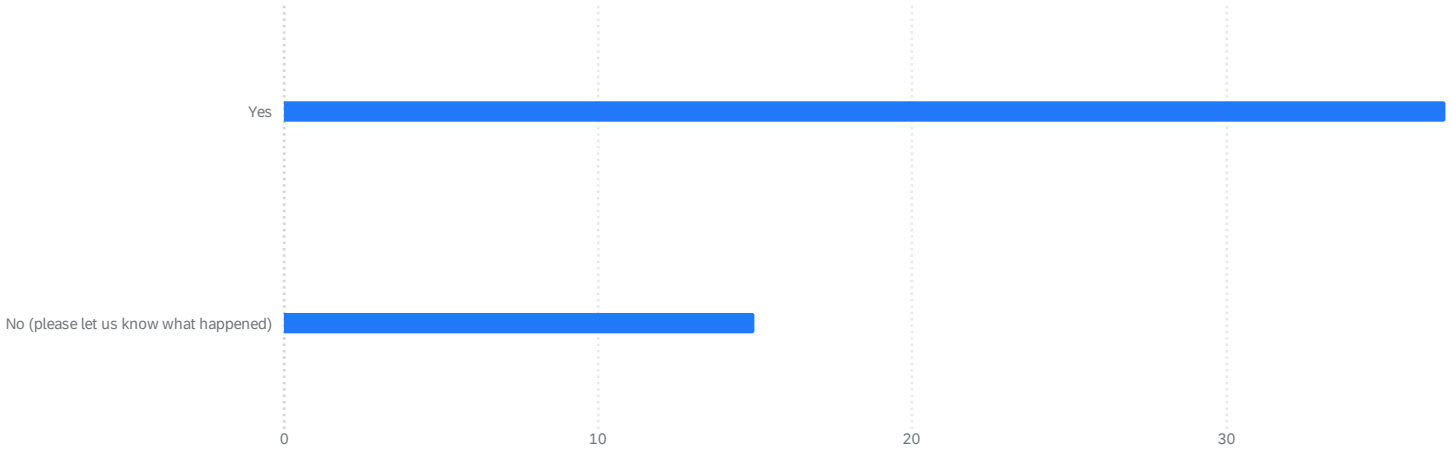
Did you produce a seed crop this season? 52



Did you produce a seed crop this season? 52

Q2 - Did you produce a seed crop this season? - Selected Choice	Percentage	Count
Yes	71%	37
No (please let us know what happened)	29%	15

Did you produce a seed crop this season? 52

Did you produce a seed crop this season?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Yes	1.00	1.00	1.00	37
No (please let us know what happened)	2.00	2.00	2.00	15

I changed farms and it was too much to take on

I grew and saved seed from a few crops but not in a significant way.

lost crop to heavy canadian goose pressure

We were prepping the farm for two family weddings in 2023, and decided to put off seed production for a season.

Was too busy starting up the new location

I am semi retired and lost my rented fields.

Crop loss due to unexpected frost event

I had chosen peas, but was unable to start them early enough for personal reasons and land lease delay

my seedlings were killed in a freak cold snap

I ended up with only a half ounce, contract was for 3 pounds

I'm growing Columbine so I won't be getting a crop until next summer

The rain over saturated my fields & things rotted & died.

Gilfeather turnips are a biennial and did quite well but the seeds won't be ready until the late spring. The first planting of Tokyo Bekana was diseased in the wet weather so I did a second planting into my heated greenhouse and hope to have seeds in the spring.

Did not mature in time

Growing season is not long enough here to produce seed from Britton shiso (seed provided by Hudson Valley Seed Company).

Are

Elf Ears Lettuce, and Jacobs Cattle dry bean

Chocolate Pepper (sweet)

Arugula

Yugoslavian Red Lettuce

Goldie Tomatoes

Soybean & Ammobium Alatum Flowers

Spillanthes and Celtuce

Yusupov Tomatoes and sweet hungarian peppers

Celtic (which we were unable to sell because of flooding), and spilanthes which we were able to sell

Yusepov tomatoes and sweet hungarian peppers

Dry beans

Tomatoes and Peppers

ol

Lots of different flowers, practiced saving seed from marigolds and am growing columbine for Fedco

Whipple bean

Dry beans, Flint corn

Onions, Acorn Squash, lettuce

garlic, cucurbits, radish, cucumbers, amaranth, sweet Annie, pole beans

Butternut and Delicata squash

Marshmallow

Marshall Romaine

peanuts and baeley

Limelight beans

Hybrid Cucumber 7081 by Row 7

Weaver's Black Brandywine tomato

Calendula, marigold, bachelor buttons, aquilegia vulgaris

Willie Wing Paste Tomato (provided to me by Cathy and Howie Bronson of Roxbury, CT)

Shishito Peppers

Limelight Bean and Russian Frills Kale (2 yr)

Merrimack Wonder Sweet Peppers, and King of the Early Bush Beans

Lettuce

'Sulia's Heart' tomato

Onion, Tomato, tobacco

chickpea

Onions

2#

we produced 12 ounces of lettuce seed, estimated at $80 maybe? We produced 15 pounds of Jacob's Cattle bean which is worth $50 maybe?

1 lb = $500 value (according to seed company ;)

20000 seeds, not sure

Seed was not harvested due to the birth of our first child

Soybean~1 lb ~ $20.00. Ammobium ~ .25oz ~ $700.

