

This first electronic newsletter is brought to you by the Great Lakes Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.

The goal of the Great Lakes Center for Agricultural Safety and Health is to promote agricultural safety and health for farm, forestry and fishery employers, workers, families and their communities in the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes Center serves the states of: Illinois (IL), Indiana (IN), Kentucky (KY), Michigan (MI), Ohio (OH), Pennsylvania (PA), Wisconsin (WI) and West Virginia (WV). Other CDC/NIOSH Agricultural Safety and Health Centers may overlap some of these states. It is expected that activities within these states will be communicated and coordinated among Centers. The states within the Center's working circle share many common attributes, i.e., crops, farming practices, farm sizes, migrant streams, poverty in the Appalachian areas, strong commercial fishing and timber industries, to mention a few.

The Great Lakes Center is based at The Ohio State University (OSU). The Administration team within the Center is a strong collaborative effort between the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Science (CFAES) and the OSU School of Public Health in the OSU College of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Thomas L. Bean, Professor and Safety Leader, CFAES, serves as the Center Director. Assisting the Director, Dr. Jay Wilkins, Professor, OSU School of Public Health, serves as Deputy Director. In addition, the Center has three core areas of operation. The Multi-Disciplinary Research Core that facilitates/promotes interaction/collaboration among researchers affiliated with the Center is directed also by Dr. Jay Wilkins. The Prevention/Education Core that facilitates the development, implementation of evaluation projects, intervention effectiveness research and provides technical assistance in evaluation design is directed by Dr. Catherine Heaney, Associate Professor, OSU School of Public Health. The Education and Outreach Core, directed by Dr. Karen Bruns, Assistant Professor, OSUE Administration, CFAES, oversees collaborations, which facilitate the transition of research results into practical educational programs targeting Extension Field staff, public health professionals, scientists, and other professionals engaged in agricultural safety and health issues.

The Great Lakes Center for Agricultural Safety and Health currently has the following agricultural safety and health focus areas: Ergonomics; Pesticide Exposure and Health Effects Assessment; Acute Unintentional Injury; Virtual Reality Simulation of Hazardous Agricultural Jobs and Agricultural Safety and Health Education and Outreach.

The Center **will be offering funding** for four feasibility pilot projects to encourage development of RO1 (full proposal and funding) of future research, prevention, education and outreach projects. Watch for this announcement in future issues of this newsletter.

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- American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition
- American Society of Safety Engineers 2002 Professional Development Conference & Exposition
- National Institute for Farm Safety Annual Meeting
- Second Annual Outreach Scholarship Conference
- National Safety Council Congress & Expo 2002

Future Meetings Of Interest

- 2003 National Safety Council Congress & Expo
- 2005 World Safety Congress

NIOSH REPORT OFFERS GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON SAFETY OF EMERGENCY RESPONDERS IN TERRORIST EVENTS

Many emergency response workers do not believe that they are adequately prepared to respond to a major disaster such as the World Trade Center attack or the anthrax scare. The report highlights the need for a research agenda that outlines comprehensive personal protective technology, and improved federal education and training programs and other activities pertaining

to the health and safety of emergency responders in rescue, recovery, and restoration efforts. The report is accessible from the NIOSH web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl>.

NEW CENTRAL HOTLINE FOR U.S. POISON CONTROL CENTERS

WASHINGTON (Reuters Health) - Americans for the first time can use a single toll-free telephone number to reach a poison control center anywhere in the nation. Officials launched the national hotline, 1-800-222-1222. Callers dialing the number will be automatically linked to the closest poison center.

SAFE PLAY AREAS FOR FARM CHILDREN

"Safe Play Areas" is a new, four-page educational folder containing guidelines on the creation of safe and age-appropriate play areas for farm children. This publication was created by The University Of Minnesota, Farm Safety & Health Program in cooperation with the National Program for Playground Safety. The publication covers site selection, materials for surfacing play areas, play equipment safety, and supervision guidelines.

Contact John Shutske if you have any questions or comments, telephone: (612) 626-1250, e-mail: shutske@gaia.bae.umn.edu, or visit: <http://www.bae.umn.edu/fs>.

CHILD YOUTH SAFETY RESOURCE AVAILABLE

The North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) are a resource developed to assist parents in making developmentally appropriate decisions when assigning farmwork to their children 7 -16 years old. The NAGCAT resources address the safe involvement of children in agricultural jobs by identifying the physical, cognitive and psychosocial abilities of the child, potential hazards of the agricultural job, parental responsibilities and recommended level of supervision.

NAGCAT is now available through Gempler's at large discounts. Quantities are limited. For more information visit <http://www.gemplers.com/nagcat.htm> or <http://www.nagcat.org/>.

NEW SPANISH WEB SITE AT NIOSH

The CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has added a new Spanish language section to its web site to serve the nation's growing Spanish speaking population. The section is located at <http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh/> or from the NIOSH site at www.cdc.gov/niosh by clicking the link "NIOSH En EspaZol."

