
•CULTIVATION•

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

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From the Director...

Cultural Effectiveness in Research

Historically, the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center alternate hosting an annual conference focused on western agriculture. This year a broader based planning committee collaborated to capture the common themes present throughout the western United States. The conference entitled, New Paths: Health and Safety in Western Agriculture was held November 11-13, 2008 in Cle Elum, WA.

The SW Ag Center was particularly involved in coordinating and organizing Session I: Engaging Populations at Risk. This session addressed cultural effectiveness in research by drawing on the experience and expertise of researchers and agricultural workers from Hispanic, Vietnamese and Native American communities. In addition, the session provided a presentation on the practical application of Community Based Participatory Research and an overview of the changing demographics in the agricultural workforce.

Overall, the national agricultural industry has experienced many demographic changes over the past century. The number of female and Hispanic owned agricultural operations has significantly increased since the early 1980s. The western U.S. in particular hosts concentrations of Hispanic, Asian, Native American, and Native Alaskan operators. Unauthorized workers are more common in farming than other industries and the H2A worker program continues to bring in thousands of foreign workers each year for agricultural employment. Panel members used these facts to support their personal testimonies and to describe their research challenges. The audience contributed valuable insights and identified numerous successes related to research within the diverse agricultural workforce. Meetings of this nature continue to be a success as multiple stakeholders share their ideas, research and experiences.



Meet the Advisory Board

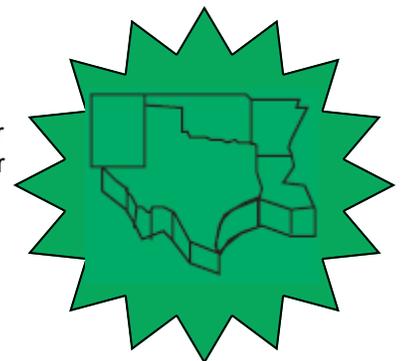
Featured Member: Steve Shelton, MBA, PA-C

Steven R. Shelton is Assistant Vice President for Community Outreach at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He combines over thirty years of experience as a primary healthcare physician assistant, health professions educator, and administrator of programs such as the East Texas Area Health Education Center

(AHEC) to improve the health of individuals and communities. Mr. Shelton's interests and expertise include an in-depth understanding of health workforce development issues, local health system challenges and opportunities, health literacy and the needs of both rural and metropolitan underserved populations. His work includes activities to promote a deeper understanding of the psycho-social and economic root causes of health disparities to address the need for better health through principles of equity and social justice. He is active in community service, and has served in numerous leadership roles at the regional, state, and national level.

He is an alumnus of Angelo State University, and the University of Texas Medical Branch, and holds a master of business administration degree from the University of Houston Clear Lake.

Mr. Shelton has collaborated with the SW Ag Center for about 13 years and we look forward to his future contributions.



Winter 2009

SW Ag Center Board Meeting held in Irving, TX

The SW Ag Center held its annual board meeting at the Radisson DFW South in Irving Texas on September 10th - 12th. The board meeting serves as a forum for Principal Investigators (PIs) to share project updates with their peers and receive feedback on their successes and challenges. In addition to the project updates, the board and administrative core also received updates from three feasibility studies. The projects and feasibility studies currently being conducted include:

Projects

- Migrant Adolescent Health Research Study
- Innovative Approaches to Worker Health Protection Among Shrimp Fishermen on the Gulf Coast
- Model Farmers Dissemination Plan
- Promoviendo Farmworkers' Safety Information

Feasibility Studies

- Potential for Public Partnerships to Develop Certified
- Youth Tractor and Machinery Operators
- Bio-Cultural Assessment of Perceptions of Pesticide Exposure Among Mexican Immigrant Farmworkers

- Risk Factors for Musculoskeletal Symptoms Among Louisiana Crawfishermen

In order to capitalize on the face to face interaction, the administrative core, advisory board and PIs also used this time to re-view/revise the Center's strategic plan. The strategic plan aids the Center by identifying priorities and specific tasks designed to achieve short-term and long-term goals. The strategic plan is now posted on our website, www.swagcenter.org.



Due to the fall hurricanes, many of our collaborators were not able to fully participate. We are scheduling another meeting for Spring 2009.

Matt Nonnenmann, Ph.D., CIH presents his feasibility study update on the risk factors for musculoskeletal symptoms among LA crawfishermen.