We produced 37g of spillanthes seed ~ $111 (wholesale)

37 grams - initial contract for 24 g but they bought it all! ($111) Sold to Fedco

We are keeping the seed for personal use. The plants produced at least 500 successful seeds

10 lbs / $4.00/lb

Just a small amount to test out skills and success, will be used for my own planting in 2024 so saved about $100 or so

g

~100?

2#

Enough to plant out again next year and share, no idea the $ value

$2000.00

Still processing cucurbits, weight TBD, no buyer organized

I didn't track this; sorry!

6 oz. Unknown.

3 ounces and I don't know yet how much it's worth

couple pounds, no idea of the value

15.3# $66

8 1/2 lbs. at $4200.00

scant, negligible

no clue

1/4 lb off of 70 plants. Using Dan Brisebois's values that I just found on web ($350 per pound), then about $90 worth of seed. If memory serves, the pricing data he provided during the course was closer to $200 per pound, in which case the value would be $50 (I lost some of my computer files in Sept 2023, unfortunately including my pictures of my tomatoes as well as my notes from the class).

1 lb @ $400/lb

Sent FEDCO 34lbs but had another 11 lbs that were affected by moisture.

8 lbs bean seeds, 1.4 oz. pepper seeds; not sure dollar value

More than 1/8# almost 1/4 .... worth hardly anything!!!

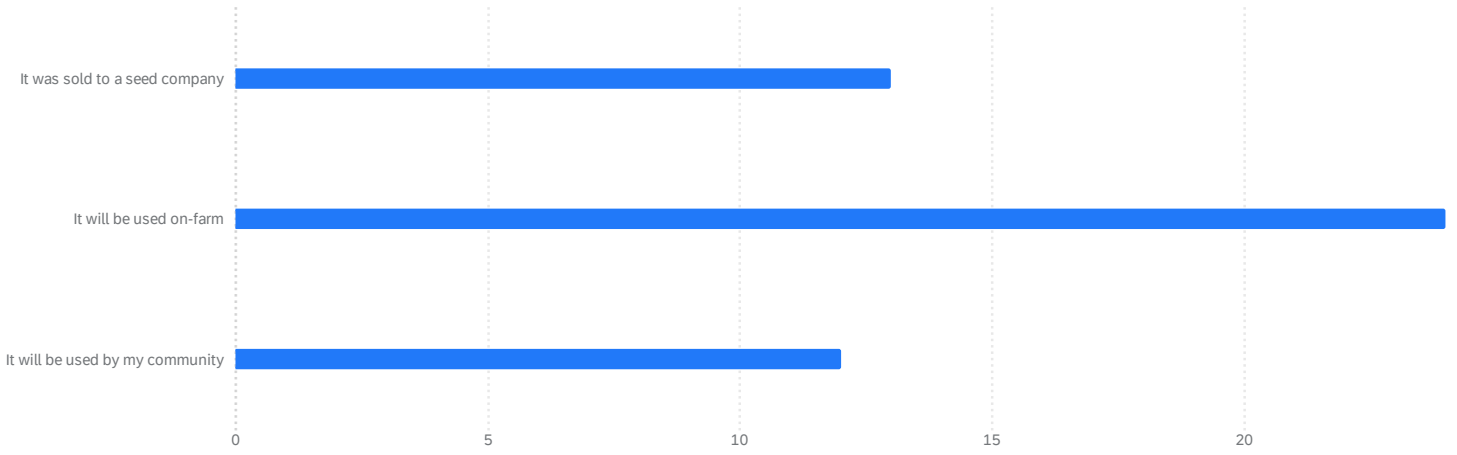
Haven't a clue -- sent it to SSE and they will get back to me

enough for my own use next season

9lbs, $200

10 lbs

Where will your seed be used? Please select all that apply 35



Where will your seed be used? Please select all that apply 35

Q5 - Where will your seed be used? Please select all that apply	Percentage	Count
It was sold to a seed company	37%	13
It will be used on-farm	69%	24
It will be used by my community	34%	12

I wasn't able to clean the lettuce seed well enough and Fedco rejected it. I did not have the time and should have come to the seed meet-up at the Farmer to Farmer conference, but it was a few hours away and not exactly cheap to attend. The dollar amount of the seed did not seem worth it for me.

The course was great. In retrospect, I should've asked a lot more questions and taken more consideration during the crop choosing.

I would have loved to come to one of the seed cleaning meetups.

The program and process were excellent, however at time of harvest we welcomed our first child to our family which led to a major shift in time management and priorities.

I should have covered them with remay, though we lost an entire crop of early broccoli that was covered, so who knows

Soybean-Due to poor germination from most likely insect damage ..

Our celtuce seed crop failed because of excessive flooding this summer

No

No, you did such a wonderful job! Our celtuce issues were weather related

No

I don't think so! I would take the course again!

We had a very hard, wet season which greatly reduced expected yields. Overall the resources available were wonderful in making it even slightly successful!

No

b

It was the right amount of support and info.

I dont think so. I learned a lot in doing it

n/a

Yes a belt thresher

no, just nature being rude!

I didn't receive any cultural specifics on the crop, there was scant information on the internet, but we also had an incredibly wet season, which the plants did not appreciate

No

I don't think so - I think it was a great success at the very small scale I grew it on!

I couldn't find a quicker, more effective way to clean the seed and therefore did most of it manually. Unfortunately I didn't have time to clean all the seed collected.

Not really. Just more experience.

