

# Nurture

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

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## Injuries to farm children decrease overall

### However, injury rates rise for young, non-working children

The number of non-fatal injuries to children on family farms continues to decline steadily, according to preliminary 2012 data from the Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (CAIS), which is part of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention initiative.

"Now, with data from five points in time (1998 – 2012), there is solid evidence of decline," said Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director, National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. "These data also highlight areas of continued concern and have led to redirecting some of the Center's interventions."

One area of concern is a slight rise in the rate of injury for non-working children, which would include, for example, young children brought into the worksite by parents in order to "keep an eye on them."

The latest data were presented in June by Kitty Hendricks, M.A., Research Health Scientist with NIOSH, at the ISASH meeting in Sandusky, Ohio. The injury survey is conducted by NIOSH in cooperation with the US Department



of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

The National Children's Center has been increasing its focus on non-working youth, who account for more than half of non-fatal injuries to children younger than 10. The Center is renewing its campaign to "Keep Kids Away from

(cont on page 2)



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."*

# Injuries to farm children decrease overall

However, injury rates rise for young, non-working children (cont from page 1)

Tractors” in the wake of several high-profile runover deaths this summer in which children as young as 1 were riding on tractors as passengers.

“In addition we have launched a Web-based effort, ‘Cultivate Safety,’ to reach more parents of household farm youth with straightforward guidance on evidence-based safety strategies,” Dr. Lee said.

Fatal injuries to youth on farms remains steady at about 100 per year according to the best available information, Dr. Lee said.

CAIS, which does not include fatal injuries, is based on a telephone interview of 50,000 randomly selected US farm operations stratified by geographic region. The CAIS collects information on nonfatal injuries to youth less than 20 years of age on farms. Injury data includes both work and non-work injuries occurring to youth living on, working on, or visiting the farm.

Although one might expect fewer total injuries given that the total number of youth living on farms dropped from 1.03 million in 2009 to 955,400 in 2012, the rate of injury also dropped, from 9.9 per 1,000 farm household youth in 2009 to 8.15 in 2012.

Check <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/childag/> for more information on the NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative.

## Household Injury Rates\*, 2009 & 2012

\*per 1,000 farm household youth

	2009	2012
<b>Age</b>		
< 10	6.6	11.3
10 – 15	18.5	8.2
16 – 19	6.1	5.8
<b>Work Status</b>		
Work	5.0	2.8
Non-work	5.0	6.8

Preliminary 2012 data from the Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey indicate that non-fatal injury rates are skewing toward younger, non-working children.

# Safety no longer an agritourism afterthought

As agritourism grows, so does the demand for safety expertise and resources.

“Agritourism operators have often thought of safety as ‘something extra,’” said Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., agritourism project manager with the National Children’s Center. “They wondered, ‘Do I really need to spend money for that ground cover under the playground equipment?’

“We stress that safety needs to be built into the business plan.”

Attitudes seem to be changing, driven by concerns of liability and simply doing right by their guests. In July, the University of Tennessee Extension Center for Profitable Agriculture invited Salzwedel to lead two one-day workshops at two separate farms.

Approximately 25 operators attended each day.



**The Tennessee agritourism workshop sites were Deep Well Farm in Lenoir City and Bottom View Farm in Portland.**

“My favorite comment was from a gentleman who said, ‘This is not what we wanted to hear, but it’s what we need to hear.’”

Salzwedel began each day of the workshop by citing newspaper articles on injuries and fatalities suffered by visitors to agritourism operations, which led to group discussion about how these incidents could have been prevented. Then, checklists in hand, the group went on a walking tour of the farm. Salzwedel’s role was that of facilitator and teacher, using the Children’s Center’s interactive site, [www.safeagritourism.com](http://www.safeagritourism.com), as a basis for instruction.

The website is becoming the one-stop resource for agritourism operators. Besides offering virtual safety walkthroughs, it includes dozens of printable signs, checklists, and other resources in English and Spanish.

Said one attendee, “Your signs make it easy for me. Truth is, if I had to make a ‘Hand washing’ poster or ‘Animals may bite’ sign, it probably wouldn’t get done.’

The Tennessee workshop model has drawn interest from the Networking Association for Farm Direct Marketing and Agritourism, which plans to have a similar event at its February 2014 national conference in Kansas City.

For more information, contact Salzwedel, 715-389-5226, [salzwedel.marsha@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:salzwedel.marsha@mcrf.mfldclin.edu).

# UPDATE: progress reports from recent mini-grants

## Mississippi launches child safety program

The Mississippi Rural Health Association has established an Agricultural Child Safety Program, [www.msrrha.org/content/agricultural-child-safety-program](http://www.msrrha.org/content/agricultural-child-safety-program), to coordinate a coalition in around the subject of child safety in rural areas, particularly those of farming communities. Funded through a mini-grant from the National Children's Center, the program is focused on reducing the rate of child death in Mississippi, which at 34-per-100,000 is worst among the 50 states. Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death in this 1- to 14-year-old age group. For more information, contact project coordinator Traci Breland, 601-898-3001, [traci.breland@mississippirural.org](mailto:traci.breland@mississippirural.org).

