Hazardous Occupations Safety Training for Agriculture Program

HOSTA’s Objectives . . .

1. Support current standards by updating and assessing curricula, testing, procedures, and certification means.
2. Conduct studies to support policy and this program including the health, labor, and economic impacts of retaining or altering current standards while studying youth in agriculture employment trends and the skills these youth need.
3. Develop educational programs that mitigate agricultural hazards to all young workers, regardless of their knowledge, experience, ability, ethnicity, or culture.

Did You Know . . .

666,500 youth up to 20 years old annually work on farms operated by persons other than their guardians?

22,600 farm injuries occur to these youth each year, more than in any profession employing youth?

100 youth die each year in farming-related incidents?

Source: NIOSH

About the Program . . .

● HOSTA supports national efforts to deliver timely, pertinent, and appropriate training to youth seeking employment or already employed in agricultural production.

● The program has critical ties to the current regulations for youth employment in agriculture, especially the exemptions provided in 29 CFR Part 570, subpart E-1 for youth under the age of 16 employed in some agricultural occupations having obtained certification.

● Significant changes in agricultural production and in the agricultural workforce since this regulation took effect in the early 1970’s have encouraged the USDA to work with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) in considering training and certification innovations along with developing appropriate training and restrictions on youth employment in hazardous agricultural jobs.

● HOSTA’s funding has appeared under the Smith-Lever 3 (d) line for Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification since 2001 and has awarded $1.65 million in grants.

To learn more about HOSTA, please contact:

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### Projects Funded Through FY 2004 . . .

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<td>Establishing a National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program</td>
<td>Penn. State U.</td>
<td>Jim Hilton, Dennis Murphy, and Tom Bean</td>
<td>Curriculum development, evaluation, and instructor training</td>
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<td>Establishing a National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program</td>
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<td>Graphics-Based Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification Curriculum</td>
<td>Purdue U.</td>
<td>Bill Field, Roger Tormoehlen, Gary Bertoline</td>
<td>Picture-based translation of curriculum for those with limited literacy skills</td>
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<td>Implementation of a National Youth Farm Safety Certification Database</td>
<td>Purdue U.</td>
<td>Roger Tormoehlen</td>
<td>Database of youth certified, instructors trained and state safety contacts identified; and forward educational content and test questions to interested youth</td>
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<td>Development of a Tracking and Database System for a Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification Program</td>
<td>Ohio State U.</td>
<td>Tom Bean and Samuel Steel</td>
<td>Database of youth certified and their test results, certified instructors, course availability, and educational materials</td>
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<td>Determining Agriculturally Related Skills Twelve to Twenty Year Olds Need For Non-Parental Farm Employment . . .</td>
<td>Penn. State U.</td>
<td>John Becker, Dennis Murphy, Jim Hilton, Tasha Snyder, and Fern Willits</td>
<td>Separate surveys of youth and employers to determine the nature of perceived training needs and the tasks performed</td>
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<td>Development, Implementation, Evaluation of a Model Administrative Management system for the HOSTA Program</td>
<td>Purdue U.</td>
<td>Roger Tormoehlen, Bill Field, Brian French Mack Strickland</td>
<td>Increase awareness of youth employment regulations, prepare certification administrative standards and establish national clearinghouse</td>
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**More information for youth laborers in agriculture . . .**

- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has supported relevant research projects: [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/childag/ChildAgExtramuralResearch.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/childag/ChildAgExtramuralResearch.html)

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