Bridging the Gap in Immigrant Dairy Worker Safety Training

As the size and concentration of dairy production has increased, so too has the diversity of the workforce. The goal of the Seguridad en las lecherías project was to address language barriers and training needs of immigrant workers in dairy production by testing a culturally and linguistically appropriate occupational safety and health intervention to reduce worksite hazards and to improve knowledge and practices among immigrant dairy workers.

Through extensive input from producers, workers, health and safety professionals and researchers, this project developed an OSHA-approved five-module, bilingual health and safety training curriculum. Sixty-seven farms were enrolled in the project and 836 immigrant workers were trained. On about half of the farms the researchers also tested a community health worker or Promotores de Salud model. Working with the farmer, one of the workers was selected and trained to directly help their co-workers by providing reminders about safety procedures, answering questions and serving as a liaison between the farmer and farm workers.

Initial findings show that farms with the onsite safety Promotores are successful in creating change. Farmers and workers feel the model helped improve safety on the farm; Promotores felt the monthly walkthrough reduced farm hazards.

Over 40 requests for the training curriculum have already been received from organizations across the US and other countries. While the researchers complete the analysis, they are also are talking with organizations about hosting the training modules long-term so they remain publicly available.

The Seguridad en las lecherías project was conducted by UMASH researchers at the Migrant Clinician Network (MCN) and the National Farm Medicine Center. Lessons learned from their project were also presented at the 2016 UMASH Annual Forum.
Once again UMASH and the other nine U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers collaborated to spotlight agricultural health and safety with a variety of resources for farm workers, their families and everyone involved in agriculture. Farm Safety...A Legacy to be Proud Of was the theme for the 2016 National Farm Safety and Health Week (FSHW).

UMASH participated in promoting FSHW across social media especially through the U.S. AgCenters’ YouTube channel which hosts more than 90 videos on a variety of topics related to agriculture, forestry and fishing.

This year’s campaign was also highlighted on the NIOSH Science Blog: blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2016/09/19/farm-safety-week-2016/

Minnesota Lt. Governor Tina Smith joined Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Commissioner Dave Frederickson, Representative Paul Anderson, and farmer/ag educator/FFA leader Ed Terry to declare September 18-24 Minnesota Farm Safety and Health Week and talk about the new Minnesota Rollover Protection System (ROPS) rebate program. UMASH is partnering with the MDA to promote the ROPS program.

Learn more about FSHW and access featured agricultural safety resources at: umash.umn.edu/nfshw-2016
Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Rebate Programs

National Tractor Safety Programs available in Minnesota and Wisconsin

Tractor accidents were the number one cause of death, accounting for more than 1,700 fatalities among U.S. farmworkers since 2003. A rollover protective structure (ROPS) is an operator compartment structure (usually cab or rollbar) intended to protect farmers from injuries caused by rollovers. A ROPS, when used with a seat belt, is 99 percent effective in preventing injury or death in the event of an overturn.

Thankfully, farmers in Minnesota and Wisconsin have access to a rebate program that will defray the cost of a ROPS and make their tractor safer.

umash.umn.edu/rops-national-tractor-safety-programs

WISCONSIN ROPS REBATE PROGRAM
Since the program was established in 2013, more than 170 Wisconsin tractors have been retrofitted with this life-saving apparatus. The WI ROPS Rebate Program is administered through the National Farm Medicine Center at the Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield WI. Philanthropic support from the Auction of Champions has made the WI rebate program possible.

MINNESOTA ROPS REBATE PROGRAM
In July 2016, the Minnesota legislature approved funding for a tractor safety program to help Minnesota farmers add rollover protection to older tractors. The Minnesota ROPS Rebate Program is administered through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and is the seventh state to offer such a program.

Minnesota and Wisconsin tractor owners can apply via the ROPS hotline 1-877-767-7748 (1-877-ROPSR4U, Option 2), or the website www.ropsr4u.com

The National Tractor Safety Coalition (NTSC), a multi-sector workgroup formed in May 2014 is currently working to reduce tractor overturn fatalities through the expansion of current ROPS Rebate Programs. For more info, visit: www.nycamhoutreach.com/ropsr4u/national-rebate-program

UMASH FUNDED FOR 2016-2021

The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) has been awarded funding from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for an additional five years. The following new research projects were funded in our renewal. Watch for updates about these projects in the near future!

Optimizing Assessment of Virus-Containing Particles in Animal Agriculture
Peter Raynor, PI
School of Public Health, University of Minnesota

Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health (RF-DASH)
Casper G. Bendixsen, PI
National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation

Longitudinal Study of Infectious Disease Risks at the Human-Swine Interface
Peter Davies, PI
College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota

Surveillance for Zoonotic Diseases in Agricultural Workers in Minnesota
Kirk Smith, PI
Minnesota Department of Health

UMASH is one of ten Centers of Excellence in Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) throughout the United States. Funding is provided through a cooperative agreement from NIOSH, U54OH010170 (2009-2021).
Agritourism - activities that bring visitors to the farm - is growing in popularity across the nation. It can be a great way for farmers to add supplemental income but it does come with an additional set of responsibilities. Protecting the safety of farm visitors is important for both the visitors and for farms hosting these events.

UMASH, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, has developed a variety of resources to help farmers and agritourism operators keep their visitors safe.

** NEW VIDEO **

Agritourism: Prepare and Plan for Guests on Your Farm

This video and other agritourism resources are available at: umash.umn.edu/agritourism

** UPCOMING EVENTS **

- **Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference (MRASH) 2016**
  November 15-16
  Sioux Center, Iowa

- **Agritourism Workshop**
  November 16
  Burnsville, Minnesota

- **Agritourism Workshop**
  November 17
  Shoreview, Minnesota

- **Minnesota Farm Bureau Meeting**
  November 17
  Minneapolis, Minnesota

- **National Rural Health Day 2016**
  November 17

- **AgriSafe Network Webinar: Promoting Total Farmer Health**
  November 17 @ 11am

- **AgriSafe Network Webinar: Integration of Behavioral Health within Agricultural Health Care**
  December 7 @ 12pm

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

Let's get social! Stay connected with UMASH on social media.

@umashcenter  @umash_umn  YouTube Channel  Join Email List

Read the latest SPOTLIGHT stories at: umash.umn.edu/ag-health-and-safety-spotlight