

UGA EXTENSION FACILITATED GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) TOBACCO FARM SAFETY AND WORKER TRAINING



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Abstract:

The US Tobacco GAP program is an industrywide program supported and funded by all tobacco buying and manufacturing companies in the US and aims at ensuring sustainable, economically viable production of usable tobacco. Growers are required to provide on-going training and education to ensure that everyone involved in tobacco production understands the importance of working in a safe manner.

A Jeff Davis County tobacco farmer asked for help in providing worker safety training for his workers as required by the GAP program. A training session was held at the extension office. Seven farm workers and the tobacco farmer participated in this 1.5 hour video training using Spanish version videos: <http://www.nclabor.com/ash/ash.htm>.

Videos were downloaded and projected for all to see in the extension office conference room. Topics included: Los Cuatro Peligros: Se Puede Evitarlos, The Top 4 Farm Hazards: How to Avoid Them; El Montacargas, Forklift Safety; Estrés Por El Calor, Heat Stress; Empacadoras de Tabaco, Tobacco Baler; Cosechadoras de Tabaco, Tobacco Harvester.

Also shown was a video (in Spanish) from the NCDOL Occupational Safety and Health Division's Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau entitled: Prevención y Tratamiento de la Enfermedad de la Hoja de Tabaco, Preventing and Treating Green Tobacco Sickness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOjhxAO56B4>.

Extension assisted a cooperating grower to provide worker safety information to workers in their own language, document their attendance and meet some of the requirements of the US Tobacco GAP program. This format may serve as a template for use by other extension offices.



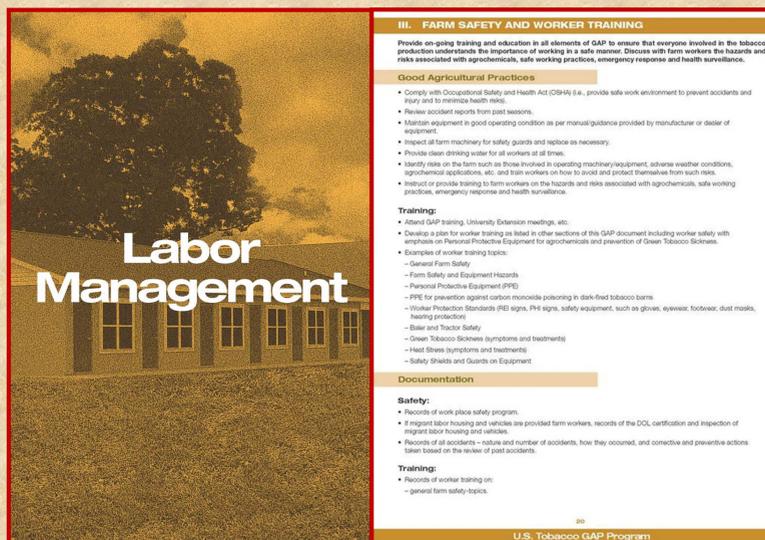
Worker Safety classroom training session.

Materials and Methods:

A worker safety training was organized and conducted by the Jeff Davis County Extension Agent. Seven farm workers and the tobacco farmer participated in this 1 hour and 30 minute video training using online Spanish videos. Videos used for this training were located at the following link: <http://www.nclabor.com/ash/ash.htm>.



Program participants following safety procedures by wearing long sleeves and gloves while handling green tobacco.



US Tobacco GAP Guidelines.

Results and Discussion:

Videos were downloaded and projected for all to see in the extension office conference room. Topics included: Los Cuatro Peligros: Se Puede Evitarlos, The Top 4 Farm Hazards: How to Avoid Them; El Montacargas, Forklift Safety; Estrés Por El Calor, Heat Stress; Empacadoras de Tabaco, Tobacco Baler; Cosechadoras de Tabaco, Tobacco Harvester. Also shown was a video (in Spanish) from the NCDOL Occupational Safety and Health Division's Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau about the prevention and treatment of Green Tobacco Sickness entitled: Prevención y Tratamiento de la Enfermedad de la Hoja de Tabaco, Preventing and Treating Green Tobacco Sickness. This video can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOjhxAO56B4>. This training proved to be a convenient way for Extension to assist a cooperating grower to present worker safety information to workers in their own language, document their attendance and meet some of the requirements of the US Tobacco GAP program.



Practicing worker safety while baling cured leaf.

Conclusions:

Having gone through in farm safety and worker training, H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers are now more aware of safety while working in and around Tobacco.

