

In the news

CHS grant to support guidelines' completion

CHS Foundation has pledged an additional \$25,000 to support completion of the final 30 Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines. All 50 guidelines should be done by spring 2018. "We are very appreciative of CHS' support," said National Children's Director Barbara Lee, Ph.D. "This is a wonderful example of private-sector support augmenting an important project initiated with National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) funding."

Mini-grant to fund safety training for aspiring farmers

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, 56 projects have been funded in amounts up to \$20,000. One grant was announced for FY 2018. "Children's Agricultural Safety Education," awarded to the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA), will support training for 50 aspiring and current farm owners on best practices to reduce safety risks to children. Principal Investigator is Nathan Harkleroad, M.S. Since 2001 ALBA, based in California's Salinas Valley, has provided education and farm development opportunities to aspiring farmers – primarily immigrant farm laborers.



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."

Spheres of influence:

Journal of Agromedicine turns old concept into new approach for agricultural safety and health

Who is most influential in the agricultural safety and health behavior of adults and children: Farm owners? Insurers? Lawmakers? Bankers? Physicians? CEOs?

The Journal of Agromedicine examines the complex interplay of behavior and change agents in its current issue: "Socio-ecological approaches for improving agricultural safety and health." Dr. Barbara Lee and four Children's Center advisors served as Guest Editors: Susan Gallagher, M.P.H., Tufts University School of Medicine; Jill Kilanowski, Ph.D., Mount Carmel College of Nursing; Amy K. Liebman, M.A., M.P.A., Migrant Clinicians Network; and Kami Silk, Ph.D., Michigan State University.

The Socio-ecological Model of Health (SEM) was introduced in the 1970s and adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and World Health Organization for designing health promotion interventions. The SEM illustrates the interaction between the individual whose behavior is of primary interest (in this case the child, farmer or farm employee) and the personal relationships, organizations, regulations and other environmental factors that influence him/her.

"It's striking how easily much of the work presented in this issue adapts to interpretation through the lens of SEM," said Matthew Keifer, M.D., editor-in-chief of the Journal. "A deeper understanding of the relative strengths of influence of the different spheres might serve as a roadmap for farm safety interventions."

A [commentary](#) in this issue co-authored by Dr. Lee, Gallagher, Liebman and Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D., describes how a modified SEM could, for example, be used to safeguard youth operating tractors.

Funding for this dedicated issue of the Journal of Agromedicine was provided in part by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health via the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, and the National Farm Medicine Center.



Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines

The updated and interactive Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines continue to gain traction following their public debut June 26 at the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health meeting in Logan, Utah. Project sponsor CHS, for example, is doing a great job promoting the guidelines on their [site](#). "Too many injuries and deaths are associated with youth performing agricultural work that does not match their development level/abilities," said project leader Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., National Children's Center. "These guidelines help parents and supervisors determine if a youth is able to safely perform various farm tasks." The first 20 guidelines are available at <https://cultivatesafety.org/work/>. An additional 30 guidelines are scheduled to be added in spring 2018.





Farming as medicine

Exposure to dairy farms early in life may dramatically reduce the frequency and severity of respiratory illnesses, allergies and chronic skin rashes among young children according to collaborative research involving the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, and the National Farm Medicine Center at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute (MCRI). Results published online Sept. 1 in the [Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology](#) are the first data to show an association between farm exposure and a reduction in respiratory illnesses requiring medical attention. Exactly how farm exposure reduces childhood respiratory illnesses is the focus of a related study, the Wisconsin Infant Study Cohort (WISC) project. UW researchers are working with NFMC Associate Research Scientist Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D., and the MCRI-based team. The WISC study is scheduled to conclude in 2018.

AgInjuryNews.org goes international

Originally a repository for U.S. child trauma news reports, then expanded to include all ages, [AgInjuryNews.org](#) will soon be entering international articles from Europe, Australia, Canada and Argentina. Plans call for user registration from any country as part of ongoing improvement and redesign of the database." Additional enhancements this fall will include email delivery options - users will be able to customize a delivery schedule and topic list of their choosing. For example, a researcher might only want to get tractor rollover cases from California, Oregon and Washington sent monthly. Enhancements continue to be guided by feedback from the project steering committee.



National FFA Convention to feature safety zone

The National Children's Center is preparing to join safety and health colleagues from across the country Oct. 25-28 at the 90th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Marsha Salzwedel and Melissa Ploeckelman have devised a game of "Jeopardy!" to test the farm safety knowledge of thousands of career and technical education students and educators, and they are looking forward to handing out lots of prizes! The National Children's Center will promote the new and interactive Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines and a grain safety curriculum developed in conjunction with the Grain Handling Safety Coalition. NCCRHS encourages both educators and students to continue to help promote safety awareness year-round. Follow Cultivate Safety news on social media and make a difference in farm safety education. Remember, no job is worth a young worker's life.

CASN update

Childhood Agricultural Safety Network



Approximately 40 organizations participated in the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) annual meeting, held June 25 in Logan Utah, during the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health conference. Barbara Lee facilitated a discussion on the current status of child injuries on farms, as well as what still needs to be done and potential strategies. 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, spoke about working with media and other organizations to help raise safety awareness and motivation. Meeting participants also shared information on their organizations child ag injury prevention efforts. The National Children's Center continues to keep CASN members updated by providing child agricultural injury notifications and other news via email. The CASN group continues to grow and diversify, and welcomes new members. For more information or to join CASN, contact the National Children's Center at 800-662-6900 or nccrahs@marshfieldresearch.org.