

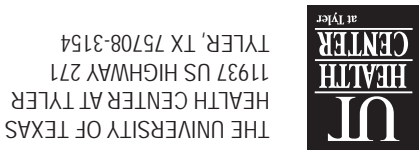
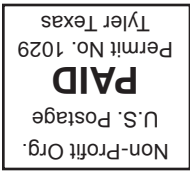
# SW Ag Center, National Children’s Center to Co-host 2008 Journalist Workshop in Texarkana, Texas

The SW Ag Center has accepted an invitation to co-host the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Journalist Workshop in June 2008. The National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety in Marshfield, Wisconsin spearheads this annual workshop with the intention of building a population of journalists who better understand the breadth and depth of agricultural childhood injuries through discussion with experts and agricultural field trips. At the conclusion of one of these workshops, journalists should be able to identify the most common injuries among children in agriculture and the local and regional experts who could provide insight and commentary regarding various agricultural topic areas.

In the past, workshops have been conducted in Marshfield, WI (2004), Cooperstown, NY (2005), Wenatchee, WA (2006) and Harrodsburg, KY (2007). The 2008 workshop will be conducted in the Texarkana area in order for the SW Ag Center to optimize the number of states in the region that could potentially be involved.

If you are a journalist or know a journalist who would like to participate in the 2008 workshop, please contact the SW Ag Center at [agcenter@uthct.edu](mailto:agcenter@uthct.edu) or 903-877-5998.

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SW CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH,  
INJURY PREVENTION AND EDUCATION  
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# CULTIVATION

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Editor: Jeffrey L. Levin, M.D., M.S.P.H. 903-877-5896



Jeffrey L. Levin  
M.D., M.S.P.H.

## From the Director: OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE RESIDENT EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL SETTINGS – THE NIOSH TRAINING PROJECT GRANT

by Jeffrey L. Levin, M.D., M.S.P.H., Center Director

As a Center Director for one of the NIOSH Agricultural Centers as well as a Program Director for an accredited Occupational Medicine Residency Program, I am invited from time to time to review other programs. I consider it a real



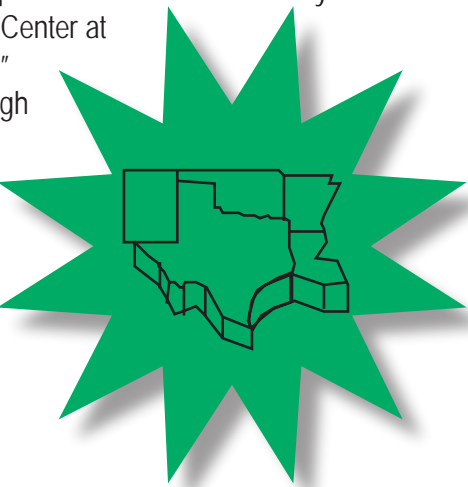
Nick Bingham, MD, MS, Occupational Medicine Resident at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, prepares to conduct a survey for his project, "Farmer's/Rancher's Perspectives on Disability" in Mabank, Texas.

privilege when this level of trust is placed in me to judge the quality of a residency training program. Teaching the specialty of Occupational Medicine to physicians is a challenge which requires resources and commitment as well as passion for the specialty. Therefore, it is a serious matter to accept this responsibility for determining how well others are doing the job.

These opportunities to review programs have allowed me to make at least three observations. First, there remains much to be done to increase awareness of the role and importance of occupational health and safety, whether you are in a large urban environment or a smaller rural community. The second realization is how much agriculture we have across the United States and how much we have yet to do in order to reduce the burden of work related injury and illness in this group. The third item is a bit more personal in that, although our Occupational Medicine Residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (UTHSCT) is small by "big city" standards, we possess extremely high caliber faculty, staff, residents, and programs which not only produce quality residents we can be proud of, but who are also given the opportunity to gain special competencies and skills in the area of agricultural safety and health.

Regarding the last item, the presence of the NIOSH Agricultural Center on the UTHSCT campus has been of special significance for several years in creating an environment for pilot projects in which faculty and residents can participate. Most recently, this interaction has taken the form of a special grant from NIOSH designed specifically to help Occupational Medicine Residents gain increased experience in occupational health issues and competencies pertaining to rural and agricultural environments.

