

# Cultivate

FALL 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FARM MEDICINE CENTER



The National Farm Medicine Center Farm Safety and Rescue Area.

## FARM TECH DAYS SAFETY AREA DRAWS THOUSANDS

Live demonstrations in tractor rollovers, tractor rollover rescues, grain rescue and child safe play areas drew an estimated 4,500 people to the first-ever Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Farm Safety and Rescue Area, July 10-12, near Marshfield. The estimated attendance does not include visitors who stopped at the Farm Center exhibit table between demonstrations. The Farm Center partnered with Pittsville Fire Department, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Progressive Agriculture Safety Days, local FFA chapters, the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center and WDLB-AM in pulling it all together. Casper Bendixsen and Melissa Ploeckelman led the Farm Center's work on the Farm Safety and Rescue Committee, and drafted a safety area blueprint that is being handed off to Farm Tech Days for future reference. "We're hoping that the Farm Safety and Rescue Area becomes an annual feature at Farm Tech Days," Bendixsen said.



**Marshfield Clinic**  
HEALTH SYSTEM  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



## AUCTION KICK-STARTS NEW MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION



Brad Guse, Auction of Champions committee chair, shared a personal story before the Fund-a-Need raised \$55,200 for Mental Health First Aid for farmers.

The annual Auction of Champions raised \$260,000 for agricultural safety and health initiatives of the National Farm Medicine Center, and provided the launch pad for a promising new collaboration addressing mental health emergencies in our farm communities.

The Farm Center will be partnering with Mental Health First Aid, supported by \$55,200 pledged during the Fund-a-Need portion of the evening, Sept. 20, 2018, at RiverEdge Golf Course in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

"Just as CPR First Aid teaches individuals what to do in case of a heart attack, the Mental Health First Aid certification program will prepare individuals to assist farmers experiencing a mental health crisis," said Josie Rudolphi, Farm Center associate research scientist.

"The creation of a mental health first aid program is critical in the current stress on farmers," said Brad Guse, Auction of Champions committee chair and senior vice president, BMO Harris Bank. "Our supporters saw that and came through in a big way for the Fund-a-Need."

"This project is bringing together central Wisconsin farmers, their families and agricultural support services to recognize, react to and prevent mental health emergencies in our communities," Rudolphi said.

Along with the record-breaking Fund-a-Need auction, this year's live and silent auctions were also popular with attendees. Trips to Costa Rica, Ireland and New York City, as well

as meat raffles, Packers tickets and furniture were popular items for both the number of bids and bid prices. The "Champions Against Hunger" live auction, a meat package donated to the highest bidder's charity of choice, raised \$6,000 alone.

Event sponsors, including presenting sponsor Miron Construction, also contributed to the event's success.

"Auction of Champions continues to highlight champions in the community, champions in giving and champions to the agricultural industry," said Tiffany Halan, manager of operations and special events, Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation. "Thanks to all of our attendees, sponsors, committee members and volunteers for their generosity and giving spirit."

## CHILDREN'S CENTER HOSTS NATIONAL WORKSHOP

Farm organizations, insurance companies, health care systems, Extension, government agencies, media and agribusinesses sent representatives to the inaugural Child Agricultural Injury Prevention Workshop, August 14-15, 2018, in Marshfield. The interactive workshop drew 30 participants from Canada to Louisiana, and from Washington state to Washington, D.C. "By working with other organizations we can get the information and resources to farmers and ranchers, enabling them to implement safety strategies," said Marsha Salzwedel, workshop director. The workshop offered safety grants of up to \$5,000 each to enable participants to continue the work that they started during the workshop. Workshop sponsors included John Deere and ProVision Partners.



Marsha Salzwedel speaks with attendees at a Learning Lab during the Child Agricultural Injury Prevention Workshop.

## FARM CENTER SCIENTISTS MENTOR SUMMER STUDENTS



From left: Rachael Rol; Josie Rudolph, Ph.D.; Barbara Marlena, Ph.D.; and Zengyan Wang.

Since 1974, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute has offered summer research internship opportunities. The primary goal of the program is to provide a mentored, hands-on research experience for college students considering a career in research. This past summer, Farm Center scientists mentored two of the 11 students in the program. Students presented their research findings August 10 in Froehle Auditorium.

