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

*2000 Year in Review*

## *Mission Statement*

*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.*

The staff of the National Children's center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety wishes to acknowledge the support and cooperation of the following:

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH award no. (05/CCU514436-03 and U07/CCU507126-09), Maternal & Child Health Bureau (HRSA contract no. 240-98-0005), the Connor Trust Funds, Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, Education Development Center, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, Migrant Clinicians Network, National Center for Farmworker Health, National SAFE KIDS Campaign, National Safety Council, *Progressive Farmer Magazine*, University of California – Davis, National Farm Medicine Center and Marshfield Clinic.



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

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<http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children>  
<http://www.nagacat.org>

## Letter from the Director



The mission of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety reflects the range of activities undertaken by our staff during 2000. From rural youth suicide prevention discussions in South Carolina to focus groups with migrant teen farmworkers in Texas, staff members generated questions and worked with colleagues to pose solutions to complex problems. This was truly a year during which staff members demonstrated their expertise and commitment on issues that span beyond traditional interventions for safety among residential farm children.

Highlights of 2000 are reflected in staff updates and lists of accomplishments within this report. From my perspective, however, the most notable achievements are not quantifiable in lists, pie charts or bar graphs. Like a proud parent, I have observed and listened to staff members as their passion and expertise has evolved on topics related to children, injury and violence prevention, rural and agricultural life, and human rights. Lively debates and "deep thoughts" issue discussions have stimulated creative thinking and grounded our beliefs in certain principles. These staff discussions have also been augmented with visiting scholars, international guests, extensive networking that provides insights into national and global problems and potential solutions. Over the past year, our staff members shared their knowledge and demonstrated their willingness to "push the envelope" at national meetings of agricultural employers, in open letters to agricultural media, and in one-on-one conversations with parents and farm safety specialists. Marshfield's leadership in rural and agricultural childhood safety is notable because of these staff members who are highly competent, committed, curious and caring.

Looking back and moving forward, there have been some truly amazing people who have shaped our work. In January 2000, we lost a great friend, Dean Stueland, M.D., whose life ended far too soon from cancer. Dr. Stueland's leadership in farm injury surveillance and his humanitarian approach to people and their problems continues to inspire our research and programmatic efforts. Paul Gunderson, Ph.D., Director of MMRF, was a prime source of information on agriculture, rural communities, and research methodology; and this past year he followed his heart and returned to farming in North Dakota. But we are getting recharged here. Our new MMRF Director, Michael Caldwell, M.D., is now generating enthusiasm for building capacity with an eye on future research that addresses the interaction effects of human health and safety, rural environmental impacts, and numerous research questions. Support from these and other Marshfield leaders has accorded us the energy and tenacity to accept major challenges and tackle some mighty tough issues.

A "news flash" that occurred just as the year was ending indicates what 2001 holds for us. Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl facilitated congressional allocation of funds to convene a Rural Youth Safety Summit. This money will allow us to use our skills in consensus development once again – evaluating progress to date in injury prevention and suggesting specific, tailored approaches for rural and agricultural injury prevention in the future. We end the year delighted to know that our efforts are making a difference, and that our role as national leaders will continue to be tapped in the coming year and this new millennium.

*Barbara Lee*

Barbara Lee, R.N., Ph.D.  
Director



## Staff Summaries



**Holly DeBlois, M.S.**

During 2000, Holly's major activity involved planning the "Community Response to Native American Transportation Safety in the New Millennium" conference in Green Bay, Wisc., in April. Native Americans in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan experience a motor vehicle crash death rate nearly three times the rate for the U.S. general population. This conference brought together 64 tribal community members from 16 different tribes to learn about transportation safety issues (such as child safety seat and seatbelt use), to identify transportation safety problems within their tribal communities and to develop an action plan to address identified problems. Holly's expertise in rural transportation issues also led to new resources such as a fact sheet regarding youth riding in pickup truck cargo areas.



**Nancy Esser, B.S.**

Nancy Esser continues to coordinate nearly all activities and communications associated with the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT). During 2000, Nancy also assumed responsibility for managing the Children's Center websites (<http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/> and <http://www.nagcat.org/>). Nancy supervised a Marshfield Medical Research Foundation summer student, Ann Baker, whose project was to assess the strengths and weaknesses of farm safety day camps. This project yielded interesting results to be reported in the literature.



