



Final Report

2024 Organic weed control
in vegetables
Athens, Wisconsin

October 27, 2024

Date: September 19, 2024

Location: Athens, WI

Format: In Person Workshop

Planning Committee:

- Sam Oswald Tilton
- Mallory Krieger
- Amanda Gullett
- Stephen Riggins
- Marbleseed
- Cattail Organics

Attendance:

- Registrants: 15
- Planning Committee + Speakers: 2

Total Number of Attendees:

- n = 17

Evaluation Response Rate out of 15 evaluations:

- Pre-Evaluation, n = 15 : 100%
- Post-Evaluation, n = 15 : 100%
- Note - Demographic information was collected post event and 4 people responded.

Summary

- We partnered with regional organic non-profit Marbleseed. Their role was to drive registration of historically underserved farmers.
- The confidence of all attendees increased for every topic in response to the event
- After the event, all participants knew where to find information about given topics in organic agriculture.
- 100% of participants learned things that they planned to apply to their farm or advising
 - 1.5 inch weed control
 - Being more strategic when/how to weed
 - Cover crops, organic pollinator

- Everything
- NRCS programs
- Practical skills shown in weed management
- Soil / identification
- Tillage styles
- Tillmor
- Weed ecology
- Participants were half farmers, ¼ advisors, and ¼ ag suppliers.

What Went Well

- Competent host farmer very experienced in the topic
- Well-planned event based on past successful events
- Many tools for participants to see and try
- Farm tour gave participants a big-picture context of weed management
- Demo plots and hands-on instruction was very popular - participants could try tools or see them run in different conditions.
- Several ag advisors from UW-extension and NRCS learned a lot and said it was worth their long drives.

What Didn't Go Well

- The partnership with Marbleseed

Ideas for the Future

- This has been a popular training for the past 3 years that is gaining a reputation - continue running it.

Evaluations Report

Background

The Organic Agronomy Training Service (OATS) conducted a one day, in-person training workshop on the topic of Organic weed control in vegetables on September 19, 2024. The event aimed to increase the confidence and ability of agronomists, crop consultants, extension agents, and technical service providers to serve the technical production needs of transitioning and certified organic grain farmers.

The training format consisted of a farm tour following introductions, three 30 minute presentations on various topics, each delivered by different content area experts. Next, there was 45 minutes dedicated to hands-on time to try tools. Concluding with a snack and closing remarks.

