

MRASH Breakout Session Abstracts

Session 1: 8:45 – 9:45 am Nov. 17, 2022



<p>Session 1 Ballroom & via Zoom</p>	<p><i>Roundtable: Implementing ROPS Programs through Media Advocacy: Key Factors in OSH Evidence-Based Practice Adoption.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandi Janssen, PhD, University of Iowa and Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health; • Pam Milkovich, Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety; • Willard Downs, Professor Emeritus, University of Missouri Extension; • Karen Funkenbusch, Extension Instructor, Occupational Therapy, School of Health Professions and Health and Safety State Specialist, University of Missouri Extension; • Tawnie Larson, Project Consultant in the Carl and Melinda Helwig Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Kansas coordinator for the ROPS Rebate Program; • Jackie Curnick, University of Iowa; • Aaron Yoder, Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health. <p><u>Contact:</u> brandi-janssen@uiowa.edu</p> <p><u>Learning Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the goals of media advocacy 2. Recognize how media advocacy can apply to agricultural safety programs <p><u>Abstract:</u></p> <p>Tractor rollovers continue to be a leading cause of fatality on US farms, despite the availability of rollover protective structures (ROPS) for tractors manufactured prior to 1985. When used properly, ROPS are 99% effective in preventing a fatality in the case of a rollover. One barrier to installing ROPS on older tractors is the cost and difficulty of sourcing. The National ROPS Rebate Program provides assistance with sourcing, purchasing, and installation of ROPS in states with dedicated funding, which has resulted in retrofitting hundreds of tractors, measurably reducing deaths from tractor rollovers. This project, funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), is developing media advocacy campaigns in three states, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri, to communicate the need for dedicated state funding for the ROPS Rebate Program. In this roundtable presentation, speakers will provide an overview of media advocacy and describe efforts being undertaken in each target state. Speakers will describe specific barriers and opportunities and how they are using the principles of media advocacy to craft messages and campaigns that are appropriate for their audiences.</p>
<p>Session 1 Room 123</p>	<p><i>Roundtable: Ag Health and Safety in Audio Media</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolyn Sheridan, Executive Director, Ag Health and Safety Alliance(TM); • Renee Anthony, PhD, Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, University of Iowa; • Linda Emanuel, RN, Agrisafe <p><u>Contact:</u> carolyn@aghealthandsafety.com</p> <p><u>Learning Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn more about podcasting and livestreaming as avenues of agricultural health and safety outreach 2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of using this media as a form of outreach 3. Strategically plan for the future of ag safety in audio media- hosting your own platform or guest speaking <p><u>Abstract:</u></p> <p>Research completed by Successful Farming in 2021 has found that over a third (35%) of U.S. farmers listen to ag-related podcasts, with this number expected to increase. Podcasting and livestreaming audio are</p>

relatively new technologies, only gaining popularity in the past 8 years. Independent research by reporters has found that farmers prefer listening to “talk radio” style podcasts, rather than music—and are listening up to 12 hours a day (White, 2017). This roundtable will highlight efforts from a variety of organizations to discuss the benefits and challenges of using new media outlets to share messages of agricultural health and safety. Presenters will highlight the structure and goals of these efforts and identify some agricultural health and safety topics discussed using this media (such as ATVs, mental health, anhydrous ammonia, and manure gases). They will share lessons learned about which messages/episodes resonated strongly with listeners, how the format allows for quick responses, and how to measure the impact of these efforts.

**Session 1
Room 124**

1. Adolescent agricultural worker exposure to chlorpyrifos & the impact on respiratory health & function.

Ernesto Mendez, MS, University of Iowa; Jonathan A. Davis, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Iowa; Matthew R. Bonner, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, State University of New York at Buffalo; Gaafar M. Abdel Rasoul, Community, Environmental, and Occupational Medicine Department, Menoufia University; Ahmed A. Ismail, Community, Environmental, and Occupational Medicine Department, Menoufia University; Olfat M. Hendy, Department of Clinical Pathology, Menoufia University; James R. Olson, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, State University of New York at Buffalo; Diane S. Rohlman, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Iowa.

