

## In the news

### POLITICO gets assist from AgInjuryNews.org

POLITICO took a big-picture look at agricultural safety in America, posting, [“Your farm is trying to kill you,”](#) on April 12. The National Children's Center played a major role. Director Barbara Lee is quoted, as is project PI Dennis Murphy. In addition, reporter Ian Kullgren used AgInjuryNews.org to find a family to interview.

“The story would have been infinitely harder without AgInjuryNews,” Kullgren told the Children's Center. “The anecdotal lead-in started with a clipping I found in your database on the McCroskey death ... I drove out to Abingdon, Va., and spoke with the family. So please give your team a big thank you from me. You all do important work.”

### USA Today cites Children's Center in skid steer article

The death of a 3-year-old Wisconsin boy who was run over by a skid steer driven by his 5-year-old brother prompted extensive coverage on the [USA Today website](#). The article, posted May 24, quoted Bryan Weichelt and cited a number of Children's Center facts and resources.



National Children's Center  
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

“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.”

## AgInjuryNews.org convenes steering committee

The AgInjuryNews.org National Steering Committee held its first in-person meeting April 27 in Minneapolis to provide feedback on how best to leverage the database containing nearly 3,000 injury articles. This initiative locates, categorizes, and captures injury and fatality incidents into a centralized, publicly accessible database. PI Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., is working with colleagues to continually improve daily screening of the news feed, data quality, workflow efficiencies, and data reporting. Additional enhancements to the system are being guided by the steering committee. The committee consists of professionals in safety, surveillance, insurance, informatics, communications, government data, education and outreach. Weichelt has several grant proposals and manuscripts in process or review, and Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA) announced that it would fund part of the AgInjuryNews.org project. Anyone can visit the database. Just go to [www.AgInjuryNews.org](http://www.AgInjuryNews.org) and create a username and password.



**From left, first row:** Brandi Janssen, Iowa Center for Agricultural Safety and Health; Marsha Salzwedel, NCCRAHS; Cap Bendixsen, NCCRAHS; Jana Davidson, Progressive Agriculture. **Second row:** Erika Scott, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health; Marcy Harrington, Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center; Kang Namkoong; Vanessa Galvan, Zenith Insurance. **Third row:** Bill Kriese, Rural Mutual Insurance; Glen Blahey, Canadian Agricultural Safety Association; Bryan Weichelt, NCCRAHS; Frank Gasperini, ASHCA; Risto Rautiainen, Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health. **Attending via phone:** Lisa Lundy, Southeastern and Coastal Center for Agricultural Safety and Health; Dennis Murphy, Penn State University; Tomi Heimonen, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; Rebecca Adams, Bureau of Labor Statistics; and Amanda Wickman, Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education.

## News media and farm safety

- The Children's Center's 2017 Child Agricultural Injuries Fact Sheet was picked up by [USA Today](#) in April.
- Research by Barbara Marlena published in the Journal of Agromedicine suggests that law enforcement professionals might be effective partners in getting prevention messages into news reports of agricultural trauma. Marlena and colleagues Sue Gallagher and Dick Berg examined 113 articles involving children and farm trauma. Law enforcement professionals were the primary source of information for nearly 80 percent of the articles. Few news reports mentioned use or lack of protective equipment (12 percent) or a prevention message (6 percent). Read more at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1059924X.2017.1282909>.
- Scott Heiberger co-authored a content analysis, “How agricultural media cover safety compared with periodicals in two other hazardous industries,” in a recent issue of the Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health. It featured analysis of periodicals serving agriculture, mining and transportation spanning a 5-year period. Results indicated that transportation and mining periodicals averaged more than twice as many safety articles as the agricultural periodicals, although agriculture articles were more likely to include injury prevention messages. The study provides direction for engaging industry media more effectively in the public safety mission. DOI 10.13031/jash.23.11900.



## NCCRAHS Advisors Meet



The National Children's Center reported on its projects and planned next steps at its annual Scientific Advisors' Meeting, April 26, at the Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport. **Attending were:** Kent Anger, Oregon Health Sciences University; Shelly Campo, University of Iowa; Linda Fetzter, Penn State University; Paul Gunderson; Davis Hill, Penn State University; Jill Kilanowski, Mount Carmel College of Nursing; Amy K. Liebman, Migrant Clinicians Network; Sara Lindberg, University of Wisconsin; Risto Rautiainen, Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health; Andrea Raygor, University of Wisconsin; Diane Rohlman, University of Iowa; Kami Silk, Michigan State University; Juliana Simmons, Migrant Clinicians Network; and from NCCRAHS – Kate Barnes, Cap Bendixsen, Scott Heiberger, Barbara Lee, Barbara Marlunga, Marsha Salzwedel, Kathie Smith. **Attending via phone:** Dee Jepsen, Ohio State University; and Dennis Murphy, Penn State University.

## Dr. Lee named 'outstanding researcher' by National Rural Health Association



Barbara Lee, Ph.D.

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) has selected childhood agricultural injury prevention leader Barbara Lee, Ph.D., as the recipient of its 2017 Outstanding Researcher Award. Lee and other major award winners were honored May 11 at the NRHA 40th annual conference in San Diego. Lee used [her acceptance video](#) to thank NRHA for highlighting childhood agricultural

health and safety efforts. She said she was accepting the award on behalf of her researchers and staff, past and present.

## Progressive Ag Safety Day



Applications to host a 2018 Progressive Agriculture Safety Day will be accepted until July 15, 2017. Since 1995, more than 1.5 million children and adults have been impacted. For more information, visit [www.progressiveag.org](http://www.progressiveag.org)

or call 888-257-3529. Applications are located on the website under both the "What We Do" and "Get Involved" tabs. These one-day events teach children lessons that can help keep them and those around them safe and healthy. The program is designed for 8 to 13-year-old children, although it can be adjusted to accommodate younger children or entire families.

## Ag industry group funds mobile-friendly audit tool



The Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA) has announced funding for, "Enhancing SaferFarm.org for Agricultural Insurance," a one-year project (2017 - 2018) that upgrades the existing agricultural safety auditing features of the SaferFarm.org website in order to make them more applicable for professional loss control experts in the insurance industry. Collaborators include Rural Mutual, the largest insurer of farms in Wisconsin.

## Year in Review published

The National Farm Medicine Center/National Children's Center **2016 Year in Review** is available.

The new-look document uses colorful infographics and personal stories-of-research in highlighting our 30 funded projects. In addition to well-known initiatives such as Agritourism and AgInjuryNews, did you know we are researching the role of rural firefighters in delivering safety information, studying why farm kids have less asthma and examining tickborne illnesses? It's all here!



## Welcome!

The National Children's Center is pleased to announce three new members of the team.

- **Josie Rudolphi, Ph.D., Associate Scientist.** Rudolphi recently received her doctorate in occupational and environmental health-agricultural safety and health from the University of Iowa. She has a master's in agricultural education and a bachelor's in agricultural communications, both from Iowa State.
- **Kathie Smith, Administrative Secretary.** Smith returns to the Children's Center after stints with Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America and a private manufacturing company.
- **Melissa Ploeckelman, Outreach Specialist.** Ploeckelman taught six years in Colby, Wis., where she was an agricultural instructor and FFA adviser. She has a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

## Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines live!

The first set of interactive [Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines](#) have gone live! They are based upon the 1999 North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), and are designed to assist parents and others in assigning age-appropriate tasks for youth ages 7 - 16. The guidelines incorporate the latest scientific research, said project manager Marsha Salzwedel, M.S. More guidelines will be added. Support came from CHS Foundation, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and generous donors to the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.