

# Cultivate

Newsletter of the National Farm Medicine Center

Summer 2011

## Our Mission

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

## Auction September 22

The National Farm Medicine Center's gala fundraiser, the Auction of Champions, is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011, at Clearwaters Hotel & Convention Center in Marshfield. More than \$2 million has been raised for agricultural safety and health since the first Auction in 1982. Tom Tasse of Hewitt Meat Processing, Marshfield, is the Auction Chair. For more information, contact Jill Kurszewski, (715)-389-5146, or visit <http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/giving>.



**Marshfield Clinic**  
Research Foundation

## NFMC convenes advisers group

The National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC) has established an advisory committee to identify emerging safety and health priorities of dairy owners and their employees, and to guide overall NFMC research and program initiatives.

The committee convened May 4 in Marshfield under the direction of Barbara Lee, Ph.D., NFMC director, and Matthew Keifer, M.D., Dean Emanuel Endowed Chair. The day began with field trips to two Stratford-area farms known for innovation and industry leadership -- Maple Ridge Dairy and Greenberg Farms. The afternoon was spent addressing strengths and limitations of proposed research, education and service initiatives.

"This is an outstanding group, and we feel fortunate that they're lending us their time and expertise," Dr. Keifer said. "We had a very productive first meeting."

The 14-member committee includes Dean Emanuel, M.D., medical director emeritus and one of the founders of the NFMC in 1981. He was joined by committee members representing dairy producers, Hispanic workers, insurers, and the State and University of Wisconsin. They include farmers, physicians, safety specialists, an industrial hygienist, a veterinarian and others.

Members of the advisory committee:

- Henry Anderson, M.D., Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Madison, WI
- Maria Bendixen, Clark County UW Extension, Neillsville, WI
- Byron Crouse, M.D., UW-Madison, School of Medicine and Public Health
- Shaun Duvall, Puentes/Bridges, Inc., Alma, WI
- Dean Emanuel, M.D., National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield, WI
- Melina Kolbeck, Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI
- Janice Klodowski, AgriServices Agency, Syracuse, NY
- Alan Kraus, Wild Creek Dairy Farm, Stratford, WI
- Mike Maroney, D.V.M., UW-Madison, Research Animal Resources Center
- Shelly Mayer, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac, WI
- Jerry Meissner, Norm-E-Lane Farm, Chili, WI, and Dairy Business Association, Green Bay, WI
- Stephen Reynolds, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
- Scott Schultz, Heartbeat Center for Writing, Literacy and the Arts, Osseo, WI
- Cheryl Skjolaas, UW-Madison, Center for Ag Safety and Health



Front row (from left): Shaun Duvall, Cheryl Skjolaas, Maria Bendixen, Dean Emanuel, Mike Maroney. Back row: Shelly Mayer, Henry Anderson, Jerry Meissner, Stephen Reynolds, Alan Kraus, Melina Kolbeck. Not pictured: Byron Crouse, Jan Klodowski, Scott Schultz.

## Medical students get farm perspective



Dr. Matthew Keifer recently took four medical students to Harmony-Ho Holsteins near Stratford. Hosts Ralph and Sharon Bredl gave a tour, topped off with samples of their gourmet Golden Age cheeses. Marshfield Clinic is one of three clinical education sites for Wisconsin Academy of Rural Medicine (WARM) students.

## Agromedicine

- Marshfield Clinic's tradition of caring for farmers, their families and employees continues with the establishment of the specialty FARM (Farm, Agricultural, and Rural Medicine) Clinic. The FARM Clinic is held on the second Tuesday of each month. Drs. Keifer and Steven Kirkhorn, M.D., provide consulting services for agricultural occupational health issues. This includes pesticide exposures, agricultural respiratory and allergic conditions, musculoskeletal disorders affecting the ability to farm and resulting disability issues, complex workers' compensation and other conditions arising from agricultural exposures.

## Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention

- Since establishment of the National Children's Center in 1997, youth farm injury rates have declined nearly 60 percent. Fewer workplace-associated injuries, including reduced injury rates for children on farms, was named one of 10 major public health achievements of the first 10 years of the 21st century, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The list was published in the May 20 issue of CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).
- The Blueprint for Knowledge Translation (B4KT), a project to move state-of-the-art knowledge on childhood agricultural injury prevention into practice, is the latest in a series of guiding documents from the National Children's Center that includes the National Action Plan (1996) and Updated National Action Plan from the 2001 Summit. The initiative is being co-directed by Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director of the National Children's Center, and Susan Gallagher, M.P.H., of Tufts University, with assistance from Children's Center Deputy Director Barbara Marlenga, Ph.D. Blueprint-related articles will be published in the January 2012 issue of the Journal of Agromedicine (edited by the Farm Center).

## Outreach, Media



- The NFMC will offer screenings, exhibits and presentations at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, July 12-14, at Seehafer Acres just north of Marshfield. Coordinated by Tammy Ellis, outreach will include: skin cancer screening in conjunction with the Marshfield

Clinic Dermatology Department; a Safe Play interactive demonstration; and information about the new dairy farm safety consultation services. In the Family Living Tent, Tom Drendel, M.S., agricultural safety specialist, will present on NFMC services, and Medical Director Steven Kirkhorn will discuss AgriSafe-certified clinical services offered through Marshfield Clinic Occupational Health.

- Communications specialist Scott Heiberger and NFMC have begun contributing articles to the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin (PDPW) supplement in Agri-View. Heiberger also wrote an invited article for the Web site of the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists ([www.ifaj.org](http://www.ifaj.org)) on "Media Guidelines for Agricultural Safety."
- The NFMC is celebrating its 30th anniversary! Keep up with the news: [www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc), [www.facebook.com/farmmedicine](http://www.facebook.com/farmmedicine), [www.youtube.com/user/nationalfarmmedicine](http://www.youtube.com/user/nationalfarmmedicine).

## Furthermore ...

Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., has been hired as the new research specialist at the National Children's Center. Salzwedel most recently worked as an instructor at Marshfield Labs. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee and recently completed a master's in human and community resources-adult education from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Salzwedel's responsibilities include several aspects of National Children's Center projects, including facilitation of the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network. ...Dr. Keifer accepted an invitation to serve on the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Occupational Information and Electronic Health Records. The committee is examining the rationale and feasibility of incorporating work history information into patient electronic health records. The committee had its first in-person meeting June 2 - 3 in Washington, D.C. ...Dr. Kirkhorn hosted another successful AgriSafe training in March, with the next scheduled for October 2011. ...In May, Dr. Kirkhorn presented at the Arthritis, Agriculture, and Rural Life (AARL) Conference in West Lafayette, IN. ...Tom Drendel has completed Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) General Industry Standards Training as part of his preparation for on-farm safety consults ... Drendel was named the 2011 "Friend of Agriculture" by the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MACCI).



*Marsha Salzwedel, M.S.*

