

Ag Youth Work Guidelines Overview

The overall goal of this initiative is to help young people work safely in agriculture. Safe and appropriate work is good for children, and agriculture offers many opportunities to develop work skills while gaining an appreciation for farming and related industries.

This project focuses on the development and launching of an updated version of 50 work guidelines. These guidelines are based upon the “North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks” (originally released in 1999), which help parents and supervisors assign age appropriate work. Youth doing work that does not match their developmental level is associated with increased risk of injury. Youth working in agriculture experience more fatalities than all other industries combined.

Methods

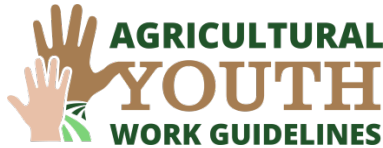
Three teams were established: 1) a National Steering Committee to guide the project and assist with dissemination; 2) an Internal Team to provide information on content, provide feedback and assist with the work process; and 3) a Technology Team to explore technology options, assist with website design and programming, and carry out pilot testing. Content consultants, including a child development specialist, were also utilized.

Phase I

A mobile-friendly website was developed to house the new guidelines in an interactive format to facilitate access and increase use of the guidelines. An initial assessment was conducted to determine which guidelines should be completed first, based on the frequency of youth performing farm jobs and data on frequency of youth-work injuries. Additional content on child development, supervision and communication was also created and/or updated. Phase I, creation of the website and the first 20 guidelines, is nearing completion and will debut in June 2017.

Phase II

Beginning in July 2017, the guideline content for another 30 agricultural work tasks commonly performed by youth will be updated or developed. In addition, website analytics and user feedback will be used to guide improvements for improved usability with mobile devices. Once these tasks are completed a national media campaign will be launched. In addition to traditional promotional efforts such as press releases and social media posts, the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN) and the National Steering Committee member organizations (National FFA, 4-H, American Farm Bureau Federation, USDA, etc.), will assist with promotion and dissemination. Follow-up and tracking of the use of these mobile-friendly agricultural youth work guidelines will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of this strategy for reaching farm parents and employers with guidance on assigning work tasks to youth.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [Scott Heiberger](#), 715-389-7541

Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines help kids do the job safely

It is well known that work is good for youth, and that agriculture provides opportunities to develop work skills and gain an appreciation for the land. It is also well known that the farm worksite is dangerous, resulting in numerous injuries and fatalities to working youth.

Since 2001, there has been a steady decline in the number of non-fatal injuries to farm youth. Despite this, every 3 days in the United States, a youth dies in an agricultural incident. For youth younger than 16 working in agriculture, the number of fatal injuries is consistently higher than all other industries combined.

The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, working with a coalition of farm and ranch parents, and high-profile agricultural organizations, has released the first 20 in a set of 50 [Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines](#). The guidelines are designed to assist parents and supervisors in assigning appropriate tasks for youth who live or work on farms and ranches.

“Too many of these injuries and deaths are associated with youth performing agricultural work that does not match their development level/abilities,” said Marsha Salzwedel, project leader and youth agricultural safety specialist at the National Children's Center. “These guidelines help parents and supervisors determine if a youth is able to safely perform various farm tasks.”

A Steering Committee was formed to help guide the project. Participating organizations included farm and ranch parents, American Farm Bureau Federation, National FFA, 4-H, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America, Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Penn State University, Utah State University, Progressive Agriculture Foundation, COUNTRY Financial, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, Cullars Farm, Wisconsin Young Farmer and Agriculturalists, and others.

