MAKE SAFETY COUNT YEAR AROUND

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK

National Farm Safety and Health Week was September 21-27, 2014. This year’s theme was “Safety Counts - Protecting What Matters”.

 UMASH, along with the other nine US Agricultural Centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), joined the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) to help raise awareness about the importance of agricultural health and safety. UMASH reached out to local and regional media with a press release and radio PSA to promote agricultural safety and health resources for farmers, their families and workers.

SAFETY IS IMPORTANT YEAR AROUND.

Help us share this message and the resources with the farmers, workers, their families and everyone involved in agriculture.

The resources are available at umash.umn.edu/nfsw

STOCKMANSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOPS

UMASH researchers, Bruce Alexander and Jeff Bender, gave presentations on worker health and safety at three dairy Stockmanship training events this summer in Dundas and Melrose, Minnesota and in River Falls, Wisconsin.

The training objectives were:

1. Dairy stockmanship focused on the interactions between humans and cows, and included low-stress handling techniques,

2. Animal welfare focused on the mechanisms for properly evaluating and caring for livestock; and,

3. Worker health and safety was emphasized as a priority for each component.

For more information on future stockmanship workshops, contact umash@umn.edu.
UMASH at the Minnesota State Fair

UMASH researchers took part in the new Driven to Discover research initiative at the Minnesota State Fair. UMASH invited state fair visitors to participate in a brief survey “What’s Behind Your Food?” to gather information about what they think about when making food purchasing choices for themselves and their family. About 250 people completed the survey at the fair.

The survey is being offered on-line on the UMASH website through October 31st. For more information about participating see link below.

You are invited to take the brief on-line survey to gather information about what people think about when making food purchasing choices for themselves or their family, including their knowledge about worker health and safety in agriculture.

- The survey takes about 5 minutes or less.
- You must be 18 years or older to participate in the survey.
- The survey is available online through October 31st.

Take the survey online at:
https://redcap.ahc.umn.edu/surveys/?s=Bu7RIYnsBt

UMASH at the Latino Summit

The Southern Minnesota Latino Summit was held September 10, 2014 in Mankato, Minnesota. Four UMASH personnel attended: -- Jeff Bender, Carol Peterson, Karen Lopez, and Ruth Rasmussen. The event was convened by the University of Minnesota Extension, Chicano Latino Affairs Council, Consulado de Mexico en Saint Paul, Minnesota State University, and the Latin American Multi-Ethnic Association for Networking and Opportunities. Over 50 persons representing service providers and educational professionals met to create stronger working relationships amongst themselves and to identify strategic collaborations that could result in greater success in serving Latino communities. Energizing ideas were the result of the Pro-Action Cafe format for the day with themes emerging to move visions into practical activities. UMASH resources, particularly in Spanish, were well received and connections for continued engagement were made.

National Farm Medicine Center Hosts OHIP Interns

This summer, the National Farm Medicine Center hosted two students as part of the Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP). Ivanna Pereyra, Salisbury University, and Taylor Arnold, University of Memphis, worked primarily on Seguridad en las Lecherías, a project that is testing culturally appropriate occupational safety and health training for immigrant dairy workers.

“This has been a wonderful opportunity to have fresh young minds among us who can offer new perspectives and can ask questions that don’t occur to us but have relevance to our work,” said Matthew Keifer, MD, MPH, director of the National Farm Medicine Center, a program of Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation.
Learn more about current and past projects, and announcements for future calls for proposals at:
http://umash.umn.edu/projects/pilot_projects.html

ASHCA SAFETY GRANTS PROGRAM

Grants up to $10,000 are being offered by a national coalition of agribusinesses, producer organizations and safety professionals in order to provide financial support for agricultural safety and health interventions at the local and/or regional level.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 7, 2015

Learn more and apply online at: www.ashca.org/safety-grants-program/
Rabies as an Immigrant Worker Health Issue on the Farm

As the dairy industry modernizes, Hispanic immigrant workers play an increasingly important role. Approximately 50% of the dairy workforce in the United States is made up of immigrant workers, largely from Mexico. There are numerous barriers to addressing the health and safety concerns of this workforce including immigration status, language and cultural differences, lack of insurance and limited formal education. This spotlight story highlights an occupational health hazard of working on a farm and stresses the importance of tackling these barriers to keep immigrant works safe.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE AT UMASH.UMN.EDU/SPOTLIGHT