

## Tractor Safety Certification

According to the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture, the minimum age for employment in agriculture is 16 except for minors employed on their family farm and minors ages 14 and 15 who have received special training. The U.S. Department of Labor certificate for tractor and machinery operation can be issued either by certified agricultural science teachers or by agricultural extension agents.

The SW Ag Center adopted the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) developed by Penn State, Ohio State University and the National Safety Council as a targeted initiative and sought to expand its implementation in the Southwest. Two NSTMOP Master Trainers from the southwest region remain active in tractor safety: Bob Williams, Ph.D., from Texas A&M-Commerce, and Kevin Hackett, M.S., from Oklahoma Extension (recently retired). In 2006, the SW Ag Center partnered with Dr. Williams to conduct numerous Community Lead Instructor (CLI) trainings and one Master Trainer (MT) workshop. The table below provides an overview of the training types.

*Below, Master Trainer candidate Mike Alton drives a tractor through the serpentine course.*

*Tractor Workshop  
Texas A & M  
Commerce:  
Master Trainer  
candidates  
perform a  
pre-operation  
check.*



To date 140 CLIs and 6 MTs have been certified in Texas. A CLI training is now offered as a pre-conference workshop at the annual conference for the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas.

Mr. Hackett used the *Safe Operation of Agricultural Equipment* manual to certify 34 extension agents in Oklahoma as CLIs and has collaborated with the SW Ag Center since 2008 to extend training opportunities to teachers in Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Recently 8 teachers from Arkansas and 3 teachers from Louisiana were certified as CLIs.

The SW Ag Center maintains a database of CLIs and MTs trained, as well as youth certified. Mr. Hackett is currently developing standard curricula for conducting CLI trainings and Master Trainer workshops.

The SW Ag Center will continue to pursue a sustainable infrastructure for tractor safety certification by incorporating training programs into existing events, such as annual teacher conferences and extension workshops.

For more information contact the SW Ag Center staff at [agcenter@uthct.edu](mailto:agcenter@uthct.edu)

Training Type	Training Requirement	Capabilities
Community Lead Instructor (CLI)	1 day	Allows ag teachers & extension agents to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>certify 14-15 year olds for employment in tractor and machinery operation</li> <li>certify anyone 16 or older in safe tractor and machinery operation</li> </ul>
Master Trainer (MT)	2 days	Allows ag teachers & extension agents to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>certify 14-15 year olds for employment in tractor and machinery operation</li> <li>certify anyone 16 or older in safe tractor and machinery operation</li> <li>train additional Community Lead Instructors (CLIs)</li> </ul>





# AgConnections

NIOSH Centers

for Agricultural Safety and Health Research, Education, and Prevention

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## Ideas that Work: Model Programs Lead to Practical Solutions, Measurable Impact

We all hope that our work has impact, that what we do truly makes a difference. Working directly with people in agriculture -- farm owners, operators, and employees -- the NIOSH Agricultural Centers have shown how timely, relevant research can help put good ideas into practice. In this issue, we celebrate the 20-year success of the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (University of California-Davis), which continues to work closely with farm owners and labor representatives to achieve measurable improvements in pesticide safety, worker housing, ergonomics, and other critical areas. The Northeast Center for Agricultural and Occupational Health likewise enjoys a long and distinguished record of service to stakeholders, and in this issue Dr. Dennis Murphy of Pennsylvania State University describes an easy-to-use farm safety audit tool that is simplifying hazard evaluations for farmers while offering immediate feedback for hazard mitigation and elimination.

As reported on page 4 by the High Plains and Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at Colorado State University (HICAHS), the way that farmers and employees work when meeting day-to-day challenges does not always reflect the genuine interest that farm operators and employees have in maintaining a safe and healthy work environment. Maintaining a consistent safety climate requires, in addition to other variables, clear and effective communication among workers, supervisors, and employers. Toward this end, and as a result of prior cooperation with the Colorado

Corn Growers Association, the Safety Management Applied Research Team at HICAHS has produced safety climate tools now being used by some 500 farm operators and their employees.

The minimum legal age for employment in agriculture is 16, except for minors employed on their family farm and youths ages 14 and 15 who have completed special training. As reported on page 5 of this issue, to date the Southwest Center (University of Texas Health Center-Tyler) has enabled more than 150 agricultural extension agents and ag science teachers in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas to become certified to offer USDA-approved training in safe tractor and machinery operation. The National Children's Center is likewise benefitting farm youth through its Safe Play Areas project (page 6) and, as described on page 7, the Economics of Prevention project led by Dr. Joan Mazur at the University of Kentucky (Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention) is effectively combining farm safety and economics within mandated core curricula for high school students. As these projects demonstrate, good ideas continue to grow. This issue of *AgConnections* presents only a few of the many projects that have led to greater health and safety awareness and improvements in this most important U.S. industry.



*Wayne Sanderson, PhD  
Deputy Director,  
Southeast Center  
for Agricultural Health  
and Injury Prevention*

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# The Centers

for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention represent a concerted effort of CDC/NIOSH to protect the health and safety of farm operators, hired farm workers, and their families. The Centers act by cooperative agreement to address urgent, persistent, and/or emerging problems related to occupational safety and health in agriculture, forestry, and fishing. The Centers are located in geographically diverse regions and respond to the unique needs of their stakeholder populations.

## Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health

Director: Fred Gerr, MD  
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Iowa City, IA 52242-5000  
Telephone: 319-335-4419  
<http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcah/>

## High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety

Director: Steve Reynolds, PhD, CIH  
Department of Environmental and Radiological Health  
133 Environmental Health Building  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1681  
Telephone: 970-491-6152  
<http://www.hicahs.colostate.edu/>

## National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, Marshfield Clinic

Director: Barbara C. Lee, RN, PhD  
1000 North Oak Avenue  
Marshfield, WI 54449-5790  
Toll-free: 800-662-6900  
Telephone: 715-389-4999  
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## Northeast Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health

Director: John J. May, MD  
1 Atwell Road  
Cooperstown, NY 13326  
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Telephone: 607-547-6023  
<http://www.nycamh.com/>

## Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center

Director: Richard Fenske, PhD, MPH  
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## Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention

Director: Robert McKnight, MPH, ScD  
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College of Public Health  
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Lexington, KY 40504-9842  
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## Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education

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## Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety

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