

# Nurture

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

Spring 2009  
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## Comment period ends May 15

NIOSH seeks public comment on progress and proposed future activities of the **Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative**. Comment deadline is May 15, 2009. Go to <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/childag> for details. For additional questions, contact David L. Hard, Ph.D., [DHard@cdc.gov](mailto:DHard@cdc.gov).



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."*

## Rotary cutter tragedy happened in 'a second'

The death this spring of a 4-year-old Oklahoma boy in the blades of a rotary cutter has refocused commitment among safety experts to stop the practice of letting children ride on tractors.

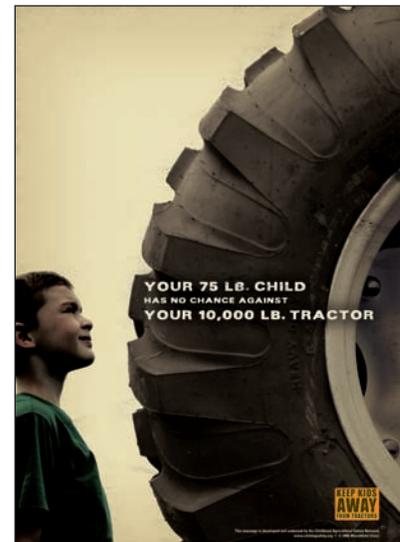
The boy's stepfather, "turned his head for a second to make a turn and said he heard a thud," according to a Grady County undersheriff interviewed by The Oklahoman newspaper. "He turned around, and saw the upper part of the boy's body already wrapped in the brush hog."

Lisa Rhoades, administrator for the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board, said she's seen too many unnecessary deaths among children in nearly 10 years on the job.

"I get irritated by the lack of common sense," Rhoades told The Oklahoman. "Why would you put a child on the fender of a tractor?"

It was this same frustration that three years ago led members of the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) to launch "It's Easier to Bury a Tradition than a Child," a national campaign to keep children younger than 12 away from tractors.

Now, CASN members want all child safety and public health advocates to help spread the message. The campaign has a dedicated Web site ([www.childagsafety.org](http://www.childagsafety.org)) with free



**The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network is re-launching its campaign to "Keep Kids Away from Tractors."**

materials that include public service announcements (PSAs) by country singer-songwriter Michael Peterson. The scenario described in Peterson's 30-second television PSA matches almost exactly events surrounding the death of 4-year-old Zachary Tollett in Oklahoma.

Other items on the site include:

- 30- and 60-second radio public service announcements
- Two "Keep Kids Away from Tractors" logos
- "It's Easier to Bury a Tradition than a Child" poster in English, Spanish and

**Continued on page 3**

## SaGHAF resources now online



The Safety Guidelines for Hired Adolescent Farm Workers (SaGHAF) resource is now online at [www.marshfieldclinic.org/saghaf](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/saghaf). SaGHAF is based on the success of the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT). SaGHAF includes resources addressing specific work tasks to be used by crew leaders and other supervisors in the field. Each colorful, illustrated poster addresses supervisor responsibilities for ensuring

work conditions are appropriate and adequate (e.g., safety devices are in place, safe transportation to fields) and for assessing their teen workers (e.g., worker can operate vehicle controls, can lift and carry 15% of body weight). Each poster includes pertinent federal regulations and referrals to obtain state-specific child labor regulations. For more information, contact SaGHAF project team leader Regina Fisher, M.S., [fisher.regina@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:fisher.regina@mcrf.mfldclin.edu).

## NAGCAT in action: two examples



**West Virginia Youth Safe program:** Seventy professional resource manuals from the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) initiative were requested by West Virginia University Extension Service for use in its Youth Safe Farm program. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and will educate and empower as many as 50 families to identify and control danger zones on their land. Extension agents in five target counties will host community meetings to educate families on identifying farm hazards and then help them create safety plans, said Paul Becker, WVU Safety and Health Extension specialist. Farmers who attend at least eight meetings, complete risk identification and correct hazards during the two-year period will be designated "WVU Youth Safe Farms" and receive official plaques for outdoor mounting. For information, contact Jan Della-Giustina, [jan.della-giustina@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:jan.della-giustina@mail.wvu.edu).

