

Cultivate

Newsletter of the National Farm Medicine Center

Summer 2014

Our Mission

"To conduct high quality research addressing human health and safety associated with rural and agricultural work, life and environments."

Save the Date

Auction of Champions Chair Josh Meissner, of Norm-E-Lane Farm, is pleased to announce this year's Safari theme for the National Farm Medicine Center's annual gala fundraiser. The adventure begins Thursday, September 18, 2014 at RiverEdge Golf Course in Marshfield. Since its inception in 1982, the Auction of Champions has raised over \$3 million for the National Farm Medicine Center at Marshfield Clinic, an invaluable resource for the agricultural industry in Wisconsin. There will be a silent auction and cocktail reception, followed by dinner and live auction featuring exciting vacation destinations, rare sports memorabilia, a wide variety of meat packages and experiences for the entire family. Proceeds from last year's event were applied to community outreach programs, studies examining the link between farm upbringing and stronger immunity, and continuing the ROPS rebate program.



Marshfield Clinic[®]
Research Foundation

Agritourism 'game changer'

National Children's Center plays key role in new Wisconsin law

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 with help from the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, part of the National Farm Medicine Center.

"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, an interactive online guide and other items that will help operators be in compliance (www.safeagritourism.com). Salzwedel is working with the Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association (WATA) at a statewide series of education sessions to share safety strategies with farmers.

"This law is a game changer for tourism because ag-tourism destinations now have a safety net when opening their property up to the tourist visitor," said



Marsha Salzwedel (second-from left, front) attended the governor's agritourism bill signing on behalf of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

WATA President Steve Peterson. "It also is a key law for dairy breakfasts, county fairs, festivals and special ag-tourism events." More details on the new law and information about acquiring signage can be found on the WATA website, www.luv-r-ag.com.

The bill appeared to get hung up during State Assembly hearings in February, said Dave Meuer, of Meuer Farm in Chilton, who testified at the hearings. Meuer then pulled out guidelines and checklists that he obtained while attending a National Children's Center presentation, and the resources were entered into evidence. "They were impressed," Meuer said, "and they thought all growers/producers/farmers participating in an agritourism venture should be using the Children's Center checklists as a guide to inspect their farms."

Dairy worker safety trainer joins NFMC



Yurany Ninco Sanchez

Yurany Ninco Sanchez, the Farm Center's new bilingual community outreach trainer, is busy conducting free health and safety training for Hispanic dairy workers on Wisconsin farms. Ninco Sanchez came to the Farm Center from Family Health/La Clinica in Wautoma, Wis., where she

worked as an outreach coordinator

and nurse with migrant farm workers and their families. Ninco Sanchez holds a bachelor's degree in health care administration from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. She also has a bachelor's in nursing from the University of Antioquia, Medellin, in her native Colombia.

Ninco Sanchez is delivering training approved by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and endorsed by the University of Wisconsin River Falls and the Mexican Consulate in St. Paul, Minn. "Our Hispanic workforce is growing in dairy and in agriculture overall," said NFMC Director Matthew Keifer, M.D. "Yurany is helping the Farm Center reach that important community."

The trainings are offered free to farms that qualify for a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-funded study being conducted by the Upper Midwest Agriculture Safety and Health Center. Trainings are delivered on-the-farm with flexible scheduling. For complete information, go to, www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/seguridad.

Summer student



Jessica Perkins, M.P.H.

Jessica Perkins, a recent graduate of University at Buffalo, State University of New York, is interning with the Farm Center. Perkins is one of 10 students selected to participate in the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation's Summer Student Research Internship Program (SSRIP). Perkins recently completed her master of public health degree

after earning a bachelor's in animal science from Cornell University. Perkins grew up on a dairy farm in New York. Her interests focus on combining human health, behavior choices, and safety with her agricultural background and knowledge. She is primarily assisting Dr. Casper Bendixsen in research that will describe the relationship between central Wisconsin bankers and dairy farmers' day-to-day decision-making and behaviors. Results will help in designing safety interventions that leverage that relationship.

Outreach

Get the facts about Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses with a handy new set of printed resources. Tammy Ellis, NFMC, worked with Anna Schotthoefer, Ph.D., to produce Tick ID cards and a field guide that includes information specific to pregnant women, farmers, hunters, fishermen, outdoor workers and parents. Wisconsin has one of the highest incidence rates of Lyme disease in the country. Check out the following new resources online at www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/lymedisease. To obtain hard copies, call 1-800-662-6900 or email nfmcsh@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.

Journal of Agromedicine

The Farm Center is celebrating 10 years of editing the peer-reviewed Journal of Agromedicine, the only research journal examining all aspects of human health and safety in agriculture. The quarterly journal publishes articles of particular interest to rural health care providers and agricultural safety specialists. Dr. Keifer is editor-in-chief, preceded in that position by Dr. Steve Kirkhorn. Other members of the editorial team include Dr. Barbara Lee, Dr. Joseph Mazza, Scott Heiberger and Kathie Smith.



ROPS rebates

McMillan-Warner Mutual Insurance Company policyholders are now eligible for up to 100 percent reimbursement on the cost of retrofitting their tractors with rollover protective structures (ROPS), thanks to a new partnership with the NFMC Wisconsin ROPS Rebate Program. The program is open to any Wisconsin tractor owner, regardless if they are a McMillan-Warner policyholder, and reimburses owners up to 70 percent (maximum of \$865) toward the total cost of purchasing, shipping and installing individual ROPS. The newly formed partnership gives McMillan-Warner policyholders an added benefit of receiving the remaining 30 percent of the retrofit cost (maximum of \$350). Tractor owners can apply for the program via the ROPS hotline, 1-877-767-7748 (1-877-ROPSR4U), or the website, www.ropsr4u.com.

Furthermore...

The Farm Center will sponsor free skin cancer screenings at Farm Technology Days, August 12-14, in Plover, Wis., and will also have a booth with safety resources and giveaways. See you there! ... The Farm Center would like to say "thank you" to all Wisconsin dairy farmers who took the time to send back their Dairy Safety Surveillance Surveys. Your participation will help shape programs and projects to keep dairy farmers and dairy workers safe. ... The Cultivate Safety "Parent First, Farmer Second" campaign (www.cultivatesafety.org) has been recognized by the National Association of Farm Broadcasting and National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA). In April the campaign earned a first place from NAMA for best radio series.