Not really

Well, actually, I've been wanting to get a high tunnel with one of the grants available for one. Unfortunately, you have to foot the $10,000 (ish) it costs to buy one up front before you can get the grant money. This is unfair to low income people, such as myself, who can't afford to do so. These grants are great for already established farms, but shouldn't they be helping those who are struggling? A high tunnel would have helped to regulate the amount of rain my crop received & provided extra heat in such a damp year & surely would have saved them from death.

No I got all the resources I needed

1)heat treat all seed 2)apply copper sooner 3)info about seed yield per plant would have been helpful 4)Info about what other growers charged for this variety would be helpful

Not sure what you mean by "changes to the process"--pedagogical on your part or procedural on my part? In any case, can't think of any.

I didn't expect it to mature as fast as it did and left it in the field too long with the wet conditions.

No

This course provided abundant resources throughout the whole season, and the availability of the mentors during the whole season to problem solve was invaluable. The support all season long made it easy to maintain what our plants needed to have a successful seed crop whether large or small.

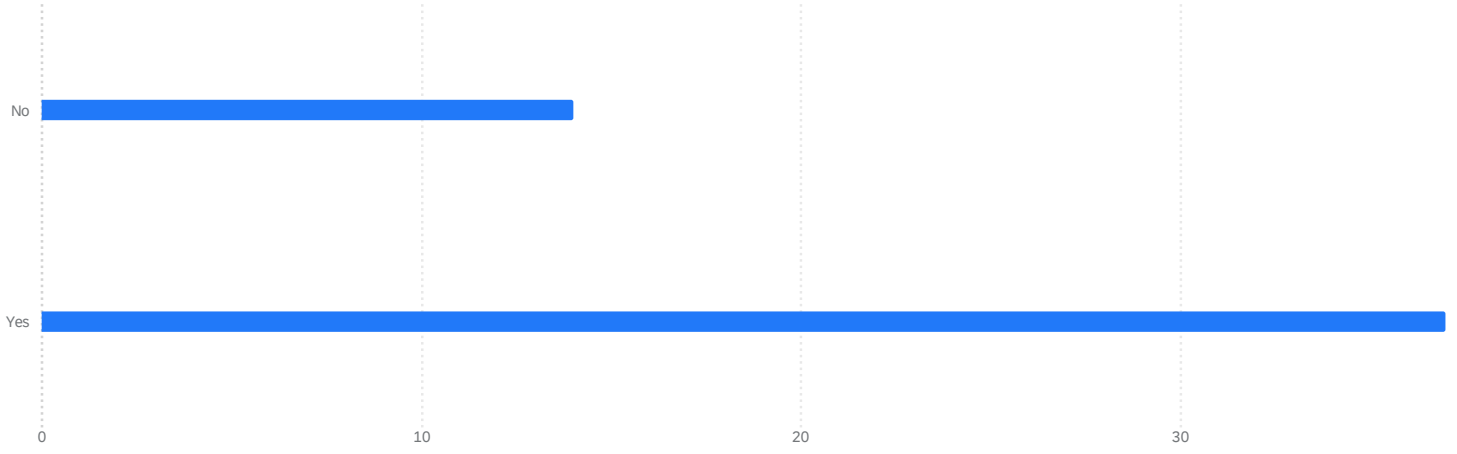
Hudson Valley Seeds assigned crop not suitable for our latitude (as per the Information they sent us later on)

I needed much more help end of season when I was trying to figure out when it was time to harvest the seed...found it more confusing than expected.

Cleaning seed needs to be more procedural and less art. We need "cookbooks"/standardized procedures to clean seed

I found the evening sessions a bit long and inconvenient during the growing season. I work a 9-5 job and have a toddler at home so this is the time I have to get into my gardens.

Did you attend the Seed Conference in February to kick off the course? 51



Did you attend the Seed Conference in February to kick off the course? 51

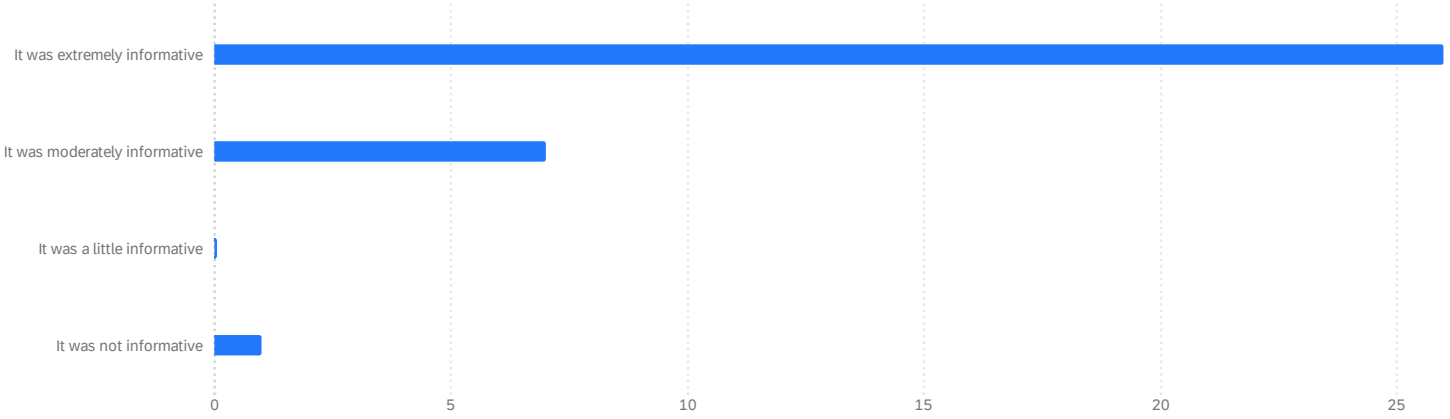
Q7 - Did you attend the Seed Conference in February to kick off the course?	Percentage	Count
No	27%	14