**Chris Hanna, M.P.H.**

The Children's Safety Network (CSN) Rural Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Center was established in 1992 with funds from the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) as part of a network of resource centers located around the country. Chris Hanna serves as manager, with Holly DeBlois as the rural youth safety specialist. The Center works to strengthen and expand the capacity of maternal and child health professionals to reduce injuries and violence to children and adolescents living in rural communities. During 2000, Chris expanded his expertise in rural youth violence and suicide prevention, and traveled the U.S. making nearly 30 formal presentations to professional audiences at conferences and meetings.



**Barbara Marlenga, R.N., Ph.D.**

This was a significant year for Dr. Barbara Marlenga's research program. She continued into the third year of the NIOSH-funded "Work Guidelines: Evaluation of Dissemination Methods" study, which compares the efficacy of the standard dissemination strategy with an enhanced, multi-phased dissemination approach in influencing parents' use of NAGCAT when assigning work to their children. Barbara and her colleagues recently completed 15-month follow-up interviews with 450 farm families across the U.S. and Ontario, Canada. Data analysis is now underway. Late in 2000, Barbara received funding from NIOSH to conduct another major study related to NAGCAT – a case series analysis of childhood agricultural injuries (see related story on page 10).

Another research endeavor has been an "Examination of Rural Youth Risk Behavior Using National Survey Data." The purpose of this pilot project was to assess the feasibility of using data from the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) to examine and compare reported risk behaviors between rural and urban youth. Theoretical concerns about the data files with regard to weighting of the sample led to concerns about the accuracy of the data on the rural subgroup that made up the national sample. Thus, it was not feasible to use the current YRBSS data files to examine rural youth risk behaviors.



**Martha Vela, M.D., M.S., Ph.D.**

A major initiative of the Children's Center has been the National Adolescent Farmworker Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee (NAFOHSAC), directed by Dr. Martha Vela. Twenty-seven individuals representing government agencies, agricultural organizations, health care practitioners, and migrant workers met periodically via teleconference, e-mail, and in person (Minneapolis, Minn., in April) to generate recommendations on how agricultural employers and federal agencies can provide a safer work environment for migrant and seasonal teen workers in agriculture. This effort, culminating in a published report, will be completed in early 2001. The initiative was commended by the U.S. Department of Labor as relevant to its overall program addressing child labor issues. NAFOHSAC also has received support from the National Council of Agricultural Employers, an organization representing 400 different agricultural and growers groups. In addition to coordinating NAFOHSAC, Dr. Vela enhanced the Children's Center's capacity to address migrant farmworker issues by building relationships with migrant organizations, advocates and agricultural employers through professional conferences, focus groups, and on-site farm and ranch visits.

### *Steve Schaefer, M.S.*

For the first six months of the year, Steve Schaefer continued his role as Program Manager for the NIOSH-funded aspects of the National Children's Center. Steve upgraded websites and facilitated interactions with formal collaborating agencies as well as Youth Advisors. Under Steve's direction, our youth advisor, Josh Zeitheimer, formally presented NAGCAT, using a game skit, to a large audience of teenagers at the National Safety Council's Youth Division meeting in Orlando, Fla., in February. Steve now serves as Safety Director at a major electric power company in Wausau, WI.

## *Presentations*

National SAFE KIDS Leadership Conference

January 15-19, 2000; Washington, DC

"North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks," Nancy Esser

Michigan Childhood Injury Prevention Conference

January 26-28, 2000; Lansing, MI

"Prevention Programs: A Toolbox for Community Action," "Recreational Vehicle Safety: Snowmobiles," and "Rural Adolescent Suicide Prevention" Chris Hanna

American Farm Bureau Labor Policy Advisors Meeting

January 26-28, 2000; New Orleans, LA

"Adolescent Farmworkers," Martha Vela

Agriculture-related Safety Awareness for Children Conference

January 27-28, 2000; Natchez, MS

"The Problem: Current Data on the Need for Agricultural Safety Awareness and Reduction of Agricultural-related Injuries Among Youth," Barbara Marlenga

National Agricultural Employers Association

February 1-2, 2000; Washington, D.C.

