

Nurture



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

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Features

Page 2

Mini-grant funds project with Florida migrant group

CASN meeting draws crowd in Boise

Study examines economic impact of injuries

Page 3

Department of Labor proposes update to child agricultural labor regulations

Page 4

Upcoming Events



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."

Blueprint research, feedback identifies non-working children as key segment



Blueprint for Protecting Children in Agriculture

The draft Updated National Action Plan for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention – also known as "Blueprint for Protecting Children in Agriculture" – was posted online for five weeks, and the recently-concluded feedback period yielded valuable recommendations that are being considered by the Blueprint core team.

A theme has emerged from the feedback and research: more attention should be paid to non-working children, who account for more than half of all childhood agricultural injuries.

"We need to address the limited child care options in rural areas," said Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

Dr. Lee gave a preliminary Blueprint status report at the June 2011 meeting of the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (formerly NIFS).

The final Blueprint document, to be published this winter, will serve as the foundation upon which strategies and priorities will be set for the next decade.

"We envision agribusiness spelling out in its company policies a greater role in minimizing children's adverse exposures, and increasing funds for programs and services," Dr. Lee said. A model of child care for farm workers is the Redlands

Christian Migrant Association (www.rcma.org) in Florida. RCMA partners with a number of growers to provide safe places for children while parents work in the fields. RCMA is the largest non-profit child-care provider in Florida.

The Blueprint initiative is being co-directed by Susan Gallagher, M.P.H., of Tufts University, and Dr. Lee, with assistance from National Children's Center Deputy Director Barbara Marlena, Ph.D. The Blueprint project is part of the National Children's Center's grant, funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

The Blueprint is the latest in a series of guiding documents from the National Children's Center that includes the National Action Plan (1996) and Updated National Action Plan from the 2001 Summit. It will provide background, injury trends, evidence from evaluated interventions, photographs, and priorities for leadership, data, research, public policy, organizational policy, interventions, and knowledge mobilization.

Continued on page 2

Blueprint research, feedback identifies non-working children as key segment *Continued from page 1*

In addition, the April 2012 issue of the Journal of Agromedicine will be dedicated to the Blueprint. It will include an Executive Summary of the Blueprint in addition to 15 related papers. Guest editors are Gallagher; Lee; Marlenga; Amy K. Liebman, M.P.A.; Migrant Clinicians Network; Mary E. Miller, R.N., M.N., Washington State Department of Labor & Industries; Matthew Keifer, M.D., National Farm Medicine Center; and David Hard, Ph.D., NIOSH.

Blueprint at APHA: Several members of the Blueprint team will participate in a session on November 1 at the American Public Health Association meeting in Washington, D.C. Liebman organized and will moderate "Occupational Health Disparities Institute: Protecting Children in Agriculture." Presenters include Liebman, Marlenga, Gallagher and Miller. The session objective will be to identify strengths and weaknesses in strategies employed over the past 15 years to protect children in agriculture.

News in brief

Mini-grant funds project with Florida migrant association

The National Children's Center is partnering with Redlands Christian Migrant Association (www.rcma.org) and the Florida Department of Agriculture to promote pesticide safety. Through a "mini-grant" from the National Children's Center, RCMA is installing decontamination stations at 15 centers



A decontamination facility to encourage parents to wash their hand before picking up their children.

and conducting staff and parent training about ways to minimize their children's exposure to pesticides. Leading the project for the National Children's Center is Amy K. Liebman, M.P.A., the Center's formal consultant on

migrant and immigrant issues through a partnership with Migrant Clinicians Network.

Redlands Christian Migrant Association was founded in 1965 by Mennonite Church volunteers in the Redlands farming area of southern Miami-Dade County to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children while their parents worked in the fields. In 2009-2010 RCMA served nearly 8,200 children in 87 centers and two charter schools in 21 Florida counties. RCMA is funded by local, state and federal grants, as well as the generosity of the United Way, agribusiness and other corporations, community, foundations and individuals.

Study examines economic impact of injuries

"Impact of youth injuries on the uninsured farm family's economic viability," by Eduard Zaloshnja, Ph.D., and Ted Miller, Ph.D., has been published in the International Journal

of Injury Control and Safety Promotion (epub ahead of print, August 2011). Zaloshnja and Miller are with the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, Center for Public Health Improvement and Innovation, Calverton, Maryland. They compared farm profits with costs of farm youth injuries. They built profit models for two types of farms, dairy and soybean farms. Then they estimated the cost impact of farm youth injuries of different levels of severity on a farm family with no health insurance. A severe child injury that requires at least 10 days of hospitalization would cost almost equal to the operating profit of the average dairy farm with no health insurance and would turn the operating profit of the average soybean farm into a severe loss of \$99,499. This paper follows a related article, "Incidence and cost of nonfatal farm youth injury, United States, 2001-2006," by Zaloshnja, Miller and Barbara Lee, Ph.D., (*J Agromedicine*. 2011;16(1):6-18.)

CASN meets in Boise

Members of the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) held their annual in-person meeting on June 27, 2011, in Boise, Idaho, during the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health conference. A record 40 individuals participated. "The Blueprint for Protecting Children in Agriculture: Updated Action Plan," was discussed at length, and attendees gave updates on their organizations' activities. For more information, go to www.childagsafety.org.



