

**BUILDING STATE-BASED AGRICULTURE SAFETY AND  
HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURES: A MODEL AGRICULTURE  
HEALTH PROMOTIONS SYSTEM PROGRAM**



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Based on data from the National Traumatic Occupational Fatalities (NTOF) database maintained by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing is one of the most hazardous industrial divisions in the U.S. While only 2 percent of the U.S. workers are employed in this sector, it has the fourth highest injury fatality rate (20.4 deaths/100,000 workers) in the U.S. Farming as an occupation has the second highest rate of work-related injury deaths (21.4/100,000 workers). In addition, during 1988 the agriculture industry ranked third among the 10 industrial sectors for occupational injury rates (10.4 injuries/100 workers). Because of the hazardous nature of agricultural employment, the NIOSH, Division of Safety Research (DSR), has instituted an intervention program with the goal of reducing the incidence of fatal and nonfatal traumatic injury, chronic injury, and occupational diseases among the 3.4 million agricultural workers in the U.S. This program, the Agricultural Health Promotion Systems (AHPS), is administered through cooperative agreements to Land-Grant Universities and the Cooperative Extension Service within the States. Through the AHPS, the land-grant universities will disseminate information and conduct programs to prevent illness and injury among agricultural workers and their families. Currently, 15 states are conducting programs in this area for FY 1991, with eight more states to be added by FY 1992. Examples of some of the emphasis areas include, but are not limited to, youth training, bilingual work-site safety packets for farm workers, and programs targeted to older farmers. Also included are programs in forestry, logging and fishing.

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