"Adolescent Farmworkers," Martha Vela

National Safety Council Youth Division Conference

February 24-27, 2000; Orlando, FL

"North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks," Steve Schaefer and Josh Zeitheimer

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Youth Farmers Conference

March 4, 2000; Wisconsin Dells, WI

"North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks," Nancy Esser

2nd National Emergency Medical Services for Children Congress

March 27-29, 2000; Baltimore, MD

"Considerations for Suicide Prevention for Rural Adolescents," Chris Hanna

NIOSH Ag Research Centers Biannual Conference

April 26-30, 2000; Cooperstown, NY

"Evaluation of a National FFA Educational Initiative – Partners for a Safer Community,"

Barb Lee; "NAGCAT: Methods, Results, and Implications," Barbara Marlenga; and

"Assessing the Occupational Health and Safety Risks for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers," Martha Vela

11th Environmental Health Symposium:

Environmental Health and Safety Risks for Children

April 27, 2000; Eau Claire, WI

"Public Health Approach to Childhood Injury Prevention," Chris Hanna

Healthy People Wood County Planning Meeting

May 3, 2000; Pittsville, WI

"Sociocultural Data for Wood County, Wisconsin," Chris Hanna

Firearm Violence: Community Diagnosis and Treatment Conference

May 10, 2000; Marshfield, WI

"Rural Adolescent Use of Firearms in Suicide – Wisconsin," Chris Hanna

Ag Health: Disability Conference

May 25, 2000; LaCrosse, WI

"North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks," Nancy Esser

Healthy People Wood County Planning Meeting

May 31, 2000; Pittsville, WI

"Agricultural and Occupational Injuries in Wood County," Chris Hanna

Community Approach to Agricultural Safety: Rural Youth Summer Seminar

June 4-7, 2000; Marshfield, WI

"Child Development Approach to Improving Health and Safety," Barbara Marlenga;

"Principles of Injury Prevention" and "Tinkering with the Community Approach to Ag

Health and Safety Group Simulation," Chris Hanna; "Agricultural Health and Safety

Principles," Nancy Esser; "Assessing Community and Organizational 'Readiness' to

Enhance Youth Safety Programming," Holly DeBlois

Texas Ag Teachers Convention

July 31-August 4, 2000; Lubbock, TX

"Child Development Approach to Youth Agricultural Safety," Nancy Esser

State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Assn. Meeting

September 10-14, 2000; Chapel Hill, NC

"Rural Youth Violence: A Public Health Approach," Chris Hanna

1st Annual Southwest Childhood Injury Prevention Conference  
September 20-21, 2000; San Antonio, TX  
"A Public Health Response to Rural Adolescent Suicide," "Developing Resources in Rural Communities," & "Childhood Firearm Safety: A Public Health Problem," Chris Hanna

Central States Agricultural Health and Safety Conference  
September 20-22, 2000; Kansas City, KS  
Poster – "Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks: Strategies for Influencing Farm Families," Nancy Esser

Nordic Conference on Agricultural Health and Safety  
September 22-24, 2000; Malmö, Sweden  
"Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention in the U.S.," Barb Lee

Karolinska Institute, School of Public Health  
September 26, 2000; Stockholm, Sweden  
"NAGCAT," Barb Lee

3rd Annual Regional Summit on Violence  
September 28-29, 2000; Quincy, IL  
"A Public Health Response to Rural Adolescent Suicide," Chris Hanna

1st Annual Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services  
for Children Injury Prevention Conference  
October 10, 2000; Appleton, WI  
"Injury Prevention in Your Community," "A Public Health Response to Rural Adolescent Suicide," "Adolescent Suicide Issues in Wisconsin," and "Putting it All Together," Chris Hanna

Public Hearing on the National Suicide Prevention Strategy  
October 13, 2000; Kansas City, MO  
"Rural Adolescent Suicide Prevention," Chris Hanna

