NFMC TO FEATURE LIVE SAFETY DEMOS AT FARM TECH DAYS 2018

The National Farm Medicine Center’s (NFMC’s) largest-ever safety demonstration will be part of Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, July 10 – 12, near Marshfield. NFMC is working with Pittsville Fire Department, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Progressive Agriculture Safety Days, local FFA chapters and others in setting up live demonstrations in tractor rollovers, tractor rollover rescues, grain rescue, child safe play areas and interactive activities for older children.

NFMC’s parent organization, Marshfield Clinic Health System, is a major sponsor of the 2018 Farm Technology Days and will provide an array of health screenings, including skin cancer screening funded in part by Auction of Champions donors.

“One of the things visitors will see is how closely a health care system can be involved with rural health care, and in taking care of its agricultural community,” said NFMC scientist Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D. “That will be a really neat feature that we haven’t seen at previous Farm Tech Days.” Dr. Bendixsen made his comments in a short Farm Tech Days promotional video, http://bit.ly/2r9iPVI.

Farm Tech Days is being hosted by Daryl and Brenda Sternweis Farms and Weber’s Farm Store/Heiman Holsteins. In 2011, the event was held at nearby Seehafer Acres.

The Farm Safety and Rescue Area will be located on the north end of Tent City. Fire departments from Arpin, Vesper, Richfield and Hewitt will join Pittsville in staffing two of the demos. Adjacent exhibit tables will feature the National Farm Medicine Center and the Wisconsin Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program. The National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety will be in the Future Generations Area, promoting child safe play areas to parents and partnering with Progressive Agriculture Foundation to offer interactive activities for older children and teens, with prizes available for completing activities. To stay updated, like us on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/farmmedicine/ and https://www.facebook.com/CultivateSafety/.
EMANUEL RESEARCH CHAIR TO DR. LEE

National Farm Medicine Center Director Barbara Lee, Ph.D., has been appointed the holder of the Dean Emanuel Endowed Research Chair. Revenue from this endowment, established in 1999, is available for supporting and expanding multidisciplinary research programs, and sustaining and expanding ongoing relationships with clinical providers, external research collaborators and nationally-renowned leaders in agromedicine. The previous holder of the chair, former NFMC Director Matthew Keifer, M.D., drew support for his time as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Agromedicine; several on-farm safety audits via the Agricultural Safety Consulting program; a preliminary study of safety in cranberry operations; refinement of the Farm Cohort within the Marshfield Epidemiologic Study Area (MESA); and a published study of deer hunters and tree stand falls in Wisconsin.

ATV PROJECT USES AGINJURYNEWS.ORG

Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., has been awarded a pilot project, “Addressing the prevalence and underlying causes of 2015 - 2017 ATV/OHV-related injuries on U.S. farms,” from the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH). The project utilizes AgInjuryNews.org, the largest publicly-available dataset of its kind, built by NFMC. The dataset includes approximately 4,000 news reports. To create an account, visit www.AgInjuryNews.org and click “Register”. A new version of AgInjuryNews.org is scheduled for release in June. In addition to adding international data, the site will include more options for searching and filtering, data visualization and customizable email delivery of reports.

CHILD AG INJURY WORKSHOP, AUG. 14-15

A national workshop that will help America raise its next generation of farmers and ranchers has been scheduled for Aug. 14 - 15 in Marshfield. The Child Agricultural Injury Prevention Workshop is all about working together to safeguard youth, said Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. To register, go to www.marshfieldresearch.org/CAIP-Workshop. The workshop is designed for farm organizations, insurance professionals, health care providers, Extension, agribusiness, public health officials and media. John Deere has announced it will contribute $5,000 in sponsorship of the workshop.

ROPS REBATES: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A bill to provide state funding for the Wisconsin Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program was introduced by Rep. Bob Kulp (R-Stratford) and Sen. Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) in January. The bill passed unanimously through both the Assembly and Senate agricultural committees, but the legislature adjourned before scheduling it for a full vote in either house. “It’s very positive that the bill made it through both committees this year, but we’ll need at least one more big push to get it signed into law,” Kulp said. The program is currently funded with philanthropic support from the Auction of Champions. All Wisconsin farmers are eligible to register, call 1-877-ROPS-R4U (1-877-767-7748), or go to www.ropsr4u.com and click on “Wisconsin.” The program reimburses up to 70 percent (maximum of $865) toward retrofitting. A new 90-second whiteboard video (http://bit.ly/2HFlay8) makes the case to register, telling the realistic story of a teenage operator whose tractor tips over during haying.

NFMC DAIRY WORKER TRAINING MANUSCRIPT WINS AWARD

The Seguridad en las lecherías project earned the Sarah Mazelis Health Promotion Practice 2017 Paper of the Year Award from the editors of Health Promotion Practice for the journal article, “Applying learning theory to safety and health training for Hispanic immigrant dairy workers.” The award cited Seguridad’s careful attention to the reduction of worker communication inequalities; to cultural competency; and to political, occupational and linguistic factors that affect workers’ health and the usefulness of safety information. Iris Reyes, M.P.H.; Yurany Ninco Sánchez, R.N.; and Matthew Keifer, M.D., M.P.H., all formerly of the National Farm Medicine Center, co-authored with Migrant Clinicians Network’s Patricia M. Juárez-Carrillo, Ph.D., M.P.H.; and Amy K. Liebman, M.P.A., M.A., Two-thirds of Spanish-speaking dairy workers in Wisconsin participating in Seguridad had never received training in dairy safety. Migrant Clinicians Network, the Farm Center and the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center -- supported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) -- developed a bilingual curriculum for dairy worker safety training, umash.umn.edu/seguridad.

NFMC YEAR IN REVIEW NOW ONLINE

“In their boots” is the theme of the National Farm Medicine Center 2017 Year in Review http://bit.ly/2Igr20T, reflecting the Farm Center’s approach to research with agricultural populations. Editor and outreach specialist Melissa Ploeckelman filled the document with highlights, infographics and blogs by staff, offering a snapshot of the 37th year of the nation’s oldest, continuously-operating agricultural safety and health research center.

PILOT PROJECT SURVEYS YOUNG FARMERS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Josie Rudolphi, Ph.D., has been awarded a pilot project, “Identifying the sources of stress and prevalence of self-reported symptoms of anxiety and depression among young farmers and ranchers,” from the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH). The online survey has been sent to Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher program coordinators in Wisconsin, Kansas, Iowa and North Dakota. Data analysis begins in June.

FURTHERMORE

Save the Date! The Auction of Champions will be held Thursday, Sept. 20, at Riveredge Golf Course in Marshfield. … Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., has been promoted to Associate Research Scientist; Kate Barnes, M.S., has been promoted to Project Manager; and Dyan Frieemoth has joined NFMC as department clerk. Congratulations all! … Authors Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., NFMC, and Serap Gorucci, Ph.D., of Penn State University, highlighted data collection and its safety implications in their article, “Supplemental surveillance: A review of 2015 and 2016 agricultural injury data from news reports on AgInjuryNews.org,” published by the journal Injury Prevention and available at http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/injuryprev-2017-042671.

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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