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Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 4:08 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
Subject: 145 - ChildAIPi Comments

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Comments
Date: May 4, 2009

To: CDC/NIOSH

From: Barbara Marlenga, PhD
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Subject: Feedback on the NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative

I appreciate NIOSH's continued dedication to and leadership of the Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative and I welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the progress and proposed future activities.

Evidence-based practice or "best practices" are now commonly referred to in most safety and health disciplines. With shrinking financial resources for safety and health, there is an expectation that the highest standards of evidence will be put to use. As you are aware, a systematic review of interventions to prevent childhood agricultural injuries (Hartling et al., 2004) and a recent Cochrane review (Rautiainen et al., 2008), concluded that there was little evidence that educational interventions are effective in decreasing injuries among children on farms or among agricultural workers (who may be the parents or guardians of children on farms). Yet, the Childhood Agricultural Safety and Health Research (R01) Grants that have been funded from 1997 to 2009 are almost exclusively educational interventions, with little or no focus on engineered or policy oriented solutions. Furthermore, none of the funded research from 1997 to 2009 focused on the leading injury prevention priority: fatal injuries to toddlers and preschool-aged farm children.

I urge you to use these recent evidence-based systematic reviews to propose new emphasis areas for future Childhood Agricultural Safety and Health Research (R01) Grants focused on novel interventions that go beyond traditional educational approaches. As the NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative moves into the next decade, we need to use the evidence-based science we already have and redirect the funding priorities if we hope to be successful in preventing childhood injuries in the agricultural worksite.