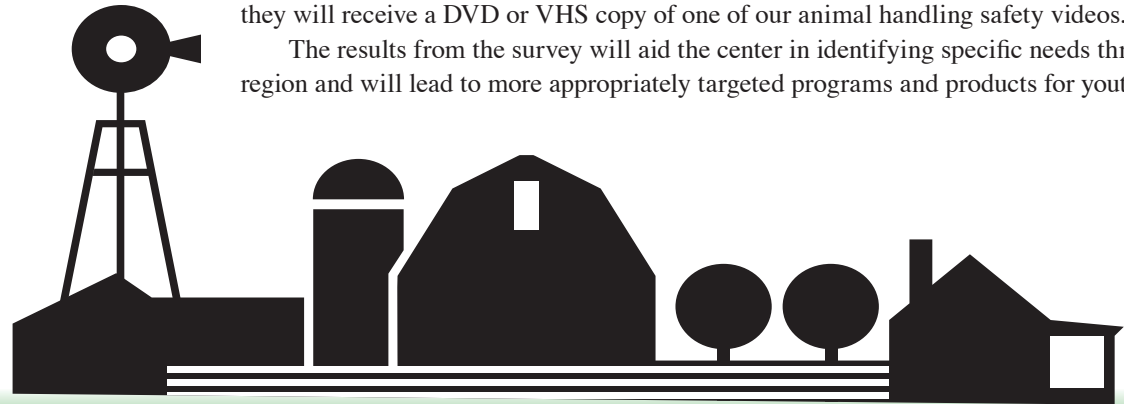


Web-based Survey Being Developed to Discover County 4-H Program Needs in Five State Region

In an effort to discover the health and safety program/resource needs of county 4-H programs, the SW Center is developing a web-based survey. The 4-H Program Priority Survey will be sent through the cooperative extension service to every county in our five state region that currently has a 4-H Cooperative Extension Agent. The purpose of the survey is to help the Center set priorities for the development of new materials and serve as a resource for the dissemination of already existing products.

The survey was created through an intuitive program called Survey Monkey. The two-page survey will consist of open ended and multiple choice questions. It will only take the participants about 5 minutes to complete the survey and in return, they will receive a DVD or VHS copy of one of our animal handling safety videos.

The results from the survey will aid the center in identifying specific needs throughout the region and will lead to more appropriately targeted programs and products for youth.



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• CULTIVATION •

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

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

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From the Director:

In September, the SW Center held its final board meeting for the second funding cycle at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas. The serene landscape created the perfect atmosphere to relax and reflect on the past five years' accomplishments. Fortunately, the center has been funded for the next cycle, and this meeting was also an opportunity to look forward and transition to the new projects.

Although all the projects for the next cycle are technically new, many are continuations or adaptations of previous work. The new projects depict a wide range of cultures, nationalities and understudied groups; including Vietnamese, Navajo,

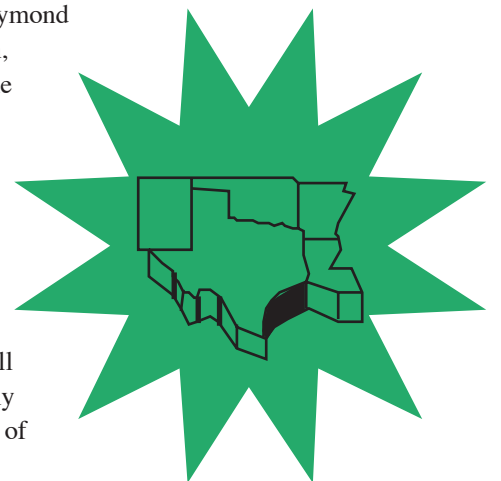
Hispanic, and children. Due to this common thread among the projects, the SW Center has adopted "Special Populations" as the theme and concentration for this cycle's work.

The chart below details the projects for the next cycle.

Project Type	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution
Research	Migrant Adolescent Health Research Study	Sharon Cooper, Ph.D.	Texas A&M University
Research	Innovative Approaches to Worker Health Protection Among Shrimp Fishermen of the Gulf Coast	Jeffrey Levin, M.D., M.S.P.H.	The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler
Education	Model Farmers Dissemination Project	Deborah Helitzer, Sc.D.	University of New Mexico
Intervention	Promoviendo Farmworkers' Safety	Roberta Ryder	National Center for Farmworker Health

Each person associated with the center has a vital role in its success and continuation. Our advisory board holds the particularity important responsibility of providing consultation to the administrative core and the principal investigators. They have consistently supported the projects and offered valuable

recommendations to the principal investigators. This cycle, our board consists of five highly-qualified individuals: Roberta Baer, Ann Bynum, Raymond Huhnke, Steve Shelton, and Cheryl Taylor. The board members reflect the diversity of the SW Center's region and scope of work and we are looking forward to their contributions. Each of the board members will be featured individually in the following issues of Cultivation.



Winter 2007

Center's Ag Health, Safety Programs Listed

The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education serves a five state region through projects and programs that target areas of potential risk in agricultural industries. However, we not only target individuals who work in agriculture, but also their families.

The world of agriculture may be more expansive than you realize. It includes farming, ranching, fishing, and forestry. Since much agricultural work occurs at home, children often become the victim of serious accidents due to their lack of experience, strength, and maturity combined with an insatiable

See ***Programs***, continued on page 2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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SW Center Announces Newest Chapter of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK)

Since 1987, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK) has been at the forefront of agricultural education and outreach designed especially for children. This nonprofit organization based in Iowa offers resources and guidance to individuals and communities who want to ensure the safety of children on farms.

