Since 2011, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) to promote a One Health collaboration between federal and state public health and animal health authorities and state youth agriculture groups through a program called Influenza and Zoonoses Education Among Youth in Agriculture. CDC initiated this program after the emergence of multiple outbreaks of human influenza illness caused by viruses that normally circulate in pigs. This innovative program educates youth about zoonotic diseases shared between animals and people, delivers disease prevention messages, and strengthens One Health networks among state human and animal health departments and agricultural communities across rural America.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**

- Improve participant awareness and knowledge of influenza and other zoonotic diseases, including how diseases spread and how to prevent them
- Motivate participants to adopt behavior that can help prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases
- Help participants better understand the roles public health and animal health play in disease prevention and how they work together to achieve the best health for both people and animals
- Develop One Health relationships and networks among partners to facilitate more effective and efficient responses to important public and animal health issues (for example, outbreak responses)
- Foster inter-state collaboration around youth zoonotic disease education and outbreak response efforts, creating a sustainable regional and national partnership network to implement this work
- Increase participant awareness and knowledge of careers in public and animal health
UNDERSTANDING YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

- Nationwide, more than 25 million youth are estimated to live on, work on, or visit farms.
- Approximately 7.2 million youth are involved in agricultural organizations like 4-H and FFA.
- In the United States, nearly 150 million people visit agricultural fairs each year.
- Youth who are in contact with or work directly with animals are at higher risk for zoonotic diseases.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

- The program has a direct potential reach of 7.2 million youth through 4-H and FFA but can also influence their family, mentors, friends, agricultural producers, and other contacts.
- By leveraging unique partnerships and using the expertise of collaborative One Health teams, grantees of this program have reached thousands of youth to date.
- The program provides a sustainable and adaptable model that can be integrated at the local, regional, and national levels.
- Partnerships strengthened through this program can help states facilitate rapid response to outbreaks through the creation of trusted One Health networks. For example, the program successfully helped Michigan and Ohio to quickly identify cases during outbreak investigations and to pinpoint swine exhibited at fairs as the source of a variant flu outbreak in people.

FUNDING IN ACTION

- Examples of educational products produced by state grantees include:
  - Free, web-based, interactive education curricula on zoonotic diseases
  - Workshops on biosecurity and zoonotic disease
  - Biosecurity and health signs for use at fairs, extension offices, and local health departments
  - One Health chapter in a 4-H training manual
  - Educational board game and a card game for youth
  - Magazines and pamphlets on how to be a zoonotic disease detective

TIMELINE OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

2012
CDC and USDA piloted the Public Health Youth Agriculture Education Project with Georgia 4-H utilizing USDA funding.

2014
CDC and USDA partnered with CSTE to provide technical assistance to six health departments (Indiana, Maine, Maricopa County, Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia) to launch state-run collaborations around zoonotic disease with 4-H and FFA.

2015
CDC and CSTE awarded projects to five health departments (Arizona, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio) to build upon successes and expand the project's reach to new jurisdictions.

2016
CDC and CSTE awarded funding to seven health departments (Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and North Dakota) to continue expanding established programs and further promote inter-state partnerships.

2018
Ongoing project activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, PLEASE VISIT
https://www.cste.org/page/YIA
https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index.html