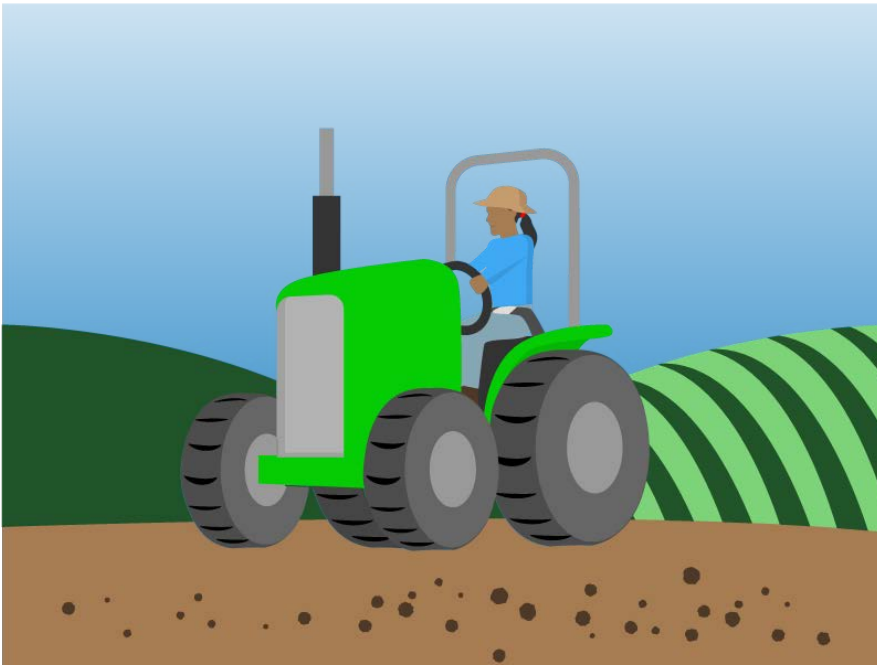
“All incidents are tragic, but ones involving a youth are especially tragic,” said Eric Vanasdale, senior loss control representative, COUNTRY Financial. “I participated in this steering committee because I wanted to make sure clear and easy to use safety materials are available for all farmers and farm workers. I am proud of the materials this group created and look forward to helping create safer working environments on our farms.”

Built upon the 1999 North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), the updated and interactive Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines are based on the latest scientific research, including child growth and development, agricultural practices, child injury prevention and agricultural safety.

“These guidelines aren’t just a piece of paper anymore,” said Salzwedel. “The new guidelines can be found on cultivatesafety.org/work in an interactive format, as well as in read-only and print versions. Skin tones can be modified to make them culturally appropriate and equipment colors can be changed to make them more appealing to equipment manufacturers. Information on the benefits of farm work, supervision and child development is also available on the website.”

Support for Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines came from CHS Foundation, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and generous donors to the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

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AGRICULTURAL YOUTH WORK GUIDELINES

Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines, formerly known as the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), are designed to assist parents and supervisors in assigning age-appropriate work for youth ages 7–16 who work on farms and ranches.

These updated guidelines are based on the latest scientific research, including child growth and development, agricultural practices, child injury prevention and agricultural safety. These guidelines are digitally accessible, culturally relevant, and proven to reduce injuries. Information is also available on the benefits of farm work for youth, supervision, child development, and more.



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

Funding provided by the CHS Foundation, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (2U54OH009568) and donors to the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

WORKING YOUTH

- Work is good for youth, teaching work skills and responsibilities
- Farms and ranches possess features (e.g., plants, animals, family) beneficial to youth
- Farms and ranches also contain dangerous worksites
- Assigning youth age-appropriate work allows them to reap the benefits of farm life while minimizing risk

INJURIES

- Since 2001, non-fatal injuries to farm youth have steadily fallen
- Every 3 days, a youth dies in a agricultural incident
- More youth <16 die working in agriculture than all other industries combined
- Injuries/deaths are often associated with youth doing work that doesn't match their developmental abilities

WORKING SAFELY

Visit [CultivateSafety.org](https://www.CultivateSafety.org)

- Use the guidelines to determine if a youth can perform a job safely
- Learn about the hazards and protective strategies
- Find the right level of supervision needed

CONTACT

National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety
Marshfield, WI 54449
800-662-6900
nccrahs@marshfieldresearch.org

Social Media toolkit

Social media tips

- Post images and/or videos with your messages.
- Share/Like others' posts in support of the Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines
- LinkedIn posts are advantageous because you can tag users even if they are not a connection of yours. Praising other users is an excellent way to get more exposure.

First posts

FACEBOOK or EMAIL BLAST

A group of farm and ranch parents and leading agricultural organizations have released interactive Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines (www.cultivatesafety.org/work) to assist parents and others in assigning appropriate tasks for youth who live or work on farms and ranches. "Injuries and deaths are often associated with children performing agricultural work that does not match their development level/abilities," said Marsha Salzwedel, project manager, National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

Every 3 days in the United States, a youth dies in an agricultural incident. For youth younger than 16 working in agriculture, the number of fatal injuries is consistently higher than all other industries combined.

The voluntary guidelines are based on the latest scientific research, including child growth and development, agricultural practices, child injury prevention and agricultural safety. Participants include farm and ranch parents, American Farm Bureau Federation, National FFA, 4-H, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America, Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Penn State University, Utah State University, Progressive Agriculture Foundation, COUNTRY Financial, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, Cullars Farm, Wisconsin Young Farmer and Agriculturalists, and others.

