

Occupational Safety and Health Curriculum Development and Training for Minnesota Agricultural Educators

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Issue With a national fatality rate of 20.2 deaths per 100,000 workers, agriculture is one of our nation's **most hazardous** industries,¹ particularly for **youth and new workers**. Ag educators are uniquely equipped to provide resources to increase agricultural safety and health awareness.² However, many ag educators do not receive regular ag safety training. This pilot project aimed to fill a gap in training and create increased partnerships between ag educators, students, and farmers.

HARVESTING SAFETY & HEALTH KNOWLEDGE

Agricultural Safety and Health Training to Prevent Incidents



Top Tips for Agricultural Workplace Safety

1. Protect Your Body!
Wear the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for every task. But don't forget to also apply sunscreen, wear proper clothing for cold or hot weather, and stay hydrated every day. According to the CDC, over 70k people are diagnosed annually with skin cancer in the US.

2. Get your ROPS!
Make sure all tractors you operate are properly outfitted with Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS). According to the CDC, the leading cause of farm-related deaths are tractor rollovers.

A series of agricultural safety posters were developed through this project.

Methodology Occupational safety and health (OSH) based curriculum was delivered to MN agricultural educators that work with farmers, supervise high school students, or coordinate college internships.

- **Trained** educators at two conferences: 15 educators in January 2015 and 10 educators in July 2015 using new developed curriculum
- **Recommended** pre-existing OSH resources (e.g. from UMASH, Extension's SAY, CareerSafe, and NAGCAT) to educators
- **Collected** feedback through evaluations

These South Central College agribusiness students are thinking safety first by wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. Several SCC faculty were trained through this pilot project.



Quotes from surveys: "All ag teachers should take this." "This is a very useful session because ag safety is often overlooked."

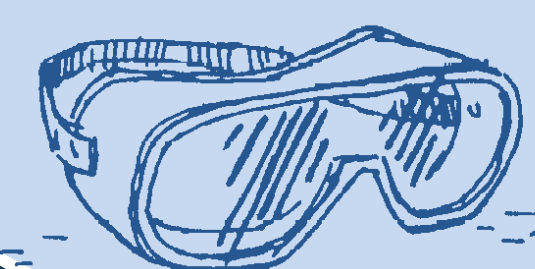
Results **100%** of survey respondents were overall satisfied with the learning experience provided by the training.

52% of participants strongly agreed and 43% agreed that their understanding of the topic was increased through the training.

All data collection was done in compliance with South Central College IRB approval.

Conclusions Although survey feedback was positive, one of the most difficult parts of the pilot project was getting participants for each session. Furthermore, more work is needed to improve usability of the curriculum for educators. Distribution of materials is ongoing.

Applications After the one-year pilot project, South Central College plans to build upon the results of the project by incorporating feedback and offering additional OSH training to agricultural educators, students, and farm owners, which will further strengthen interdisciplinary partnerships between these groups. In particular, we plan to **target training to** specific populations of ag educators, such as **beginning teachers**.



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