

Chapter Chat

EPA to strengthen oversight of pesticide impact on children

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to strengthen its assessment of pesticide health risks. EPA's proposal would include a more thorough assessment of risks to farm children and farm workers.

"Better information and applying these tools will strengthen EPA's protections for farm workers exposed to these chemicals, and children living in and around the areas of highest possible exposure," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "It's essential we have the tools to keep everyone, especially vulnerable populations like children, safe from the serious health consequences of pesticide exposure."

Under the policy, EPA risk assessments for children, farm workers and others, would consider pesticide exposures from all sources in addition to the cumulative effects from multiple pesticides that have similar toxicity. EPA also would apply an additional safety factor to protect infants and children from the risks of pesticides.

EPA believes that pesticide exposure should be evaluated with common scientific risk-assessment techniques, whether from residues in food or drinking water, on lawns or in swimming pools, or in the workplace. The agency would routinely apply the techniques to workers exposed to pesticide exposures on the job. By incorporating these risk-assessment tools into its pesticide evaluations, the agency would more thoroughly protect the most vulnerable populations, including farm workers and children taken into agricultural fields.

The proposed policy is available for a 60-day public comment period in the Federal Register.

More information on the proposed rule: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/worker-rsk-assmnt.html>.

FS4JK attends American Farm Bureau convention in Seattle

FS4JK attended the annual American Farm Bureau convention trade show in Seattle, WA January 10 and 11. FS4JK was represented by a booth at the trade show staffed by Dave Schweitz, executive director; Tyler Vacha, chapter director; and Tracy Schlater, marketing director. Coloring books and brochures were distributed to those in attendance.

Several visitors shared their stories and discussed the importance of farm safety. In addition, a few FS4JK members stopped by our booth from Texas and California, along with a couple sponsors and FS4JK board member Orion Samuelson.



Chapter and membership director Tyler Vacha at the Farm Bureau trade show.

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Highlights...

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Great Plains Feasibility projects

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural health (GPCAH) is accepting proposals for their annual Feasibility Projects. The proposals should outline a research project with an occupational focus about real safety and health risks of farmers and ranchers, other producers, farm workers, their families and their communities. Selected projects could receive up to \$15,000.

The Great Plains area covers nine states (ND, SD, NE, KS, MO, IA, MN, WI, and IL). You must be working with a research institution (a university for example) and focus on occupational agricultural safety issues.

For more information visit www.public-health.uiowa.edu/gpcah/.

Work place safety poster contest

The American Society of Safety Engineers is sponsoring a poster contest. Youth ages 5 to 14 are encouraged to create a safety poster. Those posters that best illustrate safety in the workplace will be chosen as winners from five age groups. Winners will be invited to the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Before the children begin drawing, we urge you to talk to them about your job and workplace safety. Provide examples of what risks occupational safety, health and environmental professionals address every day on the job, and if possible, provide them with examples of workplace situations. Visit www.asse.org/naosh for contest details as well as examples of children's workplace safety posters and ASSE's "Safety Through the Decades" timeline.

6th Annual Agriculture Safety Day

March 3, 2010 - Yakima, Washington

Hundreds of Washington state growers, workers, and safety professionals gather to learn about ag safety - production to processing. Educational sessions take place throughout the day and special events include the Safety Excellence Awards, exhibits, health fair, student poster contest, and prize drawings. Sessions are offered in both English and Spanish.

Safety from an alien!

The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education has created an interactive educational program. Designed for 5th and 6th graders, the youth help an alien named J.O. Gander save Planet Silo citizens from starvation and injury.

While helping J.O. achieve his mission of navigating a farmhouse and barn yard safely, the youth learn about potential dangers on a farm.

A teacher's guide is included to provide background on the purpose of the program. It also provides additional worksheets and quizzes to help youth retain the information. In addition, the guide offers more agricultural safety resources.



Visit the agricultural safety resources page of www.swag-center.org to see this program and other farm safety materials created by the Swag Center.

Farm hazard analysis tool

The Farm/Agriculture/Rural Management – Hazard Analysis Tool (FARM-HAT) provides first-hand information about hazards, hazard evaluation, and how to correct them. Each hazard analysis includes photos and images that depict the same hazard with varying levels of safety measures in place. The text outlines the specific measures in place for the safest option compared to the least safest. It also provides laws and regulations regarding that issue and additional resources.

FARM-HAT allows users to select from over 150 topics that pertain to them. It facilitates an easy-to-use standard auditing process that provides the ability to conduct organized hazard audits. It also serves as a training tool for educators working with youth.

Visit www.agsafety.psu.edu/farmhat/ for more information.

Chapter Activities

Mikey D



The Mikey D Chapter provided safety education for over 400 people at the Teddy Bear Day Care 20th Anniversary celebration. Area elementary students and their parents attended. The chapter demonstrated the gravity flow wagon and the tag bucket in addition to handing out FS4JK brochures and coloring books. The younger children were interested to see what happened to them if they were the Lego person in the grain demonstrations.

RedBrownVille

In October, the RedBrownVille chapter held a fire extinguisher safety training. About 75 seventh graders attended. They learned how to use a fire extinguisher and proper storage. The event was promoted through the local school's agricultural class.

Redwood Valley FFA

A baby animal day was held by the Redwood Valley FFA chapter last February during FFA week. Several baby animals were shown to preschool through 4th grade students. The chapter explained animal safety. In addition, the students participated in farm safety plinko. The children loved being close to the animals and getting the opportunity to touch them safely.

Western Illinois

Over 140 golfers showed up for the annual Western Illinois FS4JK chapter fundraiser in July. The event was held at Old Orchard Country Club in Pittsfield, IL. Promoted through local media, flyers, the chapter website, and word-of-mouth advertising, the event had a great turn out.

Chapter Assessment

Sign up to do a SWOT assessment by January 31 to receive \$100 for your chapter. The assessment provides an in depth analysis of what your chapter is doing well and gives you ideas to help make it stronger. Take the next step and \$500 is available for your chapter to implement the strategies you outline in the SWOT assessment. Contact shari@fs4jk.org for more information.

Gibson Area Hospital

During the 4th of July parade in Sibley, IL, the Gibson Area Hospital chapter of FS4JK distributed coloring books to the youth and families watching the parade.

Keep All Kids Safe

The Keep All Kids Safe FS4JK chapter attended the breakfast on the farm at Ocheda Dairy in Worthington, MN. They made a display of fences as well as animals and people. In addition, they used puppets and did improvised activities with the youth. They handed out FS4JK stickers and activity sheets to the over 400 attendees.

Can you recall...?

You can find the answers to the following questions scattered throughout this month's newsletter.

1. Which government entity is looking at pesticide exposure and health risks?
2. Where was the annual Farm Bureau convention held?
3. What's the name of the alien in the new interactive safety materials?
4. How many topics does FARM-HAT cover?

1. EPA 2. Seattle, WA 3. J.O. Gander 4. 150 topics