

NFMC MILESTONES

Health issues unique to farmers, their families and employees provided the impetus for establishment of the National Farm Medicine Center in 1981. A group of physicians and other professional staff of Marshfield Clinic began discussing the establishment of an agricultural medicine center that would focus on health issues unique to farmers and their families who made up a large segment of the population in central Wisconsin, and who were also patients of Marshfield Clinic. This concept was a natural extension of the ongoing research and clinical expertise at Marshfield Clinic, starting with the Clinic's acquisition of Dean Emanuel, M.D., a cardiologist who joined the staff in 1958. Dr. Emanuel had a deep interest in respiratory illnesses and Farmer's Lung disease and embarked on a series of research projects and investigations of unique maladies occurring in dairy farmers. The rest, as they say, is history

- 1959: First federal grant awarded to Marshfield Clinic from National Institutes for Health (NIH) to study Farmer's Lung disease.
- 1960s: Continuation of work on Farmer's Lung disease and expansion of research into new areas including Organic Dust Toxic Syndrome and Maple Bark disease.
- 1979: Task Force formed to review agriculture-related medical problems as seen by Clinic physicians, leading to formal recommendations in a Feasibility Study.
- 1981: National Farm Medicine Center formed as a program of the Medical Research Foundation.
- 1981: Agricultural Rescue Training programs initiated.
- 1982: National Farm Medicine Center given start-up funds from Marshfield Clinic and formally announced to community and media.
- 1982: First Auction of Champions generates \$11,000 for the work of Farm Medicine.
- 1983: Began health screenings at annual Wisconsin Farm Progress Days.
- 1983: A television education program featuring 22 health topics was developed and distributed to national TV networks.
- 1984: *AgriHealth*, 5-part video education curriculum, was developed and disseminated nationally to high school agriculture teachers.
- 1985: *Today's Farm Health* radio series is broadcast by more than 200 radio networks nationwide.

- 1986: Awarded NIH grant for Marshfield's Specialized Center of Research (SCOR) to study pulmonary response to organic dust exposures.
- 1987: Emergency Room-based farm injury surveillance and noise exposure in agriculture pilot study initiated.
- 1987: Received National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) contracts to develop data collection tools for farm injuries and farm chemical exposure.
- 1988: *The Country Doctor* medical advice column is featured in monthly farm magazines.
- 1988: NFMC's first environmental health project is funded by Amoco Corporation to address leaking underground fuel storage on farms.
- 1989: Received funding from NIOSH for comprehensive, population-based farm injury surveillance.
- 1989: Hosted the "Midwest Conference for Farmers with Disabilities" in Stevens Point, WI.
- 1990: Awarded NIOSH grant for Wisconsin Farmers Cancer Control Program.
- 1991: Designated a NIOSH Center for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention, involving many projects and external collaborations.
- 1991: Farmers Caps and Hats research leads to national media coverage for Marshfield Clinic.
- 1992: Named one of 10 Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian Cancer Screening Centers funded by National Cancer Institute (NCI).
- 1992: Convened a National Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Symposium in Marshfield, WI.
- 1992: Funded by Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau as a Children's Safety Network-Rural Center.
- 1993: Released "A Guide to Tractor Roll Bars and Other Rollover Protective Structures."
- 1993: Environmental Health Laboratory established, with research emphasis on pathogen virulence and infectious disease.
- 1994: Received funding from NIOSH for Upper Midwest Health Study.
- 1995: Hosted the "Midwest Seminar for Health Care Providers: Common Rural and Agricultural Health Problems" in Madison, WI.

- 1996: Led a national committee that developed the “National Action Plan for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention”, adopted and funded by the U.S. Congress.
- 1997: Designated by NIOSH as National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, involving multiple projects and external collaborations.
- 1997: Reproductive Toxicology Lab established, with emphasis on determining adverse effects of agricultural chemical exposures on human reproduction.
- 1998: Received NIOSH grant to study children’s agricultural work guidelines for relevance, applicability and effectiveness.
- 1999: Released North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT).
- 1999: Received funding from NCI for research on the molecular epidemiology of prostate carcinogenesis.
- 2000: Led the National Adolescent Farmworker Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee and published its recommendations in 2001.
- 2000: Awarded a NIOSH grant to assess potential injury prevention impact of NAGCAT using a case series design.
- 2000: Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) established by National Children’s Center.
- 2001: Hosted the National Summit on Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention and published results a year later.
- 2001: “Migrant and Seasonal Hired Adolescent Farmworkers: A Plan to Improve Working Conditions,” published.
- 2002: Funded by NIOSH to study whether a modification of federal child labor laws could reduce injuries to children on family farms.
- 2003: Published “Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms,” the first comprehensive guidelines for designing and building a play area in a farm setting
- 2003: Awarded STAR grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to estimate the burden of acute childhood illnesses attributable to drinking water.
- 2004: Released “Benchmarking Report: Hiring and Safety Practices for Adolescent Workers in Agriculture.”
- 2004: Convened first national Journalists Workshop to expand and enhance media reporting of agricultural health and safety issues.

