2016 MRASH Discussion Groups

**Behavioral Health**

Participants: Margaret, Susan, Josie, Jennifer, Jenna, Lauren

Trust

* How do we move past the stigma to allow farmers to open up
* Go into the conversation carefully
* Communicate through media that farmers are actually using
* Need to communicate with lenders so they are not continually thinking about it
* Uncertainty leads to stress, especially reminders of 1980’s
* Farm income down significantly, off farm income increased (2015 down 74%)

How do household effect business?

* Major lack of support system
  + Online support group
  + Start with resources to avoid stigma
  + Farmher, Women in Ag
* Conferences
* Community colleges and ag programs
* List of employees with ag educational background
* More comfortable without putting name surveys
* Get doctors to go to farms, especially while in school
* Minister conferences
* Inform people on how to talk to neighbors they are concerned about
* Share facts/terms with people that don’t have ag education/background – important dates (Harvest)
  + Template

**Grain Handling Safety**

Participants: Bob Aherin, Jaime Thissen, Wayne Bauer

Key Concerns:

* Poor grain conditioning
* Poorly designed storage units
* Retrofitting old storage units takes much times
* On farms – much of wiring may have been installed by farmers – poor LOTO system
* Worker training not adequate – esp kids
* Differing priorities between farmers and grain handling facilities

Next Steps

* Educating farmers on grain conditioning
* Installing temp cables
* Install/retrofit storage units
  + Anchor points
  + Reclaim systems
  + Larger & better configurations of access doors
  + Work platforms in bins
* Get farms set up to do proper LOTO
* Industry to develop information packages (ie. Compact disks) to distribute to schools & organizations working with youths (flash drives)
  + Ag teachers, FFA, 4-H, etc.
* Work with local EMS to understand how problem happens

Key Players/Resources

* Ag teachers
* FFA & 4-H leaders
* Farm Bureau Orgs
* Insurance Underwriters
* Financial Institutions
* Spouses or significant others
* Groups such as Women in Ag
* Health Care Providers
* Fire Departments/local EMS
* Websites that contain comprehensive materials (develop list)

Immigrant Worker Health

Participants: Delera, Margaret, Maya, Christie, Diane, Monica, Sonia, Leo, Jessica

Immunization

Screening

Research

Education

Translation

Access to health services – mobile clinics

Library, church, conference room, van

Funding

Mental health

Depression, insurance, stress, isolation, bilingual providers lacking, stigma, “life skills teaching”, substance abuse, self medicate, mental health issue

Issue in cultural differences when visiting doctor. Females don’t want to see male doctors

Domestic violence/sexual assault at work – superiors & peers

Preventative sexual assault training in NY for farm workers – bring to Iowa, want to see logistics of how this is done.

Chronic Diseases – diabetes (Guatemala, 20 yr old)

High cholesterol

Prevention needed

Access to healthy food options

Encourage employer to have physicals, etc for employees

Employers not seeing value of having free mobile clinics come to sites for workers

Crew leaders

Inform of impact

Growers

H2A Visa – mandatory to have insurance, but hard to get them enrolled

Greater risk safety issues

Language barrier

Law education – use oral/media/family

Look at training/accountability

Monsanto has good onboarding process and invites agencies to provide resources

Education for growers and enforcement

Demonstrations of safety training, not just videos

How to market to attract vendors who may be interested

Word of mouth

Advertise in Spanish or have resources in Spanish to show you will assist/care

Employers untrusting of outsiders and don’t always want assistance from mobile clinics

Fear of negativity by public

Don’t want association

Seasonal farmworkers try to find work year round but is difficult

Problems with SSN and e-verrify and using different names

People don’t always understand why immigrants come, difficulty of legally becoming resident/citizens

Education on transportation, etc. American life, personal space, greetings, breast feeding

Balance of assimilations

Social/economic status not as important in Iowa as Mexico – age discrimination in (L.A?)

Human trafficking issues in Iowa

Sex slaves

Drug smugglers

Immigrant youth and mental health

Lure with drugs and alcohol

Easy access to Route 80

Manure Pits

Participants: Renee Anthony, Emily Trenkamp, Jim Drummond, Duane Bajema, Rich Gassman

Key concerns

* Explosions (not as common)
* Barn explosion at nursery facility just cleaned and emptied 2 weeks ago locally
* In Illinois there were two incidents where cattle sucumed to gases
* Foaming manure = methane.
  + Pressure washing breaks up foam
* Manure haulers
  + Put monitors for HxS and methane and had more exposure than anticipated

Training

Agitating manure

Health effects on manure pumpers & haulers

Dairy manure lagoons

Manure spreader entrance (no!)

Loss of livestock

Manure haulers complaining of HA and nausea

Iowa manure management

Deeper pits

DDGs (distiller’s dried grain)

Don’t know why foaming manure is occurring and don’t really have a definitive way to get rid of it

Cleaning buildings

Gas monitors

Manufacturers and suppliers

Ag workers like to have the ppm readouts

Giving communities gas to help ensure monitors are working

Why is the sulfur high?

What is the best way to agitate

What is the best way to reduce gas

Whole building needs to be treated as confined space when agitating and pumping

Lock out/tagout the building

What do we do with the ventilation system during pumping?

Foaming – no heaters or power

Open curtains, vents on

Don’t have health effects for chronic exposure

Pork Producers

Make sure ventilation is on, curtains are open after pumping

Welders

Farmers are interested about this

Additives in feed – is this producing more gases?

Can we add anything to the manure to decrease these?

Any benefits to doing agitation more frequently?

Isolate manure from production facility

Increase amount of times manure is pumped out

Frequency of issues is increasing

Most are in finishing because deeper pits

DDGs are in feed later on in life

Farmers need more education about gases

Need to include: Farmers, pumpers, emergency crews, feed producers, manufacturers

**Big Points**:

* Need more usage of gas monitors by farmers, more education
* Change how facilities are laid out
* More community partners for follow-up, help, guidance & things like gas for calibrating

Risk Management

Participants: Brandi Janssen, Larry Hoekstra, Karen Thornton, Marsha Cheyney, Charlotte Halverson, Kathy Leinenkugel

Key Concerns:

* Need to market products has become more critical
  + Farmers are good at production, haven’t kept up on marketing
  + Can’t do it all, burn out
  + Need partner they trust
* Stress about finances – hold on in storage instead of selling
* Hard to keep grain in condition – more safety risks
* Mistrust between organizations
* Not helping each other out as much – consciously undermining each other
* Bigger world – global economy, competing with new people
* Diaries getting bigger, sucks up all the land
* Small towns disappear – trucking out further (not selling to local elevator) don’t buy from local dealer
* Fatigue – take more risks/act less safely
* Return on invested capital
* Recession in 2008 didn’t happen in Sioux County & area around it
* Building community requires attention

Marketing/changes in structure

Greed/individualism – more working alone & safety issues for lone worker

Stress/anxiety around community tensions

Solutions are on community level

* Cooperatives/cooperate – don’t let competition take over
* Support each other
* Get information out – tell whole story
* Encourage more agrotourism – recreational opportunities
* Access to healthcare is key also