

**Final Report**

**Community Stakeholder Advisory Meeting**  
**Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety**  
  
Rachel Claire Mitchell, Ricky W. Telg, Angela B. Lindsey,   
Tracy Irani, and J. Glenn Morris

November 16, 2017

**For More Information**

Contact the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at http://sccahs.org/contact/

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# About the Authors

**Rachel Claire Mitchell, M.S.** – Evaluation Coordinator, Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at the University of Florida

**Ricky W. Telg, PhD. –** Outreach Core of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Director of the Center for Public Issues Education at the University of Florida

**Angela B. Lindsey, PhD. -** Outreach Core of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Assistant Professor of Family Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida

**Tracy Irani, PhD. –** Director of the Outreach Core of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Chair of the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida

**J. Glenn Morris, Jr., M.D., MPH & TM** – Director of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Director of the Emerging Pathogens Institute at the University of Florida

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**Ashley McLeod** –Public Relations Specialist at the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Center for Public Issues Education

**Philip Stokes, M.S.** – Education Coordinator at the Center for Public Issues Education

**Lisa K. Lundy, PhD. –** Outreach Core of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Associate Professor of Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida

**Martie Gillen, PhD. –** Outreach Core of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist of Family Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida

**Heidi Radunovich, PhD.** **–** Outreach Core of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Associate Professor of Family Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida

**Paul Monaghan, PhD.** **–** Outreach Core of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Associate Professor of Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida

**Glenn D. Israel, PhD. -** Evaluation Program Director of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Professor and Graduate Coordinator of Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida

**Sebastian Galindo-Gonzalez, PhD. –** Evaluation Program Co-Director of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Research Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida

**David C. Diehl, PhD. –** Evaluation Program Co-Director of the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator of Family, Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida

**Andrew Kane, PhD. –** Project PI for Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance of Gulf Seafood Workers Research Project and Associate Professor of Environmental and Global Health at the University of Florida

**Antonio Tovar-Aguilar, PhD. –** Project Co-PD/PI for PISCA: Pesticide and Heat Stress Education for Latino Farmworkers that is Culturally Appropriate Research Project and PI at the Florida Farmworker Association

**Joseph G. Grzywacz, PhD. –** Project Co-PD/PI for PISCA: Pesticide and Heat Stress Education for Latino Farmworkers that is Culturally Appropriate Research Project and Chair of the College of Human Sciences at Florida State University

**Gregory Glass, PhD**. **–** Project PI for Extent of Agricultural Pesticide Applications in Florida Using Best Practices and Professor of Geography

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# Background

The occupational risks for farmworkers, fishers and forestry workers in the coastal southeast are numerous. Farmworkers who harvest fruit, vegetables, and ornamental plants by hand frequently bend, crouch, and lift to carry crops and tools weighing as much as 90 pounds. They can be exposed to pesticides sprayed on crops and are at risk for injuries caused by farm machinery. Fishers also labor under hazardous conditions, and transportation to medical facilities can be difficult if they are injured while on the water. Most fatalities for fishing industry workers are from drowning, but injuries can also be caused by malfunctioning fishing gear, entanglement in fishing gear, slippery decks, strong currents, tidal surges and waves washing over the deck, and collisions. Forestry workers face risks using heavy logging equipment, as well as risk of injury from the massive weights of falling, rolling and sliding trees and logs. Transporting logs from harvesting sites to processing sites can also lead to injuries in forestry workers. Farmworkers, fishers and forestry workers generally work outdoors in all kinds of weather, leading to major concerns in Florida, other southern states and the Caribbean about the impact of heat stress on workers, particularly in the setting of recent increases in number of days with temperatures above 90 degrees F.

In response to these issues, the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS) was established in 2016 as part of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) / National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Agricultural Health and Safety Initiative. SCCAHS explores and addresses the occupational safety and health needs of people working in agriculture, fishing, and forestry in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SCCAHS focuses specifically on the unique environments and occupational communities of this region (e.g., hot, humid climate and coastal/coastal plains with farming and fishing and timber). SCCAHS is a multidisciplinary partnership of academic institutions, community organizations, and industry representatives that brings together individuals and organizations that are already pursuing academic and applied basic research, intervention, translational, and outreach solutions for occupational illness and injuries. SCCAHS provides centralized regional infrastructure where these individuals, organizations and companies can engage in mutual learning, leverage resources, build on previous efforts of colleagues, and promote new research.

