

## Meeting Minutes

**NCERA 197**

**June 2-3, 2015**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Location: USDA NIFA Building, Washington DC**

### **Members in Attendance:**

Connie Baggett, Penn State University

Bob Aherin, University of Illinois

Dennis Murphy, Penn State University

Michael L. Pate, Utah State University

Cheryl Skjolaas, University of Wisconsin

Aida Balsano, USDA-NIFA

Linda Fetzer, Penn State University

Aaron Yoder, University of Nebraska

Dee Jepsen, The Ohio State University

Kitty Hendricks, NIOSH

Larry Olsen, Michigan State University

Brad Rein, USDA-NIFA

Marshall Martin, Purdue University

(no members had called in on the phone conference line)

### **Call to Order:**

1:45pm meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Aaron Yoder

The meeting began with opening comments provided by Administrative Advisor Marshall Martin. Welcoming comments and congratulatory remarks were made regarding the recent successes of the work completed by the committee. Recognition was made for the 2014 North Central Outstanding Multistate Project Award.

Members in attendance introduced themselves.

The new NCERA-197 committee proposal roster was reviewed by the committee chair with members in attendance. Old NCERA-197 committee roster was compared to identify members who had not been placed on the new committee roster. Reminders were provided to contact Experiment Station Personnel to set up membership with the new NCERA-197 committee. Ideas were shared on recruitment of new members who may have expertise to complement the committee's strengths and provide additional collaborative partnerships.

### **Previous Minutes:**

Review of meeting minutes from previous face to face session June 2014 Washington DC.

Motion made by Dennis Murphy to accept minutes as presented

Seconded by Larry Olsen

Motion passed. June 2014 minutes were approved.

### **Review of Confined Spaces White Paper and Current Committee Member Efforts:**

Bob Aherin provided an update on the status of the White Paper on Confined Spaces in Agriculture. Report provided that the document was finalized and ready for publication but lack of funding had not allowed the document to reach printing. Aaron Yoder offered funds to support printing the document. Conferences and meetings were suggested to distribute the document once printed. Conferences suggested were ASABE and a Grain Management and Suffocation Prevention two-day conference in March.

Cheryl Skjolaas shared an update that OSHA had prepared a new construction standard for confined spaces. Suggestions were made to examine it and look at implementation.

Bob Aherin provided a report on grain bin safety training and curriculum activities he has been involved with in Illinois. Committee members discussed these efforts. Concerns were mentioned that farmers may be going into the bin because they know that rescue workers are trained for emergency. Bob announced that the training program and curriculum can be made available for other states.

Dennis Murphy provided a report on manure ventilation rate program and ASABE Standard for Pit ventilation. Results from the gypsum in manure study were shared indicating high levels of hydrogen sulfide generated when slurry is agitated. Safety fact sheet is in development on hazards with using gypsum as bedding.

Dee Jepsen shared results from efforts on training firefighters and emergency management meetings. Relationships with commodity groups have yielded donations to volunteer and career firefighters for safety equipment.

Cheryl Skjolaas provided a report on efforts dealing with motor boats being used to agitate large manure lagoons. Manure digesters were discussed and toxic gases concerns. Larry Olsen shared a concern with being asked to certifying manure applicators.

Other discussion focused on Wayne Bower and the Star of the Wise for grain training programs Aaron Yoder reported on developments in Great Plains NIOSH center region dealing with large poultry houses being used to compost entire flocks of birds infected with Avian influenza. These efforts are targeting producers and workers to help them select appropriate respiratory protection.

**3:07 pm Break was called.**

**3:27pm Meeting Resumed.**

Additional comments and efforts were called for by committee chair. None were shared.

#### **ASABE Standards Discussion:**

Bob Aherin shared a report on the progress of the grain bin entry and anchor points standard. Report shared that the standard took several iterations before a compromise was reached. The standard did pass with a change in the size of the grain bin opening and anchor points for life line system. Bob indicated that revisions were expected to come in the future.

The materials and dimensions of hitch pins were classified in the new ASABE standard for manufacturing of hitch pins. This was reported by Bob Aherin.

Other discussion was provided on the ASABE lighting and marking standard for agricultural machinery on roadways. Cheryl Skjolaas shared experiences in Wisconsin to educate producers on new legislation concerning agricultural equipment on roadways.

#### **Other Activities and Updates:**

Dennis Murphy provide an update on Penn State efforts to assist OSHA LEP on compliance assistance. Alliances were developed between dairy management professionals of Pennsylvania. Cheryl Skjolaas reported that OSHA has asked each state to identify how to increase activities in agriculture. Issues on housing for migrant workers and inspection of work sites.

Bob Aherin shared a report on Susan Harwood Grant efforts to collaborate with farm show vendors to promote grain bin hazard awareness and grain bin safety for FFA students.

**At 4:06pm, meeting was recessed until 8am June 3, 2015.**

### **NCERA 197 Meeting Minutes**

**June 3, 2015 Meeting reconvened at 8:05am**

#### **Continuation of traffic and transportation issues regarding agricultural equipment.**

Cheryl Skjolaas provided additional information on the legislation. Michael Pate asked for any handouts on the issue to share at the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health.

