



Building Partnerships in Agricultural Health and Safety

A collaboration of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and College of Veterinary Medicine, the National Farm Medicine Center of the Marshfield Clinic with the Migrant Clinicians Network, and the Minnesota Department of Health.

Agriculture Can be a Hazardous Occupation

- People working in agriculture are five times more likely to die on the job than the average worker
- Potential exposures include chemicals, air contaminants, heat, noise, and infectious disease
- Variable and unpredictable workplace environments

Agriculture can be safe when hazards are recognized and managed

Farmers and workers face unique challenges

Daily Challenges on the Farm



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Changes in the Workforce and Production: New Health and Safety Challenges

- The global demand has implications for agriculture
- Fewer farms with intensified production
- Farm operations are using more hired labor
- New immigrants are making up a greater proportion of the farm workforce in the Upper Midwest



ENGAGING THE NEW AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

Foreign-born workers make up 72% of the U.S. agricultural workforce (NCFH, 2012). UMASH is working to meet the health and safety needs of the changing agricultural workforce through improved training and stakeholder dialogue.

- *Developing culturally appropriate health and safety training for immigrant workers*
- *Connecting with stakeholders to address needs of workers, producers, and communities*

UNDERSTANDING EMERGING HEALTH RISKS

As agriculture changes, so do the associated risks. UMASH is working to identify, understand, and control the risks.

- *Educating veterinarians and workers on needle stick injury*
- *Identifying practices to reduce E. coli O157:H7 exposure*
- *Researching livestock-associated MRSA in people*
- *Finding risk factors for zoonotic disease in agricultural populations*

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

REDUCING LOST DAYS OF WORK

Disease and injury are a significant economic burden to farm owners. UMASH is working to reduce the impacts through research and partnerships with health care providers.

- *Evaluating pork production practices to understand its effect on air quality and injury risk*
- *Establishing a surveillance system for disease and injury in dairy workers*
- *Developing applications for health care providers to better understand agricultural tasks to promote faster return to work*



FORGING NETWORKS

Finding solutions to agricultural health and safety problems requires many perspectives. UMASH is building relationships among farmers, workers, health professionals, governmental agencies, agribusiness, and others to promote agricultural health and safety.

- *Creating a multidisciplinary network to address livestock worker health and safety issues*
- *Developing communication channels to share information and resources*
- *Funding innovative ideas through pilot grants*

Join the Conversation!



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RESEARCH

EDUCATION

PREVENTION