


Seguridad en Las Lecherías: Immigrant Dairy Worker Health and Safety

Occupational Health Internship Program
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Elizabeth Steiner, BA Theology '17 (Boston College)
Katherine Zielke, RN, MPH '15 (Emory University)



Dairy Worker Health & Safety

- Dairy is hazardous
- Limited OSH oversight
- 40-60% immigrant workforce
- NFMC responding to research gap



Photo credit: Earl Dotter & NFMC



Objectives

- 1) Understand knowledge, attitudes and practices of farmers and workers on OSH
- 2) Inform immigrant farm workers of available services
- 3) Enhance worker knowledge of animal handling safety




Photo credit: NFMC



Methods (14 farms visited)

- 1) Administer surveys to farmers (3) and workers (6)
- 2) Create a resource guide
 - Gather information from key informants
 - Contact service organizations
- 3) Train Spanish-speaking workers on safe animal handling



Photo credit: NFMC



Survey Results: Farms (n=51)

- Average of **20** workers
 - 56 hours per week
 - 60% Hispanic
 - 46% with limited English proficiency
- Average of **920** milking cows (medium size farms)
- **55%** of farms had offered health and safety training for workers





Photo credit: Earl Dotter & NFMC



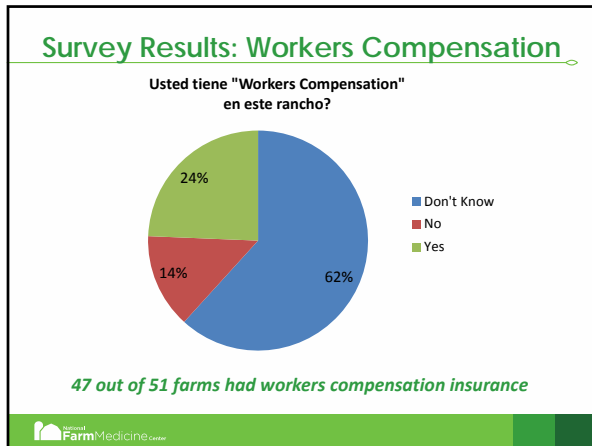
Survey Results: Spanish-Speaking Workers (n=105; 2 workers surveyed per farm)

- **90%** from Mexico
- **23%** were **injured** within the past six months
- **69%** had never had prior health and safety training
- **25%** could not name any of their health and safety rights as workers



Photo credit: Earl Dotter & NFMC





Observations (14 farms visited)

- Huge variation in farms
 - Cleanliness, turnover, dynamics
- Positive worker feedback regarding training
- Needs expressed for connection to outside resources

Photo credit: NFMC

Give-Backs

Photo credit: NFMC

Personal Successes

- Expanded OSH knowledge base, especially with agriculture
- Learned about *promotor* model
- Experience with OSH research

Photo credit: NFMC

Challenges

- Working in a research capacity with an activist mentality: balance
- Limitations to quantitative surveys
- Not being native Spanish speakers

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Recommendations

- Conduct training incrementally
- Needs assessment for resource guide
- Year-round interns to increase capacity
- Connect directly with past interns
- Include ag in orientation

Photo credit: Earl Dotter & NFMC

Acknowledgements



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Thanks!



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