

# Opportunities for Protecting Young People in Agriculture

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# Learning Objectives

Related to child ag injury prevention (CAIP):

- Review the history
- Discuss the current status
- Explore the gaps and issues
- Discuss strategies for connecting with the farming community
- Understand opportunities and challenges

# Background

1950 Safety programs:  
Extension, Farm Bureau, etc.

1987 Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

*"We Kill Too Many  
Farm Kids"* Published



1992

## Child Ag Injury Prevention Symposium

- 120 Invitees in 9 "Perspectives"
- via farm family interactions
- 70 Recommendations

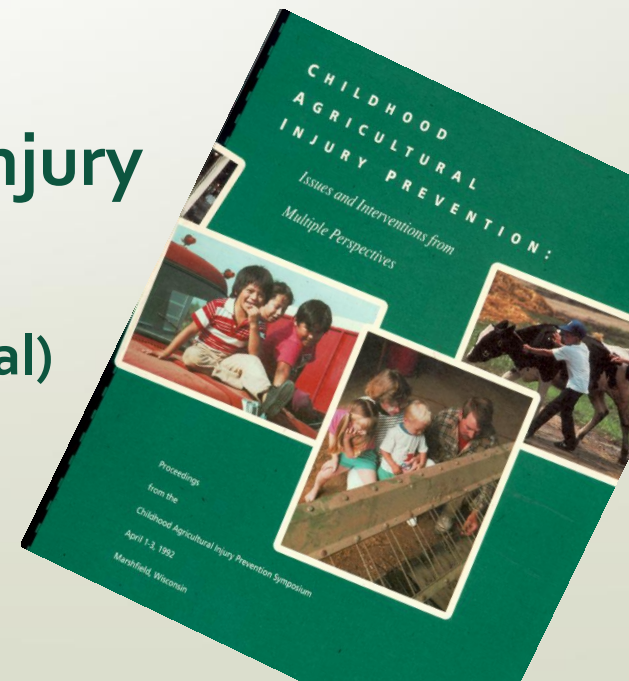
1995

## Progressive Ag Foundation (PAF)

- Safety Days start

## Child/Adolescent Rural Injury Control Conference

(keynote by Surgeon General)



# 1996

## National Committee for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention

- released first National Action Plan
- support from 80 national-level organizations and businesses
- U.S. Congress appropriates \$5M



# 1997

## **NIOSH assumes leadership of national initiative**

- Child Ag Injury Surveillance (CAIS) launched
- Independent research funded RFA's based on action plan
- Federal Agency Task Force established

## **National Children's Center established**

- co-funded by NIOSH and MCHB (ag + rural)

# 1999

## NIOSH funds:

- NAGCAT (work guidelines)
- CAIS reveals >50% child injuries are non-work related
- Safe play on farms guidelines released

## USDA funds:

Hazardous Occupations Safety Training for Agriculture  
(HOSTA )

