

## Hired Ag Youth Work Guidelines published

The Hired Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines (HAYWG), previously known as the Safety Guidelines for Hired Adolescent Farm Workers, have been published, under the leadership of Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D. These guidelines, designed for employers and supervisors of hired youth, were updated based on the latest scientific evidence and best practices. The design was updated with modifiable skin tones and equipment colors to encourage use among diverse populations. Translation into Spanish is underway. Currently, the guidelines are available in a booklet, which includes background and child development information, training tips, supervisor information and information and links to child labor regulations. Supervisors can use this resource in tandem with the Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines (AYWG), which are designed to help adults assign age- and ability-appropriate tasks to youth working in agriculture. HAWYG and AWYG booklets and individual guidelines can be found at [www.cultivatesafety.org/work](http://www.cultivatesafety.org/work).



Jennifer Lincoln, center-left and K.C. Elliott, center-right, NIOSH, at Norm-E-Lane Farms. Lincoln and Elliott joined representatives from eight of 12 NIOSH agricultural centers in meetings hosted by the National Children's Center.

## Children's Center hosts NIOSH Ag Centers

For three days during National Farm Safety and Health Week in September, the National Children's Center had the privilege of hosting a series of meetings in collaboration with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Agricultural Centers. Jennifer Lincoln, Ph.D., C.S.P., associate director for the NIOSH Office of Agriculture Safety and Health and co-chair of the NORA Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Sector Council, and K.C. Elliott, M.A., M.P.H., program coordinator for the NIOSH Office of Agricultural Safety and Health, were

joined by representatives from eight of the 12 NIOSH ag centers (based in California, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin).

Meetings focused on some of the most pressing issues in agricultural health and safety, including work on the 2025 National Action Plan for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention. The National Children's Center and external partners reviewed and identified goals and recommended strategies as they work on the latest in a series of national action plans that began with the 1996 Action Plan and continued with updates in 2001 and 2012. Over the years, NIOSH requests-for-applications on childhood agricultural safety have encouraged researchers to address priorities noted in the action plans.

Dr. Lincoln told the assembled NIOSH ag center representatives that she appreciated the chance to meet with them face-to-face. "To be able to hear you talk and to start creating these lines (of collaboration) has helped me and K.C. feel even more confident in the NIOSH Ag, Forestry and Fishing program and where it is headed," Lincoln said.

When Lincoln assumed her associate director role in early 2020, she had plans to visit all NIOSH ag centers. The COVID-19 pandemic derailed those plans.

"Now, three-and-a-half years after wanting to have a meeting like this, it's finally happened," Lincoln said. "This has been fantastic."

## CASN community

The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) has grown to nearly 250 members and uses the [CASN online community](#) as its primary communication tool. Collaboration and networking were facilitated this year through a virtual meeting in February, participation in two think tanks to discuss development of a national action plan for child ag safety in July and August, and an in-person CASN meeting held in Tampa, Fla., in June, co-located with the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health conference. The [ATV/UTV campaign](#) was promoted throughout the year, resulting in a 101% increase in traffic to the ATV/UTV campaign webpage and distribution of hundreds of campaign resources. Lawn mower safety was selected as the next campaign topic, a call for resources and materials executed, and the collected resources are currently under review by content experts.



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."



## Children's Center guest edits *Frontiers in Public Health*

Frontiers in Public Health, a multidisciplinary open-access journal, has published "[Safeguarding Youth from Agricultural Injury and Illness: International Perspectives](#)," a collection of 29 manuscripts with commentaries representing perspectives from eight countries, plus research from an additional three countries. Guest Editor Barbara Lee, Ph.D.; assembled a team

of editors that included Marshfield-based scientists Florence Becot, Ph.D.; Andrea Swenson, Ph.D.; Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D.; and Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D.; and international editors Peter Lundqvist, Ph.D. (Sweden); and Richard Franklin, Ph.D. (Australia). Christopher Benny served as issue coordinator. The special issue can be printed as an e-book. Simply go to the [special issue page](#) and click the "download e-pub" tab. Lee and her team will be promoting the special issue via webinars and international conferences.

## Emerging Issues Program funds three projects

The National Children's Center has funded three projects for FY 2024 through its Emerging Issues Program, announced Program Director Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D. The Emerging Issues Program supports emerging health and safety concerns of children working on, living in, or visiting agricultural environments.

- "A Mother's Gameplan for Safety & Health," Amy Rademaker, Carle Center for Rural Health and Farm Safety; Carle Health.
- "Emerging Science on Agricultural Use of Respiratory Protection Devices by Farm Youth," Jenna Gibbs, Ph.D., Ag Health and Safety Alliance.
- "Understanding Barriers to Healthcare Access for Children in Latina/o Farmworkers Households," Hazel Velasco Palacios, M.Sc., Penn State University.

## Farm Foundation, USDA partner with Farm Medicine

Dr. Florence Becot was both an organizer and a presenter for a virtual conference on U.S. Farm Households' Social and Economic Needs and the Future of Agriculture, Sept. 13. The conference was a collaboration between the National Farm Medicine Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Foundation, The Ohio State University and Colorado State University. [The conference](#) was designed to bring awareness to the social and economic challenges experienced by farm families, as well as their consequences. U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Xochitl Torres Small delivered the opening remarks. More than 300 people representing academia, government agencies, policy makers and the private sector participated.



Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D.

## Dr. Weichelt selected NRHA Fellow

Congratulations to Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D.; one of 17 individuals selected into the National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) Rural Health Fellows Program of 2024. The Rural Health Fellows program is a yearlong, intensive training program that develops leaders who can articulate a clear and compelling vision for rural America.

## Meeting stakeholders where they are

Scientists and staff promoted research and resources of the National Children's Center at multiple meetings during the second half of 2023, including:

- Agricultural Media Summit, Palm Springs, Calif.
- American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, Atlanta, Ga.
- American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, Omaha, Neb.
- BeSAFE International Farm Safety & Farmer Health Conference, Dublin, Ireland.
- International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health, Tampa, Fla.
- Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference, Dubuque, Iowa.
- National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Des Moines, Iowa.
- National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals 2023 Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- National Association of Farm Broadcasters annual meeting, Kansas City, Mo.
- National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies Ag Risk Inspection School, Indianapolis, Ind.
- National Council on Family Relations, Orlando, Fla.
- National FFA Convention and Expo, Indianapolis, Ind.

## CHS Foundation awards \$25k safety grant

Dr. Andrea Swenson was awarded \$25,000 from the CHS Foundation to provide hands-on agricultural health and safety instruction materials for educators in Wisconsin. This is an extension of current research on Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines, an intervention developed by the National Children's Center to reduce injuries to youth in agricultural settings. This project will add hands-on demonstration curriculum and physical materials for educators to use during their instruction.

## Outreach specialist voted to ISASH board

Melissa Ploeckelman, National Children's Center outreach specialist, was elected to the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) Board of Directors by a vote of membership. Her three-year term extends to June 2026.

## Furthermore

**Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D.**; will conduct an injury assessment and develop an injury prevention intervention for the Anabaptist community as part of a project funded by Marshfield Clinic Research Institute. ... **Florence Becot, Ph.D.**; has accepted the Nationwide Insurance Endowed Professorship of Agricultural Safety and Health at Penn State University. The National Children's Center has a long history of collaboration with Penn State and looks forward to continuing to work with Dr. Becot. ... **The Los Angeles Times** is working on a series examining child labor in the fields and in the ag processing facilities of California. Several National Children's Center scientists and staff, both internal and external, have been interviewed.