



The **UMASH** Connection Farms and People

A newsletter of the Upper Midwest
Agricultural Safety and Health Center

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Upper Midwest
Agricultural Safety
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ONE HEALTH IN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH



UMASH embraces a One Health philosophy that recognizes connections between human, animal, and environmental health when addressing occupational health and safety issues in agriculture.

HEALTHY FAIRS WORKSHOPS

Carrie Klumb, MPH - Minnesota Department of Health



There are 97 county fairs in Minnesota and approximately 2.7 million people attend one each year! With half of the Minnesota population attending a fair it's easy to see that county fairs are an important part of Minnesota culture. Fairs are great opportunities for people, especially families with children, to learn about animal agriculture and enjoy spending time with farm animals. However, human-animal interactions also have the

potential to spread illness or cause injury.

Each year the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) investigates illnesses in people that have attended county fairs. The MDH wanted to offer a way for those involved with county fairs and petting zoos to get the latest information on how to keep visitors and animals safe and healthy at fairs. **In 2013, the MDH was awarded a pilot grant from the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center to develop Healthy Fairs Workshops using the One Health philosophy where human, animal, and environmental health issues are addressed.** These workshops were developed in partnership with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (MBAH). At the workshops, an expert from each area presented best practices and current events, followed by a question and answer period, and a small group scenario problem. Each attendee received a binder containing useful handouts and copies of each presentation.

Healthy Fairs Workshops were held in Rochester, Marshall, St. Cloud, and Bemidji, Minnesota with a total of 126 attendees. For each workshop there was an even mix of fair-related attendees and human and animal health officials. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees commented that the workshops were a, "great idea and glad it finally came together," and a "great thing to start with county fairs. Great refreshers."

These workshops brought together groups of people that may not otherwise have a chance to meet in person such as fair officials, petting zoo operators, fair veterinarians, and human and animal health officials. The relationships we built through these workshops proved beneficial for the 2013 fair season. For example, human cases of swine influenza, primarily among swine exhibitors, were being reported nationwide last summer. As a precautionary measure the MDH and MBAH sent informational postcards to 4H families involved in swine projects and to county fair contacts made through the workshops. Building these relationships before an event occurred allowed us to effectively communicate with our fair partners on current events in a timely manner.

The MDH and MBAH would like to continue hosting free, regional **Healthy Fairs Workshops** because we believe these workshops are highly beneficial. We are encouraged by the turnout at these workshops and look forward to working with fair-related groups in the future. After all, everyone's goal is the same; to have a safe, fun, and successful fair!

HIGHLIGHTS

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Animal contact compendium
- Petting zoo checklist
- Petting zoo and fair fact sheet
- Marshall Independent Story on HF Workshops

For more information, visit
<http://umash.umn.edu/healthyfairs/>

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS: REDUCING THE DISPARITIES

Scott Heiberger - National Farm Medicine Center

Two leaders in immigrant worker health touched on challenges facing both producers and workers in the Upper Midwest during their keynote address at the National Occupational Research Symposium (NORA), May 1, at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota.

Xóchitl Castañeda and Marc Schenker, MD, MPH presented *“Occupational Health of Immigrant Workers: Reducing the Disparities.”* Focusing on the lack of immigrant health visibility and research, they described the demographics and causes of global migration, and the relationship of migration to work.

“The University of Minnesota has many programs that have the potential to include the health of the migrants in their scope of work,” said Castañeda. *“I am convinced that this could have a positive impact on public health at a local, national and global level.”*

Xóchitl is Director of the Health Initiative of the Americas at the University of California Berkeley. She is a medical anthropologist by training, and was educated in Guatemala and Mexico.

“Often the migratory process involves risks, and many migrants have preexisting health problems that are exacerbated by the socio-economic and political determinants of health, including barriers to access and use of health care services, making them a particularly vulnerable population,” Castañeda said. *“Therefore, it is important for service providers, students, researchers, and policy makers to have a better understanding the specific health issues that affect this population.”*



Dr. Schenker is Director of the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at the University of California. He is also Director of the Davis Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, and the Migration and Health Research Center.

