

CULTIVATION

The Newsletter for the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention & Education

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From the Director ...

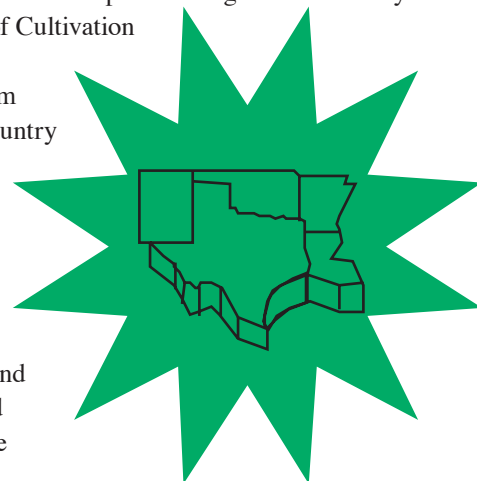
The Next Generation of Agricultural Health and Safety Professionals and Scientists

Agriculture is one of the most hazardous of industries with a high risk for fatal and non-fatal injuries and work-related disease conditions. Consequently, there continues to be a significant focus on research and outreach within the agricultural community in an effort to reduce risk factors contributing to morbidity and mortality.

As you have heard in the recent past, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has entered into a second decade of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA), "a partnership program to stimulate innovative research and improved workplace practices." NIOSH has taken a sector-based approach, forming Councils with participants from

academia, industry, labor, and government. One such Council is dedicated to Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing. The agriculture centers initiative also remains in partnership with NIOSH to carry forward an important extramural research, education, and outreach agenda which will be refined by the Council.

One element of this initiative is to nurture the next generation of professionals and scientists who will continue to work actively in the area of agricultural safety and health, teaching others and conducting research and outreach which will have a positive impact on the well-being of farmers, ranchers, forestry workers, and fishermen. To that end, the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education is pleased to continue seeking competitive applications for feasibility projects for funds which will assist early career scientists as well as scientists from other disciplines to conduct work in the field. Similarly, the Center has awarded scholarships to undergraduate students throughout the region to promote excellence in outreach by supporting projects with an emphasis on agricultural safety and health. This issue of *Cultivation* will describe the 2006 pilot scholarship program coordinated by Lake Country AHEC and the SW Ag Center. We look forward to the recipients of these types of awards becoming the next generation of Agricultural Health and Safety Professionals and Scientists who will serve our region and our communities to sustain this important work.



Summer 2007

Meet The Advisory Board

Featured Member: Dr. Roberta Baer



Dr. Roberta Baer joined the SW Ag Center in 2006 as an Advisory Board Member. Karen Gilmore, Program Director for the ag center, first heard Dr. Baer speak at the Midwest Migrant Stream Forum in 1998. Her presentation, *Breaking Barriers and*

Building Bridges to Improve Migrant Health, demonstrated Dr. Baer's passion for cultural considerations within research and education. Since Special Populations represent the SW Ag Center's central theme, Dr. Baer's experience and expertise naturally compliment the current scope of work.

Dr. Baer spent the first years of her career teaching elementary and secondary school in various cultural environments, including the Navajo reservation in Arizona, a Chicano migrant population in Colorado, and in Guatemala. She discovered that in addition to teaching, she also had a passion for learning about different cultures. This interest led her back to graduate school where she earned her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Arizona in Tucson. Much of her early work described cross cultural dietary patterns, which later led her to study cross

See ***Dr. Baer***, continued on page 2

Five Recipients From Two Junior Colleges, One Four-year College

Agriculture Safety Scholarships Announced

Before the Fall 2006 semester, Lake Country Area Health Education Center (AHEC) received a grant from SW Ag Center to develop a pilot program for college scholarships in the area of agricultural safety and pre-veterinary medicine (large animal). While some of the funding went for staff support and travel, the majority of the grant money was designated for scholarships. Lake Country AHEC has, because of this pilot program, developed some good relationships with agricultural science departments and will continue to work with them on agricultural health and safety projects whenever possible.