FS4JK and PAF refine programs & expand  
with private sector funds

Childhood Agricultural Safety Network



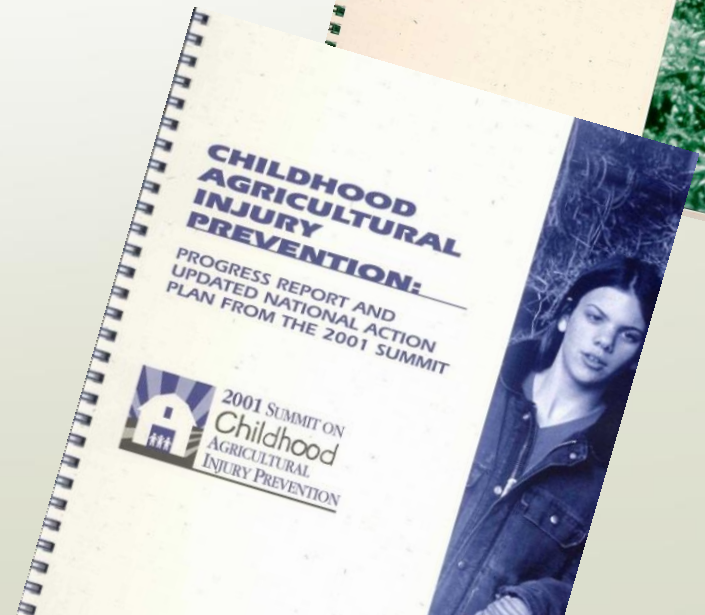
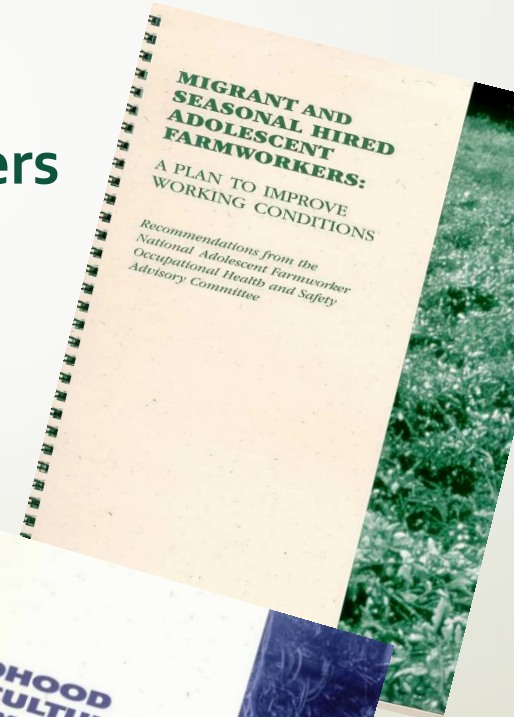


# 2000 National Adolescent Farmworker Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee

- NIOSH-funded
- Migrant advocates and ag employers

# 2001 National Action Plan Updated

- 100 invitees (7 groups)





**2002**

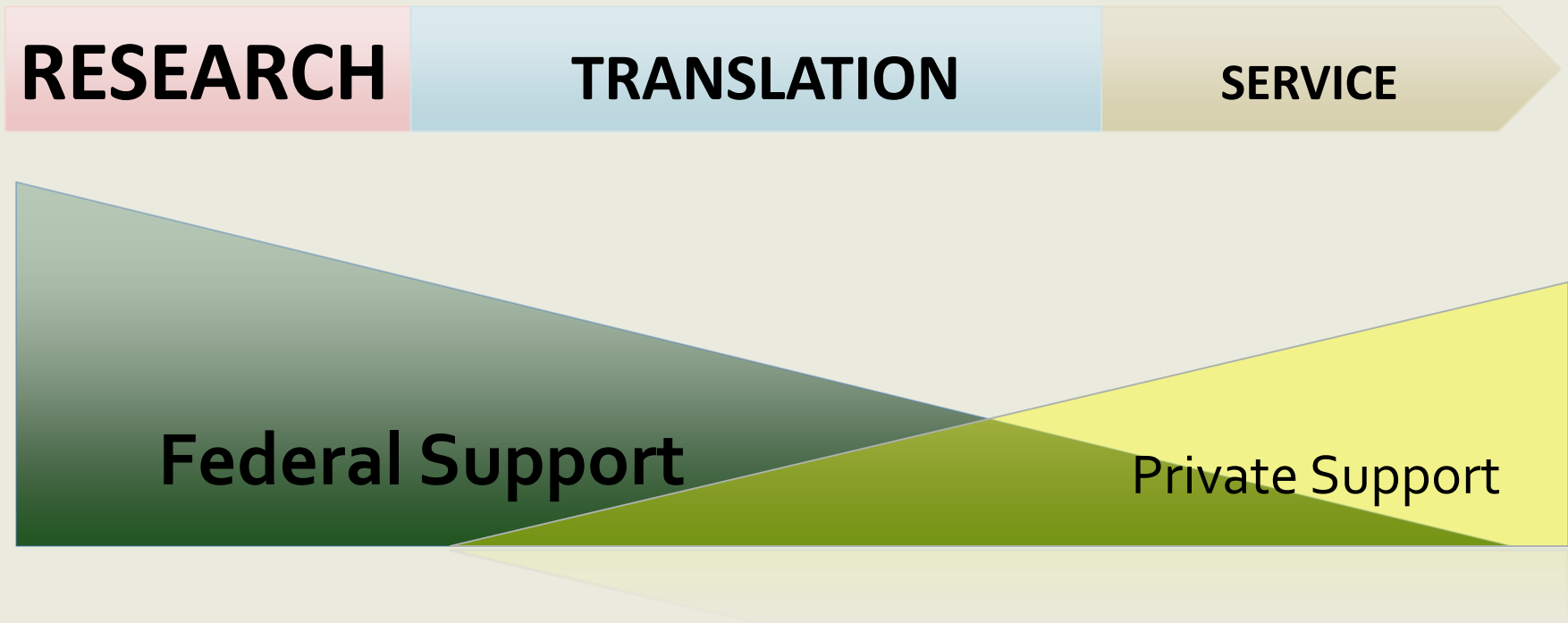
**NIOSH Continues to fund research,  
surveillance & Nat'l Children's Center**

