

Nurture

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

Webinar: Child Development and Tractor Operation

David Schwebel, Ph.D., Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, will present, "Child Development and Tractor Operation: How Children Change as They Grow Older," at noon (CT) on September 24, during National Farm Safety and Health Week. The webinar is hosted by AgriSafe Network (<http://www.agrisafe.org/>) and sponsored by the National Children's Center.



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."

Tractor campaign re-launched 'Keep Kids Away' resonates with media

Controversial and blunt, the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) "Keep Kids Away from Tractors" campaign sparked a national media conversation this past spring.

Stating that it is never okay for a child younger than 12 years to be on a tractor, the campaign took a "tough love" approach. The Farm Progress magazine chain, Associated Press, Gannett and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel all published large articles, which in many cases were syndicated and re-published.

Blogger Holly Spangler, Farm Progress, recounted a series of tractor and skid steer tragedies involving young children and said, "You guys. That stuff just has to stop. As individuals in an agricultural community, we have to make better decisions than that." <http://farmprogress.com/blogs-kids-tractors-ride-ride-8439>

The earliest a child should be on a tractor is when he or she is old enough to take and pass tractor safety educational classes, according to the network. And a child should never be an extra rider.

The campaign also sparked interest from industry. The National Children's Center's Marsha Salzwedel accepted invitations to speak to several tractor industry



THE TRACTOR IS NOT THE PLACE FOR
QUALITY TIME.

SPENDING TIME TOGETHER ON A TRACTOR IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. EVERY YEAR CHILDREN ARE NEEDLESSLY INJURED OR KILLED BECAUSE ADULTS ALLOW THEM ON OR NEAR TRACTORS. GIVE CHILDREN THE QUALITY TIME AND SAFETY THEY DESERVE. A TRACTOR'S WORK IS NOT CHILD'S PLAY.

**KEEP KIDS
AWAY
FROM TRACTORS**

audiences, including a March meeting of Association of Equipment Manufacturers risk managers in Chicago.

The network urges individuals and groups to incorporate CASN resources in their safety initiatives – perhaps during National Farm Safety and Health Week, September, 21 – 27. An archived webinar, posters, radio ads and more information can be found at www.childdagsafety.org. For questions or for more information, contact Salzwedel at salzwedel.marsha@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.

Wisconsin passes agritourism limited liability law – Children’s Center plays key role in approval, rollout

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has signed into law the Ag-Tourism Limited Liability bill, which places limits on liability for persons offering agricultural tourism activities. The bill reached Walker’s desk in April with help from the National Children’s Center. The Center is currently working with the Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association (WATA) to educate agritourism operators about the new law.

“The law is great for the agritourism industry, but we need to remember that it doesn’t provide blanket immunity,” said the Center’s Marsha Salzwedel. “Farmers still need to post signs for hazards and follow other safety best practices.”

Agritourism resources published by the National Children’s Center contain guidelines, checklists, signs and other resources that will help operators be in compliance (www.safeagritourism.com). Salzwedel is working with WATA at education sessions, sharing strategies to keep visitors safe on farms. Wisconsin is the 23rd state to pass such a liability law.



Marsha Salzwedel, second from left (front), represented the National Children’s Center at the signing of the Wisconsin agritourism limited liability law in April.

News in brief

SAY project in motion

Led by safety experts at Penn State’s College of Agriculture Sciences, the Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) Project will serve as an umbrella for curricula, programs, activities, and expertise across the country, with an eye toward increasing safety and health knowledge and reducing hazard and risk exposure to youth on farms and ranches. The two-year project is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The project brings together experts from Penn State University, Ohio State University, Utah State University, University of Kentucky, and CareerSafe Online.

The long-term vision is to develop a sustainable and accessible national clearinghouse for agricultural safety and health curricula for youth, according to project leader Dennis Murphy, Nationwide Insurance Professor of Agricultural Safety & Health at Penn State. For more information about the SAY Project or how you can get involved, please visit www.eXtension.org/agsafety.



Voluntary ‘best practices’ model for youth employment published

Given new trends in agriculture to use certification systems, safety audits, and voluntary safety standards in addition to the regulatory process, there is value in having a voluntary “best practice” model policy that can be adopted in settings where safeguarding young farm workers is a priority. “Model Policy: Youth Employment in Agriculture,” addresses age-appropriate assignments, training needs for adolescent workers, ideal supervision and mentoring by adult workers. Mary E. Miller, RN, MN, young worker specialist at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, working with Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director, National Children’s Center, led development of the policy, beginning with discussions at the National Council of Agricultural Employers (NCAE) annual conference in Washington D.C., and continuing with a survey of employers and a task force of NCAE members. The process resulted in a template that can be customized and adapted for individual companies that employ young workers. A manuscript about the policy and its development has been published in the Journal of Agromedicine (issue 19-3). The abstract of this and other articles can be viewed at www.tandfonline.com/toc/wagr20/current.

