

# Nurture

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

Winter 2006  
Volume 9, Number 3

## Features

### Page 2

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids uses mini-grant to reach Anabaptist communities

### Page 3

News in brief

### Page 4

Schedule of upcoming events

## Journalists Workshop gets to core of safety, health issues in orchard country

"Children and Agriculture: Telling the Story," a workshop held Oct. 20 – 21, 2006, in Wenatchee, Wash., gave 10 journalists an inside look at health and safety issues facing children in the orchard region of central Washington.

The third annual workshop took place in a region where 95 percent of Washington's tree fruit industry is located. The workshop addressed issues regarding children working and playing on family farms, and teens working for hire. In addition, the 2006 workshop examined environmental health hazards such as pesticides, as well as the health and safety importance of adequate farmworker housing.

Co-hosting were two National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-funded agricultural centers – the National Children's Center and the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health (PNASH) center at the University of Washington – along with the Washington state Department of Labor and Industries.

The workshop blended discussion, presentations and field trips in order to generate story ideas, increase the frequency of stories about children in agriculture, and to portray appropriate roles for children, said workshop director Scott Heiberger, of the National Children's Center.

The journalists visited an orchard owned by the same family for a century, a state-



**Floyd Stutzman speaks with reporters about safety during a field trip to his fourth-generation apple orchard in Wenatchee, Washington.**

run farmworker camp, and an apartment complex that houses both seasonal and year-around farmworker families.

Said Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director of the National Children's Center: "Childhood agricultural injury prevention strategies need to be widely communicated, and the workshop developed a Northwest cadre of journalists who understand the problems."

Providing context were faculty experts with backgrounds in orchard production, pesticides, health care, education, outreach, law and housing policy.

Richard Fenske, Ph.D., director of the PNASH center, said one goal was to give journalists a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities of a scientific study that may be simplified into a headline or 30-second newscast.

**Continued on page 2**



**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."*

## Journalists Workshop get to core of safety, health issues in orchard country (continued from page 1)



**Journalists Workshop participants, faculty and members of the Stutzman family at the Stutzman fruit stand.**

This is particularly important, Dr. Fenske said, on “hot button” stories such as children’s pesticide exposures.

Several stories have already appeared. The National Children’s Center will measure the workshop’s impact on the number and quality of print and electronic stories. In a brief survey at the conclusion of the workshop, journalists scored the overall

experience 5.9 on a scale of 7.0. In response to the statement, “The workshop will motivate me to increase my attention to these issues,” the journalists answered with a combined score of 4.5 out of 5.0.

Participants represented both trade and mainstream publications, print and electronic. They were: Steve Brown, Capital Press, Salem, Ore.; T.J. and Sally Burnham, Western Farmer-Stockman, Vancouver, Wash.; Ricardo Garcia, KDNA-FM (Spanish language), Granger, Wash.; Kevin Graman, Spokane Spokman-Review; Terry Hammond, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Ore.; Chris Lehman, Northwest News Network, Salem, Ore.; Liz Russell, KCTS-TV, Seattle; Geraldine Warner, The Good Fruit Grower, Wenatchee, Wash.; and Dan Wheat, Wenatchee World, Wenatchee, Wash.

The workshop is funded by NIOSH through the National Children’s Center. The site of the 2007 workshop will be announced in December.

Thirty journalists (10-per year maximum) have been selected to participate in a workshop. Previous workshops were held in the dairy farm country near Marshfield, Wis., (2004) and Cooperstown, N.Y., (2005).

## Farm Safety 4 Just Kids uses mini-grant to reach Anabaptist communities

More than 2 million youth, younger than 20 years old, are potentially exposed to agricultural hazards each year. And those youth living in Anabaptist communities, such as the Amish, Hutterites and Mennonites, are often exposed to unique agricultural hazards.

Anabaptist children often begin working at a younger age than other farm kids. They may use older equipment with fewer safety features and experience increased exposure to livestock. These factors can affect injury rates.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK) answered the call for additional educational resources by customizing the FS4JK magnetic farm safety board to include images of an Anabaptist community and their equipment and animals.

The program was piloted in five locations in Iowa, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Ontario. Fifty-four boys and 54 girls participated in the pilot programs. A book containing nearly 30 lesson plans was written and revised to teach farm safety to the Anabaptist population.

Magnetic sheets that included more than 50 images were produced to complement the lesson plans. The magnets represent images commonly found on Anabaptist farms, such as buggies, steel-



**This magnetic sheet with commonly found items on Anabaptist farms is used as a teaching tool in Ohio.**

wheeled implements and children and adults in plain dress. These representations help translate the cultural differences and the youth relate better to the farm safety teachings.

Funding for this project was provided by the National Children’s Center through its mini-grant program. Contact the FS4JK office at 1-800-423-5437 for additional information.

## News in brief

### Western Center studies health needs of farmworkers

Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (WCAHS) investigators are conducting a comprehensive study in Mendota, Calif., to better understand and reduce health risks and related illnesses affecting farm workers and their families. The study of up to 400 families, titled "Mexican Immigration to California: Agricultural Safety and Acculturation" (MICASA), is taking place in the community of Mendota because of its large proportion of immigrants from Mexico and Central America, and very high proportion of agricultural workers.