Using the interests of the SW Ag Center, Lake Country AHEC looked at all the two-year and four-year colleges in the 26 county service area of Northeast Texas. Only one 4-year college has an agricultural science major at the bachelor degree level, while 4 junior colleges had associate degree programs. Scholarship requirements were determined to be: a major in agricultural science or pre-veterinary science; a 3.0 GPA; a letter of support from an agricultural science faculty member who had had them as a student; and the plan for implementation of an agricultural safety project for other students or a community group. It was decided that the scholarship money would be awarded to the student for use with any school-related expenses for the 2006-2007 school year. As we learned, no other scholarships had been established with a focus on agricultural safety at any of the colleges we worked with on this project.

To our surprise, not all junior colleges responded to our letter of introduction to the scholarship opportunity or phone calls that were made as a follow-up. Based on the responses, students at two junior colleges and the one four-year college received the

scholarships. Due to the need for the students to develop a project and the review of their applications, the scholarship awards were not given to the students until early December, during the last week of the semester.

Kilgore College (Kilgore, TX) and Trinity Valley Community College (Athens, TX) each had a student receiving the scholarship. These young men both focused on tractor safety programming, and plan on continuing into a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences after their two years at the junior college.

Texas A&M Commerce (Commerce, TX) received the three scholarships for students in baccalaureate degree programs. Two of the recipients were in the agricultural education program, planning on pursuing a master's degree and jobs as extension agents. The other student was a pre-veterinary major applying to schools with strong large-animal programs. For all three, the scholarships relieved them of financial concerns during their final semester of school when they were student teaching or traveling to interview at graduate programs. The students were surprised by the amount of the scholarship and were presented with certificates on their last day before the Christmas break. We left them on campus, telling them "Merry Christmas, and call your parents!" They are our agricultural safety and health professionals of tomorrow.



SAFETY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS — Three seniors from Texas A&M Commerce won Agriculture Safety Scholarships in December 2006. From left are Dr. J. Torey Nalbone, the center's deputy director; Dr. Helen E. Miner, director of the Lake Country Area Health Education Center in Tyler; recipients Yvette Pedroza, Ashlee Daniels, and Maggie Pfeiffer Abernathy. In the back is Dr. Pat Bagley, head of the A&M-Commerce Agricultural Sciences Department.

Dr. Baer, continued from page 1

cultural health in general. Dr. Baer is now a Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida in Tampa where she has taught since 1984.

Dr. Baer's primary objective is to help ensure that all the SW Center's training programs, educational materials and practical interventions effectively reach their intended audiences by taking cultural influences into consideration. Her cultural competency and past experience will be particularly advantageous to our projects with the Navajo Nation in New Mexico and the Hispanic farmworker adolescents in South Texas. The Center is honored to have Dr. Baer join the family of educators, researchers and health care providers who strive to improve the safety and health of agricultural workers. We are all looking forward to her thoughtful contributions.

Summer Tractor Safety Workshops scheduled for Vocational Agricultural Teachers, Ag Extension Agents

You may not be aware that tractors are still the primary cause of serious injuries and death for people who work in agriculture. This is particularly true for youth who work on family farms or are hired by others.

- Agriculture is the most dangerous industry for young workers, accounting for 42 % of all work-related deaths between 1992 and 2000,
- Machinery was the leading cause of farm deaths in 29 states,
- 82% of fatalities involving youth under age 16 result from agriculture equipment.

Aside from, and because of the personal tragedy of losing a child, the Federal Child Labor Regulations, Subpart E-1 of 1970 provides an exemption for youth age 14 and 15 to be employed for farm work if they have completed a tractor and agriculture machinery certification program.

The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) was developed by Penn State University, Ohio State University and The National Safety Council with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture in 2001 to meet the requirements of the federal regulation. This intense course requires 10 hours of classroom instruction and practical application in order for youth to be certified in tractor operation.

In order to receive certification to use implements with a tractor, another 10 hours of instruction are required. An additional 4 hours of basic safety may be required by the instructor for individuals who are unfamiliar with agricultural environments.

The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education is partnering with Dr. Bob Williams from Texas A&M Commerce to host two Safe Tractor Operator Workshops for Vocational Agriculture Teachers and Agricultural Cooperative Extension Agents on June 26th in Mount Pleasant and August 14th in Overton. By virtue of their training, Vocational Agriculture Teachers and Cooperative Extension Agents are qualified to certify youth in the NSTMOP. The workshop will thoroughly prepare potential trainers to conduct The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program in their communities.

