

Title: Effectiveness of a zoonotic disease train the trainer program for youth agriculture leaders in Maine

Authors: Brooke Chase, Johanna Mackenzie, MPH, Sara Robinson, MPH, Michele Walsh, DVM

Background Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) Division of Disease Surveillance in collaboration with Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (Maine DACF) designed and piloted a train the trainer program aimed to educate youth agriculture leaders in Maine with a comprehensive One Health curriculum. The project provided direct instruction to youth agriculture leaders about diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans, signs and symptoms of the diseases, prevention strategies to reduce the risk of transmission to humans, and biosecurity information to reduce the risk of transmission to animals. The train the trainer program's goal was to teach the participants to become trainers themselves so that the knowledge continues to spread among youth agriculture participants. Success was measured by event participation (including number of participants and geographic distribution of participants) and completion of a training (including how many participants attended their training).

Methods

Maine DACF and Maine CDC identified and recruited forty-five youth agriculture leaders for participation in a Zoonotic Disease Train the Trainer event held on January 28th, 2018. The invitees included 4-H leaders, livestock superintendents of Maine agricultural fairs, University of Maine (UMaine) 4-H extension leaders, and individuals who worked with youth in agriculture in other settings. The program included two presentations and four hands-on activities. After the train the trainer was complete, Maine CDC's intern followed up with all participants by phone to ask them about their plans for a presentation or training, where it would take place and once completed how many participants were at the event. The intern also provided material and or additional training as needed.

Results

The Train the Trainer event had 39 attendees. Participants were from 14 out of 16 counties in Maine and represented 22 of the 25 agricultural fairs held annually in Maine.

Overall, 37 attendees (95%) completed 33 trainings using materials and information provided to them at the Train the Trainer. The average number of participants was 22 with a range of 6-60, the total number of participants is estimated to be over 700. Trainings were held in every county in Maine.

Conclusion

The Train the Trainer event proved to be very successful with 95% of the participants completing and event that taught the information they learned to kids. Maine CDC and DACF will continue to expand outreach by offering continued support and supplies to attendees.

Maine CDC created a website that contains all the material presented at the train the trainer event that is free for anyone to access.