El Terror Invisible: Preventing Exposure to Agricultural Chemicals for Promotores

The Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health (SWCPEH) funded the second annual pesticide education workshop entitled, *El Terror Invisible: Preventing Exposure to Agricultural Chemicals for Promotores*, in partnership with the SW Ag Center and Lake County AHEC. The workshop was held in conjunction with the Midwest Migrant Stream Farmworker Health Forum in New Orleans, LA on November 19, 2008. The program was first introduced in 2007 at the Midwest Migrant Stream Farmworker Health Forum. Excellent attendance and positive feedback led the SWCPEH to sponsor the 2008 workshop.

Miguel Gaona, Program Coordinator for Lake County AHEC, and Amanda Wickman, Outreach Education Coordinator for the SW Ag Center and the SWCPEH, prepared and presented the 2008 program. Thirty six promotores from across the nation, Puerto Rico and Canada attended. Funding from the SWCPEH provided scholarships for 23 of the attendees. Many promotores were repeat attendees from the 2007 workshop. The workshop was delivered in Spanish to a primarily Hispanic audience.

The 2008 program was updated to reflect feedback from the first workshop. More time was devoted to becoming familiar with popular pesticide education resources. In addition, the attendees gained practical experience by using the resources to develop brief educational presentations. To conclude the workshop Maria Roy, a promotora from Mano a Mano, gave a presentation about her experiences delivering pesticide education to farmworkers.

To encourage dissemination, the promotores may participate in a pesticide education initiative. Each organization that reaches 50 farmworkers with pesticide education within 4 1/2 months will receive a gas card and will be eligible to win one of two special pesticide education resource packages. The packages include a portable DVD player, a pesticide safety video and a glo germ kit. To learn more about the program or for more information about pesticide education resources, contact Amanda Wickman at amanda.wickman@uthct.edu.

Quick Tips: Disaster Preparedness for Livestock

When a natural disaster occurs, people and structures are not the only ones at risk. Livestock are frequently abandoned or displaced during emergency situations. Due to their size and transportation needs, livestock require special precautions and preparations for disasters. It is imperative that livestock owners have a plan in place in order to protect their investment. Below are some recommendations from the Humane Society of the United States.

Take Precautions

- Make a disaster plan to protect your property, your facilities, and your animals. Create a list of emergency telephone numbers, including those of your employees, neighbors, veterinarian, state veterinarian, poison control, local animal shelter, animal care and control, county extension service, local agricultural schools, trailering resources, and local volunteers.
- Include a contact person outside the disaster area. Make sure all this information is written down and that everyone has a copy.
- Make sure every animal has durable and visible identification.
- Ensure that poultry have access to high areas in which to perch, if they are in a flood-prone area, as well as to food and clean water.
- Reinforce your house, barn, and outbuildings with hurricane straps and other measures. Perform regular safety checks on all utilities, buildings, and facilities on your farm.
- Use only native and deep-rooted plants and trees in landscaping (non-native plants are less durable and hardy in your climate and may become dislodged by high winds or broken by ice and snow).
- Remove all barbed wire, and consider rerouting permanent fencing so that animals may move to high ground in a flood and to low-lying areas during high winds.
- Install a hand pump and obtain enough large containers to water your animals for at least a week (municipal water supplies and wells are often contaminated during a disaster).
- Identify alternate water and power sources. A generator with a safely stored supply of fuel may be essential, especially if you have electrical equipment necessary to the well being of your animals.
- Secure or remove anything that could become blowing debris; make a habit of securing trailers, propane tanks, and other large objects. If you have

boats, feed troughs, or other large containers, fill them with water before any high wind event. This prevents them from blowing around and also gives you an additional supply of water.

- If you use heat lamps or other electrical machinery, make sure the wiring is safe and that any heat source is clear of flammable debris.
- Label hazardous materials and place them all in the same safe area. Provide local fire and rescue and emergency management authorities with information about the location of any hazardous materials on your property.
- Remove old buried trash—a potential source of hazardous materials during flooding that may leech into crops, feed supplies, water sources, and pasture.
- Review and update your disaster plan, supplies, and information regularly.

For a full brochure, visit their website at http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/disaster_preparedness_for_livestock.html.

Additional Web Resources:

American Veterinary Medical Association

<http://www.avma.org/disaster/vmat/default.asp>

Extension Disaster Education Network

<http://www.eden.lsu.edu/>

United States Department of Agriculture

http://awic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/...



Cows displaced by Hurricane Ike roamed freely on State Highway 73 in southern Texas.