



Vol. 27, No. 3
May/June 2010

MIGRANT HEALTH Newsline

News and Information from the *National Center for Farmworker Health* since 1984

Agriculture remains one of the most hazardous industries in the United States. Farmworkers are frequently at high risk for work-related injury and even death. In 2008, agricultural workers had a fatality rate of 25.1 per 100,000 workers, one of the highest of any industry in the U.S. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related illness and injury. It was created to help ensure safe and healthy working conditions by providing research, education and training. In order to carry out its goals, NIOSH established a network of agricultural centers that would respond to regional issues. This issue of Migrant Health Newsline focuses on the goals, research and findings, and health professional and educator training programs of one of the centers, The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education.

SW Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education: National Initiative – Regional Focus

by Karen Gilmore, MPH

Public Law 101-517 enacted in 1990 established a national program in agricultural safety and health that included research, surveillance and initiatives that “when sustained over a period of time will have a significant and measurable impact on...health effects among rural Americans.” The blessing of abundant agricultural products in the U.S. also provides challenges for safety and health professionals because of the immense diversity of farming practices needed to produce our country’s food and fiber. NIOSH recognized that the health and safety of those who work within significantly different regions would be served best by a network of Agricultural Centers that would respond to regional issues. Currently, seven centers work locally and regionally while the National Children’s Center for Agriculture and Rural Safety and Health addresses this at-risk population across the country.

The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education (SW Ag Center) was established in 1995 at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler serving U.S. Public Health Service Region VI – AR, LA, OK, TX, and NM. The mission of the SW Ag Center is to foster, disseminate, and evaluate activities related to health, injury prevention and education among agricultural interest groups in order to



promote health and safety practices among agricultural workers and their families. To maximize resources and assure responsiveness to regional needs, projects and activities are prioritized according to Action

Principles established by the Southwest Center’s Advisory Board:

- Worker population concerns that have regional or national significance
- A particular problem that has significance to a state in the region
- Specific, understudied populations in the region
- A multiplier effect to generate additional resources
- The ability to reach additional audiences through collaboration
- Sustainability

The SW Ag Center also adheres to a theme for the scope of work undertaken. Demonstrating the theme of addressing needs of vulnerable populations, current research projects include establishing model farm practices on the Navajo Nation, developing innovative health and safety interventions with Vietnamese shrimpers of the Gulf Coast, assessing migrant adolescent health in South Texas, and developing resources through Promoviendo Farmworker Safety. Encompassing the longest segment of shared border with Mexico, Texas

continued on page 7

INSIDE

Novel Training Program
Introduces Doctors to
Community/Migrant Health
Center Practice2

Pesticide Safety Education
Training the Trainers3

Makeup of External
Advisory Board
Expands Opportunities ...4

Migrant Adolescent
Health Research Study
in South Texas5

19th Annual Western
Migrant Stream Forum ...6

Observed Days6

Calendar7

Did You Know?8

Novel Training Program Introduces Doctors to Community/Migrant Health Center Practice

By Jeffrey Levin, M.D., Center Director

Occupational medicine is an area of preventive medicine in which physicians complete specialized training to assess and treat individuals for health issues related to or affected by work conditions.

Given the increasing diversity of the American workforce in age, gender, race, and nationality, along with growth in services over goods and a high proportion of workers employed in small firms, temporary jobs, or at home, a report from the Institute of Medicine concluded that "the continuing burden of largely preventable occupational diseases and injuries and the lack of adequate occupational safety and health services in most small and many larger workplaces indicate a clear need for more occupational safety and health professionals at all levels" (IOM, 2000).

Farmers are at high risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries, work-related lung diseases, noise-induced hearing loss, skin diseases, and certain cancers associated with chemical use and prolonged sun exposure (NIOSH, 2009). Families that live and work on a farm are equally at risk. More than 3.1 million workers were employed in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry in 2001 (NIOSH, 2004). Roughly half of farm

workers are considered to be migrant workers. The number of nonfatal occupational injuries exceeded 100,000 in 2001 with nearly 33,000 youths under age 20 injured on farms and an annual average of 145 on-farm deaths. Texas had the second highest number of fatal occupational injuries and reported the highest number of on-farm deaths among youths.

