

HOW WAS I TO KNOW?

FARM SAFETY
WORKSHOP
SUMMARY

Theatre at work

www.theatreatwork.ie



There are many hazards in farming however it need not be a dangerous occupation. The accidents that happen on Irish farms can be prevented, if behavioural and cultural changes are made. This programme is designed to highlight the value of safety and explore the beliefs and attitudes required to ensure every worker and family member remains safe on farms.

We meet Michael, a lone farmer with a lot to manage and much to lose. With so much at stake what prevents him from taking safety seriously? What are the consequences if things go wrong?

Based on research in Ireland our dramatisation depicts key risks and their potential consequences. The workshop process highlights key themes woven into the story and challenges thinking around safe practices and attitudes to risk. It also provides a wonderful opportunity for farmers to share and consolidate views with each other.

THEMES

Ownership of Safety

Awareness of Risk

Cultural Change

OUTCOMES

- Encourage ownership and responsibility for safety on farms, including duty of care and farm continuity
- Highlight risks to safety including seasonal pressures, lone working and hazards around livestock and vehicles
- Facilitate a shift in attitudes and behaviours to promote cultural change

WORKSHOP ELEMENTS

Delivered by a team of three, this dramatisation explores the working environment and embedded beliefs that create risk on farms. Facilitated discussion between scenes allows exploration of the human factors that influence a culture of safety and also includes lively interaction with the characters in the play.

Participants have the opportunity to reflect on what they have seen, share their views in facilitated plenary discussion and apply new insights to safety on their own farms.

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