

'Next Gen' in child ag safety New guidelines pick up where NAGCAT left off

The Next Generation of Youth Agricultural Work Guidelines are scheduled for release National Ag Day (March 21, 2017). Built upon the 1999 North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), Next Gen Guidelines are designed to assist parents and others in assigning age-appropriate tasks for youth ages 7-16 who live or work on farms and ranches.

These updated guidelines are based on the latest scientific research, including child growth and development, agricultural practices, child injury prevention and agricultural safety. The first 12 guidelines will be online in March, with more to follow.

"We were able to recruit Steering Committee members with whom we have not previously worked, in addition to several NAGCAT veterans," said Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director of the National Children's Center. "The mix of seasoned and new members is adding richness to the process."

"It was an honor to participate in this meeting," said one committee member. "Your crew provides wonderful resources for our rural families and communities. This will be another great resource."

Support for Next Gen Guidelines came from CHS Foundation and generous donors to the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

Each year 2,800 youth suffer serious injuries while working in agriculture. In workers younger than 16, the number of youth who suffer fatal injuries while working in agriculture is higher than all other industries combined. Many agricultural work-related injuries and deaths are associated with children conducting work that does not match their development level.

Steering Committee members: Glen Blahey, Canadian Agricultural Safety Association; Kristi Boswell, American Farm Bureau Federation; Jim Carrabba, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health; Shy Cullars, Cullars Farm; Bernard Geschke, Progressive Agriculture Foundation; David Hard, NIOSH; ; Jeff Hicken, Wisconsin FFA; Wendy Kannel, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation; Miles & Sara Kuschel, farm parents; Lisa Lauxman, NIFA,USDA,4-H; Dennis Murphy, Penn State; Jennifer Nelson, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service; Michael Pate, Utah State; Eric Vanasdale, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies; Chris Viau, Wisconsin 4-H.



A sample of the guidelines' new graphic look.



The "Next Gen" Steering Committee met in August in Bloomington, MN, to discuss content, technology, progress, next steps and promotion.



"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."



Marsha Salzwedel and Tammy Ellis (in white) announced the "Next Generation of Youth Agricultural Work Guidelines" at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. The banner behind them bears the signatures of more than 4,000 ag teachers and students who pledged to, "embrace safety and health awareness and practices in their schools, workplace, homes and communities," as part of National Young Worker Ag Safety Day on October 20.

Mini-grants for 2017

The National Children's Center federal award continues annual funding for mini-grants that support small scale projects and pilot studies addressing prevention of childhood agricultural disease and injury. Since 2002, 55 projects have been funded in amounts up to \$20,000.

- **“Intervention to Prevent Fatalities Due to Run-overs via Tractors, Forklifts, or Skid Steers on Anabaptist Farm Worksites.”** PI - Don Hoover, Binkley & Hurst, Lititz, PA. Goal - Prevent avoidable farm and home related injuries and/or fatalities caused by runovers due to tractors, forklifts, and skid steer equipment used by the agriculture community, especially Old Order Amish and Mennonites on farm or on their home businesses.
- **“Technology-based Distractions among Farming Youth.”** PI - Serap Gorucu, Ph.D., Penn State University. Goal - Conduct a survey to assess attitudes, social factors and frequency of technology engagement during farm work among FFA youth (grades 9-12).
- **“Building Blocks of Safety and Hazard Awareness for Our Children on Yates Family Farms.”** PI - Chris Warriner, Yates Farm Safety/Benton Fire Department/Yates Office of Emergency Management, Penn Yan, NY. Goal - Reduce the risk of accidental injury or death of children on farms by training farm owners, families and children on appropriate safe practices on all farms including the non-English speaking and Mennonite community in Yates County, New York.

AgInjuryNews.org update



AgInjuryNews.org has received another endorsement. The National Children's Center's searchable, web-based news clippings database has been added to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) Online Resource list and disseminated to US Bureau of Labor Statistics states' representatives. AgInjuryNews continues to grow, and now contains nearly 2,300 articles (more than 550 involving children), according to project leader Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D. Enhancements to functionality continue, and prevention briefs have been developed that will be linked to individual articles. For more information, contact weichelt.bryan@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.

Childhood Agricultural Safety Network

More than 40 organizations were represented at the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) annual meeting, held June 20 in Lexington, KY, during the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health conference. It was great listening to reports on what everyone is doing to keep kids safe on farms. The featured speaker was Frank Gasperini, president and CEO of the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America and executive vice president of the National Council of Agricultural Employers. CASN continues to grow and diversify its membership. The National Children's Center keeps CASN members updated with child agricultural injury notifications and promotes collaboration across member organizations.



Strengthening ties with insurance

A safety brochure for the insurance industry was developed and disseminated by the National Children's Center, based on results of a survey conducted at the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) Agricultural Risk Inspection School. The brochure includes:

- a) graphic explaining the scope of the child ag injury problem;
- b) significant results from the survey;
- c) a list of resources, along with an order form. The project is part of the National Children's Center's "Strengthening Organizational Capacity" initiative, which leverages relationships with youth serving organizations, insurance companies, media and agricultural bankers to improve child ag safety.



Furthermore ...

Child ag safety was featured prominently in an article posted Aug. 11 by USA Today. The article cited a National Children's Center fact sheet showing a long-term decline in rate of non-fatal injuries to children on farms, but a steady occurrence of fatal injuries. It quoted Dr. Bryan Weichelt and Marsha Salzwedel, highlighting their agricultural backgrounds and current safety work. In addition to Gannett News Service, the article was distributed nationally by the Associated Press. ... The Journal of Agromedicine is gathering papers for an issue dedicated to the Socio-Ecological Model (SEM), modified for agricultural safety. The model is used to depict ways in which multiple dimensions and complex human interactions influence an individual. Dr. Barbara Lee is serving as lead Associate Editor for the issue, and has put together an editor team that includes Jill Kilanowski, Sue Gallagher, Amy K. Liebman and Kami Silk. The issue is scheduled for publication July 2017.