
•CULTIVATION•

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

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From the Director...

Observations from Forestry and Logging Stakeholder Meetings in the Southwest Region

In 2007, forestry and logging comprised 16% of all fatalities in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, and 2% of all fatal occupational injuries in the United States. (BLS, 2007) Similarly, in 2005, forestry support activities accounted for nearly 2% of all nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses in agriculture, involving days away from work. (BLS, 2005)

The NORA Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AFF) Sector Council has suggested that logging is considered among the top three most dangerous jobs based on fatality rates, with important regional differences in practices and workers. (NORA National AFF Agenda, 2008) Sector strategic goals focus on vulnerable groups such as forestry workers with an emphasis on outreach, communications, and partnerships. The National Academies have identified emerging forestry issues among the high-priority research areas in AFF. (NAS review of AFF Research at NIOSH, 2008)

Despite recognition of this ongoing burden of injury, illness, and fatalities among forestry workers on a national scale, there is limited information available on a regional level which more thoroughly explores some of the distinct regional risk factors, thereby limiting opportunities to develop potential solutions. cont. Page 3



Meet the Advisory Board

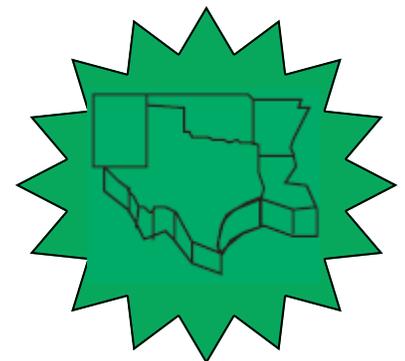
Featured Member: Billy Cook, PhD

Dr. Cook earned his Doctor of Philosophy in beef cattle production and meat science and his Master of Science in beef cattle production from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Science in animal health management from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

Cook joined the Noble Foundation in 1999 as a livestock specialist on the NF-2 consultation team. In November 2004, he took the consulting support research manager position where he planned, coordinated and implemented the Agricultural Division's research and demonstration efforts. He was also responsible for overseeing the management of the Noble Foundation's farm resources. His specific research interests involve replacement beef heifer selection and management and enhancing stocker cattle performance on cool-season and warm-season pastures. In April 2009, Cook became the senior vice president and director of the Agricultural Division.

Cook served as general manager of the Beef Development and Research Center of Texas from January 1998 until joining the Noble Foundation. He managed this newly founded bull performance and development program through the first 18 months of its operation. During this time, more than 1,700 bulls were performance tested.

Cook is a member of the American Society of Animal Science and the American Meat Science Association. Cook grew up in the small West Texas community of Imperial.



Winter 2010

Pesticide Safety Presented at the Midwest Stream Forum

Miguel Gaona and Amanda Wickman traveled to South Padre Island, Texas to present a variation of El Terror Invisible: Preventing Exposure to Agricultural Chemicals for Promotores. Over 50 lay health workers attended the intensive workshop on November 19, 2009.

In order to respond to the evaluations from past pesticide safety programs, we invited a panel of experts to address key issues related to pesticide exposure including:

- Laws and regulations related to pesticide use
- Children in the fields
- Symptoms of pesticide exposure
- How to gain access to farmworkers
- Tips for delivering pesticide safety information to farmworkers

The panel (pictured right) consisted of: Francisco Cerda-*Texas Monitor Advocate*; Dora Mejia-*Promotora*; Magdalena Hernandez-*Promotora*; and Virginia Barrera-Garcia-*South Texas Poison Control Center*.

The workshop continues to be a collaborative effort between the Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental



Audience members listen carefully to information from the panelists.

Health, the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education, Lake County Area Health Education Center and the National Center for Farmworker Health.

Pesticide safety educational materials from EPA, Wake Forest University, and Migrant Health Promotions were also provided to participants of the Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum through an exhibit booth.