**Dental examinations and dental hygiene instruction are part of the Mexican Immigration to California: Agricultural Safety and Acculturation (MICASA) study being conducted by the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety.**

The children's survey component of the interviewer-administrated questionnaire targets 5 – 12 year olds, including the mother, with a focus on diet, obesity, respiratory and oral health. Another survey targeting 10 – 12 year olds primarily targets diet and physical activity. Support and collaborations with the School of Dentistry at UC San Francisco provides dental examinations and dental hygiene instruction.

Investigators hope the study will provide better understanding of the health needs of hired farm worker families, as well as producing scientific information that can be used to design intervention programs, and data to serve as a basis for influencing public policy to target the needs of this underserved population.

The MICASA study is co-funded by NIOSH and The California Endowment (TCE). For additional information please contact the Western Ag Center at 530-752-4050 or MICASA project manager Dr. Maria Stoecklin-Marois directly by e-mail: [mtstoecklin@ucdavis](mailto:mtstoecklin@ucdavis).

### FS4JK founder accepts award from Agricultural Future of America

Marilyn Adams, founder of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, received the Agricultural Future of America (AFA) Leadership Award at the AFA national meeting, Nov. 3, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City. Adams' acceptance speech was very well received by the 800 college students in the audience. The mission of the AFA is to: identify, encourage and support outstanding college men and women preparing for careers in the agriculture and food industry.

### Program update: NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Surveillance

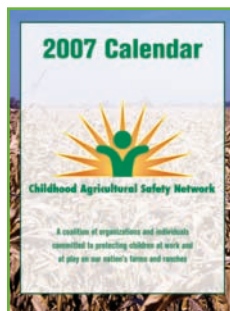
The NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Surveillance program is designed to provide fatal and non-fatal injury information for youth who live, work, or visit on farms in the U.S. The program uses a variety of NIOSH-sponsored data collection efforts as well as the routine analysis of other data sources to provide this surveillance. Information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/childag/>.

Several non-fatal injury surveillance products are near completion. They include further results from the 2001 Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (CAIS), which are in the final review stage at NIOSH. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is working on fact sheets for the 2003 Minority Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (M-CAIS) and 2004 CAIS. And NIOSH has produced three new pamphlets targeting farm families based on results from the 2003 M-CAIS and 2004 CAIS. All these products should be available from NIOSH by the end of 2006.

NIOSH has worked with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) since 1999 to assess injuries occurring to young migrant and seasonal farm workers in the U.S. through the National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS). NIOSH is analyzing the 2001-2004 NAWS data and working with USDOL to continue surveillance for this hard-to-reach youth population.

In addition, a manuscript has been drafted of the results of a NIOSH-initiated analysis of the "all trauma" National Electronic Injury Surveillance System for injuries occurring to youth on farms from 2001 through 2003. In other activities, NASS is currently collecting data on a farm hazard survey designed by NIOSH. Preliminary results should be available in the spring of 2007.

NIOSH currently tracks occupational fatalities for youth working on farms through the Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). NIOSH has recently completed an analysis of CFOI for the years 1992 through 2004. These results were published in the Journal of Agromedicine, 11(2).



### CASN calendar available

The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) has produced a 2007 safety calendar. Each month represents a different group or organization, and each promotes a different aspect of safety and health for children in agriculture. The National Children's Center coordinated production. To request a free calendar, or to purchase multiple copies, contact the National Children's Center, 1-800-662-6900, or [nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu).

## 'It's easier to bury a tradition than a child' – campaign builds

The Childhood Agricultural Safety Public Awareness Campaign continues to gain momentum. Behind the slogan, "It's easier to bury a tradition than a child," the campaign is aimed at keeping children younger than age 12 away from tractors, as both operators and passengers.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids founder Marilyn Adams and Regina Fisher, of the National Children's Center, gave interviews regarding

the campaign at the National Association of Farm Broadcasters annual meeting, Nov. 16, 2006, at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City. Check the dedicated Web site [www.childsafety.org](http://www.childsafety.org) for the latest news. Recent additions to the site include downloadable, radio-ready public service announcements recorded by country singer Michael Peterson.

### Schedule of upcoming events

#### **January 26 – 28, 2007**

16th annual Western Migrant Stream Forum  
Sacramento, California

#### **March 18 – 20, 2007**

2nd annual Minority Investigators Workshop  
on Behavioral Methodologies  
Bethesda, Maryland

#### **April 10 – 12, 2007**

Priester National Extension Health Conference  
Kansas City, Missouri

#### **May 9 – 11, 2007**

NACHC 2007 National Farmworker Health Conference  
Newport Beach, California

#### **May 14 – 18, 2007**

National Rural Health Association annual Conference  
Anchorage, Alaska

#### **June 24 – 27, 2007**

National Institute for Farm Safety  
Penticton, British Columbia

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

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/nccrahs](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs).

NCCRAHS Newsletter Board:

Scott Heiberger, Editor	Barbara Marlenga
Barbara Lee, Center Director	Regina Fisher

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety receives funds from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH award no. U50/OH008107).



**MARSHFIELD CLINIC**®

Research Foundation



National  
**Farm**Medicine  
Center.