**USDA (NIFA) funds HOSTA grants**

**Fewer state-Extension programs funded**

**Private Sector increases funds to FS<sub>4</sub>JK, PAF  
and some local, regional programs**

# Funding for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention (1997-2010)



# 2012

## “Blueprint”

updated National Action Plan released:

↓ research & ↑ outreach

Proposed updated Child Labor  
in Ag Rules are withdrawn

USDA (NIFA)

funds Safety in Ag for Youth (SAY)

Private Sector

- continue to fund PAF
- increases support for local, regional programs



# by 2019

## **NIOSH**

- ended child ag injury surveillance (2015)
- ended independent research
- continue funding for Nat'l Children's Center
- grants (not specific to children and ag)

## **USDA/State Extension programs**

- decreasing
- especially those with an emphasis on safety

## **Agribusiness increases focus**

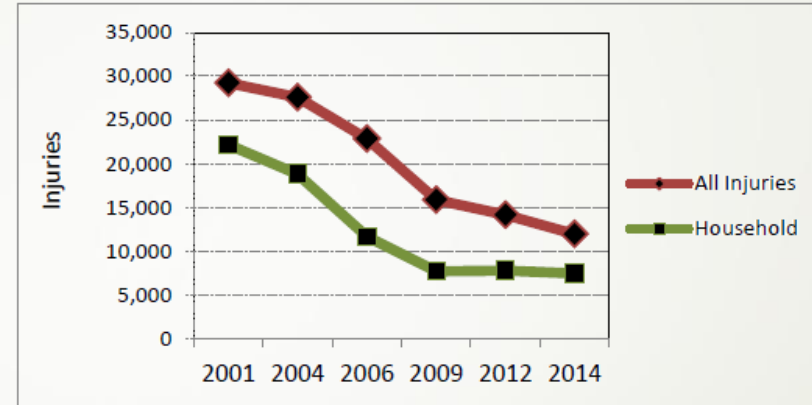
- organizational programs
- communications
- website resources

# Achievements

1997 – 2019

- Non-fatal injuries decline (working and non-working)
- Increased involvement of industry
- Interactions among advocates
- Emphasis on family farms – non regulatory

Nonfatal Injuries – All Youth



# Current Status

## Top 5 Injury Statistics:

A child dies in an agriculture-related incident about every 3 days

Every day, about 33 children are injured in an agriculture-related incident

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous occupations in our nation, and the only worksite in the U.S. where children of any age can be present.

The number of ag-related youth worker fatalities is higher than all other industries combined.

60% of child ag-related injuries happen to children who are not working

Many agricultural work-related injuries and deaths are associated with children doing work that does not match their developmental level



