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**GLC STILL GOING STRONG**

The Great Lakes Center for Agricultural Safety and Health was refunded by NIOSH for another three years. Funds were made available for administration of the center and projects funded in the areas of research, intervention/ prevention and education/ outreach. Projects funded through the center included: (1) Adopting the Agricultural Safety and Health Best Management Practices for the Insurance Industry – PI, Dr. Dennis Murphy ([djm13@psu.edu](mailto:djm13@psu.edu)) (2) An audiovisual Approach to Train West Virginia Farmers on the Prevention effectiveness of ROPS in Reducing Traumatic Injury – PI, Dr. Jim Helmkamp ([jhelmkamp@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:jhelmkamp@hsc.wvu.edu)) (3) Farm-Related Asthma – PI, Dr. Kenneth Rosenman ([Ken.Rosenman@ht.msu.edu](mailto:Ken.Rosenman@ht.msu.edu)) (4) Field Test Grain Hazard Assessment Tool – PI, Dr. Douglas Kingman ([dkingma@ilstu.edu](mailto:dkingma@ilstu.edu)) (5) Evaluating for Impact GLCASH Fellows Program – PI, Dr. Karen Bruns ([bruns.1@osu.edu](mailto:bruns.1@osu.edu)). Addition information about each project can be obtained through direct contact with the PI.

**GLC & NIOSH CONFERENCE**

Don't miss the March 15 & 16 NIOSH and GLC sponsored conference "Improving Agricultural Health and Safety Programs Through Evaluation: Rigorous and Practical Strategies" March 15 –16, 2004. The agenda, registration and lodging information may be obtained through the web page: [http://www.ag.ohiostate.edu/~agsafety/glc/GLC\\_Conference.htm](http://www.ag.ohiostate.edu/~agsafety/glc/GLC_Conference.htm) We look forward to seeing you there – so REGISTER TODAY.

## **A COMMON WINTER CONCERN**

As we write this newsletter, it is still winter here at the Great Lakes Center with below freezing temperatures. If it is the same where you are, check out this new fact sheet “Ice Safety” available at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/lines/farm.html#FSAFE>

## **WITH WARMER WEATHER COMES..**

Looking forward to spring? Did you know that May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month? Lyme disease can occur when an immature tick becomes infected by attaching itself to the farm dog, small rodents, livestock or deer. In later life stages, these ticks transmit the Lyme disease bacterium to other mammals including humans.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), approximately 18,000 cases are reported annually. It is believed that the disease is greatly underreported. People who live in the Northeast and Midwest are more prone to Lyme disease than any other regions of the country. For more additional information contact the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov> or the American Lyme Disease Foundation at <http://www.aldf.com/>

## **CRASH STATISTICS**

Did you know that in 2001 there were 22,735 fatal crashes (60%) in rural areas and 15,060 fatal crashes in (40%) in urban areas? How about, in rural areas, 54% of the crashes occur in daylight, while 46% occur at night. Information on rural and urban traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/>

## **TRAINING GRANT ASSIGNED**

An OSHA Susan Harwood Training Grant has been given to an Ohio State University research team. A member of the GLC agricultural safety and health team, Ms. Dee Jepsen ([jepsen.4@osu.edu](mailto:jepsen.4@osu.edu)) and Mr. Michael Wonacott ([wonacott.2@osu.edu](mailto:wonacott.2@osu.edu)) received an OSHA training materials development grant for the development, evaluation, and validation of training materials for one of eight targeted topic-targeted training grants. The grant is entitled “Comprehensive Tailgate Training Modules for Occupational Risks and Hazards in Landscaping and Horticultural Services.” Additional information may be obtained by contacting either PI.

