

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: cvschwab@iastate.edu
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Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
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Name
Charles V. Schwab

Organization
Iowa State University

Email
cvschwab@iastate.edu

Address
220 Industrial Education II
Ames, IA 50011-3130
United States

Comments

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health should be commended on their efforts to address the safety and health issues in the agricultural industry. This industry has suffered tragic losses mostly from neglect, lack of understanding, and unsupported educational programming. The NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative has established an excellent start by collecting data, exploring the health and safety issues of this unique industry, and maintaining a national direction in this focus area.

Selection of youth as the focus was a strategic choice and clearly a wise one. Agricultural youth offer those that wish to change the safety and health record of the agricultural industry an excellent investment. The youth of today will become the agricultural leaders of tomorrow. These studies, discoveries, and educational programming directed at agricultural youth will benefit everyone's future by making the agriculture industry more sustainable in the future.

The key message from me is don't stop now that this effort has begun! The current efforts are successful and have provided useful information however the industry and the youth connected with it require more. There are still many unanswered questions, uncollected data, and educational programs to develop. The NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative current successes will fade without continued support for activities and these safety and health issues of this industry will grow uncontrollable yet again. Let this be the time when the industry that maintains this nation's subsistence gains support for its sustainability by protecting the youth engaged in living and working in our agriculture industry.