# Current Status

## Top 3 Causes of Injuries & Fatalities:

**Fatal<sup>1</sup>**



Machinery



Motor Vehicles



Drowning

**Non-Fatal<sup>2</sup>**



Falls



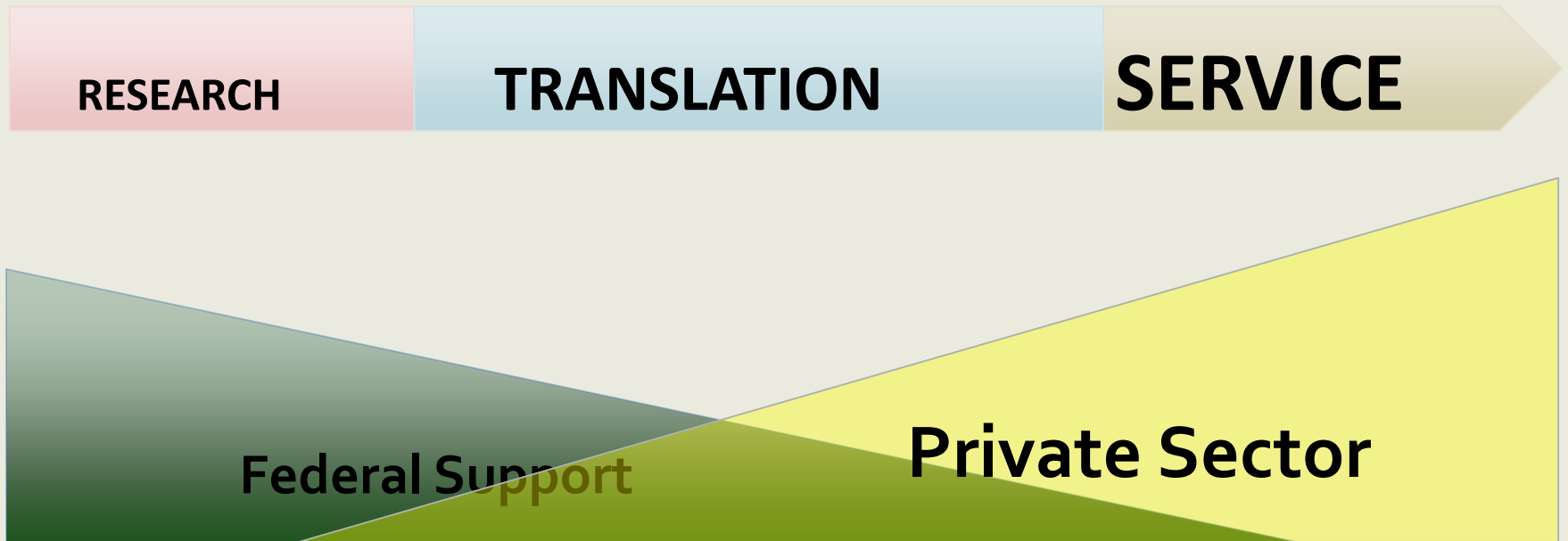
Animals



Machinery/Vehicles



# Current Status - Funding



# Gaps/Issues

- Limited “reach” to young workers not in 4-H, FFA or school systems
- Limited impact on special populations, e.g. Hispanic, Anabaptist, African American
- Confusion, conflict over role of regulations
- Employers hesitant to hire adolescent workers
- Fatality rate of working youth remains high
- Funding challenges
- Surveillance gaps

# AgInjuryNews

- Began collecting news clippings in the 1990's
- Paper – searching was difficult
- NIOSH discontinued surveillance in 2015
- AgInjuryNews established in 2015
  - Goal: repository of news clippings
    - Inform stakeholders
    - Aid in surveillance
  - Store, search, and report news clippings

# Why news reports, and why now?

- Injury data from CAIS included data on
  - Demographics
  - Causes of injuries
  - Types of injuries for non-fatal injuries
- Survey discontinued in 2015
- Explored other US public health data systems
  - Determine utility to inform surveillance & primary prevention
  - Some contain information on anatomical site, medical care and treatment
  - Little info on **circumstances surrounding the injury** (limits utility)
- Stories can move people

# Visit [www.AgInjuryNews.org](http://www.AgInjuryNews.org)

- Set up an account
- Browse the dataset
- Use for workshop activities
- Access for your own project(s)
- Use to “connect”

**AGINJURY NEWS**

## WELCOME TO AGINJURYNEWS

An interactive collection of near real-time agriculture related news reports

[Sign Up](#) [Log in](#)

**“**

We continue to see new and innovative uses of this growing dataset by many audiences beyond academia including insurers, lenders, manufacturers, and other agribusiness interested in the success and longevity of ag operations.

