



National Children's Center marks 25 years

The U.S. Congress provided targeted funding to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in 1997 to implement a National Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative. Through a cooperative agreement, the National Children's Center was established as an extramural component of the initiative. Join us in 2022 as we thank those who have worked collaboratively to [drive down the rates of childhood agricultural injury](#), and take stock in our collective accomplishments. Look for more news and activities related to "25" throughout 2022.



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

 **Marshfield Clinic**
Research Institute

 **National Farm Medicine Center**

Emergency responders train for farm rescues

Marshfield event draws firefighters and EMS from 29 departments across Wisconsin



Forty years after organizing its first farm rescue education event, the National Farm Medicine Center, in partnership with Pittsville Fire and Life Link 3 Air Medical Transport, presented the Agricultural Rescue Training program Oct. 22-23, 2021 at Heiman Holsteins and Heeg Farms, Inc., just outside Marshfield. More than 70 participants from 29 departments across Wisconsin participated in hands-on rescue scenarios involving tractor overturns, grain bins, equipment extrication and more. Trainings are planned to take place annually for the next four years.

The training program's revival was made possible thanks to \$53,000 pledged during the Fund-a-Need portion of the 2019 Auction of Champions. In addition, numerous local businesses and individuals provided equipment and/or support at little or no cost. Pittsville Fire Chief Jerry Minor extended a special thank you to the Central Wood Fire and Rescue Services Association member departments who provided instructional staff, tools, equipment and expertise.

In addition, fire departments that sent three or more personnel to the training received a free, four-gas monitor that they can loan to area farmers and/or use as a conversation starter about the dangers of toxic gases. The monitors were supported in part by the Mike Biadasz Farm Safety and Education Memorial Fund. The fund honors the memory of Mike Biadasz, 29, of Amherst, Wisconsin, who

died in August 2016 when he was overcome by hydrogen sulfide gas on his family's beef cattle farm.

"Rescue operations on farms tend to be low frequency/high risk, meaning that they may not happen as often as car wrecks, but when they do happen, they're often very severe because of the nature of the occupational environment on farms," said Casper Bendixsen, director of Farm Medicine. "It's something that you have to train for because you don't have a lot of practice with it in daily rescues."

For more information, contact Kyle Koshalek (koshalek.kyle@marshfieldresearch.org, 715-389-3786) or go to <http://agrescue.org/>

The following departments are receiving the four-gas monitors:

- Arpin Fire Department
- Edgar Volunteer Fire Department
- Grand Rapids Fire Department
- Harrison Fire Rescue
- Hewitt Area Fire Department
- Iola Fire Department
- Lincoln Fire Department
- Oconto Falls Fire Department
- Richfield Rural Fire Department
- South Area Fire District
- Stratford Area Fire Department
- Wisconsin Large Animal Rescue

Jerry Meissner, 1954-2021



Diane and Jerry Meissner

Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss and celebrate the legacy of Jerry Meissner, 67, who passed away Dec. 16, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. The former president of the Dairy Business Association had a fun-loving spirit and caring, compassionate heart that made him truly one of a kind. If you know Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation, you know Jerry. As a dedicated donor, event attendee, committee member and auctioneer,

the passion for helping others shined through in him every day. "The National Farm Medicine Center is driven by people, not just researchers and staff, but by community partnerships," said Farm Medicine Director Cap Bendixsen, Ph.D. "Jerry and Diane Meissner are two of the most impactful community members in the history of our center. Jerry's passing gnaws at our hearts and raises our arms out to his wonderful family. It also brings forth so many memories of how much he did for our center and our community. Jerry was central to the success of our Auction of Champions and leading the community to philanthropically support our team's efforts."

Farm Medicine medical director retires



Thomas Fritsche, M.D.

Thomas Fritsche, M.D., has been an amazing colleague, serving Farm Medicine as medical director, Miller Endowment holder and friend of the Auction of Champions. We wish him the best as he retires. Fortunately, Dr. Fritsche is continuing part-time in Marshfield Clinic Research Institute as a researcher emeritus working with the Integrated Research and Development Laboratory on projects related to tick-borne diseases, as well as continuing to work with the Research Institute and Marshfield Labs on opportunities to evaluate new laboratory technology for improving diagnostic capabilities for our patients.

Auction of Champions raises \$216,000

The 2021 Auction of Champions, presented by Miron Construction Co., Inc., raised nearly \$170,000 for agricultural safety and health. Farm Medicine is grateful for this generous support of its work. Fund-a-Need raised an additional \$46,000 for the Bilingual Research and Education Program. The need for clear safety instructions to be delivered in farm workers' first language was articulated in a bilingual presentation by Brian Forrest, Maple Ridge Dairy, and Maple Ridge employee, Diego Avin.

Online community features child safety

The Childhood Agricultural Safety Network, or CASN, has introduced a new online community that makes it easy for people who are interested in keeping children safe on farms to connect, collaborate, learn and share. To request an invitation to the online community, go to www.childagsafety.org/ or to learn more about CASN, visit cultivatesafety.org/casn/. "The possibility for enhancing communication and collaboration that are offered with this online community are tremendous," said Marsha Salzwedel, Ed.D., CASN program manager.

Our Mission

"With the ultimate goal of improving human health, wellbeing and safety of rural and agricultural communities, the National Farm Medicine Center acts as a national resource by conducting high quality research, developing and delivering health and safety information, exploring innovative intervention models, and leading initiatives and networks."

National FFA



National Children's Center staff engaged with approximately 1,300 students and teachers at the National FFA Convention & Expo Oct. 26-29, 2021 in Indianapolis. Marsha Salzwedel and Melissa Ploeckelman joined nine other agricultural safety-oriented organizations in a dedicated safety expo area. Salzwedel and Ploeckelman played Safety Jeopardy with visitors and also administered a short survey on behalf of the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH).

ATV-UTV safety campaign to launch



An increase in the number of all-terrain vehicles and utility-task vehicles used on farms, both for work and recreation, in combination with the changes in the size and power of the vehicles, provided the impetus for a national safety campaign launching in 2022. A tri-fold safety brochure and poster are the first pieces of the campaign. Check with www.cultivatesafety.org/casn for ongoing updates.

Farm parents sought for research study



Do news reports about farm injuries to children affect parents' knowledge, attitude and behavior toward child safety on farms? The National Children's Center is recruiting farm parents to participate in a study assessing the effects of reading injury news articles, which will be led by researcher Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D. For information, visit marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/NewsReportStudy/SpNynV or e-mail burke.richard@marshfieldresearch.org.

Furthermore...

The National Farm Medicine Center and National Children's Center welcome four new staff members: Yasamin Aftahi (health educator), Christopher Benny (research coordinator), Cassandra Peltier (health educator associate) and Chris Wanat (research coordinator). ... Farm Medicine team members will deliver presentations at two influential conferences this spring, the North American Agricultural Safety Summit, March 28-30, 2022 (www.ashca.org) and the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health, June 12-16, 2022 (www.isash.org). ... Join thousands of others who keep up with the latest in Farm Medicine at www.facebook.com/farmmedicine and twitter.com/FarmMedicine. ... The Journal of Agromedicine, the world's No. 1 source of peer-reviewed agricultural safety and health information and edited by Farm Medicine since 2004, posted its highest-ever Impact Factor (1.675) in 2021, an indication of its articles' relevance and number of times they have been cited in other peer-reviewed publications. The Journal of Agromedicine receives support from the Auction of Champions ... Farm Medicine scientists and staff fielded an increasing number of interview requests in 2021, including the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, WGN Radio Chicago and Inside Edition.

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