



UMASH

Upper Midwest
Agricultural Safety
and Health Center

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THE ISSUE: Workplace safety continues to be a challenge for livestock producers. Quality Assurance Programs have been developed in the dairy, beef, and swine industry encouraging standardized animal care practices in order to maintain meat safety and quality. Worker safety has not been a major component of most Quality Assurance Program materials or training to date.



INCORPORATING WORKER SAFETY PROGRAMS WITH QUALITY ASSURANCE

APPROACH: This project examined the potential for quality assurance programs, specifically in the dairy, beef, and swine industries, to serve as a platform for worker safety training and education. The project included a detailed literature review of livestock handling injuries to clarify the nature and scope of animal handling injuries in the United States. This was followed by a detailed analysis of major beef, dairy, and pork quality assurance programs in the U.S. highlighting specific areas where worker safety and health issues could be incorporated.

Quality assurance programs could be a valuable platform to address worker safety and health issues in animal agriculture.

There are well known occupational hazards associated with animal agriculture and providing workplace safety resources to the livestock handling workforce is challenging.

KEY FINDINGS AND RESULTS: Quality Assurance Programs are widely accepted guidelines used in cattle and swine production to maintain standards of meat quality and animal welfare. Worker safety has not traditionally been a major component of quality assurance programs, but there are many opportunities to incorporate worker safety and health topics in these programs while still addressing livestock management practices. Swine quality assurance programs do incorporate worker safety topics, but could these programs could expand their coverage of infectious disease and chronic injuries.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

The findings of this project have been presented and discussed with representatives of the quality assurance programs evaluated. Future directions and focus of these programs as they evolve will indicate how these recommendations are adopted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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