Q7 - Did you attend the Seed Conference in February to kick off the course?	Percentage	Count
Yes	73%	37

Did you attend the Seed Conference in February to kick off the course? 51

Did you attend the Seed Conference in February to kick off the course?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
No	1.00	1.00	1.00	14
Yes	2.00	2.00	2.00	37

The conference included a session called Human perspectives on seed, which included the following sections: § The Native perspective on seed § The Black perspective on seed in America § The European perspective on seed How much did this session help you understand the cultural aspects of seed? 34



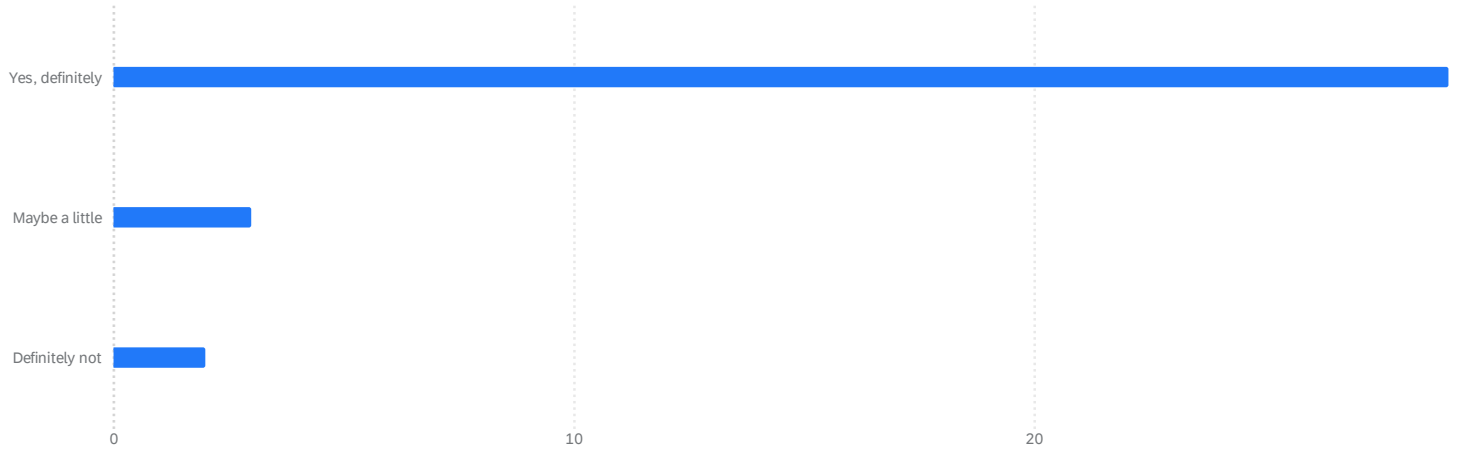
The conference included a session called Human perspectives on seed, which included the following sections: § The Native perspective on seed § The Black perspective on seed in America § The European perspective on seed How much did this session help you understand the cultural aspects of seed? 34

Q8 - The conference included a session called Human perspectives on seed, which included the following sections: § The Native perspective on seed § The Black perspective on seed in America § The European perspective on seed How much did this session help you understand the cultural aspects of seed?	Percentage	Count
It was extremely informative	76%	26
It was moderately informative	21%	7
It was a little informative	0%	0
It was not informative	3%	1

The conference included a session called Human perspectives on seed, which included the following sections: § The Native perspective on seed § The Black perspective on seed in America § The European perspective on seed How much did this session help you understand the cultural aspects of seed? 34

The conference included a session called Human perspectives on seed, which...	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
It was extremely informative	1.00	1.00	1.00	26
It was moderately informative	2.00	2.00	2.00	7
It was a little informative	-	-	-	0
It was not informative	4.00	4.00	4.00	1

Did the human perspectives on seed session help you to feel more connected to the culture of seed? 34



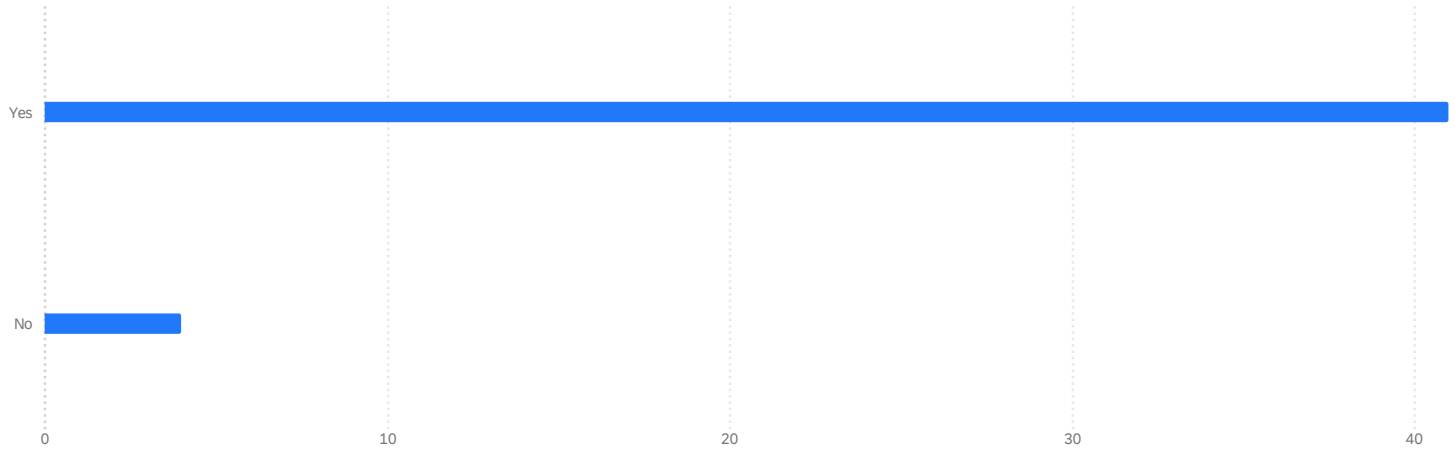
Did the human perspectives on seed session help you to feel more connected to the culture of seed? 34