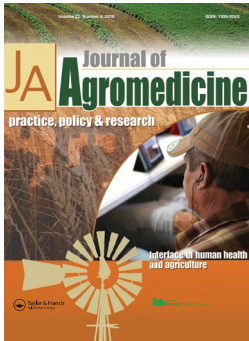
### Rachael Rol, University of Wisconsin-Madison (mentor Josie Rudolph, Ph.D.):

“Beliefs and Practices of Farm Parents to Prevent Child Injury.” Rol gathered data by conducting four focus groups with farm parents in central Wisconsin. Rol concluded that the parents had a low sense of perceived child injury threat, which may be a barrier to implementing safety practices on farms.

### Zengyan Wang, University of Georgia (mentor Barbara Marlena, Ph.D.):

“An Alternative Way of Characterizing Injury to Youth on Farms.” Wang used machine learning to compare the similarities and differences in the nature, mechanisms and pattern of injuries to youth on farms with those occurring elsewhere. Machine learning is the science of getting computers to learn like humans do by using algorithms to parse data, learn from it, and then make a determination or prediction about something. Wang demonstrated that predictive patterns can be identified in farm injury data using an algorithm called “extreme gradient boosting.”

## FARM CENTER MAKING AN ‘IMPACT’



The Journal of Agromedicine, edited by Farm Center staff since 2004 and the world’s leading source of agricultural safety and health research, continues to climb in rankings of the world’s leading academic journals. The journal’s Impact Factor improved to a best-ever 1.32, ranking it 120th out of 186 in the category of public, environmental and occupational health.

It’s difficult merely to qualify for an Impact Factor. Each year, Thomson Reuters’ Journal Citation Reports accepts about

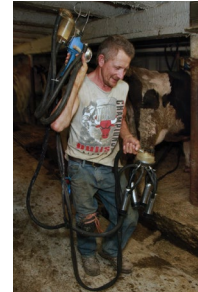
10-12 percent of the more than 2,000 journals they review. Impact Factor reflects the average number of citations to recent articles. To see a list of the Journal’s top-cited papers, and abstracts of all articles, go to <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wagr20/current>.

## A NATIONAL APPROACH TO FARM SAFETY

Farm Center scientists and staff hold key leadership/advisory positions with organizations addressing agricultural safety and health on a national level. Among them are: Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D., appointed to a Congressionally-mandated advisory board for a national Veterans Affairs agri-therapy pilot program; Scott Heiberger, president-elect, International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health; Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., Board of Directors, AgriSafe; and Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., Board of Directors, Ag Health and Safety Alliance.

## FARM CENTER LOSES SAFETY ADVOCATE

Pete Petersen, 60, a central Wisconsin dairy farmer who always made himself and his farm available for safety promotion and training, died from injuries suffered in a silo fall the afternoon of Sept. 20. “We have lost a huge friend,” said Jerry Minor, Pittsville Fire Department Chief.



Pete Petersen working in his barn. This photo was taken in 2012 by photojournalist Earl Dotter while working on a project with the Farm Center.

## AGINJURYNEWS STILL GROWING

AgInjuryNews.org now has more than 500 registered users. The team, led by primary investigator Bryan Weichelt, continues to migrate data to the newly designed system and hopes to launch the new site this fall. AgInjuryNews has produced three peer-reviewed publications so far in 2018 and has others under review. Its most recent paper was published in the Journal of Agromedicine: “Agricultural Youth Injuries Involving Skid Steers and a Call for Intervention and Translational Research” DOI: 10.1080/1059924X.2018.1501455.

## NFMC HOSTS SECRETARY OF AG



Sheila Harsdorf, Wisconsin secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, visited the Farm Center on Oct. 11 to learn more about the Wisconsin Rollover Protection Structure Rebate Program, the Mental Health First Aid program and other NFMC initiatives.

## FURTHERMORE

CHS has announced it is investing \$40,000 to complete the remaining Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines, a project of the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. CHS is a leading global agribusiness owned by farmers, ranchers and cooperatives across the U.S. ... The Wisconsin Rollover Protection Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program is entering its seventh year. The Farm Center has issued rebates for more than 225 rollbar installations. ... The Farm Center partnered with Marshfield Clinic Health System and Dermatology to screen more than 500 individuals at 2018 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in Wood County. ... **Scott Heiberger** served as an advisor to University of Wisconsin medical student Joshua Hess on a community health advocacy project promoting childhood agricultural safety. Hess, a student in the Wisconsin Academy of Rural Medicine program, produced a rack card that can be used to start safety conversations in pediatrics offices.

## OUR MISSION

“The National Farm Medicine Center will be a national resource, conducting high quality research, developing and delivering health and safety information, exploring innovative service models and effecting broad change to improve human health and safety associated with rural and agricultural work, life and environments.”

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