## 'Photovoice' program shows promise for farmworker children

This pilot study aimed to test the effectiveness of a multimedia photovoice safety promotion program with student engagement in the self-design and production of the instructional safety videos. A total of 117 Latino migrant farmworker middle school students enrolled at Michigan summer Migrant Education Program (MEP) focused on safety in the agricultural work camp. Students were successful in completing five videos specifically targeting the migrant child.

This was a community-based one-group pre/post design intervention study.

Research questions: evaluate if children will have changed scores in four subscales (safety consciousness, dangerous risk-taking, safety knowledge, and injury experiences) after the intervention; identify correlations among the subscales and demographics; and determine if the adapted instrument has acceptance internal validity.

While all results were not significant, there was movement towards learning safety knowledge and improving attitudes, said Principal Investigator Jill F. Kilanowski, Ph.D., associate professor, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio.

## In Print

This recent publication is based on a mini-grant: Spears CR, Kraemer Diaz AE, Bailey M, King K, Arcury TA. Empowering Latino Youth Farmworkers as Youth Health Educators for Occupational Heat-related Illness Safety Education in Eastern North Carolina. *Practicing Anthropology*, 35:38-43. Address correspondence to: Thomas A. Arcury, Ph.D., Wake Forest University, 336-716-9438, [tarcury@wakehealth.edu](mailto:tarcury@wakehealth.edu).

## Chemical Safety Story booklets popular among Anabaptists

More than 3,000 "Chemical Safety Story" booklets were provided to members of the Anabaptist community in Pennsylvania and New York during the past year, said Kay Moyer, M.S., a Penn State Extension safety educator. "The stories increase awareness and outline steps to take to prevent adults and children from exposure to pesticides and chemicals," Moyer said. There is also information about emergency steps in case of chemical exposure. One of the stories in the booklet will help growers who need to comply with the federal regulation called Worker Protection Standards (WPS). The 137-page booklets were given to each family in attendance at 20 pesticide educational meetings and at 97 Anabaptist school safety programs, in addition to being distributed at the Keystone Farm Show and Empire Farm Days.

Moyer said the books have been as well received as a previous mini-grant project, "Farm Safety Stories," which was published five years ago. Both of the booklets feature culturally-appropriate illustrations and true-false questions. Because many of the Anabaptist families live or work on a farm with approximately half of their population under the age of 18, teaching farm safety to youth is especially important, Moyer said.



## CASN meets in Sandusky, OH

Twenty-five organizations were represented at the annual in-person meeting of the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN), June 24, 2013, during the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health conference in Sandusky, OH. Discussion included: a) activation of the Blueprint for Protecting Children in Agriculture, b) fallout from the withdrawn changes to the federal child agricultural labor laws, c) the upcoming North American Agricultural Safety Summit, d) a re-launch of posters from the "Keep Kids Away from Tractors" campaign, e) anticipated immigration reform and f) an effort to share and reference news articles about injury/fatality incidents.

## Free! 2014 CASN safety calendars

Get 12 months of safety messages with the 2014 Childhood Agricultural Safety Network Calendar. Topics include all-terrain vehicles, supervision, work guidelines, pesticide safety, rural road safety, fire safety, sun safety and – new this year – the updated NAGCAT tractor guidelines. Also new are “child faces” in the date portion of the calendar. These faces were contributed by participating organizations and reflect the “safety smiles” seen around the world. Thirty-one organizations collaborated on the calendar, the most ever. To order copies, contact the National Children’s Center, [nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu), 1-800-662-6900.



**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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## Schedule of upcoming events

**September 25 – 27, 2013**  
North American 2013 Agricultural Safety Summit  
Minneapolis, MN, [www.ashca.com](http://www.ashca.com)

**September 28 – October 4, 2013**  
National Safety Council Congress and Expo  
Chicago, IL, [www.nsc.org/pages/contactus.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/pages/contactus.aspx)

**October 17 – 19, 2013**  
East Coast Migrant Stream Forum  
San Juan, PR, [www.ncchca.org](http://www.ncchca.org)

**November 2 – 6, 2013**  
American Public Health Association  
Boston, MA, [www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/](http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/)

**November 14 – 16, 2013**  
Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum  
South Padre Island, TX, [www.ncfh.org](http://www.ncfh.org)

**November 19 – 20, 2013**  
Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference  
Ames, IA, [www.iowapha.org/Events?](http://www.iowapha.org/Events?)

**February 26 – 28, 2014**  
Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health  
Seattle, WA, [www.nwrpca.org](http://www.nwrpca.org)

**October 19 – 22, 2014**  
7th International Symposium Safety and Health in Agricultural and Rural Populations: Global Perspectives  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada  
[chsa-ccsma.usask.ca/sharp2014/](http://chsa-ccsma.usask.ca/sharp2014/)

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