carol Magurany-Brotski, M.S., led the walkthroughs. The former OSHA employee had 23 years of occupational safety experience but soon realized that agriculture was different. "Workplace safety is a relatively new concept to people who work in agriculture," Magurany-Brotski said. "Whereas the majority of industries got on board with safety in a systematic way decades ago, this has only started to become important in the last 10 to 15 years for agriculture."

Matthew Keifer, M.D., M.P.H., director of the National Farm Medicine Center, said "the consistency with which unmitigated safety hazards were identified on nine surveyed farms suggests that this level of uncontrolled hazards is widespread, and this is consistent with the high risk of worker injury suggested by workplace fatality statistics in Wisconsin."

For more information or to set up a consultation, contact Dennis Ray, ray.dennis@marshfieldclinic.org or 715-389-4999.

Top deficiencies found in nine completed safety audits in first year of ASC operation:

- Safety training on equipment
- Fall exposure
- Machine guarding
- Electrical hazards
- Hazcom
- Poor maintenance create worker hazards
- Confined spaces
- Injury record keeping
- Protective barriers
- Bulls hazard



PHOTOGRAPHY: © EARL DOTTER - NFMC 2012

UMASH PILOT PROJECTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Upper Midwest Agriculture Safety and Health Center is requesting applications for small grants ranging from \$5,000 to a maximum of \$20,000 to address health and safety issues related to agricultural workers and their families. This announcement is open to investigators working in academic, government, community, industry or health care settings who have the knowledge, skills, and ability to carry out the proposed work. The UMASH is specifically interested in projects that address concepts outlined in the NIOSH National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) for agriculture (www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/comment/agendas/AgForFish/), integrates the philosophy of a One Health model (for further reading, visit: www.onehealthinitiative.com or www.cdc.gov/onehealth) into agricultural safety and health, and address issues important to the agriculture industry in the Upper Midwest.



Read the full announcement and download an application at: http://umash.umn.edu/projects/pilot_projects_rfp.html

FINDING COMMON GROUND FORUM SERIES

IMPROVING ANIMAL AND WORKER HEALTH AND WELFARE

JANUARY 17, 2013 • 9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Tough issues like Improving Animal and Worker Health and Welfare require a broad perspective, an inquisitive mind, and a commitment to collaboration. The University of Minnesota's Center for Integrative Leadership, Global Initiative for Food Systems Leadership, and Upper Midwest Agriculture Safety and Health Center invite you to participate in the fourth "Finding Common Ground" forum designed to foster conversation among participants with diverse perspectives to discover and advance a common good. Participants from academia, media, industry, intergovernmental, nongovernmental and governmental organizations will examine this issue in a neutral forum that considers multiple perspectives.

SPECIAL PILOT PROJECT GRANT MONEY

UMASH is requesting proposals for small grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to address health and safety issues related to agricultural workers and their families. These small grants are intended specifically to follow up on consensus ideas developed through the Finding Common Ground Forum: Improving Animal and Worker Health and Welfare meeting.

COST: \$50

REGISTER: Z.UMN.EDU/COMMONGROUND

LEARN MORE: UMASH.UMN.EDU/COMMONGROUND

WELFARE & IMPACTS

Improving Animal and Worker Health and Welfare

Finding Common Ground Forum Series

Limited space available for this event. Continental Breakfast and Lunch included in registration.

MIGRANT CLINICIANS NETWORK



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With over 10,000 constituents, **Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)** (www.migrantclinician.org) is the nation's oldest and largest clinical network working to eliminate health disparities among migrant and seasonal farmworkers and other mobile underserved populations. Since its inception in 1984, MCN has served as a force for health justice for the mobile poor. MCN engages in research, develops appropriate resources, advocates for migrants and clinicians, engages outside partners, and runs programs to improve the clinical care and health and safety of migrants. MCN has focused a great deal of attention and effort on improving the occupational health of agricultural workers, who are often mobile and disproportionately vulnerable to injuries and adverse health conditions.