The SCCAHS outreach approach and strategy utilizes two-way participatory and social marketing strategies. This includes working with a Community/Stakeholder Advisory Board (CSAB) comprised of representatives of relevant stakeholders. The CSAB will be a significant research-to-practice mechanism designed to engage stakeholders, communicate research findings and review and evaluate interventions and materials. The outreach team will work in concert with research project principal investigators (PIs) to solicit input on their findings from the CSAB, develop educational and communications materials, test key messages and message frames within these materials, and conduct content analysis of relevant media information sources utilized by target study populations. Findings will be utilized to develop and refine outreach materials and to inform training and workshop activities conducted by all project PIs. CSAB members will be selected by the end of 2017.

SCCAHS is committed to stakeholder involvement, and uses Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM) approaches to identify barriers and benefits to engaging in socially desirable behaviors, followed by using the results of that research to formulate education and outreach strategies. In support of this approach, the SCCAHS Evaluation Program and Outreach Core conducted a needs assessment survey to gather information from people involved in all aspects of the agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries. These data were collected in June and July 2016, and the Evaluation Team completed the Needs Assessment Report in October 2017. The report was used to orient SCCAHS to important issues within agriculture, fisheries and forestry fields.

# Objectives

Following the needs assessment, the SCCAHS Outreach Core organized the first Community Stakeholder Advisory meeting on October 24, 2017. Stakeholders were invited to attend meetings in person in Gainesville, Apopka, and Valdosta.

There were four objectives outlined for the Community Stakeholder Advisory meeting. The first was to raise awareness about SCCAHS. The second was to engage participants in identifying the most important occupational health and safety issues in Florida, the Southeast, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The third objective was to discuss ways in which participants can get involved, including becoming members of the Center’s CSAB, accessing resources, providing resources to the Center, supporting new initiatives, etc. The final objective was to provide specific input into the Center’s activities in enhancing the safety and health of workers in agriculture, forestry and fishery industries in the Southeastern U.S.

# Methods

SCCAHS Director Dr. Glenn Morris presented a PowerPoint that introduced SCCAHS and presented needs assessment findings. This presentation was streamed on Facebook Live and to virtual participants who watched it using Zoom. After the presentation, Dr. Morris, as well as Outreach Core Director Dr. Tracy Irani and Dr. Ricky Telg, answered questions submitted by stakeholders in real time. Following the question and answer session, stakeholders in Gainesville, Apopka and Valdosta participated in facilitated small group discussions. Dr. Antonio Tovar-Aguilar, Dr. Angela Lindsey, Dr. Irani and Evaluation Coordinator Claire Mitchell facilitated the small group discussions at the live locations. They used discussion worksheets to guide the conversations, and took notes on or recorded what was said. Virtual participants responded to an online survey consisting of the same discussion questions used in the live locations. Participants were invited to join the CSAB, and those interested will be considered for selection for the 20-member board.

The data sources used in this report included online registration for the meeting, sign-in sheets at in-person meetings, and Zoom logins. Additional data were compiled from stakeholder questions asked in the question and answer session following Dr. Morris' presentation, notes from small group discussions, completed discussion worksheets, and online surveys completed by virtual participants. These data were organized according to theme and category. They were coded, entered into SPSS and included in descriptive analysis along with quantitative data.

# Results

## Participants

In the two weeks running up to the CSAB meeting, participants were asked to register through an EventBrite link. Of the 40 people who registered, 28 of them signed up to attend in person, and 12 signed up to attend virtually. According to sign-in sheets at three locations in Gainesville, Apopka and Valdosta, as well as Zoom registration, 32 people actually attended using these formats. In Gainesville, there were 12 participants; in Apopka there was one participant; in Valdosta there were 11 participants, and there were eight virtual participants on Zoom. In total, there were 51 people who registered through EventBrite or signed in at in-person meetings. Participants could also watch the CSAB presentation on Facebook Live. Though it is not possible to identify individuals who tuned in for the livestream, Facebook Insights recorded that there were 199 unique viewers. The CSA presentation is available to view on the SCCAHS Facebook page and on the SCCAHS website at http://sccahs.org/media/news.