Q9 - Did the human perspectives on seed session help you to feel more connected to the culture of seed?	Percentage	Count
Yes, definitely	85%	29
Maybe a little	9%	3
Definitely not	6%	2

Did the human perspectives on seed session help you to feel more connected to the culture of seed? 34

Did the human perspectives on seed session help you to feel more connected...	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Yes, definitely	1.00	1.00	1.00	29
Maybe a little	2.00	2.00	2.00	3
Definitely not	3.00	3.00	3.00	2

Did you watch recordings of or attend the majority of the live sessions? 45



Did you watch recordings of or attend the majority of the live sessions? 45

Q10 - Did you watch recordings of or attend the majority of the live sessions?	Percentage	Count
Yes	91%	41
No	9%	4

Did you watch recordings of or attend the majority of the live sessions? 45

Did you watch recordings of or attend the majority of the live sessions?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Yes	1.00	1.00	1.00	41
No	2.00	2.00	2.00	4

Please rank the live sessions in terms of how much you learned from each, with 1 being nothing and 100 being the most possible. If you didn't attend a session or don't remember, click the Not Applicable button. 42

Please rank the live sessions in terms of how much you learned from each, w...	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Session 1: Crop planning and reproductive biology	84.33	43.00	100.00	42

Please rank the live sessions in terms of how much you learned from each, w...	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Session 2: Seed production basics (spacing, watering, etc)	86.63	50.00	100.00	40
Session 3: Plant health for seed production	85.00	45.00	100.00	40
Session 4: Assessing seed maturity, harvest, and post-harvest drying	88.67	50.00	100.00	39
Session 5: Crop groups breakout session	77.50	34.00	100.00	32
Session 6: Seed cleaning and storage	88.90	48.00	100.00	39
Session 7: Seed sovereignty and intellectual property	81.03	3.00	100.00	33
Section 8: Seed economics and making a living with seed	79.59	23.00	100.00	37

A binder of consolidated documents could be helpful for reference. I'm not sure I'll log back into the seed commons, but I enjoyed using it while in the class!

I thought the course was very thorough

i think it was spot on

Covered all very well

Plans for DIY/low budget seed drying infrastructure and equipment

No

No, you covered a lot!

No

Maybe include a seed saving success story at the start of each session in the future? Just to add even more motivation

None that I can think of right now.

No

Wish we had talked more about tending traditional seeds, corn varieties/understanding impacts of hybridization and gmo and what happens when these things mix up

nope

too long ago to answer the above accurately

No

No - if anything there was more info included than I could absorb!

No

More specifics on peppers, which is what I was growing. Even after watching some videos on seed preparation, I felt like I still wasn't clear on how to separate the seeds & pulp & how long they needed to ferment. Perhaps I just didn't find the right links? Other seeds, like tomatoes went in depth & showed the full process of harvest/ferment & it just felt the peppers were lacking.

I would have enjoyed more coverage of market channels.

how to have your own seed company

Not that I can think of

No

I feel this course covered all the bases.

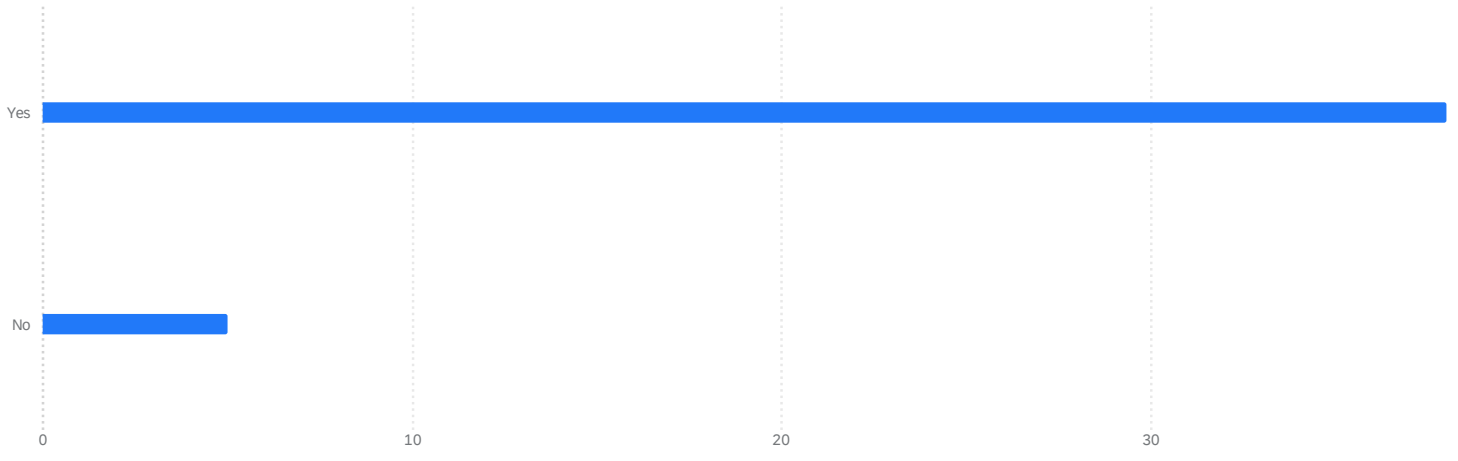
No

The question asked on the page before this...we didn't cover that yet, right? I would have appreciated it.

