



Dairy Team

Training Spanish-speaking dairy workers

“The two gentlemen I sent came home quite enthused and quoted verbatim all the things that I have been trying to teach them about calves through the years.” Wisconsin dairy producer

Dairy producers who have updated their barns and milking facilities and added more cows to their herds need reliable employees who have been trained in modern dairy practices. Many dairy workers working on Wisconsin farms are Latinos from Mexico and Central America and may not speak much English.

Response

The Hispanic Labor workgroup of UW-Extension’s Dairy Team developed four training modules in Spanish and English. These modules cover milk quality and mastitis, reproduction and estrus detection, newborn calf care and herdsmanship skills. Teaching materials include instructions on how to conduct training meetings as well as presentation slides, speaker notes, handouts, certificates of completion, and evaluation forms for participants and employers.

Outcomes

- 332 workers have attended modules on milk quality, reproduction, calf care and assisting cows with calving.
- Evaluation results show that participants made large gains in skill level and knowledge.
- The modules are being marketed in Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Nicaragua and the Czech Republic.
- The workgroup is now developing a new DVD with information about conducting cow side exams.

Contact: Zen Miller, 920-832-5119, zen.miller@ces.uwex.edu

UW-Extension team members for this project include Jennifer Keuning, Kewaunee County; Tina Kohlman, Sheboygan County; Zen Miller, Outagamie County and former UW-Extension employees Dan Schreiner and Roy Wilson.

April 2006+