MCN serves as a UMASH partner. As part of its work with UMASH,

MCN is collaborating with the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC) to improve immigrant worker health and safety in dairy with the initiative -- ***Seguridad en las Lecherías: Immigrant Dairy Worker Health and Safety Project***. The goal of this project is to bridge the gap in worker health and safety training in dairy production through a culturally appropriate, occupational safety and health intervention to reduce worksite hazards and to improve knowledge and practices among immigrant dairy workers in Wisconsin. The project utilizes *promotores de salud* or lay health workers to educate workers.

MCN brings UMASH more than 28 years of experience in developing health interventions and designing culturally appropriate health and safety training and educational materials.



BILINGUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY Pictionary

MCN leveraged its work with UMASH and was awarded a **Susan Harwood Training Grant from the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA)** to develop an agricultural health and safety bilingual picture dictionary in October 2012. The bilingual 'pictionary' will depict common agricultural workplaces paired with bilingual vocabulary to address health and safety in a relevant context. MCN will also design an accompanying training employing adult education and second language learning principles. These resources will serve to bridge the frequent language gap between workers and employers and facilitate acquisition of basic, fundamental vocabulary each need to effectively communicate about workplace hazards in agriculture. UMASH and NFMC will serve in an advisory capacity in the development of the bilingual resource.

The bilingual picture-dictionary will complement *Seguridad en las Lecherías*, which similarly adopts a culturally appropriate approach to deliver health and safety content to workers.

UMASH SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a tool that many health organizations are turning to in order to connect with their key audience, expand their reach to other stakeholders, and make available credible sources for scientifically accurate resources. Increasingly public health organizations are reaching stakeholders through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, targeted blogs and other interactive media tools. At UMASH we are beginning to establish a presence on Facebook, through a targeted blog which links from the UMASH website, and eventually through active Twitter dialogue. This fall we have worked to link our 'friends' to stories that focus on agricultural and environmental safety, One Health Issues and industry specific topics. Going forward we would like to continue this approach focusing on the seasonal cycle of agriculture, as well as newsworthy scientific and industry related issues that arise in our research and the media.



We have had some stakeholder feedback on our social media efforts, but would like to focus more on integrating some of the diverse UMASH activities into the discussion. If there is a topic of interest that you would like to highlight or if you would like to serve as a 'guest blogger', please contact Michelle Fagan-McGraw at mcgra175@umn.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finding Common Ground Improving Animal and Worker Health and Welfare

January 17, 2013
St. Paul, Minnesota

116th Minnesota Veterinary Medicine Association Annual Meeting

February 7-9, 2013
Minneapolis, Minnesota

MCN Webinar Series: Clinician Orientation to Migration Health Seminar 1: Overview of Critical Concerns in Migration Health

February 13, 2013

American Association of Swine Veterinarians 44th Annual Meeting

March 2-5, 2013
San Diego, California

National Agriculture Day

March 19, 2013

Learn more and view a full list of
upcoming events at:

<http://umash.umn.edu/news.html>

OUTREACH UPDATE



Iris Reyes and Francisco Guerrero Silva presented a poster on Facilitating Return to Work for Injured and Ill Animal Agriculture Workers, a UMASH partner project implemented by the National Farm Medicine Center. Ruth Rasmussen represented UMASH at the conference.

In November, UMASH staff and faculty attended the Midwest Regional Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Center Director, Bruce Alexander, presented an overview of UMASH at the conference's opening plenary session and other UMASH representatives attended sessions, networked with agricultural safety and health professionals, and distributed materials.

Our outreach and engagement program priority is to create a two-way flow of information between our Center and people affected by and involved in agriculture. This includes producers, processors, agri-businesses, public health and health care practitioners, farm families, and many others.

UMASH seeks to learn about emerging needs, trends or challenges that may affect agricultural health and safety.

Contact us at umash@umn.edu or 612-625-8836

NEW!

Ag Safety and Health

SPOTLIGHT

Stories from the Field

FEATURED SPOTLIGHT:

Leo's Story

umash.umn.edu/spotlight



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