National Occupational Injury Research Symposium  
October 17-18, 2000; Pittsburgh, PA  
"NCCRAHS" and "FFA Partners for a Safer Community Project," Barb Lee

Agricultural Health and Safety in the Pacific Northwest  
November 2, 2000; Seattle, WA  
"NAGCAT," Barb Lee

North Dakota Injury Prevention and Traffic Safety Conference  
November 6-8, 2000; Bismarck, ND  
"Youth Riding in Pickup Truck Cargo Areas," Holly DeBlois;  
"Agricultural Injuries and Youth," Nancy Esser

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting  
November 11-15, 2000; Boston, MA  
"Training Health and Education Service Providers in Rural Injury Prevention,"  
Chris Hanna

## *Exhibits and Conferences Attended*

World Congress of Young Farmers  
February 21-24, 2000; Orlando, FL

National Agri-Marketing Association  
April 11-14, 2000; Kansas City, MO

A Community Response to Native American Transportation  
Safety in the New Millennium  
April 12-14, 2000; Green Bay, WI

National Rural Health Association 23rd Annual Conference  
May 24-26, 2000; New Orleans, LA

National Institute for Farm Safety Meeting  
June 24-29, 2000; Dubuque, IA

Central States Agricultural Health and Safety Conference  
September 20-22, 2000; Kansas City, KS

National Youth Safety Congress  
October 13-18, 2000; Orlando, FL

California Childhood Injury Prevention Conference  
October 23-25, 2000; Sacramento, CA

National FFA Convention  
October 25-28, 2000; Louisville, KY

National Organization for Youth Safety Conference  
November 3-4, 2000; Arlington, VA

National Association of Extension 4-H Meeting  
November 5-8, 2000; Denver, CO

North Dakota Injury Prevention and Traffic Safety Conference  
November 6-8, 2000; Bismarck, ND



Participants in the National Children's Center's Summer Seminar "Community Approach to Agricultural Safety with Youth" were, bottom row from left, Sue Galoff, Helen Varekamp, Elizabeth Burns, Cynthia Wilkinson, Mindy Williamson; middle row from left, Stacy Kalbach, Laura Samuelson, Ann Baker, Dee Boreen, RaeAnne Szeluga, Ann Campbell, Maybelle Jackson, Holly DeBlois; top row from left, Robert Kuzynski, Cheryl McClure, Dan Hubert, Kim Clough, Christy Forrester; missing from photo, Daniel Poloskey.

## *Summer Seminar Summary*

The third annual Rural Youth Injury Prevention Summer Seminar drew 18 participants from 10 states and Canada to Marshfield June 4-7, 2000. The course goal was to gain understanding of the basic principles of injury prevention, public health, and agricultural health and safety to enhance the capabilities of local communities to reduce the risk of injury to children in agricultural settings.

Each objective was delivered through a learning module facilitated by an NCCRAHS staff member that included public health principles of injury prevention, agricultural safety and health principles for children, child development and injury prevention, and assessing needs of communities and organizations.

Summer seminar participants spent a day and a half visiting community-based organizations to identify opportunities and challenges. Grace Lutheran Child Care Center, Marathon County Land Conservation Department, Pittsville Fire and EMS Department, Spencer High School FFA, and University of Wisconsin Wood County Cooperative Extension Office hosted participants.

Sharon Dorfman of SPECTRA, INC., conducted a three-month follow-up survey to assess the application of learning objectives. Findings from the evaluation will be applied to future training opportunities.

## *New Resources*

The National Children's Center continues to develop new resources and update existing ones. The majority of resources offered by the National Children's Center are available through the Internet at <http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/>

"Snowmobiles and Youth Safety Packet," resource updated by Holly DeBlois

"Youth Riding in Pickup Truck Cargo Areas," fact sheet developed by Holly DeBlois

