

Cultivate

Newsletter of the National Farm Medicine Center

Winter 2011

Our Mission

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

NFMC on Facebook

If you like the Farm Center, you'll really "like" it on Facebook, www.facebook.com/farmmedicine. To those who haven't ventured into social media, Facebook offers the opportunity to meet and keep up to date on people and organizations. The Farm Center encourages users to "like" its Facebook page. It's a great way to keep up on news and events impacting the Farm Center, its colleagues and its donors and friends.

Become our fan on Facebook.



NFMC turns 30!

Keep an eye on the Web site (www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc) and join in "Celebrating 30 years of agricultural medicine, safety and health!"



National
Farm Medicine
Center.



Marshfield Clinic
Research Foundation

Former Marshfield Ag Research Station superintendent joins NFMC

The former superintendent of the University of Wisconsin-Marshfield Agricultural Research Station (UW-MARS) has joined the National Farm Medicine Center as an agricultural safety specialist.

Tom Drendel, who retired from UW-MARS in 2009, is working on the Wisconsin Dairy Workers Safety and Health Initiative. "I am excited to combine my knowledge and experience in dairy with a focus on safety," Drendel said.

As part of the initiative, Drendel will become Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-certified in standards in general industry, confined space, hearing conservation, and a trainer for the general industry standard.

"Tom brings a great set of assets to the Farm Center," said Matt Keifer, M.D., M.P.H., Dean Emanuel Endowed Chair and leader of the dairy initiative. "With the expansion of the hired labor force in dairy, OSHA will be more involved in dairy operations. We need someone like Tom, who can combine knowledge of dairy and knowledge of OSHA to get dairy ready for what is sure to come."

Drendel moved to Marshfield in 1985 after working as an agricultural agent for UW Extension in Marinette and Jefferson counties. Drendel has served as president of Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MACCI) in 1994 and the Marshfield Noon Rotary Club in 1993. He is currently an ambassador for MACCI. He



Tom Drendel

served as a trustee for both St. Joseph's Hospital and the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation.

Drendel is married to Laura and they have two sons, Anthony and Nathan.

At UW-MARS, Drendel's duties focused on managing the research dairy herd and the overall farming operations. He also helped develop safety manuals which were then used as templates and distributed to the other research stations.

Tough act to follow: Mark your calendars for 2011



It'll be difficult to top the excitement of last fall's Auction of Champions, but organizers are already planning to do just that, so circle September 22, 2011 on your calendars.

The most recent Auction included a live steer. "Chubby" was led through a side door and directly into a pen set up in the dining room at Clearwaters Hotel and Convention Center, Marshfield, where it was corralled and tethered by owners Rob and Vicki Wiskerchen, and their son, Bobby. The steer sold for \$4,500 to Marlene Stueland and Drs. Steve Kirkhorn and Matt Keifer, all of the National Farm Medicine Center (pictured above with Dr. Dean Emanuel). Dr. Kirkhorn said that the purchase was a way of showing the Farm Center's appreciation for the area farming community. The event generated nearly \$200,000 for the Farm Center to support research and outreach on issues that affect farmers and rural residents. The Auction has raised more than \$2.2 million since its inception in 1982.

"The Auction is such a great event to be a part of and to attend," said Jill Kurszewski, the Marshfield Clinic Development Department's annual giving and special events coordinator. "Over the years it has become a great partnership, encouraging support for the agricultural community and 4-H youth while supporting the work of the National Farm Medicine Center."

In print

In each issue of the journal *Injury Prevention*, the editors choose one article to highlight. The December 2010 issue bestows this honor upon, "Determinants of agricultural injury: a novel application of population health theory." The article is free online at www.injuryprevention.bmj.com/. Co-authors include Barbara Marlenga, Ph.D., Deputy Director, National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. Dr. Marlenga and her Canadian co-authors were interested in potential causes of injuries on farms, not only immediate causes, but the deep, underlying reasons why farmers seem to experience such high rates of traumatic injury. The prospective, cohort study included more than 5,000 participants on farms in Saskatchewan, Canada. Firm conclusions cannot be drawn, but this first attempt at applying population health theory to farm injuries could lead to better injury prevention efforts in the future.

Outreach

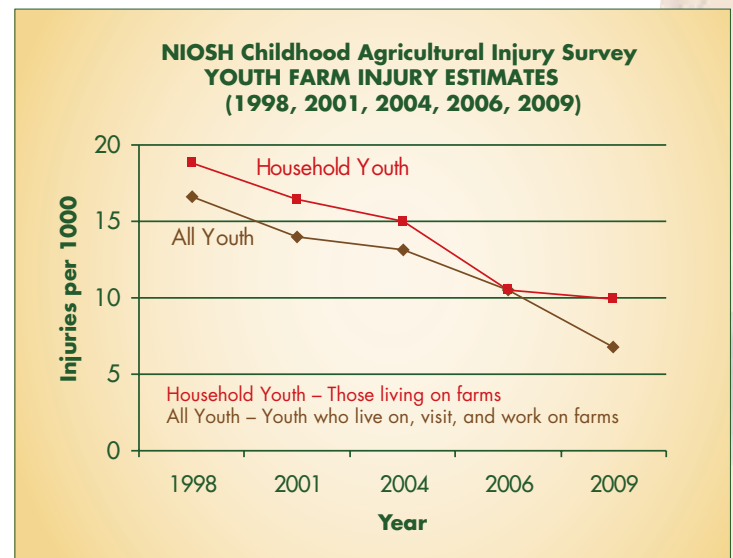


The excitement of Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is coming to Marshfield, July 12-14, 2011, at Seehafer Acres, just north of town. The Farm Center will be there, too, sponsoring free skin cancer screening in conjunction with physicians from the

Marshfield Clinic Dermatology Department. The National Children's Center will be part of the Family Farm Adventure area, educating visitors about important elements of creating an outdoor safe play area. For more information, go to www.marathonfarmtech.com/index.php.

Childhood agricultural injury prevention

The most recent federal data indicate that the rate of non-fatal childhood injury on farms and ranches continued to decline, dropping nearly 60 percent since 1998. It was an encouraging sign that the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety has impacted research and public awareness efforts in one of the nation's most hazardous industries. "This marked decline is a testament to the dedicated efforts of many individuals, organizations and agribusiness sponsors, along with federal agency leadership," said Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director of the National Farm Medicine Center and National Children's Center. "Injuries and deaths affecting children on farms are no longer viewed as unavoidable accidents, but rather as predictable and preventable events." Beneath the overall declining non-fatal injury rates, however, challenges remain, such as higher relative injury rates for all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs) and horses. Each year, the National Children's Center updates a childhood agricultural injury fact sheet that gives a snapshot of the population at risk and fatal and non-fatal injury statistics. Go to, www.marshfieldclinic.org/proxy/MCRF-Centers-NFMC-NCCRAHS-2011ChildAgInjuryFactSheet_Jan.1.pdf.



NIOSH. 2010. Trends in childhood agricultural nonfatal injury rates, 1998 through 2009. Internal analysis of the Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (CAIS) surveillance system. Morgantown, WV: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.