# Successful Strides with Dairy Producers & Workers A Report of Engagement, Partnerships and Trust

David I Douphrate, PhD, MPT, MBA, CPE, CSP

University of Texas Health Science Center Houston, School of Public Health

Stephen J Reynolds, PhD, CIH, FAIHA

Colorado State University

High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety

Investigations under way after man, 37, dies in farming accident

Victim in dairy farm accident identified; funeral is Wednesday Worker Dies After Being Crushed by Cows at Ontario Dairy

Marietta man, 41, who was killed in grain truck accident worked at farm for decades

### Man dies in manure pit on Spafford dairy farm

Man killed in accident on Surrey dairy farm

Calif. man fatally crushed by cows at dairy farm

Father of 5 killed in farm accident

Man, 2 Sons Found Dead In Maryland Dairy Farm's Manure Pit

### Milking Past & Present & Future







## A Snapshot of US Dairy Industry

 $\downarrow$  number of dairies

 $\uparrow$  herd sizes

20%  $\uparrow$  milk output in last 10 yrs

Only 3% of dairies 1000+ head

**50% production from 1000+ cow dairies** 

Trend to large-herd model

Milking 2-3x/day



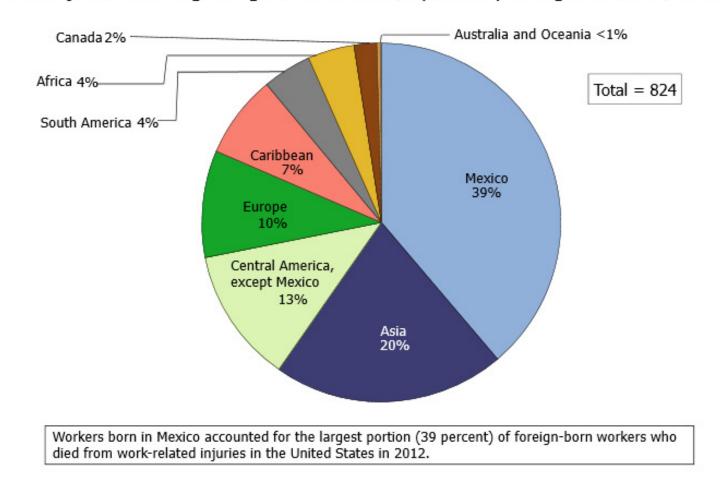


## Dairy Workforce

•77,000 immigrants (51%) worked on dairy farms in 2014

- •number of immigrants working on dairy farms rose by 35% in six years
- •Workers from Mexico, Central and South America
  - 85%+ Hispanic
- Low education level
  - 7% no education
  - 38% primary/elementary school
  - 18% middle school
  - 30% high school





Fatal injuries involving foreign-born workers, by country or region of birth, 2012

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2014. 12

### Occupational Health Research Challenges

#### Setting

- Place of business (family legacy and home), not laboratory
  - Owner asks questions:
- 1) What risk am I exposing myself (business) to?
- 2) How do I (or industry) benefit from this?
- 3) Will this disrupt any operations?
- 4) How will data be used?

- Remote locations (travel)
- Language barriers
- Distrust among workers
- Work schedules
- Farm variability
- Research equipment technical challenges

### Our Approach

<u>LISTEN</u> to dairy stakeholders, and <u>RESPOND</u> to needs and concerns with sound and relevant research and outreach efforts.

### Our Story: Research

Respiratory

- Occupational Lung Disease and Bioaerosol/Endotoxin Exposure
  - Improved methods for inhalable sampling, endotoxin analysis (rFC, GC/MSMS), microbiome – metagenomics and Antimicrobial Resistance
  - Newer workers more susceptible to inflammatory lung disease
  - Control mechanisms for dust (washing milking parlor, bedding materials) evaluated



### Our Story: Research

#### Musculoskeletal Symptoms Among Dairy Parlor Workers

- •Symptom Survey
  - 4 year study32 dairies in 5 states
  - •N=452
- 89% male
- 97% Hispanic
- 85% kicked by cow

### •Job related pain:

- 47% feet
- 42% upper back
- 40% shoulder
- 36% wrist
- 29% low back
- 25% neck
- 24% knee
- 19% elbow
- 19% hip

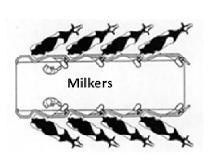


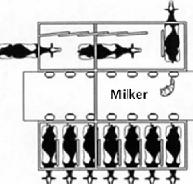
## Our Story: Research

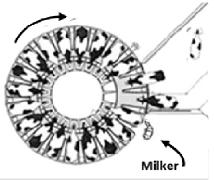
Ergonomics

•Exposure Assessment and Intervention Analysis in Large-Herd Dairy Parlors

- Full shift (8-12 hrs) direct measurement of physical exposures (muscle forces, posture, repetition, physiological load)
- Comparison of parlor configurations
- Intervention analysis
  - Milking equipment and tools





