

Presentation Title	Place in Schedule
Community-based didactic readers' theater changes work behaviors of senior farmers	Concurrent Session 3.2 <i>Day 2 – Wednesday</i> <i>May 9th, 2018</i> <i>4:00 – 5:15pm</i>
Description of Presentation	Presenter Name(s) And Credentials
<p>Purpose Older farmers are particularly vulnerable to injuries and health problems as they continue with farm work in a high risk environment. Senior farmers/farm workers accounted for over half of all farming deaths between 1992 and 2004. This study reports on a promising new intervention to promote health and reduce injury among older farmers. Didactic readers' theater was tested with farm couples ages 45 and over in the Southeast U.S. This paper illustrates the success of the intervention when compared to usual practice (print materials) and the new r2p community collaboration that resulted to sustain the intervention.</p> <p>Methods The theater intervention involves partnerships with local agricultural communities to develop and deliver the theater. Three short socio-novels (plays) are scripted from stories provided by farmers. Common topics include fatigue, falls, multi-tasking, arthritis, hearing loss, and stress. Farm couples are recruited to facilitate continued communication after the theater. Community farmers read the scripts and the researcher leads a focused discussion between each play. Comparison groups, recruited from similar groups in similar communities, receive a packet of written educational materials, covering the same topics, which they are asked to review. Two weeks and two months after the theater or educational materials are received telephone surveys are conducted to assess the extent to which participants have thought, talked, or done something about the safety and health issues addressed.</p> <p>Results Eight theater (N=573) and eight comparison (N=320) sites are included in the analysis. The mean and</p>	Deborah B. Reed, PhD, RN <i>University of Kentucky</i>
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median age of participants is 63 (st. dev = 8.6) and the mean length of time in farming is 46 years. For general questions about attention paid to safety and health issues, on 2-week follow-up interviews, the theater group had thought and talked more about farm safety and had made more changes. On 2-month interviews, there was no difference. The percentages of respondents who said they made specific changes are as follows: 2-week: Theater-57%; Comparison-40% ($p < .001$); 2-month: Theater-60%; Comparison-52% ($p = .012$). Results across ten safety and health topics confirm what the general questions showed: On 2-week interviews, the theater group was significantly more likely than the comparison group to have thought, talked, and done something about the issues. Two months later, the theater group was more likely to have done something about the issues, but no more likely than the comparison group to have thought about or talked about them.

Application (r2p)

The theater intervention is well-received by the participants, who rate it as realistic and helpful. Most events had a waiting list for participation. We see encouraging group differences supporting this new format for sharing health and safety information in the farm community. The results indicate that the impact of the intervention is quick and important changes are made. We also see improved communication among the farm community on matters of health and safety. Theater events have already led to increased partnerships between occupational health/safety, Cooperative Extension, and other community based groups. This format may be successful in other settings where oral education is preferred.