

Understanding Substance Misuse in Agriculture



Part 1: See Something, Say Something

Featuring: Dr. Christine Chasek

Main Ideas

- Substance Use Disorder is a health issue that ranges from mild to severe.
- Substances can include alcohol, cannabis, methamphetamines, opioids, sedatives, and nicotine.
- Communicators and care providers experience challenges when approaching substance use in rural communities due to the stigma surrounding the subject.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), farmers have the third highest rate of suicide among professions.
- Substance use disorder is difficult to treat in rural communities due to a lack of health resources.

Discussion Questions

1. What factors contribute to developing a substance use disorder?
2. Why is it challenging to discuss substance use in rural communities?
3. How can rural communities address substance use effectively?

Tips from the Speaker

1. Approach substance use as a health concern.
2. Learn about your audience to better communicate health issues.
3. Community intervention is an effective method to communicate health issues.

Other Resources

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p1115-Suicide-american-workers.html>
<https://farmtownstrong.org/>

PIECENTER.COM/MEDIA/PODCAST



Understanding Substance Misuse in Agriculture

Part 2: Reducing Stigma



Featuring: Dr. Heidi Radunovich

Main Ideas

- Fentanyl, OxyContin, heroine, and methadone are opiates that can contribute to substance use disorders.
- Substance use can begin with prescribed medication but can lead to misuse and overdosing, leading to an increased tolerance to opiates.
- According to a 2017 Farm Bureau survey, 74% of agricultural workers were affected by opioid use.
- Researchers at the University of Florida found that the nursery and landscape industry was especially affected by substance use. Chronic pain was a high-risk factor leading to the abuse of opiates.
- Substance use can have negative physical and mental health effects.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the word "substance use" preferred over "substance abuse" or "addiction"?
2. How does an individual develop a substance use disorder?
3. Why might agricultural industries be suffering more from the opioid epidemic compared to other industries?
4. What mental health effects come with substance use disorder?
5. How can you effectively communicate substance use within a rural community?

Tips from the Speaker

1. Education on substance use is important to help communities understand health risks and resources.
2. Effective communication with credible resources can increase the industry's understanding of substance use.

Other Resources

<http://www.sccaahs.org/index.php/resources/toolkits/opioid-abuse-2/>
<http://www.sccaahs.org/index.php/resources/community-health/mental-health/>
<https://farmtownstrong.org/>

PIECENTER.COM/MEDIA/PODCAST