Drs. Castañeda and Schenker, along with Alfonso Rodriguez-Lainz, Ph.D., are co-authors of a new book, *“Migration and Health: A Research Methods Handbook,”* scheduled for publication in November 2014 (www.ucpress.edu/go/sociology).

The NORA symposium was co-sponsored by the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) and Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety (MCOHS).

The evolving nature of agriculture production in the Midwest has given way to a steadily growing population of new immigrant workers in the workforce. This trend is also seen in jobs that are closely linked to the agriculture industry, such as food processing. Ensuring the health and well being of this changing workforce requires attention to not only occupational health issues as they pertain to new immigrants, but also the well being of the workers and their families in our communities. This NORA symposium provided an opportunity to consider partnerships needed to address this challenge in the Midwest.

Bruce Alexander
Director, Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center

Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health

June 16-19, 2014
Oakland, California

An international event that offers researchers, faculty, graduate students and professionals working with migrant communities around the world, a unique opportunity to learn about different health issues that affect mobile populations.

[LEARN MORE](#)



UPCOMING CONFERENCES FEATURING UMASH PRESENTERS



ISASH - International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health
June 22-26
Omaha, Nebraska

Cultivating Ag Safety and Health

<http://isash.org/2014-isash-confer/>



Safety and Health in Agricultural & Rural Populations (SHARP)
October 19-22
Saskatoon, SK, Canada

Healthy Workplaces • Healthy People
Healthy Communities • Healthy Environments

<http://cchsa-ccssma.usask.ca/sharp2014/index.php>

KEEPING YOUR FAMILY AND VISITORS SAFE ON THE FARM

Stop Lyme Disease with New Resources from National Farm Medicine Center

An estimated 300,000 Americans are diagnosed with Lyme disease each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ninety-five percent of U.S. Lyme cases are diagnosed in 13 states throughout the Upper Midwest and Northeast.

Get the facts about Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses with a handy new set of printed resources from the **National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC)**.

The new resources are available online at www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/lymedisease



Safe Agritourism

Agritourism - activities that bring visitors to a farm or ranch - is seen more often today than ever before. Most visitors are unfamiliar with the agricultural environment - and the hazards found there. Owners need to ensure the safety and health of all guests visiting their operations.

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety has developed a website with interactive "walkthroughs", operator checklists and hundreds of resources for keeping visitors safe on farms and ranches.

Resources available at www.safeagritourism.com



Fact Sheets

Fact sheets are available from UMASH on a variety of topics related to agricultural safety and health. Topics covered include needlestick prevention, rabies, zoonotic diseases, *E. coli* O157:H7, influenza and swine contact, and keeping safe at petting zoos and fairs.

Fact sheets can be downloaded from the UMASH website at umash.umn.edu/resources/fact-sheets.html



Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms

Childhood farm injuries and fatalities most often occur while children are playing in an agricultural worksite, or are bystanders to agricultural work. *Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms* provides the first comprehensive guide for designing and building an outdoor safe play area for children who live on or visit farms.

Learn more at www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay

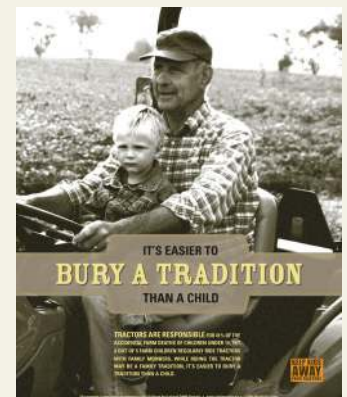


Childhood Agricultural Safety Network - "Keep Kids Away from Tractors" Campaign

Controversial and blunt, the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network's "Keep Kids Away from Tractors" campaign has rattled traditional thinking. Stating that it is never okay for a child younger than 12 years to be on a tractor, the campaign takes a "tough love" approach. The earliest a child should be on a tractor is when he or she is old enough to take and pass tractor safety educational classes, according to the network. And a child should never be an extra rider.

