

## PUBLIC HEALTHWORKER SAFETY

**Title:** Pork Industry Health and Safety Training – Seminars and Online Courses – NPB #07-226

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### Scientific Abstract

The health and safety of employees working in the pork industry is a prominent concern of today's producers. With the change in production over the last two decades leading to an increased concentration of production and an increasing reliance on hired workers, additional health and safety concerns have arisen. These concerns can be minimized through education and preventive activities such as the Pork Industry Health and Safety Training series. This program was designed to enhance the pork industry's access to occupational health and safety materials including the National Pork Board's Pork Production Safety System (PPSS).

Through the provision of introductory talks at the 2008 Iowa Pork Congress and the 2008 World Pork Expo, 11 interactive online sessions, an online forum, and quizzes the industry safety personnel were provided free, convenient training materials to meet the health and safety needs of today's producer whether it be small independent operations or large operations with many employees. Working with industry safety personnel, researchers, and an OSHA representative the course objectives and topics were discussed and refined. Each session was led by either an industry representative or researcher or a combination of both. Recordings of the sessions were added to the course website so viewers could watch the presentation again or if they were unable to attend, watch it for the first time.

Participation in the live sessions varied from two to 23 with an average of eight sites (a site could have more than one person viewing) per session. Although attendance rates were lower than expected, participants acknowledged the need and benefit of the training. However, timing and logistics of attending the live sessions proved to be difficult for some. Future endeavors should include multiple approaches for engaging the industry such as short courses in person, workbooks to be supplemented by online training activities.

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