*Bryan Weichelt, PhD,  
National Farm Medicine Center*

**“**

The best public site I've ever seen with this type of data, better than any internal database too, for that matter.

*Regional Data Specialist,  
Bureau of Labor Statistics*

**“**

We continue to use the system to inform and engage our coalition. In 2018, members reaffirmed their interest and appreciation of the collection and dissemination efforts.

*Marsha Salzwedel,  
Program Manager, Child Agricultural Safety Network*

**Referenced by leading news distributors including:**

● **USATODAY** **POLITICO**

**AGDAILY** **PORK** **AGWEB**

**The New York Times** **WISCONSIN Agriculturist**

**PrairieFarmer** **WISCONSIN STATE FARMER**

**MissouriRuralist** **The Country Today**

**DELTA FarmPress** **NebraskaFarmer**

**WallacesFarmer** **BEEF**

# Another Gap/Issue: Challenges in “Connecting”

- Parents/supervisors underestimate injury risk
- Safety seems “obvious” and “common sense”
- “It happens to someone else”
- Lack of trust for safety & health professionals
  - Especially if have no farming background
  - May perceive as “arrogant” or “condescending”

# Socio-Ecologic Model

- Introduced in 1970s with many updates
- Used by WHO, CDC, many organizations
- Depicts multiple dimensions and complex human interactions to influence human behaviors





# Socio-Ecologic Model (Child Ag)

## Definitions

**Policy:** Federal/state regulations with enforcement such as child labor restrictions, workers compensation, immigration, OSHA rules

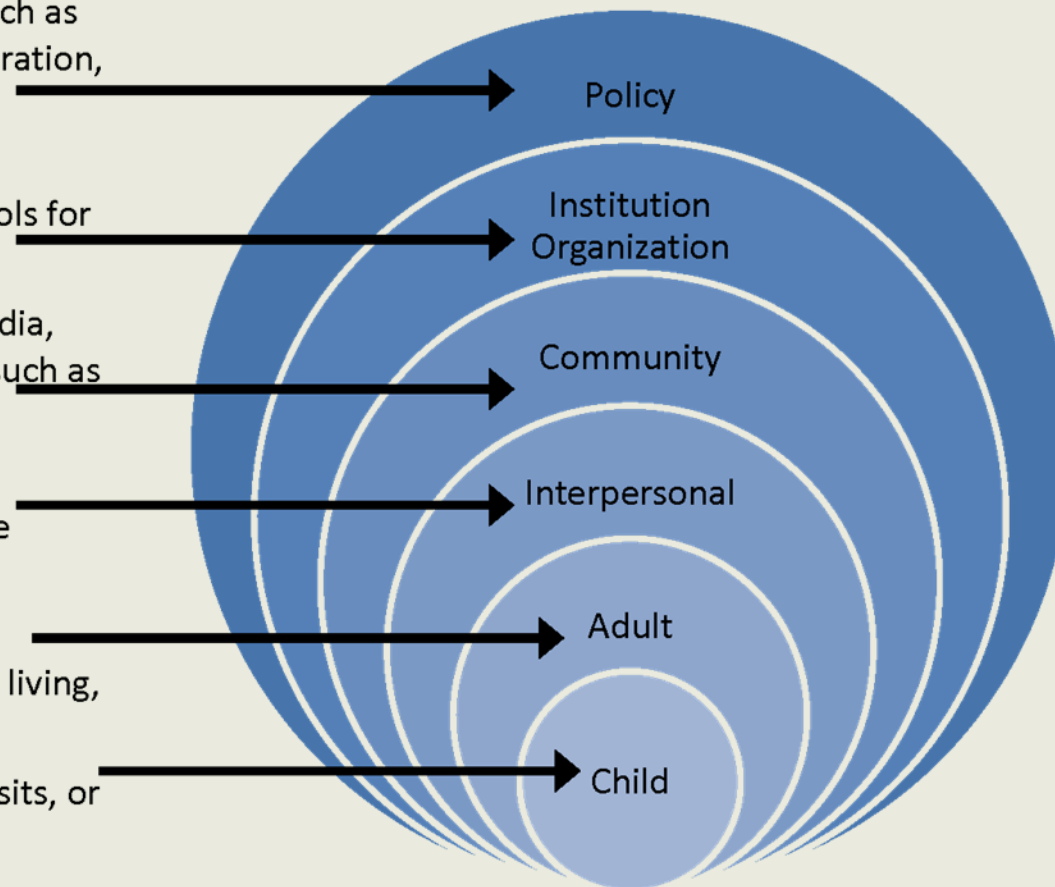
**Institution/Organization:** Corporations, national organizations, agencies that set standards and protocols for their trade agreements, employees and members.

**Community:** Childcare centers, schools, churches, media, advocacy groups and community-level organizations such as farm cooperatives or FFA chapters.

**Interpersonal:** Persons with close relationships to the immediate family such as relatives, friends, healthcare providers, or peer groups.

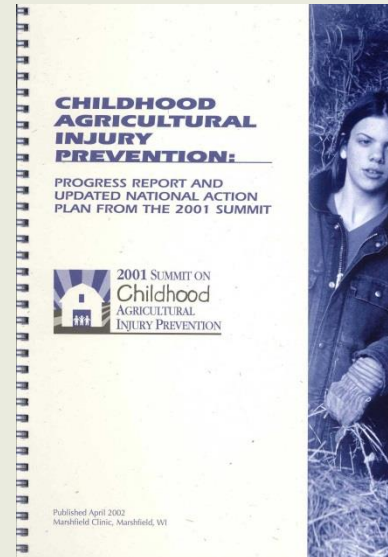
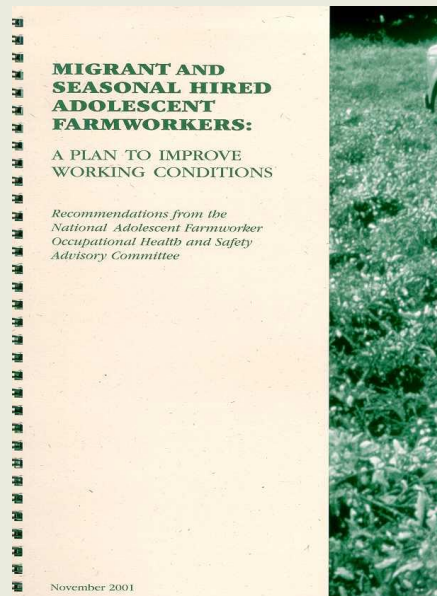
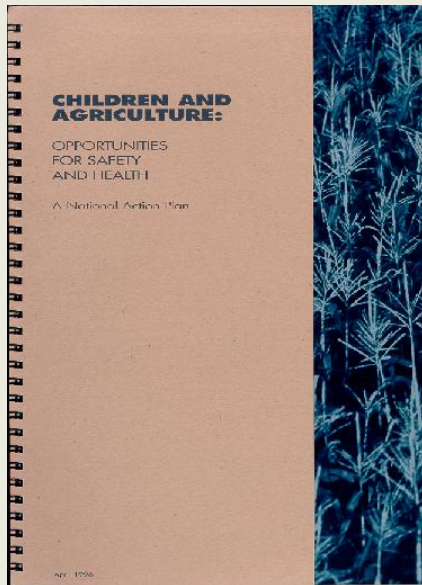
**Adult:** Parent, guardian, farm owner, employer, other individual who bears primary responsibility for a child living, visiting, or working on an agricultural production site.

**Child:** An individual 0-18 years-of-age who lives on, visits, or is hired to work in an agricultural production site.



# 2020 Vision Project Goal

*To assess the status of the National Initiative for CAIP and generate recommendations for future*



# 2020 Vision for Child Ag

- Translational research will inform methods to influence adult's adoption of safe practices.
- SEM-based interventions will engage agents of influence via multi-layered and repeated approaches.
- Society's expectations will "equalize" protections; adults will be held accountable.
- Agriculture-related groups will accept "reasonable/understandable" public policy.

# Next Steps for YOU

- Be an advocate for children. Speak up.
- Understand the landscape
  - Choose your strategies and words wisely.
- Be effective through collaborations, networks and proven strategies.
- Balance the message:
  - Celebrate the “safe & good” aspects of agriculture
  - Challenge unsafe traditions and naiveté

# Questions?



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