



Improving Awareness of Agricultural Health Basics: Sowing Seeds For Future Harvest

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What?

NC Agromedicine Institute

North Carolina is home to 46,000 farms and leads the US as a top agricultural producer of several commodities: 1 in sweet potatoes, 2 in turkeys, and 3 in hogs & pigs to name a few. The state's number one industry of \$95.9 Billion is supported by over 150,000¹ farmers and farmworkers who experience unique occupational environments in one of the most hazardous industries to human health.



The **NC Agromedicine Institute** is inter-institutional institute whose ultimate goal is to make farming, logging, and fishing workplaces safe and healthy for all. The institute conducts research leading to practical solutions and develops effective educational approaches that can be of daily benefit to the end user.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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So What?

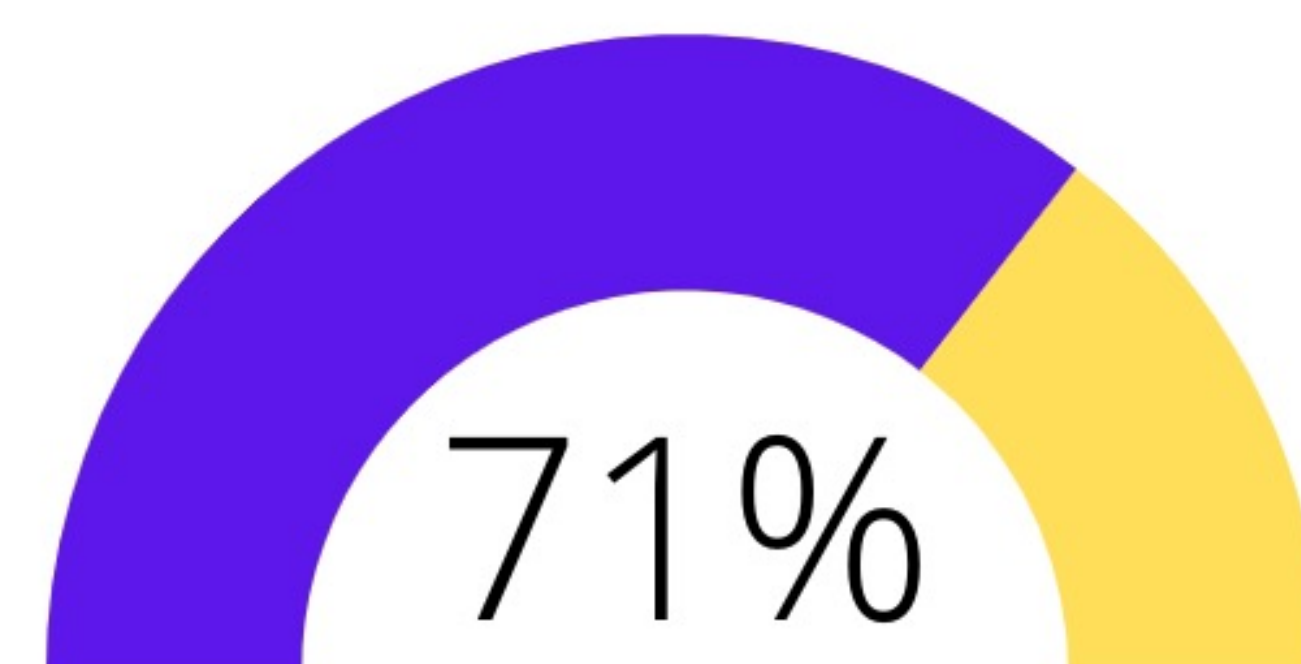
Healthcare providers in NC may be unfamiliar with the occupational hazards intrinsic to farm and thus ill-equipped to properly diagnose, treat, and manage ailments related to agriculture².

In July 2021, both ECU's family and internal medicine residency programs were surveyed regarding knowledge of the health risks farmers experience daily. Some results are illustrated here.



2.1 out of 10

Average resident familiarity with prevention for the most common agricultural related illness



Of ECU's family & internal residency directors report **no training** for agricultural health



3.4 out of 10

Average resident familiarity with daily activities of a farm and farmworker

Now What?

Immersive Training Development

This project will combine farm tours and trainings tailored to family, internal and emergency medicine residents to increase their awareness and ability to recognize, treat and manage highlighted health care issues unique to the farm environment.

Trainings will improve resident familiarity of:

- Farm environment
- Daily activities of a farmer & farmworker
- Common health hazards unique to agriculture
 - respiratory illnesses
 - pesticide-related illness
 - infectious diseases

Pre & post surveys will be distributed to assess the effectiveness of the training and gauge changes in learner self-efficacy of caring for agricultural workers. Tours of local farms willing to partner with the NC Agromedicine Institute will be given to those who attend trainings to further encourage familiarity and engagement with the agricultural community.

