

Organic – Conservation Cross Training
August 3 - 6, 2009; Pasco, 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 - 7

Total = 17 Evaluations (out of 17 participants)

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

Audience	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Resource Conservation				4	6
Organic			1	2	4
Combined total			1	6	10

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

Audience	No	Somewhat	Yes
Resource Conservation		1	9
Organic		1	6
Combined total		2	15

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:

- About right.
- More organic methods & option examples. More examples of cross over between conventional & organic.
- Too little: maybe less about actual controls of IPM, nutrient mgmt., but how to PLAN & what tools to use to develop a plan/document/monitor.
- Good balance. The incorporation of conservation professionals & organic professionals is great.
- Very good quantity.

Organic Professionals' responses:

- Too much time on organic production trends. More detail & time on NRCS RMS plan (assessing affects of practices).
- I especially liked having researcher's presentations maybe add more of them.
- The days were a bit long. The discussions amongst the tables did help to break things up.
- RUSLE (Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation)

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

Audience	No	Somewhat	Yes
Resource Conservation		1	9
Organic			7
Combined total		1	16

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

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- Being able to mingle with other professionals from the organic sector.
- Producers panel. Paul Jepson presentation.
- Chris is a great facilitator. It took the mystery out of "organic." How you made the groups up was great. Explained basics & then looked onsite & producer interaction great.
- Sharing with others.
- Producer panel, speakers on organic farming.
- Orchard tour.
- The interaction with the organic folks & the talks/presentations by the organic growers.
- Interacting with organic professionals; farm tour was great. Interacting with organic inspectors; Thursday a.m. IPM was great.
- Conversation & exchange with organic professionals
- Learning the variables of organic operations & disproving myths about it. Going to the orchard.

Organic Professionals' responses:

- Learning about the similarities between the objectives of NRCS and NOP rules. Soil analysis techniques.
- Field work, producer panel, IPM presentation.
- The guest speakers were excellent; very informative.
- IPM discussion.
- Farmers talks, IPM, farm visits.
- Farm visits, producer panels & pest management.
- Conversations with NRCS.

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

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- Get a resource soil scientist on the cadre. There are those that are also into organics (i.e. Dave Trochlell, OR NRCS). Add Xerces Society speaker.
- More on economics of organics vs. conventional. More on energy budgets (carbon inputs, emissions, fuel).
- Field sessions, especially 2nd day. Use an NRCS Resource Soil Scientist for the first segment, then allow an organic inspector some time to explain what they look for; continue this theme with the break out themes.
- A little more in depth soils presentation.
- More scenario/problem solving practice.
- Thought there was a lack of NRCS tool, planning, expertise provided to organic folks to assist them with seeing how NRCS could help them. Include NRCS exports to deliver tool & planning requirements NOT just gross generalizations. Need an hour on nutrient assessment, budgeting, analysis.
- Possibly visit more than one orchard/farm.

Organic Professionals' responses:

- More details on assessing soil nutrient balance.
- Wine with last night's dinner.
- I think a mock organic audit and NRCS evaluation or plan development would give a better idea of what each other does on a daily basis.
- More of the above would be better but for the time we had, it was balanced.

- Would like to see the actual forms NRCS uses to evaluate growers. Want to know if organic can use NRCS evaluations across the board. If NRCS approves growers soil conservation practices can organic also approve?

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

	Poor	Weak	Average	Good	Excellent
Integrated Plant Protection Strategies (Thursday morning)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs					8
Organic Profs					7
Combined total					15
Take home strategies (Thursday morning)	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
Resource Conservation Profs			2	5	1
Organic Profs			0	3	2
Combined total			2	8	3

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?

Audience	Never	Not likely	Likely	Definitely
Resource Conservation			4	4
Organic			1	6
Combined total			5	10

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

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- Great mix of participants. Great info exchange.
- Well organized event, good job!
- 12 hour days are a little long. I'd rather stay an extra day.
- RUSLE presentation was far from complete or accurate in the descriptions of each factor & how inspectors might use it. Soil quality indicator presentation needs to talk about "what does it mean?" – incomplete. Need additional detail concerning NRCS planning & tools & then go through details of organic plan; correlate how the two can be connected, so one plan meets requirements of the other.