

Nurture

Quarterly Newsletter of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

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

"The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety strives to enhance the health and safety of all children exposed to hazards associated with agricultural work and rural environments."

NIOSH funds National Children's Center for another five years

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety has received a five-year, \$4.6 million competitive grant to expand its initiatives related to injury prevention on farms.

The projects funded cover a variety of research, education, intervention, prevention, translation and outreach to enhance the health and safety of children exposed to hazards associated with agricultural work and rural environments. Three of the projects are being led by Principal Investigators based externally of the National Children's Center.

The grant was announced recently by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which first chose the National Children's Center to guide its Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative in 1997.

"Several of the projects are extensions of previous work, thus bolstering the knowledge base upon which to establish national priorities for interventions, outreach and policy," said Barbara Lee, Ph.D., Principal Investigator and Center Director.

The caliber of past activities that translate research into practice serve as the foundation for the Center's updated theme of, "Moving childhood agricultural safety knowledge into practice through sustained partnerships," Dr. Lee said.



The Research Core includes a project to study the short- and long-term economic impacts of injuries to children on farms led by Eduard Zaloshnja, Ph.D., Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. The Prevention, Intervention and Translation Core includes one project to test the impact of incentives for motivating farm families to build safe play areas, led by Eileen Fisher, Ph.D., Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, University of Iowa; and another project to integrate safety guidelines for hired adolescent farm workers into training practices of field supervisors in labor-intensive agriculture, led by Dr. Lee.

The Outreach, Education and Translation Core consists of three distinct, but related, projects: Stakeholder Communications led by Scott Heiberger, the Childhood Agricultural Safety

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Saskatoon report: Researchers challenge conventional thinking on childhood agricultural injury prevention initiatives



Public Health & the Agricultural Rural Ecosystem

Public Health and the Agricultural Rural Ecosystem, October 19-23, 2008, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They spoke prior to concurrent sessions that included updated child ag injury data and descriptions of several intervention projects.

Drawing upon 12 research studies that they have led or been involved with in the past decade, Drs. Pickett and Marlena said objective evidence points toward these non-voluntary solutions:

- Require youth to have a driver's license to operate tractors on public roads.
- Set higher age limits for youth tractor operation.
- Remove the family farm exemption from the child labor laws.
- Raise the age restriction for performing hazardous agricultural work within the child labor laws.
- Restrict access of preschool children to the agricultural worksite.

In a challenge to the status quo, plenary speakers William Pickett, Ph.D., from Queen's University and Barbara Marlena, Ph.D., of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, presented "Children and the Agricultural Work Environment: Building a Case for Change" at the Sixth International Symposium:

Why haven't we already fixed the problem?

Simply put: our focus is wrong, say Drs. Pickett and Marlena. Most prevention programs are not focused on the leading injury prevention priority: fatal injuries to toddlers and preschool-aged farm children. In addition, current prevention strategies emphasize education over engineered and policy-oriented solutions, and are typically aimed at children themselves, not at the parent or responsible authority on the farm who is making decisions about children's exposure to the farm worksite.

Their presentation seemed to have the intended thought-provoking effect. Audience members approached Drs. Pickett and Marlena after the session with questions and mostly positive comments.

Their work indicates a disconnect between parents' knowledge of child development and the decisions they make regarding exposure of their children to this hazardous worksite. There is also a disconnect between parents' perceptions of farming as being dangerous for their children and work site exposure decisions. "This tells us educational interventions and voluntary guidelines by themselves are not sufficient to remove many farm children from known hazards," Dr. Marlena said.

"Yet," said Dr. Pickett, "farm safety professionals, government and even scientific communities who work on this problem rarely look at, fund, or evaluate novel intervention strategies that go beyond traditional educational approaches. We need a paradigm shift at the farm, government and scientific levels."

ASHCA to hold first national meeting

Leaders in farming, agribusiness, insurance, government and safety will convene January 28-29, 2009, in Washington, D.C., for the first national meeting of the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA).

ASHCA's founding members spent most of the past year building the not-for-profit group. Now they want to consolidate their gains and move more prominently into the public eye. "The main purpose of this meeting is to recognize and be accountable to our members for the first year of ASCHA's formation and existence," said William Nelson, CHS Foundation president and chair of ASHCA. "We want our members to fully understand the mission, purpose, and direction of ASHCA."

The meeting will be held at the American Farm Bureau Federation headquarters and the adjacent Holiday Inn Capitol. Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman will welcome attendees with opening remarks. Meeting discussion will focus on the ASHCA strategic plan for growth and development.