Of the 51 participants, 16 of them were affiliated with SCCAHS, and 29 of them work in the agriculture sector. There were no representatives from the fisheries or forestry sectors. Six participants were involved with work in other sectors outside of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Extension was most heavily represented as a stakeholder type among participants (n=9), followed by industry (n=7), medicine (n=6), other types of stakeholders (n=6), and academia (n=3). There were two representatives from non-profit organizations and regulatory agencies, respectively.

The majority of participants worked in Florida (77%). There were nine participants from Georgia (18%), and one participant from South Carolina, North Carolina and the U.S. Virgin Islands, respectively.

## 

## Issues

To kickstart discussion, stakeholders were asked for their feedback on health and safety issues. Virtual participants were asked to list the top five agricultural health and safety issues and needs in their communities and industry, and in-person participants were prompted to talk about issues in small group discussions. Stakeholders also asked questions in the Q&A session about different agricultural health and safety issues. Some issues, like pesticide-related issues and heat stress issues, were previously mentioned by stakeholders in the SCCAHS needs assessment. Heat related illness was most frequently mentioned (n=5), followed by pesticide safety (n=3) and equipment safety (n=3). Other topics also listed in the needs assessment includes worker transportation (n=1) and fear of deportation (n=1).

Other issues, however, had not been brought up in the stakeholder needs assessment, and reflected a breadth of categories.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Issue | (n) |
| Food insecurity | 3 |
| Job insecurity | 3 |
| Lack of transportation to healthcare | 2 |
| Lack of awareness of social services among workers | 2 |
| Lack of consumer awareness about worker issues | 2 |
| Need for respirator fit tests, medical exams & training | 2 |
| Injury surveillance | 2 |
| Lack of industry reporting worker injuries | 2 |
| Need for heat stress regulations | 1 |
| Marijuana production | 1 |
| Livestock (cattle and dairy) issues | 1 |
| Need for accurate research on pesticide exposure | 1 |
| Need for research on differences between undocumented and H2A workers | 1 |
| Cell phone bans in production and processing | 1 |
| Workers unaware of social services | 1 |
| Need for evaluation of regulations' effectiveness | 1 |
| Regulations' effect on research (including immigration issues) | 1 |

Stakeholders were also asked to identify issues that are "on the horizon" that SCCAHS should be made aware of. These issues included Worker Protection Standards updated respirator requirements, general health and safety, drone safety, and non-traditional inexperienced agricultural operators.

## Existing Resources

Stakeholders were asked to identify current resources in their communities/industries that may be able to help in addressing some of these issues and needs. Extension was mentioned by stakeholders most frequently (n=3), followed by industry groups (n=2), the Southwest Florida Health Network (n=1), and the Ag Safety Database (n=1).

## Other Individuals/Groups

Stakeholders then identified other individuals, groups, companies, etc. that would serve as stakeholder partners with the Center. A variety of potential partners were suggested.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Stakeholder partner | (n) |
| Industry partners | 4 |
| Industry groups | 1 |
| Ag Coalition in Tallahassee | 1 |
| Farm Bureau | 1 |
| Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association | 1 |
| Non-profit organization partners | 4 |
| Coalition of Florida Farmworker Associations | 1 |
| Farmworker Association of Florida | 1 |
| Migrant education | 1 |
| Redlands Christian Migrant Association | 1 |
| Extension | 3 |
| Migrant clinicians | 2 |
| Regulatory partners | 2 |
| FDACS | 1 |
| Auditing consultant | 1 |

