

Cultivate

WINTER 2020

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FARM MEDICINE CENTER



Corey Brumbaugh of Miron Construction wins the Grand Finale prize valued at \$8000 at the Auction Of Champions.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION!

Boosted by exciting new live and silent auction packages, the Hollywood-themed 2019 Auction of Champions raised nearly \$230,000 for the work of the National Farm Medicine Center, including \$53,000 through Fund-a-Need to support restarting the Farm Rescue Training Program. Topping the list of generous sponsors was Miron Construction (Champion, \$25,000) and H&S Manufacturing (Platinum, \$10,000). Save the Date: the next auction will be Sept. 17, 2020.

FARM MEDICINE HOSTS LEGISLATIVE HEARING

National Farm Medicine Center Director Cap Bendixsen was one of three featured speakers who addressed the Wisconsin Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention during a July public hearing hosted by Farm Medicine at Froehlke Auditorium, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute. Farmer suicides are likely underreported, Bendixsen said, in part due to their isolation, stigma and farming being a second or past occupation. "We need to get past being reactive," Bendixsen said. "We can't wait for another economic downturn to care. We need long-term robust solutions to this problem even when the economy is good." The hearing was one in a series of six held by the task force focusing on at-risk populations including veterans, first responders, law enforcement, youth and farmers.



Marshfield Clinic
HEALTH SYSTEM
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



FARM RESCUE TRAINING FOR NEW GENERATION Program made possible by Auction of Champions

Soon after its establishment 1981, the National Farm Medicine Center initiated farm rescue training for firefighters and other emergency responders. During the next two decades, more than 1,400 participants from Wisconsin and beyond were trained in rescue techniques specific to agricultural hazards.

"No other programs were available in those days that provided this type of training," said Pittsville Fire Chief Jerry Minor, who worked with Dr. Dean Emanuel, Dr. Dean Stueland and others to design the pioneering program.

In 2020, a new generation is working in the mostly-volunteer fire services of Wisconsin, and still, basic training materials and texts do not provide specific information on dealing with agricultural incidents.

But thanks to \$53,000 pledged during the Fund-a-Need portion of last September's Auction of Champions, 100 firefighters/responders will be trained annually for the next five years in a new rescue training program led by Farm Medicine and Chief Minor.

"This generous support ensures that farmers and emergency responders get the care, training and support they deserve," said Farm Medicine Director Cap Bendixsen, Ph.D.

Farm incidents can pose high-risk to responders, Minor said. Toxic atmospheres, enclosed spaces, managing animals under stress and machinery entrapments are just a few of the dangers.

"There was a clear need to bring back the training program," Minor said.

The new program will also draw upon Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health (RF-DASH), a research and training program run by Dr. Bendixsen and funded through the Upper Midwest Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, with a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. RF-DASH has trained more than 100 emergency responders from 11 states to provide safety resources and consultation to farmers in their service areas. Find more information online at www.umash.umn.edu.

FFA OFFICERS FOCUS ON SAFETY

The Wisconsin State FFA Officers visited Farm Medicine last fall on one of their Business and Industry tours. The 11 officers will take the knowledge they gained on tours and share it through workshops and keynote speeches with the 250 FFA chapters statewide, reaching a potential audience of more than 20,000 FFA members. Outreach Specialist Melissa Ploekelman and Communications Manager Scott Heiberger shared resources produced by Farm Medicine and the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, and helped the officers identify ways to share the message of agricultural safety during their year of service.



DAIRY WORKERS, COWS AND THE MICROBIOME

Farm Medicine and Marshfield Clinic Research Institute are part of a study to understand the potential harmful or beneficial effects of dairy farm exposure on dairy farmers. The first stage of the Dairy Microbiome (DOM) study tests the hypothesis that dairy farmers and dairy cows have a shared microbiome (bacteria, viruses and fungi) that differs from office workers. Samples are being collected from the noses and guts of all three groups. Over the four-year period of the study, the DOM team will be researching to see if the microbiome from dairy cows has any effect on the health of an individual who works on a dairy farm. The study is funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) through Washington University. The Marshfield Principal Investigator is Sanjay Shukla, Ph.D., director, Center for Precision Medicine Research. Dr. Shukla's initial dairy microbiome research has been published in the journal [Plos ONE](#).

