



Farm Worker Health, Safety and Management
Cross Committee Program Meetings
August 24, 2011

Facilitators: Wayne Buhler, NC State University, and Jorge Atilas, OK State University

Action Plan

Identified Projects: None identified

States' Committed to Collaboration and Participation: Not requested

Goals: Although specific goals were not identified, formal presentations made by Magdalena Fernandez, Cintia Aguilar, Julia Storm, and Jorge Atilas brought forth the following key points (in no particular order of importance):

1. The Latino population is the fastest growing sector of the Southeastern US with a median age far younger than that of whites/non-hispanic.
2. Farm worker health and safety is an important topic that is “cross-cutting” among many program areas.
3. There are tremendous resources developed and implemented in individual states that can be shared across state lines with better communication and networking.
4. Extension agents need more training on how to work more effectively with Latinos. Understanding the audience goes far beyond the language barrier.
5. There are many opportunities for Extension to reach the Latino audience through developing partnerships with non-profit, state agency and other organizations.
6. Latino representation on Extension Advisory Councils is critical (North Carolina example: Extension Latino Advisory Council and district task forces).
7. Extension should establish a presence in the Latino community.
8. All-day health clinics or similar events (eg. Extension-coordinated hands-on safety training) designed to educate and/or serve farmworkers and their families are great occasions to distribute/deliver other resources and programming.
9. Face-to-face contact and a focus on the family are keys to achieving results with Latino audiences.

Objectives: Not identified

Next Steps:

1. A needs assessment for training and resources should be done in each state.
2. Extension Directors and other leaders should be made aware of the work of SERA-37, a committee that fosters program and staff development to prepare Extension agents to work more effectively with Latino audiences.
3. Extension Directors should identify Extension Agents and Specialist who are bilingual and bi-cultural.
4. Emphasis should be placed on hiring Hispanic Agents in areas heavily populated by Latinos.
5. Resources available for communicating to minority groups should be identified/developed especially as they relate to disaster response and recovery (Directors should evaluate the information from EDEN regarding the applicability of these types of resources).
6. Online “clearing houses” for sharing resources should be optimized for wider recognition and use by Extension (examples include Extension Espanol and EDEN).
7. If this group were to meet again (in Orlando), Dr. James Johnson, Professor at the University of North Carolina should be invited to speak on the demographic trends and economic impact (costs and contributions) of the Latino population.