Contact: ernesto-mendez@uiowa.edu

Learning Objectives:

1. Compare and contrast methods of pesticide application in different countries
2. Describe how adolescents are occupationally exposed to pesticides in Egypt
3. Participants will understand the impact of pesticide exposure on lung function

Abstract:

Chlorpyrifos (CPF) is a widely used organophosphate insecticide that has been linked to detrimental health effects that range from neurological impacts to respiratory disease. The objective of this study was to assess respiratory symptoms associated with CPF throughout the application season. Urinary 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol (TCPy) samples, a biomarker for CPF exposure, were collected from Egyptian adolescent applicators (n=206) and non-applicators (n=72) along with spirometry measures to determine lung function. Samples were collected over 7 months in 2016. Logistic regression was used to model the odds of reporting wheeze symptoms based on TCPy concentrations while controlling for age and parents smoking in the household. Ordinal multinomial logistic regression was used to model the percent reference for forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1) based on TCPy concentration. Applicators had higher levels of TCPy in April (mean TCPy = 18.1 µg/gm; standard deviation (SD) = 17.8) and August (mean TCPy = 28.2 µg/gm; (SD) = 44.4) than non-applicators (15.6 µg/gm; SD = 13.1 and 13.3 µg/gm; SD = 7.8 respectively). Wheezing increased with increasing pesticide exposure (OR = 1.48 (1.16 – 1.9)). There was no statistically significant relationship between rFEV1 and TCPy concentration. Efforts to reduce pesticide exposure can decrease respiratory complications in adolescents.

2. Healthy Hearing Project: Cognitive Results.

Jan Moore, PhD, University of Nebraska Kearney

Contact: mooreja2@unk.edu

Learning Objectives:

- Identify cognitive screening measures used in identifying cognitive decline.
- Understanding the biases and potential sources of error in assessing cognition.
- Understanding the role of hearing loss in cognitive decline.

Abstract:

The goal of our project is to investigate the relationship between hearing loss in aging farmers and ranchers and cognitive status. This presentation addresses the cognitive tasks completed by our participants. Cognitive tasks include the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) screening tool to identify

mild cognitive impairment in persons over 50. All of our participants have passed the MoCA screener. The cognitive tasks included Symbol matching, STROOP, and a “Simon” Task. These tasks are evaluated by accuracy and reaction time. The symbol matching task has been completed with high accuracy in all participants. In the STROOP task the participant identifies the color of ink of words presented to them. Trials were either neutral (e.g. Chair in black ink), congruent (e.g., Red in red ink), or incongruent (e.g., Red in green ink). We expected and observed faster reaction times and higher accuracy on neutral and congruent trials. Similar results were found on the Simon task with congruent trials being faster and more accurate. We found that participants were faster and more accurate on a touch screen than with a computer and mouse. At this time, we are not seeing a clear relationship between hearing loss and cognitive task performance. We continue to recruit and test more participants.

Session 2: 10:00–11:00 am Nov. 17, 2022



**Session 2
Ballroom
& via
Zoom**

1. Collective and Effective Collaboration: Measuring the Impact of a National Campaign Delivering Farm Safety and Health Messaging.

Megan Schossow, MS, University of Minnesota; Cassandra Edlund, MPH, UMN; Devon Charlier, MPH, UMN
Contact: schos021@umn.edu

Learning Objective:

Identify strategies to evaluate the collective impact of social media campaigns when partnering with ag health and safety organizations

Abstract:

Social media is a ubiquitous tool permeating the nation's communication and social networking platforms, with over 302 million active social media users in the U.S.

1. As a commonly adopted strategy to deliver evidence-based information to the public, social media offers the opportunity to mobilize preventative health messaging. For individuals working in agriculture, an industry ranking as one of the most hazardous,
2. Collaborative social media campaigns can be a convenient and cost-effective tool to raise awareness, push tailored messaging, and leverage farm safety and health resources. Despite the popularity of collaborative campaign efforts on social media, limited research has examined the effectiveness and impact of national collaborative social media campaigns in the agricultural safety sector. To gain insight into the impact of the collaborative National Farm Safety and Health Week (NFSHW) campaign, we coordinated the reporting and analysis of eleven U.S. Ag Centers' social media analytics.

This presentation will report the methods and results from the 2019-2021 NFSHW campaign, which collectively measured audience growth, engagement, and center participation. We will also outline recommendations for improving methods when coordinating and assessing collective impact and strategies to effectively reach and engage agricultural communities with farm safety and health messages.