News in brief (continued)

CASN is effective, evaluation shows

An external evaluation of the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) was done to assess the organizational effectiveness and identify factors that have contributed to its success. The evaluation design gathered data using a survey and phone interviews. Response rates were 80% for the Survey and 53% for the interviews.



Combined study findings showed that CASN is an effective network. Members identified several benefits of membership including improved knowledge, shared resources, and enhanced opportunities to network and disseminate information and resources. CASN has a solid and stable base of long-time members and also includes a membership of newer organizations, indicating growth and vitality. There are frequent communications between CASN members and leaders through a wide variety of modalities – all of which are used effectively to keep members informed. There is strong agreement that CASN fulfills an essential and national leadership role in childhood agricultural safety. Members believe the network should be sustained to continue its work that has already achieved important outcomes.

2014 CASN Calendar Evaluation

For the past eight years, the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) developed and distributed a wall calendar with child safety messages pertinent to farm parents and agricultural employers. Each calendar page is hosted by a CASN participant. An evaluation of the CASN calendars was performed in early 2014 through an online survey instrument. The surveys were sent electronically to 151 people who had requested CASN calendars, and 75 responses were received. Survey findings reveal positive outcomes for the calendars, indicating they are widely disseminated, high quality and contain usable information, which is adaptable for additional purposes.

Cultivate Safety endorsed by ASHCA

Cultivate Safety (www.cultivatesafety.org) is now the primary childhood agricultural safety resource of ASHCA. Built by the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, the Cultivate Safety website features easy-to-use information about child development and best-practice guidelines for keeping kids safe while working and playing on farms. "The Cultivate Safety campaign's message puts things in perspective," said farmer Josh Meissner, Chili, WI., who is featured in one of the campaign's ads. "No matter how important the farm is to our way of life, it's never worth the life of a child."

Grain Handling Safety Coalition position statement

The Children's Center participates in the Grain Handling Safety Coalition (<http://grainsafety.org/>) through the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network, and is represented on the coalition by Marsha Salzwedel, who led development of the, "Position Statement for Youth Working with Grain." This position statement was developed by consensus, and can be accessed on the "Young Workers" page of the coalition website <http://grainsafety.org/young-workers/>. The position statement references National Children's Center work guidelines.

NAGCAT Tractor Guidelines Updated

It has been more than a decade since the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) were released to assist parents in assigning developmentally appropriate and safe farm work to their children ages 7 – 16 years. Since NAGCAT were released, a growing body of scientific evidence has accumulated related to the tractor guidelines and children's physical ability to safely operate them. A panel of childhood agricultural safety and health experts reviewed the scientific literature and provided recommendations for updating the tractor guidelines. In 2013, based on these recommendations, Barbara Marlenga, Ph.D., and Tammy Ellis updated the adult responsibilities, recommended supervision, age recommendations and personal protective equipment for 22 NAGCAT guidelines involving tractor operations. In addition, companion pieces for parents outlining five child development domains and their relationship to safe tractor operations were developed with the assistance of David Schwebel, Ph.D., from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and include physical, cognitive, perceptual, social, and sociocultural development. The newly updated tractor guidelines can be found at www.nagcat.org.

NIOSH visits National Children's Center



Captain Brad Husberg, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), recently made a site visit to the National Children's Center, one of 10 NIOSH-funded agricultural centers. Husberg is director of the NIOSH Office of Agricultural Safety and Health.

News clippings sought

The National Children's Center seeks news clips/Web links describing agricultural injury events. Clips are an excellent way to "tell the story" about safety, and the center will gladly share the content of its informal collection. To submit or request clippings, contact Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., Salzwedel.marsha@mcrf.mfldclin.edu, or 1-800-662-6900, option 8.

Schedule of upcoming events

October 6 - 8, 2014

1st International Symposium to Advance Total Worker Health
Bethesda, MD
<http://www.eagleson.org/conferences/total-worker-health>

October 19 - 22, 2014

7th International Symposium Safety and Health in Agricultural and Rural Populations: Global Perspectives
Saskatoon, SK, Canada
<http://cchsa-ccssma.usask.ca/sharp2014/>

October 23 - 25, 2014

East Coast Migrant Stream Forum
Pittsburgh, PA
www.ncchca.org

October 27 - 28, 2014

National Youth Farm & Ranch Safety Symposium
Louisville, KY
www.extension.org/pages/70004/safety-in-agriculture-for-youth

November 15 - 19, 2014

142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition
New Orleans, LA
www.apha.org/meetings/annual/

November 19 - 20, 2014

Transforming Safety and Health in the Heartland
Ankeny, IA
<http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH-IRHA/2014/>

November 20 - 22, 2014

Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum
San Antonio, TX
<http://www.ncfh.org/?pid=48>

February 23 - 25, 2015

Western Migrant Stream Forum
San Diego, CA
www.nwrpca.org

February 24 - 27, 2015

AgSafe Conference
Monterey, CA
www.agsafe.org

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