

In the news

'Operating a mower' latest addition to guidelines

As grass cutting season gets underway, it's typical to see children and teenagers operating push and riding mowers. A new resource from the National Children's Center can help parents and supervising adults ensure the safety of these young people. "Operating a Lawn Mower" is the newest addition to a series of Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines (www.cultivatesafety.org/family-farms). With the lawn mower guideline, there are now 30 interactive Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines, with about 20 more coming. Upcoming guideline topics include maple syrup production, rototiller operation, greenhouse work, drones and aquaculture/aquaponics, said Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., Youth Agricultural Safety Specialist. Funding is provided by CHS Foundation and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.



"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."

Protect the future of agriculture

Child injury prevention workshop set for Aug. 14-15, Marshfield

A national workshop that will help us raise the next generation of farmers and ranchers has been scheduled for Aug. 14-15 in Marshfield, Wisconsin. The Child Agricultural Injury Prevention Workshop is based on "working together" to safeguard youth, said Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., National Children's Center.

"By working with other organizations we can get the information and resources to farmers and ranchers, enabling them to implement safety strategies," Salzwedel said. "Protecting our children needs to be a priority. A youth dies in an agricultural incident about every three days in the United States."

The workshop will be limited to the first 60 registrants. Early bird deadline is July 1 (\$199 registration fee). To register, go to www.marshfieldresearch.org/CAIP-Workshop. The workshop is designed for farm organizations, insurance professionals, health care providers, Extension, agribusiness, public health officials and media.

The interactive workshop will enable participants to:

- Understand the leading causes of injuries and fatalities to children who are either working or playing on farms;
- Describe interventions most likely to be effective in preventing childhood farm injuries; and
- Design a strategy to support their organization's unique role in helping farm children grow up happy and healthy.

For more workshop information, email nccrahs@marshfieldresearch.org or call 1-800-662-6900.

New York Times visits Children's Center

New York Times reporter Jack Healy came to the National Children's Center to interview director Barbara Lee while reporting on the role of children working in agriculture. His article, "On Family Farms, Little Hands Steer Big Machines," was published Jan. 29, 2018 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/29/us/family-farms-child-workers.html>). National media increasingly contact the Children's Center and Farm Center for safety context regarding America's most hazardous industry. Other requests for interviews in the past year include the Wall Street Journal, Politico, Huffington Post, Associated Press, Bloomberg BNA, RTL TV (Germany) and Gannett.



Children's Center, Progressive Agriculture discuss collaborations

Brian Kuhl, interim CEO of Progressive Agriculture Safety Days, visited Marshfield in April to meet with the National Children's Center's farm safety/health scientists and staff.



"We enjoyed great discussions around topics very important to our organizations," Kuhl said. The first collaboration will be at 2018 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, July 10-12, near Marshfield, where the two organizations will partner to offer interactive activities for older children and teens, with prizes available for completing activities. Meanwhile, parents can learn more about assigning work to youth on farms, based on the youth's age and abilities. The second activity will be a "Safe Play Area" for children under 6 years old. This area will contain play items for young children to play on (try out), while the parents learn more about how to build or upgrade play areas, making them safe and engaging for their children.

Rural health informatics and ag safety

A new version of AgInjuryNews.org is scheduled for release in June. The site will include more options for searching and filtering, data visualization and customizable email delivery of reports. To create a free account, go to www.AgInjuryNews.org and click "Register." Principal investigator of AgInjuryNews, Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., National Children's Center, and Serap Gorucu, Ph.D., Penn State University, highlighted data collection and safety implications in their recent article, "Supplemental surveillance: a review of 2015 and 2016 agricultural injury data from news reports on AgInjuryNews.org," available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/injuryprev-2017-042671>. To see an infographic with the article's key findings, go to www.marshfieldresearch.org/Media/Default/NFMC/Infographic-4-25-18.jpg



Pilot project surveys young farmers about mental health

Josie Rudolphi, Ph.D., has been awarded a pilot project, "Identifying the sources of stress and prevalence of self-reported symptoms of anxiety and depression among young farmers and ranchers," from the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH). The online survey has been sent to Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher program coordinators in Wisconsin, Kansas, Iowa and North Dakota. Data analysis begins in June.

Meeting needs of the Plain community

Josie Rudolphi, Ph.D., is serving on a committee that organized and facilitated the recent Plain Community Farm Safety Event in Clark County, Wis. Organizers included Clark County Public Health Department, University of Wisconsin Extension, Marshfield Medical Center and Marshfield Children's Hospital, and Clark County Department of Social Services. The event was organized with input from community leaders and included the following topics: skid steer safety, children working with skid steers, confined space safety, children working in confined spaces, supervision, and basic injury response. In total, 385 people from the Plain community attended, including youth from eight Mennonite schools. Overall, the community reaction was positive and the committee is determining future steps.



CASN in-person meeting June 25

The annual Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m., Monday, June 25, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, co-located with the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) conference. All CASN members are invited, as well as any ISASH members interested in child agricultural injury prevention. The meeting will be at the Lower Deck, next door to the Halifax Marriot (the ISASH conference hotel). A contribution of \$30 USD per person is requested to offset the cost of the meal. Plan to pay by check or cash at the event. Please RSVP before June 14, 2018, to Kathie Smith at smith.kathleen@marshfieldresearch.org, and include any dietary restrictions or allergies.

NFMC/NCCRAHS Year in Review online

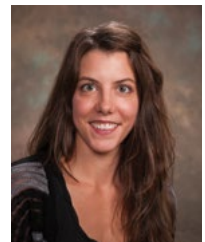
"In their boots" is the theme of the National Farm Medicine Center/National Children's Center 2017 Year in Review, reflecting the Farm Center's approach to research with agricultural populations. Led by Editor and Outreach Specialist Melissa Ploeckelman, the document offers a snapshot of the 37th year of the nation's oldest, continuously-operating agricultural safety and health research center. <http://www.marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc/yearinreview>

Furthermore

Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., has been promoted to Associate Research Scientist; Kate Barnes, M.S., M.P.H., has been promoted to Project Manager; Dyan Friemoth is the Children's Center's new department clerk; and Emily Redmond has joined as research coordinator. Congratulations all!



Dyan Friemoth



Emily Redmond