## Needed Resources

Stakeholders then identified which resources were needed in order to address the issues mentioned. Stakeholders identified a wide variety of resources.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Resource | (n) |
| Injury surveillance | 2 |
| Regionally-specific training materials | 1 |
| Need for health and safety materials written in Creole | 1 |
| Need for anonymous tiplines | 1 |
| Health and safety certification for Extension Agents | 1 |
| Certification programs with market value | 1 |
| Respirator fit tests and supplies | 1 |
| Mechanical interventions | 1 |
| Regionally specific data collection | 1 |
| Training for Extension agents to keep up with changing regulations | 1 |
| Modernized Extension support (non-production focused) | 1 |
| Spanish language materials | 1 |

Stakeholders were asked for their perspectives about how SCCAHS should play a role in developing resources. One stakeholder suggested the SCCAHS use Extension’s expertise when developing regionally specific materials. Another suggested role was for SCCAHS to develop certificate programs and workshops for professionals, and work to promote the adoption and recognition of the certifications. Finally, it was suggested the SCCAHS work with a consultant to develop an online database of farm solutions, which could be used to develop online safety training programs.

## Outreach Issues

In discussions and Q&A sessions, several themes emerged pertaining to outreach. Stakeholders had many questions in the questions and answer session about SCCAHS in general, mostly because the Center is new and stakeholders are unfamiliar with its work and purpose. These general question topics shed light on areas of SCCAHS that could be highlighted in print materials and online its presence.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Questions | (n) |
| Join CSAB | 1 |
| Current project progress | 1 |
| Collaboration with other NIOSH Centers | 1 |
| New project funding | 1 |
| Participation in needs assessment | 1 |
| SCCAHS role in technology and innovation | 1 |
| Measuring SCCAHS success | 1 |

Outreach topics were also highlighted in small group discussions after the presentation. Two stakeholders suggested that SCCAHS have a presence at regional industry conferences. Other stakeholders mentioned a need for materials on industry compliance as well as up-to-date health and safety information. Finally, one stakeholder asked how Extension will be included in Center translational and outreach projects leading to behavior change and practices.

# Small Group Discussions

## Gainesville- Group 1

The Group 1 discussion focused mostly on issues facing producers and workers in Florida. Group members consisted of a Florida county Extension director, a labor analyst from a major commodity group based in Florida, and a farm safety organization representative. The first issue raised was pesticide safety certification in landscaping and nurseries. Many landscape workers speak Spanish and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) pesticide certification test is only given in English. Furthermore, it was mentioned that a new crop is being grown in Alachua County: marijuana. Security is the major issue currently facing new marijuana producers. Cattle and dairy production was not a major issue brought up in the SCCAHS needs assessment, but dairy operations provide year-round work in Gilchrist, Levy and Okeechobee Counties to mostly Latino workers. Observed differences between migrant workers and H2A workers were mentioned in the discussion, mainly that H2A workers are less likely to commit fraud to receive worker's compensation, and that there are differences in productivity and attendance between H2A workers and domestic farmworkers. Additionally, there is very little known about the size of the population and characteristics of farmworkers in Florida. There was a call for scientific information about effects of pesticide exposure, and that politicization of this issue can cloud accuracy. Also, some farms and packing houses are instituting cell phone bans. Phones and headphones can be a distraction for workers handling heavy equipment, and workers cannot hear trucks while wearing headphones. It was suggested that SCCAHS connect with several organizations, including: Redlands Christian Migrant Association, FDACS, UF Health, Florida Nursery Growers and Landscapers Association, and all other major industry groups.

## Gainesville- Group 2

The Group 2 discussion focused more on outreach issues. First, stakeholders mentioned that states differ with respect to policy regulation. For example, while state-level changes in policies like the Workers Protection Standards provide opportunities, these changes also represent barriers that SCCAHS and stakeholders need to work through with Extension faculty, specifically regarding annual training requirements versus transportation and release time. Additionally, regionally appropriate data and materials are more difficult access. Midwest commodity groups are the nation's largest agricultural stakeholders, and much of the existing data from OSHA is based on mechanized agriculture. There was also discussion about the need for Spanish language translation, and the difficulty of prioritizing which materials and trainings should be translated. Finally, Group 2 talked about how immigration concerns make domestic farmworkers reluctant to connect with public sector entities, and outreach with these populations may be more effective if it is conducted outside of locations affiliated with government.

