

Digital Poster Session 2: Expanded focus for OSH: policy, training and practice (Posters 7-12)

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Presentation Title: The Organic Farmer Safety, Health and Life Survey (OFSHL)

Abstract: Programs to advance the safety, health and well-being of workers must take a socioecological perspective that focuses on multilevel factors, for which work is a significant elements but inseparable from others external and contextual factors. However, there are limited data on farmworker safety, health and life and social conditions, including organic farmers. Growing evidence indicates that comprehensive approaches that identify and address the root causes of health and social problems have greater impact on population health than those that focus on individuals and symptoms. A sociological approach is consistent with the “Whole Worker” concept promoted by NIOSH and other national and international occupational health agencies and may contribute to greater improvements in behavior change, higher rates of employee participation in programs, potential reductions in occupational injury and disability rates, stronger health and safety programs, and potentially reduced cost. From this perspective, approaches to address “Total Worker Health” should not only include worksite-based programs but also community/policy interventions that reinforce these programs and provide a supportive social and community contexts. The OFSHL is a theory-based tool integrating aspects of work and life as mutually dependent. It explores psychosocial factors that relate not only to the work environment but also to the life and community contexts. Thus, the focus of the survey is life conditions, for which work is a significant elements but inseparable from others external and contextual factors. This presentation will discuss the conceptual model that informed the development of the OFSHL, the development process, and the psychometric properties of the tool. The OFSHL is innovative and may be adapted to a variety of occupations.



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