Despite the dramatic changes in production methods through mechanization and chemical use in the United States and other developed nations, agriculture remains among the most hazardous of occupations. The annual rate of fatal occupational injuries in agriculture has declined only modestly in recent years and remains five times as high as other industries (Prince, 2006). Current data also suggest that minorities are at increased occupational risk in this industrial sector (Earle-Richardson and Jennings, 2001). Employment is often temporary in nature due to migration, and/or to seasonal planting and harvesting combined with work in non-agricultural jobs in the "off-season." Among migrant workers, several areas of environmental and occupational health con-

cern have emerged including ergonomic conditions/musculoskeletal injuries, traumatic injuries, respiratory problems, dermatitis, infectious diseases, eye problems, and pesticide exposure (Larson, 2001). Numerous other cultural factors must be considered which further influence perception of risk and risk behavior in these groups. This then requires specific competence on the part of health care providers in addressing occupational health concerns.

It is important to recognize that little focus has been directed toward providing instruction and practical experience on rural occupational environments, like agriculture, to occupational medicine residents.

To address this gap and potentially build the pool of Board-certified physicians interested in rural practice, the Occupational Medicine Residency program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler formed a unique partnership with the National Center for Farmworker Health. With funding support from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), residents complete a block rotation of practicum experience with a Community/ Migrant Health Center (CMHC) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The overall objective upon completion of this training is for the participating resident to understand and be able to discuss basic elements of recognition, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of a wide range of occupational illnesses and injuries which occur in both urban environments and rural, agricultural environments and communities. Migrant Health Centers provide the opportunity to observe delivery of comprehensive primary care in a rural population with a large diversity of jobs in construction, service and agriculture. Knowledge and experience can then be transferred between prevention public health professionals and primary providers. Field experiences include worksite and other field visits of a community outreach nature.

Now in its third year, three occupational medicine residents have completed the block rotation. All have reported an increased appreciation for the challenges related to the delivery of health care in these settings and the relevance of the work to health status. Additionally, through the support of NIOSH, the program has partnered with the occupational medicine residency at The University of Kentucky and the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention to offer a similar training experience for residents.

For questions or comments on this article, please contact Dr. Levin at Jeffrey.levin@uthct.edu ■



Work that requires stooping over long periods of time is a frequent source of occupational injury among farmworkers.

Training the Trainers

By Amanda Wickman, Outreach Education Coordinator

Rural Texans are at risk for pesticide and chemical exposure. Agricultural fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides along with common household cleaning agents are readily available in most rural homes and workplaces. Farmworkers and rural children are at particular risk for pesticide chemical exposure and related illnesses.

The SW Ag Center has partnered with The Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health (SWCPEH), Lake County Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and the National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH) for the past three years to create and deliver a 4-hour-long bilingual train the trainer program for promotores focused on pesticide and chemical safety education entitled, "Preventing Exposure to Agricultural Chemicals for Promotores." Promotores are recognized as valuable instruments in the delivery of pesticide safety education information to rural and agricultural communities, particularly migrant farmworkers and their families.

The intensive workshop has been offered in conjunction with the Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum. Funding for the workshop has been provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health (SWCPEH). Each year a portion of the funding is allocated to scholarships for promotores to defray some or all of their travel costs.

The interactive workshop aims to educate promotores on the risks associated with pesticide and chemical exposure, the symptoms of exposure, and recommended treatment. In addition, promotores learn strategies to prevent pesticide and chemical exposure.

The highly participatory training program introduces several teaching tools for pesticide safety education, and gives promotores the opportunity to exhibit skills and knowledge transfer through group presentations.