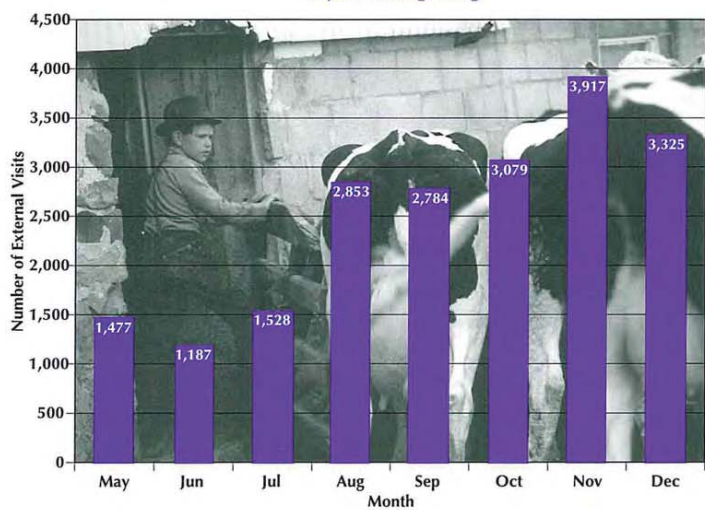
"Childhood Agricultural Injuries," fact sheet updated by Nancy Esser

## Website Use

### NAGCAT External Website Visits

May through December 2000  
(January-April data not available)