"All incidents are tragic, but ones involving a youth are especially tragic," said Eric Vanasdale, senior loss control representative, COUNTRY Financial. "I participated in this steering committee because I wanted to make sure clear and easy to use safety materials are available for all farmers and farm workers. I am proud of the materials this group created and look forward to helping create safer working environments on our farms."



#agsafety #nccrahs #aywg #farmsafety

TWITTER

See which agricultural organizations are behind the new Ag Youth Work Guidelines! <http://bit.ly/2rogKHZ> #agsafety #nccrahs #aywg #farmsafety

Additional posts

Tractors

Tractors are one of the leading causes of injuries and fatalities on farms. Youth who are operating tractors before they are physically or developmentally ready contribute to many of these incidents. For instance, this past spring, a 10-year-old Kansas girl operating tractor ran over her 9 year-old-brother. Newly updated Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines can help parents and supervisors determine if a youth has the physical and cognitive abilities to perform a job. For the Tractor Guideline,

see: <https://doi.org/10.21636/nfmc.nccrahs.youthwork.operatetractor.g.2017>



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Benefits of farm work

The newly updated Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines recognize that farms and ranches possess qualities that can be beneficial for youth (e.g., plants, animals, family, chores, business features). Working in agriculture also provides youth with the opportunities to develop work skills and learn appreciation for the land. However, these worksites also contain dangerous hazards. To strike a balance, it is important to assign farm kids age-appropriate work, which enables them to reap the benefits of farm life, while helping to minimize the risks. Learn more at <https://cultivatesafety.org/benefits-of-farm-work/>

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Animals

Youth can learn a lot from working with animals and over time, farm/ranch animals can become almost like pets. However, working with animals can be dangerous. The newly updated Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines can help parents and supervisors determine if a youth has the physical and cognitive abilities to safely work with animals. For guidelines specific to animals, see <https://doi.org/10.21636/nfmc.nccrahs.youthwork.workanimals.g.2017>

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Website Link Language

Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines can be used to assist parents and supervisors in determining if a youth is able to perform a job safely. Information on the benefits of farm work, supervision and child development is also available. Visit cultivatesafety.org/work for more information.

Testimonials

“I am farmer and a parent, and keeping my child safe while getting the work done can be a challenge. The Ag Youth Work Guidelines mobile app helps alleviate some of the frequent questions that come up. My husband and I can consult the app, or webpage, to look at the age developmental guidelines, and recommended methods for children working on the farm. I'm so grateful for the resources the National Children's Center provides, and especially the new app that I can consult on my phone on the go.”

Jennifer Nelson

Organic Specialist

Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)

Farmer Parent, Humble Pie Farm

“How to safely do a task should always be the first thought a farmer has when working around the farm. Most farm injuries and fatalities are avoidable through proper risk mitigation but many farmers lack the time or resources to address safe working practices. All incidents are tragic, but ones involving a youth are especially tragic. I participated in this steering committee because I wanted to make sure clear and easy to use safety materials are available for all farmers and farm workers. I am proud of the materials this group created and look forward to helping create safer working environments on our farms.”

“The new youth guidelines are clear and simple to use. Farmers need these resources to help guide them in keeping their family members and employees safe. As an insurance provider, we are always looking for resources to share with our policy holders that can make a significant impact on their operations and these guidelines will help ensure their family members come home safe at the end of the day.”

“Lack of understanding of safe work practices is a leading cause of injuries amongst youthful farm workers. As a farm insurance provider, I am always looking for easy to use resources from a trustworthy source. I am proud of the materials we created and cannot wait to share them with our policy holders. I believe parents or employers that use these guidelines will make their farm more safe and protect their family members or workers.”

Eric Vanasdale

Senior Loss Control Representative

COUNTRY Financial

“Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and youth in agricultural settings isn’t just a local or regional issue. Being able to collaborate with a team of ag health and safety specialists from across Canada and the United States has given us the opportunity to learn from and build on collective experience. The end result is not only an exceptional resource that will guide parents and caregivers in making informed decisions for the youth’s involvement in ag work activities but has established a relationship between the collaborators to be able to continue networking.”

*Glen G. Blahey, CRSP
Agricultural Health and Safety Specialist
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association*

“I was involved in the development of the original North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), which were groundbreaking and an excellent resource when they were released in 1999. With NAGCAT almost 20 years old, it was time for an update. Technology has changed how people access information. Putting the guidelines on a mobile-friendly website makes them easier for everyone to access, and making them interactive makes them more attractive to use.”

“I am excited to be part of this project, and I look forward to seeing these guidelines in use.”

*Dennis Murphy, PhD, CSP
Nationwide Insurance Professor of Agricultural Safety and Health
Penn State University*