

# Cultivate

FALL 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FARM MEDICINE CENTER



## BIADASZ FAMILY DONATES \$40,000 TO START REBATE PROGRAM

The Biadasz family continues to inspire and mobilize those who love farming and who share grief over the death of Mike Biadasz – son and brother, friend to so many. Through safety workshops, fundraising events and media outreach, this family from Amherst, Wis., is living proof of the power of a story. On July 28 they presented a \$40,000 check to the National Farm Medicine Center and Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Outreach to establish a rebate program for farmers who rent portable gas monitors. Mike Biadasz died in August 2016 when he accidentally inhaled a lethal dose of hydrogen sulfide gas emitted from the farm's manure pit. The Mike Biadasz Farm Safety and Education Memorial Fund will be the beneficiary of the 2017 Auction of Champions Fund-a-Need.



**Marshfield Clinic**  
HEALTH SYSTEM  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**National Farm Medicine Center**



Operating a Tractor is one of the guideline posters.

## NEW YOUTH WORK GUIDELINES HELP KIDS DO THE JOB SAFELY

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, on behalf of a coalition of farm and ranch parents, and agricultural organizations, has released a set of [Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines](#) to assist parents and others in assigning appropriate tasks for youth who live or work on farms and ranches. The new guidelines are built upon the 1999 North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT).

Since 2001, there has been a steady decline in the number of non-fatal injuries to farm youth. Despite this, every 3 days in the United States, a youth dies in an agricultural incident. For youth younger than 16 working in agriculture, the number of fatal injuries is consistently higher than all other industries combined.

"Too many of these injuries and deaths are associated with children performing agricultural work that does not match their development level/abilities," said Marsha Salzwedel, project leader and youth agricultural safety specialist at the National Children's Center. "These voluntary guidelines help parents and supervisors determine if a youth is able to safely perform various farm tasks."

Organizations on the project steering committee included farm/ranch parents, American Farm Bureau Federation, National FFA, 4-H, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, COUNTRY Financial, and others.

The new guidelines can be found on [cultivate-safety.org/work](http://cultivate-safety.org/work) in an interactive format, as well as in read-only and print versions. 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



The National Children's Center announced the guidelines at an international safety conference in late June, capping the multi-media session with a balloon drop.

## WELCOME

The National Farm Medicine Center is pleased to announce three new members of the team.



**Josie Rudolphi**  
Ph.D.

**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**

**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**

**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. She is a former State Fairest of the Fairs (2009) and grew up on a dairy farm in Stetsonville, Wis.

## IN THE NEWS

**POLITICO** took a big-picture look at agricultural safety in America, posting, "[Your farm is trying to kill you.](#)" on April 12. Director Barbara Lee is quoted, and the reporter used Dr. Bryan Weichelt's AgInjuryNews.org to find a family to interview.

- The death of a 3-year-old Clark County, Wis., 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 National Children's Center facts and resources.
- **WSAW-TV** Wausau spoke to Marsha Salzwedel and a farm family about the new [Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines](#). The story aired July 25.
- The National Children's Center 2017 Child Agricultural Injuries Fact Sheet was picked up by [USA Today](#) in April.

## SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM

Farm Center intern Rachael Rol interviewed farm couples in central Wisconsin about their attitudes toward child safety and keeping children out of the worksite. She presented her results Aug. 10 at the 2017 Marshfield Clinic Research Institute Summer Research Internship Program Symposium. Rol found that parents' strong desire to incorporate young children into farm work to teach values such as work ethic and responsibility explains their reluctance to an intervention (Safe Play Area) that eliminates children from the work environment. Rol, who grew up on Elusive Hill Dairy, Spencer, worked with advisor Dr. Casper Bendixsen and Kate Barnes on the project, as well as family members and BMO Harris ag banker Brad Guse. She attends the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and plans to study medicine.



**Rachael Rol**

## OUR MISSION

"The National Farm Medicine Center will be a national resource, conducting high quality research, developing and delivering health and safety information, exploring innovative service models and effecting broad change to improve human health and safety associated with rural and agricultural work, life and environments."

## BETTER SAFETY THROUGH DATA

A newly-funded project is taking a deep dive into workers' compensation and agricultural employer datasets. The goals of the proposed research are to 1) aggregate sufficient data from multiple sources to characterize specific injury risk factors for the most severe and costly injuries in animal agriculture production, and 2) develop corresponding injury prevention and control protocols that can be utilized by producers, managers, and insurance loss control professionals. Dr. Bryan Weichelt, working with the project PI, Dr. Bruce Alexander, will lead development of algorithms to characterize injury events using text data from the worker compensation claims and company reports of injury.



## FARMING AS MEDICINE: CHILD ASTHMA STUDY JOINS NATIONAL NETWORK

The National Institutes of Health announced an important initiative in 2016 to bring together studies throughout the United States in order to learn more about diseases, such as asthma and allergies that affect many children. The Wisconsin Infant Study Cohort (WISC) has now joined with 11 other studies to learn about environmental influences on allergies and asthma during childhood, said Marshfield site Principal Investigator Dr. Cap Bendixsen. This new study is called CREW (Children's Respiratory Research and the Environment Workgroup), and includes studies from mostly urban areas and suburban areas throughout the United States. As part of CREW, the WISC study will be sharing and comparing information about early life environmental exposures and its effects on children's health. WISC has a lot to contribute, as the only participating study in rural America!



## IMPROVING SAFETY AND HEALTH IN CATTLE FEEDYARDS

The cattle feedyard sector has exceptionally high non-fatal injury and illness rates. Turnover among feedyard employees is high; many have little experience and no safety training. There is increasing recognition that reducing injuries and illnesses among workers is a critical part of retaining a skilled workforce, decreasing losses and improving sustainability. Dr. Cap Bendixsen has been asked to join a team from the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH) in Omaha, Neb., to develop a culturally appropriate feedyard safety and health training program. This is a four-year project funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Bendixsen will start by interviewing feedyard managers and workers using the multi-sited ethnography method. The project will then evaluate the program's effectiveness.

## ROPS REBATE PROGRAM RENEWED FOR YEAR 6

The Wisconsin Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program has been funded for a sixth year, thanks to philanthropic support from the Auction of Champions! Need a tractor rollbar? Call the ROPS hotline, 1-877-ROPSR4U, or go to [www.ropsr4u.com](#) and click on Wisconsin. ROPS, when used with a seatbelt, are 99 percent effective in preventing injury or death in the event of an overturn. The Wisconsin ROPS Rebate Program reimburses up to 70 percent (maximum of \$865) toward the total cost of purchasing, shipping and installing individual ROPS. Nearly 200 tractors have been retrofitted in the program.



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