

USING READERS' THEATER FOR SUPPORTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

DEBORAH B. REED, PHD, MSN, RN



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

BASIC WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

- Audio available through computer or phone.
- Check sound via Communicate menu at top left
- Closed captions: use arrow to expand or contact the Media Viewer window. You may need to enter the event number 4606847. You may also need to click Continue to access the captioning site.
- Expand/contract any of the windows in the right-hand column with the arrows. Expand/contract the size of the right-hand column.

BASIC WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

Questions and comments

- Go to the Chat option in the right-hand column. Please send to “All Panelists”. Enter message in box below TO and hit enter/return. You may enter questions about the presentation at any time.
- In addition, during the Q & A period, you can click the “Raise Hand” icon to indicate that you have a question. We will unmute your microphone or phone connection.

BASIC WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

- Please let me know if more than one person is viewing at your computer
- 4 quick survey questions + opportunity to share comments
- Session recorded and archived with PowerPoint files at www.agrability.org. Specific link will be sent to all registrants.
- Problems: use chat window or email jonesp@purdue.edu



USDA–sponsored program that assists farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities.

- Partners land–grant universities with disability services organizations.
Currently 20 state projects
- National AgrAbility Project: Led by Purdue’s Breaking New Ground Resource Center. Partners include:
 - Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
 - The Osteoarthritis Action Alliance
 - Colorado State University
 - Washington State University
- More information available at www.agrability.org

The National AgrAbility Project is supported by USDA/NIFA Special Project 2016–41590–25880.

USING READERS' THEATER FOR SUPPORTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

DEBORAH B. REED, PHD, MSN, RN



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

FUNDED BY

- CDC NIOSH R01OH010666 2014-2019
- Now funded by the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation 2020-2021



OBJECTIVE

- Influence farmers to make behavior changes that will
 - improve the health of farmers and their families;
 - prevent injuries to themselves and others



REFERENCES

- Reed, D.B. & Claunch, D.T. (2015). Protecting ourselves from harm: voices of aging farmers. *Jrn of Agricultural Safety and Health*, 21(4): 269-279. Doi: 10.13031/jash.21.11100).
- Reed, D.B., Rayens, M.K., Conley, C., Westneat, S., & Adkins, S.M. (2012). Farm elders define health as the ability to work. *Workplace Health and Safety* 60(8): 345-351.
- Reed, D.B. & Claunch, D.T. (2017), Moving social work norms via theater for senior farmers. *Jrn of Safety Research*, 60:17-20. doi:org./10.1016/j.jsr.2016.11.002

VOICES OF THE FARM COMMUNITY

- Based on what the farm community wants – stories and humor!
- Actual farm stories are weaved together to create short plays
- Farmers in the community serve as the actors
- Health and safety messages delivered in a relaxed, non-threatening atmosphere
- “It was your story, but it wasn’t...” “it gave you permission to talk about things...”

WHAT IS DIDACTIC READER'S THEATER?

- A style of theater in which actors read from a script – **no memorization**
- Focus is on the words of the script rather than elaborate sets, costumes or actions
- Didactic: **includes discussion** of the theater's themes among the audience following the theater
- The discussion allows the audience to reflect on the content and incorporate the information within their own lived experiences
- Has been used to address several health topics (smoking cessation, obesity, vehicle safety, bullying, and more)

HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?



- Met with enthusiasm by the farm community; 96% retention rate
- Found to be highly effective in changing the work behavior of farmers – over 50% of participants had made changes within 2 weeks of the theater event and nearly 60% had made changes by 2 months following the event
- More effective than educational materials (comparison group)

		THEATER N=576	COMPARISON N=394	p level
MADE CHANGES	2-WEEK	52.6%	40.1%	<.001
	2-MONTH	59.1%	51.9%	.043
THOUGHT ABOUT CHANGES	2-WEEK	51.2%	45.1%	.052
	2-MONTH	45.2%	50.6%	.104

"Everything they said was right on target. My husband is at the point where he needs to stop doing some things and this gave us a way to talk. I feel like God just sent you there for us. It was a blessing."

"It wasn't your story, but it was. You could identify but not be threatened. Messages were delivered in a non-threatening way which allowed you to get involved."

"This [dinner theater] has helped me realize we're not alone. Others are experiencing the same things we are going through."

"I didn't think we had as many incidents, but listening, I realize we do."

"We've never had such positive feedback from any other program we've ever done." - FCS agent

"There's a line in here that's the truest statement you'll ever make. The one where you say farmers are watching one another. We do. All the time."

"The play covered so many topics, it's hard to pick just one thing that made the greatest impact."

WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE THEATER?

- It was both entertaining and informative.
- Community event. Everyone knew each other and it was funny. Good message while being entertained.
- The safety matters that they talked about that people don't think about.
- Very realistic and talked about stuff that actually goes on on the farm.
- Relaxed atmosphere, learning about important stuff.
- Discussion and coming up with other ideas.
- They fed us a good meal.
- Covered a wide amount of subject material.
- The plays with real people, not actors.

