



Check out what's new with the SW Ag Center!

## Cycle in Review



### Projects

The SW Ag Center is now into its third 5-year funding cycle. Four projects received funding in 2006 (See below for more details). In addition, the Center continues to support new investigators through feasibility/pilot study opportunities.

We have funded 5 feasibility/pilot studies in this cycle that addressed agricultural topics from tractor certification programs to musculoskeletal symptoms among crawfishermen. View all our past feasibility studies at <http://www.swagcenter.org/projectsfeasibility.asp>.

### Outreach

The Center is currently involved in a wide range of outreach and education activities including farm safety day camps, tractor certification workshops, pesticide training intensives, agricultural/rural conferences, and a quarterly newsletter.

### Administration

In order to best fulfill our mission, the Center has developed a long-term strategic plan. It is available at [www.swagcenter.org/about](http://www.swagcenter.org/about). To see our main areas of interest for future research, look at page 2.

### New Faces

In 2006, Amanda Wickman, B.S. joined the Center as the Special Projects Coordinator in order to increase outreach and education activities and aid in the execution of various agricultural programs.

Matthew Nonnenmann, Ph.D., CIH joined the Center in 2007. He currently serves as the Deputy Director and as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Health Sciences at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. His main areas of interest are ergonomics and respiratory hazards.

## Current Projects 2006-2011

### Education/Outreach

#### *Model Farmers Dissemination Project*

Deborah L. Helitzer, Sc.D.  
University of New Mexico

A case/control intervention will be used to determine best management practices including pesticide safety application to reduce health risks and improve crop yield in an area where pesticide use is novel.

### Intervention/Prevention

#### *Promoviendo Farmworkers' Safety*

Roberta Ryder, BA  
National Center for Farmworker Health

The innovative research method of intervention mapping will be used to assess the needs, plan and evaluate a program to establish competencies in agricultural health and safety for lay health workers.

### Research

#### *Migrant Adolescent Health Research Study*

Sharon Cooper, Ph.D.  
UT Houston School of Public Health-San Antonio

This research project aims to document the prevalence of chronic disease indicators among farmworker adolescents such as obesity and Type II diabetes.

## Feasibility Studies 2007-2008

#### *Potential for Public Partnerships to Develop Certified Youth Tractor and Machinery Operators*

Bob Williams, Ph.D., Texas A&M-Commerce

#### *Bio-Cultural Assessment of Perceptions of Pesticide Exposure Among Mexican Immigrant Farmworkers*

Shedra Amy Snipes, Ph.D., MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### *Risk Factors for Musculoskeletal Symptoms Among Louisiana Crawfishermen*

Matt Nonnenmann, Ph.D., UT Health Science Center at Tyler

#### *Worker Health Protection Among Shrimp Fishermen of the Gulf Coast*

Jeffrey Levin, M.D., M.S.P.H.  
UT Health Science Center at Tyler

Workplace factors and lifestyle behaviors that contribute to illness & injury among this population will be used to facilitate community-based planning, implementation and evaluation of measures to reduce work injury risks.

**Research and funding opportunities on page 2!**



**THE SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR  
AGRICULTURAL HEALTH, INJURY  
PREVENTION AND EDUCATION**

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**We are on the web!**  
[www.swagcenter.org](http://www.swagcenter.org)

## Outreach & Education

The Center actively pursues outreach and education opportunities throughout the five state region. We give presentations, disseminate resource materials, maintain a quarterly electronic newsletter, attend conferences, conduct certification programs and much more. In the spirit of Research to Practice (r2p), two new education resources have been developed by the SW Ag Center.



*Bites, Stings and Venomous Things* is a laminated, pocket-size tip booklet that addresses field first aid and sting symptoms for numerous common Southwestern U.S. critters.

*First Aid Farm Quest* is an interactive CD designed to teach 5th and 6th graders first aid and injury prevention skills.



Check out all our products at <http://www.swagcenter.org/resourcesvideos.asp>.

## Current Areas of Interest

- ATVs
- Back injury intervention
- Dairy operations
- Ergonomics
- Economic stress factors and health risk behaviors
- Forestry/logging operations
- Hearing loss prevention
- Older agricultural workforce
- Poultry operations
- Risk assessment for agroterrorism
- Risk taking behavior in youth
- ROPS retrofit project
- Sleep/fatigue as an injury risk factor
- Worklife factors in ag aviators

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**COMING  
SOON**

**Feasibility Study  
Announcement**

- Competitive application process
- Up to \$20,000
- 11 month project
- New or Junior Investigator

*Do you know a new or junior investigator who could benefit from this funding opportunity?*

**Inform others of your agricultural research, outreach and/or education activities through an article in the SW Ag Center newsletter, *Cultivation*.**

Send your updates to [agcenter@uthct.edu](mailto:agcenter@uthct.edu).