



NORTH AMERICAN
GUIDELINES FOR
children's
AGRICULTURAL TASKS

Children's farm task guidelines searchable online

(National Farm Safety and Health Week, 2009) It's easier than ever for parents to decide if their children are ready for specific jobs on the farm.

The North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) are now searchable online at www.nagcat.org. Simply type the name of the task in the search box and the most relevant of 62 different guidelines will appear.

The most requested guidelines include, "Milking cows," "Farming with an ATV," "Lifting," and Spanish language versions of "Hand harvesting vegetables," and "Driving a tractor."

The guidelines were released 10 years ago by the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, part of the National Farm Medicine Center at Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation. The National Children's Center developed the guidelines to assist parents in assigning farm jobs to their children 7-16 years of age.

The guidelines pose questions about a child's developmental abilities, training, and adult supervision to determine if the task is appropriate. Ideally, children and teenagers will gain meaningful work experience with less risk of farm-related disease or injury. This is important because every 3.5 days, a child is killed on an American farm, and approximately 23,000 young people suffer serious farm-related injuries each year.

The NAGCAT online search function is the first product of the National Children's Center's Digital Dissemination initiative, one of seven major projects funded by a five-year competitive award from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The Digital Dissemination team is creating new Web-based options for current and proposed National Children's Center projects.

For more information, please e-mail nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu, visit www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs or phone 1-800-662-6900.