

Weekly Market Bulletin

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Chris Sununu
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Lorraine S. Merrill
Commissioner

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From Your Commissioner

School's Out – Keep Kids Safe on Farms

Summertime means kids are visiting, working and playing on farms many more hours a day. Farms are homes for families, as well as work sites. And while growing up on a farm and working on a farm provide incomparable opportunities for learning, and for developing responsibility and work ethic, agriculture remains one of the most hazardous occupations.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (AgFF) have the highest fatality rates due to traumatic injury of any industry, nearly eight times higher than the average worker fatality rate (23.9/100,000 full-time employees (FTE) versus 3.3/100,000 FTE) Several years ago the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety-AgFF launched a campaign to convince farm families to stop allowing children to ride or operate tractors. They created a memorable poster: 'It's easier to bury a tradition than a child.'

While youth farm injury rates declined by 56% from 1998 to 2009, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), too many tragedies are still occurring. Data indicate that youth 17 and under are involved in 75% of skid-steer injuries and deaths, and children ages six and under are involved in half of all skid-steer incidents.

This spring a five-year old Wisconsin boy was driving a skid loader in a field while his mother and younger brother were picking rocks and putting them in the bucket of the skid-steer. Investigators said the five-year old didn't see his little brother bending to pick up a stone between the front tire of the loader and the bucket, and accidentally ran over him.

"There is absolutely a false sense of security with skid-steers and tractors that have cabs," observed Bryan Weichelt, a fifth-generation farmer and Project Scientist with the National Farm Medicine Center and National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety in Marshfield, Wis. "However, it's important to note here that most of the skid-steer incidents that I have reviewed...involved a bystander who was run over or was riding in the bucket and fell out. Keeping young children out of the worksite is the best prevention tip I can offer to address skid-steer safety for youth."

The North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) is a collection of guidelines designed to assist parents and others in assigning age-appropriate tasks for children ages

seven to 16, who live or work on farms and ranches across North America. The guidelines are based on an understanding of childhood growth and development, agricultural practices, principles of childhood injury, and agricultural and occupational safety. Voluntary use of the guidelines can help parents and others make informed decisions about appropriate tasks for youth. Visit <http://nagcat.org/nagcat/>. Find additional child and youth safety resources, including agritourism guidelines at <http://www.marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs> or call 1-800-662-6900.

Preservation Alliance Has Help for Old Barns

Need a road map for your old barn, or want to help a neighbor? The NH Preservation Alliance's next barn assessment grant deadline is August 1. Find the grant application and information, and more about the Alliance's '52 Barns in 52 Weeks' campaign at <https://nhpreservation.org/old-barn-resources-overview/> or call (603) 224-2281. The Alliance can also help people find an old barn. Contact Beverly Thomas at bt@nhpreservation.org if you are looking for an old New Hampshire barn for your property.

At the *Step by Step Timber Framing Workshop* at Prescott Farm in Laconia on July 29, Ian Blackman of Blackman Restoration and Preservation will demonstrate repair and restoration of the 1882 barn's timber frame. Blackman will be replacing sills, some first floor framing, and repairing some posts. Restoration of the exterior surface will also be covered. The workshop will be followed by a discussion of tools and sharpening for those interested.

Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner