

# Cultivate

SUMMER 2019

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FARM MEDICINE CENTER



## SAVE THE DATE!

The Auction of Champions will be held Thursday, Sept. 19, at RiverEdge Golf Course in Marshfield. Last year the gala raised \$260,000 for agricultural safety and health initiatives of Farm Medicine, including more than \$55,000 to start Mental Health First Aid trainings in central Wisconsin. Check for Auction updates at <https://www.marshfieldclinic.org/giving/special-events/special-events-auction-of-champions>

## DR. MARLENGA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Barbara Marlena, Ph.D., a champion for agricultural safety and health, has announced her retirement. Marlena was a leader in the formation and evaluation of the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT). With Canadian colleagues, her research revealed that nearly all childhood farm fatalities occurred in the presence of an adult, thus, confirming that "supervision" is not a sufficient protective strategy on farms. "This was a game changer in our field," said Farm Medicine Director Casper Bendixsen. Marlena established and led the Wisconsin Rollover Protection Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program, which has retrofitted more than 250 tractors since 2013. "We're very lucky that Barbara chose the Farm Medicine Center as her professional home since 1995," Bendixsen said.



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**Marshfield Clinic**  
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 National Farm Medicine Center



## FARM MEDICINE NAMES NEW DIRECTOR Dr. Lee to focus on National Children's Center

Casper "Cap" Bendixsen, Ph.D., a research scientist specializing in social-cultural anthropology, has been named the sixth director in the history of the National Farm Medicine Center.

Bendixsen follows in the footsteps of Barbara Lee, Ph.D., who will continue her research program as the Dean Emanuel Endowed Chair, and as director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-funded National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

Bendixsen joined Farm Medicine in 2013. His own farming and ranching background has helped in bringing agricultural communities into all phases of research, with the ultimate goal of improving their health and safety. He has successfully competed for funding from the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support his work.

"Due to his professional reputation, Cap has collaborated with multiple centers across the Research Institute, Marshfield Clinic Health System, and nationally," said Research Institute Executive Director Amit Acharya, Ph.D. "Cap is a respected colleague and his leadership roles are evidenced by serving on search committees, oversight committees and strategic planning groups."

"I am excited and grateful for this opportunity," Bendixsen said. "Great folks have come before me in this role. Like them, I plan to rely on Farm Medicine's staff and scientists to continue their great work. It is because of them that I have had success."



Casper Bendixsen, Ph.D.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCY

The mental health of farmers and their families is one of the most talked-about topics in the agriculture industry. But while mental health is shedding its taboo label, much work is needed to build a better support system for farmers who are reaching out for help after years of depressed commodity prices and so many variables out of their control. Josie Rudolphi, Ph.D., has developed a research program focused on the mental health of farmers.

In March, Rudolphi presented to an overflow audience at the annual Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin Conference in Madison, and also facilitated three Mental Health First Aid training courses in central Wisconsin made possible by philanthropic support from the Auction of Champions. Fifty workshop participants learned how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders.



In April, Farm Medicine convened a national agricultural mental health research meeting with 15 experts from across North America.

In April, Rudolphi convened a national agricultural mental health research meeting with 15 experts from across North America. Researchers, social workers, and Extension personnel gathered for two days to discuss current research projects, gaps in work, and identify research priorities related to agricultural mental health for the future.

On July 29, Rudolphi will participate in the "newsmaker panel" at the world's largest annual gathering of agricultural communicators, the Agricultural Media Summit, in Minneapolis.

## FARM SAFETY GROUP WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

Farm Medicine Health Communications Manager Scott Heiberger, M.S., will begin a one-year term as president of the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) during the group's annual meeting, June 24-27, in Des Moines, Iowa. He is the first ISASH president from Farm Medicine since Barbara Lee, 1995-96. ISASH ([www.isash.org](http://www.isash.org)) is dedicated to the development of agricultural safety and health professionals, and to providing leadership in the prevention of agricultural injuries and illnesses. ISASH membership also includes engineers, educators, insurers, physicians, nurses, veterinarians, statisticians, communicators, anthropologists and business leaders.



Scott Heiberger, M.S.

## AGINJURY NEWS

### NEW ONLINE DATABASE PUTS SHARPER FOCUS ON U.S. AG INJURIES

A newly updated online tool is providing a clearer picture of injury in agriculture. AgInjuryNews.org enables users to search the largest database of publicly available U.S. agricultural injury and fatality reports, getting a near real-time snapshot of the distribution and nature of trauma incidents, both nationally and locally. The updated system includes an interactive map display, more data granularity for search and filters, and email alerts.

"The innovation here is the combination of capturing, coding, and redistributing publicly available data on agricultural injuries and fatalities, primarily mined from media reports, and coupled with relevant prevention materials," said project leader Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., a research scientist with the National Farm Medicine Center.

Anyone can set up a free account and search thousands of unique incidents. To create an account, visit [www.AgInjuryNews.org](http://www.AgInjuryNews.org) and click "Register."

"AgInjuryNews.org is helping to standardize the collection and analyses of injury occurring on farms and ranches across the United States by adhering to national standards for coding and describing agricultural injury," said Dennis Murphy, Ph.D., Nationwide Insurance Professor Emeritus, Penn State University.

Funding for this project was provided by generous donors as well as by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America, the Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, and the National Farm Medicine Center.



### NEW FROM THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CENTER

A new brochure from the National Children's Center contains the statistics, strategies and resources necessary to understand and prevent injuries on farms. Presented in an easy-to-read infographics

format, these resources are designed to help adults maximize benefits and minimize risks to children and youth who live, visit and work on farms and ranches ([https://www.cultivatesafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-Resource-Brochure\\_Print.pdf](https://www.cultivatesafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-Resource-Brochure_Print.pdf)). Other new items from the National Children's Center:

- 2019 Childhood Agricultural Injuries Fact Sheet: Since 2009, the number of youth worker fatalities in agriculture has been higher than in all other industries combined. These data are part of the updated fact sheet, the most cited resource of the National Children's Center. <https://marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc/other-resources>
- The National Children's Center and Migrant Clinicians Network developed the, "Road Map for Delivering Child Care in Agricultural Communities," with input from agricultural business owners, human resources directors, insurance providers, child care specialists and farm worker parents. The "Road Map" will pave the way for developing an action plan that eventually creates new (or improves existing) child care services. [https://www.cultivatesafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/A-Roadmap-for-Delivering-Child-Care-in-Agricultural-Communities\\_Print.pdf](https://www.cultivatesafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/A-Roadmap-for-Delivering-Child-Care-in-Agricultural-Communities_Print.pdf)
- Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines: Help young people do farm tasks more safely with 20 new guidelines including facing silage, tree fruit harvesting and refueling tanks. <https://www.cultivatesafety.org/> The guidelines, 50 in all, are also available in French thanks to a collaboration with Canadian Agricultural Safety Association. Generous support from CHS, Inc., has made the guidelines possible.
- Child Agricultural Injury Prevention Workshops: 2019 workshops are scheduled for Des Moines, Iowa, June 23-24; Lexington, Ky., Aug. 6-7; and Hershey, Pa., Sept. 17-18. The workshops are supported by sponsors Westfield Insurance, John Deere and the National Farm Medicine Center. For information, see <https://www.marshfieldresearch.org/CAIP-workshop>.
- Say "no" to corn boxes: An increasingly popular agritourism activity - providing corn or other grains for children to play in - raises safety concerns. These concerns and solutions are detailed in this one-page resource, "[Safety Concerns: Grain Boxes and Play Bins](#)."
- The National Children's Center and National Farm Medicine Center work through many individuals and organizations to improve the health and safety of adults and children across the country. Our stories and project highlights are presented in the 2018 Farm Medicine Year in Review, <http://bit.ly/NFMCYIR>

## FURTHERMORE ...

Erin Teague (administrative secretary), Kyle Koshalek (associate research coordinator), Matt Pilz (programmer/analyst) and Andrea Swenson, Ph.D. (project scientist) have joined the Farm Medicine team. Dr. Swenson will take leadership of evaluation activities. She most recently held a faculty position at University of Wisconsin-Stout where she was responsible for teaching human development and family studies courses.

Melissa Ploeckelman, outreach specialist, has accepted a seat on the 2022 (Clark County) Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Executive Committee as the Public Relations and Safety and Rescue Area Liaison.

During 2018 Farm Technology Days in Marshfield, 532 individuals were screened for skin cancer by the Marshfield Clinic Health System Dermatology Department. Four suspected melanomas were found, in addition to 35 basal cell and 23 squamous cell cancers.

## OUR MISSION

"The National Farm Medicine Center will be a national resource, conducting high quality research, developing and delivering health and safety information, exploring innovative service models and effecting broad change to improve human health and safety associated with rural and agricultural work, life and environments."

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