

## Children's Center funding OK'd for Year 6

The National Children's Center has received Notice of Award from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), affirming access to funding for Fiscal Year 2026, marking 29 years of continuous operation. The center will work toward several objectives during the coming year, said director Andrea Swenson. "One of our ongoing research projects focuses on potential gaps between the strength, height and weight of youth and the physical requirements for safely operating ATVs." Results will be used to create resources for dealerships, employers, and parents regarding the required physical capabilities of youth to safely operate ATVs. Other priorities include dissemination of the National Action Plan, facilitation of the 250-member Childhood Agricultural Safety Network and communication of our safety resources and research results. "We appreciate the support and backing of the agricultural community this past year in helping us ensure the safe participation of youth in farming and ranching," Swenson said.



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."

## Dr. Lee earns top safety award

The world's largest society of agricultural safety and health professionals awarded its highest honor to Barbara Lee, Ph.D., "in recognition of her lifetime of achievement, deep commitment to professional excellence and transformative impact on the field." The International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) presented Lee with the Maynard Coe Professional Achievement Award during its annual conference, June 25, in Portland, Maine. Coe served as director of the Farm Division of the National Safety Council for 20 years and worked with universities, farm organizations and the agriculture industry in establishing farm safety as a recognized profession.

"This is a really special award that needs to be shared with a lot of people," Lee said. "I have had the good fortune of working with so many talented and passionate people, and together we have had a positive impact on childhood agricultural injury prevention. We've been able to grow these collaborations and now have safety advocates around the world. It's really important to celebrate the successes we have had."

More recently, Lee recently transitioned from her full-time role to emeritus scientist at the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC) and the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS). Lee was the first full-time employee of the National Farm Medicine Center (1987). Lee will be available for collaboration, advice, and of course, sharing her ever-valued opinions. "We are grateful for Barb's dedication, mentorship, and enduring passion for agricultural health and safety - and we're lucky she's not going far!" said Farm Medicine Director Casper Bendixsen.

The ISASH conference is the largest annual gathering of professionals dedicated to agricultural safety and health. Membership includes safety professionals, educators, Extension, physicians, nurses, students, veterinarians, epidemiologists, engineers, communicators, sociologists, anthropologists, business leaders and others.



## National Action Plan: hard copies available

There is great value in having a "National Action Plan" for protecting the health and safety of hundreds of thousands of children living, working and visiting on the nation's agricultural operations. The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety recently published "Safeguarding Children in Agriculture: An Updated National Action Plan," which follows plans published in 1996, 2001, and 2012. Request your hard copy by emailing [nccrahs@marshfieldresearch.edu](mailto:nccrahs@marshfieldresearch.edu). Or view online, [www.marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/nap/2025](http://www.marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/nap/2025). Over the years, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) requests for applications on childhood agricultural safety have referred researchers to address priorities noted in the action plans. The plans have also influenced private sector funding to not-for-profit organizations. "The ultimate goal is to ensure safe participation of youth in agriculture," said Andrea Swenson, Ph.D., director of the National Children's Center. "The plan emphasizes local input and strong partnerships in addressing the complexities of childhood agricultural injuries. This approach can help ensure that solutions are comprehensive, evidence-based and tailored to the diverse needs of the nation's ag communities."



## New video explains CASN in 2 minutes

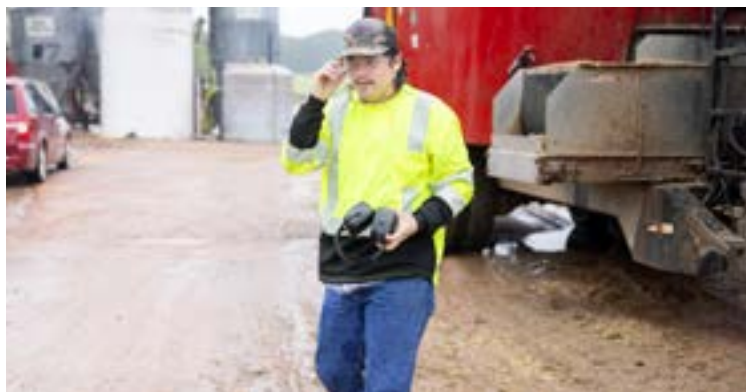
If you're interested in child ag safety you'll want to see this brief (less than two-minute) new video from the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network! <https://lnkd.in/gaU-iEmm> CASN members represent multiple sectors of the agricultural community. They work together to create, promote and disseminate resources and interventions contributing to a safer agricultural environment for children and youth.



**Childhood Agricultural  
Safety Network**

## Injury surveillance system established for farm youth

As part of the National Children's Center, Jeffrey VanWormer, Ph.D., established a surveillance system of medically-attended agricultural injuries among children and adolescents who reside on farms in north-central Wisconsin. This surveillance system is used to identify multi-year epidemiologic trends in medically attended agricultural injuries, as well as population subgroups at highest risk for agricultural injury. In addition to injury patterns, additional health topics, such as diseases of despair and adverse childhood experiences, have been assessed within the cohort of patients tracked in this project. Most recently, Andrea Swenson, Ph.D., and VanWormer collaborated to survey cohort members aged 14-17 to assess farm work activities. This project aims to assess the relationship between agricultural work patterns (how frequently youth work, number of hours they work, different types of tasks they work) and medically attended agricultural injuries. Survey data were collected from July to September 2025, and researchers are now linking survey information to injury data. More than 500 surveys were returned for a strong 40% response rate. We are currently analyzing data and look forward to sharing results. "These results will add considerable context to help researchers, practitioners, and farmers understand the type of farm work that is more and less risky, and for whom," Swenson said.



## Farm Medicine, Children's Center host national safety summit

Leaders in agribusiness and agricultural safety and health convened Oct. 21-22 for the 2025 Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America's North American Agricultural Safety Summit in San Antonio, Texas, hosted by the National Farm Medicine Center/National Children's Center and supported by a conference grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Farm Medicine is a founding member of ASHCA, a coalition of organizations, businesses, federal agencies and safety professionals, all seeking to improve the health and safety of farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers. Farm Medicine and the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety were well represented in the oral presentations and poster sessions, as well as logistics and planning.



"Very proud of our team," said Farm Medicine Director Cap Bendixsen, Ph.D., a member of the ASHCA Board of Directors.

The Children's Center team at the Summit (from left): Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D.; Andrea Swenson, Ph.D.; Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D.; Melissa Ploeckelman Brown; Roger Aby, Ph.D.

## Auction of Champions shows support for National Children's Center

The National Children's Center extends its deep appreciation for support of childhood agricultural injury prevention displayed at the Auction of Champions, an annual gala held in Marshfield, Wis., just a few miles from its offices. Nearly \$90,000 was raised for the center's research and outreach initiatives. In total, the auction raised a record \$342,000 for the National Farm Medicine Center, the National Children's Center and initiatives dedicated to keeping farmers happy, healthy and safe. Special thanks to presenting sponsor Miron Construction.

