

Cultivate

FALL 2022

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FARM MEDICINE CENTER

Storytelling for safety

The in the National Children's Center's new Storytelling project is online (<https://marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/storytelling>). Jaxon Boomsma, 7, died in a tractor-related incident at a relative's farm in five years ago. The article addresses the incident, the grief, the family's decision to become safety advocates in honor of Jaxon, and the importance of saying "no" to extra riders, especially children. The Storytelling project builds on experiences and partnerships with the translational Telling the Story Project, a collaboration of the National Farm Medicine Center, Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH), Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH), and the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH). These stories weave prevention messages into first-person injury narratives.



Jaxon Boomsma



National Children's Center turns 25

Non-fatal injury rates have dropped since center established in 1997

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, part of the National Farm Medicine Center, is celebrating 25 years of preventing injuries associated with the agricultural worksite, one of the nation's most hazardous worksites and the only one where children of any age may be present.

The center was established in 1997 with funding from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is one of 11 NIOSH-funded Agricultural Centers, and the only center dedicated to childhood agricultural injury prevention.

Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director of the National Children's Center since its inception, recalls that before the National Children's Center, "there were relatively few resources and virtually no guidance on strategies to safeguard working and non-working children on farms."

The national approach to childhood agricultural injury prevention has paid off. Among early Children's Center interventions was the development of guidelines for parents to match chores with their child's developmental and physical capabilities. Follow-up data demonstrated a 56 percent decline in youth farm injury rates from 1998 to 2009, which ranked among Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report's [Ten Great Public Health Achievements 2001-2010](#).

The "guidelines for parents" have since been updated as the "Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines," and are available on a mobile-friendly website (www.cultivatesafety.org/aywg) in multiple formats.

The center's staff has continually grown in numbers, expertise and external partnerships. The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network, led by the National Children's Center, now includes more than 110 organizations via its online community. National Children's Center highlights can be found at <https://www.marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/25years>

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National Children's Center
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

Wisconsin Farm Tech Days

More than 45,000 people attended 2022 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days at Roehl Acres and Rustic Occasions in Clark County, July 12-14, with many visiting demonstration areas of the National Farm Medicine Center and the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. Farm Medicine partnered with Central Fire and EMS District, Pittsville Fire Department, Progressive Agriculture Safety Days, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, local FFA chapters and others to highlight ways farmers can keep themselves and their families safer, said Outreach Specialist Melissa Ploeckelman, who served on the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Executive Committee. The Farm Safety and Rescue Area featured live demonstrations of a tractor rollover, a tractor rollover rescue and a grain engulfment rescue. In addition, 49 farmers registered in the Wisconsin ROPS Rebate Program (www.ropstr4u.org) which has received significant support from the Auction of Champions since 2013. The National Children's Center collaborated with Play 'N Wisconsin to provide a safe play area within the Youth Area, where staff talked with parents about best practices to keep youth safe when working or playing on the farm.

Outreach Specialist Melissa Ploeckelman coordinated the Farm Safety and Rescue Area.



Farm broadcaster Brian Winnekins, WRDN/Durand, Wis., describes what it feels like to be trapped in grain during a rescue demonstration.



Ag Rescue Training, Oct 21-22

Firefighters and farmers may have different jobs, but both face risks as a part of their everyday duties. Farm Medicine brings them together to better prepare for the risks that farm emergencies pose to emergency personnel. Agriculture Rescue Training will be offered, October 21-22, 2022, in an effort to reach all departments in Wisconsin that could benefit from this specific, hands-on training. This year also features a train-the-trainer option, giving those that would like to host their own event additional training and experience. In 2021, despite challenges posed by COVID-19, 70 emergency responders from 29 departments in Wisconsin came to Heiman Holsteins and Heeg Farms Inc., near Marshfield for training. The goal of the program, entering Year 2, is to train 500 emergency service personnel over five years. The 2021 event was made possible with donations from the Auction of Champions, Life Link III, and numerous other local community organizations. For more information about the Agriculture Rescue Training program, registering for upcoming trainings, and workshop videos, go to agrescue.org.

Child injury facts updated

Youth worker fatalities in agriculture exceed all other industries combined, according to the 2022 Childhood Agricultural Injuries Fact Sheet published by the National Children's Center. The fact sheet data

includes children/youth under 18 from 2001-2021. About every three days, a child dies in an agriculture-related incident, and each day, an estimated 33 children are seriously injured. Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., led compilation of the fact sheet, alongside colleague, Rick Burke, M.P.H. "There is no central database on childhood agricultural injuries in the U.S.," Weichelt said. "In putting together this fact sheet we drew upon the best available data from a variety of sources, although we believe that the true number of occupational injuries might be as many as four times higher than reported." To monitor, explore, or subscribe to the latest injury reports, go to www.aginjurynews.org.

Auction of Champions



The Auction of Champions, presented by Miron Construction, is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 15, at RiverEdge Golf Course, Marshfield, Wis. "The Golden Auction - an evening under the harvest moon," will feature a bountiful harvest feast, exciting raffles, exclusive auction packages and an impactful Fund-a-Need to support the National Farm Medicine Center and its

agricultural initiatives dedicated to keeping farmers healthy, happy and safe. Last year the gala raised \$216,000, including more than \$46,000 to start a bilingual research and education program to ensure important safety instructions are communicated clearly to workers. This year's Fund-a-Need will support trauma research. To register and for more information, go to <https://www.marshfieldclinic.org/giving/special-events/special-events-auction-of-champions>.

Welcome!

- **Matthew Comi, Ph.D.**, has joined the National Farm Medicine Center in a post-doctoral position funded by the Frank and Betty Koller Trusts. Comi recently completed his doctorate in rural sociology at the University of Kansas. His research examines the cultural content of foodways, especially as related to environment, technology, and now - human health. His project focuses on the impacts on the rapid mechanization/ automation of the hops industry in Washington and Colorado. His work will be supervised by Drs. Florence Becot and Casper Bendixsen.
- **Sarah Ruzkowski, M.S.**, has joined Farm Medicine as a research specialist to Dr. Becot on a range of projects including the Linking Childcare to Farm safety project. Ruzkowski has a master's degree in migration studies and competed a master's research project on alliance building among food justice-focused organizations.

Furthermore ...

Farm Medicine staff played major roles in planning and executing the North American Agricultural Safety Summit, March 28-30, in Las Vegas. The conference was hosted by the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (www.ashca.com) and received conference grant support from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Brad Guse, senior vice president, agribusiness banking, BMO Harris Bank N.A., gave a presentation on how ag finances can impact safety and health. ASHCA honored Jerry Minor, Pittsville Fire, with its Collaborating Leader Award... The National Children's Center is partnering with Farmsafe Australia to host a childhood agricultural safety workshop for Safety 2022, the 14th World Conference on Injury Prevention & Safety Promotion, in Adelaide, Australia, Nov. 27-Nov. 30, 2022. Drs. Casper Bendixsen and Marsha Salzwedel will represent the center at the workshop.

Our Mission

"With the ultimate goal of improving human health, wellbeing and safety of rural and agricultural communities, the National Farm Medicine Center acts as a national resource by conducting high quality research, developing and delivering health and safety information, exploring innovative intervention models, and leading initiatives and networks."

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