

FARM-HAT undergoes mobile facelift

The Farm/Agriculture/Rural Management - Hazard Analysis Tool (FARM-HAT) <http://www.agsafety.psu.edu/farmhat/farmhat.html>, developed by Penn State University, is a simple method of providing first-hand information about hazards, a process for evaluating hazards, and recommendations on correcting hazards. A National Children's Center project is developing a new version of the FARM-HAT application for farmers, insurance underwriters, and safety inspectors who need to map potential farm hazards and assess their risks. Built upon a geospatial platform, FARM-HAT will be a mobile-friendly website that allows users to place potential farm hazards on a digital map of the farm. The core foundational elements of this application will be reused across the other applications within a larger suite.



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."

Changing Demographics: Reaching beginning farmers and ranchers

The agricultural safety and health field is not entirely prepared for the rapidly changing demographics of agriculture. The average age of U.S. farmers and ranchers is nearing 60, and many of those who are taking their places lack agricultural backgrounds and come from previously underrepresented and unique social-cultural backgrounds.

The National Children's Center is addressing this safety knowledge gap through a research project, "Intervention through Inquiry: understanding beginning farmers and ranchers." The overall goal of the project is to increase beginning farmers' and ranchers' knowledge of safety and injury prevention, especially with respect to the children they raise, hire and host on their farms or ranches.

As part of that project, PI Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D., began engaging the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), a nonprofit organization based in Spring Valley, Wis. MOSES hosts the nation's largest annual conference on organic and sustainable farming, drawing 3,000-plus each February. A significant percentage of the MOSES membership includes young, beginning farmers with children.

"It's important to tap into groups with whom farmers and ranchers already identify. MOSES is just one example of this. The intention is to get groups such as MOSES excited about child health and safety," said Dr. Bendixsen, a cultural anthropologist. "One of the ways to do that is to develop local health and injury prevention expertise through education and pilot project development."

MOSES applied for, and was awarded, a National Children's Center mini-grant of \$20,000 to pilot and evaluate child farm safety outreach to 10,500 farm households in the upper Midwest. They are excited about the inclusion of children's health and safety in workshops, publications, and in their online presence.



MIDWEST ORGANIC
& Sustainable Education Service
MOSES

Ultimately, by working with the organizations that attract emerging farm communities, researchers will come away with an enhanced understanding of the future of U.S. agriculture, and of the unique, emerging cultural groups. Other groups currently participating with Dr. Bendixsen's project include the National Women in Agriculture Association and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Kathrine Barnes, M.S., M.P.H., a recent addition to the National Children's Center team, is assisting Dr. Bendixsen. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

"In the end, the study communities will have interventions tailored to their feedback, and will go on to develop childhood agricultural safety expertise of their own," Dr. Bendixsen said.

AgInjuryNews.org news clippings database

There exists no systematic collection of farm related injuries or deaths in the U.S. As a result, newspaper clippings have long been used as a source of information on injuries. The National Children's Center has built and continues to improve a searchable, web-based news clippings database called Ag Injury News, www.aginjurynews.org. (You will need to register and set up an account.) Although it began as a National Children's Center project, Ag Injury News is now including adult injury events. The initiative is being led by Bryan Weichelt, M.S., M.B.A.

A large set of searchable variables on the website includes: age, gender, injury agent, year, month, article source, location, and others. Users can quickly conduct a detailed search such as finding "the number of Minnesota farm-related ATV incidents in the past two years, with victims under the age of seven."

As of November 2015, there are more than 2,000 news articles loaded into the system with more being added every week. Next steps include developing prevention messages and linking them to incident topics within the system.



Bryan Weichelt introduced Ag Injury News during a September webinar with Marsha Salzwedel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children's Center surveys insurers about safety

The National Children's Center surveyed attendees at the 2015 National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies' Agricultural Risk Inspection School in West Des Moines, Iowa. The survey assessed current practices and future opportunities to promote childhood ag injury prevention. Ninety-six of 170 attendees (loss control specialists, underwriters, managers and supervisors) completed the survey.

- 85% of respondents indicated they communicate safety messages to farmers
- 83% adjust rates based on loss control surveys
- 75% want to strengthen their company's focus on child ag safety

Final results will be published by year's end. Check the National Children's Center website or contact Marsha Salzwedel, salzwedel.marsha@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.



Child ag safety webinars archived

Childhood Agricultural Safety Network has archived three recent webinars at <http://www.childagsafety.org/events-meetings/>.

Stand T.A.L.L. Two webinars presented by the Grain Handling Safety Coalition introduced the Stand T.A.L.L. (Talk, Ask, Learn, Live) curriculum and explained how it can be used to empower young



workers. "If youth don't understand a task, they need to know that asking questions is the right thing to do," said co-presenter Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., youth agricultural safety specialist, National Children's Center. The webinars also explained how the materials can be used to educate parents, employers and community members. "Adults are the ones who assign jobs and control the work environment, and they can provide the personal protective equipment that youth may need," said co-presenter Amy Rademaker, farm safety specialist, Carle Hospital, Champaign-Urbana, Ill.