## Valdosta Group

The Valdosta group mostly discussed issues pertaining to farmworkers. Stakeholders agreed that there is a need for heat stress education. Employer representatives stated that their goal is to make workers comfortable and happy so they will choose to stay in the area to work. They support education for workers and crew leaders, which they see leads to better productivity. As it is now, crew leaders notice when workers are suffering from heat stress because they slow down, and stakeholders discussed the need for heat stress prevention rather than heat stress reaction. However, workers do not want to stop working because they lose money when they rest, which highlights the need to educate both employers and workers.

The Valdosta group brought up other challenges facing farmworkers, including job security. Domestic workers face job competition from H2A workers. Domestic workers experience food insecurity, and all workers are unaware of the existence and location of services like food banks, clinics and assistance. Transportation to healthcare and other services is also an issue for farmworkers.

For issues that affect growers, stakeholders brought up a lack of information about regulations. Though there is a manual for growers about labor regulations, growers do not feel it is adequate in informing them about current regulations and how to follow them, especially grey areas that are left up to interpretation.

The Valdosta group also discussed the topic of increasing awareness about farmworker issues. They linked political change with community awareness of the social costs for producing cheap food and how consumer choices affect labor conditions. Stakeholders talked about the need for Extension to adapt in order to address modern agricultural issues by moving beyond food production, pesticides, and soil erosion to workplace health and safety. Finally, this group suggested migrant clinicians and representatives from the Department of Labor as members of the CSAB.

# Next Steps

Following the needs assessment and Community Stakeholder Advisory meeting, the first step for the Center will be for SCCAHS team members from the Outreach Core, Research Core and Planning and Evaluation Core to review the needs assessment report and this meeting report to prioritize issues and outreach initiatives based on stakeholder feedback.

Additionally, SCCAHS will invite stakeholders to officially join the SCCAHS CSAB. Stakeholders who indicated interest in serving on the board will be given first consideration. Then the board will be rounded out to include individuals who work in Extension, industry, non-profits, academia, regulatory agencies, and public agencies from the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. The CSAB will include 20 individuals, and will be formed by the end of 2017. SCCAHS will utilize connections with the board to establish an outreach presence at industry meetings, as well as Extension and non-profit conferences.

SCCAHS will organize CSAB meetings once a year, during which research results and outreach projects will be shared. These annual meetings will also provide an opportunity to facilitate two-way communication between SCCAHS and stakeholders to reprioritize issues and future projects. The needs assessment and Community Stakeholder Advisory meeting were the first of many conversations with stakeholders that will continue to inform the Center’s work in the future.

# Appendix 1

## Question and Answer Session

The following questions were submitted by stakeholders attending in person, through Zoom and Facebook Live. The answers were paraphrased from the video recording of the meeting.

Answered questions:

