

Farm Resource Center (FRC) Needs Assessment Survey

COUNTY FARM BUREAU MANAGER

56 Surveys Completed

7/3/03

Farm Bureaus are keenly aware of the dramatic situations facing farmers today. This climate continues to change, as the American Farming industry face challenges from other developing countries, weather related difficulties, increased cost of equipment, fertilizer, and chemicals. The insight provided through the Farm Bureaus, will help aid in developing strategies to enhance the personal and emotional well being of farmers.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Farming is a stressful occupation; do you have concerns about the level of stress in farm families you deal with?	86%	11%	3%
Have the stress levels for the farm families you work with increased during the past year?	79%	18%	3%
Have any of your members expressed concern about the personal/emotional well being of the elderly in this community?	36%	61%	3%
Do you think your members would use the community mental health center if the need arose?	58%	30%	12%
Are you familiar with the work of the Farm Resource Center?	77%	18%	5%
Do you think that home visits are more acceptable way of helping your members work through less serious mental health issues?	84%	9%	7%
Would it be helpful to farm families to work on their problems with someone who understood their way of life?	93%	4%	3%
Is access to mental health service a problem in your area?	82%	11%	7%
Do you think that outreach should be a part of all mental health service delivery?	43%	46%	9%
Is there a need for specialized mental health service for the elderly in your area?	43%	38%	19%

Farm Resource Center (FRC) Needs Assessment Survey

Small Rural Industries

87 Surveys Completed

7/3/03

The agricultural community affects a variety of small rural industries. As the farmer faces higher cost associated with farming, the small rural industries face a tougher market to provide services to farmers and other rural individuals. This situation increase many issues, i.e. depression, anxiety, and a host of other issues as noted in the report of mental health in rural communities by George Mason University. With the ever widening chasm between the need of service and service delivery it is tantamount that these issues are addressed, before the future well-being of rural individuals is placed into further question. Through their input, FRC further seeks to create programs that will be effective in meeting community need.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Competition is a stressful fact in the corporate world; do you have concerns about the level of stress in your work force?	63%	37%	0%
Do you loose good employees because of their unresolved personal/emotional issues?	49%	51%	0%
Do you see the community mental health centers as a resource for these individuals?	43%	54%	3%
Would stress management workshops be helpful for your employees?	57%	40%	3%
Are you familiar with the Farm Resource Center?	13%	85%	2%
Do you think that home visits are a more acceptable way of helping individuals work through less serious mental health issues?	59%	26%	15%
Do you think your family would use the community mental health center if the need arose?	72%	25%	3%
Is access to mental health service a problem in rural areas?	49%	45%	6%
Do you think that outreach should be a part of all mental health service delivery?	79%	16%	5%
Do you think mental health service should be family focused?	84%	13%	3%

Farm Resource Center (FRC) Needs Assessment Survey

Truck Drivers
958 Surveys Completed
7/3/03

Truck drivers face an ever increasing problem; long stays away from home, isolation, stress, and with no one to address their mental health needs or family concerns while they are on the road. Placing a trucker in such environment without meeting the personal and emotional need, only leads to driver error, down time, and driver turnover. Meeting the needs of truckers is needed to aid in the safety and well being of the transportation industry in this nation. By assessing driver need, FRC seeks to provide services that meet those needs.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Do you feel that there is a lot of stress for drivers today?	90%	9%	1%
Do you know anyone so stressed that you are concerned for his or her safety?	47%	52%	1%
Is your job stressful for your family?	24%	75%	1%
Have you ever felt like parking the rig and catching a ride home?	57%	43%	0%
Does your company try to help you manage stress?	28%	70%	2%
Would a confidential 800-crisis -line manned by someone who understands the pressure drivers are under be helpful?	83%	16%	1%
Would a confidential 800-crisis -line manned by someone who understands the pressure families are under be helpful?	82%	16%	2%
Would drivers be willing to pay a small monthly fee to have this service?	21%	75%	4%
Would stress management workshops be helpful?	75%	24%	1%
Would a service such as a crisis line help reduce the rate of turnover of drivers?	63%	32%	5%

Farm Resource Center (FRC) Needs Assessment Survey

Law Enforcement/Corrections

721 Surveys Completed

7/3/03

Law Enforcement and Correctional personnel face a unique situation of dealing with criminality in our country. These officials are placed in a dual role of providers for their families, and protectors of community safety. Law Enforcement and Correctional personnel face the ever pervading criminal activity; criminal activity on the streets, and even continue while incarcerated. This activity exacerbates levels of stress, anxiety, domestic violence, divorce, as statistics show, among such professionals. FRC seeks to become more aware of their need, and how they can best be accommodated, thus providing safety for us all.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Do you feel your job is more stressful than other jobs in this area?	79%	20%	1%
Is stress being addressed in a positive way for individuals in your profession?	39%	59%	2%
Do you know anyone so stressed that you are concerned for his or her safety or the safety of their family?	25%	74%	2%
Is your safety affected by the stress on the job?	37%	62%	1%
Would a confidential crisis line manned by individuals that understand the pressures of your job be helpful?	47%	51%	2%
Would a similar service be helpful to families of workers in your profession?	62%	36%	2%
Would workers be willing to pay a small monthly fee to have such a service?	11%	86%	3%
Would stress management workshops be helpful for workers?	70%	27%	3%
Would stress management workshops be helpful for family members?	63%	35%	2%
Do you think that stress causes absenteeism?	74%	24%	2%

