



Happy 40th Farm Medicine!

The National Farm Medicine Center turns 40 years old this summer. It is the nation's longest-running, continuously operating center dedicated solely to agricultural safety and health. Established in 1981 in response to occupational health problems seen in farm patients coming to Marshfield Clinic, current Farm Medicine priorities include preventing injuries and fatalities, injury surveillance, community outreach and education, farm microbiome and human immunology, mental health and evaluation research. Farm Medicine operates on a mix of competitive federal grants and private contributions from generous donors, including philanthropic support from the Auction of Champions. Read more about our first 40 years at <https://www.marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc>.



Young farmer survives tractor rollover with Farm Medicine-rebated ROPS



National ROPS Rebate Program

<https://www.ropsr4u.org/> (click on Wisconsin), or call 1-877-767-7748.

Allan Orebaugh, father of Caleb Orebaugh, at the scene of his son's overturn in July 2020.

HOLMEN, Wis. – Caleb Orebaugh is the first reported participant in the Wisconsin Rollover Protection Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program to safely ride out a tractor overturn with a ROPS installed through the program. In July 2020, Orebaugh steered his slow-moving John Deere 4320 straight down the familiar hillside hayfield when, suddenly, he felt the weight of the mower pushing his tractor off-course.

"It was during a drought and the ground was dry and hard," said Orebaugh, 34. "I started sliding and I pushed the brakes, but I didn't have any traction and kept sliding sideways. When the mower's tongue caught the rear tire I just hung on." The tractor rolled onto its side, stopping when the ROPS hit the ground.

Orebaugh had installed the ROPS just a few months earlier. He walked away virtually unscathed. "I bruised my elbow when it hit the inside of the (sun) canopy, and that was about it," Orebaugh said.

Orebaugh's father, Allan, heard about the rebate program from Orion Samuelson during the iconic farm broadcaster's morning show, carried locally by WCOW-FM, Sparta. The rebate program, run by the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC) with philanthropic

support from the Auction of Champions, offers rebates toward the cost of purchasing and installing a ROPS.

The Orebaughs' farm in southwest Wisconsin is part of the Driftless Area, known for hills and ravines. "We had farmed this land for two or three years without a rollbar," Allan said.

National data suggest that 1 of every 10 tractor operators overturns a tractor in his or her lifetime. Tractors are the leading cause of death on U.S. farms; the most frequent cause of tractor-related deaths are overturns, nearly 100 per year. Approximately half of U.S. tractors do not have rollover protection.

Farm Medicine recently made the program more cost-effective for more farmers by limiting out-of-pocket retrofit expenses to \$500, no matter the cost of the retrofit. All Wisconsin farmers are eligible. Go to the National ROPS Rebate Program website, <https://www.ropsr4u.org/> and click on Wisconsin, or call 1-877-767-7748.

"The process went smoother than I thought," said Caleb Orebaugh.

Smoother than a ROPS-less overturn.

Dairy farmer sees vaccine as ‘the key’



Brian Forrest

Maple Ridge Dairy owner Brian Forrest oversees the health and well-being of 1,700-plus dairy animals on a farm in Marathon County. Forrest is concerned about animal health, but also feels responsible for protecting the health of those who need to be on the farm, such as veterinarians, milk haulers, visitors, construction crews, salespeople,

employees’ families and all the people with whom they interact. And he’s concerned about his own family’s health. These are among the reasons why Forrest believed it was important for him to get the COVID-19 vaccine. “I’m very supportive of the vaccine. It’s the key, the ticket to get out of this thing we’re all so sick of, this pandemic. For me personally, vaccines are a no-brainer. We use vaccines on the farm every day and they’re such a benefit to the health of animals, and for humans too,” said Forrest, who served two terms on the Professional Dairy Producers’ (PDPW) Board of Directors and is currently on the Marshfield Clinic Research Institute Oversight Board. Hear more about Forrest’s business and personal reasons for getting the vaccine, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaAjwmETIMI>

In the news

Spectrum News 1 Wisconsin recently visited central Wisconsin and produced several stories about the work of the National Farm Medicine Center. Spectrum News 1 (<https://spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee>) is a statewide network available to Spectrum subscribers and owned by Charter Communications.

- Wisconsin program trains firefighters on responding to farms.
- Growing up on farm has health benefits, but higher risk.
- Researchers explore substance abuse cause and treatment in rural Wisconsin.
- Advocates urge farmers to take steps to prevent skin cancer.

Save the Date! Auction Sept. 16



MARKET OF CHAMPIONS

virtual market SEPTEMBER 13-16 in-person market SEPTEMBER 16

marshfieldclinic.org/aoc

The Auction of Champions will return to an in-person format September 16 at RiverEdge Golf Course in Marshfield. The Farmers’ Market-themed event will be outdoors with safety modifications such as fewer attendees, no sit-down dinner and auction tables distanced further apart. But the evening will produce all the usual excitement

and fun! To purchase tickets and for information, go to www.marshfieldclinic.org/giving. In addition, you can buy raffle tickets for a getaway to the wine country of the Willamette Valley, Oregon. Cost is \$100 per raffle ticket. Only 150 will be sold.

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.”



Barbara Lee, Ph.D.

Ag industry honors Dr. Lee

Barbara Lee, Ph.D., director of the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the spring North American Agricultural Safety Summit. The online Summit was hosted by the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA). “Put simply, there would be no ASHCA without Barbara Lee,”

said Jess McCluer, board chair of ASHCA, and vice president of safety and regulatory affairs at the National Grain and Feed Association. Lee facilitated an initial meeting of farm safety proponents in 2006 to explore the idea of a national, industry-driven ag safety organization and helped secure funding and support, leading to the incorporation of ASHCA one year later.

#FarmNeighborsCare during Mental Health Awareness Month

The National Farm Medicine Center, during May’s Mental Health Awareness Month, joined Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and a coalition of other agricultural organizations to support rural residents in looking after their farm neighbors who might be struggling with increased stress. Through its #FarmNeighborsCare campaign, the coalition hosted webinars, promoted resources on social media, and ran a campaign called “Heroes of Hope” to highlight rural heroes who have instilled hope in farmers and farm-related businesses with acts large and small.

Farm Kid Paradox – recruits sought

Farming is one of the most hazardous industries in the U.S. with an increased risk of injury to those who both work and live on the farm, especially children. However, children raised on farms also enjoy certain social and health benefits. The tension between benefits and risks poses problems for farm parents and safety professionals who wish to work together to mitigate children’s risks, as well as enhance the benefits of being raised on farms. A new project in the National Children’s Center, “The Farm Kid Paradox,” is exploring this problem. Team member Kyle Koshalek described the initiative in an [article](#) he wrote for Progressive Dairy and Progressive Cattle magazines. The project is currently recruiting participants. For information go to <https://www.marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs/farmkidparadox>.

AgInjuryNews fills gap

Occupational fatalities in agriculture are well documented and recorded by the federal government, but tracking non-working bystander and nonfatal injuries to farmers, ranchers, workers and their families falls short. Veteran journalist Mystique Macomber interviewed the experts and wrote a story explaining how AgInjuryNews.org helps fill the gap. Read [the full story](#).

Furthermore

Read how the National Farm Medicine Center pushed ahead with its research, and addressed emerging pandemic-related issues, in the National Farm Medicine Center [2020 Year in Review](#) ...**Florence Becot, Ph.D.**, co-authored an article, “[Family farms are struggling with two hidden challenges: health insurance and child care.](#)” in The Conversation, an independent and non-profit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. The article was picked up by the Associated Press, Yahoo News and many other outlets.

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