2. Novel Cohort Process to Minimize COVID-19 Infection in Migrant Workers.

Claudia Corwin, MD MPH, University of Iowa and Proteus Inc.; Caroline Johnson, FNP-BC, Clinical Director, Proteus Inc.

Contact: claudia-corwin@uiowa.edu

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. List risk factors for increased COVID-19 transmission in migratory and seasonal agricultural workers (MSAWs)

2. Give examples of the difference between pandemic preparation needs of MSAWs as compared to the general population

3. Discuss innovative process to address safety of MSAWs during the COVID-19 pandemic

Abstract:
 Background: Migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFW) experience disproportionate infection, severe disease and death from COVID-19. This report describes an innovative process to address the safety of MSFW that utilized cohorting that eventually allowed for safe release to work in the fields. Methods: Upon worker departure from Mexico, the employer arranged for bus seat assignments, mask use, and hand hygiene practice during the 3-day trip to Iowa. Upon arrival at the farm, surveillance testing and low-density housing cohorting based upon travel seat assignments allowed for early identification of infected workers and appropriate quarantine. Upon completion of isolation or quarantine as appropriate, workers were released to congregate housing and work in the fields. Findings: Compared to a migrant farmworker COVID-19 outbreak without travel pre-planning, the cohorting process produced a 3.5% positivity rate compared to an earlier season July farmworker group on the same farm with a 12.7% positivity rate. Conclusions/Application to Practice: The success of this model points to the power of collaboration between farm employer, healthcare providers and workers to minimize worker infection and enable safe work in the fields. Increased state and federal support for MSFW protections could support infrastructure to proactively plan for prevention mechanisms to prevent the spread of known infectious disease among this vulnerable population.

**Session 2
Room 123**

1. The Association Between County Ordinances Allowing Off-Road Vehicles on Public Roads and Crash Rates.

Charles Jennissen, MD, University of Iowa Departments of Pediatric and Emergency Medicine; Christopher Monson, MD, University of Iowa Stead Family Department of Pediatrics; Priyanka Vakkalaenka, PhD, University of Iowa Department of Emergency Medicine; Gerene Denning, PhD, University of Iowa Department of Emergency Medicine; Nicholas Stange, BS, Saint Louis University School of Medicine
Contact: charles-jennissen@uiowa.edu

- Learning Objectives:**
1. Participants will be able to list three design characteristics that make all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) at increased risk for loss of control and crash on public roads.
 2. They will be able to describe whether there was an association with having passed a county ordinance allowing ATVs and other off-road vehicles on public roads and crash rates.
 3. Attendees will be able to state what the ATV manufacturers' policy is regarding ATVs on public roads.

Abstract:
 Off-road vehicles (ORVs) including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility task vehicles (UTVs) are not designed for roadway use. However, legislative bodies across the country have increasingly allowed ATVs/UTVs on public roads. In 2009, the Iowa state legislature gave individual counties the discretion to pass such ordinances. In order to determine their effect, a statewide ORV crash database including records from the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and State Trauma Registry (STR) from 2002-2018 was utilized. Forty-nine Iowa county ORV ordinances went into effect by 2018. Adjusted for year, there was a nearly 60% greater ORV crash rate in counties after passing an ORV roadway ordinance as compared to counties without ordinances (incidence rate ratio (IRR) 1.58, 95% CI 1.32-1.90). Roadway crashes (n=834) were almost 50% higher after ordinance passage (IRR 1.48, 95% CI 1.14-1.94). There were many roadway ORV crashes noted both before county ordinance passage and in counties where usage remained illegal suggesting inadequate enforcement of ORV roadway restrictions. Despite this, our study demonstrated that passage of laws allowing and expanding ATV/UTV access to public roads increases the number of crashes, likely leading to more deaths and injuries.

2. How vehicle telematics can make your farm more efficient and safer.
 Brian Hammer, MPA, CDS, Nationwide Insurance
Contact: bhammer@nationwide.com

Learning Objectives:

To better how vehicle technology can make farming safer and provide efficiencies to make the ROI.

Abstract:

Discuss ways in which vehicle telematic devices, including cameras can be used successfully on a farm to reduce cost, stress and accidents. Too many times telematics are thought to be just a tracking device, however they are so much more, from improving maintenance, driver safety, less stress in worrying about lone worker operations and even help you successfully information for the IRS!

**Session 2
Room 124**

1. 3rd shift phenomenon! How does the female producer skillfully balance (or not) the myriad of stressors to achieve mental wellbeing. Linda Emanuel, RN, AgriSafe Network

Contact: lemanuel@agrisafe.org

Learning Objectives:

1. *Connect the physical, mental, and spiritual stressors that impact the female's role in agriculture.*
2. *Discover strategies to reduce physical and mental stress and fatigue*
3. *Access resources to educate female producers on signs and symptoms of poor mental health and community-based tools to decrease depression and anxiety.*

Abstract:

Women in agriculture have always known the significant role they play in the work, business, and future of agriculture. Fortunately, and finally, recent changes in USDA data collection have exposed a significant voice and representation of women in agriculture. AgriSafe's Total Farmer Health model illustrates the factors affecting productive fulfilling careers in agriculture. Farm culture, communication dynamics, and the role in the family and community are just a few unique challenges experienced by female producers. The fast-paced evolution of agriculture will affect female stress in new and diverse ways. With the average age of female producers at 57 years, the most effective approach is to value and protect their health early in their careers. This session will explore female specific agricultural health and safety topics with an emphasis on navigating the stressors and mental health concerns for female producers.

2. Rethinking IT....

Jason Haglund, MS, CADC Senior Consultant/Specialty Coordinator Project Recovery Iowa

Contact: jdaglund@me.com

Learning Objectives:

1. *Discuss how the pandemic and other disasters experienced over the past three years emotionally impacted you and/or your colleagues/friends/family*
2. *Participants will be coached on strategies to reframe struggles, prevent burnout, manage feeling overwhelmed/exhausted*
3. *Brainstorm your ability to promote meaningful conversation, challenging stigma and advocating for policy change in your workplace or community*

Abstract:

Disruption, uncertainty, and anxiety have increased our collective exhaustion. Has your emotional wellbeing taken a toll over the past 2 years? Across the Midwest levels of Anxiety and Depression have remained three times higher than pre-pandemic. This combined with chronic stress and prolonged overwhelm leads to burnout. Everyone has been impacted, now what do we do?

Join us to learn how you can reframe your own challenges into opportunities. Instead of loses we talk wins! You can do the same with family, co-workers and neighbors changing the conversation and opening the door to better hear and support each other, better understand trauma, and decrease the stigma of talking about emotional wellbeing openly.

