

International Dairy Researcher Meeting – Dublin

Monday, August 22, 2011

Irish Meeting on Agricultural Occupational
Health and Safety



Attendees

1. **Maggie Davidson**, HICAHS, USA
Post-doctoral fellow who specialized in bioerosols.
2. **Allison De Vries**, HICAHS, USA
Research Coordinator for HICAHS, an agricultural research center that conducts various dairy safety and health projects. Her Dad is a dairy farmer
3. **David Douphrate**, HICAHS, USA
Ergonomist who is studying dairy parlors.
4. **Martina Jakob**, Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering, Germany
Ergonomist who has spent the last five years focusing on dairy parlor problems.
5. **Janne Karttunen**, TTS - Work Efficiency Institute, Finland
Has been a researcher in TTS for 10 years. Currently on study leave writing his thesis regarding occupational safety and health of farmers.
6. **Christina Kolstrup**, SLU, Sweden – Agronomist (livestock) and researcher. Her PhD thesis was about physical and psychosocial work environment and health among livestock workers. Intersection of human and animal health, work motivation and work satisfaction, and agricultural safety and health in developing countries (Africa).
7. **Jarkko Leppälä**, Finland
PhD student and researcher who is focusing on sustainable risk management on dairy farms. Has a dairy farming background.
8. **Lotta Löfqvist**, Sweden
Ergonomist and PhD-student, who is studying MSD and ergonomics in horse stables.
9. **Peter Lundqvist**, Sweden
Study areas include business economics and environmental psychology. Has worked with the dairy industry since the 1980s.
10. **John McNamara**, Health and Safety Officer Teagasc, Ireland
11. **Risto Rautiainen**, USA
Director of NIOSH Ag Center in Nebraska called the Central States Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (CS-CASH). Researcher expertise includes ag engineering, epidemiology, and economic (cost/effectiveness) evaluations. His family farms in Finland.
12. **Steve Reynolds**, Director HICAHS, USA
HICAHS has worked with the dairy industry for the past 10 years. HICAHS emphasizes a comprehensive approach to health and safety in the dairy industry, including research and prevention efforts encompassing respiratory health, ergonomics, cost-effective interventions, training and, management practices.
13. **Tom Ryan**, Teagasc, Ireland
Conducts specialist training on farm buildings and machinery

Meeting Minutes

Summary of Project Ideas from the International Meeting

Steve Reynolds summarized results from previous meeting in Colorado, described three ideas, which were: (1) Compile Agricultural SH resources and distribute through the HICAHS website, (2) Evaluate and provide feedback on the resources, (3) Collaborate with other organizations and target other research areas. (WHO Research Center, Canadian ISASH conference, veterinarian safety and health.)

Discussion: Which research areas are important?

- Animal Handling
- Injuries
- Partnering with veterinarians and dairy service companies
- Fatalities from falling into manure pits
- Communicating occupational safety and health regulations to stakeholders
- Evaluating the effectiveness of occupational safety and health interventions

Worldwide Trends in Dairy Farming

- Finland dairy farmers are experiencing a need to train workers on how to use advanced technology for dairying.
- U.S. dairy farms are experiencing an increase in OSHA inspections.
- U.S. dairy industry has labor issues. Dairies are dependent on foreign-born workers, mostly from Latin America.
- Many European dairies are also dependent on migrant laborers.
- Ireland dairy farms are also experiencing problems finding skilled laborers.
- Ireland dairies account for a disproportionate number of farming accidents (compared to cattle or crop farms).
- Ireland dairy farms are getting larger or going out of business.

Conversation Details

*Peter Lundqvist: (1) **Animal Handling**, especially preventing bull injuries and (2) **Injuries** are important research areas.*

*David Douphrate thinks that partnering with **veterinarians** and **dairy service companies** is important. De Laval has been a great partner to HICAHS. Thanks go to Peter Lundvist for establishing that connection.*

David Douphrate: The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has traditionally not focused on dairies, but there has been a recent increase uptick in the number of investigations. David Douphrate authored wrote an article regarding OSHA trends.

John McNamara: In Ireland only 17% of farms are dairies, but they account for 58% of farm deaths and 28% of non-fatal accidents.

Jarkko Leppälä: In Finland the production technology is becoming more sophisticated, which brings new challenges to occupational safety and health. Workers need to be highly skilled to operate the equipment that has new technology.

Maggie Davidson: The United States dairy industry is experiencing worker issues. [The challenge is to keep a steady supply of qualified, legally-immigrated workers. Dairies rely on foreign-born workers.]

Peter Lundqvist: Migrant workers are also a trend in Europe.

Tom Ryan: Finding skilled laborers is also a problem [for Ireland.]

John McNamara: Dairy farms are either getting larger or going out of business.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM STEVE'S MEETING IN UPPSALA SWEDEN 8/19/11

Attendees:

1. Anna Rask-Andersen
2. Lena Elfman
3. Steve Reynolds, USA

One of their colleagues (a nurse)– Christina (didn't get last name) worked on New Zealand dairies.

Lena (PhD) is particularly interested in collaborating on the aerosols group and can contribute allergen analyses.

Anna (MD) interested in overall health and health care access issues with immigrant/migrant workers. She has worked on models for changing health behavior.