

## **Occupational History Questions**

Health care professionals need to be aware of the variety of agricultural work tasks resulting in occupational exposures and respiratory illnesses. Obtaining a detailed occupational history assists in identifying high risk areas, including respiratory hazards and activities of the work environment. Once a worker and his or her working environment has been evaluated and the individual is considered a candidate for a respirator, the Health Professional should utilize the Respirator Selection Guide chart to determine which mask is best suited for a job. Questions below are suggestions for what to include in an occupational history for the individual working in an agricultural occupation.

- 1. What are your current agricultural respiratory exposures? (Example: hogs, cattle, dairy, poultry, grain, chemicals, silos, and welding)
- 2. Are any of these situations considered a confinement operation?
- 3. Do you use a power washer to disinfect buildings?
- 4. How much time in a day do you spend in this environment?
- 5. Do you apply your own chemicals? If so, what type of chemicals do you apply and how often? Example: insecticides, herbicides, fumigants)
- 6. Do you ever enter an environment that would be considered a confined space where there would not be enough oxygen to support life? (Refer to Respiratory Guide)
- 7. Do you have hobbies other than farming that would cause a respiratory exposure? (Examples: welding, wood working or auto body painting)
- 8. Have you worn a mask before and if so, what type? Refer to Respiratory Guide. Did you have any difficulty wearing this mask?
- 9. Have you had a respirator fit test in the past?
- 10. Do you have any known medical conditions that would prohibit you from wearing a mask? (Example: heart conditions, lung conditions such as asthma or emphysema, uncontrolled hypertension, or claustrophobia)



## **Respirator Selection Guides**





## Ag Health Risk Assessment:

The AgriSafe AgHRA allows the farmer or ag worker to assess their risk related to agricultural occupational exposures. The AgHRA doesn't provide a diagnoses; rather, it alerts you to take risk-appropriate prevention steps. Taking the assessment once or twice a year will provide an opportunity to track changes in risk profile. The AgHRA provides basic responses to individual health risks. It's not intended to replace visits to the health care provider or regular screening exams. The AgHRA is available at agrisafe.org