<p>Session 3 Ballroom & via Zoom</p>	<p>1. <i>Mending the stress fence.</i> Remington Rice, PhD, Michigan State University Extension (will join via Zoom) <u>Contact:</u> riceremi@msu.edu</p> <p><u>Learning Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Understand signs and symptoms of stress in agriculture.</i>2. <i>Learn about wellness.</i>3. <i>Learn how to ask open-ended questions.</i>4. <i>Improve understanding and awareness of the warning signs of suicide and resources to help support someone in need.</i> <p><u>Abstract:</u> Farmers, farm workers and agricultural professionals endure numerous uncontrollable stressors. Many farmers face financial problems, market uncertainties, farm transfer issues, production challenges and communication barriers. You may know farmers who struggle with stress, anxiety, depression, burnout, indecision or suicidal thoughts. This short program will help participants create self-awareness and provide you with tools and resources to help those in need.</p> <p>2. <i>Farm Adolescent and Adult Mental Health: Methods and Preliminary Results</i> Josie M. Rudolphi, PhD, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Richard Berg, MS, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute <u>Contact:</u> josier@illinois.edu</p> <p><u>Learning Objective:</u> <i>Participants will be able to describe the prevalence of symptoms of anxiety and depression among farm parents and adolescents.</i></p> <p><u>Abstract:</u> Introduction: There is converging evidence agricultural work contributes to poor mental health. However, the mental health experience of youth on farms is unknown, despite youth being engaged in agricultural work and residing in the farm environment. The objectives of this 5-year study are to identify the prevalence of positive screens for common mental health conditions among farm adolescents and adults and to evaluate important potential associations between farm mental health and variables related to rural and agricultural life.</p> <p>Methods: In year 1, farm families were recruited via mail, email, newsletters, and social media. Farm families were provided materials which included a description of the study, information for IRB, and a QR code to the online survey.</p> <p>Survey items aligned with constructs of the Family Stress Model and included questions and instruments about economic hardships and pressure, parents’ emotional and behavioral problems, parents’ interpersonal conflict, parenting, and child emotional and behavioral problems.</p> <p>Results: A final sample of 122 farm families were used for analysis. Among adults and adolescents, nearly 60% met the criteria for generalized anxiety disorder and depression, based on GAD-7 and PHQ-9/A scores.</p> <p>3. <i>Leading Causes of Death among US Crop and Animal Producers: Results from the 2020 CDC Mortality Data.</i></p>
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	<p>Cristina Miller, PhD, USDA Rural Development Innovation Center; Josie Rudolphi, PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (Dr. Miller will join via Zoom) <u>Contact:</u> cristina.miller2@usda.gov</p> <p><u>Learning Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will be able to list the main causes of death of US farmers and ranchers. 2. Participants will be able to identify interventions that may improve the health of US farmers and ranchers. <p><u>Abstract:</u></p> <p>Farming and ranching are dangerous lifestyles, especially for aging farmers and ranchers. Much is known about the risks of handling livestock and machinery. For farms with 10 or more employees, fatal occupational injuries are well documented. At the same time, little is known about farmer and rancher mortality rates from chronic diseases, drug overdoses, poor diet, or zoonoses. For the first time, national CDC mortality data (from 2020) exist to help us understand the various causes of death among US farmers and ranchers. We will describe the leading causes of death and discuss variations in the causes of death by age group, race/ethnicity, gender, and rurality.</p>
<p>Session 3 Room 123</p>	<p>1. Virtual visits to the farm: Use of 360-degree eLearning to enhance agricultural health safety education.</p> <p>Carolyn Sheridan, Ag Health and Safety Alliance(TM); Jenna Gibbs, David Sullivan, Stefan Mandic-Rajcevic, Ag Health and Safety Alliance <u>Contact:</u> carolyn@aghealthandsafety.com</p> <p><u>Learning Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn more about how 360-degree still images can enhance safety training in a virtual world. 2. Identify the type of technological equipment and digital learning platform needed for acquiring 360 still images and producing a “field trip”. 3. Tips and tricks for producing high-quality images and learning content. 4. See real-life photo and video application in a hog production facility with focus on gestation and farrowing environments. <p><u>Abstract:</u></p> <p>One of the main challenges in agricultural health outreach is keeping participants motivated and engaged to complete offered (or required) education. We strive to combat these issues by creating new or unconventional digital experiences which enhance the level of engagement, knowledge retention, and safety behavior changes specific to young adults in agriculture. One of the most effective learning tools in our programs has been the use of 360-degree eLearning for ag safety education. This approach is effective for safety topics because it can help participants experience work environments that may include potentially dangerous situations. 360-degree resources may be watched on several formats—including cell phone, computer, tablet, cell phone with cardboard VR viewers, or a more advanced VR headset. Online eLearning is uniquely appealing to young adults living in rural areas, such as indigenous populations. The presenters will demonstrate a 360-degree image “farm” tour of a swine gestation and farrowing facility with a unique focus on the identification of on-site hazards and how to pass through each channel of biosecurity protection. The presenters will show how clickable icons, text, and images may be used to allow the participant to virtually interact and learn about the environment, and why it is important to prevent zoonotic disease transmission and use PPE properly. Images were captured in partnership with the Upper Midwest Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.</p> <p>2. Better Together: Applying the iap2 spectrum of public participation to engage ag health and safety partners.</p> <p>Megan Schossow, MS, UMASH, University of Minnesota; Devon Charlier, MPH, University of Minnesota <u>Contact:</u> schos021@umn.edu</p>

Learning Objectives:
 1. Participants will be able to describe the spectrum of public participation and when/why it can be useful
 2. Participants will be able to apply the framework to agricultural health and safety

Abstract:
 The iap2 spectrum of public participation has been an integral tool to community engagement and participation since its inception. In this presentation, participants will learn about the framework: the meaning, the categories of participation and their respective value, the impact of this type of work, scenarios in which it has been used. The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center grounds outreach and engagement around this framework and shares case studies, lessons learned, and ideas for prospective work.

**Session 3
Room 124**

1. Environmental and Occupational Exposure Assessment of Cattle Feedyard Workers Using Wearable Technology.
 Jill Vansickle, MPH, Gallagher; Aaron Yoder, PhD, UNMC/CS-CASH
Contact: Jill_Vansickle@ajg.com

Learning Objectives:
 Participants will be able to explain exposure assessment.
 Participants will understand how to use wearable technology for exposure assessment.
 Participants will be able to list environmental and occupational exposures on cattle feedyards.