See **Training Project**, continued on page 2



Winter 2008

# Ag Center Supports Tractor Certification Workshops; 43 Certified in Texas

Over the past few months, the SW Ag Center partnered with Robert “Bob” Williams, Ph.D. from Texas A&M Commerce to hold three workshops to certify Agricultural Extension Agents, Agricultural Science Teachers and interested community members in Texas to use The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP). Dr. Williams attended a national training and is one of two NSTMOP Master Trainers for the state of Texas. The NSTMOP is a curriculum developed by Penn State, The National Safety Council and Ohio State University to certify 14 and 15 year olds in safe tractor and machinery operation for employment as required by the Hazardous Occupational Order in Agriculture, [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov). To be certified, the youth must successfully complete the following:

- 24 hours of instruction
  - o 4 hours in general agriculture safety
  - o 10 hours in safe tractor operation
  - o 10 hours in safe machinery operation
- a written exam
- a driving skills course

The first workshop was held on June 26<sup>th</sup> in Mount Pleasant at the Northeast Texas Community College. Seven people participated in training. The second workshop took place on August 14<sup>th</sup> in Overton at the Texas A&M Research Center where 29 people attended and were certified. The last workshop for 2007 was held in Stephenville at the Texas A&M Research Center. Once again, seven people were certified. The low attendance in Stephenville was due to county and state fairs that coincided with the workshop.

Each workshop lasted about 8 hours. The background information and training material was covered in the morning. In the afternoon, all the participants transitioned outside for practical application. The participants were asked to set up the obstacle course that they would have to provide for the youth to drive through as a requirement for certification. As a group, they then went through a pre-operation check of a tractor and implement. Finally, a volunteer drove the tractor and implement through the course, while others graded his performance.

Over 100 people throughout Texas have requested a Tractor Certification Workshop in their area. Our next step is to hold a Master Trainer Workshop for at least two people in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Although, the curriculum was intended to certify youth for employment, it could be used to educate older or novice tractors operators as well. To be notified of upcoming workshops or to request one in your area, please email [agcenter@uthct.edu](mailto:agcenter@uthct.edu).



## Meet The Advisory Board Featured Member: Ann Bynum, Ed.D.



DR. ANN BYNUM

Ann Bynum, Ed.D. has been a member of the SW Ag Center Advisory Board since 1999. She brings invaluable experience in the field of rural healthcare to the administrative staff and principal investigators who seek guidance through their various agricultural research endeavors. She currently serves as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Regional Program and Director of the Rural Hospital Program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Dr. Bynum is also the Co-Director for the UAMS Center for Distance Health, Associate Director for the Arkansas Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and is an Assistant Professor at the UAMS Clinton School of Public Service and at the Department of Health Policy and Management, College of Public Health.

Dr. Bynum’s comprehensive education includes a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in Health Education from the University of Arkansas and a doctorate in Higher Education from Nova Southeastern University in Miami, Florida. She also earned an associate’s degree in Respiratory Therapy from Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida and is a Certified Distance Learning Administrator certified by the Teletraining Institute in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Her professional service includes membership on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration, National Workforce Committee and the National Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary Community-Based Linkages. She is also a Past President of the Komen Foundation.

Her research experience includes, but is not limited to, Principal Investigator for the following grants: The Model AHEC Bioterrorism Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Health Professions; Telehealth for Kids in Delta Schools from the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth; The South Arkansas Integrated Telehealth Oncology Program; The Rural Arkansas Delta Integrated Telehealth System; Telehealth: Taking the Distance out of Caring; the Effect of Telepharmacy Counseling on Metered Dose Inhaler Techniques Among Adolescents with Asthma in Rural AR from the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth. She was also the Co-Investigator for the project, Telemedicine-Based Collaborative Care to Reduce Rural Health Disparities from the National Institute of Mental Health.

We are pleased to welcome Ann Bynum, Ed.D. to the SW Ag Center’s third funding cycle and we look forward to her thoughtful contributions.

## Training Project, continued from page 1

The NIOSH Training Project Grant includes residents from UTHSCT, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston with assistance in orchestration provided by the National Center for Farmworker Health. The experience will consist of two key components: 1) Quarterly interactive didactic conferences provided over the web using Elluminate and originating from one of several Ag Centers. This conference will cover an area of expertise provided by the respective Center along with an update on current research activities. 2) One to two months of practicum experience in a Migrant and Community Health clinic in the same state as the residency. The relationship between the partners in this effort is depicted by the graphic below.



Through this type of experience it is anticipated that these important partnerships will help to increase awareness among residents and better prepare them to address health factors and risks specific to the agricultural working environment. Without the commitment of our partners and the support from NIOSH, the residents might not have this level of in depth experience in this important area.