

•CULTIVATION•

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

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From the Director...

Swine Flu in Agricultural Workers

The recent outbreak from a new influenza virus causing illness in people offers an opportunity to increase awareness and enhance preparedness. Swine influenza was first isolated in a pig in the United States in 1930 and outbreaks continue to be common among swine populations, especially during the late fall and winter months. According to the CDC and USDA, 30% to 50% of commercial U.S. swine have been infected with swine flu. The swine flu results in major economic impact through high levels of illness, reduced fertility, elevated abortion rates and death among herds.

Swine influenza is zoonotic; it can be directly transmitted from humans to pigs and from pigs to humans. The virus can also be transmitted from human to human. Not surprisingly, these infections most commonly occur when people work and/or live in close proximity to pigs, such as in swine production barns, slaughterhouses, livestock exhibits and fairs. As many as 15% to 25% of swine farmers may have been infected with swine flu, as well as 10% of veterinarians. Swine flu symptoms for pigs and humans are listed in the figure below.

PIG	HUMAN
Coughing	Coughing
Fever	Fever
Fatigue	Fatigue
Nose discharge	Runny or stuffy nose
Sneezing	Sore throat
Breathing difficulties	Chills
Going off feed	Headache & body aches
	Nausea & vomiting
	Diarrhea

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services stated that farmworkers and their families may be at higher risk for contracting swine influenza. In the recent outbreak referred to as H1N1 flu, the virus was originally referred to as "swine flu." According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, further study

has shown that the virus is very different from that seen in North American pigs, and at this time, there is no evidence that swine in the U.S. are infected. None-the-less, influenza virus can spread back and forth between pigs and people. Over 80% of the U.S. farm workforce comes from Mexico where the virus has been most prevalent during the recent outbreak. This population frequently lives in close quarters with limited access to proper sanitation, increasing the risk of transmitting diseases like flu.

Agricultural workers can minimize outbreaks of swine flu by vaccinating pig herds, using good biosecurity measures, practicing proper hygiene and using effective ventilation systems.

Check out these resources for additional information.

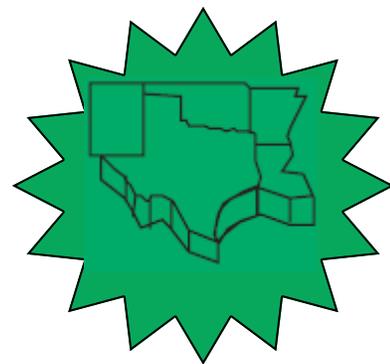
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm

<http://www.pork.org/PorkScience/Documents/PUBLICHEALTH%20influenza.pdf>

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=11226>

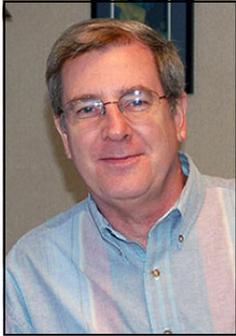
<http://www.befoodsafe.gov>



Spring 2009

Meet the Advisory Board

Featured Member: **Corneils de Hoop, MBA, Ph.D.**



Corneils (“Niels”) de Hoop is an Associate Professor at Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, where he has worked since 1992. Prior to obtaining his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University, he worked twelve (12) years in the forest products industry, mostly in logging supervision and timber procurement, in Canada and eastern Texas. He also worked a year

with the U.S. Forest Service in Kentucky and 1 ½ years with the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife. He has a Master of Business Administration from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas and a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Kentucky. He teaches courses in timber harvesting and procurement. His research activities have included expert systems for diagnosis for problems with

vener lathes, assessment of cut-to-length harvesting, stormwater runoff from log yards, wood supply for chip mills, wood residue supply and demand, accidents in the forest products industry, and biomass energy. He is a regular contributor to The Louisiana Logger magazine with articles on logging safety, teaches in logging safety workshops, and is the Technical Editor of the International Journal of Forest Engineering.

The SW Ag Center is proud to welcome five new External Advisory Board Members; Francisco Cerda, Billy Cook, Ph.D., Luis Escobedo, M.D., Robert Hagevoort, Ph.D., and Chuck Tucker, M.S. Look for more information about these partners in future issues of Cultivation.