* Q: Is the needs assessment an evaluation that will be a recurring activity? Can people who did not complete the assessment before contribute now?
  + A: The needs assessment is not a recurring activity. However, the purpose of the Community Stakeholder Advisory meeting was to continue to solicit input from stakeholders even if they did not participate in the needs assessment. Stakeholders can also provide input by joining the CSAB.
* Q: Sunbelt Ag Expo happened a couple of weeks ago in Georgia. IFAS was there, but there was not information from the Center. Can this large meeting be a good place to give results or translation of research projects?
  + A: The Center will have a presence there in there in the future to share research results and education projects. Stakeholders are welcome to invite SCCAHS to attend industry meetings and other conferences.
* Q: Can anyone serve on the CSAB?
  + A: Yes. Stakeholders are encouraged to tell their moderators or respond online if they are interested in becoming members.
* Q: What is the Center doing about the issue of accessing health care?
  + A: Healthcare is a critical issue, especially for sole proprietors in the fisheries industry. SCCAHS’ purpose is to understand the extent problems in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, then work with appropriate groups to help them move towards solutions. The Center is a collaborative venture between the College of Public Health and Health Professions and IFAS, which lends combined expertise in defining problems and moving towards the translation aspect of our research. Translational components of this project will take research findings and use them as a tool to help people make changes to improve worker health and safety.
* Q: How are the current projects doing in general?
  + A: The current projects are going nicely. One is looking at the problems in the fisheries industry, which includes access to healthcare. Examining problems in the fisheries industry has led to a pilot project focusing on seafood worker back pain, and connects with the Department of Physical Therapy to enhance fisheries work environments. Another project is working to better define pesticide and herbicide use in Florida to update outdated information. The third project is looking at the development of appropriate training modalities for Latino communities to improve our ability to provide access to training in areas of worker health and safety to appropriate worker populations. We have a new project coming on line examining heat stress. We have a new pilot project looking at an app for the Latino worker population to minimize risk. As we move forward, we need input of where we need to be going to focus research and translate research into actionable plans.
* Q: Why is information about regional occupational safety and health outdated? Do you have a program for monitoring actual workplace injuries and fatalities in the Southeast and how is that being done?
  + A: Data collection depends on having infrastructure in place to collect it. These optimal systems do not always exist. We’re working with the state of Florida to see what data are available, and how we can try to enhance data that are coming in through routine reporting systems at a research surveillance level. Collecting data is expensive and might not always be a priority, but understanding problems affecting workers relies on data collection. There might be creative ways of collecting data that are less expensive and can better utilize technology that is available. As a Center, we have opportunities to apply new and novel methodology. Our current study looking at agrochemical usage uses satellite data to better understand what the crop distribution is throughout the state, and the satellite data does not always agree with most recent data collection. We are able to apply some high tech approaches that allow us to collect critical pieces of data that feed into our understanding of what problems are.
* Q: A big meeting of specialty crop growers is coming up in Savannah, GA, in January 2018. Can the center be represented?
  + A: Yes. If you know of a meeting or convention that represents agriculture fisheries and forestry, please let us know and we would like to be represented.
* Q: Women’s Health: Pregnant women who work in agricultural farm work expose themselves and their babies to both heat and pesticides. I am concerned about sick moms and sick babies. What are the plans to address pregnancy in farm workers?
  + A: That is why we are having this meeting. We have not looked at the issue of pregnancy. To address this issue, we would need to identify how many workers are affected by pregnancy and then identify specific risks to that population. It is not something that we have thought about but that is why we need these types of meetings to listen to stakeholders to identify issues that are not on our radar.
* Q: This is a five-year project, with a potential for renewal. So in five years, what might SUCCESS for the center consist of/look like?
  + A: The ultimate success would be to have a workforce that is healthier and has less occurrence of injury, and in turn is more productive. An intermediate goal would be to establish systems of data collection so we can better identify problem areas, and also work with industry to help them target areas to keep their work force as healthy as possible. We need to develop a good relationship with industry and workers so we can identify needs and deal with problems. Part of it will be having surveillance systems in place to recognize problems, and part of it will be being able to bring in the expertise that we have at UF in public health and medicine to deal with specific target problems.
* How can SCCAHS help drive technology and innovation to improve health and safety?
  + A: The advantage of basing a NIOSH Center here at UF is to be able to tap into expertise available at the University of Florida. We work with a group of universities that includes FSU, USF, FAMU, and Emory, so we can take advantage of the expertise available at all these institutions. We are developing creative strategies and approaches. We are already starting to do some of that in using satellite remote sensing to learn more about shifting crop distribution in Florida. We are using apps on cell phones as a means of education and to monitor workers at risk for heat stress. Ultimately, we would like use the creativity and innovation that drives universities to tackle the needs identified by industry and the work force to make a safer workplace.