Riding a tractor with parents, or grandparents, is considered a childhood tradition in many rural areas. During the past year, however, a number of fatal, high-profile incidents underscored the danger of allowing children -- some just toddlers -- to ride on a lap, sit on a fender, or stand on the axle. Some of the fatalities occurred despite cabs. The message may be controversial and blunt, but the lives it saves will be worth it. Remember -- **"It's easier to bury a tradition than a child."**

Resources are available at www.childagsafety.org/TractorCampaign.htm



Ag Safety and Health Spotlight

The UMASH Ag Safety and Health Spotlight features stories and interviews with local farmers and families on farm safety and health topics such as *E. coli* O157:H7, rabies, and needlestick injuries.

Spotlight articles are available on the UMASH website at www.umash.umn.edu/spotlight



IN THE FIELD

Presentation at National Cattleman's Beef Association's State Beef Quality Assurance Coordinators Meeting

Jim Lee and Tim Goldsmith gave a presentation and led discussion on the potential for inclusion of worker health and safety training into quality assurance programs at the 2014 National Cattleman's Beef Association's State Beef Quality Assurance Coordinators meeting in Denver, CO May 15 & 16th. The meeting is an assembly of around fifty State Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) coordinators and educators from around the country. This group is responsible for developing national guidelines on quality assurance programs for all segments of the cattle industry, as well as developing training materials for their respective states.

The title of their presentation was *"Quality Assurance Programs: Potential for Agriculture Worker Health and Safety"*. There was wide interest and engagement with meeting attendees on the incorporation of worker safety and health training both on the national level and within specific state programs. Attendees expressed specific interest in developing materials on needle-stick injury avoidance and farm-related ATV accidents. Quality assurance programs have the potential to be a wide reaching vehicle for agricultural safety and health training materials.

Dr. Cara Cherry at Minnesota Dairy Health Conference

Dr. Cara Cherry, UMN Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine Resident, presented two UMASH related projects recently at the Minnesota Dairy Health Conference on May 22. Held in Minneapolis, the annual conference provides continuing education to dairy veterinarians, dairy industry professionals, and dairy producers and is organized by the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Cherry spoke on Stockmanship Training and Worker Health and Needlestick Injuries in Livestock Workers.



UMASH Sponsors Research Exchange Meeting

A new Research Exchange Meeting, sponsored by UMASH was held on May 2 at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. The exchange featured researchers and staff from Minnesota's UMASH, Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety (MCOHS), Wisconsin's National Farm Medicine Center, and from Iowa's Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health and Heartland Center for Occupational Safety and Health. The purpose of the exchange was to promote dialogue, networking, and potential collaboration between researchers



Ten five-minute "icebreaker" presentations sparked the day's thinking. Breakout discussion topics included extractive industries, injury prevention, Total Worker Health, occupational health surveillance, infectious diseases in agricultural populations, vulnerable populations, research to practice, and airborne exposures in agriculture.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health

June 18-20
Grand Forks, North Dakota

2014 ISASH Conference Cultivating Ag Safety and Health

June 22-26
Omaha, Nebraska

EPICOH 2014 Challenges for Occupational Epidemiology in the 21st Century

June 24-27
Chicago, Illinois

MCN Webinar Integrating Oral Health into the Patient-Centered Health Home

June 25 - 12:00pm CDT

ISEE 2014

August 24-28
Seattle, Washington

Allen D. Leman Swine Conference

September 13-16
St. Paul, MN

Safety and Health in Agricultural and Rural Populations (SHARP)

October 19-22
Saskatoon, SK, Canada

Learn more and view full event list at:
umash.umn.edu/events.html

WEBSITE SURVEY

We are developing a new website - WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Please take a moment and fill out our online survey. Tell us what you think of our current site, what new features you would like to see, and what information is important to you.

umash.umn.edu/survey.html



UMASH is a collaboration of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, the National Farm Medicine Center of the Marshfield Clinic with the Migrant Clinicians Network, and the Minnesota Department of Health. This collaboration brings together unique and complimentary expertise to address existing and emerging occupational health and safety issues in agriculture.

Research • Education • Prevention