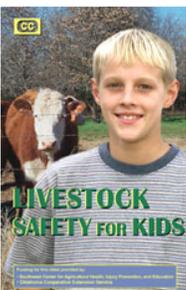
Visit <http://www.swagcenter.org/resources/videos.asp> or email agcenter@uthct.edu to order.

Agricultural Outreach & Education Resources

Available from the SW Ag Center

Add variety and interest to your next outreach activity with one of these awesome resources!

All resources are FREE for a limited time.

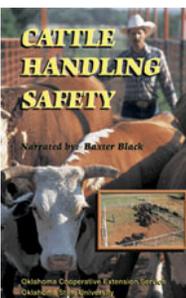


Livestock Safety for Kids DVD, VHS
Available in English and Spanish (includes Cattle Handling Safety)
This video is aimed at injury prevention by demonstrating:

- animal behavior
- children’s appropriate behavior around animals
- Hygiene

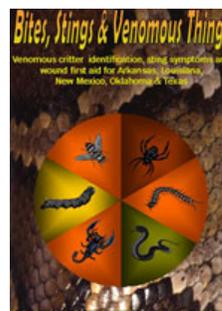


First Aid Farm Quest
Interactive CD
Available in English
This CD is a multimedia interactive educational program that teaches 5th and 6th graders first aid and injury prevention skills. Intended for classrooms or other group settings; not for individual use.



Cattle Handling Safety DVD, VHS
Available in English (includes Livestock Safety for Kids, English and Spanish)
VHS free while supplies last.
This video takes research to practice by describing:

- animal behavior
- corral design
- working facilities



Bites, Stings and Venomous Things Tip Booklet
Available in English.
This weatherproof pocket-sized tip booklet helps agriculture workers and their families to identify common venomous critters in the Southwest and administer proper first aid for bites and stings in the field. A limited number of booklets are available while supplies last.

Quick Tips: Farm Equipment Road Safety

With the boundaries of rural and urban America blending more and more everyday, it is important for all motorists to be aware and cautious of farm equipment on the roads. According to the National Safety Council, approximately one third of fatal tractor accidents occur on public roads. In order to decrease the chance of a collision, follow these rules of the road.

Slow down when you see a piece of farm equipment. Most farm equipment is designed to travel at speeds of only 15-25 mph.

Fast Fact: A car moving at 50 mph has less than 10 seconds to avoid a collision with a tractor moving 20 mph that is 400 feet ahead.

Watch for Slow-Moving-Vehicle (SMV) signs. SMVs are required for vehicles traveling less than 25 mph. They are designed to be seen during the day and at night. These safety devices should be clean and in good condition to maximize their effectiveness.



Fast Fact: It only takes 5 seconds for a motorist driving 55 mph to close a gap the length of a football field when approaching a tractor moving at 15 mph.

Watch for hand signals. Just because a tractor veers right does not mean the operator is pulling over to allow someone to pass. The size of farm equipment often dictates the necessity of wide turns.

Fast Fact: Nearly half of all incidents between motorists and farm implements involve one of two scenarios- the left hand turn collision or the rear-end collision.

Pass farm equipment cautiously. Even when passing safely and legally, the turbulence created by a vehicle may cause the machinery to sway and become unstable. Do not always expect operators to drive their equipment onto the shoulder of the road. Driving with one set of tires on loose-surfaced shoulders substantially increases the risk of overturn.

Watch for flashing amber lights. This type of light often marks the far right and left of farm equipment. Also watch for reflective tape marking extremities and sides of equipment.

Quick Tips for Equipment Operators

- Keep lights and reflective tape clean and in good repair.
- Keep SMVs clean and visible.
- Adjust mirrors for good vision.
- Lock brake pedals.
- Check tire pressure.
- Watch for obstacles and steep embankments that could tip the equipment.
- Consider using an escort vehicle.
- Be aware of high traffic times.



Road Safety Resources

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE176>

<http://richland.osu.edu/agriculture/farm-equipment-safety-reminder>

<http://www.hobbyfarms.com/farm-industry-news/farm-equipment-road-safety.aspx>

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/docs/Roadway/RuralRoadSafety.pdf>