An Examination of Texas Agriculture Teacher Safety Attitudes Based on A Personal Belief Scale Score from Common Safety and Health Practices: A Critique

Carl Reynolds
University of Wyoming

Safety in agricultural education is one of our classic research problems that never seems to be resolved. It will always be important because of the consequences we pay if it is ignored. This study, conducted by our colleagues from Texas and Utah, documents very well that safety concerns in our field must be continually addressed.

The theoretical foundation for this study was laid with a double footing of evidence laced with reinforcements of numerous colleagues' work whose names we all recognize. I especially appreciated how the researchers broke outside the fence and included the reference to adolescents' desires and apparent need for frequent risk-taking as part of their "normative" development. This fact explains a major challenge that agricultural educators face when attempting to integrate safety in their daily instruction.

The study was carefully designed and standard procedures were chosen appropriately for the nature of the problem studied. The results were reported and presented in the paper in a clear, easy to understand format.

Most interesting were the differences in safety attitudes, beliefs, and practices among regions within the state. I find it most unusual that this result occurred. Without speculating on the potential causes, it would be interesting to know if other variables would explain this particular phenomenon. Also, to what degree are these differences of practical significance?

Another area of interest that was triggered by reading this study is the relationship, if any, between the PBSS scores of various regions of the state and data such as incidence of minor and major injuries that have occurred under the supervision of teachers.

Overall, the paper was extremely well written and of high quality. My only concern is that, like so many other studies on safety, the nature of the problem is well quantified but results that readily translate into how to implement solutions still remains a problem. These statements are not offered to be critical of our colleagues' work. However, we should focus our debate on what should be researched to identify solutions.