If we want to ramp up seed production in the Northeast, there has to be repeatable, standardized seed cleaning methods

Im not sure

Did you access the majority of the resources from the course website? 43



Did you access the majority of the resources from the course website? 43

Q13 - Did you access the majority of the resources from the course website?	Percentage	Count
Yes	88%	38
No	12%	5

Did you access the majority of the resources from the course website? 43

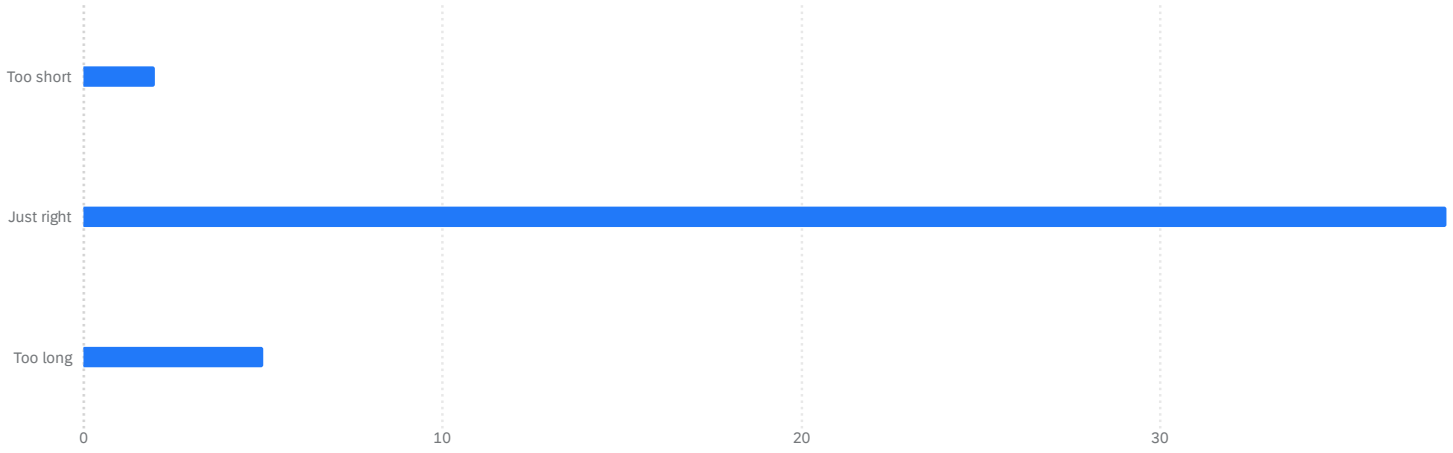
Did you access the majority of the resources from the course website?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Yes	1.00	1.00	1.00	38
No	2.00	2.00	2.00	5

Please rank the information from the course modules in terms of how much you learned from each, with 1 being nothing and 100 being the most possible.

39

Please rank the information from the course modules in terms of how much yo...	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Session 1: Crop planning and reproductive biology	83.87	46.00	100.00	39
Session 2: Seed production basics (spacing, watering, etc)	82.84	19.00	100.00	38
Session 3: Plant health for seed production	81.32	19.00	100.00	37
Session 4: Assessing seed maturity, harvest, and post-harvest drying	87.30	58.00	100.00	37
Session 5: Seed cleaning and storage	85.72	49.00	100.00	36
Session 6: Seed sovereignty and intellectual property	76.00	0.00	100.00	34
Section 7: Seed economics and making a living with seed	76.86	6.00	100.00	35

Was the length of the course in weeks too short, too long, or just right? 45



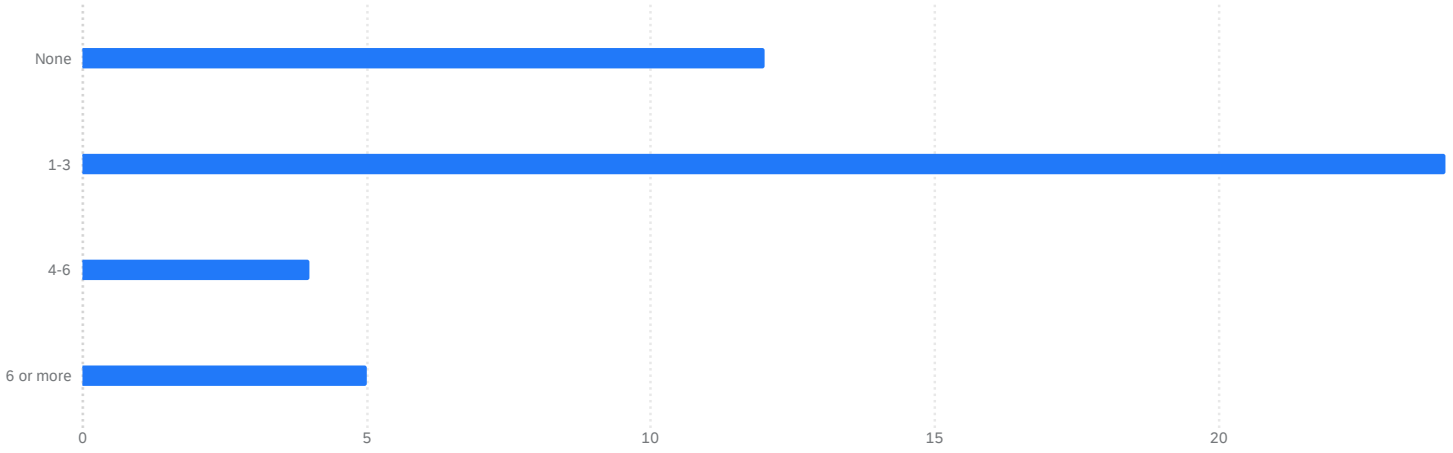
Was the length of the course in weeks too short, too long, or just right? 45