OSHA ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REDUCE ERGONOMIC INJURIES

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration today unveiled a comprehensive plan designed to dramatically reduce ergonomic injuries through a combination of industry-targeted guidelines, tough enforcement measures, workplace outreach, advanced research, and dedicated efforts to protect Hispanic and other immigrant workers, <http://www.osha.gov/media/oshnews/apr 02/>.

ARTICLE WORTH READING

Evaluating the Risk of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in the United States

You may access this article from the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis web site at www.hcra.harvard.edu/foodresearch.html

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Second Annual Stueland Symposium

The Second Annual Stueland Symposium entitled "Timely Topics in Rural Medicine" will be in held Marshfield, Wisconsin at the Melvin Laird Center on May 2-3, 2002. Complete information on faculty, agenda and registration for all events is available at the web site of the National Farm Medicine Center, http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/stueland_symposium/2002/default.stm

You may also register for a pre-conference, "Intensive Training in Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention," that will be held May 1, 2002 in Marshfield, WI at the Melvin Laird Center. http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/stueland_symposium/2002/preconference.stm

A post-conference is also scheduled, "Understanding Farm Trauma and Rescue," for the evening of May 3, 2002 at the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Research Station in Marshfield, WI starting at 4:30 p.m.

http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/stueland_symposium/2002/postconference.stm

Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders for Children Working in Agriculture

The NIOSH Division of Applied Research and Technology and the Great Lakes Center for Agricultural Safety and Health are co-sponsoring a one and one-half day meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio on May 6-7, 2002 to discuss musculoskeletal disorders for children working in agriculture. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain input regarding hazard identification and assessment, health surveillance, and prevention. For more information contact Thomas R. Waters at (513) 533-8147 or email: trw1@cdc.gov.

2002 World Safety Congress

The 16th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work will be held in Vienna, Austria on May 26-31, 2002. To become familiar with some of the issues, program format, etc., being presented see <http://www.safety2002.at/>.

American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition

The American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition will be held on June 1-6, 2002 in San Diego, CA. For more information visit www.aiha.org/conf.htm.

American Society of Safety Engineers 2002 Professional Development Conference & Exposition

The American Society of Safety Engineers 2002 Professional Development Conference & Exposition will be held on June 9-12, 2002 at the Opryland Convention Center in Nashville, TN. For more information visit www.asse.org/.

National Institute for Farm Safety Annual Meeting

The National Institute for Farm Safety's (the farm safety and health specialist professional organization) annual meeting will be held in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida on June 23-27, 2002. The theme for the conference is "A Safer You in 2002: Ride the Wave!" For information contact Carol J. Lehtola at (352) 392-1864, ext. 223 or visit <http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu>.

Second Annual Outreach Scholarship Conference

Plans are underway for the second annual Outreach Scholarship conference, hosted by The Ohio State University from October 6-8, 2002. The theme for the conference is "Catalyst for Change." Safety and health is one of the special tracks. The conference is sponsored by The Ohio State University, The Pennsylvania State University, and University of Wisconsin-Extension. Proposal submissions can be made online at the conference web site at <http://www.outreachscholarship.org>.

National Safety Council Congress & Expo 2002

The national Safety Council Congress & Expo 2002 will be held at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California on October 7-9, 2002. For information call (800) 621-7619

FUTURE MEETINGS OF INTEREST

2003 National Safety Council Congress & Expo

The National Safety Council 91st Annual Congress & Expo will be held in Chicago, Illinois on September 5-12, 2003. For information call (630) 285-1121 or see <http://www.nsc.org>.

2005 World Safety Congress

The 17th World Safety Congress and National Safety Council Congress & Expo will be held in Orlando, Florida in 2005. The NSC is serving as host for the Congress, which will be held in the United States for the first time. For information see <http://www.nsc.org/news/nr103001.htm>.

SAFETY OBSERVANCES CALENDAR

Visit www.nsc.org/news/aware.htm for contact information for each observance and a complete 2002 safety observance listing.

April 21-27, 2002

National Window Safety Week
National Safety Council

April 22-26, 2002

National Playground Safety Week
National Program for Playground Safety

April 28, 2002

Workers Memorial Day
American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Org. (AFLCIO)

April 28-May 1, 2002

National Safe Boating Council, Water Safety Summit

Please send any articles you would like to be published in future editions of our newsletter to Jennifer Pursell at pursell.7@osu.edu.

Please let us know if anyone would like to be added to our mailing list. You may also let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list by contacting pursell.7@osu.edu.

Great Lakes Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering
The Ohio State University
298 Agricultural Engineering Building
590 Woody Hayes Drive
Columbus, OH 43210-1057
Phone: (614) 292-0622
Fax: (614) 292-9448