



UMASH Upper Midwest
Agricultural Safety
and Health Center

PILOT PROJECT 2013-2014

PURPOSE: To develop and organize “Healthy Fairs” workshops to educate fair and petting zoo operators about industry best practices for running a safe fair/zoo with the goal of reducing illness associated with animal contact at these events.



HEALTHY FAIRS WORKSHOPS: ONE HEALTH AT THE FAIR

- Every year there are ~3,200 state and county fairs in the United States that attract ~150 million visitors
- Fairs are great opportunities for people to observe animals, learn about animal agriculture, and experience the human-animal bond.
- There is also the potential for human illness and injury at fairs from food, water, and animals. How aware are fair organizers of these risks? How ready are they to respond if an event occurs?
- Each year outbreaks associated with fairs are investigated by health departments.

RESULTS: Workshops were held with attendees from fairs and human and animal health agencies. A One Health philosophy was used where human, animal, and environmental health issues were discussed. These workshops brought together groups of people that may not otherwise have a chance to meet; government officials, veterinarians, petting zoo operators, and fair officials all working together for a safe and healthy fair.

PROJECT MILESTONES:

- > Held two workshops in 2013 in Rochester, MN and St. Cloud, MN
- > 86 people attended the 2013 workshops. Half of the attendees were from fairs and half from human and animal health agencies.
- > An article about the workshops was published in the January/February 2014 issue of *Fairs & Expos*.
- > Sent postcards to 4H families involved in swine projects alerting them to a swine influenza outbreak, letting them know what symptoms to look for and to see their doctor if they got sick.
- > Held two workshops in April 2014 in Marshall, MN and Bemidji, MN
- > Invited to speak at the 2014 Minnesota Federation of County Fairs Convention, where 41 people attended the session.



*“Great thing to start
with county fairs.
Great refreshers.”*

*“Very good day spent,
well worth the time spent.”*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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umash.umn.edu/projects/2013pilot/fair.html

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