

Plain Community Farm Safety Event

Clark County—2018

The Situation

Approximately one-third of the population of Clark County, WI, is Amish or Mennonite, referred to hereafter as the Plain Community. In 2017, 47.1% of births in Clark County were to the Plain Community. As the Plain Community continues to grow in central Wisconsin, the unique health and safety needs of the community should be explored and addressed.

Farming is the primary occupation among Plain people with children and youth routinely working in the agricultural environment. As such, Plain Community children and youth are at risk for agricultural injury. Since 2008, the Clark County Child Death Review Team (CDR) has investigated eight agricultural-related fatalities and 1 near death among the Plain children. After a recent investigation, the Corporation Counsel asked the Clark County Health Department to assist in delivering programs or resources to the Plain Community to prevent future child agricultural injuries.



Plain Community Farm Safety Event
April 11, 2018
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
CAM Building, Thorp

A Collaborative Effort

The Clark County Health Department enlisted the help of organizations with expertise in agricultural safety and health and injury prevention to plan and conduct the Plain Community Farm Safety Event. Committee members included representatives from:

- Clark County Health Department
- National Farm Medicine Center
- National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety
- Clark County Social Services
- University of Wisconsin Extension
- Memorial Medical Center
- Marshfield Children's Hospital

In addition, the planning committee included representatives of the Plain Community. Community leaders—including local farmers and healthcare providers—assisted in planning the event, advising the committee on event logistics and topics of interest to the community, and advertising the event.

The goal was to educate Plain community parents on skid steer and confined space safety, appropriate child work assignments, appropriate child supervision, and basic injury response.

Plain Community Farm Safety Event

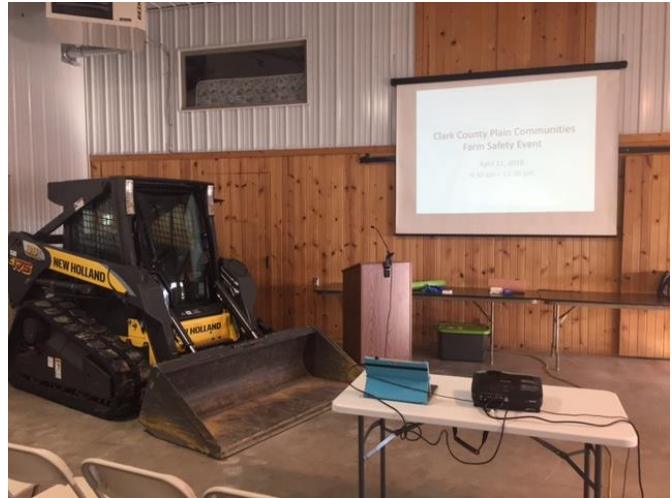
Planning committee members pooled resources and expertise to host the Plain Community Farm Safety Event. The event was held on April 11, 2018, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Christian Aid Ministries Building outside of Thorp, WI. Topics presented included skid steer and confined space safety, appropriate child work assignments, appropriate child supervision, and basic injury response. The event concluded with a conversational question and answer session.

All Clark County Plain Community members were welcome to attend the Plain Community Farm Safety Event. The event was advertised via flyers distributed to key community members and businesses to pass out and display. A phone message was recorded and sent to Plain community household phones via an active phone line. In addition, the Plain community midwife provided information about the event at home visits and check-ups.

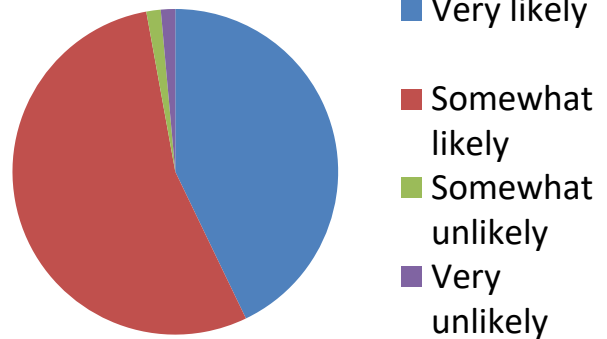
Plain Community Farm Safety Event Evaluation

- 385 Plain Community members attended the Plain Community Farm Safety Event.
- Eight Mennonite schools brought students (6th – 8th grade) to the event.
- There was an increase in knowledge reported by participants for all topics presented during the Farm Safety Event.

95.7% Of participants rated the event as Excellent or Good



How likely are you to attend this event or similar event in the future?



94.3% Of participants would recommend event to friends or family

Committee Response

Planning committee members received positive feedback from the community. The consensus was that the event was a success. Response from the community indicated this type of agricultural safety and health event would be welcomed on an annual or biennial basis. Based on feedback from the community, events that focused on children topics as well as adult topics would be appropriate.