Q16 - Was the length of the course in weeks too short, too long, or just right?	Percentage	Count
Too short	4%	2
Just right	84%	38
Too long	11%	5

Was the length of the course in weeks too short, too long, or just right? 45

Was the length of the course in weeks too short, too long, or just right?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Too short	1.00	1.00	1.00	2
Just right	2.00	2.00	2.00	38
Too long	3.00	3.00	3.00	5

How many monthly group mentorship meetings did you attend? 45



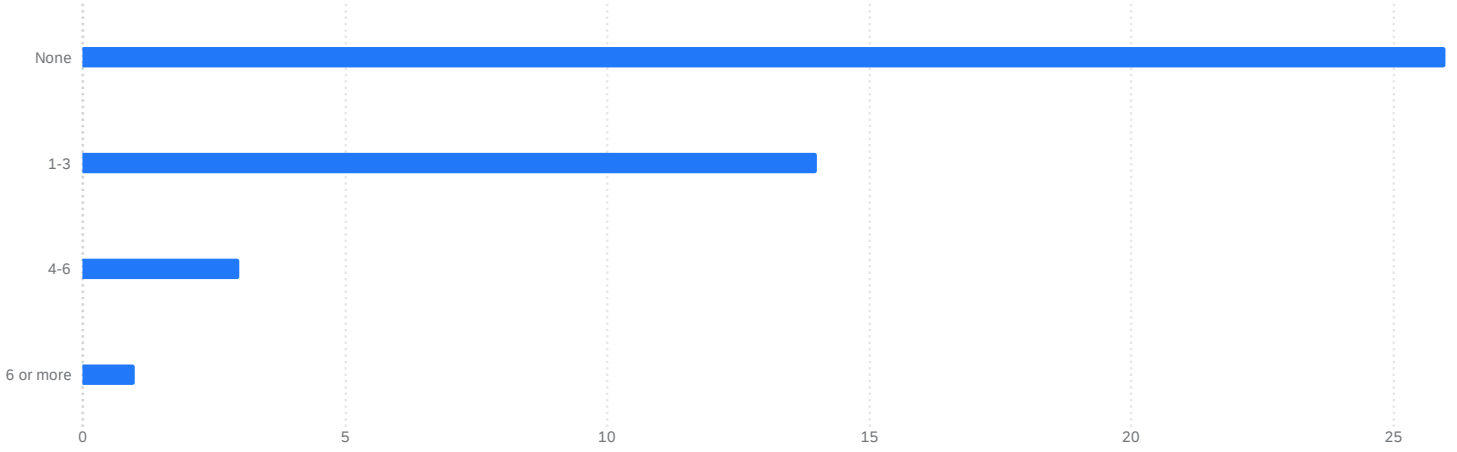
How many monthly group mentorship meetings did you attend? 45

Q17 - How many monthly group mentorship meetings did you attend?	Percentage	Count
None	27%	12
1-3	53%	24
4-6	9%	4
6 or more	11%	5

How many monthly group mentorship meetings did you attend? 45

How many monthly group mentorship meetings did you attend?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
None	4.00	4.00	4.00	12
1-3	1.00	1.00	1.00	24
4-6	2.00	2.00	2.00	4
6 or more	3.00	3.00	3.00	5

How many individual mentorship interactions (email, phone call) did you have? 44



How many individual mentorship interactions (email, phone call) did you have? 44

Q22 - How many individual mentorship interactions (email, phone call) did you have?	Percentage	Count
None	59%	26
1-3	32%	14
4-6	7%	3
6 or more	2%	1

How many individual mentorship interactions (email, phone call) did you have? 44

How many individual mentorship interactions (email, phone call) did you hav...	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
None	1.00	1.00	1.00	26
1-3	2.00	2.00	2.00	14
4-6	3.00	3.00	3.00	3
6 or more	4.00	4.00	4.00	1

How useful were your mentorship experiences, with 1 being not at all useful and 100 being the most useful possible. 39

How useful were your mentorship experiences, with 1 being not at all useful...	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Click to write Choice 1	72.62	0.00	100.00	39

Individual emails to check in throughout the season if someone was not present

I am sorry I didn't keep up with it.

All mentors were excellent, resourceful, experienced, and so importantly, themselves curious... truly felt like being in it together, and that it was welcomed to reach out when a guiding hand was needed.

In person meetups would be fun!

Establish the monthly mentorship meetings as a continuation of course sessions to maintain attendance.

Amirah was thoughtful, knowledgeable, and thorough. I was very happy to have her as a mentor.

Unable to give good input but when I did attend, appreciated the feedback from others..

