

In the news

2020 Vision for child ag injury prevention



The National Children's Center and its strategic partnerships are seen as the primary drivers that will facilitate future work on childhood agricultural injury prevention in this country, according to the "2020 Vision" report. Sara Lindberg, Ph.D., and Andrea Raygor, M.S., University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, interviewed 31 nationally-known external key informants regarding their perspectives on national efforts to safeguard children on farms. Lindberg and Raygor also assessed the progress, outcomes and impacts of the National Children's Center, offering recommendations on future directions in their report: "In Pursuit of a 2020 Vision." Key recommended areas of focus include: strengthening research, focusing on impact and strengthening partnerships. Policy reform is also seen as an important, although challenging, part of the long-term reduction in injuries.



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."

Delivering childcare in agricultural communities

Children's Center outputs include just-published 'Road Map'

The goal of the "Protecting Children While Parents work in Agriculture" project is to establish safe and nurturing environments for children. Employers also benefit. In a time when agricultural employers are struggling to find workers, access to quality child care can aid in worker recruitment, improve retention and boost employee morale.



The National Children's Center and Migrant Clinicians Network developed the, "Road Map for Delivering Child Care in Agricultural Communities," with input from agricultural business owners, human resources directors, insurance providers, child care specialists and farm worker parents.

"The Road Map will help individuals and organizations identify challenges and assets within their local regions," said Marsha Salzwedel, M.S. "This local knowledge, combined with the references and resources in the Road Map, will pave the way for developing an action plan that eventually creates new (or improves existing) child care services."

Other new outputs from the National Children's Center:

- Resource brochure: Contains the statistics, strategies and resources necessary to understand and prevent injuries on farms. Presented in an easy-to-read infographics format, these resources are designed to help adults maximize benefits and minimize risks to children and youth who live, visit and work on farms and ranches. https://www.cultivatesafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-Resource-Brochure_Print.pdf
- 2019 Childhood Agricultural Injuries Fact Sheet: Since 2009, the number of youth (ages 15-17) worker fatalities in agriculture has been higher than in all other industries combined. These data are part of the updated fact sheet, the most cited resource of the National Children's Center. <https://marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc/other-resources>
- Child Agricultural Injury Prevention Workshops: 2019 workshops are scheduled for Des Moines, Iowa, June 23-24; Lexington, Kentucky, Aug. 6-7; and Hershey, Pennsylvania, Sept. 17-18. The workshops are supported by sponsors John Deere, Westfield Insurance and the National Farm Medicine Center. For more information, see <https://www.marshfieldresearch.org/CAIP-workshop>.
- Say "no" to corn boxes: An increasingly popular agritourism activity - providing corn or other grains for children to play in - raises safety concerns. These concerns and solutions are detailed in this one-page resource, "[Safety Concerns: Grain Boxes and Play Bins](#)."
- Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines: Help young people do farm tasks more safely with 20 new guidelines including facing silage, tree fruit harvesting and refueling tanks (<https://www.cultivatesafety.org/>). The guidelines, 50 in all, are also available in French, thanks to a collaboration with Canadian Agricultural Safety Association. Generous support from CHS, Inc. has made the guidelines possible!



Dr. Marlenga announces retirement

Barbara Marlenga, Ph.D., deputy director of the National Children's Center since 1997, has announced her retirement effective May 15. Dr. Marlenga's research and scientific rigor made her a leader in childhood agricultural injury prevention. Her projects included the formation and evaluation of the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT). With Canadian colleagues, her research revealed that nearly all childhood farm fatalities occurred in the presence of an adult, thus, confirming that "supervision" is not a sufficient protective strategy on farms. "This was a game changer in our field," said National Farm Medicine Director Casper Bendixsen. Marlenga also established and led the Wisconsin Rollover Protection Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program, which has retrofitted more than 250 tractors since 2013.



AGINJURY NEWS

New online database puts sharper focus on U.S. ag injuries

A newly updated online tool is providing a clearer picture of injury in agriculture. AgInjuryNews.org enables users to search the largest database of publicly available U.S. agricultural injury and fatality reports, getting a near real-time snapshot of the distribution and nature of trauma incidents, both nationally and locally. The updated system includes an interactive map display, more data granularity for search and filters, and email alerts. "The innovation here is the combination of capturing, coding and redistributing publicly available data on agricultural injuries and fatalities, primarily mined from media reports, and coupled with relevant prevention materials," said project leader Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D.. Anyone can set up a free account and search thousands of unique incidents. Visit www.AgInjuryNews.org and click "Register." "AgInjuryNews.org is helping to standardize the collection and analyses of injuries occurring on farms and ranches across the U.S. by adhering to national standards for coding and describing agricultural injury," said Dennis Murphy, Ph.D, Nationwide Insurance Professor Emeritus, Penn State University. Funding has been provided by generous donors, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute and National Farm Medicine Center.

Farm Medicine announces new director; Dr. Lee to focus on Children's Center

Casper "Cap" Bendixsen, Ph.D., a research scientist specializing in social-cultural anthropology, has been named director of the National Farm Medicine Center. Bendixsen follows in the footsteps of Barbara Lee, Ph.D., who will continue her research program as the Dean Emanuel Endowed Chair, and as director of the National Children's Center.



Mini-grant trains aspiring farmers on child safety

A 2018 mini-grant from the National Children's Center enabled a non-profit organization based in California's Salinas Valley to weave child agricultural safety into its education and development program for aspiring farmers. Since 2001, the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) has worked with primarily immigrant farm laborers on its 100 acres of certified organic farmland. The "Children's Agricultural Safety Education" (CASE) project reviewed CultivateSafety.org and other resources before providing:



- Three workshops on children's agricultural safety.
- A one-page bilingual reference guide summarizing top farm safety risks to children. www.albafarmers.org/farmer-resources/
- Multiple signs (mainly pictorial) placed around the ALBA farm alerting farmers to safety risks.
- Updated ALBA policies that prohibit children younger than 6 years old in the production areas, and allow for the possible eviction of parents who allow a minor to drive a personal vehicle or tractor.

Among lessons learned is that repetition and reinforcement are key. "It is easy to change a policy," said Nathan Harkleroad, ALBA program director. "But to actually change behavior requires keen observation, correcting bad behavior and following through on appropriate consequences or retraining."

Furthermore ...

Erin Teague (administrative secretary), Kyle Koshalek (associate research coordinator), Matt Pilz (programmer/analyst) and Andrea Swenson, Ph.D., (project scientist) have joined the National Children's Center team. Dr. Swenson, who will focus on evaluation, most recently held a faculty position at University of Wisconsin-Stout, where she was responsible for teaching human development and family studies courses. ... Scott Heiberger will begin a one-year term as president of the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) during the group's annual meeting, June 24-27, in Des Moines, Iowa. He is the first ISASH president from the National Farm Medicine Center since Barbara Lee, 1995-96. ... The National Children's Center and National Farm Medicine Center work through many individuals and organizations to improve the health and safety of adults and children across the country. Our stories and project highlights are presented in the 2018 Farm Medicine Year in Review, <http://bit.ly/NFMCIYR>.