

Cultivate

Newsletter of the National Farm Medicine Center

Summer 2012

Our Mission

"To conduct high quality research addressing human health and safety associated with rural and agricultural work, life and environments."

Auction September 20

The National Farm Medicine Center's annual gala fundraiser, Auction of Champions, is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2012 at RiverEdge Golf Course in Marshfield. More than \$2 million has been raised for agricultural safety and health since the first Auction in 1982. Auction Chair Erik Stratman, M.D., is pleased to announce this year's theme, "Diamonds & Dazzle." Proceeds from last year's event were used to establish a cohort within Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation to assist with population research specific to the farm community. This year's proceeds will be used to provide funding to Wisconsin farm families to install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on older tractors.



Marshfield Clinic[®]
Research Foundation

2012 Blueprint

National plan addresses child agricultural safety, health

Blueprint for Protecting Children in Agriculture: The 2012 National Action Plan (www.marshfieldclinic.org/blueprint) takes an updated look at preventing childhood agricultural injury and death.

Released in April by the National Children's Center, the Blueprint builds upon the 1996 plan that launched a national initiative leading to a remarkable reduction in nonfatal injuries among children who live on, visit and work on farms. The 2012 Blueprint re-sets priorities to reflect changes in agricultural production and worker demographics.

The Blueprint is a product of input from the general public as well as leading researchers in childhood agricultural safety and health. Draft versions of goals and strategies were critiqued by nearly 100 stakeholders, and then posted online to solicit further public input. The 38-page report emphasizes the need for:

- Affordable, accessible and high-quality child care options for farm families and hired farm workers.
- Increased involvement of employers, farm organizations and agribusinesses in creating a culture of safety.
- Improved injury and fatality data collection, with inclusion of under-represented populations such as seasonal workers and the Amish and Mennonite communities.
- Increased attention to reaching young farm parents and teen workers via social media outlets.



"Moving forward, child advocates, farm organizations, safety practitioners, researchers, policy makers, funding agencies and corporate sponsors are encouraged to set their own priorities consistent with the goals and recommended strategies proposed in this 2012 plan," said Barbara Lee, director of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

To receive a print copy of the 2012 Blueprint document, contact the National Children's Center, nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu or 1-800-662-6900.

New director of NFMC



Matthew Keifer, M.D., M.P.H.

In the opening days of 2012, Barbara Lee, Ph.D., passed directorship of the National Farm Medicine Center to Matthew Keifer, M.D., M.P.H., ensuring seamless continuity into the center's 31st year. Dr. Lee, NFMC director since 2000, remains director of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. Dr. Keifer, who joined the NFMC in 2010 as the Dean Emanuel Endowed chair, has built a new dimension to the Farm Center with an emphasis on occupational health and safety research, on-site safety consultations, and the health and safety of the Hispanic workforce.

New Interactive Web Guide

A new interactive web guide (www.marshfieldclinic.org/agritourism) helps agritourism operators identify health and safety hazards and provides them with resources to enable them to address those hazards.



The site allows the user to "walk through" and view a series of pictures, and decide if they depict hazards and/or safety items, or if safety items are lacking, said Marsha Salzwedel, M.S., who led site development. After evaluating the pictures and giving an answer, a new page will pop up with an explanation. This page may also contain additional guidelines, recommendations and links to resources. A checklist can be printed at the completion of the walkthrough.

UMASH Center



Dr. Keifer is co-Principal Investigator of the new NIOSH-funded Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health (UMASH) Center (www.umash.umn.edu/). It

is one of 10 agricultural centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The center is a collaboration of the Farm Center, the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Health. UMASH will initially address health and safety issues related to animal agriculture production. Broadly speaking, the Farm Center will tackle dairy issues and the Minnesota researchers will deal with pork production. Assisting Dr. Keifer are these new staff members: Occupational Safety Specialist Carol Magurany-Brotski, M.S.; Community Outreach Specialist Francisco Guerrero; and Research Specialist Iris Reyes, M.S.

Agricultural Safety Consulting

The Farm Center is not usually in the business of consulting for a fee, even to cover its costs. But seeing a need to assist and support dairy farmers in a changing industry, and responding to input from Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, the Farm Center launched Agricultural Safety Consulting (ASC). The experienced, bilingual ASC staff specialize in safety program development, implementation and management. ASC emerges at a time when the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has initiated a Local Emphasis Program to inspect dairy farm operations in Wisconsin, focusing on common hazards in dairy farm activities. ASC can help farmers not only comply with safety and health regulations, but also reduce injuries. Contact ASC at 715-389-4999, 1-800-662-6900 or nfmcsh@mcrf.mfldclin.edu.

Childhood Injury Prevention

National Children's Center Deputy Director Barbara Marlenga, Ph.D., is lead investigator on a pilot project that studies the role of cognitive development in safe tractor operation. The project uses the National Advanced Driving Simulator at the University of Iowa, considered to be the world's most advanced ground vehicle simulator. The two-year project is funded by NIOSH. ... Results were published from the Hearing Conservation Program Follow-up Study, which examined hearing education for rural Wisconsin high school students conducted 1992 – 1996. Key findings: the program did not make a big difference in hearing loss (suggesting that education alone is not enough); noise-induced hearing loss is not just a problem of old age (measurable hearing loss was observed in nearly two-thirds of participants); recreational noise exposures (e.g., guns, chainsaws) were found more likely to be related to hearing loss than work exposures.

Furthermore...

Barbara Lee, Ph.D., was one of nine individuals worldwide to be conferred an honorary doctoral degree by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Uppsala. Dr. Lee was honored Oct. 8, 2011, for her accomplishments in childhood agricultural injury prevention. Her lecture is posted at www.slu.se/en/research/lectures-and-dissertations/honorary-doctors-lectures/honorary-doctors-2011/. ... The Farm Center welcomes: Administrative Secretary Kathie Smith and Center Research Administrator Kathy Heintz-Dzikowich. ... Dr. Keifer assumed editorship of the Journal of Agromedicine, replacing Dr. Steven Kirkhorn, who has joined the Minneapolis VA Health Care System.

