



SOUTHERN
EXTENSION
RISK MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION

2020 Exploratory Projects (\$5,000 maximum)

Application

First Aid/CPR Training: Improving Farm Safety for H2A Workers on Tobacco Farms

Project Number: 14215

Amount Requested: \$3,941

Submission Date: 10/30/2019 12:08 PM

Project Director

Xiurui Cui

Ext. Area Specialist I

University of Tennessee

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Project Overview

The *First Aid/CPR Training: Improving Farm Safety for H2A Workers on Tobacco Farms* pilot project will provide First Aid/CPR training to help tobacco growers manage human risk to meet the farm safety standards of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by teaching the producers and their farm labor the skills needed to give immediate care to a suddenly-injured co-worker.

The intended audience will be middle Tennessee tobacco producers and their employees. Many of these employees are H2A temporary agricultural workers who mostly speak Spanish.

The pilot project will be a one-day workshop to be conducted in Springfield, Tennessee.

American Heart Association will provide the trainers and training materials. The program will be taught both in English and Spanish.

Approximately 50 farm workers will gain the skills to respond appropriately to first aid emergencies and will be certified in First Aid/CPR.

Producer Demand

In 2018, 15,700 acres of tobacco were harvested in Tennessee, with a value close to 100 million dollars. Each year, due to the exposure to nicotine from handling tobacco, and the extensive heat, there have been numerous cases of farm emergencies reported that are caused by nicotine poisoning or dehydration. GAP Connections Certification Program standards recommend tobacco growers have a staff member (or grower) certified in First Aid/CPR/AED training.

However, there are limited resources available for the producers and their workers.

Tobacco producers rely heavily on H2A workers that are mainly recruited from Spanish speaking countries. In 2018, 3,710 H2A workers were contracted by Tennessee farms and 44 percent worked in tobacco production, more than in any other crop.

Extension agents from Cheatham, Robertson, and Montgomery counties expressed the need of organizing such training to equip the producers and their workers with First Aid/CPR skills due to the high risk component of tobacco handling. More than 10 middle Tennessee tobacco growers were surveyed and all expressed interest in participating in the First Aid/CPR training, indicating there was a great need for bilingual trainings as most of the farm workers do not speak or understand English.

Proposed Results

What Producers Will Understand, Analyze, Develop, Decide or Implement

Proposed Result	Topic	Producer action	When measured	Est #	How will you verify?
1. Participants will increase their knowledge of farm safety.	Health, stress, and well being	Understand	End of workshop	50	Participants will complete a written or online evaluation.
2. Participants will gain the skills to respond appropriately to first aid emergencies.	Health, stress, and well being	Develop	End of workshop	45	Participants will complete a written or online evaluation.
3. Participants will be certified in First Aid/CPR training.	Health, stress, and well being	Develop	End of workshop	40	Participants will complete a written or online evaluation.
4. Participants will implement techniques learned to respond appropriately to first aid emergencies.	Health, stress, and well being	Implement	3 month post workshop	15	Participants will complete a written or online evaluation.

Audience Emphasis

- Small farms or ranches
- Traditional commercial producers

Review Past Projects

A training program on human risk management for producers using Latino labor force (2004) provided workshops to help producers to acquire knowledge about Latino workers human risks issues (pesticide exposure, work-related injuries, and illness), skills to effectively address those issues, and tools to increase safety and reliability of the Latino workforce. Project outcomes include producers with a better understanding of the Latino workforce and with new tools to increase workers awareness and safety on the farm.

A Farm Safety Training Program on Human Risk Management for Dairy Producers using a Labor Force including Hispanic Workers (2008) provided farm safety training resources to dairy producers in the four state region, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota. Keys to success included improved farm safety and worker well-being for all employees.

This proposal will offer bilingual First Aid/CPR training to help Tennessee tobacco producers manage farm safety to meet the Good Agricultural Practices and to reduce the risk of farm incidents. Participants will be certified in First Aid/CPR at the end of the training. This pilot program can be extended across Tennessee in the future to target nurseries and vegetable farms that are also utilizing the H2A program.

Additional Regions

No additional regions selected.

Project Team

Xiurui 'Iris' Cui

UT Extension

xcui@utk.edu

(931) 648-5725

Role: Iris is an Area Farm Management Specialist with UT Extension. She will be responsible for overall project oversight, coordination, promotion, evaluation and reporting. Iris will be responsible for program planning, developing and promoting the workshop.

Type: Applicant Organization Member

Ronnie Barron

UT Extension

rbarron@utk.edu

(615) 792-4420

Role: Ronnie is an extension agent and the director of Cheatham county extension. He will coordinate and promote the workshop and help translating Spanish during the session.

Type: Applicant Organization Member

Jeff Smith

UT Extension

jsmith49@utk.edu

(615) 384-7936

Role: Jeff is an extension agent and the director of Robertson county extension. He will coordinate, promote, and host the workshop.

Type: Applicant Organization Member

Project Collaborators

Amy Rochkes

GAP Connections

arochkes@gapconnections.com

(865) 622-4606

Role: Amy is the Training & Resource Coordinator of GAP Connections. GAP Connections (GAPC) is a nonprofit organization working with tobacco growers and stakeholders promoting good agricultural practices. Amy will promote the workshop to their members and provide financial assistance to cover the cost of refreshments.

Type: Non-Applicant Organization Member

Final Checklist

Application Due Date

Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 5:00 PM (Central)

Submission Checklist

Save and Exit lets you save your application and continue working on it later.

Print and review your application before you submit it. You can do this by clicking View PDF button on the left side of your screen.

Click Submit to submit your application to be reviewed.

Final Checklist



LETTER OF COMMITMENT

October 10, 2019

Xiurui 'Iris' Cui
Ext. Area Specialist I
Farm Management
Montgomery County Extension
1030 Cumberland Heights Rd.
Clarksville, TN 37040

Dear Ms. Cui:

I am Amy Rochkes, Training and Resource Coordinator for GAP Connections, Inc. (GAPC). GAPC works with the tobacco growers in Tennessee.

GAPC is fully committed to supporting the project titled, *"First Aid/CPR Training: Improving Farm Safety for H2A Workers on Tobacco Farms."* GAPC will promote the workshop through our monthly newsletter, website, and social media to our grower members. In addition, GAPC will provide financial assistance to cover the cost of refreshments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Rochkes". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Amy Rochkes
Training & Resource Coordinator
GAP Connections, Inc.