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MIDWEST POULTRY SERVICES, L.P.

Opioids and Employment in Indiana

Dan Krouse

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum – February 22, 2018

Opioids and Egg Farming

- My perspective as a naïve farmer
- What the opioid epidemic costs employers
- What some employers are doing

Midwest Poultry Services

- Sixth generation family business
- 1875 – Water powered grain mill in North Manchester, IN
- 2018 – 9th largest egg producer in U.S. with about 9.5 million layers
- 560 employees in Indiana and Illinois

Addiction in Indiana

- I started managing one of our farms in 2013
- Indiana ranked 16th in the U.S. in drug poisoning deaths
- Over 1000 Hoosiers would die that year from opioids
- I was clueless

Costs: Reduced Productivity

- Lost time – illness, incarceration
- Falling asleep at work
- Turnover and retraining

- **$11,305** per addicted employee
- $33,914 per year for our company

Sources: Florence et al. 2016, National Safety Council

Costs: Healthcare

- Increased injury rates
- Longer recovery
- Behavioral health issues

- **$16,287** additional costs to private insurers per addicted employee
- $48,861 per year for our company

Sources: Florence et al. 2016, National Safety Council

The Total Cost is Much Greater

- **$27,592** direct costs per addicted employee
- Businesses are members of society too
- **$43,415** per person including criminal justice, recovery services, and fatality costs
- Opioid addiction may play a role in our reduced labor participation rate, according to Goldman Sachs

Sources: Florence et al. 2016, National Safety Council

What Some Employers are Doing

- Treatment programs
- Destigmatizing addiction and treatment
- Improved access to non-opioid treatments, physical therapy, acupuncture, massage
- Drug testing

Thank you

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