Ultimately, applied experience prepares promotores to extend pesticide education to rural families in their communities. The following tools are introduced, discussed and demonstrated in the workshop:

- *El Terror Invisible* video, fact sheets & brochure
- *Nuestra Piel* flip chart
- Florescent Pesticide Transfer glo germ powder & black light
- *Siguiendo el Sol* video
- Pesticide Transfer Mapping
- Fotonovelas

Each promotor receives a free package of educational materials to take home and use in their community presentations. Packages include:

- *El Terror Invisible* DVD by Wake Forest University
- *El Terror Invisible* brochures by Wake Forest University
- *El Terror Invisible* factsheets in English and Spanish by Wake Forest University
- *Nuestra Piel* flipchart by Migrant Health Promotion
- *Siguiendo El Sol* DVD by the National Center for Farmworker Health
- *Protect Yourself From Pesticides: A Guide For Pesticide Handlers / Protégase de los Pesticidas: Guía para los que Manejan Pesticidas* by the Environmental Protective Agency
- *Steps to Protect Yourself from Pesticides / Pasos a Seguir para Protegerse de los Pesticidas* by the Environmental Protective Agency
- *How to Comply with the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides: What Employees Need to Know* by the Environmental Protective Agency

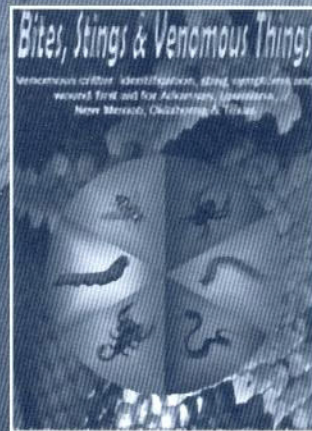
(All of these materials are available through the NCFH Library and Resource Center, www.ncfh.org/?sid=38 or by contacting Erika Garcia via email: garcia@ncfh.org)

Twenty promotores were expected to participate in the first program held in San Antonio in 2007. However, the response was even better than expected and over 60 people completed the workshop. Three promotores and their respective organizations (Migrant Health Promotion, Mano a Mano, and Gateway Community Health Center) participated in a follow up program to reach at least 30 farmworkers with pesticide and chemical safety education in the first 4 months after the program. At the conclusion of 4 months, the three organizations had reached 157 farmworkers, 67 more than the original goal.

In 2008, an additional 36 promotores completed the workshop in New Orleans, LA. Each year the program is adapted and improved by incorporating recommendations from the program evaluations. The 2009 workshop featured presentations and discussion with a farmworker, a farm owner, the Texas State monitor advocate and a health professional; it was attended by nearly 50 promotores.

The workshop has been repeated for other organizations, most recently in Laredo for the Border Environment Cooperative Commission.

For questions or comments about the article, please contact Amanda at amanda.wickman@uthct.edu.



Bites, Stings and Venomous Things, a waterproof tip booklet listing common dangerous critters of the American Southwest.



Siguiendo el Sol/ Chasing the Sun is a video that covers basic information about pesticide exposure, regulation and personal protection.

Makeup of External Advisory Board Expands Opportunities

NIOSH Agricultural Research Centers

Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health

100 Oakdale Campus, #124 AMRF
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-5000
(319) 335-4887
Director: Fred Gerr, MD, MPH

High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health & Safety

154 B Environmental Health Bldg.
Colorado State University
Ft. Collins, CO 80523-1681
(970) 491-6151
Director: Steve Reynolds, PhD, CIH

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

Marshfield Clinic
1000 North Oak Avenue
Marshfield, WI 54449-5790
(715) 389-4999 or
1-800-662-6900
Director: Barbara Lee, RN, PhD

Northeast Center for Agricultural Safety & Health

One Atwell Road
Cooperstown, NY 13326
(607) 547-6023
Director: John May, MD

Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety & Health Center

Department of
Environmental Health
School of Public Health
University of Washington, Box
357234
Seattle, WA 98195-7234
(800) 330-0827
Director: Richard Fenske, PhD, MPH

Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention

University of Kentucky College of
Public Health
342 Waller Avenue, Suite 1A
Lexington, KY 40504
(859) 323-6836
Director: Robert McKnight, ScD

Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention & Education

The University of Texas Health
Science Center at Tyler
11937 U.S. Hwy. 271
Tyler, TX 75708-3154
(903) 877-5896
Director: Jeffrey Levin, MD, MSPH

Western Center for Agricultural Health & Safety

University of California
One Shields Ave.
Davis, CA 95616-8757
(530) 752-4050
Director: Marc Schenker, MD

The SW Ag Center has been well-served by an external advisory board that provides input on safety and health issues in the region, identifies emerging issues that warrant attention, serves as ambassadors for the center, and facilitates potential collaborators to strengthen current projects and future endeavors. The advisory board is multi-disciplinary and regionally representative. Current board members include:

Francisco Cerda, Texas State Monitor Advocate, Texas Workforce Commission. Mr. Cerda works with agricultural employers to assist with hiring workers and provides education and counseling about the Department of Labor rules and regulations governing the guest worker and other hired labor in agriculture. He is also called on to investigate and help remediate reported infractions including those related to the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA).

