



Iowa

Bilingual Education for Calf Care and Handling

Many dairy operations hire Spanish speaking employees with little to no English proficiency. As a result, communication barriers exist between the dairy owners and their employees. While it is very important that employees are fully trained for their job, this training will be more successful if the training is in their native language. Project director Jennifer Bentley and her project team worked to develop training and educational workshops, both on-farm and in the classroom, in Iowa and Nebraska. These workshops trained 375 employees who manage calves to properly test colostrum and why it's so important, on low-stress handling, proper nutrition from birth to weaning and proper hygiene for future animal performance. Producers also analyzed the effectiveness of their current management practices on newborn calf care, hygiene, colostrum quality low-stress handling and nutrition and implemented any needed changes.

The curriculum for these sessions was developed in both English and Spanish to meet the educational needs of all employees and employers. Bentley stated that long-term outcomes included the re-evaluation of calf-care standard operating procedures, better training and understanding of calf care, increased employee engagement and retention, better calf performance and increased farm profitability.

One of the keys to this project's success for participants was the support from the employers. These employers provided the access for the 11 on-farm learning sessions, empowering their farm employees to feel more confident in their job and comfortable to ask questions in their native language. As this project continued it gathered interest and support nationwide with many dairy producers, veterinarians and dairy nutritionists requesting pieces of the curriculum.

Herd manager Jaimie reported that "It's nice to have my employees hear this information from someone other than me. The resources being available in Spanish are an added bonus!" Tim commented on the longevity of his employees how important it is to listen to their needs and wants. "I value their opinions and respect the work they do working with the calves."



***"The resources being available
in Spanish are an added bonus!"
– Jaimie, herd manager***





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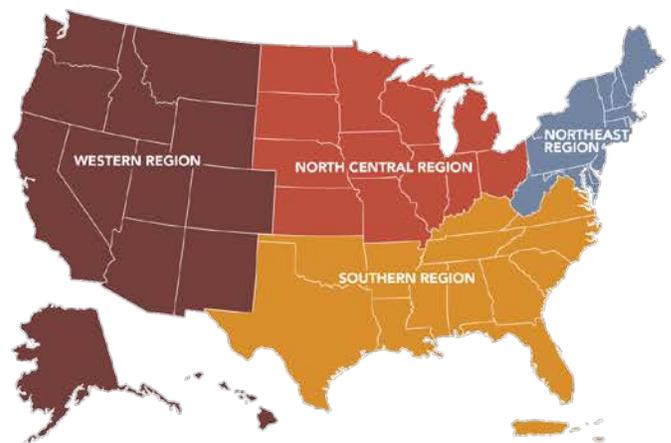
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“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers to manage the unique risks of producing food for the world’s table.”

Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website.
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