

Welcome, Stakeholder Advisory Board

The National Children's Center is pleased to announce its Stakeholder Advisory Board: Dee Jepsen, Ph.D., Ohio State University (Chair); Joseph Grzywacz, Ph.D., Florida State University; Matthew Keifer, M.D., M.P.H., University of Washington; Brian Kuhl, Progressive Agriculture Foundation; Jennifer Leonardo, Ph.D., Children's Safety Network; David Schwebel, Ph.D., University of Alabama, Birmingham; Ambra Tennery, M.Ed., National FFA.

The advisors are responsible for providing input to National Children's Center leadership regarding center-wide goals and objectives. These partners are knowledgeable about agricultural health and safety, influential within agricultural communities and have a vested interest in promoting childhood safety and well-being. Based on a recommendation from the first advisory board meeting in January 2021, the National Children's Center established a COVID-19 advisory committee and is working through the development of enhanced materials addressing COVID and children in the agricultural environment. The COVID advisory committee's work will help inform Children's Center preparation for future pandemics and public health emergencies.



National Children's Center
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

"The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety strives to enhance the health and safety of all children exposed to hazards associated with agricultural work and rural environments."

Building on the Guidelines

New resources can help youth stay safe in agriculture

Balanced against the positives of children doing farm work (such as development of work ethic and self-esteem, earned money) there are serious risks. During the past decade, more youth have died working in agriculture than all other industries combined. [Three new safety resource booklets](#) -- covering farm equipment operation, working with animals and gardening -- provide guidelines that can help adults assign age- and ability-appropriate tasks to young people.



"If we can get farm parents and supervisors to use the guidelines to assign work, it will ultimately result in fewer injuries and fatalities for our working youth," said Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D., project scientist with the National Children's Center.

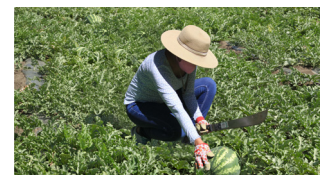
The guidelines are pulled from the [Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines](#), developed by the National Children's Center and covering more than 50 commonly performed tasks. Each guideline contains details about common hazards, important protective strategies and the roles adults play in ensuring a safe work environment.

"The guidelines included in each booklet pertain to a specific topic," Salzwedel said. "For example, in 'Safety Guidelines for Youth Operating Farm Equipment,' we pulled in guidelines relevant to that topic, like 'Operating a Tractor' and 'Operating a Skid Steer.'"

The booklets not only explain how to use the guidelines, they also provide important supplemental information on supervision, child development, communication and regulations. All three booklets are available in English, Spanish and French. To request a print copy of any of the booklets, please email nccrahs@marshfieldresearch.org with your name and shipping information. Digital versions of the booklets can be downloaded at www.cultivatesafety.org/work-guideline-booklets/.

Digital stories for young workers -- a 2020 Mini-Grant project

The National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH), with funding from the National Children's Center's 2020 Mini-Grant program, developed two digital tools that can be used by supervisors to assign work consistent with a youth's abilities. Alicia Gonzales and her team adapted content from "Hand Harvesting Fruits and Vegetables" from the Safety Guidelines for Hired Adolescent Farm Workers (SaGHAF) to create a [digital story](#) and a [supplemental interactive assignment](#), available in English and Spanish. The overall goal of this project was to enhance the guidelines by increasing youth agricultural worker knowledge and adoption of safe practices by providing supervisors with culturally appropriate and appealing tools in addition to helping supervisors assign work consistent with a youth's abilities.



ASHCA honors Barbara Lee with lifetime achievement award

Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director of the National Children's Center, was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at this spring's North American Agricultural Safety Summit, hosted by the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America. "Barbara is a visionary, a pathfinder and a supporting friend," said Dan Hair, recently retired senior vice president and chief risk officer at WCF Insurance, Salt Lake City, Utah. "Her contributions to agricultural safety and health make her worthy of all the thanks and recognition we can give." Lee helped secure funding and support for the incorporation of ASHCA in 2007 and served as ASHCA's first executive director. Previously, Lee directed development of an action plan, leading to the National Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative, implemented in 1996 by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Lee recently talked about her path into safety and the National Children's Center with [Mid-West Farm Report](#).



Barbara Lee, Ph.D.

CASN builds online community

The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) will soon launch an online community! CASN members can utilize the new platform to post announcements, share resources, take quick polls and collaborate on the safety and health of children in agriculture. Upcoming CASN initiatives include safety campaigns, research activities and meetings/educational events. There is no cost to join and participate in the community. CASN was established at the National Children's Center in 2003. For more information, visit cultivatesafety.org/casn/ or email nccrahs@marshfieldresearch.org.



Childhood Agricultural Safety Network

Farm Kid Paradox

Farming is one of the most hazardous industries in the U.S. with an increased risk of injury to those who both work and live on the farm, especially children. However, children raised on farms also enjoy certain social and health benefits. The tension between benefits and risks poses problems for farm parents and safety professionals who wish to work together to mitigate children's risks, as well as enhance the benefits of being raised on farms. A project in the new five-year cycle titled, "The Farm Kid Paradox," is exploring this problem. Team member Kyle Koshalek described the initiative in an [article](#) he wrote for Progressive Dairy and Progressive Cattle magazines.

Article features AgInjuryNews

Occupational fatalities in agriculture are well documented and recorded by the federal government, but tracking non-working bystander and nonfatal injuries to farmers, ranchers, workers and their families falls short. Veteran journalist Mystique Macomber interviewed the experts and wrote a story explaining how AgInjuryNews.org helps fill the gap by compiling injuries reported in news clippings and media reports, while at the same time creating a database of details surrounding incidents that tell stories of real people. [Read the full story](#).

Assessing NCCRAHS pandemic performance

Andrea Swenson, Ph.D., assessed the National Children's Center response to the health and safety needs of farm families during a crisis. Swenson interviewed the center's scientists and staff to understand how the center responded to COVID-19. In addition, farm families were surveyed to identify their needs during COVID-19 in order to increase the Children's Center's capacity to anticipate what will be needed in the future for farms experiencing emergencies. When asked about changes in how children were cared for during the pandemic, a majority of parents reported children spending more time than usual engaged in activities on the farm, with a little over one-third of parents specifically indicating children spent more time than usual engaged in labor on the farm (paid and unpaid).

Furthermore

Read how the National Children's Center pushed ahead with its research, and addressed emerging pandemic-related issues, in the National Farm Medicine Center [2020 Year in Review](#) ... Josie Rudolphi, Ph.D., assistant professor at the University of Illinois and PI for Farm Adolescent and Adult Mental Health (NCCRAHS Project), has been elected to the board of the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health, where she joins the Children's Center's Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D. Rudolphi's three-year term began June 2021 ... The Journal of Agromedicine seeks papers to be considered for an issue dedicated to, "The Future of Agriculture: Impact on Health and Safety." For information, go to <https://www.marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc>. ... Florence Becot, Ph.D., co-authored an article, "[Family farms are struggling with two hidden challenges: health insurance and child care](#)," in The Conversation, an independent and non-profit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. The Conversation's content is published in a creative commons fashion, which led to the article being picked up by the Associated Press, Yahoo News and many smaller outlets. ... Pesticides are a health hazard for children of seasonal farm workers. The National Children's Center and long-time collaborator Migrant Clinicians Network teamed up to edit and publish a second edition of "Aunque Cerca ... Sano (Pesticides nearby ... but healthy)" (<https://bit.ly/3geGAoe>) a guide to prevent pesticide exposure.