



CANFARMSAFE™

Glo Germ Demonstration for Youth

The AgriSafety Program expanded its platform for promoting the current projects of the Program using an educational demonstration for youth. The Glo Germ demonstration highlights the fundamental components of two of the current AgriSafety Program projects:

- I. Air quality in Canadian pig buildings: reduction of airborne dust, gas and human pathogens in buildings and their environmental dispersion
- II. Reducing pathogen distribution from animal transportation

Message of the Demonstration

The Glo Germ demonstration teaches youth about the importance of sanitary practices, such as handwashing, when handling farm animals. The demonstration illustrates to kids how easily germs are transmitted between people. The concept of the spread of germs translates into a larger message regarding biosecurity in animal production facilities, which is primary to the AgriSafety Programs mentioned above. The first project is researching ways to reduce airborne contaminants inside production facilities through different technologies to protect producers from potentially harmful exposures to dust, gas, microorganisms and disease-causing agents. The second project is working to reduce the spread of disease between facilities through an air-filtered animal transport trailer; both projects have a foundation in biosecurity.

How Does the Demonstration Work?

The Glo Germ demonstration is targeted toward kids aged 9-12 (Grades 4-6) at rural schools across Saskatchewan. A baseball that is covered in a glowing powder is passed around the group of kids. Once the ball has been passed around, the instructor shines a UV light over their hands to show how each of their hands now have the powder, demonstrating how germs and bacteria can easily be spread. Next, the kids are instructed to wash their hands with warm soapy water. The instructor once again shines the UV light on the kids' hands, this time showing the remnants of the powder. The purpose of the demonstration is to explain how easily germs and bacteria can spread without a proper hand washing routine.



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Glo Germ Demonstration Success

Throughout the past year the Glo Germ demonstration has been presented to 28 rural schools and community events in Saskatchewan, tallying an estimated 2000 students. School divisions visited included: Living Sky, Sun West, Horizon, Chinook, Prairie Valley, North East, Prairie South, Prairie Spirit, and South East Cornerstone. The educational demonstration was well received by both staff and students. Students were shocked to see how easily germs can spread without handwashing, giving teachers a great opportunity to teach their students about proper handwashing and provide a reminder as to why it is so important.



How to Sign-Up Your Class

The demonstration is part of the Agricultural Health and Safety Network's Discovery Days which will be taking place throughout the coming year. The presentation takes approximately 45-60 minutes. If your community or school is interested in hosting a morning or afternoon with Discovery Days please contact Bonita Hus at (306)966-6647 or blm118@mail.usask.ca.

Air quality in Canadian pig buildings project and Reducing Pathogen Distribution from Animal Transport project, are two projects in the Animal Housing Environment priority area, under Agrivita Canada Inc.'s Canadian AgriSafety Applied Research Program, led by a national team of researchers from the Institut de recherche et de développement en agroenvironnement (IRDA), and Centre de recherche de l'Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec at the Université Laval (CRIUCPQ), Prairie Swine Centre (PSC), , the University of Saskatchewan College of Engineering, the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia, the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA) and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA).

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