**Wisconsin farm show:** Nursing students from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay, Wisconsin, used several NAGCAT posters as part of a service learning project at the 24th annual Shawano Farm Show. The NAGCAT materials were "very well received by the farming community," said Jan Schmidt R.N., M.S.N., nursing instructor at the college. "Having the visual posters (bending, lifting, loading square bales) and printed handouts were wonderful reinforcements of the materials." For information contact Schmidt, [Janice.schmidt@nwtc.edu](mailto:Janice.schmidt@nwtc.edu).

## Mini-grant call-for-proposals set for June

For the ninth consecutive year the National Children's Center is making available mini-grants of up to \$20,000 to support small-scale projects and pilot studies that address prevention of childhood agricultural disease and injury. A call-for-proposals is scheduled for June 2009. Watch <http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/> for more information.

Two mini-grant proposals were funded in 2008:

- "Rapid Risk Recognition of Occupational Safety and Health Concerns of Adolescent Farm Workers"  
PI – Amy Liebman, M.P.A.  
Overview: Develop and propose a clinical tool to help frontline healthcare providers recognize occupational health and safety risks in their adolescent farmworker patients.
- "Farm Parent Internet Health and Safety Focus Groups"  
PI – Marcy Fitz Randolph, D.O., M.P.H.  
Overview: Determine stakeholder requirements specific to alternative information delivery systems. For this project, "stakeholders" are defined as parents of children living on farms, particularly those who have been "early adopters" of the Internet as an information resource.

## Farm equipment issues should be part of driver's education, experts say



Suggestions related to adolescents and driver's training were put forth at the Farm Equipment/Motor Vehicle Crash Prevention Conference, March 17-18, in Des Moines, Iowa. Several state contingents recommended working toward inclusion of farm equipment

concerns within the corresponding state curriculum used for driver's training, said Chip Petrea, Ph.D., a conference faculty member from the University of Illinois. In addition, sheriff's and state police in attendance expressed intentions to encourage their state organization members to make presentations on farm equipment and motor vehicle crashes within local high school driver's education classes.

Also, said Dr. Petrea, an idea was brought forward to develop informational materials that explain the hazards and encourage exposure to rural roadways and potential hazards during the state-mandated driving time that driver's education students must do with their parents. This latter idea could also serve as a good introduction/reintroduction to the topic for the parents riding with their young drivers.

An electronic conference proceedings will be developed. For information contact Dr. Petrea at [repetrea@illinois.edu](mailto:repetrea@illinois.edu).

## MCN program focuses on pregnant women



Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN), the nation's oldest clinical network for the mobile underserved, has expanded its Saving Lives by Changing Practices program to address

clinical practices for pregnant women and their babies. MCN partnered with CommuniCare Health Center in Davis, California, to design and implement a pilot perinatal program for the farmworker woman. There are unique concerns for women, particularly of reproductive age, who live and work in agricultural areas. Of particular concern is the potential effect of pesticide exposure during the reproductive cycle.

In response to numerous requests from clinicians asking for help in addressing questions about pesticide exposures during pregnancy, MCN developed patient materials such as a Spanish language comic book, "Lo Que Bien Empieza... Bien Acaba," available at <http://www.migrantclinician.org/>, and a clinical program that is now part of Saving Lives by Changing Practices. Clinicians at CommuniCare are asking women about potential exposures and considering pesticide exposure as a possible risk factor during pregnancy.

Saving Lives by Changing Practices is part of a five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, to address pesticides and other health concerns in primary care practice settings. For more information contact MCN's Director of Environmental/Occupational Initiatives, Amy K. Liebman, M.P.A., at [aliebman@migrantclinician.org](mailto:aliebman@migrantclinician.org) or 410-860-9850.

