Safeguarding Children in Agriculture: A National Action Plan

Leadership

1. LEADERSHIP: Strengthen and support national-level initiatives to improve the health and safety of children and young workers in agricultural environments.

Strategies	Outcomes
1. Continue primary federal oversight and support of this National Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative in collaboration with other federal agencies, a designated Center of Excellence, and non-government organizations (NGOs) affiliated with youth and agriculture.	A. Public officials will be aware of this National Action Plan. B. A dedicated budget line item will be maintained within the appropriate federal oversight agency for this initiative and associated activities, augmented with funding from other federal agencies affiliated with agriculture, children, and families.
2. Provide leadership and mentoring that empowers the next generation to carry forth sustainable and adaptable youth agricultural safety and health initiatives.	A. Occupational health and safety careers will be promoted during early stages of youth decision making. B. Advanced academic opportunities will be supported through fellowships, post-doctoral training, and scholarships via federal agencies, government-funded extramural Centers, and other university-based programs.
3. Expand collaborations and partnerships among agricultural constituents and youth/farm safety advocates at national, state, and local levels to strengthen the foundation for youth safety initiatives by unifying messaging, pooling resources, and expanding knowledge and expertise.	A. The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) will be sustained as a coordinated and unified "national voice" for youth in agriculture. B. Substantial public financial support will be provided for state-based Extension safety and health programs, state-based injury prevention programs, community hospitals, and outreach programs of Agricultural Health and Safety Centers. C. Private and public sector funds will be made available for a Childhood Agricultural Safety Symposium to be held every five years, bringing groups together from the public and private sectors to identify successes and to strategize around ongoing concerns.
4. Integrate youth agricultural safety and health into existing national organizations' priorities and advocacy efforts.	A. Strategic plans of professional organizations and NGOs will include areas of focus on youth in rural and agricultural settings. B. Youth agricultural safety and health topics will be incorporated into USDA/NIFA (or other relevant agency) programming and funding opportunities, especially as it pertains to emerging issues in remote regions and populations disproportionately affected by injury and illnesses.
5. Encourage strategies that motivate agribusinesses, insurers, farm organizations, farmers, and ranchers to influence and promote a broad-based culture of safety for working and non-working children.	A. Corporate stewardship funding and grants for youth agricultural safety and health initiatives will be emphasized via media and agricultural organizations. B. Corporate social responsibility programs that involve employees in "giving back" to their rural communities will be highlighted as a business strategy for company reputation and employee satisfaction.
6. Expand public and private industry funding to address new and emerging threats impacting youth living, working, or visiting in agricultural settings.	A. Public and private funding will support research, testing, and record keeping for infectious diseases, environmental hazards, robotics and autonomous machinery standards, human trafficking, exploitative child labor, and other new and emerging threats.

National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety