

August Update from the Field

Hello everyone,

I'm sure I'm not the only one wondering where July went. I hope you all are staying cool and hydrated this month. August typically brings the start of school and we know for those with school-aged children that may look different this year. For this month, we decided to focus on children and farm safety. Take a look at the abstracts below and, as always, email me for a copy of the full article. I'd love to hear your comments or feedback too!

Have a great day,

Stephanie McMillan

Stephanie-mcmillan@uiowa.edu

Purpose:

Operating or riding on farm equipment is one of the leading causes of farm-related injuries and fatalities among children and adolescents. The aim of this study is to examine environment, crash, vehicle, and occupant characteristics and the probability of injury, given a crash, in youth under age 18 on farm equipment.

Method: Data from the Departments of Transportation on farm equipment-related crashes across 9 Midwestern states from 2005-2010 were used. Odds

ratios were calculated using logistic regression to assess the relationship between environment, crash, vehicle, and occupant characteristics and the probability of injury, given a crash.

Findings: A total of 434 farm equipment-related crashes involved 505 child or adolescent occupants on farm equipment: 198 passengers and 307 operators. Passengers of farm equipment had 4.1 higher odds of injury than operators. Occupants who used restraints had significantly lower odds of injury than those who did not. Furthermore, occupants on farm equipment that was rear-ended or sideswiped had significantly lower odds of injury compared to

occupants on farm equipment involved in noncollision crashes. Likewise, occupants on farm equipment that was impacted while turning had significantly lower odds of injury compared to those on equipment that was impacted while moving straight.

Conclusion: Precautions should be taken to limit or restrict youth from riding on or operating farm equipment. These findings reiterate the need to enforce policies that improve safety measures for youth involved in or exposed to agricultural tasks

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Safe Farm: Match Age, Ability to Farm Chores

The following link is to an Iowa State Extension document where you can quiz yourself about appropriate farm tasks for the age and ability of children.

https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1062&context=extension_ag_pubs

Characteristics of Farm Equipment-Related Crashes Associated With Injury in Children and Adolescents on Farm Equipment

Toussaint, Maisha, Kayla Faust, Corinne Peek-Asa, and Marizen Ramirez. "Characteristics of farm equipment-related crashes associated with injury in children and adolescents on farm equipment." *The Journal of Rural Health* 33, no. 2 (2017): 127-134

Purpose: Operating or riding on farm equipment is one of the leading causes of farm-related injuries and fatalities among children and adolescents. The aim of this study is to examine environment, crash, vehicle, and occupant characteristics and the probability of injury, given a crash, in youth under age 18 on farm equipment. **Method:** Data from the Departments of Transportation on farm equipment-related crashes across 9 Midwestern states from 2005-2010 were used. Odds ratios were calculated using logistic regression to assess the relationship between environment, crash, vehicle, and occupant characteristics and the probability of injury, given a crash. **Findings:** A total of 434 farm equipment-related crashes involved 505 child or adolescent occupants on farm equipment: 198 passengers and 307 operators. Passengers of farm equipment had 4.1 higher odds of injury than operators. Occupants who used restraints had significantly lower odds of injury than those who did not. Furthermore, occupants on farm equipment that was rear-ended or sideswiped had significantly lower odds of injury compared to occupants on farm equipment involved in non-collision crashes. Likewise, occupants on farm equipment that was impacted while turning had significantly lower odds of injury compared to those on equipment that was impacted while moving straight. **Conclusions:** Precautions should be taken to limit or restrict youth from riding on or operating farm equipment. These findings reiterate the need to enforce policies that improve safety measures for youth involved in or exposed to agricultural tasks.

Child Work Safety on the Farms of Local Agricultural Market Producers: Parent and Child Perspectives

Summers, Phillip, Sara A. Quandt, Chaya R. Spears Johnson, and Thomas A. Arcury. "Child work safety on the farms of local agricultural market producers: parent and child perspectives." *Journal of agromedicine* 23, no. 1 (2018): 52-59.

Agriculture is a hazardous industry, yet there are few regulations on the ages at which children may engage in farm work. Local agricultural market producers (LAMPs) are a growing subset of farmers within "sustainable agriculture" who engage in direct-to-consumer and direct-to-retailer enterprises. This study explores the occupational health and safety perceptions of parents and children for children who work on their families' LAMP farms. In-depth interviews were conducted with 12 parent-child dyads from LAMP farms in Illinois and North Carolina. Four themes emerged from these 24 interviews; parents and children perceived that: (1) the nature of small farms makes them safer than industrial agricultural operations; (2) child safety on farms is common sense; (3) avoiding hazardous tasks keeps children safe; and (4) parents know best (compared to regulations) about ways to keep their children safe. Some of these themes echo the results of earlier studies conducted with more conventional farms. Further research is needed to develop programs to improve child occupational safety on LAMP farms.

Providing consistency in care: a case study of bilingual and bicultural early childhood education for farmworker children in rural midwestern United States

Smith, Julia, and Jens Clegg. "Providing consistency in care: a case study of bilingual and bicultural early childhood education for farmworker children in rural midwestern United States." *Early Child Development and Care* (2019): 1-15.

In the United States, migrant and seasonal farmworkers mostly of Latino origin work seasonal jobs on large scale farms. Because many of these jobs are temporary, farmworkers often move frequently across state lines and international borders to follow the work in agriculture. Many farmworkers travel with families including young children and one challenge of this population is stable child care and access to education services for their children. Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program (MSHS), a branch of Head Start, provides seasonal childcare and early childhood education services to young children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers ages birth through 5. This case study explored how MSHS operates seasonal programs for farmworkers children and examines the ways in which educators provide consistency in care for farmworker children. Specifically, the study focused on bilingual and bicultural programming, mobility of teachers, consistency in care, and teachers' knowledge of the program and farmworker community.