FEDS USE AGINJURYNEWS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has begun using AgInjuryNews as part of its Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries case discovery quality assurance. In a review of each state's case discovery process, potential cases are culled from databases and news sources and flagged for follow-up, and many potential cases are now noted from AgInjuryNews, according to Jameson Bair, administrative program specialist in the bureau's occupational safety & health section, U.S. Department of Labor. Bair said AgInjuryNews is well organized with information pertinent to worker cases. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has supported the AgInjuryNews initiative for several years, said Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., project leader. The bureau may now be the most well-represented organization in terms of user registrations on AgInjuryNews.org, Weichelt said. Anyone can set up a free account and search thousands of unique incidents, including 1,000 in 2019 alone. To create an account, visit www.AgInjuryNews.org and click "Register."



STUDYING UNIQUE FEATURES OF RURAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Farm Medicine is conducting a research project that engages individuals who are directly affected by opioid addiction in understanding the unique features of rural substance abuse and recovery. Results will guide future directions of study and action, both at the clinical and population health levels, said project manager Kathrine Barnes, M.S., M.P.H. The study, being conducted in the north woods of Wisconsin, is in collaboration with Family Health Center of Marshfield Clinic Health System and the HOPE Consortium of Wisconsin.

NEW TICK ID CARDS AVAILABLE

Wisconsin has one of the highest incidence rates of Lyme disease in the nation, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Get the facts about Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses with a set of new Tick Identification Cards from Farm Medicine. The cards are online at <https://marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc/lyme-disease>. To request hard copies, email nfmcsh@marshfieldclinic.org or phone 1-800-662-6900 and press "0." Several tick-borne illness research projects are underway at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute.

STATE CHILD INJURY PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D., National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, presented a keynote talk at the "Keeping Kids Alive in Wisconsin" conference held last November at Hotel Marshfield. The conference, presented by Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, brought together statewide Child Death Review and Fetal Infant Mortality Review team members and other professionals with interest in injury prevention to explore trends in child death at local, state and national levels, and learn best practice prevention strategies.

WELCOME TO FARM MEDICINE

Florence Becot, Ph.D. (associate research scientist); Richard Burke, M.P.H. (research specialist); Megan Sauer (research assistant); and Amy Marg (administrative assistant) have joined the National Farm Medicine Center team. Dr. Becot comes to Farm Medicine from Ohio State University, bringing expertise in rural sociology and the economic impact of agricultural injuries. Her research has explored how rural populations and communities meet their social and economic needs in the U.S. and France.

FARM MEDICINE TO CO-HOST SAFETY SUMMIT

The National Farm Medicine Center will promote collaboration between researchers and agricultural industry partners when it co-hosts the [North American Agricultural Safety Summit](#), March 19-20, in Las Vegas. The summit is designed for agricultural business leaders, producer associations, risk managers, safety associations, federal and state agencies, educational institutions and safety professionals.



FURTHERMORE

Congratulations to Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D., who received her doctoral degree in educational leadership from Edgewood College in Madison, Wis., and in December accepted the position of project scientist within the National Farm Medicine Center ... Salzwedel has been voted to the Board of Directors of the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health, joining Scott Heiberger, the current president ... The National Children's Center joined safety and health colleagues from across the country last fall at the 92nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Staff played "Safety Jeopardy!" to test the farm safety knowledge of hundreds of career and technical education students and educators.

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."

Cultivate is published twice annually by the National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield, WI. Contact: 1-800-662-6900, nfmcsh@marshfieldresearch.org, www.marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc