



- » ENGAGING THE CHANGING AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE
- » BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
- » UNDERSTANDING EMERGING HEALTH RISKS
- » REDUCING INJURIES AND LOST DAYS OF WORK



UMASH Co-Director Matt Keifer meeting with dairy workers in Wisconsin.

IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND FAMILIES

through research, education and prevention



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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.



Addressing existing and emerging occupational health and safety issues in agriculture.

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH

MRSA AND THE RISK TO HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Antibiotic resistance in animal agriculture is a growing concern. Specific strains of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcal aureus* (MRSA) have been found in livestock, including pigs. Limited scientific information has fueled controversy surrounding this issue, especially as it relates to human health. UMASH's research with swine veterinarians is answering important questions how *Staphylococcal aureus* in pigs, including MRSA, occurs in people working with livestock. Early results from the study are being shared with veterinarians and producers.



OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES IN PORK PRODUCTION ASSOCIATED WITH PRODUCTION PRACTICES

By conducting air sampling in a swine production facility over the course of a year, UMASH has collected data related to potential respiratory health risks. This comprehensive assessment of exposure to ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, heat, endotoxins and respirable dust will help characterize potential risk and identify opportunities for reducing exposures. These results are being communicated to producers to create more dialogue about understanding and controlling exposures in these facilities.

SEGURIDAD WORKER TRAINING

With an **increasing number of immigrant, Hispanic workers in the dairy industry** with unaddressed language barriers and training needs, culturally and linguistically appropriate education in agricultural health and safety is necessary. The *Seguridad en las lecherias* project addresses this need by designing a **bilingual health and safety training curriculum**.



- » Trained over 450 workers on 36 farms, providing over 1,600 worker training hours.
- » OSHA approved curriculum. Endorsed by Mexican Consulate in St. Paul and University of Wisconsin River Falls Center for Dairy Farm Safety

"This program helped our employees realize that we care about their safety and their well-being as people, not just as employees."

- Dairy Producer

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NEEDLESTICK PREVENTION

A reported high of 80% of farm workers that vaccinate animals have accidentally stuck themselves. UMASH has developed resources to raise awareness and reduce needlestick injuries.

- » Printable Fact Sheets and Videos
- » Available in English and Spanish
- » Distributed to farm workers, as well as producers and veterinarians



UMASH Director Bruce Alexander at the Finding Common Ground forum.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

UMASH hosts a yearly public stakeholder engagement meeting on emerging or existing issues related to agricultural safety and health. Meeting themes have included *Animal Welfare vs. Worker Safety*, *The Changing Agricultural Workforce*, and *Occupational Health of Immigrant Workers*.

The 2015 meeting will focus on *Integrating Agricultural Safety and Health in Education*.

HEALTHY FAIRS

Millions of people in the Upper Midwest attend county fairs each year. Fairs are great opportunities for people 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.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) developed **free regional Healthy Fairs Workshops** for those involved with county fairs and petting zoos to get the latest information on **how to keep visitors and animals safe and healthy at fairs**.

- » Funded through UMASH pilot project grant
- » 4 workshops held in Rochester, St. Cloud, Marshall, and Bemidji, MN (2013-2014)
- » More workshops being planned



"Very good day spent, well worth the time."
- Workshop Participant

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

UMASH engaged with state fair visitors, inviting them to participate in a survey about their food purchasing decisions and knowledge about worker health and safety in agriculture.



NIOSH AG CENTERS

UMASH is one of nine **Centers of Excellence in Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention** funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) throughout the United States. UMASH partners with these Ag Centers to promote health and safety in agriculture.



- » Promotion of National Farm Safety Week and other agricultural safety and health initiatives
- » US Ag Centers YouTube Channel featuring ag safety videos www.youtube.com/USagCenters

AG SAFETY AND HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

The UMASH Ag Safety and Health Spotlight: Stories from the Field features stories from Upper Midwest farm families and workers.

Learn more at umash.umn.edu/spotlight.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Farmers are 6 times more likely to die on the job.
- Ag workers injury rate is 40% higher than other US workers.
- Lost work results in higher costs for producers and consumers.

UMASH is a collaboration of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and 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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