

Nurses Reaching into the Rural Community – What's happening at UWEC?

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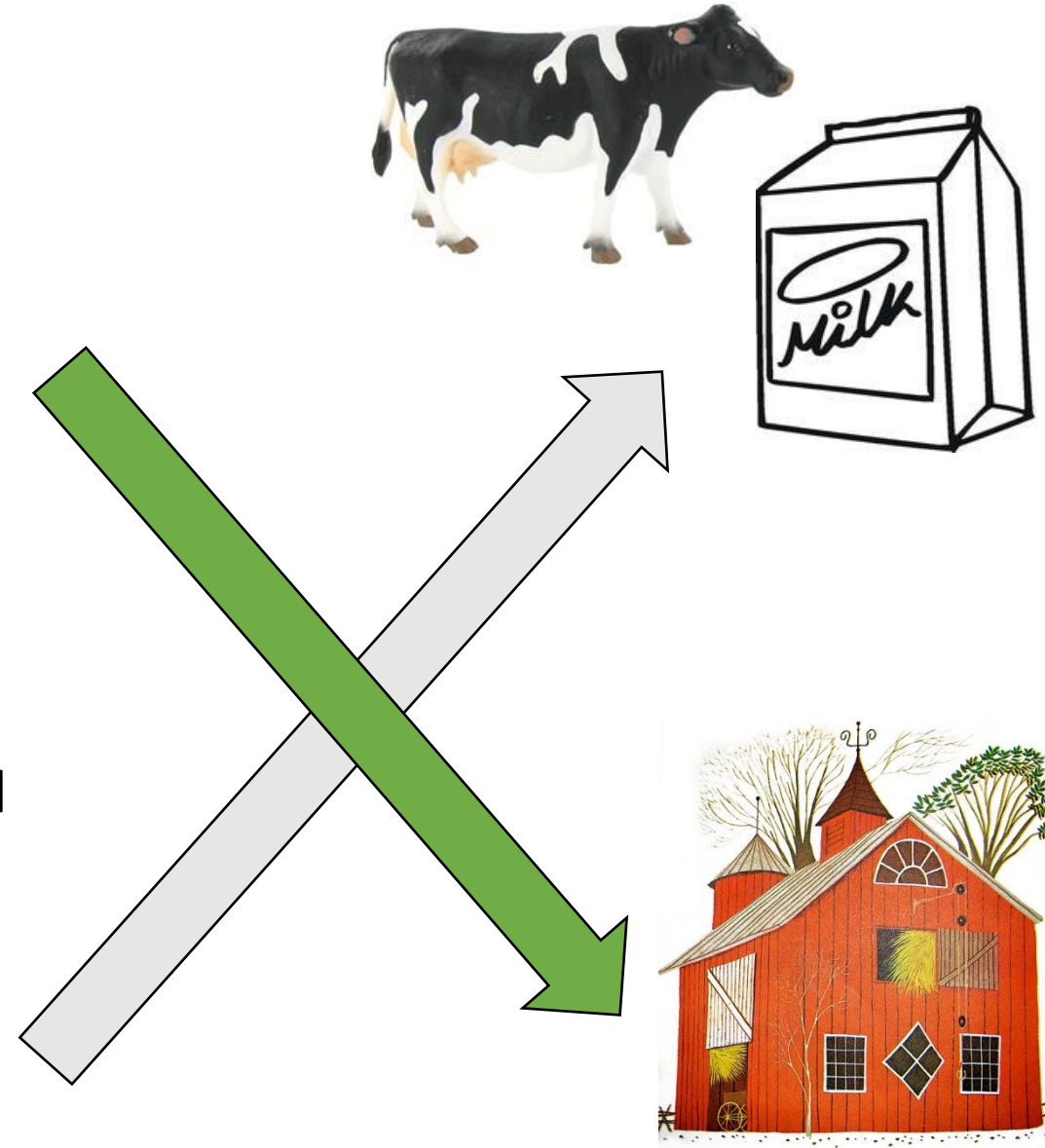
College of Nursing
and Health Sciences

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN - EAU CLAIRE



What's happening in our rural communities?

- Agriculture is the most hazardous industrial sector in the U.S. based on fatality rates
- Decline in number of herds with a shift to larger farms
- Large influx of Hispanic immigrants to fill demand for dairy workers in Wisconsin
 - 2000-2010 Percent Hispanic workers increased from 5% to 40% (60% on farms with more than 300 cows) (UW-Madison Program on Agricultural Technology studies)
 - 2010 Census shows increase in several west central Wisconsin Counties greater than 175%



Barriers to Health Care for Hispanic Immigrant Workers



- Lack of insurance
- High cost of health care services
- Lack of access to preventive care and other health care services (e.g. dental, mental health)
- Communication issues
- Transportation
- Culture

Why nurses / nursing students?

- Largest sector of health care profession
- Uniquely positioned across the continuum of health care – often in rural areas
- Viewed as trusted and credible sources of health care information
- Can integrate knowledge of agricultural health and safety and immigrant workers into their practices throughout their careers



The Partnership

- University of Wisconsin Eau Claire – College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Buffalo County Public Health
- Pepin County Public Health
- Bridges / Puentes
- Dairy Producers
- Chippewa Valley Free Clinic



CHIPPEWA VALLEY
FREE CLINIC



Puentes/Bridges, Inc.

Funding



- University of Wisconsin Differential tuition funding (Domestic Intercultural Immersion) 2011-2013, 2014-2016
- In kind UWEC CONHS, Buffalo and Pepin County Health Departments, Puentes/Bridges, Dale Omtvedt-Gable, farm owners
- Funding from Wisconsin Department of Health Services Contract G0271 DPH14 Spring 2014, 2015

What do we do?

- Students / faculty meet once a week for 5 weeks in preparation.
- Topics chosen by student / faculty through discussion process / readings and researched by students
- Students develop a teaching plan, working in pairs, which included a script in English and Spanish (2 new topics / session)
- 2 – 3 farms per day for 5 days (17 large dairies and 1 heifer farm)
- Education on a variety of topics related to health and safety
- Health screenings – BP, BMI, TB, cholesterol, glucose, tobacco, alcohol use, vision
- Immunizations – Tdap, Influenza
- Supply PPE with education and demonstration
- Follow up



Who did we see?

- 323 Unique Individuals
- 858 Visits
- 78.7% Hispanic, 21.3% White
- 87.3% Male, 12.7% Female
- Age (Significant at $p < .001$)
 - Hispanic: M=31.46 years,
White: M=45.77 years,





- [Nursing immersion program - YouTube](#)

“I formed interesting perceptions about Mexican and rural farming cultures through language styles, values and comparison to my own cultural existence. I have learned more about listening and critically thinking than any other clinical experience I had leading up to this one and have made observations that have helped me realize significant views I have about worldly value systems. My understanding of communication within and surrounding cultures has expanded, along with my reflections of global diversity. Lastly, I have been exposed to and better understand the impacts of culture and language on the practice and profession of nursing. “

Reaching out....What next?

- New partners?
- Replication?
- Curriculum?



Ideas?
Comments?
Questions?

