

Nurture

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

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Features

Page 2

Proposals sought for mini-grant funds:
2006-07

UC-Davis study looks at NAGCAT,
tractor ergonomics and children

Page 3

Don't miss NIFS 2006

Play structure ideas sought

Safe Play resource project seeks play structure ideas from parents nationwide

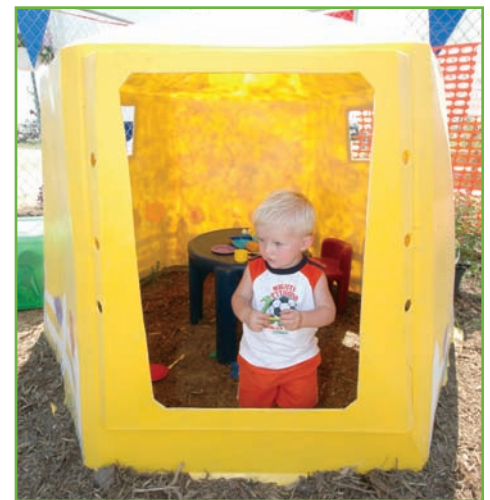
As part of the Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms initiative, the National Children's Center is soliciting designs for fun, low-cost play structures to share with parents.

The designs, with step-by-step instructions, will be compiled in-print and online. The National Children's Center will offer a modest award to those designs selected for the collection resource, along with the opportunity for the designers to submit their personal stories-behind-the-structures.

"We are developing a collection to give parents a key element to keep their children safe on farms," said Regina Fisher, project director.

Safety professionals and parents agree that the safest place for children when parents are working on the farm is at off-site childcare. However, when off-site childcare is not an option, a safe play area is the best alternative.

In 2003, the National Children's Center released guidelines: Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms. This was the first set of comprehensive guidelines to assist homeowners in designing and building a safe play area. The booklets are available online at www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay/.



A modified calf hutch.

Since release of the guidelines, the Children's Center has embarked on a public education campaign to keep children out of farm worksites by creating and utilizing safe play areas. In July 2005 it constructed an interactive safe play area



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."

Continued on page 4

Proposals sought for mini-grant funds: 2006-07



For the sixth year in a row, the National Children's Center is making available funds to support small-scale projects and pilot studies that address prevention of childhood agricultural disease and injury.

The mini-grant program will allocate up to \$15,000 to projects that:

- Test innovative strategies
- Strengthen partnerships between safety professionals, agricultural organizations and the media
- Translate research findings into practical applications

Organizations and individuals throughout the United States are eligible to apply. High priority will be given to organizations that are building their capacity in childhood agricultural health and safety. Applications for partial funding of larger projects, and organizations looking to increase the budgets of existing projects will not be considered. Community-based organizations are encouraged to apply, and to collaborate with National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) agricultural research centers on project design and evaluation.

Application deadline is July 14, 2006. For priority topics and application instructions, go to www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/, and click on the National Children's Center logo at right. Please direct questions regarding the application process to Michael Humann, M.S. (humann.michael@mcrf.mfldclin.edu). Direct programmatic questions to Barbara Lee, Ph.D. (lee.barbara@mcrf.mfldclin.edu). Or call 1-800-662-6900.

Mini-grants awarded for FY 2006

Following formal review of 14 proposals, four individuals were awarded National Children's Center 2006 mini-grants of \$15,000. Their funding cycle runs through Sept. 30, 2006. Awardees were:

- Shari Burgus, Ed.S., Farm Safety 4 Just Kids: "Anabaptist Magnetic Farm Safety & Health Display."
- Wayne Sanderson, Ph.D., University of Iowa: "Evaluating Noise Exposure of Rural Youth."
- William Field, Ed.D., Purdue University: "Development of an Evidence-based Curriculum and Leader Resource for Conducting Agricultural Safety Programming in Older Anabaptist Communities."
- Deborah Reed, Ph.D., University of Kentucky: "Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Children's Agricultural Health and Safety."

UC-Davis study looks at NAGCAT, tractor ergonomics and children

Researchers from the University of California-Davis, and colleagues from Wisconsin and Ontario, are assessing the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) recommendations for operation of tractors. The study will examine how well the NAGCAT tractor guidelines reflect a match between the physical abilities of youth ages 12 to 16 and the tractors they may typically operate.

Researchers are studying the 50 most common tractors in the United States to learn to what extent young people have the necessary strength and reach to safely engage brakes, clutches and levers, to shift gears and to steer.



UC-Davis researchers Ji Hong Chang (at computer) and Brandon Miller take measurements on a Farmall 706 in Granton, Wisconsin.

Tractors account for the majority of deaths and a large percentage of injuries on farms.

UC-Davis scientist Fadi Fathallah, Ph.D., is leading the project. Co-investigators are Barbara Marlenga, Ph.D., of the National Children's Center and William Pickett, Ph.D., Queen's University, Canada. The project is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health via a grant to the University of California-Davis.

News in brief

NIFS 2006: 'Meeting Challenges Together'



Network with top agricultural safety and health professionals and enjoy some of the best fishing and golfing in the country at the National Institute for Farm Safety (NIFS) meeting, June 25 – 30, at Blue Harbor Resort and Conference Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

John Howard, M.D., director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), is scheduled to participate in the opening plenary session, "Meeting Challenges Together: Issues and Recommendations from Multiple Perspectives." And back by popular demand will be "Both Sides of the Fence," a debate in which NIFS colleagues present opposing views on three current agricultural safety and health issues.

