AgriSafe Celebrates National Rural Health Day

Carolyn Sheridan, BSN
Clinical Director
AgriSafe Network
712-264-6611
csheridan@agrisafe.org
www.agrisafe.org

Celebrating the Power of Rural among Ag Producers

- Farmers and farm workers contribute billions of dollars to our economy.
- They have a love of land, community, and heritage.
- Risks are an accepted trait.
- Farmers are self-reliant, stoic and determined to succeed.
Farmers who Feed our Nation

• Experience high rates of:
  ✓ Respiratory diseases
  ✓ Arthritis
  ✓ Zoonotic diseases
  ✓ Skin cancer
  ✓ Chronic back pain
  ✓ Hearing loss
  ✓ Depression
  ✓ Disabling injuries
  ✓ Occupational fatalities

AgriSafe Model

An AgriSafe Provider serves as an early point of entry into the health care system before serious conditions develop.
Occupational Health Services

Agricultural Specific Screening Services
- Occupational History
- Lung Function screening
- Hearing Test
- Skin Cancer Screening
- Back/Spine Lifting Safety Assessment
- Cholinesterase
- Tetanus Immunization

General Health Screening Services
- Height/weight evaluation
- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol

Referral to Health Care Providers

Prevention

Cholesterol and Cholinesterase Screening
Pulmonary Function Testing
Hearing Testing
Blood Pressure Height-Weight Evaluation and other Vital Signs
Underinsurance Among Iowa Farm Families

- Health insurance coverage places a significant financial burden on farm families.
- In 2004, over fifty percent of Iowa farmers purchase in the individual insurance market which had limitations in care benefits.
- Farmers are at high risk to be underinsured.
Survey of Farming Community

- Population-based 5265 farm households with a gross sale of >$25,000
- Random sample of 2000
- In 2001 survey completed by 717 farms (36%)
- In 2004 survey completed by 920 farms (46%)
- Written 10 page questionnaire using standard questions

Use of preventive services by insurance coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Employer Based</th>
<th>Self Purchased</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>all survey respondents</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>office visit in past year</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blood pressure in past year</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cholesterol in past year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>women &gt; 50 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ever bone density</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ever mammogram</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>men &gt; 50 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ever prostate</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>women &gt; 19 - 64 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gynecological exam in past year</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children &lt;11 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>well-child visit in past year</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Satisfaction with Coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Employer-Based</th>
<th>Self-Purchased</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paying for health care is a burden</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health needs adequately covered</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating of plan (0-worst, 10-best)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced problem finding or understanding info about health plan</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cost of Health Coverage

- Median Health Care Costs of Farm Families in 2004 Survey was $6000 (Premiums + Out of Pocket cost)
- 3/5 of farm households spend more than 10% of income on health care
- 1/4 of farm households spend more 25% of income on health care
FINANCIAL SECURITY

• 1/3 of farmers reported the financial well-being of their farm to be a moderate to serious problem.

• 1/5 of families have a person working off the farm for the primary reason of obtaining health insurance.

• 1/2 of full time farmers also report working off the farm part time.

Advocate for Improved Data Collection

• USDA can conduct national studies of farm families who buy in the individual insurance market. We can learn from this convenient sample.

• States must be encouraged to study uninsured and underinsured.

• Trends in provider reimbursements and competition among health plans in rural areas must tracked.

• Impact of medical debt in rural communities is critical.
AgriSafe Resources

- AgriSafe Monthly Educational Webinars
- AgriSafe in Action - E-newsletter
- Educational and clinical resources
- Personal Protection Equipment
- Customized workshops

AgriSafe Webinar Series

- Free monthly webinars sponsored by NRHA
- All sessions are archived
- Consider becoming a presenter
- Consider adapting webinars in academic course requirements
The song was commissioned in 2011 by the AgriSafe Network to show support for the agricultural community and the healthcare professionals dedicated to protecting them.

Please support our cause by downloading the full song. AgriSafe receives 50% of the proceeds from every download. The song can be downloaded at www.cdbaby.com or iTunes.