

Engaging Partners in PPE Distribution

Heather Riden, Director of Outreach





Western Center for Agricultural Health & Safety

Our mission is to improve the health and safety of agricultural workers in the West through innovative research, interactive trainings, and tailored outreach.



Approach

WCAHS engaged partners in H5N1 response through resource development and education in order to facilitate PPE distribution statewide.



01



Continuous
Partnership

02



Resource
Development

03



Training & Outreach

04



PPE Distribution

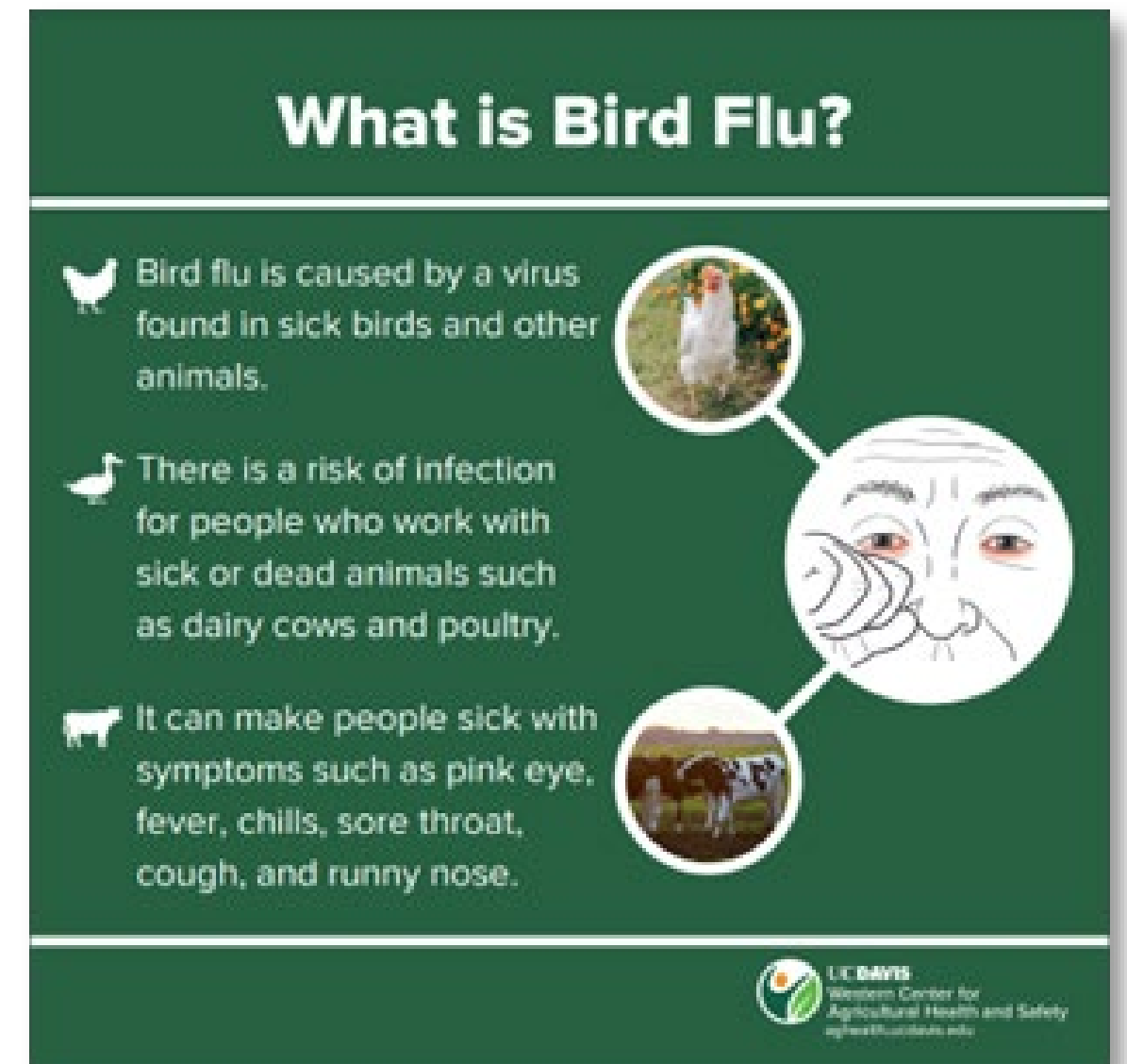
Continuous Partnerships

- Trusted ongoing relationships allowed us to rapidly reach partners in agriculture.
- We work with everyone, including community-based organizations, employers, associations, and state agencies, to support safety in agricultural workplaces.
- We are guided by our partners to identify gaps in knowledge and challenges in implementing safe practices.