The conference is being hosted by the National Farm Medicine Center. Visit the NIFS Web site: www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm, or call Marlene Stueland at the National Farm Medicine Center, 1-800-662-6900. Conference fees increase after June 1. Cutoff date for special room rates is May 22.

In print

Recent publications that feature childhood agricultural safety and health include:

- "Evaluation of a policy to reduce youth tractor crashes on public roads," B Marlenga, BC Doty, RL Berg and JG Linneman. *Injury Prevention*. 2006 Feb;12:46-51.
- "A summary of state laws regulating youth operating farm tractors on highways," BC Doty, B Marlenga. *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health*. 2006; 12(1):51-58.
- Barbara Lee, Ph.D., and Barbara Marlenga, Ph.D., co-authored a chapter about childhood agricultural injuries in the new book, "Injury Prevention for Children and Adolescents: Research, Practice, and Advocacy" (Karen DeSafey Liller, Ph.D., editor; American Public Health Association; 2006). Drs. Lee and Marlenga began the chapter with a series of excerpts from newspapers to illustrate the human cost, preventability and similarities in childhood agricultural injuries. They also outline strategies for prevention of injuries.

Spanish-language educational comic book

Migrant Clinicians Network and Farm Safety 4 Just Kids have teamed up to produce a Spanish-language educational comic book targeting migrant and seasonal farmworker families to educate parents about children's risks to pesticide exposure and ways to minimize these risks. The third printing of the book is now available. View it online at www.fs4jk.org/services.html. Or, to request copies, email tammy@fs4jk.org.

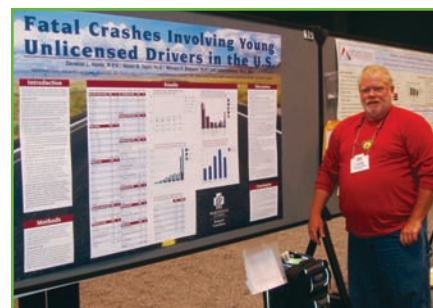
National Farm Medicine Center turns 25

The National Farm Medicine Center – home of the National Children's Center – is celebrating 25 years as one of the nation's longest-running and most successful agricultural health and safety research centers. To learn more about the National Farm Medicine Center, visit www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/.



Children's Safety Network at annual Lifesavers conference

Lisa Decker and Chris Hanna, M.P.H., from the Children's Safety Network's Marshfield, Wisconsin, site, participated in the annual Lifesavers conference in Austin, Texas, April 9 – 11.



Lifesavers is a national highway safety meeting dedicated to reducing the tragic toll of

Chris Hanna, M.P.H., presents his poster, "Fatal Crashes Involving Young Unlicensed Drivers in the U.S."

traffic-related deaths and injuries. Decker presented a poster titled, "All-terrain Vehicles, Youth, and Roadways: A Gripping Story," which portrayed the incidence of fatal injury to youth under 16 operating ATVs on roadways. Hanna's poster, "Fatal Crashes Involving Young Unlicensed Drivers in the U.S." examined the prevalence of young unlicensed drivers under the age of 19 involved in fatal crashes.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Days deadline July 15

Applications are being taken for 2007 Progressive Agriculture Safety Days. Deadline is July 15, 2006. These one-day events teach children safety lessons that can keep them and those around them safe at home, or on a farm or ranch. For information and applications, call Progressive Agriculture Foundation at 1-888-257-3529 or visit www.progressiveag.org.

ATV safety packets available

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids has assembled an educational packet on all-terrain vehicle safety. The packet includes: a community action planner; brochures; posters; lesson plans with interactive ideas and puzzles; a CD with video clips, graphics, and PowerPoint Presentation. Call FS4JK at 1-800-423-5437 or go to www.fs4jk.org for more information.

Play ideas wanted *(continued from page 1)*

at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. The overwhelming majority of parents surveyed at the demonstration expressed interest in resources to assist them in constructing play areas for their children.

This collection of play structure ideas will encourage children to grow, learn, and play in a safe and healthy environment.

Schedule of upcoming events

June 11 – 14, 2006

American Society of Safety Engineers
Seattle, Washington

June 25 – 30, 2006

National Institute for Farm Safety annual meeting
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

July 9 – 12, 2006

American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers
Portland, Oregon

July 26 – 27, 2006

2nd annual National Rural Health Association Quality Conference
Denver, Colorado

July 28 – 29, 2006

National Rural Health Association Clinicians' Conference
Denver, Colorado

September 17 – 19, 2006

Western Regional Conference: Research to Practice
Asilomar, Monterey, California

For more information on the Children's Center projects or on how to submit a design for the structure collection, visit the National Children's Center Web site at www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/ or call 1-800-662-6900, option 8.

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, agri-business, 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; fax 715-389-4996. Visit our Web site at www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/

NCCRAHS Newsletter Board:

Scott Heiberger, Editor

Barbara Marlunga

Barbara Lee, Center Director

Chris Hanna

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