

Incorporating Occupational Health Interventions in a Community-Based Participatory Preventive Health Program for Farm Families: A Qualitative Study

Schiller, L. F., Donham, K., Anderson, T., Dingledein, D. M., & Strebels, R. R. (2010). Incorporating occupational health interventions in a community-based participatory preventive health program for farm families: a qualitative study. *Journal of agromedicine*, 15(2), 117-126.

The purpose of this pilot study was to determine the willingness of the farm community to participate in a farm safety health initiative (expanding a community-based health program to include elements of the Certified Safe Farm program), as well as understand farmers' experiences with participation in the intervention. Focus groups and individual interviews were held to explore farmers' experience with the expanded health screening and on farm safety review. Results indicate that incorporation of the expanded intervention was well accepted amongst participants in this study.

Health Issues of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

Hansen, E., & Donohoe, M. (2003). Health issues of migrant and seasonal farmworkers. *Journal of Health care for the Poor and Underserved*, 14(2), 153-164.

This paper describes the socioeconomic conditions under which the 3 to 5 million migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the United States live. Health consequences resulting from occupational hazards and from poverty, substandard living conditions, migrancy, language and cultural barriers, and impaired access to health care are described. Specific problems include infectious diseases, chemical- and pesticide-related illnesses, dermatitis, heat stress, respiratory conditions, musculoskeletal disorders and traumatic injuries, reproductive health problems, dental diseases, cancer, poor child health, inadequate preventive care, and social and mental health problems. By increasing awareness among health care professionals of the plight of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, the authors hope to encourage development of a stronger public health infrastructure and to improve the health status of these individuals.

Farmers Have Hearts: The Prevalence of Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease Among a Subgroup of Irish Livestock Farmers

van Doorn, D., Richardson, N., & Osborne, A. (2017). Farmers have hearts: the prevalence of risk factors for cardiovascular disease among a subgroup of Irish livestock farmers. *Journal of agromedicine*, 22(3), 264-274.

Objectives: Despite international findings that farmers have better health outcomes than other occupation groups, Irish farmers are found to be a high-risk group for cardiovascular disease (CVD). Early detection of CVD through preventive health measurements, such as screening of high-risk groups, can contribute to a reduction of CVD cases. Farmers, however, represent a "challenging" group in terms of engaging in preventive health behaviors. This study examined the prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors among male Irish livestock farmers who participated in heart screening as part of a workplace health intervention. **Methods:** In this cross-sectional study, data were collected from a convenience sample (N = 310) of farmers. Consent included permission to analyze the heart screening results and to participate in two follow-up questionnaires by phone at Week 1 (n = 224) and Week 12 (n = 172). All data were entered onto the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS version 22) and both

descriptive and inferential statistics were compiled. Results: Almost one in two (46%; n = 140) farmers had high blood pressure ($\geq 140/\geq 90$ mm Hg), and 46% (n = 140) had elevated total cholesterol. One third of farmers were found to be obese (35%; n = 110). The vast majority (83%; n = 255) had at least four risk factors for CVD based on the outcomes of the heart screening. Conclusion: The study findings in relation to obesity and the prevalence of multiple risk factors for CVD are a particular cause of concern and shed considerable light on the current excess burden of CVD among farmers in Ireland.