Cornelis de Hoop, PhD, Louisiana Forest Products Center. Dr. de Hoop teaches courses in timber harvesting and procurement. He is a regular contributor to Louisiana Logger magazine and is the Technical Editor for the International Journal of Forest Engineering. He serves on national industry councils.

Robert Hagevoort, Ph.D., New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service. Based in Clovis, New Mexico, Dr. Hagevoort is a dairy specialist, one of few in the United States, and has crafted an intensive training program for college level students preparing to be the next generation of dairy producers.

Steve Shelton, MBA, PA-C. Steve is the Assistant V.P. for Community Outreach with the UT Medical Branch and Executive Director of the East Texas Area Health Education Center. He oversees 9 community-based

Feasibility/Pilot Project Program

Each year the SW Ag Center offers researchers within the region an opportunity to apply for small grant awards – up to \$15,000. The goal of this program is to stimulate innovative research, encourage collaboration and attract investigators to the field of agricultural worker health and safety. Selected projects are funded for up to 12 months. Please visit www.swagcenter.org/ for more information.

offices that support various programs that address primary care with a priority for underserved populations.

Billy Cook, Ph.D. is a West Texas native who serves as the Senior V.P. and Division Director for the Noble Foundation based in Ardmore, Oklahoma. The Noble Foundation works with agricultural producers to help them improve production and land stewardship in a 47 county area within a 100 mile radius of Ardmore.

Luis Escobedo, M.D. Dr. Escobedo is the Director for Region 9 & 10 of the Texas Department of State Health Services in El Paso, TX. He holds degrees from Stanford Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health. As a native of Mexico, Dr. Escobedo brings a rare and valuable perspective on border and cultural issues for agricultural workers.

Chuck Tucker, M.S. is the Director of Organization and Member Services for the Arkansas Farm Bureau. In his position, he works with community-based and state-wide committees to assess needs, oversee the development and delivery of safety and health programs, and works closely with the organization's board.



Working long hours under the sun causes different heat and sun related illnesses for farmworkers.



Besides stooping and sun exposure, farmworkers also frequently practice dangerous work-related tasks such as reaching and carrying heavy loads.

Migrant Adolescent Health Research Study in South Texas

By Sharon P. Cooper, Ph.D., and Eva Shipp, Ph.D.

Despite a national crisis of increased prevalence of obesity and Type II diabetes in adolescents, especially among Hispanics,^{1,2} there are almost no data on chronic disease health indicators among farm-worker adolescents. An additional concern is a previous finding of a high prevalence of back pain in Hispanic high school students.³ As part of a five-year NIOSH-funded study through the Southwest Agricultural Center, this research project involves high school students from two South Texas schools along the Texas/Mexico border to determine the prevalence of and examine risk factors for hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and back pain over a five year period. We collected data over four years in two high schools in Weslaco, Texas, analyzed and translated research findings, and made recommendations to the community in the fifth year.

We enrolled 9th grade students for the first 2 years of the study and followed them for 2-3 years. Our baseline sample included all available migrant education students in the 9th grade in the two high schools (n=257) and a random sample of non-migrant education students (n=251) for a total of 508 study participants. Students received a minimal medical history and clinical exam annually to record blood pressure, weight and height, sleep disturbance, severe back pain, and non-invasive screening for acanthosis nigricans (dark hyperpigmentation markings that occur at folds and creases of the skin) as a marker for Type II diabetes. Additional questions measured self-reported health risk behaviors such as smoking, alcohol use, sociodemographic factors, acculturation, depression, food habits, medical care use, work history, and physical activity. The median age at baseline was 15.3 years and 97.1% were Hispanic. Preliminary findings for 76% of the initial 508 students at year 3 of the project include the following: students engaged in farm work labored in 14 states across the U.S. On average for Year 3, they worked 8.6 hours/day and 6.1 days/week for 1.7 months across 3.1 employers. Commonly worked crops were asparagus, beets, bell pepper, berries, cherry, corn, cotton, cucumber, grain, grapes, green beans, melons, onion, peanuts, potatoes, squash, and livestock. Common job tasks were cleaning, cutting, detasseling, harvesting from trees/ground, hoeing, packing, picking rocks, sorting, and weeding. Students engaged in non-farm work,