Invited speakers include Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and Martin Lowery, Ph.D., National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

To register for the meeting, or for more information, go to www.ashca.org or contact Regina Fisher at 715-221-7270, fisher.regina@mcrf.mfldclin.edu



EPA honors Migrant Clinicians Network



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education recognized the Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN) as one of 12 honorees to receive a 2008 Children's Environmental Health Champion Award for outstanding

commitment to protecting children from environmental health risks. MCN received the award largely due to its accomplishments in an EPA Region 3-funded project on the Eastern Shore of Virginia where MCN reached more than 800 migrant farmworkers and their family members, educating them about environmental hazards and ways to minimize their exposures. This project provided the EPA Region 3 with its first baseline information on some of the environmental health issues facing children in the migrant community in this region. For information about the award, visit www.epa.gov/children.

'Blueprint' underway for child agricultural injury prevention

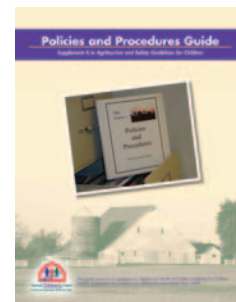
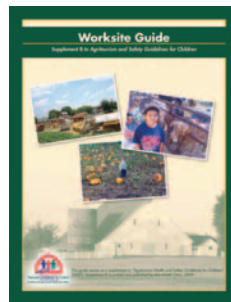
A project that aims to translate state-of-the-art knowledge on childhood agricultural injury prevention into practice is underway as part of the new National Children's Center award. The first phase of the "Blueprint for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Knowledge Translation" will update our knowledge of effective childhood agricultural injury prevention interventions. This will be accomplished by collecting findings from research and interventions that have been conducted since the assessment for the 2001 Summit on Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention. This includes studies funded by CDC, USDA and NIOSH, as well as reports from private sector programs. Susan Gallagher, M.P.H., of Tufts University School of Medicine, is leading the project. Gallagher and her team will synthesize information from data searches, interviews, and discussion sessions, then analyze findings to determine implications for the future. They anticipate the Blueprint will be published in two years. You may be contacted for information and perspectives regarding prior research into childhood agricultural injury prevention strategies. If you wish to follow up with the Blueprint team, please contact Marcy Fitz-Randolph, D.O., M.P.H., with the National Children's Center, (715) 389-5226 or fitz-randolph.marcy@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.

Mini-grant awarded for safety photo novels project

For the eighth consecutive year the National Children's Center made funding available to support small-scale projects and

pilot studies that address prevention of childhood agricultural disease and injury. One mini-grant was awarded for FY 2009: for the Appalachian Children's Farm Safety Photo Novels Project. The project was proposed by the River Valley Farm Safety and Rural Health Coalition, which serves southern Ohio and northeastern Kentucky. The project is an educational intervention using a series of photo novels based on the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks. The project will be administered by Shawnee State University's Department of Nursing, Portsmouth, Ohio, with Crystal Sherman, R.N., serving as project coordinator. For information, contact Sherman at 740-351-3586 or e-mail csherman@shawnee.edu.

New agritourism resources



The National Children's Center has just released new resources for agritourism operators; the Policies and Procedures Guide and the Worksite Guide. These 10-

page checklist guides were developed for use by agritourism owners and managers, and farm owners who host children and groups. The guides are useful in reviewing health and safety considerations already implemented on agritourism operations, and can assist in identifying deficiencies so that remedial action can be taken. These guides supplement the popular Agritourism Health and Safety Guidelines for Children published in 2007, and are available at: <http://marshfieldclinic.org/agritourism>.

PTO Safety Interactive Training

The NASD Safety Training Site has been activated. The first interactive module is on PTO safety. Plans are underway to work on two more modules in the coming year; one on the interaction of farm machinery and motorists on public roads; and the other possibly on confined spaces. Go to <http://www.nasdtraining.org/>.

National Agricultural Tractor Safety Initiative online

The National Agricultural Tractor Safety Initiative is now online. Read personal accounts from farmers, find out about local campaigns that are helping to keep farmers safer on their tractors, and learn about the most recent tractor safety research. You can also access resources to help you or your organization become a partner in tractor safety. Go to <http://depts.washington.edu/trsafety/>.

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Network led by Regina Fisher, M.S., and the new Blueprint for Knowledge Translation project with Susan Gallagher, M.P.H., Tufts University. (More on the Blueprint, page 3.)

The National Children's Center is a program of the National Farm Medicine Center, which is part of Marshfield Clinic

Research Foundation. More information on the National Children's Center can be found at its redesigned Web site: www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs.

Schedule of upcoming events

January 23-25, 2009

18th annual Western Migrant Stream Forum
San Diego, California
<https://www.nwrpca.org/onevent/details.php?id=1376>

January 29, 2009

First annual meeting of the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America
Washington, D.C., www.ashca.org

February 25-27, 2009

AgSafe of California Conference
Monterey, California, www.agsafe.org

May 5-8, 2009

National Rural Health Association Annual Conference
Miami Beach, Florida, <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/>.

June 14-18, 2009

National Institute for Farm Safety
New Orleans, Louisiana,
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm>.

Nurture is a publication of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (a program of Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wisconsin).

It is published three times each year to disseminate children's rural health and safety information to professionals in the fields of health and safety, agri-business, the media, and others.

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