## Rotary cutter tragedy happened in 'a second'

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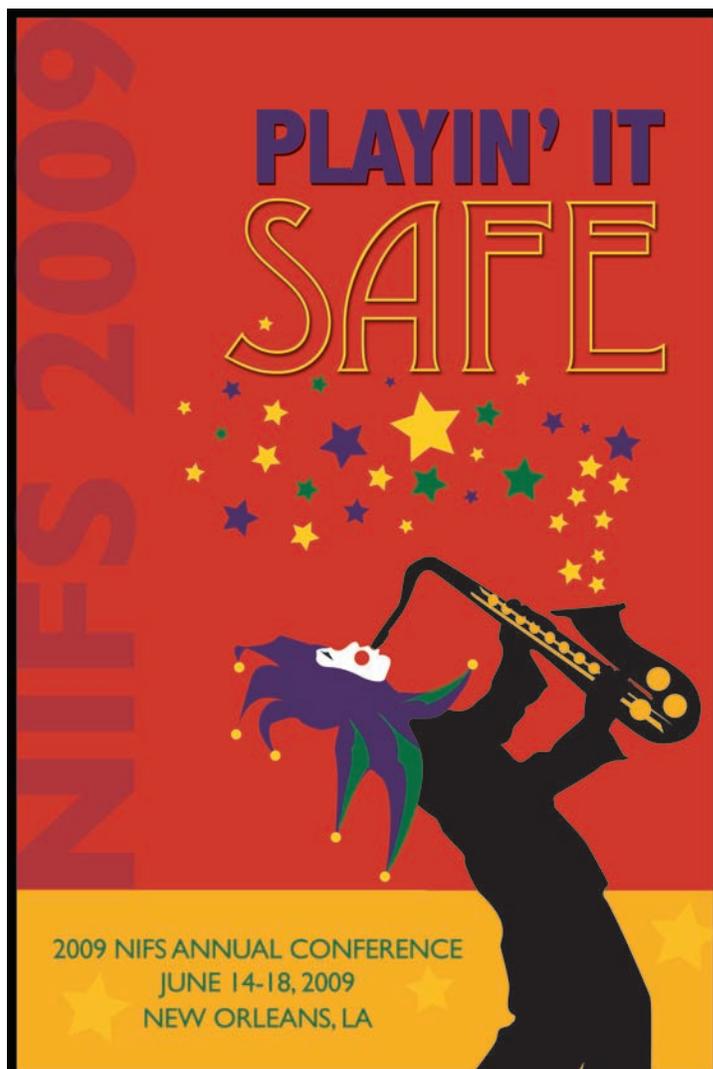
French versions

- Posters with the messages, "The Tractor is Not the Place for Quality Time," and "Your 75-pound Child Has No Chance Against Your 10,000-pound Tractor"

Of the estimated 100-plus children's deaths on farms each year, most will die in incidents involving tractors and other machinery.

Tollett's death occurred during National Agricultural Safety Awareness Week in March. The theme, "Growing the Most Important Crop," focused on child safety.

**Please join others** in spreading the message of "Keep Kids Away from Tractors."



## CASN to meet at NIFS

The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network will hold its summer meeting at 5:30 p.m., June 15, 2009, at the New Orleans Marriott during the National Institute for Farm Safety conference. Anyone interested in joining the network or learning more about its activities is encouraged to attend. To RSVP or for more information, contact Regina Fisher, [fisher.regina@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:fisher.regina@mcrf.mfldclin.edu), or 1-800-662-6900, ext. 8.



**Childhood Agricultural Safety Network**

## FS4JK schedules eight regional workshops for 2009

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids received funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency to conduct eight regional workshops with the objective of encouraging communities to initiate farm safety and health programs and implement safe behavior modifications on family farms. The first two workshops were conducted in March: in Smithfield, North

Carolina (facilitated by NC Agromedicine Center, NC Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, and NC Farm Bureau); and in San Joaquin, California (conducted in Spanish in cooperation with the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and the California EPA). For information on future workshops, contact Farm Safety 4 Just Kids Education Director Shari Burgus, [Shari@fs4jk.org](mailto:Shari@fs4jk.org).

### *Schedule of upcoming events*

#### **May 12-14, 2009**

National Farmworker Health Conference  
San Antonio, Texas

#### **May 18-22, 2009**

AgriSafe Training  
Agricultural Medicine: The Core Course  
Marshfield, Wisconsin, <http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/edu>

#### **June 14-18, 2009**

National Institute for Farm Safety  
New Orleans, Louisiana,  
<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm>

#### **September 21-26, 2009**

National Farm Safety and Health Week. Theme: "Rural Roadway Safety - Alert, Aware & Alive," <http://www.nsc.org/necas/>

#### **January 27-28, 2010**

"Be Safe, Be Profitable: Protecting Workers in Agriculture," Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas. Co-organized by the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). This conference unites leaders of agricultural organizations with safety practitioners and researchers to share knowledge regarding evidence-based interventions that lead to adoption of high quality, cost-effective safety practices for workers in agriculture. See [www.ashca.com](http://www.ashca.com).

**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 three times each year to disseminate children's rural health and safety information to professionals in the fields of health and safety, agri-business, the media, and others.

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).

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