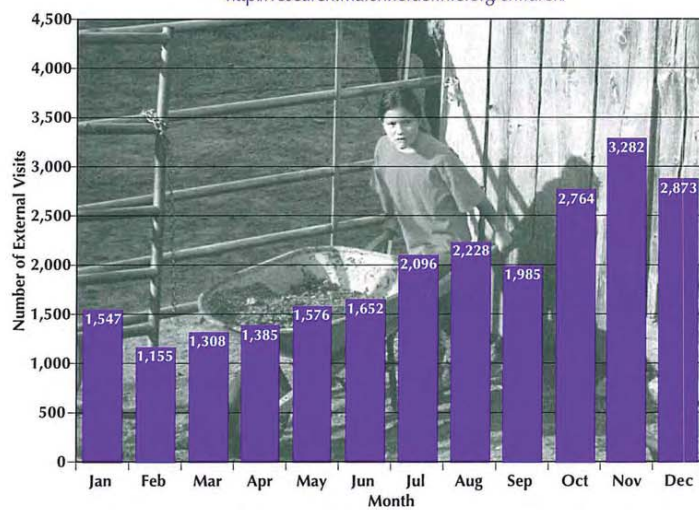
<http://www.nagcat.org/>



### NCCRATHS External Website Visits

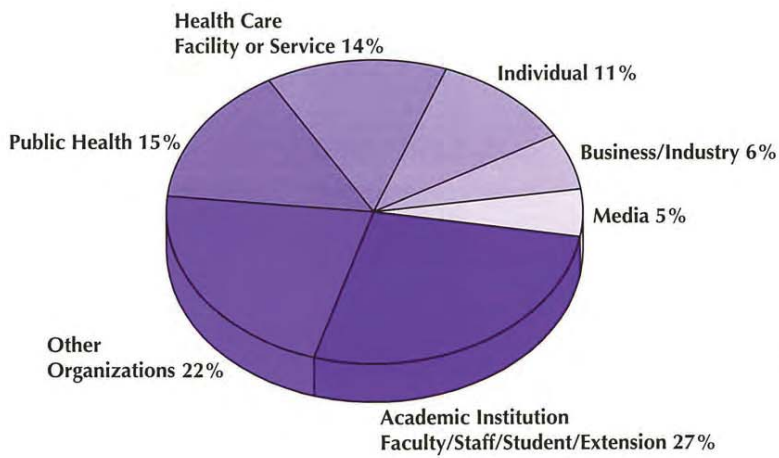
January through December 2000

<http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/>

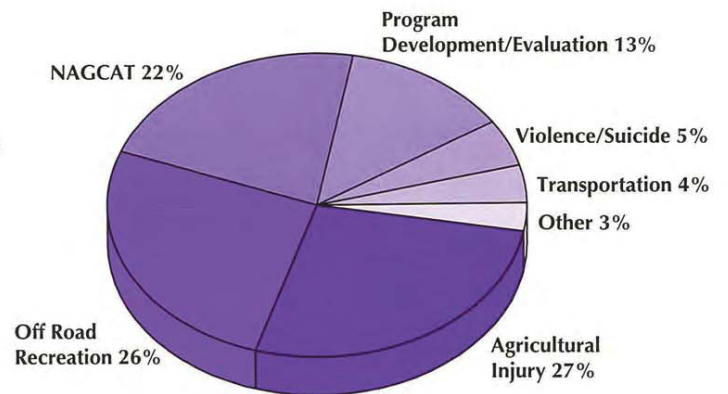


## Technical Assistance Requests

*Technical Assistance Requests by Customers*  
January through December 2000



*Technical Assistance Requests by Topic*  
January through December 2000



## Steering Committee 2000

### Members

Dorianne Beyer, Esq., L.L.M., J.D.  
National Child Labor Committee

Sandi Cihlar  
Cihlar Farms

Shelley Davis  
Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc.

Sharon Dorfman, S.C.M., CHES  
SPECTRA

Elaine Faustman, Ph.D.  
University of Washington

Jennifer Felzien  
Women Involved in Farm Economics

Susan Gallagher, M.P.H.  
Education Development Center, Inc.

James Gildea  
Retired, Nationwide Insurance

Dan Hair, M.S.S., C.S.P.  
Zenith Insurance Company

Dave Hansen  
Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

Frances Henderson, R.N., Ed.D.  
Alcorn State University, Mississippi

John May, M.D.  
NY Center for Ag Medicine & Health

Jennie McLaurin, M.D., M.P.H.  
American Academy of Pediatrics

Jack Odle  
Progressive Farmer

Kevin Paap  
Paap Farms

Steve Pearson  
National Association of Farm Broadcasters

James Rainey  
Retired, Farmland, Inc.

Brad Rein, P.E.  
USDA/CSREES

Marianne Schlecht  
Gempler's, Inc.

Tim Size  
Rural Wisconsin Health Coop.

Bernie Staller  
National FFA Organization

Lorann Stallones, M.P.H., Ph.D.  
Colorado State University

Cheryl Tevis  
Successful Farming

Donna Thompson, Ph.D.  
The University of Northern Iowa

### Federal Agency Reps

Carol Delany, M.A.  
Maternal & Child Health Bureau

David Hard, Ph.D.  
NIOSH

Art Kerschner, Jr.  
U.S. Dept. of Labor

### Youth Advisors



Jed Bauer  
Marshfield, WI



Christin Brown  
Wisner, NE



Emily Morehouse  
Pawnee, IL



Linda Woods  
Barry, IL



Joshua Zeithamer  
Alexandria, MN

### *Formal Collaborators*

National 4-H Council

Contact: Amanda Alter

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

Contact: Shari Burgus, M.Ed.

National SAFE KIDS Campaign

Contact: Alan Korn, J.D.

National FFA Organization

Contact: Becky Meyer

Migrant Clinicians Network, Inc.

Contact: Karen Mountain, M.B.A., R.N.

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs

Contact: L. Diane Mull

National Safety Council

Contact: Patricia Pulte

Progressive Farmer Magazine

Contact: Susan Reynolds

National Center for Farmworker Health

Contact: E. Roberta Ryder

### *Program Staff*

Beth Busscher

Department Manager

Susan Greenwood

Secretary

Tracy Jakobi

Administrative Secretary

Mary Oertel

Receptionist/Secretary



Beth Busscher



Mary Oertel, Susan Greenwood, & Tracy Jakobi

NORTH AMERICAN  
GUIDELINES FOR



children's  
AGRICULTURAL TASKS

### *Marlenga Receives NIOSH Grant to Study Applicability of NAGCAT*

Barbara L. Marlenga, Ph.D., has received an award to conduct an investigation related to the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT). The NAGCAT project was developed to assist parents and others in assigning appropriate and safe jobs to children 7 to 16 years old who live and/or work on farms across North America.

The proposed research project, "Evaluation of NAGCAT using a Case Series of Injuries," will build on NAGCAT by providing a field test of the guidelines for relevance, applicability and effectiveness. It will systematically apply NAGCAT to case descriptions of fatal and non-fatal farm injuries experienced by children to determine whether their application may have prevented the injury occurrence.

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