

Nurture

Quarterly Newsletter of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

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Safe Play in 3-D

Collaboration key to Safe Play Area model demonstration at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days

Children played, adults learned and researchers gleaned data.

The most ambitious demonstration to-date of Safe Play Areas on Farms took place at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, July 12 – 14, 2005, in Loyal, WI. Farm Technology Days is one of the state's premier agricultural events, drawing tens of thousands of visitors each year.

The National Children's Center and local FFA volunteers transformed a 60-foot by 70-foot area of hayfield into a kid-friendly playground and adult learning center.

Assisting visitors and taking ideas back to their own programs were representatives of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, Penn State University, Progressive Agriculture Foundation and the National Program for Playground Safety.

The area featured nearly a dozen play stations along with samples of fence panels, surfacing materials and gate latches, complete with signs outlining advantages and disadvantages of each. Additional printed materials were available at a shaded table.

Nearly 200 written surveys were completed by adult visitors. The purpose of the survey was to identify farm parents' barriers to constructing play areas and to assess the extent to which a model demonstration



Volunteer staff engage in "quality control" at the Safe Play demonstration area. Checking the bubble solution are (from left) Susan Hudson, Ph.D.; Sally Maud Robertson; and Bernard Geschke.

motivates parents to build a new (or improve an existing) play area on their farm. Survey results will be published in a journal and used to improve interventions for promoting Safe Play Areas on Farms.

Those staffing the event included Bernard Geschke, national program specialist for the Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Days program; Susan Hudson, Ph.D., educational director, National Program for Playground Safety; Sally Maud Robertson, research associate, Penn State Agricultural Safety and Health program; and David Schweitz, executive director, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids.

Pre-event publicity helped assure extensive media coverage. Print stories appeared in

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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."

Mark your calendar for NIFS 2006



Children and agriculture will be on the agenda when the National Institute for Farm Safety holds its annual meeting June 25 – 29, 2006, in Sheboygan, WI, under the theme, “Meeting Challenges Together.” The setting will be Blue

Harbor Resort and Conference Center on the shore of Lake Michigan, <http://www.blueharborresort.com/default.aspx>.

Planning is underway. For information as it develops, go to <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm>. The NIFS 2006 planning committee consists of Barbara Lee, Ph.D., Mark Purschwitz, Ph.D., and Marlene Stueland, National Farm Medicine Center; Dee Jepsen, M.S., Ohio State University; Murray Madsen, BSAgE, M.B.A., University of Iowa; Chip Petrea, Ph.D., University of Illinois; and Bruce Stone, Virginia Farm Bureau.

2005 NIFS Pre-conference a success

Twenty-one participants increased their understanding of timely, evidence-based perspectives on childhood agricultural injury prevention at the National Institute for Farm Safety (NIFS) Pre-conference Workshop, June 25, 2005, in Wintergreen, VA. The workshop was co-sponsored by the National Children’s Center and the North American Agromedicine Consortium.

Suicide in rural America

Chris Hanna, M.P.H., was quoted in the July-August issue of *Advancing Suicide Prevention* (Volume 1, Issue 2), as part of an article titled, “Lost in Rural America.” Hanna discussed the lack of mental health services in rural areas. “In urban areas you might have a caseworker assisting a suicidal person,” Hanna said. “In rural areas sometimes the best ‘mental health’ services you get are from a police officer or school counselor.” Hanna, based at the National Children’s Center, is the project site director for the Children’s Safety Network under subcontract to the Education Development Center, Inc., in Newton, MA.

Safe Play in 3-D (continued from page 1)

all three Wisconsin weekly agricultural publications. Radio and television interviews were given to stations in Wausau, Eau Claire, Green Bay and several other locations.

Similar model demonstrations are being planned for Iowa and Pennsylvania. For “how to” information contact Regina Fisher at the National Children’s Center, 1-800-662-6900. For more information on Safe Play, visit <http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/>. Click on “Key Projects” and “Safe Play.”

NAGCAT efficacy

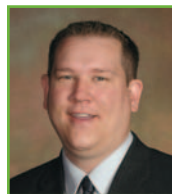
The efficacy of the North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) will be the subject of a paper scheduled for publication in the January 2006 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* (volume 96). Lead author Anne Gadomski, M.D., M.P.H., led a study of children on 845 farms in central New York.

New staff



Regina Fisher

Regina Fisher has joined the National Children’s Center as its new Youth Agricultural Safety Program Associate. Fisher, who grew up on a farm in central Wisconsin, has a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture Education and is halfway through a master’s degree in that field. She was the Agricultural Education instructor at Burlington (WI) H.S. and also taught the youth tractor certification course. Primary duties will be technical assistance and assisting with the Safe Play Areas on Farms initiative.



Michael Humann, M.S.

Michael Humann, M.S., is the new Agricultural Health and Safety Research Specialist at the National Children’s Center. Humann most recently worked as a research assistant at the Iowa Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, where he coordinated the Comprehensive Assessment of Rural Health in Iowa (CARHI) program. His background in industrial hygiene will be helpful as he leads the Children’s Center’s agricultural tourism best-practices initiative.



