

having disabilities, was conducted to identify their perception of the significance of injury causative factors identified from the case studies. Relevant ASABE and SAE standards, OSHA workplace safety regulations and current agricultural workplace safe work practices were referenced to assess compliance with applicable safety standards and as a source of the state-of-the-art design practices. A prototype of the assessment process was developed and the same was validated using an expert panel consisting of six rehabilitation professionals evaluating nine different ATs. The desired outcomes included steps to (a) minimize secondary injuries caused by ATs, (b) help framers with disabilities obtain funding for the purchase or fabrication of ATs, and (c) train rehabilitation professionals who work with farmers to identify potential disability-related hazards. Dissemination of the assessment process has been started with presentations to AgrAbility professionals involved in rehabilitation of farmers with disabilities, and at workshops and conferences.

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Safeguarding Older Farmers

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The objective of the study is to present the state of health and injury of farmers age 50 and over with suggestions for maximizing their health. As with the rest of the United States workforce, America's farmers are aging. The average age of principal farm operators was over 50 in all states in 2002; the 2007 Agricultural Census reported an average age of 57.1 (NASS, 2009). In addition, farmers over age 55 now comprise over 30% percent of all farm workers (Myer, 2005). Complex and multidimensional physiological and psychological changes conspire to place older farmers at a higher risk for injury and poorer outcomes than their younger counterparts. Myers and colleagues (2007) noted that farmers over age 55 had a death rate nearly 2.5 times that of the younger group. Fatalities to older farmers made up over half of all adult farm fatalities between 1992 and 2004. A five year survey based study of 1,423 farmers age 50 and over in KY and SC revealed the leading self-reported health conditions were hypertension (55%), arthritis (54%), and problems with their backs (32%), hearing (27%), and vision (26%). In addition, 3,028 observations of only six injury types revealed 620 injuries (20.5% of the observations); 44% of those were farm work related. Persons working greater than 20 hours per week had twice the risk of injury compared to those working 1–10 hours per week; better perceived health status also was associated with greater risk for injury. Despite the effects of aging, co-morbid chronic health conditions, and the high injury rate, very little attention has been focused on safeguarding older farm workers. Work to date on this topic and potential strategies for decreasing injuries to older farm workers will be presented.

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EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The High Plains and Mountain Region Dairy Health and Safety Workshop: A Participatory Approach to Identify Research and Outreach Needs in the Dairy Industry

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US dairy production has steadily moved to industrialized operations because of associated economies of scale. These "mega-herd" dairy operations present new occupational health and safety challenges to both dairy owners and workers. There is limited research addressing worker health and safety on these large-herd operations. The High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (HICAHS) partnered with the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education (SWAG) to host the High Plains and Mountain Region Dairy Health and Safety Workshop October 15 - 16, 2009 in Denver, CO. The objectives of the workshop included the following: 1) to provide an interactive forum to exchange ideas and strategies to effectively address dairy worker health and safety; 2) to identify and prioritize dairy worker health and safety issues; 3) to identify process management strategies that address worker health and safety; and 4) to identify future research and outreach priorities. In addition to Center personnel workshop attendees included faculty from a US university and one Swedish university, dairy extension specialists (representing CO, TX, NM, SD, ND, IA, and UT); six dairy owners and managers (representing CO, TX, NM, and SD); one dairy equipment manufacturer, one workers' compensation provider, and dairy producer organizations (CO, TX, and NM). The workshop sought to bring together the attendees' multiple perspectives to facilitate a dialogue on worker health and safety issues in the dairy industry. Through presentations, group and panel discussions the workshop organizers sought to identify and then prioritize pressing dairy worker health and safety issues, and generate recommendations and strategies for dealing with the challenges of addressing health and safety among dairy workers. A pre-post workshop evaluation is currently underway and the results will be included in the presentation. The dairy workshop appeared to be a successful means to identify and prioritize future research, and outreach efforts to address the health and safety of workers on industrialized dairy operations.

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