Resource Development

- **Rapid response:** Our first article on H5N1 was published in May 2024.
- **Audience:** We developed resources for agricultural community members, employers, and workers.
- **Tailoring:** Materials were tailored to each audience to ensure the appropriate reading level, language, and content.
- **Type:** We published bilingual web articles, FAQs, brief social media safety messages, and an employer checklist.
- **Reach:** Over 12,000 directly



Training and Outreach

- We reached audiences in -person through outreach at community events, employer conferences, and sessions for agricultural community members.
- Virtually, we held Pláticas en Confianza, an academic seminar, and a webinar for the broader community.
- Our developed resources and PPE available were made available at both in -person and virtual events.



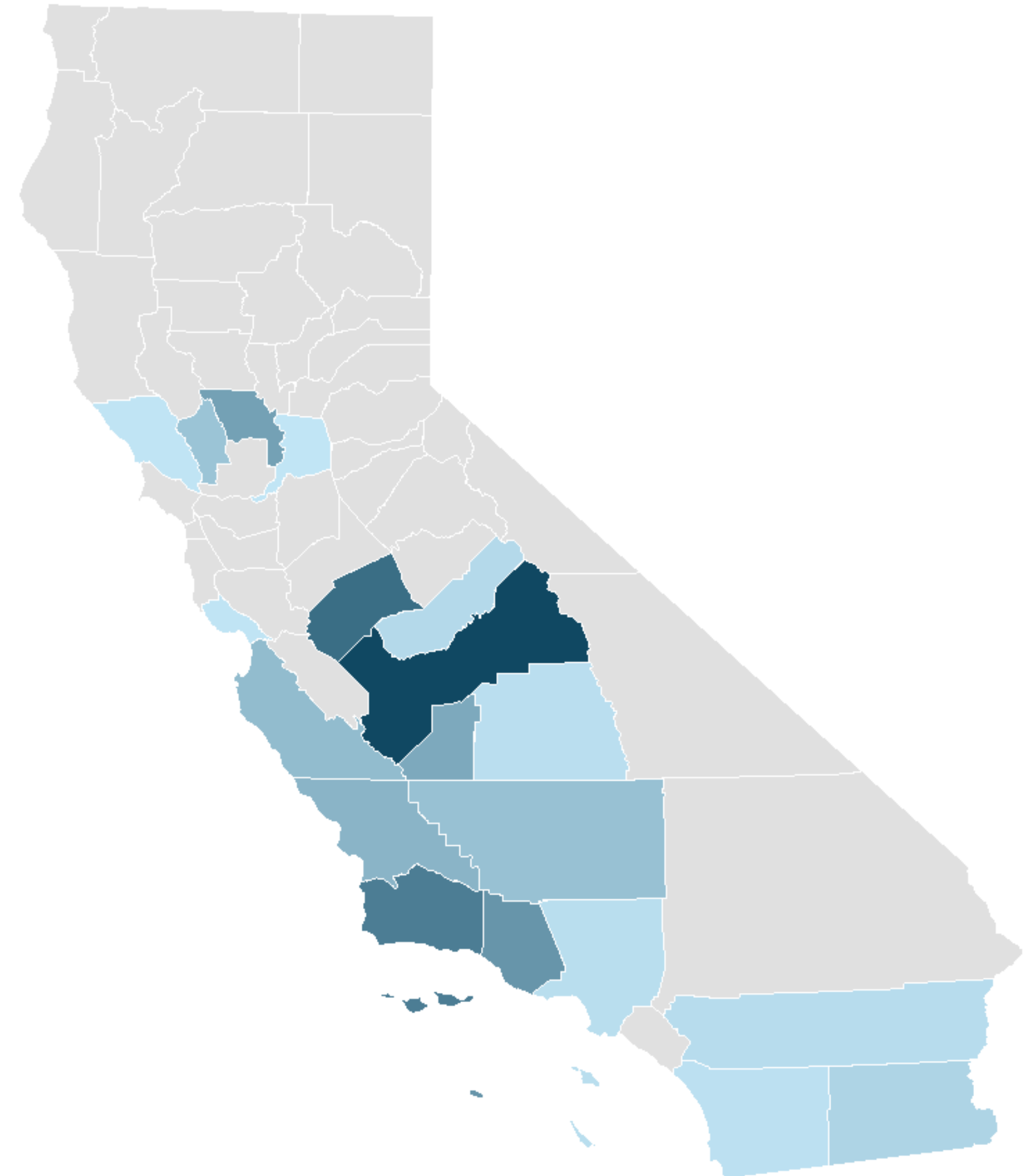
Observations Gained from Partners

- Challenge describing different levels of risk in messaging: low for general public; high for some occupational groups.
- The concept of the importance of the seasonal flu vaccine, no H5N1 vaccine, and the risk of reassortment was challenging to convey.
- Non-occupational exposure risk in rural communities from backyard chickens.
- Use of unpasteurized milk for reasons associated with finances, culture, and availability.



