UMASH Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center

Success Stories

DAIRY WORKER SAFETY TRAINING

umash.umn.edu/seguridad

The Problem:

Immigrant workers make up nearly half of the dairy labor force and dairies employing immigrants produce 79% of the US milk supply. However, most workers receive no safety training. **Producers and workers struggle with language and cultural barriers and limited safety resources.**

The Solution:

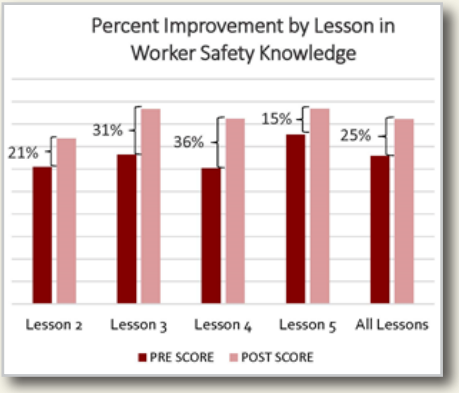
A UMASH project developed **a train-the-trainer curriculum utilizing Community Health Workers**. The 5-module curriculum includes facilitator guides, resources and visuals for workers with limited formal education and low literacy levels.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

"Safety is the elephant in the room and it's overwhelming for someone in my position. [This program] .. breaks it down so that we can tackle it one thing at a time."
- Dairy Producer

THE IMPACT

- **836 workers** trained on **67 farms** in MN and WI.
- **50 farm safety consults**.
- Trained and supported **52 Community Health Workers (CHW's)**.
- The curriculum has been required by more than **50 organizations in the US and beyond**.
- Produced a **promotional YouTube video** highlighting the curriculum and train-the-trainer model to encourage use by other organizations.
- Received the **Stakeholder Collaboration in Occupational Injury Research Award** from the National Safety Council in 2015.
- Monica Cruz Zorrilla, Community Affairs with the Consulate of Mexico was awarded the **School of Public Health Community Partners Collaboration Award** in 2017.



TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

Occupational Risks on Dairy Farms, Cattle, Equipment and Machinery, Workers' Rights and Responsibilities, and Chemicals, Confined Spaces and Silos

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