on average, worked 6.4 hours/day and 3.9 days/week for 2.5 months across 1.7 employers. The prevalence of our main study outcomes overall were: acanthosis nigricans (21%), high normal/high blood pressure (12%), large waist circumference (43%), and overweight/obesity (44%). The overall prevalence of severe low back pain among students who did farm work was 8%. Over the first three years of the study, we referred from a quarter to a third of our participants to medical care providers for follow-up, based on elevated screening results for blood pressure or acanthosis nigricans. Data collection was just completed for Year 4, and we surveyed 307 students (60% of the original cohort).

Following a population of high school students in South Texas offers an exciting opportunity to study the prevalence of and risk factors for serious and modifiable health outcomes. Collaborating with schools and migrant education for ascertainment of a hard-to-reach population, incorporating comparison groups with Hispanic adolescent populations, using a holistic approach by integrating workplace and worker health, and implementing a cohort study design contributes to the success of conducting epidemiologic studies in adolescent agricultural populations. This study is also guided by a community advisory board consisting of school officials, migrant education staff, Agrilife Extension Service, teachers, hospital outreach program staff, and nutrition and health staff from the school district. The ultimate goal of this research would be to transfer our findings to interventions or policy development to prevent chronic diseases and back pain in children and adults. Although data analysis is ongoing, initial findings clearly suggest urgency in addressing the modifiable lifestyle and potentially work-related risk factors for chronic disease outcomes in Hispanic youth.

For questions or comments on this article, please contact Dr. Cooper at Sharon.p.cooper@uth.tmc.edu. ■

1. Ogden CL, Carroll MD, Curtin LR, McDowell MA, Tabak CJ, Flegal KM. Prevalence of overweight and obesity in the United States, 1999-2004. *JAMA*. 2006;295:1549-1555.
2. Pinhas-Hamiel O, Dolan L, Daniels S, et al. Increased incidence on non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus among adolescents. *Pediatr* 1996;128:608-615.
3. Shipp EM, Cooper SP, del Junco DJ, Delclos GD, Burau KD, Tortolero SR. 2007. Severe back pain among farm-worker high school students from Starr County, Texas: baseline results. *Ann Epidemiol*;17(2):132-41.

"Following a population of high school students in South Texas offers an exciting opportunity to study the prevalence of and risk factors for serious and modifiable health outcomes."

Nuestra Comunidad – Nuestro Futuro Overcoming Barriers, Working for Change

Observed Days

May 1-31, 2010

High Blood Pressure

Education Month

National Heart, Lung, and Blood
Institute Health Information Center
P.O. Box 30105
Bethesda, MD 20824-0105
www.nhlbi.nih.gov

May 1-31, 2010

**Melanoma/ Skin Cancer Detection
and Prevention Month**

American Academy of Dermatology
930 East Woodfield Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173
www.aad.org

May 1-31, 2010

Mental Health Month

Mental Health America
2000 North Beauregard Street,
6th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22311
www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/may

June 1-30, 2010

Vision Research Month

Prevent Blindness America
211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60606
www.preventblindness.org

June 6-12, 2010

Sun Safety Week

Sun Safety Alliance
1856 Old Reston Avenue, Suite 215
Reston, VA 20190
www.sunsafetyalliance.org

The 19th Annual Western Migrant Stream Forum was held February 11 – 14, 2010 in Seattle, Washington. Nearly 200 migrant health professionals and advocates came together for education and training, information and resource sharing, coalition building, and policy development. Among the multitude of topics addressed during the conference were: immigration, community organizing, health care access for indigenous farmworkers, occupational health and primary care, chronic disease management, the 2010 Census, and migrant-related HIT strategies.

