Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net)

The Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) is a collaborative forum of environmental health specialists, epidemiologists, and laboratory professionals who work to understand environmental causes of food and waterborne diseases and to improve environmental public health practice.

This is accomplished through a variety of research and non-research activities carried out by environmental health specialists from food and water safety environmental health service programs. This collaborative forum of people represent state and local regulatory and non-regulatory environmental health service programs, federal agencies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Centers for Disease Control as well as interested industry groups.

EHS-Net research activities include conducting behavorial, environmental, epidemiologic, and laboratory research on environmental factors contributing to food and waterborne disease transmission. EHS-Net research activities started in 2000.

Non-research activities include practice projects that implement or demonstrate effective, innovative approaches or interventions to deliver environmental health services. EHS-Net non-research activities began in 2010 as an expansion of previous research activities.

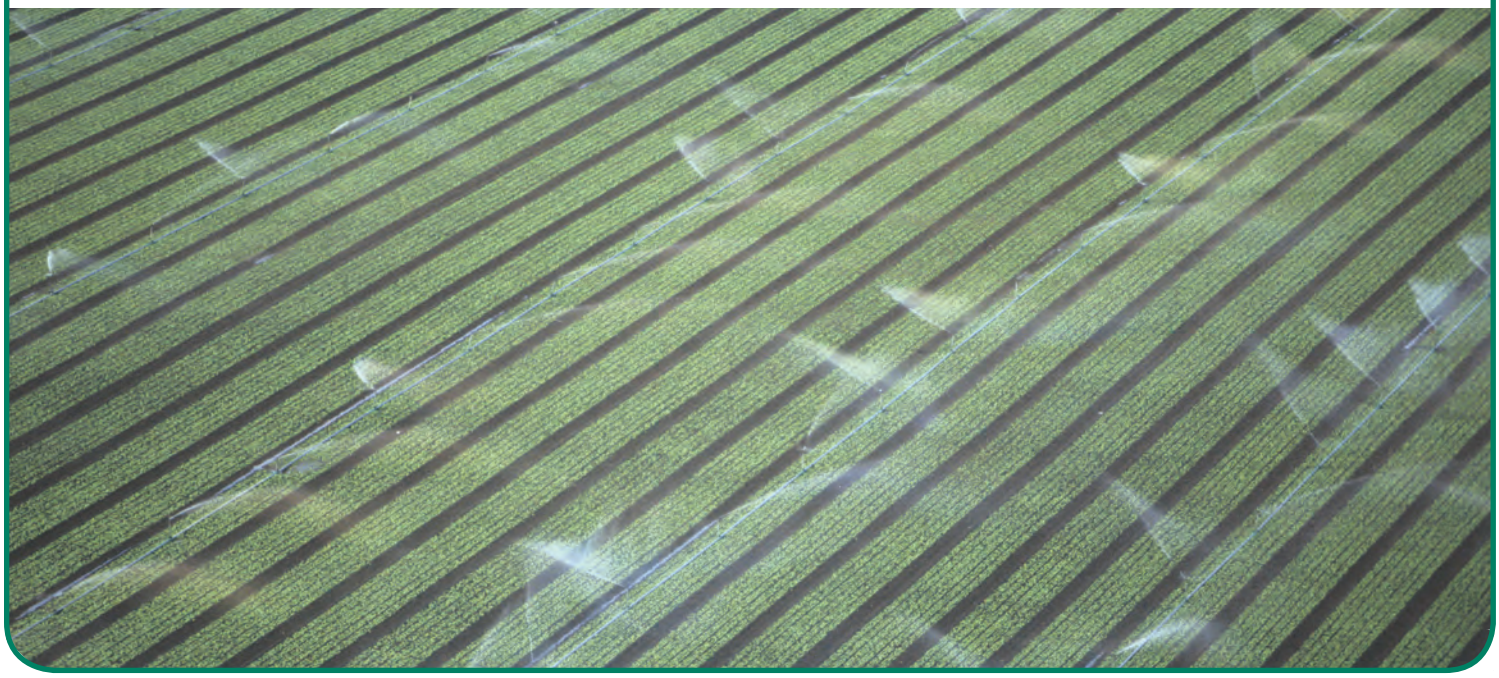
The overall objectives of EHS-Net

- To identify contributing factors and environmental antecedents (underlying causes) to food and waterborne illness and disease outbreaks;
- To translate findings from research and non-research activities into improved food and waterborne disease prevention policies and practices;
- To develop and offer training opportunities to current and future environmental health specialists; and
- To strengthen the intersectoral collaboration among epidemiology, laboratory, and environmental health service programs that is required to prevent food and waterborne disease.

(Continued)

Each year EHS-Net participants meet to identify specific research and non-research activities that are considered of primary concern to environmental health service programs and prioritize the implementation of studies, evaluations, or other activities to address these concerns.

In 2010, EHS-Net expanded its areas of focus:

- From food establishments such as restaurants, delis, and cafeterias to include grocery stores and food manufacturers.
- From small unregulated drinking water systems to include public, regulated drinking water systems, agricultural water, onsite waste water, and recreational water.

About EHS-Net, visit
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EHSNet
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