For more information about the Safe Tractor Workshops or the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program, please contact The SW Ag Center at 903-877-5896 or agcenter@uthct.edu.



SWC's Spring, Summer Outreach Activities Listed

This spring and summer promise to be busy for agricultural outreach and education. In each of the states in the region, numerous Farm Safety Days have been organized for the upcoming months. The SW Center will participate in five Progressive Agriculture Safety Days and at least three other farm safety related workshops. The first two programs the SW Center participated in this season were the Horse 101 Workshop in Canton, TX, and the Farm Safety Week in Como, TX, .

The Horse 101 Workshop was organized and hosted by Van Zandt County Cooperative Extension Agent, Tommy Phillips. The April 27th workshop was one of many similar workshops in Texas that encompass information that a novice owner/handler would need to know in order to safely and effectively work with a horse. Dr. Brett Scott, Texas Cooperative Extension Horse Specialist, spoke on basic horse nutrition, barn and paddock design, and body condition. He travels to many of the Horse 101 Workshops in the state to share his expertise. Other topics addressed at the workshop included hay selection and usage, general horse health, dentistry, and basic hoof care. Approximately 60 people, of varying ages, attended the workshop.

Como-Pickton Consolidated Independent School District (CISD) hosted their annual Farm Safety Week April 23-27. The event is spearheaded by Amy Bowen and Michael Bowen, agricultural science teachers at Como-Pickton. Many high-school students assisted in the presentation and coordination of the farm safety week. The SW Ag Center presented Pesticide and Chemical Safety to all the 5th and 6th grade students on Thursday, April 26th. The students learned how chemicals can harm them, how they are transferred, and how to identify warning labels.

Pesticide and Chemical Safety was also presented to Grand Saline Elementary, Mabank Elementary, and Fruitvale Elementary in May. In addition, The SW Center described the venomous creatures in East Texas to Palestine Northside Elementary with its program, "Bites, Stings and Venomous Things." In June, the Center will travel back to Canton, TX to present Cattle Handling Safety at the East Texas Youth Beef Camp.

Thank you to all the communities and school districts that support and participate in farm safety activities.

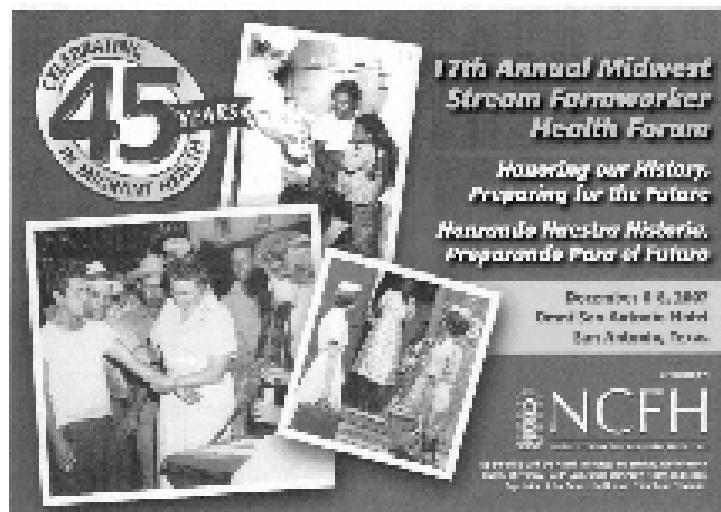
2007 Midwest Stream Farmworker Forum Set for San Antonio, Texas, December 6-8, 2007

The Migrant Farmworker Stream Forums began in 1987 on the East Coast and have since been adopted by the West Coast and Midwest States.

The Stream Forums represent a combined national effort to enhance the cultural competence of migrant health providers and others who work with the population, create networking and collaboration opportunities, and identify additional resources, program models and effective training for the more efficient provision of health care services to farmworkers.

The Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum offers farmworker-specific continuing education accreditation in the following disciplines: Medical, Nursing, Health Education, and Social Work.

The 17th annual Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum will take place on December 6-8, 2007 in San Antonio, Texas. "Honoring our History, Preparing for the Future" represents this year's theme. For more information visit: www.ncfh.org or e-mail duran@ncfh.org.



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