SW Ag Center Hosts Livestock Handling Workshop

Ron Gill, PhD from Texas Agrilife Extension presented livestock handling safety at a half-day workshop on December 19, 2009. Over 35 people attended the workshop held at the East Texas Fairgrounds in Tyler, Texas. Members of local 4-H clubs brought a heifer, steer and horse for Dr. Gill to use during the demonstration. Dr. Gill also addressed several issues related to goat handling. Topics discussed related to horse and cattle handling included:

Horse

- Animal behavior
- Animal vision & hearing
- Using touch to communicate
- Halter & lead rope selection
- Approaching an un-haltered horse
- Keeping a horse from turning away
- Haltering & leading
- Tying
- Loading
- Grooming



Dr. Gill demonstrates safe handling practices with Brianna Caughron's horse, Diamond.

- Securing a horse in a trailer
- Unloading
- Positioning while showing

Cattle

- Understanding risks
- Cattle's vision
- Flight zone
- Teaching them to stop
- Haltering
- Teaching a show animal to lead



Dr. Gill with Jacob Dixon's steer.

The workshop was filmed by Encore Multimedia in order to capture important images of safe handling practices. Video clips will be incorporated into enduring safety materials and used in future educational presentations.

Special thanks to the Caughron, Pool, and Dixon families for bringing their animals and to Faith Caughron for recording the event through photography.

Observations from Forestry and Logging Stakeholder Meetings in the Southwest Region

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The SW Ag Center organized two stakeholder meetings in 2009 of forestry/logging representatives to discuss regional findings, initiatives, and challenges, and uncover areas for potential collaboration. Participants included loggers, industry and small business interests, academia, NIOSH, Department of Labor, insurance, and timber/forestry associations representing the 3 highest production states in U.S. Public Health Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas).



A crane loading a truck for delivery

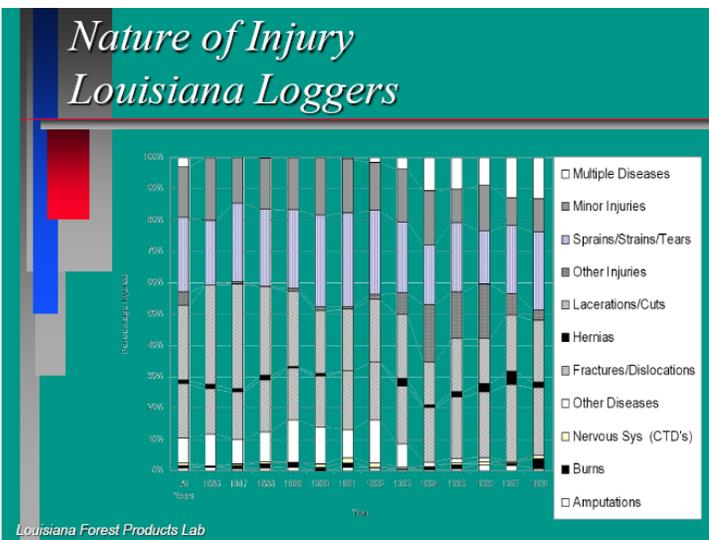
state in the continental U.S. (E-Forester, 2009)

There has been a noted decline in safety training participation by workers in some states in the region in recent years attributed to replacement of hands-on training with on-line programs. Selective hands-on programs in logging are considered to be very beneficial. Ergonomic factors and noise exposure continue to be empiric concerns in logging activities.

Training is an effective tool for improving safety knowledge, but training type may influence both participation and behavior change in the workplace. Collaboration of key stakeholders to further assess regional factors influencing risk among forestry workers/loggers will be important to developing and implementing effective safety training in targeted areas.



Two loggers manually de-limbing the trees with chain saws



Acute and significant musculoskeletal events represent high proportion of forestry injuries in Louisiana. (Courtesy of C.F. de Hoop)

Acute and significant musculoskeletal injuries (sprains/strains/fractures/dislocations) represent the highest proportion of events (see figure above) and per case indemnity and medical costs in Louisiana, with workers' compensation making up 60% of payroll in some instances (Louisiana Forest Products Lab). An OSHA Strategic Partnership (OSP) was created in May of 2000 with the Louisiana Forestry Association and Louisiana Logging Council (OSHA Region VI) increasing safety and health training in the region. There has been a steady decline of logging fatalities in Louisiana since.

Texas Forest Service Inventory revealed 60 million acres of forestland in Texas, more than any other