Farm Resource Center (FRC) Needs Assessment Survey

Agri-Business
 283 Surveys Completed
 7/3/03

The agricultural community affects a variety of small rural industries. As the farmer faces higher cost associated with farming, the small rural industries face a tougher market to provide services to farmers and other rural individuals. As these situations increase many issues, i.e. depression, anxiety, and a host of other issues, as noted in the report of mental health in rural communities by George Mason University, also increase. With the ever widening chasm between the need of service and service delivery it is tantamount that these issues are addressed, before the future well-being of rural individuals is placed into further question. FRC is an unique agency seeking to fill that need through crisis intervention, while the agricultural community informing us of how those needs could be met.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Farming is a stressful occupation; do you have concerns about the level of stress in farm families you deal with?	80%	20%	0%
Do you think that these families would use the community mental health centers?	34%	53%	13%
Are you familiar with the work of the FRC?	19%	80%	1%
Do you think that stress management/mental health services delivered through outreach will be more apt to be used by farm families?	66%	27%	7%
Are there groups or individuals that may need outreach mental health services?	82%	11%	7%
If a member of your family or a close friend need mental health service would you go or take them to the local mental health center?	87%	10%	3%
Do you think that home visits are more acceptable way of helping individuals work through less serious mental health issues?	88%	10%	2%
Would it be helpful to families to work on their problems with someone who understood their way of life?	97%	1%	2%
Is the access to mental health services a problem in rural areas?	59%	32%	9%
Are senior citizens more likely to experience personal/emotional problems in rural areas?	51%	46%	3%

Farm Resource Center (FRC) Needs Assessment Survey

Senior Adult

822 Surveys Completed

7/3/03

According to the U.S. Census Data, the rate of suicide in this group is continuing to grow. Many elderly face depression, anxiety, isolation and other issues that are more even more prominent in rural America. Add to this the high cost of prescription drugs, or even the choice that many elderly face in choosing between eating and needed medication, and you have an issue that will be continually needed to be addressed due to the ever graying of America. In many areas of FRC service the plight of seniors can be readily seen. To meet those needs, FRC is seeking to senior input to provide the best programs available to provide seniors with a high quality of care that they deserve.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Are existing programs meeting the personal/emotional needs of senior adults?	63%	26%	11%
Is there a confidential 800 number crisis line available to assist senior citizens with personal/emotional issues?	45%	39%	16%
Would senior citizens use such a program if it were established?	79%	10%	11%
Do you think that depression is a problem for senior adults?	85%	11%	4%
Do you think isolation has an impact on the mental health of senior adults?	89%	8%	3%
Do you think that there are mental health needs of senior adults that are not being met today?	78%	14%	8%
Have you ever been concerned about the national data on suicide among senior adults?	45%	46%	9%
Do you think that senior adults avoid needed services because of concern for cost?	90%	8%	2%
Do you think that senior adults avoid needed services because of having to travel to receive them?	86%	11%	3%
Do you think that more seniors could remain in their own home longer if they had some help with dealing with personal/emotional problems?	94%	5%	1%

Farm Resource Center (FRC) Needs Assessment Survey

Farming Family
717 Surveys Completed
7/3/03

With the economic situation facing farmers there is untold amount of stress, anxiety, depression, and fear placed upon farm families. The needs of these individuals must be addressed so that families may also be of support to the farmers themselves. Addressing these concerns will curb the increase of alcoholism, suicide, depression, as well as others issues facing farming families. It is clear that there are fewer service providers, as stated by George Mason University concerning Mental Health, in rural areas and outreach services should be provided to prevent such from continuing on such a wide scale. FRC continues to develop programs in accordance with the changing needs of farming families, in connection with analysis of service need provided by family members themselves.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Farming is a very stressful occupation, is this true for your family?	84%	13%	3%
Have the stress levels increased in the past year?	75%	24%	1%
Do you feel farmers do enough to maintain their health?	18%	80%	2%
Is farming as an occupation as rewarding as it was in the past?	23%	75%	2%
Are you familiar with the work of the Farm Resource Center?	19%	80%	1%
Is access to mental health care easily available in your county?	45%	45%	10%
Do you think that outreach should be part of all mental health service delivery?	78%	14%	8%
Do you think that home visits are a more acceptable way of helping farm families work through less serious mental health issues?	79%	17%	4%
Is there a need for specialized mental health service for elderly members of farm families?	68%	24%	8%
Would it be helpful to farm families to work on their problems with someone who understood their way of life?	94%	4%	2%

Farm Resource Center (FRC) Needs Assessment Survey

Trucking Company Owners & Managers
 58 Surveys Completed
 7/3/03

Truck companies face an ever increasing problem; driver turnover, increasing cost, safety concerns, and with no one to address their mental health needs or family concerns while their drivers are on the road. Placing a trucker in such environment without meeting his or her personal and emotional need, only leads to driver error, down time, and driver turnover. Meeting the needs of truckers is vital to the safety and well being of the transportation industry in this nation. Many rural areas especially rely on truckers to provide good and services, and if one does not address driver need then the consequence come in a ripple effect of related depression, anxiety, and stress.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Are you concerned about the stress your drivers are under?	74%	26%	0%
What about dispatchers, personnel managers, and safety?	78%	22%	0%
Is family stress a major contributor to the stress levels of your employees?	62%	37%	1%
If you answered yes to any of the above questions, has there been an increase in the stress levels during the last five years?	68%	23%	9%
Does stress contribute to the turnover rate of your drivers?	59%	40%	1%
Do you think that stress contributes to the rate of preventable accidents?	76%	19%	5%
Do you have programs to help your staff manage their stress?	12%	85%	3%
Would such a program be helpful?	64%	26%	10%
Would an 800 crisis line for drivers and their families help stabilize your driver pool?	42%	47%	11%
Would stress management workshops for drivers, their families, dispatch, safety, and personnel be helpful?	62%	31%	7%