The course material from OSA often felt too PNW focused - it might be nice to try and create or access more material from NE seed growers (although i know it's probably harder to find)

I didn't end up producing a seed crop in 2023, so I didn't work with a mentor.

I wish I could have taken advantage of this more! Our current farming and business situation do not allow for much time. I am glad to know I can reach out and ask mentors questions as we continue to grow and save our own seeds.

I wish I had utilized this! Some employment changes / schedule changes affected how I could particpate in the course during the season, but I tried to watch the recordings when I could.

I was unfortunately unable to connect with my mentor. I think it is hard to get responses during the growing season.

Maybe less often or one on ones scheduled halfway through

I think for the indigenous track it wouldve been helpful to have more mentors and smaller groups that were on text basis with mentors

It's always useful to have access to more experienced seed keepers.

The mentors brought an abundance of knowledge and experience, stories and support that is very much appreciated!

I did not take full advantage of the mentoring experience, mostly because I realized from taking the course that I didn't want to grow seeds for profit. I only want to grow them to share with my community and use on my farm, so I didn't feel urgency to get mentorship to help me be as efficient and profitable as possible.

I only attended one, and it was in late autumn. I just didn't have many questions and mostly didn't have the time to attend a zoom call during the growing season.

Wish I had reached out to mentors more than just a quick introduction. Hopefully I'll do just that in 2024. Not sure why I didn't, so I am not blaming you all. Just a note to myself. Perhaps a direct email check in once in a while for those of us who sit on a fence about "bothering" the mentors?

Less group meetings and more advice by email

I feel incredibly lucky to have had such great mentors. Heron was a huge source of knowledge, and he articulates it really well.

Good to be able to get the experience of seed growers

I feel like I needed to make more time on my end so I could have taken more advantage of the mentors as a resource throughout the season.

Keep doing what you did for 2023. Lots of video content for tutorials was super helpful, and the accessibility of the mentors to troubleshoot during the growing season was very helpful.

Heron is AMAZING!!!!

I received the information I needed

I like the opportunity to experience both tracks of learning

The mentors were knowlegable.

:(

I was there at the beginning of the year and that was great! I feel if I had not changed farms I would have been successful

The course was fantastic and I'm sorry I didn't keep up with the mentorship meetings I bet they would have been worthwhile

I was very engaged with the process up until about mid April. Being a father of a 17 month year old, working 3 different jobs, and trying to grow a farm business made it very difficult for me to stay engaged as the season got going.

exceptional class -particularly in being such a unique combination of building both technical knowledge and community. So much gratitude for all of you.

Really grateful for the course. I learned a lot and am hoping to try growing other seeds in the future. Thanks so much!

It was a great course. My biggest challenge in completing the course at the end was a major life event.

I wish my season on the farm was not so all-consuming. Once it began in earnest I had little time to expend on the seed saving side of things.

Unfortunately we were too busy on the farm to take advantage of it..

thank you so much for this opportunity, again! i wish i had spent more time in the mentorship sessions but the summer was so busy and got away from me ... i hope to stay connected to this community as Brooke and I mature as seed growers!

You all are wonderful teachers and people, thank you!

Seemed like a great program, unfortunately I couldn't take advantage of it as we moved our whole operation to a new location and had to build all new infrastructure / systems

I did attend virtually the Seed Conference. I did begin with the modules. Unfortunately I had health issues and couldn't complete the modules. But the information presented was very helpful. The seed saving community is very friendly and supportive.

This class opened my eyes to how much I value seeds. I feel like I gained a new appreciation for each step in the growing process and my relationship with seeds, transplants and harvest continued to deepen and expand.

This was a really wonderful course! You all did an amazing job putting it together and I found it greatly valauble and learned so much. I am saddened that my shift in employment changed a bit of how I could particpate in seed saving/this course this year, but this course was seriously great!

Thank you

I learned a LOT in doing this. I am gratefull for the support in begining growing seed crops with confidence

Grateful for the experience!!

I never was able to log in to watch the recordings or view materials. I really appreciated the seed contract with fedco, I thought that was an amazing offering from the course.

I loved this course and am so glad you're offering it again. I would love to see it continue to be a resource to potential seed producers after this grant has ended, and if you ever want to talk about options for that please let me know!

The course was well designed and very thorough and I enjoyed the experience immensely. The experience did lead me to the realization that while I enjoy collecting seed on a small scale for myself, I do not see myself producing seed crops for sale to a supplier in the near future (it's simply too large an undertaking!).

No

Excited to try again in 2024!

we were moving the farm, so I didn't end up participating fully. but I still learned a lot and managed to grow seeds!

It was a very good course and esp. enjoyed the videos produced by OSA. Great curriculum. Good addition to include plant health and production as this was missing in the OSA course

The course instructors were very inspirational. Thank you for doing such good work in the world.

Outstanding job by all presenters ... appreciated that they offered different perspectives and even different approaches to saving the same seed.

The 2 canceled/rescheduled classes in the beginning did make the course a little too long (but maybe unavoidable)

Thought it was a great class

I give you all the highest marks and appreciation for all that you shared with up and coming seed growers.

Seed production is still slightly a mystery to me....how does anyone make (or at least not lose) money at this? I really wanted to attend a workshop to see the seed cleaning equip but found the dates and locations too difficult. I also needed the dates much sooner in order to plan. So I hope next year I could join!!

Seed cleaning: still the most frustrating part of seed work

I would recommend this course to others

I've grown seeds on a hobby scale before. After this course I don't feel like commercial seed growing is a financially viable enterprise for a vegetable farmer in the Northeast.

:)