## **AN INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT**

The fatality rate for agricultural workers (22.5/100,000) is estimated to be more than six times that of other industries (3.8/100,000). After two years of work, agricultural safety specialists from across the county, through the NRC-197 Committee on Agricultural Safety, Research and Extension have released “National Land Grant Research and Extension Agenda for Agricultural Safety and Health”. The report outlines 12 key areas where land grant institutions and agricultural experiment stations should focus future safety efforts. The complete report may be requested from [bean.3@osu.edu](mailto:bean.3@osu.edu).

## **SEEN INJURY PREVENTION WEB?**

The injury prevention web (<http://www.injuryprevention.org>) is working to prevent injuries. The site contains a weekly literature update of recent journal articles and agency reports, injury data for every U.S. state, and more than 1,400 links to government and non-profit injury prevention sites worldwide.

## TAKING TOXINS HOME?

Farm workers can carry hazardous substances home from work in a variety of ways, unwittingly exposing their families to these substances. That can cause various health problems, including respiratory problems, neurological disorders and fatal poisonings.

According to NIOSH, workers can expose their family members to hazardous substances in a variety of ways, including:

- **Farming:** Families who live on the property where farming is done can be exposed to pesticides, caustic substances, and a hormone-like chemical that can poison them or cause them to have allergic reactions.
- **Work clothes:** Beryllium, lead, pesticides and other chemicals have been carried home on clothing. Washing machines and dryers also can become contaminated, poisoning the person doing laundry as well as contaminating other clothing items.
- **Tools and equipment:** Material on hand tools and other equipment have contaminated homes and vehicles.
- **Work items brought home:** Contaminated bags, rags, metal drums and scrap lumber brought home have poisoned family members.
- **Worker's body:** A worker's hands can pass dangerous substances to family members.

Prevention is the best defense against bringing toxins into the home. Safe practices in which to train your workers include:

- Use good safety practices to reduce risk of exposure.
- Leave soiled clothes at work.
- Change clothes before leaving work.

- Store nonwork clothes away from work clothes.
- If possible, shower before leaving work.
- Do not take tools, packaging or similar items home.
- Launder work clothes separately.
- Prevent family members from visiting the work area.

For more information on take-home toxins, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hometox/>

## A SIGN OF THE TIMES . . .

### WASHINGTON STATE ADOPTS NEW BLOOD TEST RULE FOR AG WORKER HEALTH

A new rule adopted by the Washington state Department of Labor and Industries that took effect February 1, 2004, requires employers to conduct blood testing of agricultural employees who handle specific pesticides to ensure their health.

Growers and other employers must check pesticide workers for lowered levels of cholinesterase, an enzyme necessary to regulate nerve function. Cholinesterase can be reduced by exposure to organophosphate and n-methyl-carbamate pesticides. Lowered cholinesterase can cause nerves to remain stimulated. Symptoms of low cholinesterase levels include blurred vision, diarrhea, tremors, seizures, loss of consciousness and finally death.

The 2004 rule requires employers to monitor workers who handle pesticides for 50 or more work hours in any given 30-day period. In 2005, workers handling those pesticides for 30 hours in any 30-day period must be monitored.

## REVISED ASSE STANDARD

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) announced the approval of the updated Practice for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices standard by the American National Standards Institute. For more information contact: <http://www.asse.org>. Oh, by the way, ASSE has a host of ergonomic resources listed on their website.

## HEARING CONCERNS

Hearing degrades as people age. Nearly one-half of all adults have some level of hearing impairment. Some of this is normal; however, hearing loss is also attributed to noise exposure while working. This is especially true among farmers, who experience the highest rate of hearing loss among all workers. Hearing protection at any age is crucial. Earplugs or earmuffs will protect hearing. Repairing machinery and equipment that are generating excessive noise is also crucial to reducing the exposure.