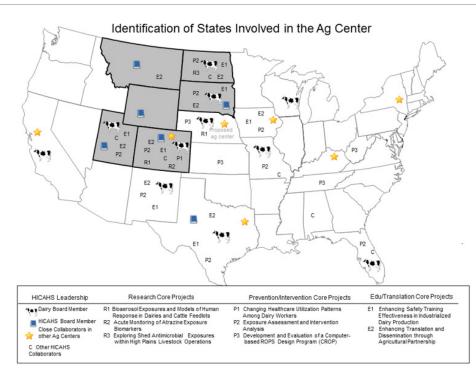






#### Research and Outreach US Footprint

- Colorado
- Idaho (upcoming)
- Iowa
- Kansas (upcoming)
- Minnesota
- New Mexico
- New York (upcoming)
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Utah
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

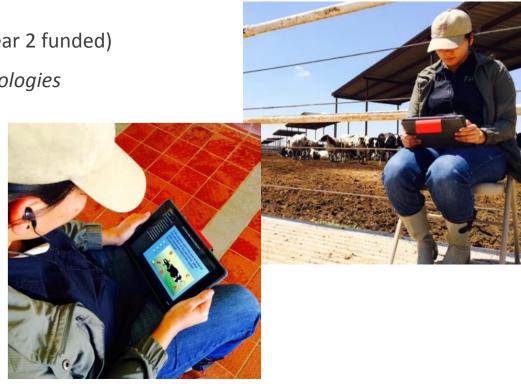


#### **Worker Training**

OSHA Susan Harwood Targeted Topic Training (Year 2 funded)

Dairy Worker Safety Training Using Mobile Technologies

- •357 workers trained in 10 months
- •Levels I, II and III Effectiveness Evaluations
  - Level II: 72% Pre-test; 90% Post-test



### **Dairy Industry and Farmworker Conferences**











High Plains



Western States Dairy Producers Trade Association

#### **Monthly Safety Articles**

Nearly 94,000 reader subscriptions

24 articles to date

### PROGRESSIVE DAIRYMAN

### Our Story: Partnerships

Producers









## Our Story: Partnerships

Key Advocates

- •Robert Hagevoort, PhD, New Mexico State University
- •Bill Wailes, Colordo St University
- •Wyatt Smith, PhD, DeLaval
- •Juan Valez, DVM, Aurora Organic Dairy







#### **NIOSH Ag Centers**



**State Extension** 



**Industry Service Providers** 



### International Dairy Research Consortium (IDRC)

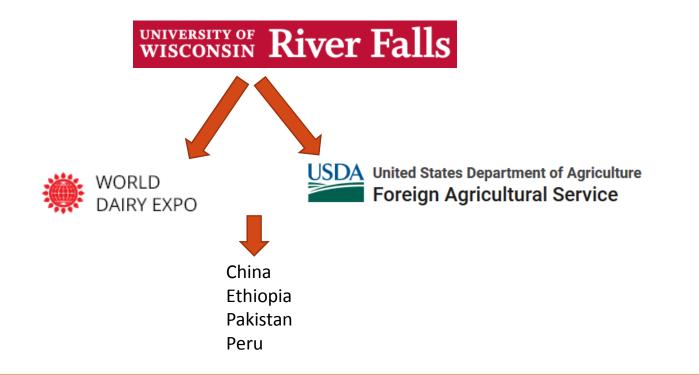
Australia	Italy
Canada	Netherlands
Denmark	New Zealand
Finland	Sweden
Germany	United States
Ireland	



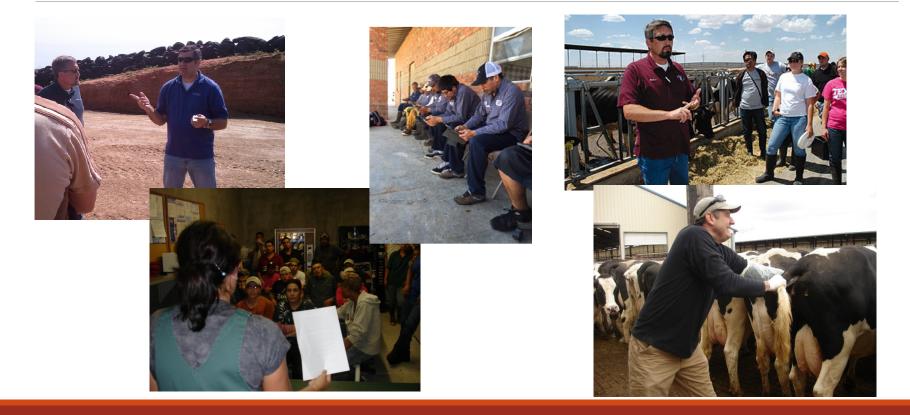
A Global Perspective on Modern Dairy: Occupational Health and Safety Challenges and Opportunities

Journal of Agromedicine (Volume 18, Issue 3, 2013).

### Recipe of Success: New Partnerships, New Opportunities



### Recipe of Success: Building & Maintaining Trust



## Questions?