TYPES OF CHANGES PARTICIPANTS REPORTED ON TWO-WEEK FOLLOW-UP

- **Health issues**

- Visited the doctor
- Attend to medication
- Eat better
- Get more exercise
- Improve sleep

- **Increase ear protection**

- **Increase eye protection**

- **Increase foot protection**

- **Increase skin protection**

- Sunscreen
- Wear hats

- **Hydration**

- **Altered work patterns**

- Reduced exertion/limited activities
- Planning ahead
- Not working alone
- Take more breaks
- Slow down
- Let employees do more of the work
- Hired additional help

- **Improve communication ability**

- Changed cell service to get better coverage
- Let people know where you are

CHANGES (CONT'D)

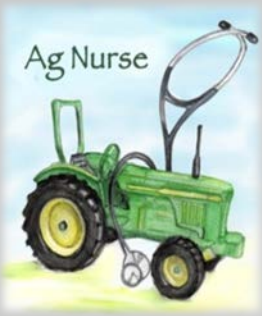
- **Improve equipment and use of equipment**
 - General equipment safety
 - Bought harness
 - Safety shields
 - Better repairs on equipment
 - Tractor
 - New tractor with cab/canopy
 - Sufficient lighting for tractor
 - Steps on tractor
 - Use seatbelt more often
 - Rollover protection
- **Improve facilities**
 - Cleaned up
 - Smoothed roads
 - Fixed lights/added lights
 - Repaired gates
- **Improve operations**
 - No gasoline in equipment shed
 - Cleaned up
- **Improve cattle operations and facilities**
- **Had safety discussion**

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP



- Partnerships with local agricultural communities (cooperative extension agents, commodity groups, farm safety organizations)
- Local partners play key roles
 - Identify potential participants
 - Promote the event through local media
 - Select food vendor, event location, and set design for theater event
- **Farmers in the community serve as the actors**





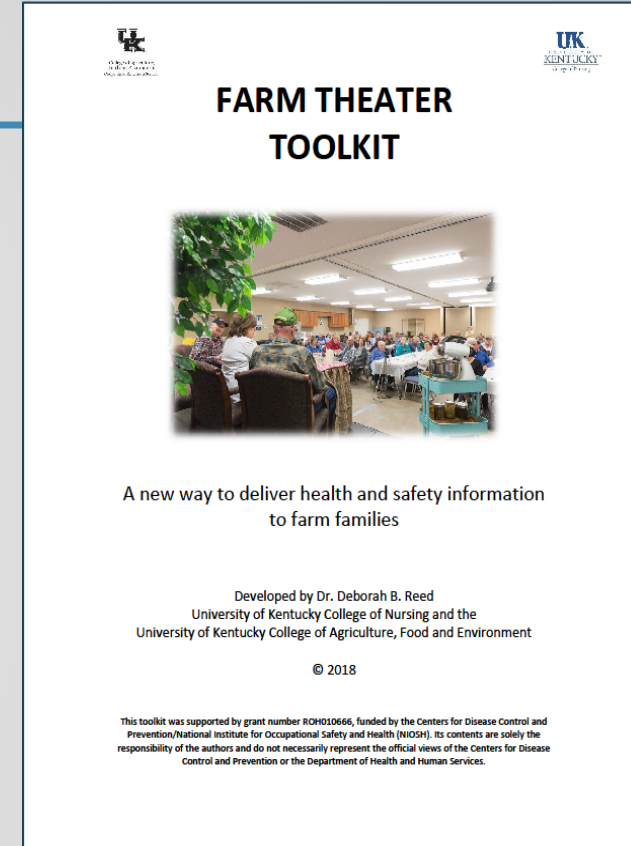
CONCLUSIONS

- This format is effective, easily adapted to local issues, can be delivered using existing infrastructure
- Format is acceptable to the farm community
- Resulted in surprising and swift behavior changes
- These changes can lead to the desired goal of reducing injuries experienced by the aging farm population
- This approach also has application to many other groups and ages and may be particularly applicable to areas with low literacy or ESL groups.

-
- Insert video here

THE FARM THEATER TOOLKIT

- A guide designed to help you develop a program that fits **your** farming community
- Describes the concept of using didactic readers' theater
- Walks you through step by step on how to conduct a theater event
- Addresses lessons learned along the way
- Offers examples of promotional templates, scripts, and evaluation methods
- Provides sample video of a farm theater event





- Deborah B. Reed, PhD, RN

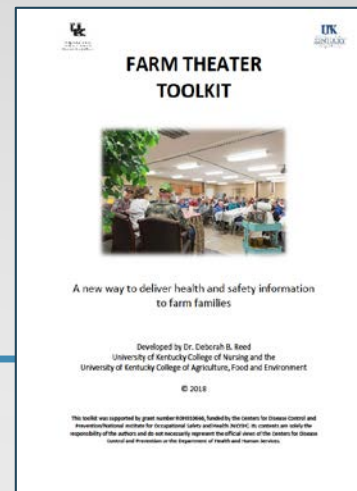
dbreed01@uky.edu

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Agriculture.nurse>

EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC CHANGES

- Wear ear plugs
- Drinking more water
- Changed shoes
- Wearing a seatbelt more
- Wear more sunscreen
- Replacing safety shields on equipment
- Annual checkup with doctor
- Wears hat instead of cap in the field
- Took a trip (vacation)
- Changed cell service to get better coverage on farm
- Bought a cab tractor that was safer
- Better communication with his wife about what he is doing and where he goes on the farm

LINK TO TOOLKIT



- https://uky.azl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_emuHBiEecolz2Rv?Q_CHL=qr