



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, COMPLIANCE, AND ATTITUDES OF ENGLISH AND SPANISH SPEAKING EMPLOYEES TOWARDS BIOSECURITY PRACTICES

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Introduction

For biosecurity to be effective, employees must follow all protocols. For employees to follow all protocols, they must have good knowledge, compliance and attitudes of the protocols. The purpose of this study was to assess knowledge, compliance, and attitudes of English and Spanish speaking farm employees towards biosecurity Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Materials and Methods

14 sow farms in the Carthage System having a minimum of 3 English speaking employees and 3 Spanish speaking employees were selected. A survey was given to each employee in English or Spanish according to the employee's first language. The survey contained 8 knowledge based questions about farm biosecurity SOPs. An open ended knowledge question required participants to mention all key points to receive credit on primary attempt. If participants failed to address all points, leading questions allowed participants to receive points in a secondary attempt. Questions were asked to assess self vs peer compliance and overall importance to biosecurity.

Results

Biosecurity practices were considered by most employees as highly important procedures. There was a difference reported in self vs peer compliance with self-reported compliance always being higher than peer reported. In the knowledge portion, both language groups recieved a total score of around 90%. Spanish speaking employees answered more questions on the primary attempt than English speaking employees. Farm managers scored higher on primary attempt than other groups. Employees who have been on the farm >36 months scored higher than employees with <36 months experience.

Discussion

Surveys serve as a valuable model to identify gaps in protocols and training programs. Our results identified which groups training should be focused toward as well as which protocols need to be improved to improve overall compliance. By understanding our biosecurity gaps, production systems can focus training, reduce training time and cost and improve interventions in deficient areas.