
•CULTIVATION•

The Newsletter for The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

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From the Director...

The Best Way to Communicate?!

With the strategic evolution of the second decade of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA II, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/>) it has become increasingly clear that open and regular communication with partners and stakeholders is essential to focus efforts and resources in an efficient, effective, and prioritized manner. This is true at multiple levels, not only across the United States, but regionally, locally, and for that matter, bi-nationally and internationally. Frankly, however, with any discussion of occupational health, the key focus should be with the worker, which means that communication at this level, locally and on a regional basis, is essential. As we transition to an increasingly technical world, these tools are applied to communication even in rural and agricultural environments with virtual exchange replacing the snail's pace of the past. In keeping with this transition, the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education has decided to move Cultivation and Southwest Ag Connections to an electronic format. Included in this final hard copy edition of the Cultivation Newsletter, a source of regional information to help you stay in touch, is a request to provide the Center with your e-mail address so that we may be sure to send you future electronic issues. As our readership and constituency, we are dedicated to keeping you up to date of happenings within the Center and welcome your regular feedback and input. Also in this issue of Cultivation you will read about the Center's on-going efforts to promote tractor safety through certification programs and a collaborative workshop for journalists and health and safety professionals to promote children's well-being in agricultural environments. These are a couple examples of the services provided by the Center. Here's to "seeing and hearing you" over the web as we continue to stay connected and usher in the electronic era.

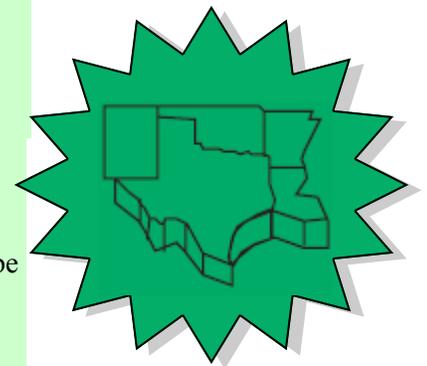
ATTENTION

Cultivation is Going Digital

This is our last paper edition of Cultivation. The newsletter for the Center will be exclusively distributed by email in the future. We are dedicated to a seamless and strategic transition into the electronic age, but *we need your help!* Due to the dynamic environment in which we live and work, the Center's contact list desperately needs to be updated; especially with email addresses.

In order for us to keep you, our readership, informed, we ask that you provide us with your current contact information by email to agcenter@uthct.edu. Please include your name, organization (if applicable), mailing address, phone number, and **email address**.

Future editions of Cultivation will be distributed quarterly and feature a new Seasonal Tips section. We hope to hear from you all soon.



Summer 2007

Meet the Advisory Board

Featured Member: Raymond L. Huhnke, Ph.D., P.E.



Ray Huhnke, Ph.D., P.E. Raymond L. Huhnke, Ph.D., P.E. has been associated with the SW Ag Center for 13 years; since its inception. He served as the Principal Investigator for the project, Reducing Injuries Associated with Animal Handling in the late 90's and has participated as an Advisory Board Member since 2006. The SW Ag Center continues to disseminate the popular educational videos produced as a result of Dr. Huhnke's project, "Cattle Handling Safety" and "Livestock Safety for Kids". He has definitely proven himself an advocate for agriculture in Oklahoma and the United States.

His educational background is in Agricultural Engineering. He received his Bachelor's degree from Purdue University and his Master's degree from the University of Illinois. Dr. Huhnke continued his education in Agricultural Engineering at Iowa State University where he earned his Doctorate degree.

Dr. Huhnke has taught in the Agricultural Engineering Department of Iowa State University and Oklahoma State University. As a Professor and Extension Agricultural Engineer, he holds a split appointment in research and outreach education. Areas of particular interest to Dr. Huhnke include farm structures, animal housing, water quality, forage harvesting, machinery management, biomass conversion, and the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project. He is also the Manager of Farm Building Information Services. In his role as the OSU Biofuels Team Leader, Dr. Huhnke is currently involved in several important projects to produce alternative fuels.

Dr. Huhnke is an enthusiastic and valuable participant in the SW Ag Center Advisory Board. The Principal Investigators and Administrative Staff appreciate and benefit from his experience and expertise.

The SW Ag Center Hosts its 1st Master Trainer Workshop

The SW Ag Center and Bob Williams, Ph.D. from Texas A&M Commerce have been diligently promoting safe tractor operator certification programs in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. In the past year, we have held three 1-day training programs to certify Agriculture Science Teachers and Agricultural Cooperative Extension Agents as Community Lead Instructors in the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP).

This spring we made strides toward sustainability through a 3-day Master Trainer Workshop at Texas A&M Commerce. Prior to this workshop, there were only 2 Master Trainers in Texas responsible for responding to the needs of the entire state. Eight people completed the Community Lead Instructor training on day one and six people stayed for day two and three to be certified as Master Trainer Candidates. In order for the Master Trainer Candidates to receive full status they have to conduct a program and certify a group of students in the 24 hour NSTMOP. Master Trainers differ from Community Lead Instructors in their ability to certify additional Community Lead Instructors.

Kevin Hackett, the NSTMOP Master Trainer from Oklahoma Cooperative Extension joined the workshop to share his state's experiences with tractor certification. He introduced the group to a similar training program produced by Hobar Publications, Safe Operation of Agricultural Equipment. The participants were able compare the two programs and will likely utilize teaching methods from both to personalize a lesson plan that can best meet their needs.

