

May 2016 Alive & Well Update: Farm Safety

The dyadic context of safety: An examination of safety motivation, behavior, and life satisfaction among farm couples.

Sprung, JM; Britton, AR. June 2016. SAFETY SCIENCE 85: 1-8.

The current study sought to address two gaps within the safety literature by (1) examining the dyadic context of safety motivation and safety behavior and (2) focusing on a psychological outcome of safety behavior - life satisfaction. Crossover theory was used as a framework to examine direct and mediated relationships among a sample of 217 married farm couples. Specifically, husbands' and wives' safety motivation were tested as predictors of husband safety behavior. Furthermore, husband safety behavior and wives' perception of husbands' safety behavior were examined as predictors of life satisfaction. Results indicated that wives' safety motivation contributed to husbands' safety behavior indirectly via husbands' own safety motivation. Additionally, husband safety behavior significantly predicted personal life satisfaction and also contributed to spousal life satisfaction indirectly via wives' perceptions. Overall, findings suggest the importance of considering both partners' attitudes when examining antecedents and outcomes related to safety behavior among closely related individuals. Implications of these findings, as well as directions for future research are discussed.

Implementing a National Tractor Safety Program: Using "Whole System in a Room" to Mobilize Partners and Implement Solutions.

Tinc, PJ; Ayers, P; May, JJ et al. April 2 2016. JOURNAL OF AGROMEDICINE 21(2): 127-131.

Fatalities due to tractor overturns have long plagued the US farm community. Constituting 20% of agricultural fatalities, tractor overturns contribute significantly to high rates of fatal injuries. In the past, many efforts have been directed toward reducing tractor overturns, with one successful US-based program offering rebates to farmers who retrofit their tractors with rollover protective structures (ROPS). In an effort to expand the program, the National Tractor Safety Coalition was formed. This coalition hosted a Whole System in the Room workshop to bring 50 stakeholders together. During this workshop, participants worked together to identify a common vision for the future of tractor safety and ROPS programs and commit to action. At the close of the workshop, coalition members set out to begin work on 100 short- and long-term commitments to begin implementing a National ROPS Rebate Program.

The Economic Impact for Farm Injury in Minnesota, 2004-2010.

Landsteiner, AMK; McGovern, PM; Nyman, JA et al. April 2 2016. JOURNAL OF AGROMEDICINE 21(2): 171-177.

Only 2% of Minnesota's employed population worked in agriculture between the years 2005 and 2012. However, this small portion of the state's employed population accounted for 31% of total work-related deaths in the state during that same time period. During a similar time period, 2007-2013, the contribution of agriculture to Minnesota's gross domestic product increased from approximately 1.5% to about 2.3%. This article describes the economic impact of injuries related to farm work between the years 2004 and 2010. Using hospital discharge data and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), estimates of the number of injuries and fatalities related to agricultural work were compiled. A cost of illness model was applied to these injury and fatality estimates to calculate the related indirect and direct costs in 2010 dollars. Estimated total costs, in 2010 dollars, ranged between \$21 and \$31 million annually over the 7-year study period. The majority of the costs were attributable to indirect costs, such as lost productivity at work and home. Fatal injuries accrued the largest proportion of the estimated costs followed by hospitalized and nonhospitalized injuries. A sensitivity analysis was performed to evaluate the impact each selected data source had upon the cost estimate. The magnitude of the costs associated with these injuries argues for better surveillance of injury related to agriculture to prioritize resources and evaluate intervention and prevention programs.