The latest "Hearing Protector Device Compendium" is now available online. The database is searchable by product type, manufacturer and noise reduction rating. The search results are also searchable by product features, such as custom-molded earplug or helmet-mounted muff. If a user enters a noise exposure level, the database will calculate the attenuation needed to provide a protected level between 75 and 85 decibels and generate a list of hearing protectors that fit that category. Access the database at: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/hpcomp.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/hpcomp.html)

## CPSC, DEERE AND COMPANY ANNOUNCE RECALL OF COMPACT UTILITY TRACTORS

An internal failure may occur with the hydrostatic transmission that will prevent the transmission from returning to neutral after the pedals are released. This can allow unexpected movement or continued tractor motion which will obviously create risk of injury to the operator or a bystander. The following model and serial numbers can be found on the tractor frame:

Recalled Model	Serial Range
4120 CUT with HST	LV4210H220677 to LV4210H221025
4310 CUT with HST	LV4310H232267 to LV4310H233638
4410 CUT with HST	LV4410H241367 to LV4410H241821
4610 CUT with HST	LV4610H260774 to LV4610H260906
4710 CUT with HST	LV4710H270806 to LV4710H271286

For more information, contact John Deere's Customer Communications Center on (800) 537-8233, M-F, 8-6 (EST), Sat, 9-3 or at the John Deere web site at: [http://www.deere.com/en\\_US/golfturf/safety/recalls.html](http://www.deere.com/en_US/golfturf/safety/recalls.html)

## NEW SAFETY FACTSHEETS

OSHA recently issued two fact sheets which may be of interest: "OSHA Inspections" and "OSHA's Role When a Worker Dies on the Job." The fact sheets are available on OSHA's website, <http://www.osha.gov>.

A new fact sheet is available from our friends at Penn State in the Department of Agricultural and Biological engineering titled "Rollover Protection for Farm Tractor Operators." It is available at the web site <http://www.age.psu.edu/factsheets/> or by calling 814-865-7685.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The *2004 National Farmworker Health Conference* will be held from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Marriot Biscayne Bay Hotel & Marina in Miami, Florida. You can find more information at the National Association of Community Health Centers's web site: [www.nachc.com](http://www.nachc.com).

*National Environmental Health Association's 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition* will be held at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska on May 9-12, 2004. The program topics and other information can be found on their web site: <http://www.neha.org>

*Enhancing the Health and Well-Being of Plain Communities: A Conference for Professionals Working with Old Order Anabaptists* will be held at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, PA on June 2-4, 2004. For more information, call 800-825-4264 or visit <http://www.amishsafety.info>.

The *7<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion* will be held in at the Austrian Convention Center in Vienna, Austria on June 6-9, 2004. More information can be found at: <http://www.safety2004.info> or by e-mailing [Safety2004@sicherleben.at](mailto:Safety2004@sicherleben.at)

The *2004 National Symposium on Agricultural Health and Safety* will be held on June 20-24, 2004 at the Keystone Resort in Keystone, Colorado. It is presented by the NIOSH Agricultural Health and Safety Centers, North American Agromedicine Consortium and National Institute for Farm Safety. More information can be found at <http://www.hicahs.colostate.edu>, or by contacting [Angi.Buchanan@cahs.colostate.edu](mailto:Angi.Buchanan@cahs.colostate.edu)

## SAFETY OBSERVANCES CALENDAR

Visit <http://www.nsc.org/news/aware.htm> for contact information for each observance and a complete safety observance listing.

February 8-14, 2004  
*National Child Passenger Safety Week*  
National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.  
Tina Foley - Public Affairs - 202-366-9550

March 2004  
*Workplace Eye Safety Month*  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
Annmarie Harris  
415-561-8525

April 5-11, 2004  
*National Public Health Week*  
American Public Health Association  
Lakitia Mayo 202-777-2515

April 18-24, 2004  
*Window Safety Week*  
Window Safety Task Force  
Janice Charletta  
847/303-5859, ext. 230

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Please send any articles you would like published in future editions of our newsletter to Tom bean at [bean.3@osu.edu](mailto:bean.3@osu.edu).

You may also let us know if someone should be added or removed from our mailing list by contacting our office via [bean.3@osu.edu](mailto:bean.3@osu.edu).

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