
•CULTIVATION•

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

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From the Director...

Mentoring the Next Generation of AFF Investigators

Mentor was a figure in Greek mythology who imparted wisdom and knowledge to less experienced colleagues. Even Athena assumed *Mentor's* image several times to give advice to others. Similar to its Greek origin, the modern day mentor is defined as an advisor, trusted counselor, or influential senior sponsor or supporter. The SW Ag Center is using this ancient concept to build the research capacity of future investigators in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing (AFF) sector through an innovative mentorship component within the Pilot/Feasibility Studies Program. Junior investigators, graduate students, occupational medicine residents, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty members of any rank who are interested in exploring an AFF research question are invited to apply for one year of pilot/feasibility project funding. Applications will be submitted using the PHS398 and include a mentoring plan. Not only will the mentorship experience benefit the investigator, but it will also provide an opportunity for senior scientists to sharpen their counseling skills. The SW Ag Center accepts applications year round. Two to three awards between \$10,00-\$20,000 will be made annually. For complete information, visit http://www.swagcenter.org/files/pdf/swagcenter_pilot_project_funding.pdf.

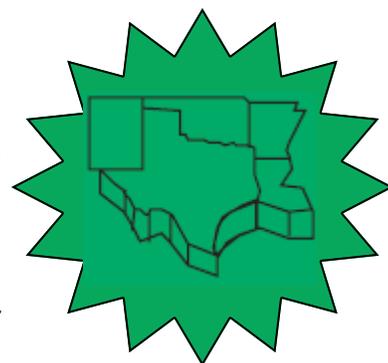


Meet the Advisory Committee

Featured Member: Robert "Bob" Williams, Ph.D.

Bob Williams, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Agricultural Education at Texas A & M University-Commerce. He has served 33 years as an educator, including positions as a secondary and postsecondary agricultural sciences instructor, public school administrator, community college program coordinator, university professor, interim department head, and teacher educator. Dr. Williams is active in professional development through research, service, and professional organizations. His research focuses primarily on agricultural safety education and outreach through secondary agriscience and extension programs. Currently, he is the project director for the USDA funded, *Breaking Barriers for Beginning Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers*.

Dr. Williams is also a Master Trainer for the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program. He has worked with the SW Ag Center for the last 5 years to train over 150 agriscience teachers and extension agents to certify youth for agricultural machinery operation. Dr. Williams also mentored a graduate student while completing a SW Ag Center-sponsored pilot study related to tractor certification. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Williams to the External Advisory Committee and look forward to his future contributions.



***Winter 2011-
2012***

Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day®

The SW Ag Center coordinated its first Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day® on November 15th in Lexington, OK. Lexington 3rd grade teacher, Cheryl Hyde, and Cleveland County Extension Educator, Susan Moffat, were instrumental in planning and conducting the special event. Over 240 kids in 3rd-5th grades participated in a general assembly on electrical safety followed by 11 more safety sessions.

Topics included:

- tractor/lawnmower safety
- farm safety
- sun safety
- chemical safety
- gun safety
- germ safety
- bites and stings
- bicycle safety
- pipeline safety
- safety jeopardy
- ATV safety



Many community organizations supported the program through content expertise or donations, including: Oklahoma Cooperative Extension, Oklahoma State University, P&K Equipment, Chesapeake Midstream, Lexington Police Department, Lexington FFA & 4-H, Farm Bureau, Farm Credit, and Moffat Farms.

Thanks to all the local, regional and national sponsors for making Farm Safety Days possible.



Tractor Certification Workshop in Norman, OK

On November 8-9, the SW Ag Center conducted a Community Lead Instructor training and Master Trainer Workshop in Safe Tractor Certification for Oklahoma Cooperative Extension educators. The event was led by Master Trainer, Doug Simmerman, an Agricultural Science Instructor and the Career Technology Education Director in Redwater, Texas. The Ag Center worked closely with Susan Murray from the OSU Southwest District office in Duncan to coordinate and recruit participants for the event. P&K Equipment-Riverside generously provided meeting space, equipment, meals and refreshments for the workshop.

During the workshop, educators learned the Minimum Core Content Areas required for youth to be certified for employment in agricultural operation. In addition, they



set up and drove through the serpentine course required for the driving skills portion of the student certification.

Extension educators and agriscience instructors, as well as many others, are keenly aware of the proposed changes to the child labor laws in agriculture which would eliminate 14 and 15 year olds from being certified for employment under the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program or other similar program. The comment period for the changes closed on December 1st.

The SW Ag Center will keep you informed of developments related to the proposed changes and how they will affect the tractor certification program.



Calendar

January 9, 2012

Epidemiologic & Public Health Considerations of Shale Gas Production: The Missing Link
Arlington, VA

The conference is invitation only. For more information contact hays@psehealthenergy.org

January 11, 2012

3:30-4:45 pm Eastern Time

Can You Hear Me? An Introduction to Hearing Loss Prevention in Agriculture

To connect to the telephone conference call 1-877-784-2189 and use participant code 7518864. To connect to the internet session go to <https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join> and use meeting ID PZPK8, entry code pmvdws.

January 26, 2012

Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America Workshop and Annual Meeting
Washington, DC
www.ashca.com

January 29-February 3, 2012

32nd Occupational Safety and Health Winter Institute
Orlando, FL
<http://osherc.sph.unc.edu/continuing-education/institutes/winter12/index.html>.

February 1-3, 2012

Biosafety for Safety and Health Professionals
Orlando, FL
<https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/winter12reg.htm>

February 28-March 18, 2012

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
Houston, TX
<http://www.hlsr.com/>

March 5-9, 2012

Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Review Course
Chapel Hill, NC
https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/comp_ih_rev_reg.htm

April 2-5, 2012

COHN and COHN-S/Safety Management Certification Review Course
Chapel Hill, NC
https://osherc.sph.unc.edu/forms/cohn_sfty_mgmt_reg.htm

May 30-June 1, 2012

The Contribution of Epigenetics in Pediatric Environmental Health
San Francisco, CA
http://www.cehn.org/files/Conference_2012.pdf

Agricultural Safety Internship Opportunity

The Safety Internship is jointly sponsored by the Noble Foundation and the SW Ag Center. Successful applicants will engage in safety outreach and education activities to help agricultural producers reduce work related risk of injuries and fatalities.

Activities could include developing and delivering safety presentations, creating and executing a dissemination plan for educational materials, developing and pilot testing new resources, conducting farm/ranch safety audits, among others.

Throughout the summer, interns will have the opportunity to network with professionals in academia, extension, industry, and trade associations. Internship experiences will be tailored to the intern's personal interests and career goals. Safety interns will spend time in Ardmore, OK on the Noble Foundation Campus and in Tyler, Texas within the offices of the SW Ag Center.

Safety interns earn approximately \$4,800 for a summer program. Interns work 40 hours per week.

Visit <http://www.swagcenter.org/opportunitiesinternships.asp> for more information.