

Agricultural Educational Resources Centers

By Stephen Hudock

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

DR. FREUND: Many of you know David Baker and realize that he's on the schedule but not up here. He's currently still awash in flood related activities in Missouri. And replacing him on the program today, he will be on the program tomorrow, but replacing him today is Steve Hudock from our Division of Training and Manpower Development from Cincinnati and he will be talking about the Agricultural Educational Resource Centers.

MR. HUDOCK: As Gene said, I am part of the Division of Training and Manpower Development for NIOSH which happens to be one of the smallest divisions, if not the smallest division of NIOSH. One of the activities of the Educational Resource Development Branch in particular is to administer a \$12 million grant program for academic programs in occupational medicine, industrial hygiene, occupational health nursing and occupational safety. These 35 single-discipline training project grants range from a safety program in Maine to an industrial hygiene program in Hawaii, an ergonomics/occupational safety program in Miami to another hygiene program in Montana. So those 35 programs keep us busy.

The Educational Resource Centers are 14 major universities which have academic programs in medicine, hygiene, nursing and safety as well as continuing education and outreach programs. The schools that are Educational Resource Centers are Harvard, New York University, Johns Hopkins, North Carolina, Alabama, Cincinnati, Michigan, Illinois at Chicago, Minnesota, Texas, Utah, the University of Washington, the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Southern California. Those marked with triangles are the four Educational Resource Centers that have an agricultural safety and

health component to their program.

This aspect of the program runs on about a quarter of a million dollars a year and it's been fairly static funding for a four year period. The average for each of the grantees, California, Illinois, Minnesota and Utah range from \$64,000 at Minnesota to about \$30,000 at Utah for each of the past four years.

I'll briefly describe what each of those programs are doing. The University of California at Berkeley, in association with the University of California at Davis, are in collaboration with the Labor and Occupational Health Program which runs the continuing education component of that Educational Resource Center. What they're doing at Berkeley is developing a series of case studies in agricultural medicine on various topics, including cumulative trauma disorders, occupational skin diseases, respiratory diseases and how agricultural policy has implications on the safety and health of individuals in the State of California.

At the Davis Campus, they are involved primarily with the School of Medicine and have three occupational medicine residents working on ag health and safety research programs. At the Davis Campus also they're

working with the California EPA Office of Pesticide Programs and the California Institute of Rural Studies.

The continuing education component, which is through the Labor Occupational Health Program, has done a number of things including putting on one-day programs on agricultural safety and health at the University of Berkeley for the 60 graduate students in the areas of occupational medicine and occupational health nursing and industrial hygiene. The Labor Occupational Health Program has also put on four clinical workshops for the National Migrant Health Center Program. These were attended by 80 physicians, nurses and educators.

The Continuing Education Program is working with AgSafe which is a farm safety network in the State of California, with curriculum development and implementation of training programs for growers who are in turn responsible for executing California's Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

At the University of Illinois at Chicago, when you look at the academic training component of that particular grant, they are getting involved with the University of Illinois' Medical School at Rockford and the Southern Illinois Medical School of Medicine. They are looking at incorporating agricultural safety and health components into their medical curriculum. They are also looking at developing an occupational medicine rotation at a rural health care facility within the State, which as yet hasn't been identified, and they're also looking at using the videoconferencing facilities at Western Illinois University to get agricultural health and safety seminars broadcast in the western

part of Illinois as well as eastern Missouri.

The continuing education component of this particular grant has worked with the Walkabout Program in two counties in the State. They served an integral role in the founding of INASH, the Illinois Network for Agricultural Safety and Health, as well as put on pesticide programs for public health nurses, physicians and emergency medical personnel in rural communities, and a three day course for physicians on agricultural illnesses.

The University of Minnesota School of Public Health also has a grant with us. They work in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Engineering and the Minnesota Extension Service. The academic training component of this particular program is largely responsible for the development of the Center for Research in Agricultural Safety and Health in Minnesota, MNCRAH — everybody loves acronyms I guess. They also have a working relationship with the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield and the University of Iowa. They've established a visiting scholars program where people from the community come in on a regular basis throughout the school year for a day or two each month and talk with the professors and the faculty and learn a little bit more about agricultural safety and health problems.

The continuing education component of this particular grant has gone about disseminating some results of the agricultural health and safety research to the community through a quarterly newsletter called Farm Safety and Health Digest and a bimonthly information sheet called the MNCRAH

News.

The Program at the University of Utah is a little smaller program. They are working primarily with Utah State University, the Department of Agricultural Education and are in the process of really working on one course. This Agricultural Safety and Health Course is a required course for industrial hygiene students at the University of Utah and is an elective for students in agricultural education at Utah State University. These courses vary in location so they either drive the 80 or 90 miles between the two sites or the course is teleconferenced, or videoconferenced. That way there's always a live audience and an off-site group of students. Right now they're a rather small program. They have one graduate student recruited and they're looking at recruiting others into the program at Utah.

These are the points of contact for the grant that we have at California. Jim Meyers at the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health, Dr. Marc Shenker at the University of California at Davis, Occupational Medicine Program, Robin Baker with the Labor Occupational Health Program at Berkeley.

At Illinois, the point of contact is Leslie Nickels at the University of Illinois, Chicago. At Minnesota, it is Dr. Ian Greaves with the School of Public Health. And at Utah it's Dr. Jeff Lee at the University of Utah. Thank you. ■

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