

# ABSTRACTS

## Poster #1

### Putting Migrant Farmworker Research Results into practice through print, on-farm and website channels

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Background: The Northeast Center has conducted over five years of occupational health and safety research related to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. While a number of safety materials exist in Spanish, well-designed low-literacy materials which are tailored to specific hazards and specific crop environments are not widely available.

Objective: In order to assure that these research results benefit farmworkers, these data have been translated into: a) on-farm safety training curricula for orchard workers and for vegetable workers; b) low-literacy safety posters and paycheck envelope stuffers; and c) downloadable Spanish and Haitian Creole materials on the NEC multi-lingual website section.

Methods: curricula and messages for all three media were developed using focus group research that pilot tested communication prototypes.

Results: farmworker focus groups demonstrated the following key principles for material design:

- Safety information highly valued by farmworkers
- Ability to explain the information communicated by a chart
- Preference for information categorized by state and/or crop
- Desire for data accompanied by information that can be acted on
- Desire that information be shared with the employer also

Application to prevention: Presenter will describe how these results were used to develop: a) on-farm safety

training curricula for orchard workers and for vegetable workers; b) low-literacy safety posters and pay check envelope stuffers; and c) downloadable Spanish and Haitian Creole materials on the NEC multi-lingual website section.

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## Poster #2

### Reaching Teen Farmworkers: An Evaluation of a High School ESL Health and Safety Curriculum

**Suzanne Teran, MPH**, and Robin Baker, MPH, Labor Occupational Health Program, UC Berkeley; Ron Strohlic, MA, California Institute for Rural Studies

Children and adolescents working in agriculture face significant health and safety risks and experience work-related injuries and illnesses at a higher rate than youth working in other industries. Most research has focused on youth on family farms, and very little data is available on hired teens. This study evaluated the impact of a high school English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum, designed to provide teen agricultural workers with the knowledge and tools to protect their health and safety in the fields. Using a quasi-experimental design, the research consisted of two intervention groups and a comparison group, and included over 2,000 students from some of California's key agricultural communities. The research findings reveal that the curriculum had significant impact in terms of increases in knowledge and attitudes, and nearly half of the intervention group reported implementing new behaviors to protect their health and safety. The curriculum also had spill-over effects in the broader community, as the majority of students reported sharing the new information with others. The study found that a school-based ESL curriculum is an effective intervention to reach and educate teen farmworkers and that ESL classes can serve as a much needed access point for young farmworkers.

# **HEALTH & SAFETY IN WESTERN AGRICULTURE: Research to Practice**



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A tall, white, lattice-structured water tower with a rounded top. The words "UC DAVIS" are printed in large, bold, black letters across the top of the tower. The tower is set against a clear sky and is partially obscured by dense foliage in the foreground.

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