

Farm Structures FACTSHEET




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Farm Workers Health Problems Related to Air Quality Inside Livestock Barns



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FARM WORKERS HEALTH PROBLEMS RELATED TO AIR QUALITY INSIDE LIVESTOCK BARNs

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INTRODUCTION

Everybody knows a livestock producer or an employee who has developed some respiratory problems from working in a barn. There are a number of people who can no longer enter dairy barns because of the dust released when hay is being fed or when straw is being spread. Also, many people can not stay in a pig barn for very long without the onset of serious coughing and chest tightness after the visit.

Often, we think that it will not happen to us and that the

people who have reactions are not "tough enough". However, this is not funny at all for the farmers who have to sell their farm or stay away from the barn because they developed respiratory problems, such as chronic bronchitis or occupational asthma or even worse, farmer's lung disease, during their working years.

The purposes of this factsheet are to describe several farm worker health problems that are related to air quality inside livestock buildings and to consider possible methods to alleviate them.

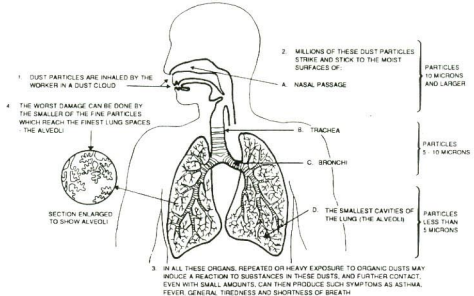


FIGURE 1 DUST PARTICLES AND THE HUMAN RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

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The atmosphere in livestock buildings, particularly where ventilation is limited, can adversely affect human health. This publication informs livestock workers of the factors that increase levels of dust and gases in the air and explains how to prevent dangerous levels from occurring and how to protect themselves from long-term injury. To obtain a copy, contact:

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