The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) has developed mission, vision, and guiding principle statements to help people understand what the center is all about and enhance our connection with stakeholders. I invite you to view these on the UMASH website. You will notice some key themes: worker health and safety, emerging problems, changing conditions and, quite importantly, engaging a broad base of partnerships. In this newsletter we highlight some unique partnerships that are helping UMASH meet its mission.

The work of Dr. Peter Davies related to livestock associated methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is an excellent example of research that creates partnerships to develop solid scientific evidence to understand an emerging problem. Emerging and re-emerging infectious agents, like livestock associated MRSA, can affect the well being of people who produce food in multiple ways. In addition to the concern of potential disease in people, the emergence of a potential threat can create uncertainty and anxiety, which also affects well-being. The emergence of livestock associated MRSA is a complicated story that requires rigorous research that fully engages the community at risk. Research that does not engage the appropriate stakeholders runs the risk of being uninformative, or worse, misinformative. The approach taken by Dr. Davies and his colleagues draws on the excellent cooperation of swine veterinarians, who represent the community at risk for MRSA infection and can also provide ancillary information that will make the results of the study both interpretable and relevant.

Another highlight is the Farm Mapper video produced by the National Farm Medicine Center. This partnership brought together the resources of the NFMC, first responders, and the farming community to develop a creative technological solution to long-standing problems of responding to emergencies on farms. In an emergency situation, the health and safety of not only the farmers and their employees are at risk, but also that of family members and members of the surrounding community. Helping first responders navigate agricultural properties more safely is a benefit to all.

We look forward to continuing to develop new partnerships and enhance existing ones in the future. In September, UMASH will be participating in the Allen D. Leman Conference (at the Saint Paul RiverCentre™ September 14-17) on September 16, and the 2013 North American Agricultural Safety and Health Summit in Minneapolis September 25-27. We hope to see you there!

Bruce Alexander  
Director, Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center
The University of Minnesota Allen D. Leman Swine Conference is an annual educational event for the global swine industry. It is internationally acclaimed for bringing science-driven solutions to the complex challenges facing the industry. Each year hundreds of participants from over 20 countries attend the Leman Swine Conference held in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. Major players in swine production, animal health management, and marketing from around the world exhibit their products and services.

Bruce Alexander, PhD and Jeff Bender DVM, MPH will be presenting a session entitled:

The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center: Worker Health and Safety in Animal Agriculture

This study promises to give us new understanding about exposure risks to MRSA for people working with livestock and of the associated health risks.
The first UMASH Annual Forum, Making Connections to Improve Worker Safety and Health, was held on April 17, 2013 at the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul Campus with approximately forty participants from academia, veterinary medicine, public health, occupational medicine, animal welfare, extension, dairy industry, and government. The goal of the forum was to showcase the work being done by UMASH and engage stakeholders in a dialogue to improve the health and safety of workers and their families in the Upper Midwest region.

UMASH center director, Bruce H. Alexander, Ph.D., welcomed participants and provided an overview of the center and its mission. In a series of roundtable discussions, the UMASH investigators engaged participants in dialogue focused on their projects and related issues. A number of agricultural safety and health related posters were on display for viewing and discussion throughout the morning. Forum participants heard presentations from the 2012 UMASH Pilot Project awardees. These presentations demonstrated the impact UMASH center can have for the region by stimulating new approaches to existing problems.

Read the full Annual Forum Summary at: umash.umn.edu/annualforum

We look forward to hosting similar events in the future. Watch for announcements on our website and in the UMASH Connections newsletter.
**OUTREACH UPDATE**

**National Farm Medicine Center Develops New Interactive Tool: Farm MAPPER**

Farm Mapping to Assist, Protect and Prepare Emergency Responders (Farm MAPPER) is a NEW interactive web tool that explores using Quick Response tags (QR codes) to provide emergency responders onsite information about hazards and physical layouts of agricultural operations. The project developed model systems for farmers to input data such as locations of chemicals, solvents, fuels and other hazards, where power and gas cut-off valves and water sources are and where farming operations occur. The Farm MAPPER project has received nationwide attention in the Associated Press and Brownfield Ag News.

Learn more at: [http://www3.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/?page=nfmc_farm_mapper](http://www3.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/?page=nfmc_farm_mapper)

Funding for the Farm MAPPER project was provided by the Midwest Center for Occupational Safety and Health (MCOHS) Pilot Projects Research Training Program (PPRTP).

**UMASH Representatives Present at ISASH**

Co-Director Matt Kiefer, with Amy Liebman, Iris Reyes, Dennis Ray, Teresa Schnetzer, Scott Heiberger, Barb Lee, and Marsha Salzwedel from the Marshfield Farm Medicine Center, attended the annual ISASH (International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health) Conference June 24-27 in Sandusky, Ohio. Matt Keifer and Amy Liebman presented “Assisting the dairy industry to optimize worker health and safety” as an oral presentation and in a plenary session with four other speakers. Iris Reyes conducted a poster presentation on “Farm Mapping to Assist, Protect and Prepare Emergency Responders: Farm MAPPER”.

**IN THE FIELD**

**Migrant Clinicians Network Webinar**

Workers and Health: How Frontline Providers Make a Difference in the Protection of Migrant Farmworkers and their Families

May 15, 2013 - Migrant Clinicians Network’s webinar detailed the health risks of migrant and immigrant workers and provided strategies for clinicians to incorporate a focus on occupational and environmental health in the primary care setting. The webinar also gave an overview of resources to address occupational health and environmental health issues, including MCN’s Acute Pesticide Exposure Clinical Guidelines and Pesticide Exposure Assessment Form. MCN is a partner in the UMASH project, Seguridad en las lecherías.

**PRESENTERS:**

- **Amy K. Liebman, MPA, MA**, Director of Environmental and Occupational Health, Migrant Clinicians Network
- **Mike Rowland, MD, MPH**, Vice President, Medical Affairs and Medical Director, Occupational Health, Franklin Memorial Hospital

The recorded webinar, presentation slides (pdf), and accompanying resources are available on the MCN website: [http://www.migrantclinician.org/webinarresources05152013](http://www.migrantclinician.org/webinarresources05152013)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Allen D. Leman Swine Conference**
  September 14-17, 2013
  University of Minnesota

- **National Farm Safety Week**
  September 15-21, 2013

- **U of M SROC Centennial Celebration**
  September 19, 2013
  Waseca, MN

- **2013 North American Agricultural Safety Summit**
  “The Many Faces of Agriculture”
  September 25-27, 2013
  Minneapolis, Minnesota

- **12th Annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference**
  November 19-20, 2013
  Ames, Iowa

Learn more and view full event list at: [http://umash.umn.edu/events.html](http://umash.umn.edu/events.html)