#### **Discussion on identification of next priority topic from national agenda:**

A report was provided by Cheryl Skjolaas on subcommittee efforts targeting the issue of falls in agriculture. Discussion focused on areas to address or identify situations to target for interventions. New concerns have arose with using boats in lagoons. Additional meetings with subcommittee members were noted to be planned.

#### **Revisions of New NCERA-197 Five Year Project Plan**

Aaron Yoder led a discussion to generate ideas for addressing reviewer comments. Committee members engaged in discussion and identified objectives/areas to provide effort on.

Committee members in attendance were asked to provide objectives they would work towards accomplishing. Each member verbally identified an objective to work towards.

Aaron Yoder – 1., 6.

Connie Baggett– 2

Larry Olsen– Retire

Linda Fetzer– 6.

Cheryl Skjolaas– 2.

Dee Jepsen – 3.

Kitty Hendricks– 6.

Dennis Murphy – 1., 3., 6.

Bob Aherin – 3., 2., 6.

Michael L. Pate – 6., 1., 4.

Discussion was generated on ways to reach out to other experts that could contribute to accomplishing these objectives. Invitations for membership were encouraged.

#### **Elections of New Committee Chair and Secretary:**

Michael Pate was unanimously railroaded into a 2-yr commitment as committee chair. Dee Jepsen was unanimously supported by committee members to serve 2-yr commitment as committee secretary.

Aaron Yoder promised his left toe that he would get back in to being the committee chair after Michael's two year term.

#### **Safety in Agriculture for Youth Project Report**

Dennis Murphy provided an update on the status of activities for the Safety in Agriculture for Youth Project. Dennis asked for input on the committee's role in developing a Guidance Document for Youth Working in Agriculture. Committee discussion was provided on different methods to complete this or provide assistance to develop the Guidance Document.

Bob Aherin made a motion to support the concept of pulling together a coalition to focus on the development of the Guidance Document for Youth Working in Agriculture. Cheryl Skjolaas seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion passed.

#### **eXtension.org Update for Agricultural Safety and Health**

Linda Fetzer provided a handout on the efforts and impact from the community of practice for Agricultural safety and Health that NCERA 197 members have been involved with. A summary of funds supporting research and extension efforts was shared with the committee. Aaron Yoder shared an update on eXtension.org mission and institutional membership changes.

### **Other Reports and Updates**

#### **NIOSH Report**

Kitty Hendricks provided a summary of the latest survey efforts with NASS in 2014. She reported that 2014 would be the last agricultural injury surveillance efforts provided by NIOSH. An advisory panel will be used in the future.

#### **USDA-NIFA**

Aida Balsano shared a summary of current activities regarding funding opportunities and grant panel reviews. Aida reported on funding opportunities for Youth Farm Safety, Rural Health and Safety, and AgrAbility. Brad Rein provide a presentation summary that was made to NARREE Advisory Board Members. Brad shared other potential funding opportunities to collaborate and integrate agricultural safety and health. Funding opportunities shared included AFRI projects linked to Robotics and Automation as well as Agricultural Systems Technology.

#### **ASCHA**

A report on efforts within ASCHA was shared by Aaron Yoder and Dennis Murphy.

#### **Grain Safety Coalition**

Bob Aherin showed a video with the committee that provides training on grain safety. Bob shared that the video was developed from external funding.

#### **Final Comments**

Marshall Martin provided final comments to the committee thanking them for their efforts and wishing them well. A doodle poll will be generated by Michael Pate to determine the next telephone conference call in October.

**Meeting Adjourned by Aaron Yoder.**

## NCERA197 2015-2020 Objectives

1. Revise the National Agenda for Action document that was published by this committee in 2003 to provide land grant researchers and educators assistance in prioritizing agricultural safety and health issues.
2. Develop a white paper that addresses topics such as: 2.1. current and potential impact of existing and emerging technologies on safety and health in agriculture. 2.2. summary and impact of public policy and regulations related to agricultural safety and health.
3. Collaborate with other organizations (e.g., NIOSH Ag Centers, ASHCA, ASABE, ISASH) to sponsor regional or national conferences focused on safety and health issues associated with topics such as: livestock handling, best safety practices, organic and market growers, mental health, substance abuse, and public policy and regulations.
4. Encourage research and outreach at Land Grant universities that utilizes their expertise in addressing safety and health issues associated with agricultural injuries.
5. Encourage new and improved standards to reduce hazard and risk exposures within agriculture by investigating where the priority areas are within the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and other standard developing organizations and groups.
6. Work to increase infrastructure support for agricultural safety and health within the land grant system by: 6.1. continuing the support of the Farm and Ranch eXtension in Safety and Health (FReSH) Community of Practice at [www.eXtension.org/AgSafety](http://www.eXtension.org/AgSafety). 6.2. maintaining a current inventory of ongoing research and extension activities being conducted by various components of the Land Grant system. 6.3. providing appropriate recognition of Land Grant system researchers and educators who are addressing critical agricultural safety and health issues through nominations to current award mechanisms or creation of new mechanisms. 6.4. pressing the need for additional funding to be allocated to agricultural safety and health issues by creating a new committee within the NCRA system that is eligible for internal funds and experiment station acknowledgement, and 6.5. encourage and support positions of "agricultural safety and health specialist" in Land Grant colleges and universities to study, research, advise, teach agricultural safety issues and problems in each state