Statewide PPE Distribution

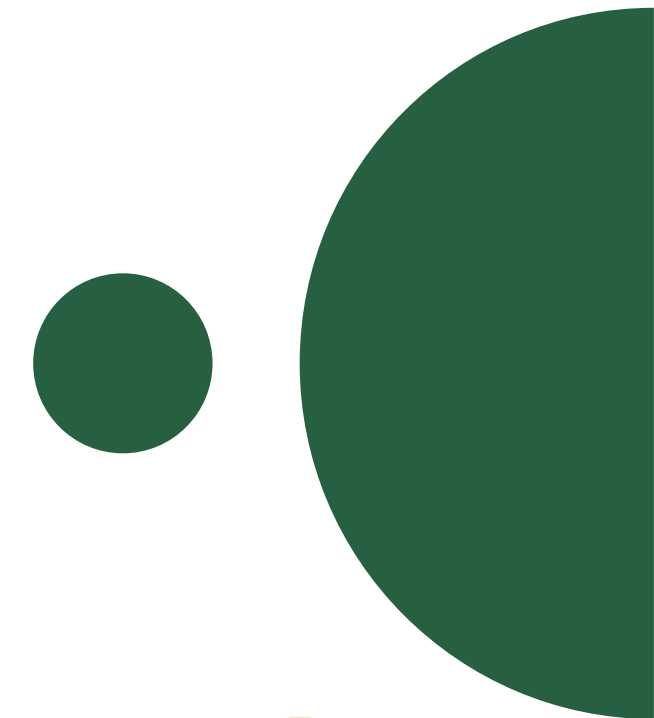
- **Distribution partners:** PPE received from the state, then distributed to partners at their request. Center researchers distributed PPE to employers.
- **Types of PPE:** N95 respirators, face shields, and gloves
- **Mechanics of distribution:** PPE and educational materials were requested during and after presentations. Resources were mailed and distributed at in-person outreach events.
- **Quantity distributed:** Over 254,000



*The darker the color, the more PPE distributed

Effective Strategies for PPE Distribution

- Establish and maintain local distribution networks that include both employers and community groups.
- Distribute PPE for occupational and personal use.
- Acknowledge challenges associated with PPE use, including introduced injury potential.



Recommendations

- Clearly communicate the why, when, and how to use appropriate PPE.
- Provide PPE for free, year-round, and allow for use and distribution for situations other than H5N1.
- Diversify distribution methods to reach employers, employer associations, community organizations, and institutions.



THANK YOU



UC DAVIS
Western Center for
Agricultural Health and Safety

Heather Riden:
heriden@health.ucdavis.edu