Coming Up:

In order to respond to the overwhelming interest in tractor certification programs at the 2007 Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas Conference, we will host a Community Lead Instructor Training as a pre-conference workshop to the 2008 conference in Corpus, Christi.



Master Trainer Candidates perform a pre-operation check

5th Annual Journalist Workshop in Texarkana: A Complete Success!

The SW Ag Center and the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety co-hosted the 5th annual Journalist Workshop in Texarkana on June 5-6th. Participants traveled from 11 states and Sweden to take advantage of this unique learning opportunity. The purpose of the workshop was to increase awareness within the journalistic community of the risks facing families and children in agricultural environments and how to report on agricultural "incidents" responsibly. Tractors, livestock and migrant children were the main themes of this year's workshop.

The workshop began at the Ramage Farm Old Barn in Hooks, Texas with presentations from Jeffrey Levin, M.D., M.S.P.H., Barbara Lee, Ph.D. and Sylvia Partida, M.S. to set the stage for children's role in agriculture and their vulnerability to injuries and fatalities on the farm. Sunni Thibodeau, MSIS from Cossatot Community College then facilitated a roundtable discussion with the journalists and the children's agricultural safety and health experts. After lunch, the group visited Family Tradition Farms, Triple C Farms and the Hope Migrant Farm Labor Center. The farm field trips allowed the journalists an opportunity to talk to farm owners about how they ensure the safety of their children on a family farm and how they decide when a child is ready to perform certain farm tasks. (The North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks, www.NAGCAT.org, are a resource developed to assist parents in assigning farm jobs to their children 7 - 16 years of age, living or working on farms.) The Hope Migrant Farm Labor Camp is the only one of its kind in the country. Workshop participants learned about the range of services at the facility that assist migrant farmworkers and their families as they travel to find work.



The group listens intently during the roundtable discussion.



The whole group at the Triple C Farms in Hope, AR

On Friday, the group reconvened at the Ag Learning Center in Texarkana for presentations designed to help the journalists incorporate their experiences into meaningful stories. Two experienced journalists gave presentations at the workshop. Rosa Morales from Michigan State University described the complexities of interviewing farmworker families, especially migrant

farmworkers with uncertain documentation status. In addition, Jim Williamson from the Texarkana Gazette shared his experiences and methods for reporting on issues related to the Hispanic community. His emotional photos brought life to the topics discussed. The workshop concluded on a lighter note with a skit performed by Chip Petrea, Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and Tammy Ellis from the National Children's Center demonstrat-

ing the top pet peeves for journalists and health and safety professionals.

Journalists rated the workshop very positively. Everyone gained a better appreciation of agricultural lifestyles and how families work with children on the farm. The journalists met experts in the field who can serve as sources for future stories. The experts also gained insights into the challenges that journalists face. The SW Ag Center will benefit from the new relationships formed with media personnel as well as the health and safety experts.



Photojournalist, Michelle Kunjappu gets personal with Cow #127 (<http://farmlifephotos.com/>) while Rosa Morales conducts an interview in the background.

Rural & Agricultural Occupational Training Project:

Year 1 Wrap Up

A Training Project Grant (TPG) entitled, Innovative Training Experiences for Occupational Medicine Residents (OMR) in Non-Urban and Agricultural Settings was introduced in the last issue of Cultivation. The TPG seeks to increase the number of occupational medicine physicians who receive training in agricultural occupational issues and health concerns for non-urban workers by facilitating unique educational opportunities through clinical rotations, field experiences and online presentations. June marks the end of the first year of the TPG and great strides have been made to accomplish the objectives stated above.

Chief Occupational Medicine Resident, Nicholas Bingham, MD, from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler completed a 2 month rotation at Vida y Salud Community Health Center in Crystal City, TX. Vida y Salud is a large primary care facility that serves the rural, predominantly agricultural population, surrounding Crystal City. Among the largest harvested crops are spinach, carrots, green beans, and onions. Three to four direct work related cases of musculoskeletal injury, rash, etc. are seen per week and work restrictions must be addressed. Dr. Bingham worked closely with the clinical medical director and preceptor, Dr. Gonzalez. He was assigned to care for patient cases that had a purported occupational cause. Dr. Bingham also took the opportunity to visit Dixondale farms (onion picking, etc.) and a Del Monte spinach/carrot/green bean cannery. He also visited with the local Fire Chief to learn about emergency response to incidents on farms.

In addition to the clinical rotation and field experiences, 4 didactic presentations have been offered via Elluminate, an interactive web-based learning tool, to introduce and educate OMRs and other professionals from across the nation on current agricultural occupational issues and research. The following program partners contributed to the didactic series this year:

- Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, Jeffrey Levin, M.D., M.S.P.H.
- High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at Colorado State University, Stephen Reynolds, Ph.D.
- Southeast Center for Agricultural Health & Injury Prevention at the University of Kentucky, Hank Cole, Ed.D. & Chike Anyaegbunam, Ph.D.
- Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety & Health at the University of Washington, Helen Murphy, FNP, MHS

We look forward to an equally productive and enlightening experience next year! If you would like to receive announcements about upcoming didactic presentations, email Amanda.Wickman@uthct.edu.

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