

## Safeguarding youth: 'Frontiers' special issue

The National Children's Center is editing a special issue of *Frontiers in Public Health*. "Safeguarding Youth from Agricultural Injury and Illness: International Perspectives." "We anticipate 30 manuscripts, including commentaries or research from 11 different countries – all available online by early December 2022," said Guest Editor Barbara Lee. Issue coordinator Christopher Benny, two international editors and several Children's Center scientists are assisting. Plans call for creation of an E-Book featuring this unique collection of research findings, brief reports and international commentaries. [Click here](#) for more information.

## 'Tools of the Trade' on display at conference

When it comes to learning, interactive activities are more effective than lectures. That's why hands-on lessons are at the heart of "[Tools of the Trade](#)," a collection of agricultural safety videos and related resources covering key topics and designed to educate viewers about agricultural hazards and injury prevention strategies. "Tools of the Trade, or TOTs, as we call them, are a fun and engaging way to learn about hazards and safety strategies," said Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D. TOTs-inspired exhibits will be featured at the Wisconsin EMS Association conference, Feb. 1-4, 2023, in Green Bay, Wis. "TOTs are great at community events or in training sessions, and producers can use them to learn more about safety on their operations and teach their families and employees about being safe on the farm or ranch." Organizations contributing to the Tools collection included Ohio State University, AgriSafe, Progressive Agriculture Foundation, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-funded Centers for Agricultural Safety and Health, and others.



Barbara Lee, Ph.D.

## National Children's Center director testifies before Congress

In perhaps the National Children's Center's deepest push into public policy, center director Barbara Lee, Ph.D., testified before Congress on Sept. 7 as one of three invited witnesses in support of the Children's Act for Responsible Employment and Farm Safety of 2022, or CARE Act. Key points of the act include raising the minimum hiring age from 12 years to 14 years (consistent with other industries) and pursuing updates to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The fully remote hearing, "Children at Risk: Examining Workplace Protections for Child Farmworkers," covered the current state of federal child labor laws and protections and policy proposals to improve them. It was conducted by the Workforce Protections Subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor, chaired by Alma Adams, D-North Carolina.

A recording of the session is [archived](#). Also testifying were: Margaret Wurth, Human Rights Watch; and Norma Flores Lopez, Child Labor Coalition. Testifying for the minority was Kristi Boswell, counsel for a Washington, D.C. law firm, and previously senior policy advisor for U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

### In conclusion, Lee made the following evidence-based recommendations:

- Raise the minimum age for hired workers from 12 to 14 years.
- Update the Hazardous Occupation Orders in Agriculture consistent with work practices, technology and science, noting that this process must be in partnership with representatives of agricultural business, farm organizations and youth-serving groups.
- And while maintaining the Fair Labor Standards Act family farm exemption, provide training to local public agency staff such as child welfare services and district attorneys to intervene in cases where young people – family or hired – are endangered through farm work that compromises their overall safety and well-being.

"Despite considerable progress in the past 30 years, far too many young people are still impacted by health conditions, injuries and death associated with agriculture," Lee said. "At the same time, appropriate, supervised work for young people offers valuable experiences and perspectives as they later become productive contributors to society."



"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."

## Pilot project to assess 'incident' vs. 'accident'

A pilot project assessing U.S. media reaction to a suggested terminology shift from "accident" to "incident" in news reports of childhood agricultural injury has been funded by the National Children's Center. "We



envison the project results serving as the foundation for a larger project to influence a lasting shift in the language used to describe agricultural injuries and fatalities throughout the U.S.," said Christopher Benny, principal investigator. Benny will compile a list of news media reports found in AgInjuryNews.org between August 2022 and January 2023 that refer to fatal and nonfatal childhood (ages 0-17) agricultural injuries as "accidents." Journalists who authored the "accident" injury reports will be contacted with a recommendation to use "incident" in place of "accident" and their reactions will be gauged via their responses to this suggestion. The pilot is part of an expansion of funding options spearheaded by Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., director of the Emerging Issues Program. Two tracks will allow for periodic "calls" for proposals as well as intermittent requests for funds for short-term initiatives. Each track has a review/approval process based on the amount of funds requested. For information see the [Emerging Issues](#) page.

## Workshop tradition continues

"Enhancing the Safety and Health of Youth Working in Ag," a virtual workshop held Sept. 28, continued the National Children's Center tradition of collaborating with other organizations to facilitate workshops to increase knowledge and awareness of child agricultural safety and health issues. The workshop was co-hosted with AgriSafe Network and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health. The workshops are designed to equip participants with the information and resources needed to develop and enhance their organization's child agricultural safety and health efforts. Since 2004, the National Children's Center has conducted workshops on journalism, agritourism, general child agricultural injury prevention and working youth.

## National FFA

Melissa Ploeckelman, Chris Wanat and Rick Burke, M.P.H., represented the National Children's Center and the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center at the 95th National FFA Convention and Expo, Oct. 26-29, 2022, in Indianapolis. They engaged with approximately 1,200 students, advisors and guests, conducting outreach, handing out surveys and recruiting research participants for the centers.



## Child care as business issue

There has been limited focus on the needs of the farm household, especially those connected to raising children, said National Children's Center scientist Florence Becot, Ph.D., and colleague Shoshanah Inwood, Ph.D., in an article they published in the quarterly newsletter of the Purdue Institute for Family Business ([starting on page 6](#)). Over the past decade, Becot and Inwood's U.S. Department of Agriculture- and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded research on child care and health insurance has found that when farm families experience challenges meeting the social and economic needs of the household, their business can be negatively impacted. Now engaged in the next phase of their work, Becot and Inwood are talking with women raising children on farms to learn about their experiences raising children on farms, their child care arrangements and strategies to keep them safe. For more information, see <https://marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/FarmChildrenChildcare>



Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D.

## Furthermore

Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D., presented on risk management and safety at the International Workshop on Agritourism in Burlington, Vt. [The conference](#) (Aug. 30-Sept. 1) drew nearly 500 attendees from more than 50 countries. Salzwedel

highlighted resources from [www.safeagritourism.com](http://www.safeagritourism.com). ... Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D., National Children's Center associate director, has received the 2022 Gwen D. Sebold Fellowship for Outstanding Research. The fellowship has been given by D. David "Dewey" Sebold of Medford, Wis., since 1988 to recognize an outstanding researcher and support continued research in his or her field. ... Casper Bendixsen and Marsha Salzwedel will co-host a child ag safety workshop as a component of the 14th [World Conference](#) on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Adelaide, Australia in late November 2022 ... Cassey Peltier, health educator associate, disseminated the research and resources of the National Children's Center at the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals (NAE4-HYDP), Oct. 11-13, in Madison, Wis. ... Kyle Koshalek, project manager, discusses the Farm Kid Paradox project with [Mid-West Farm Report](#) (starting at the 3-minute mark) and answers the question, "Do the risks outweigh the benefits"? ... Scott Heiberger, M.S., and Melissa Ploeckelman participated in the National Association of Farm Broadcasting annual conference, Nov. 16-17, in Kansas City, Mo. More than 500 people attended the conference. Heiberger and Ploeckelman used their exhibit booth and interviews to disseminate the research and resources of the National Children's Center to regional and national audiences.