

# Nurture

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

Summer 2012  
Volume 15, Number 1

## Features

### Page 2

Call issued for mini-grant proposals  
Agritourism web site features walkthrough  
Updated labor laws withdrawn: what next?

### Page 3

180,000 pesticide comic books distributed by MCN and NASDA  
FS4JK founder retires

### Page 4

Upcoming events



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."*

## 2012 Blueprint

### Report proposes new priorities for childhood agricultural safety and health

"Blueprint for Protecting Children in Agriculture: The 2012 National Action Plan" ([www.marshfieldclinic.org/blueprint](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/blueprint)) takes an updated look at preventing childhood agricultural injury and death.

Released in April, the Blueprint endeavor builds upon the 1996 plan that launched a national initiative leading to a remarkable reduction in nonfatal injuries among children who live on, visit and work on farms. The 2012 Blueprint re-sets priorities to reflect changes in agricultural production and worker profiles.

The Blueprint is a product of input from the general public as well as leading researchers in childhood agricultural safety and health. Draft versions of goals and strategies were critiqued by nearly 100 stakeholders, and then posted online to solicit further public input.

The 38-page report emphasizes the need for:

- Affordable, accessible and high-quality child care options for farm families and hired farm workers.



- Increased involvement of employers, farm organizations and agribusinesses in creating a culture of safety.
- Improved injury and fatality data collection, with inclusion of under-represented populations such as seasonal workers and the Amish and Mennonite communities.

- Increased attention to reaching young farm parents and teen workers via social media outlets.

"Moving forward, child advocates, farm organizations, safety practitioners, researchers, policy makers, funding agencies and corporate sponsors are encouraged to set their own priorities consistent with the goals and recommended strategies proposed in this 2012 plan," said Barbara Lee, director of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

**Continued on page 2**

# 2012 Blueprint – Report proposes new priorities *Continued from page 1*

The foundational thinking behind the Blueprint is addressed in 16 full-length manuscripts and accompanying editorials in the Journal of Agromedicine (Volume 17, Issue 2 - [www.tandfonline.com/loi/wagr20](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wagr20)). In these papers, scholars in various disciplines generate recommendations for research, programs, policy, dissemination and other topics based upon their areas of expertise.



To receive a print copy of the 2012 Blueprint document, contact the National Children's Center, [nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu) or 1-800-662-6900.

## News in brief

### Call issued for mini-grant proposals

The National Children's Center is offering mini-grants of up to \$20,000 to support small-scale projects and pilot studies that address prevention of childhood agricultural disease and injury. Highest funding priority will be given to projects that:

1. Address issues pertaining to barriers, motivators and model programs for rural child care.
2. Address vulnerable populations (e.g., immigrant workers' children, Anabaptists, African Americans, and Native Americans).
3. Use Internet-based resources (including interactive websites, online social networking, online community building, etc.) to direct and influence parents and other responsible adults regarding safe behaviors affecting children.
4. Test methods to motivate adults to adopt safety practices recommended in currently available resources (e.g., NAGCAT, Safe Play Guidelines).

For more information, see [www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/default.aspx?page=nccrahs\\_minigrants](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/default.aspx?page=nccrahs_minigrants) or call Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., 715-389-5226 or 1-800-662-6900 opt. 8.

### Agritourism web site features walkthrough

Whether it's u-pick produce, hay rides, petting zoos, festivals or hands-on chores, agritourism operators can prepare for safe and positive visits by consulting "Agritourism Health and Safety Guidelines for Children"

([www.marshfieldclinic.org/agritourism](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/agritourism)).

Originally published in 2007

by the National Children's Center, Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., is leading development of the resource into an interactive web guide called "Integrating Safety into Agritourism" that will feature a virtual safety walkthrough to identify and address hazards. The guide is being designed with feedback from an advisory group of agritourism farm owners and agritourism association representatives from across the nation. Anticipated release summer 2012.



### Updated labor laws withdrawn: what next?

Facing opposition from farmers and politicians, the U.S. Department of Labor withdrew proposed rules that would have barred young hired farm workers from performing certain jobs that research has shown to be most hazardous.



The department issued the withdrawal on April 26. "I am disappointed that the (Obama) Administration chose to walk away from regulations that were, at their core, about protecting children and which could have been revised to correct some of the initial proposals that generated the most concern," said U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin. "I know from my discussions with farmers throughout Iowa that we can both protect children and ensure the success of family farms." The government now says it will work with agricultural groups to develop an educational program aimed at reducing injuries and fatalities in young farm workers.

"We need to understand that, whether regulations pertain or not, adults bear the responsibility for matching children with appropriate work assignments and ensuring safe working conditions," said Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director, National Children's Center.

An editorial in the Journal of Agromedicine (issue 17-3, [www.tandfonline.com/loi/wagr20/current](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wagr20/current)) asks "What happened?"

"A wakeup call has been delivered to clinicians, public health practitioners, scientists and farmers who believe that the right to go home whole and alive after a day's work must be protected and extended to the entire workforce," writes Editor Matthew Keifer, M.D., M.P.H., and Managing Editor Scott Heiberger. "We must learn from the failed attempt to update rules governing hired youth labor in agriculture."

# 180,000 pesticide comic books distributed by MCN and NASDA

Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN) recently partnered with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) to distribute a combined 180,000 copies of three Spanish-language pesticide comic books to 143 organizations across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, free of charge. The comic books are targeted toward migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families and cover topics related to children's risks of pesticide exposures, pesticide exposure in women of reproductive age, and risks from pesticide exposure in the home, along with strategies to reduce these risks.



