Improving Health in Agricultural Communities

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Innovative agricultural occupational health screening
What do we know?

- Historically:
  - Lower morbidity
  - Less alcohol & smoking
  - More exercise
  - Healthier diet
  - Fresh air

- Not the case any more
Agriculture has changed

Then

Now
How many Agricultural workers or managers die each year at work?

1. 0 - 30
2. 30 - 50
3. 50 - 80
4. 80 - 100
What do we know about Agriculture?

- Agriculture is consistently ranked as one of the top three most hazardous industries in Australia.

- Approximately 3.5% of the Australian workforce is employed in agriculture yet it accounts for over 17% of workplace fatalities.
Health issues for farming communities

Increased risk of:

- Accidents
- Farm acquired illnesses (Zoonoses)
- Skin complaints
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Chemical and pesticide exposures

Compounded by reduced access to health and social services
Health issues for farming communities

Increased risk of:
- Medical emergencies
- Hearing disorders
- Depression and suicide
- Stress and anxiety
- Domestic violence

Compounded by reduced access to health and social services
Health issues for farming communities

Increased risk of:

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Respiratory diseases
- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancers
- Diabetes
So how does AgriSafe™ improve health and safety on farms?

- AgriSafe™ Clinic visit for a comprehensive health screening.
- Agriculturally specific health education.
- Written referrals as required.
Fit Testing
Testing cholinesterase levels
Without adequate PPE farmers can experience adverse central nervous system reactions.

Symptoms consist of:

- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Headache
- Sweating
- Pinpoint pupils
- Hypotension
- Twitching
- Vomiting
- Weakness
- Abdominal cramps
- Bradycardia
- Drooling
Results
AgriSafe™ Clients
last routine check up (%), n = 56

- Never: 37.7%
- > 3 y.: 14.3%
- 1-3 y.: 11.5%
- < 1 y.: 29.5%
Prevalence (%) of CVD risks
n=61

- High BMI (>25BMI): 68.9%
- High waist circumference: 45.9%
- Hypertension risk (>135SBP/85>DBP): 32.8%
- Diabetes risk (>5.5 mmol/L): 35%
- High total cholesterol (>5.5 mmol/L): 18.3%
Prevalence (%) of Pain n=61

- Pain (overall): 59%
- Back pain: 36.1%
- Head/neck pain: 19.7%
- Arm pain: 11.5%
- Leg pain: 21.3%
- Injury related pain: 32.8%
How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?
How often do you consume alcohol at high risk levels
(>4 for female, >6 for male)
What does it take to be an AgriSafe provider?

1. Full AgriSafe Australia providers:
   - Full Service AgriSafe clinic
   - Limited AgriSafe services integrated within existing model of care
   - MBBS or RN Div. 1

2. Organisational members

3. Individual members
AgriSafe operations manual

- AgriSafe Network
- Membership
- AgriSafe Model
- Feasibility Study
- Health Promotion
- Clinic policy and procedures
- Templates, forms and documents
- Education materials
As you leave today

- Reflect on your work and your expertise
- How can you help to keep farm men and women farming healthily?
- Become an AgriSafe provider

www.farmerhealth.org.au
For further information and enrolment details on the upcoming HMF 701 – Agricultural Health & Medicine and HMF702- Healthy & Sustainable Agricultural Communities.

Please visit:

www.farmerhealth.org.au
Professional training and education

Key Message

AgriSafe™ is an unique health screening clinic tailored to the health needs of Australian Agricultural workers/Farmers.
Thank you for your attention! 😊