

**Organic – Conservation Cross Training**  
**June 8-11, 2009 Washington State University; Pullman, WA**  
**EVALUATION FORM - AGGREGATE REPORT**

1. Which of the following best describes your background and expertise:

- ☐ a resource conservation professional - 10
- ☐ an organic agriculture professional - 5

**Total = 15 Evaluations (out of 15 participants)**

2. How satisfied were you overall with the Organic-Conservation Cross Training?

<b>Audience</b>	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Resource Conservation				6	4
Organic				2	3
<b>Combined total</b>				<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>

3. Did you feel the QUANTITY of information presented was appropriate for a multi-day training session?

<b>Audience</b>	No	Somewhat	Yes
Resource Conservation		2	8
Organic		1	4
<b>Combined total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>

4. Regarding QUANTITY of information: If too little, what do you suggest adding? If too much, what do you suggest leaving out?

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- Some NRCS & Organic web sites would have been helpful.
- OK
- I need to know more about organic animal production.
- Quantity was good.
- Leave out soils, ADD more weed research.

Organic Professionals' responses:

- NRCS info during Tuesday was lots! Maybe break it up with other than power point presentation to convey the material.
- Shorten Wednesday, eliminate one of the half days.

5. Did you feel the QUALITY of information presented was appropriate for a multi-day training session?

<b>Audience</b>	No	Somewhat	Yes
Resource Conservation			9
Organic		1	4
<b>Combined total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>

Tough session to target knowledge levels. *(additional comment from resource conservation prof)*

6. What did you like best about the cross-training session?

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- Opportunity to find out the organic certification standards & how they relate to NRCS programs & application to programs.
- Seeing perspectives of the organic side & how they viewed conservation. Excellent presentations by both organic producers.
- Getting a much better understanding of the certification process. Rubbing shoulders with certifiers.
- Actual producer commentary & interaction.
- Group discussions where experiences were exchanged.
- The evening session with the producer panel.
- Field visits
- I liked knowing more about how organic certifiers operate.
- The field portion at the Boyd Farm.
- Last morning weed presentation (Research results good).

Organic Professionals' responses:

- Discussions with conservation professionals & local producers.
- The interaction with other professionals in the field.
- Encouraged the exchange between participants, peer to peer learning.
- Producer panel, meeting people w/different backgrounds.

7. How could this cross-training session be improved?

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- Need to show more equipment that is used on a large scale farm. Field day would be better at a larger scale farm.
- Brainstorming between NRCS – Organic certifiers and especially the organic growers.
- Have a panel member serve as the host farm for the training sessions.
- More successful producer presenters.
- Would have been nice to actually visit a real farm that was doing organic farming.

Organic Professionals' responses:

- On farm tours at “real” farms would have been better.
- More emphasis on organic.

8. The following sections/activities sought to increase your understanding of the similarities, differences and connections between organic agriculture and resource conservation. How would you rate the quality of each section/activity?

	Poor	Weak	Average	Good	Excellent
Organic regional trends (Monday evening)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs		1	2	3	0
Organic Profs		<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Combined total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
Speaker video and discussion (Monday evening)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs			2	4	
Organic Profs			<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	
<b>Combined total</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	
Background, process, & standards: NRCS <i>or</i> Organic (Tuesday morning)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs			3	5	2
Organic Profs			<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Combined total</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
Host farm visit and assessment (Tuesday afternoon)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs			4	4	2
Organic Profs			<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Combined total</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
Soil quality indicators (Wednesday morning)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs		1	4	3	2
Organic Profs		<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
<b>Combined total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Farm management scenarios (Wed. morning & afternoon)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs			3	4	3
Organic Profs			<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Combined total</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
Producer panel (Wednesday evening)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs				3	7
Organic Profs				<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
<b>Combined total</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

	Poor	Weak	Average	Good	Excellent
Organic weed management strategies (Thursday morning)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs			1	5	4
Organic Profs			0	2	3
<b>Combined total</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
Take home strategies (Thursday morning)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs			1	6	1
Organic Profs				1	2
<b>Combined total</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>

9. After participating in this training session, are you likely to apply new information / resources you acquired in the professional services you offer to farm operations?

<b>Audience</b>	Never	Not likely	Likely	Definitely
Resource Conservation			4	6
Organic			0	5
<b>Combined total</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

10. Please feel free to share any additional comments in the space below:

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- Recommend keeping value judgments to minimum and maintaining “global” statements to a minimum (i.e. organic = good; nonorganic = bad).
- The farmer panel was very informative. Might consider expanding that or do in conjunction w/farm visit.
- Overall very informative – I enjoyed the format of the session of utilizing the peer-to-peer exchange of information.
- It would have been nice to tour an existing certified organic working farm, but understand logistics.
- More room where sound is better...fans too loud.
- Moderated discussions were very beneficial.

Organic Professionals' responses:

- Great job, thank you! It would have been great if the ratio of organic/NRCS people was more balanced. Wednesday was a little too long & unstructured. 3 days instead of 4 would have been nice. Wish the farm we visited was a better example of organic management. Would have been good to get the weed talk before we went to the farm.
- Balance between organic & NRCS professionals is important.