Visitors to the Safe Play Area were able to compare samples of ground surfacing material and read about the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Journalists Workshop hits home run in Cooperstown

The second annual, “Kids on Farms: Telling the Story,” workshop for journalists asked tough questions about children’s safety and farming.

Journalists from across North America met June 10 – 11 at the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) in Cooperstown, NY, to address questions such as:

- Do young children belong in the farm worksite?
- How does a farm family get its work done and keep its children safe?
- What is the media’s role in childhood agricultural health and safety?

The workshop was conducted by the National Children’s Center in cooperation with NYCAMH, the Northeast NIOSH Agricultural Research Center.

Nine journalists joined farm families and safety and health professionals for discussions and field trips amongst the rolling hills and dairy farms of upstate New York. Participants came from New York, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Manitoba and Ontario.

The purpose of the workshop program is to build an informed cadre of journalists who will elevate the level of discussion regarding the complexities of children’s work and play on farms.

John May, M.D., director of NYCAMH, said that everyone involved in the 2005 workshop agreed that farms are great places to grow up.

“But what we challenged the journalists to do is to ask whether it’s appropriate to have children doing adult jobs, or to bring them into the worksite as bystanders.



Dave Galley, a dairy farmer in Otsego County, NY, speaks with reporters during the 2005 Journalists Workshop. Dave and his wife Cathy, who participated in the panel discussion, have raised four children on the farm.

“The approximately 100 deaths and 22,600 injuries per year to children on U.S. farms might suggest that the answer is ‘no,’” Dr. May said. “But this is not as easy as just saying ‘no’ because there are cultural and traditional factors associated with children’s participation in agriculture. All types of viewpoints were represented at the workshop, which we believe gives it real credibility as a source of news stories.”

Les Kletke, a veteran writer for the Manitoba Co-operator, said the workshop opened his eyes to complex issues involving children and farms. “It permanently changed my attitude,” Kletke said.

The National Children’s Center is funded by the NIOSH to do workshops in other parts of the country in 2006 and 2007. Sites have not been determined.

Radio spots deliver health, safety messages to farmworkers



Carol McCormick, R.N.

Radio mini-dramas featuring childhood poisoning prevention advice aimed at Spanish-speaking farmworkers have been pilot-tested in central Washington with the help of a National Children’s Center mini-grant.

Principal investigator Carol McCormick, R.N. visited Marshfield in August to share results of the project with National Children’s Center staff.

A series of five “radio novelas” aired mid-summer. The novelas were set in a store where the store owner learned about various customers’ problems and then gave advice.

The objective of the project was to inform farmworkers regarding methods of preventing poisoning and choking in children and to alert them to the risks associated with children in orchards, said

McCormick, who directs outreach for Columbia Valley Community Health in Wenatchee, WA.

McCormick said radio ads were chosen as a delivery mechanism because radio is the medium of choice for farmworkers.

Before recording the novelas, three groups of monolingual Spanish-speaking farmworkers were consulted as focus groups.

The ads ran approximately 20 times per day for three weeks. To measure impact, 74 farmworkers at two camps were interviewed before and after the airings. Seven questions were asked by promotoras, peer educators who are bi-lingual and bi-cultural.

Dramatic improvement in knowledge was seen in several questions. When first asked if they knew the number for poison control, 16 answered “yes” and 58 answered “no.” After the ads aired, 48 said “yes” and 24 said “no.”

Schedule of upcoming events

October 27 – 28, 2005

Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum
Johnston, Iowa

November 9 – 11, 2005

National Association of Farm Broadcasters annual meeting
Kansas City, Missouri

January 8 – 9, 2006

American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting
Nashville, Tennessee

January 27 – 29, 2006

Western Migrant Stream Forum
Portland, Oregon

June 25 – 29, 2006

National Institute for Farm Safety annual meeting
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Nurture is a publication of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (a program of Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wisconsin and a site of the Children's Safety Network).

It is published four times each year to disseminate children's rural health and safety information to professionals in the fields of health and safety, agribusiness, policy-making and the media.

Contact the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, Marshfield Clinic, 1000 North Oak Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449-5790; phone 1-800-662-6900 or 715-389-4999; or fax 715-389-4996. Visit our Web site at <http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children>.

NCCRAHS Newsletter Board:

Scott Heiberger, Editor
Barbara Lee, Center Director
Barbara Marlenga
Chris Hanna

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Health and Safety
for Kids on the Farm

New ATV recommendations by Safe Kids Worldwide

After extensive review of data, Safe Kids Worldwide has concluded that there is no way to make all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding safe for children. Although wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of head injuries, there are no safety devices that adequately

protect against other injuries commonly sustained while riding ATVs. Accordingly, Safe Kids Worldwide recommends that no children under age 16 be allowed to ride an ATV under any circumstances. For the full release, go to: http://www.usa.safekids.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=18711&folder_id=183