At this time, there are nearly 150 chapters of FS4JK around the nation. Each chapter recruits members from their community to promote farm safety. Chapters are currently contributing to their communities through farm safety day camps, school programs, exhibits, fairs, public service announcements, and media appearances. Chapter members represent a wide range of individuals and organizations across various disciplines.

Four East Texas Tractor Safety Focus Groups Conducted During October, January; Data Collected for National Use

During October and January, the Southwest Ag Center conducted four tractor safety focus groups with farmers, ranchers, and industry representatives from East Texas. Many people throughout the area contributed their time and expertise to accomplish specific goals. Valuable information was collected and will be sent to Kentucky to be analyzed with other focus group results from across the nation.

Dr. Eva Doyle, an Associate Professor of the Health Education Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation from Baylor University in Waco, served as the facilitator for all of the groups. Dr. Doyle has extensive experience with focus groups through her work with community based participatory research. Marie Reed and Donnie Reed of

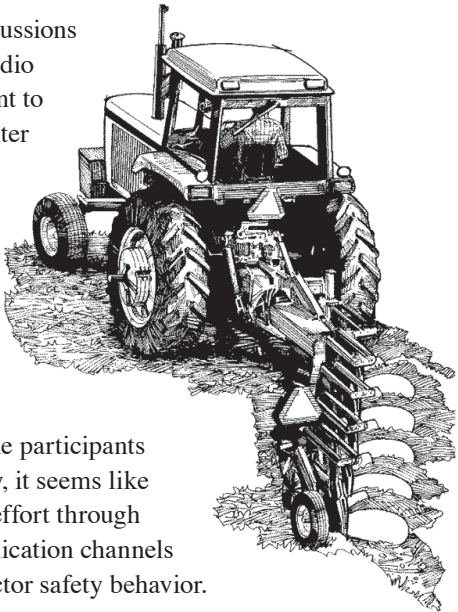
The SW Center is proud to announce the newest chapter of FS4JK, The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health. Our chapter roster includes Lake Country AHEC, the Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health, Region XI Education Service Center, Leverett’s Chapel ISD, the Texas Forestry Museum, Smith County 4-H, Van Zandt County 4-H, and Kaufman 4-H. This network of agricultural advocates shares the responsibility for carrying health and safety education to rural Texas.

For more information about agricultural resources or chapter membership, please contact agcenter@uthct.edu.

Palestine, Hilary Grider of the Henderson County Extension Service and Ashly Perryman of Mount Pleasant recruited the participants for these groups. The influence of each of these community gate-keepers was vital to the success of the project.

The focus group protocol for the multi-state project includes four topic areas: photo interpretation, public service announcements, safety information resources, and perceptions of the National Agricultural Safety Initiative. Each of the groups convened over an evening or afternoon meal in Athens, Palestine, or Mount Pleasant to discuss these issues. The meetings lasted approximately 2 ½ hours, and there was an average of eight participants in each discussion. East Texas farmers, ranchers, and industry representatives were honest and forthcoming with opinions and recommendations for future tractor safety social marketing campaigns.

The focus group discussions were captured through audio recordings and will be sent to our sister agricultural center in Kentucky when all the groups are completed. Kentucky will eventually formulate conclusions based on all the collected information from 36 focus groups in at least 9 states. According to the participants in this area of the country, it seems like a long-term coordinated effort through several different communication channels would most influence tractor safety behavior.



Programs, continued from page 1

curiosity. In order to change the unfortunate statistics, the SW Center travels across the region to educate youth about the dangers in rural America. Programs offered include:

- Animal Handling Safety
- ATV Safety
- Bites, Stings, & Venomous Things
- Environmental Safety: Water, Sun & Air
- Farm Safety
- Grain Safety
- Livestock Safety
- Machinery Safety
- Pesticide & Chemical Safety

To request a program for your group or to suggest a new topic area, please call 903-877-5993 or email agcenter@uthct.edu.

Occupational Training Images of Shrimp Fishermen from the Gulf

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

Last Spring/Summer, we reported in the Cultivation newsletter about progress with the design of a safety training intervention for the Gulf Coast shrimp fishermen in and around the Port of Galveston. As we look forward to extending our work with this population both geographically (toward Louisiana and Florida) as well as in scope, it is useful to reflect on the stages of this effort which have brought us to this point.

Initially, it was in the context of a Southwest Ag Center External Advisory Board meeting in 2003, when a presentation and field experience arranged with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) sparked interest in further work with this unique and vulnerable population. This was conducted by Mr. Gilbert Gallardo, Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examiner with the USCG Marine Safety Unit in Galveston. Subsequently, an occupational medicine resident at UT Health Center at Tyler, Dr. Sacha St.Hill, carried out some preliminary work using data made available by Mr. Mike White at the USCG District 8 office in New Orleans. Since that time,

the Center has received supplemental funding from NIOSH to support the development of safety training for this group. That support has allowed us to engage stakeholders, assemble a project advisory board, develop and administer a survey, conduct focus groups, provide community feedback, and utilize findings to devise a culturally appropriate pilot training for the fishermen. Below is a “collage” of images which chronologically portray partnerships, building community involvement and trust, cultural influences, and a focus on safety awareness.

The first pilot safety training was held on December 6, 2006. An after action review designed by Dr. Ann Carruth, one of our project consultants, demonstrated a successful first step, but also clear areas for refining the content and orchestration of the training. Future offerings of this program beginning in coastal Louisiana will create opportunities to develop relationships with commercial shrimp fishermen in that region for the next stages of the project.