This year, the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) presented a new format, which organized the conference into three intensive tracks: Health Care Delivery, Outreach & Health Education, and Policy & Advocacy. The purpose of the track format was to provide participants with an opportunity to learn key concepts as well as tangible take-away strategies, and also to allow for greater discussion of these concepts and strategies via a facilitated planning group session. Each of the tracks began with a framework session, and the subsequent educational workshops presented examples of models and best practices. Participants were enthusiastic about this new format, as evidenced by the high level of commitment and terrific ideas generated during the planning group sessions.

Attendees in the Health Care Delivery track addressed issues of workforce development as well as organizational awareness and understanding of migrant health programs. Outreach and Health Education discussed strategies for more fully integrating community health workers and *promotores de salud* into the health care delivery system, including models for financing and sustaining these

programs. And participants in the Policy and Advocacy track explored strategies to more accurately identify farmworkers, develop models for mobile health-care services and implement policies that address health equity and access for indigenous farmworkers.

The theme for this year's Forum – *Nuestra Comunidad, Nuestro Futuro – Overcoming Barriers, Working for Change* – was present throughout the conference, and perhaps most notably during the Opening Plenary, which featured a panel addressing health care reform, immigration reform, and the impact that these potential reforms would have on the migrant and seasonal farmworker population. The three speakers included Roger Rosenthal of the Migrant Legal Action Program, Dr. Julian Perez of Sea Mar Community Health Centers, and Rosalinda Guillen of Community to Community Development.

The central message that emerged from the panel is that health care reform and immigration reform are not mutually exclusive topics. Each of the presenters provided revealing facts, data and personal stories that emphasized the importance of addressing the social, political, geographic and economic determinants that lead to healthcare disparities in the migrant and seasonal farmworker population.

Another aspect of the conference that resonated with the theme was the screening of the documentary *Frozen Dreams*. This extraordinarily powerful documentary chronicles a community's response to the 2007 Del Monte ICE raid in Portland, Oregon. Members from the Committee for Solidarity and Mutual Support, which is the group that emerged in response to the raid, were present to share their story with participants.

Following the screening, participants had an opportunity to discuss immigration policies, the roots of migration, and strategies for organizing to bring about reform. Despite the



Dr. Julian Perez addresses participants during the Opening Plenary.



Attendees participate in an issue selection exercise during the Outreach and Health Education track.

obvious challenges, attendees left the discussion feeling energized, recognizing the importance of advocacy and involvement in these important social justice and human rights issues.

Finally, the conference closed with an address from longtime migrant health advocate, Dr. Tina Castañares. Tina's presentation meditated on the changes that she has seen in migrant health throughout the 30 years she has been involved in the movement, but also reflected on the one constant that has endured: social justice. In her own words, "Social justice concerns – that's really what it comes to; social justice for farmworkers. We're concerned about fairness, and we're concerned about equity. We have passion, we

have compassion, we value those things; we value the mission, (and) we have a sense of obligation to use our education to serve and advocate for those who have arguably less of a voice than perhaps any other sector of our society – those being migrant and seasonal farmworkers."



Dr. Tina Castañares remarks on Migrant Health's social justice mission during the Closing Plenary.



Participants provide feedback during the planning group session.

SW Center for Agricultural Health

continued from page 1

and New Mexico serve as the gateway for many migrant and seasonal agricultural workers from Mexico and Central America. The SW Ag Center works in collaboration with researchers, educators and community-based groups to support projects addressing needs of this vulnerable population. These efforts include:

Research:

A Study of Work Injuries in Migrant Farmworker Youth, Sharon Cooper, Ph.D.

Migrant Adolescent Health Study – Hidalgo County TX, Sharon Cooper, Ph.D.

Community Based Assessment of MSFW Health Needs in East Texas, Eva Doyle, Ph.D.

Work Injury Reporting in U.S. Citizens vs. Non-citizens, Cynthia Ball, D.O., M.S.