Abstract:
 Agriculture and animal production, in particular, can expose workers to environmental and occupational hazards. In this study we are monitoring cattle feedyard workers daily activities with wearable technology that collects environmental conditions and potential occupational exposures that could lead to injuries and illnesses. This data includes heat, humidity, lighting, particulate and accelerometer readings. The findings from this data will be presented. This data will provide better insight into potential injuries and illnesses that are not captured in traditional injury reporting methods

2. GIS.
 Andrew Schissel, Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Neuroscience; Ellen Duysen, MPH, COHC, Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health; Murray Madsen, MS; Risto Rautiainen, PhD, Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health
Contact: andrew.schissel@unmc.edu

Learning Objectives:
 Participants will be able to describe how GIS can be used to locate high-incident agricultural regions for targeted outreach, preventative research, and to determine emerging issues.

Abstract:
 Surveillance of agricultural injuries and fatalities allows researchers and outreach personnel to prioritize and target preventative research, training, and interventions. Agricultural incidents in a 7-states region were collected over ten years and mapped using Geographic Information System Mapping (GIS). Researchers collected mapped data from a news clip service that included 2,647 incidents in the region served by the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health. Information input into the system included gender, age, type of incident, location by coordinates, fatality or injury, and a short description. The map allows users to view incidents spatially and temporally. Custom filters enable searches for specific types of incidents, and icons enhance visualization.

Mapping data indicates that 47% of the reported incidents involved tractors, with MO and IA having significantly more tractor incidents. Observations include clusters of tractor incidents in IA and MO and a cluster of crop-dusting incidents in KS. The gender of those involved in all incidents was 89% male, with an average age of 49. Youth under age 19 were highly associated with tractor and ATV incidents. Western NE

and SD had lower numbers of incidents, possibly due to under reporting and smaller populations.

This presentation will provide information on the ArcGIS mapping system, describe the utility of this system, and show examples of how this information can be used to target interventions.

Pre-recorded and Online Only



Childcare for farm families: A key strategy to keep the children safe yet largely absent from farm programming

Florence Becot, PhD, National Farm Medicine Center; Shoshanah Inwood, PhD, The Ohio State University; Andrea Rissing, PhD, Arizona State University

Contact: becot.florence@marshfieldresearch.org

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will learn about how current farm programs integrate topics connected to children and childcare given to high rates of farm children exposure to risks;
2. Participants will learn the reasons why few current farm programs integrate these topics;
3. Participants will learn about practical implications and recommendations on how to increase the coverage of topics connected to children and childcare in farm programming.

Abstract:

Farm safety researchers and outreach professionals have pointed to the importance of adult supervision off the farm worksite as a key strategy to keep young children safe. The extent to which parents are able to follow this recommendation and the types of resources available to support the adoption of this recommendation are however not well understood. To understand how farm service providers and farm organizations address the intersection of children, farm work, farm safety, and childcare, we conducted an environmental scan of programs and resources and 37 farm business and safety informant interviews in three U.S. states (Ohio, Vermont, and Wisconsin). The majority of 91 programs and resources identified through the environmental scan did not acknowledge or discuss children, and even fewer addressed childcare specifically. Findings from the interviews confirm those of the environmental scan results. Despite being aware of the challenges farm families face juggling work and children, few interviewees explicitly integrated children and childcare topics into their work. Social, cultural, and economic factors explain the limited coverage. Given the importance of farm programs and resources for farm families to access information and support, we conclude with practical implications and recommendations on how the coverage of the topics of children and childcare could be increased in the current programming.

Bottlenecks, tourists, and a DIY attitude: observation insights on farmworker health on Yakima Valley Hop Farms.

Matthew Comi, PdD, National Farm Medicine Center

Abstract:

This presentation draws on preliminary observation data and existent literature on the impacts of automation and climate change on farmworker health and safety. Drawing particularly on the researcher's recent fieldwork during the harvest season of hop growers in the Yakima valley, the researcher suggests several dynamics at play that impact health and safety on these operations which warrant further inquiry within- and between industry that characterize how dynamic changes to farm machinery alter farmworkers' outlook.