- 2004: Assumed editorship of the *Journal of Agromedicine*, a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal indexed by the National Library of Medicine.
- 2006: Hosted the National Institute for Farm Safety annual conference in Sheboygan, WI.
- 2006: National public awareness campaign “Keep Kids Away from Tractors” launched.
- 2007: Facilitated establishment of industry-driven Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA).
- 2007: “Agritourism: Health and Safety Guidelines for Children” published.
- 2008: “Safety Guidelines for Hired Adolescent Farm Workers (SaGHAF)” released.
- 2010: Dean Emanuel Endowed Chair position filled; Wisconsin Dairy Workers Safety and Health Initiative launched.
- 2011: Co-founded NIOSH-funded Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health (UMASH) Center in collaboration with University of Minnesota School of Public Health and College of Veterinary Medicine, Minnesota Department of Health, and Migrant Clinicians Network.
- 2011: Partnered with Marshfield Clinic Dermatology to screen 500 people for skin cancer at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Marshfield.
- 2012: Published “Blueprint for Protecting Children in Agriculture: The 2012 National Action Plan.”
- 2012: Released interactive Web guide, “Integrating Safety into Agritourism,” based upon 2007 publication, “Agritourism Health and Safety Guidelines for Children.”
- 2013: Farm MAPPER (Farm Mapping to Assist, Protect and Prepare Emergency Responders), which uses QR codes to provide onsite hazard information to emergency responders, goes live.
- 2013: Wisconsin Infant Study Cohort (WISC) project, a collaboration with University of Wisconsin involving the only rural birth cohort in the nation, completes pilot phase.
- 2013: Wisconsin Rollover Protection Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program established with donor support.
- 2013: “Parent First, Farmer Second” media campaign wins awards for radio, print ads directing farm parents to www.cultivatesafety.org

- 2013: Worked with ASHCA to host first North American Agricultural Safety Summit, Minneapolis.
- 2014: Partnered with Marshfield Clinic Dermatology to screen more than 600 people for skin cancer at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Stevens Point.
- 2015: *UMASH Seguridad en las Lecherias: Immigrant Dairy Worker Health and Safety* project wins award from National Safety Council for Stakeholder Collaboration in Occupational Injury Research.
- 2015: AgInjuryNews.org, an interactive online tool built with publicly-available child ag injury news reports, goes live.
- 2015: “We’re All In!”, summarizing the mutual benefits of employers providing child care services for workers, published by National Children’s Center.
- 2015: Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) national clearinghouse ensures public access to evidence-based safety and health curriculums.
- 2016: Safer Farm, a mobile-friendly tool for assessing and mitigating farm hazards, goes live.
- 2017: Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines – updated, interactive and based on the North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks – are published.
- 2017: A published microbiome study involving farmers and non-farmers provides foundation for research into the farm-as-medicine concept.
- 2018: Hosted first in a series of national Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Workshops.
- 2018: Partnered with Marshfield Clinic Dermatology to screen more than 600 people for skin cancer at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Marshfield.
- 2019: Utilized Auction of Champions’ donor support to implement mental Health First Aid trainings in central Wisconsin farm communities.
- 2019: Dairy Microbiome (DOME) study researches the effect dairy cows have on the microbiome and health of individuals who works on dairy farms.
- 2019: Wisconsin Infant Study Cohort (WISC) study population incorporated into the national Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes, or ECHO, project to better understand the environment’s impact on child health outcomes in rural areas.
- 2019: “Roadmap for Delivering Child Care in Agricultural Communities” published.

- 2019: Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health (RF-DASH) conducts first national workshop.
- 2020: Wisconsin Farm Related Fatalities Report re-started with data from Ag Injury News, and in collaboration with UW-Madison Division of Extension, UW College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Wisconsin Department of Health.
- 2020: *Journal of Agromedicine* issue dedicated to COVID-19's effect on agricultural safety and health receives high readership and citation numbers, helping boost journal's Impact Factor to highest-ever 1.675.
- 2021: Agricultural Rescue Training program restarted with Auction of Champions support.