Education:

Occupational Safety & Health Education for MSFWs, National Center for Farmworker Health

Bi-Lingual Curriculum for MSFWs for High School Equivalency Programs, Soledad Vela Acosta, M.D., Ph.D.

Research track added to Midwest Farmworker Health Stream Forum

Intensive workshops: 1) Evaluation methods for program effectiveness, 2) Pesticide safety education (train-the-trainers) for promotores, 3) Pesticide look-a-like education for youth

Livestock Safety for Kids, 11 minute video in English and Spanish

Outreach:

CyberVoices from the Fields, Starr County Cooperative Extension

Back Pain prevention and treatment bi-lingual poster, "Lesiones en el Trabajo" available from NCFH

Bites, Stings and Venomous Things - field first aid tip booklets

Website: www.swagcenter.org

For questions on this article, please contact Karen Gilmore via email: karen.gilmore@uthct.edu

Coming Soon

Farmworker News Special Issue

As part of our continued partnership with Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs (CRBBD),

NCFH is producing a Special Issue of our bilingual, culturally appropriate, and low literacy Farmworker News publication. This Special Issue will include topics to assist your patients in making informed decisions related to their prescription drug purchases.

The Farmworker News Special Issue will be distributed in May 2010 and available for download at that time at <http://www.ncfh.org/index.php?pid=80>. To order additional paper copies, please e-mail your request to arredondo@ncfh.org.

For more information on Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs please visit:

<http://www.consumerreports.org/health/best-buy-drugs/index.htm>

To receive CRBBD's email newsletter with the latest guidance for consumers related to prescription drugs please go to <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/customer-service/email-service/e-mail-newsletters/index.htm>.

Calendar

May 3-4, 2010

The National Advisory Council on Migrant Health meeting will be held in conjunction with the NACHC conference in San Diego, CA.

May 5-7, 2010

The National Association of Community Health Centers will be hosting the National Farmworker Health Conference, The Future of the Health Care Home, in San Diego, CA. For more information, please visit www.nachc.org

May 10-12, 2010

The Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine will be hosting the 7th Annual Nutrition & Health Conference, Nutrition and Health: State of the Science and Clinical Applications, in Atlanta, GA. For more information, visit www.nutritionandhealthconf.org/

May 18-21, 2010

The National Rural Health Association's Rural Medical Educators will host the 33rd Annual Rural Health Conference in Savannah, GA. For more information, visit www.ruralhealthweb.org/annual

June 7-9, 2010

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) is hosting its 9th Annual Conference, Navigating Emergency Opportunities, in New Orleans, LA. For further information, please visit www.nnphi.org



NATIONAL CENTER FOR FARMWORKER HEALTH, INC.

1770 FM 967 • Buda, TX 78610

Change Service Requested

Migrant Health Newsline is a bi-monthly publication of the National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of NCFH, BPHC/HRSA/DHHS, or any agency of the federal government. NCFH is pleased to provide *Newsline* at no charge to our readers throughout the country, and we encourage readers to submit articles and comments for review or publication. We encourage reproduction and distribution of this newsletter. Please feel free to make additional copies. Information about NCFH can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ncfh.org> or call (512) 312-2700.

Edward Hendrickson, PhD, PA-C

*Chair, NCFH Board of Directors
Migrant and Environment Health Director
Plan De Salud del Valle, Inc.
Fort Lupton, CO*

E. Roberta Ryder

President and CEO

Josh Shepherd

Editor

Erika Garcia

Assistant Newsline Editor

This publication was made possible through grant number U31CS00230 from the Bureau of Primary Health Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Some or all photography courtesy of Alan Pogue ©.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 811

Did You Know?

As per the latest numbers of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2008, 456 farmers and farmworkers died from work-related injuries.

Farmworkers can transport pesticides from fields into their homes through residue on their clothing, boots and skin. This puts the entire families at risk, since pesticide residue in the home is not degraded by the sun or rain.

In the 2005 National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS), 20 percent of farmworkers reported having no access to drinking water and cups.

Because farm labor consists of constant bending, twisting, carrying heavy items, and repetitive motions during long work hours, farmworkers often experience musculoskeletal injuries. Further, workers are often paid piece-rate, which provides an incentive to work at a high speed and to skip recommended breaks. ■