* Q: Will the center be involved in developing timely training videos and presentations that focus on regulatory and industry compliance needs? If so, will they be available for public use?
  + A: Yes. We are a brand new Center, but there are ten other NIOSH Ag Centers across the country. The existing Centers have placed a major focus on the creation of YouTube videos. There is an Ag Center YouTube channel that the other Centers have developed that makes hundreds of agricultural safety and health videos available. As we begin to identify problems unique to the Southeast, we will begin to contribute material to that national NIOSH channel, targeting specific issues. What we need are ideas and identification of problem areas where YouTube videos will be useful. YouTube video streaming is accessible on cell phones, and technology that both workers and industry representatives use. Additionally, faculty in the Center are already developing presentations and training programs focusing on the topics discussed today. Those are also available at our website (<http://sccahs.org/education/>). YouTube videos are available here (<http://sccahs.org/>, click on *Media* on the navigation bar, and then go to the *YouTube Channel* link).
* Q: How is the interaction with other centers? Are we using what they have available? Do the centers have an annual meeting where they share their findings?
  + A: Yes. We are part of a nationwide network of NIOSH Ag Centers, some of which have been here for a long time. We work very closely with the other Centers and we have learned a lot from them. For example, the Texas Center has a very strong fisheries program, particularly focused on shrimping. We were able to learn a lot from them to apply to our fisheries project. We work with other NIOSH fisheries groups and bring in expertise to help us better define problems and issues in the fisheries industry. We have a monthly conference call with the other Center directors, and there is an annual meeting where key people from all the Centers get together. There is an annual meeting for those working in outreach. So we are a part of a national network, and we have taken advantage of the networks and resources that already exist that have been developed by the other Centers.
* Q: Are funding opportunities only available for research projects? Could Extension agents without a Ph.D. apply for funding for projects?
  + A: Yes. The focus is on research, but it also includes Extension and outreach projects. If you have got a hot project, send in an application. The key is that is does need to be focused on worker health and safety and creating a safer workplace. If you have an idea, definitely submit it. Pilot projects are funded at $20k for a one-year project period. The goal of the pilot projects is to test an idea to see if something works. Pilot projects are not designed to establish a program that will require funding for an extended period of time. It’s an opportunity to try an idea and see if it works. If it does, then we would go on to seek long term funding. We are a research and education Center, and we cannot provide long-term support for specific projects. We serve more as a place where ideas develop, where you can try out ideas. We use this as a springboard to try and find ways to continue those projects.
* Q: There is a lot of mention about the needs for research, which is critically important. However, how does the center intend to ensure that Extension is proactively involved in such a way which will lead to behavior/practice changes for true impact?
  + A: Translation is important because no matter how brilliant the research project, no one will ever know about it unless it reaches the translational phase. The translation phase takes ideas and research results and actually applies them. A key component of our Center is the outreach and education component, as well as the translational components. That is what this meeting is all about, for us to inform people about what we are doing to create those linkages between Extension and other groups that are involved in translational components. We are taking ideas and making them real. One of the ways we gauge success in this will be how well we have been able to translate ideas and programs that have come from our research into practical applications at the field, farm, fisheries level, to make them real. That’s why we need stakeholder input on this to make sure we fully develop this translational component. The collaboration with IFAS in this project places value on Extension's contributions. Extension agents already do a lot of work in the health and safety field in this state, and in other states in the Southeast. Our land grant presence offers us a uniqueness that we will capitalize on. We think that the work that is currently being done in Extension is something that we will be able to support as a Center, both to assist with outreach for current projects and to generate research ideas from them. It is crucial that we work directly with Extension and that we partner with them. We have faculty with Extension appointments who are part of the Center, our state specialists and county faculty are crucial in the success of what we do in all arenas.

The following questions were not answered during the Q&A session. They will be submitted to experts who will provide answers and we will send as a follow up to this report.

* To what extent will the center focus on evaluating public policies and effectiveness of existing regulations?
* How can regulation in each state in the region affect research and its translation? Including local immigration laws?
* Next three questions are from the same person:
  + Do you have a program for monitoring actual workplace injuries and fatalities in the Southeast, and – if so – could you elaborate on how that is being done?
  + There is a tendency among employers to avoid reporting injuries and fatalities as “work-related.” Are you doing anything to ameliorate this problem?
  + You discussed earlier your needs assessment activities. How has the knowledge acquired in your injury fatality monitoring activities (if any) been folded into your needs assessment? How will this be done going forward?