Department of Labor proposes update to child agricultural labor regulations

September 2011



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

Agricultural Child Labor Hazardous Occupations Orders Comparison of present rules with 2011 proposed revisions

By Mary E. Miller, R.N., M.N.

A century ago, child labor in the U.S. was an accepted practice across all industries. The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938 took children under 16 out of most workplaces for their own safety and over time has restricted the most hazardous work activities for 16- and 17-year-olds. Agriculture has been the lone exception. Originally, most farms were small family operations and child labor was considered necessary. The 21st century agricultural work environment is much different. Farms are larger and more specialized, with new technologies, processes, machinery and equipment.

Now the U.S. Department of Labor is proposing new rules regarding the Agricultural Child Labor Hazardous Occupations Orders (Ag H.O.). The agricultural H.O.s describe work activities that are particularly hazardous to young workers under age 16, such as operating machinery and working in and around silos and grain handling facilities. The proposed changes will be the first update since 1970. They are based on a comprehensive evaluation conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which reported on its evaluation in 2002 and made recommendations concerning both non-agricultural and agricultural hazardous occupations orders. As a result of the report, regulations for non-agricultural H.O.s were revised and became effective in 2010. Recommendations to bring the agricultural H.O.s more closely in line with non-agriculture are included in the recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. For example, the use of power-driven equipment, which has been prohibited for 14- and 15-year-olds employed in non-agricultural industries for over 50 years, is included in the proposal.

NOTE: The updated rules would continue to exempt family farms and do not provide protections for 16- and 17-year-olds. Both of these changes would require an act of Congress.

Tables on the following pages highlight current and proposed agricultural H.O.s. A full paper examining the changes - including historical background and additional recommendations not covered in the current proposal - will be published as part of a dedicated issue of the Journal of Agromedicine. "The 2012 Blueprint for Protecting Children in Agriculture," Volume 17, Issue 2, is scheduled for publication April 2012.



The changes will be the first update since 1970. They are based on a comprehensive evaluation conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which reported on its evaluation in 2002, http://youthrules.dol.gov/niosh_recs_to_dol_050302.pdf. NIOSH made recommendations concerning both non-agricultural and agricultural hazardous occupations orders. As a result of the report, regulations for non-agricultural H.O.s were revised and became effective in 2010. Recommendations to bring the agricultural H.O.s more closely in line with non-agriculture are included in the current Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. For example, the use of power-driven equipment, which has been prohibited for 14- and 15-year-olds employed in non-agricultural industries for more than 50 years, is included in the proposal.

"Children employed in agriculture are some of the most vulnerable workers in America," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "Ensuring their welfare is a priority of the department, and this proposal is another element of our comprehensive approach."

The proposal would strengthen current child labor regulations prohibiting agricultural work with animals and in pesticide handling, timber operations, manure pits and storage bins. It would prohibit farmworkers under age 16 from participating in the cultivation, harvesting and curing of tobacco. And it would

prohibit youth in both agricultural and non-agricultural employment from using electronic, including communication, devices while operating power-driven equipment.

NOTE: The updated rules would continue to exempt family farms and do not provide protections for 16- and 17-year olds. Both of these changes would require an act of Congress.

Webinar: Miller will present, "Understanding the Proposed Changes to the Agricultural Child Labor Regulations," at noon (CentralTime), Wednesday, October 5, 2011. To join webinar, go to: <http://uiowa.adobeconnect.com/mmiller/>. The webinar is hosted by AgriSafe and co-sponsored by the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network and the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America.

The U.S. Department of Labor is proposing revisions to child labor regulations that will strengthen the safety requirements for young workers employed in agriculture and related fields. You are invited to provide comments on this important proposal. The 60-day comment period ends November 1.

The National Children's Center has published a fact sheet that compares present agricultural rules with the proposed revisions. It was authored by Mary E. Miller, R.N., M.N., child labor/young worker specialist, Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. The fact sheet, and instructions for giving feedback via the Federal Register, are available at www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs.

The original Department of Labor release announcing the proposed updates: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/whd/WHD20111250.htm>.

Schedule of upcoming events

October 20 – 22, 2011

24th Annual East Coast Migrant Stream Forum
West Palm Beach, FL, www.ncchca.org

October 29 – November 2, 2011

American Public Health Association
Washington, DC, <http://www.apha.org/meetings/contact>

October 30 – November 4, 2011

National Safety Council Congress & Expo
Philadelphia, PA, <http://congress.nsc.org>

November 10 – 12, 2011

21st Annual Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum
Albuquerque, NM, www.ncfh.org

November 15, 2011

Webinar: Can You Hear Me? An Introduction to Hearing Loss Prevention in Agriculture. Presented by Janet Ehlers and Pamela Graydon. For information, contact Jose Lainez at jlainez@cdc.gov

November 16 – 17, 2011

2011 Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum
Des Moines, IA,
<http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/events/MRASH/2011/>

November 16-18, 2011

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association annual conference
Vancouver, BC, www.casa-acsa.ca

December 7-8, 2011

Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference
Daytona Beach, FL, <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/mm>

January 26, 2012

Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America workshop and annual meeting, Washington, DC, 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).

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