"It's harvest season: Are the children safe?" This webinar described actual childhood injury incidents, previewed an injury news clippings website and offered proven safety strategies and resources that farmers, parents and employers are encouraged to use to keep children safe. Presenters were Salzwedel and National Children's Center colleague Bryan Weichelt, M.S., M.B.A. Salzwedel added a provocative "myth busting" segment and tackled myths that put children at risk such as, "children need to ride tractors at a young age to get them interested in farming."



Come join Child Ag Safety Network!

It was great to see everyone at the annual in-person meeting of the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN), June 22, 2015, in Normal, Ill., during the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health conference. More than

40 organizations were represented! Seeds were planted for several collaborations. Maybe your organization should join? Go to <http://www.childagsafety.org/>.

Welcome to the National Children's Center



Kathrine Barnes, M.S., M.P.H.

Trained in medical anthropology and public health, Barnes, a research specialist, is working primarily with Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D., on the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Farm Injury and Illness Surveillance, and Spheres of Influence projects. She conducts participant-observation fieldwork, interviews, and leverages existing data sets to more broadly impact farm safety and rural health. Barnes' background includes working on a variety of research projects at

many levels, from data entry to co-principal investigator. Her research has been in substance abuse treatment communities and prescription drug abuse, in both urban and rural settings. She obtained her bachelor's degrees in anthropology and psychology from Texas Tech University and her master's degrees in anthropology and public health from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Lori Breitzke

The National Children's Center/National Farm Medicine Center is pleased to announce Lori Breitzke as its administrative secretary. Breitzke came to the Farm Center from Marshfield Clinic, where she worked in Financial Services and as an education program specialist. Breitzke assists in all aspects of the Children's Center and Farm Center operations including scheduling,

organizing daily activities, and assisting all members of the NFMC staff with any needs.

In Print/Journal of Agromedicine

The Journal of Agromedicine has published seven papers so far in 2015 on the topic of childhood/youth safety and health. To view abstracts, go to <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wagr20/current> and click "View all volumes and issues." You can also type the author's name into the search box.

The Journal is edited at the National Farm Medicine Center. Matt Keifer, M.D., M.P.H., is editor-in-chief.

Scott Heiberger is managing editor. For information, contact agromedicine@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.



- Children's Agricultural Safety Network: Evaluating Organizational Effectiveness and Impacts (Mary E. Cramer and Mary J. Wendel)
- Occupational and Nonoccupational Farm Fatalities Among Youth for 2000 Through 2012 in Pennsylvania (Serap Gorucu, Dennis Murphy and Cathy Kassab)
- Integrating Cost-effective Rollover Protective Structure Installation in High School Agricultural Mechanics: A Feasibility Study (Joan Mazur, Stacy Vincent, Jennifer Watson and Susan Westneat)

(continued on page 4)

Schedule of upcoming events

Feb. 2, 2016

Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America annual business meeting, Washington, DC
www.ashca.org

Feb. 24 - 26, 2016

Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health, Portland, OR
http://www.nwrpca.org/events/event_details.asp?id=616532

March 6 - 12, 2016

Agricultural Safety Awareness Week (American Farm Bureau Federation)
<http://www.fb.org/programs/healthandsafety/home/>

April 11 - 14, 2016

AgrAbility National Training Workshop, Fort Collins, CO
<http://www.agrability.org/AgrAbility-National-Training-Wkshp/>

May 23 - 25, 2016

National Farmworker Health Conference, Portland, OR
<http://meetings.nachc.com/c-training/national-farmworkers-health-conference/>

June 26 - 30, 2016

International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health, Lexington, KY
<http://isash.org>

In Print *(continued)*

- Agricultural Occupational Health and Safety Perspectives Among Latino-American Youth (M. E. Perla, Esmeralda Iman, Leticia Campos, Alexandra Perkins, Amy K. Liebman, Mary E. Miller, Nancy J. Beaudet and Catherine J. Karr)
- Animal-Related Activities as Risk Factors for Injuries Among Youth on Agricultural Operations (Andrew D. Ryan, Susan G. Gerberich, Bruce H. Alexander and Colleen M. Renier)
- Farm Activities and Agricultural Injuries in Youth and Young Adult Workers (Yvonne DeWit, William Pickett, Joshua Lawson, James Dosman for the Saskatchewan Farm Injury Cohort Team)
- Rural Dwelling and Temporal Trends in Relation to Childhood Asthma and Related Conditions in Belarus: A Repeated Cross-Sectional Survey (Grzegorz Brozek, Andrei Shpakou, Joshua Lawson and Jan Zejda)

Nurture is a publication of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (a program of Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wisconsin).

It is published three times each year to disseminate children's rural health and safety information to professionals in the fields of health and safety agri-business, the media, and others.

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