

# National Children's Center

## for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety



## Fact sheet

### About us

The National Children's Center is one of 10 Centers of Excellence in Agricultural Disease & Injury Research, Education and Prevention funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). It is the only center with an exclusive child focus. Established in 1997, it is located in the National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wisconsin. This center is the leader in setting voluntary guidelines to protect children who live, visit and work on farms.

### Mission

"...to enhance the health and safety of all children exposed to hazards associated with agricultural work and rural environments."

### Center Staff

Barbara Lee, Ph.D., R.N.  
*Director*

Barbara Marlenga, Ph.D., R.N.  
*Deputy Director*

Matthew Keifer, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Senior Research Scientist*

Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D.  
*Associate Research Scientist*

Lori Breitzke  
*Administrative Secretary*

Tammy Ellis  
*Education Outreach Specialist*

Scott Heiberger  
*Communications Specialist*

Yurany Ninco Sanchez  
*Community Outreach Trainer*

Iris Reyes, M.S.  
*Epidemiologist*

Marsha Salzwedel, M.S.  
*Youth Safety Specialist*

Bryan Weichelt, M.S., M.B.A.  
*Project Manager*



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

## National Leader

The National Children's Center leads the country in protecting non-working and working farm youth through research, outreach and prevention by:

- guiding childhood injury prevention programs in both private and public sectors
- convening consensus development sessions to address complex or controversial issues in childhood injury prevention
- collaborating with major agricultural organizations, health and safety professionals and youth-serving groups

## Research

Filling the Gaps in Child Agricultural Injury Data led by Barbara Marlena, Ph.D., explores the most promising, existing public health surveillance systems to determine their utility for assessing the health and safety of children in agricultural settings.

Enhancing Supervisor's Skills and Employer Policies to Promote and Protect the Health of Young Agricultural Workers led by Diane Rohlman, Ph.D., and Shelly Campo, Ph.D., of the University of Iowa, is developing, evaluating and disseminating an online training for supervisors of young agricultural workers.

## Outreach

Advanced Knowledge Mobilization and E-communication (AKME) led by Matthew Keifer, M.D., is advancing and modernizing childhood agricultural injury prevention messages and mobilizing knowledge products of the Center.

Protecting Children While Parents Work in Agriculture led by Amy K. Liebman, M.P.A., strives to increase the engagement of agribusiness leaders in facilitating availability of, and access to, off-farm child care services for migrant and immigrant agricultural workers with children.

Strengthening Organizational Capacity to Prevent Childhood Agricultural Injuries led by Barbara Lee, Ph.D., bridges evidence-based safety guidelines and safety campaigns with organizations and corporations in a position to influence their adoption, thus expanding best practices to protect children from agricultural injuries.

## Prevention

Intervention through Inquiry: Understanding Beginning Farmers and Ranchers led by Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D., is increasing beginning farmers' and ranchers' knowledge of safety and injury prevention with respect to the children they raise, hire, and host on their farms or ranches.

Developing a Sustainable Infrastructure for the Safety in Agricultural Youth (SAY) National Clearinghouse led by Dennis Murphy, Ph.D., is operationalizing, evaluating and refining an infrastructure that ensures public access to an evidence-based and technologically appropriate safety and health curriculum for youth working in agriculture.



## Child Ag Safety Network

Our Center is home to this Network of organizations who represent the agricultural community, child injury prevention and minority-serving associations. [www.childagsafety.org](http://www.childagsafety.org)



## Contact Us

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## Key Resources



[Cultivatesafety.org](http://Cultivatesafety.org) helps farm parents learn about keeping children safe on the farm



These websites provide guidelines for children's work in agriculture

- [www.nagcat.org](http://www.nagcat.org)
- [www.marshfieldclinic.org/saghaf](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/saghaf)
- [www.marshfieldclinic.org/modelpolicy](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/modelpolicy)
- [www.cultivatesafety.org/cba](http://www.cultivatesafety.org/cba)
- [www.marshfieldclinic.org/youthequip](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/youthequip)



This site provides health and safety information for agritourism operators  
[www.safeagritourism.com](http://www.safeagritourism.com)



This site promotes safe play areas for children on farms  
[www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay)