According to several agencies, the pesticide comics helped educate thousands of farmworkers and their families about how to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure. Constituents said the comics are informative, culturally appropriate, visually attractive and appealing to the migrant and seasonal farmworker community.

MCN's pesticide comic books are available for download from the links below:

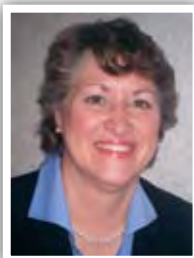
- *Lo Que Bien Empieza... Bien Acaba* addresses pesticide exposure in women of reproductive age:

[www.migrantclinician.org/loquebienempieza](http://www.migrantclinician.org/loquebienempieza)

- *Aunque Cerca... Sano* targets migrant and seasonal farmworker families to educate parents about children's risks to pesticide exposure: [www.migrantclinician.org/aunquecerca](http://www.migrantclinician.org/aunquecerca)

- *Poco Veneno... No Mata* offers an educational story and messages about risks from pesticide exposure and ways to minimize these risks in the home setting: [www.migrantclinician.org/pocoveneno](http://www.migrantclinician.org/pocoveneno)

In late 2011, MCN received very positive feedback from constituents who participated in an online evaluation of the pesticide comics. Nearly all of those who evaluated MCN's pesticide comic books (96 percent) reported the comics served as a useful tool to educate farmworkers and their families and to illustrate ways to minimize pesticide exposure. In addition, 92 percent reported the educational content regarding pesticides and minimizing pesticide exposure was relevant and easy for farmworkers to understand.



Marilyn Adams

## FS4JK founder retires

Marilyn Adams, who started Farm Safety 4 Just Kids in 1987, following the death of her 11-year-old son in a gravity flow wagon incident, has retired from the organization. "It feels right," Adams said. "After 25 years, the rate of childhood injuries and fatalities has declined. I leave the organization in the hands of very dedicated staff with a sense of accomplishment knowing Keith has made a difference." FS4JK has

a network of over 120 local chapters across the United States and Canada that offer farm safety presentations on a local level. Adams will continue to serve on the FS4JK board of directors and be available for a limited number of speaking engagements.

## eXtension launches 'one-stop' farm safety and health website

A new online resource is available to help answer farm safety and health questions. eXtension, a national research and educational based website, supported by 74 land grant universities, has launched a website specifically for Farm Safety and Health ([www.extension.org/farm\\_safety\\_and\\_health](http://www.extension.org/farm_safety_and_health)).

The new Community of Practice, Farm and Ranch eXtension for Safety and Health (FReSH) provides answers to frequently asked farm safety questions, contains relevant articles on a variety of safety and health topics and also includes a calendar of farm safety events. "Our goal is to become a one stop clearinghouse for all agricultural safety and health information," said Aaron Yoder, a Community of Practice leader for this site.

## Reaching farm families via technology

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids and University of Missouri, with funding from Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, now has a blog dedicated to encouraging discussion about rural safety and health issues ([www.fs4jk.wordpress.com](http://www.fs4jk.wordpress.com)). The intent of the blog is to encourage those at most risk, farmers and their family members, to converse about rural hazards and ways to prevent tragedies.

## In Print

Ehlers J, Graydon, P. "Noise-induced hearing loss in agriculture: creating partnerships to overcome barriers and educate the community on prevention." *Noise and Health*. 2011;13:142-146. This paper summarizes the collaborative efforts being made with many groups to prevent hearing loss among those who farm and their families. It is part of a special edition which focuses on research related to hearing protection.



## Child ag injury fact sheet updated

Although there is no central database on childhood agricultural injuries, the National Children's Center has drawn from the best available data to update its fact sheet, "Childhood Agricultural Injuries in the U.S." This fact sheet is particularly helpful when media representatives ask for statistics. It is available on the Children's Center resources page, [www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmchildrensresources](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmchildrensresources)

## Schedule of upcoming events

### August 4 – 8, 2012

Agricultural Media Summit, Albuquerque, New Mexico, ([www.agmediasummit.com](http://www.agmediasummit.com))

### September 28 – 30, 2012

Agricultural Safety and Health: Focus on Dairy, Palmerston North, New Zealand ([www.conference.co.nz/worldsafety2012](http://www.conference.co.nz/worldsafety2012))

### October 1 – 4, 2012

11<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Wellington, New Zealand ([www.conference.co.nz/worldsafety2012](http://www.conference.co.nz/worldsafety2012))

### October 27 – 31, 2012

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition, San Francisco, California ([www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org))

### January 29 – 31, 2013

AG CONNECT Expo & Summit (Safety Zone), Kansas City, Missouri ([www.agconnect.com](http://www.agconnect.com))

### September 24 – 26, 2013

North American 2013 Agricultural Safety Summit, Minneapolis, Minnesota ([www.ashca.com](http://www.ashca.com))

**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.

Contact the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, Marshfield Clinic, 1000 North Oak Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449-5790; phone 1-800-662-6900 or 715-389-4999; fax 715-389-4996.

Web: [www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/farmmedicine](http://www.facebook.com/farmmedicine) 

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/farmmedicine> 

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/nationalfarmmedicine](http://www.youtube.com/user/nationalfarmmedicine) 

NCCRAHS Newsletter Board:

Scott Heiberger, Editor

Marsha Salzwedel

Barbara Lee, Center Director

Barbara Marlenga

Funds for this newsletter are provided by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH award no. 5U540H009568-03).



**Marshfield Clinic**<sup>®</sup>

Research Foundation



National  
**FarmMedicine**  
Center<sup>®</sup>

