



National Children's Center marks 25 years

The U.S. Congress provided targeted funding to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in 1997 to implement a National Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative. Through a cooperative agreement, the National Children's Center was established as an extramural component of the initiative. Join us in 2022 as we thank those who have worked collaboratively to drive down the rates of childhood agricultural injury, and take stock in our collective accomplishments. Look for more news and activities related to "25" throughout 2022.



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."

New online community links child farm safety advocates

The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network, or CASN, has introduced a new online community that makes it easy for people who are interested in keeping children safe on farms to connect, collaborate, learn and share.

Members can post and discuss child agricultural injury incidents; ask questions; chat; and share resources, events, news and announcements. The community offers safety strategies and health expertise.

"The possibility for enhancing communication and collaboration that are offered with this online community are tremendous," said Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D., program manager for the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network.

The online community is reaching new audiences, Salzwedel said. Traditionally, network partners received one-way communication through an email listserv hosted and managed by the National Children's Center.

The idea for the online community grew out of two assessments conducted by the National Children's Center – the 2020 Vision project and a Needs Assessment for Enhancing Child Agricultural Injury Prevention. The results showed that while the National Children's Center is recognized as the national leader in child agricultural injury prevention, more networking activities were needed to strengthen partnerships, increase private sector engagement and increase the public's awareness of the importance of preventing child ag injuries and illnesses.

Salzwedel said online community membership is increasing as people learn about it and some find it by online searches. To request an invitation to the online community, go to <https://www.childagsafety.org/> or to learn more about CASN, visit <https://cultivatesafety.org/casn/>.



Emerging issues grants awarded for FY 2022

In order to address new and unresolved environmental, policy, technology and agricultural production issues affecting the well-being of children, an Emerging Issues Program (<https://marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/EIP/fundedprojects>) was created for this National Children's Center grant cycle under the leadership of Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D. Response was strong. After careful review, four grants were awarded:

- "Investigating the work, education, and health experiences of hired Latinx child farmworkers in the era of COVID-19," Taylor Arnold, M.A., (Ph.D. Candidate), Wake Forest School of Medicine; Winston-Salem, N.C.
- "Exploring the impact of public health emergencies and disasters on the children of agricultural workers in Puerto Rico," Marysel Pagan Santana, Dr.PH., Migrant Clinicians Network; San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- "Together: A safer home on the farm," Katherine Brieger, M.A., R.D., C.C.E., Warwick Area Farmworker Organization, Goshen, N.Y. The goal of this project is to develop an educational module focused on child safety in agricultural settings.
- "Environmental health issues among children living in Imperial County," Nicolas Lopez-Galvez, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A., San Diego State University, San Diego, Calif.



Children's Center co-hosts workshop with NIOSH ag centers

The National Children's Center co-hosted the Child Agricultural Safety and Health Workshop in September 2021 with 10 other agricultural centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). More than 40 attendees representing Extension, health care, farm organizations, public health, academia and media participated in the interactive online workshop, held across three half-days and coinciding with National Farm Safety and Health Week. Workshop materials were made available to all participants online in the workshop section of the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network Online Community (<https://ChildAgSafety.org/>), including recordings of the workshop sessions. Workshop topics included information on both non-working and working children, with an additional focus on special populations. Plans call for an in-person workshop in 2022.

Talking safety at National FFA

National Children's Center staff engaged with approximately 1,300 students and teachers at the National FFA Convention & Expo, Oct. 26-29, 2021, in Indianapolis. Marsha Salzwedel and Melissa Ploeckelman joined nine other agricultural safety-oriented organizations in a dedicated safety expo area. Salzwedel and Ploeckelman played Safety Jeopardy with visitors and featured promotion of the Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines and AgInjuryNews. They also administered a short survey on behalf of the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH).

Farm Kid Paradox flyer published



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 Children's Center project headed by Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D., "The Farm Kid Paradox," is exploring this problem. (<https://marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/FarmKidParadox>)

ATV-UTV campaign to launch

A tri-fold safety brochure and poster are the first pieces of a Childhood Agricultural Safety Network all-terrain vehicle/utility-task vehicle safety campaign launching in 2022. All network members will be invited to participate. Check with www.cultivatesafety.org/casn for more information as the campaign rolls out.



Tools of the Trade empower safety professionals

Eighteen "Tools of the Trade," displaying the combined efforts of 16 organizations and each featuring a video demonstrating a safety resource/tool, are available at <https://cultivatesafety.org/tools-of-the-trade/>. The tools include handouts that describe the tool, how to access/build/rent or buy the tool, and activity sheets enabling participants to practice using the tool. The tools began as Learning Labs planned for the March 2021 ASHCA Safety Summit. The Learning Labs originally were conceived as live interactive sessions, however due to the pandemic, sessions were adapted to virtual booths.

Linking child care to farm safety

An environmental scan of 91 farm programs and resources offered by 63 organizations in Ohio, Vermont and Wisconsin, and at the national level, revealed that 53% of the programs or resources made no mention of children/family aspects, and 84% made no mention of child care; even those programs/resources targeted at beginning farmers and women. Children/family aspects were integrated into just 18% of programming, while only 4% integrated child care aspects. The review is part of a National Children's Center project examining the strategies that farm parents use to take care of their children during the workday, and how these strategies connect to farm parents' ability to get their work done and the safety of their children. The research is being conducted by Florence Becot, Ph.D., and Shoshanah Inwood, Ph.D., Ohio State University.



Farm parents sought for research study

Do news reports about farm injuries to children affect parents' knowledge, attitude and behavior toward child safety on farms? The National Children's Center is recruiting farm parents to participate in a study assessing the effects of reading injury news articles, said lead researcher Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D. For information, visit <https://marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/NewsReportStudy/SpNynV> or e-mail burke.richard@marshfieldresearch.org.

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The National Children's Center and National Farm Medicine Center welcome four new staff members: Yasamin Aftahi (health educator), Chris Benny (research coordinator), Cassandra Peltier (health educator associate) and Chris Wanat (research coordinator). The National Children's Center will be well-represented at two upcoming conferences: The North American Agricultural Safety Summit, March 28-30, 2022, Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino (www.ashca.org), and the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health, June 12-16, 2022, Fort Collins, Colo. (www.isash.org). Visit the respective websites for registration information.