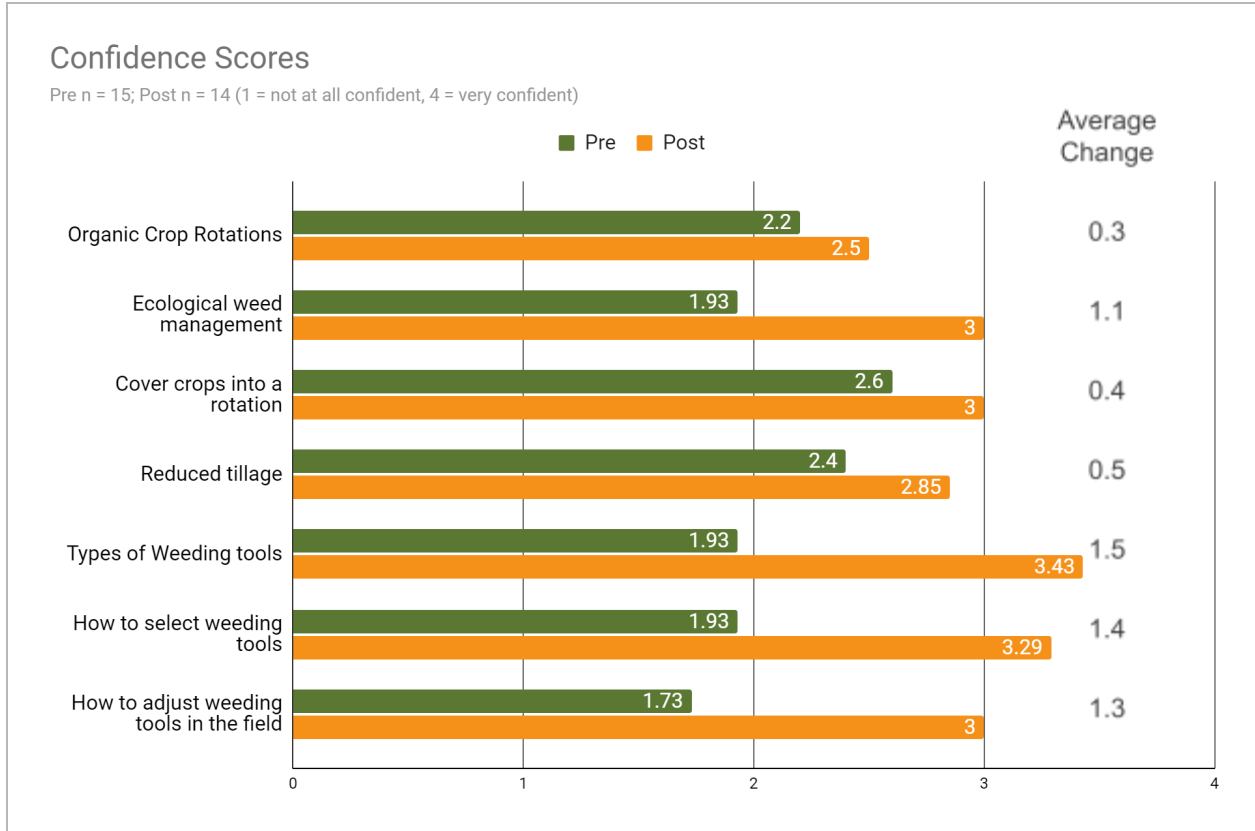
Methods

At this event, all training participants were invited to complete a paper evaluation at the start of the training. They rated their confidence in providing advice on a list of topics to a paying client and finding reliable information on organic production methods. They also answered a series of demographic questions.

At the close of the training, each participant was asked to complete a paper evaluation asking them to rate their confidence on the same topics after completing the training. The post evaluation also asked participants to rate the quality of each presentation and a set of questions about their interest in future training and other topics.

Change

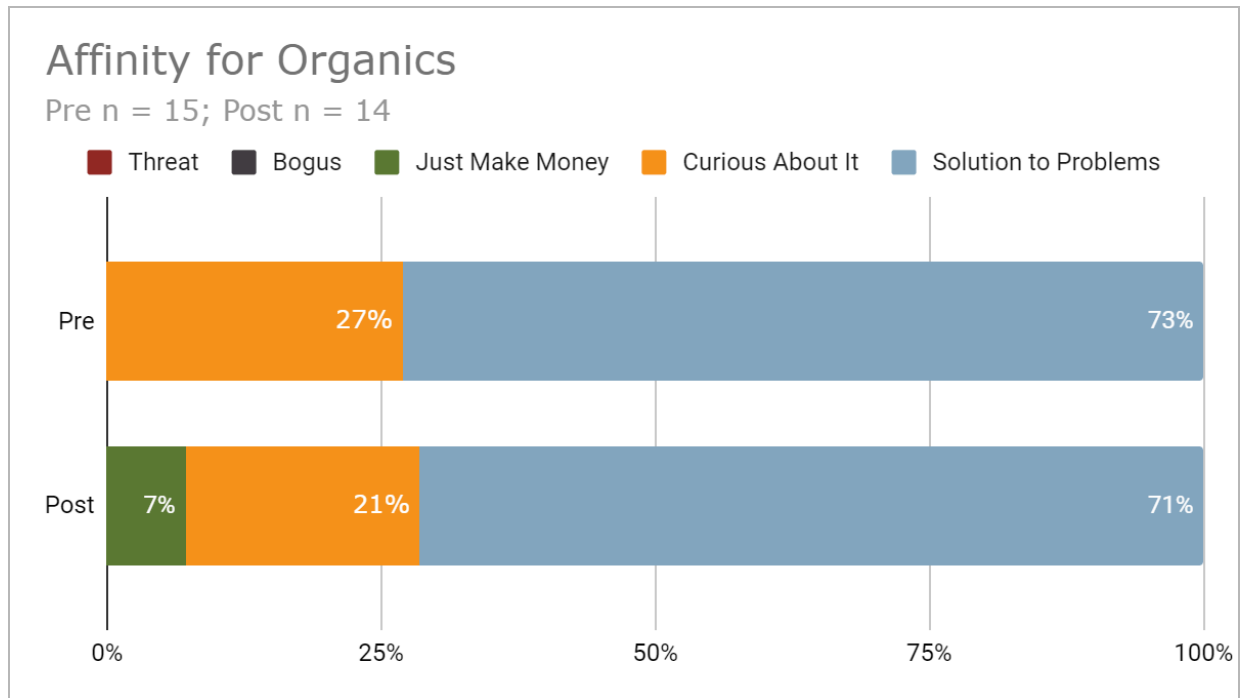
“How confident are you with providing advice on the topic of this session to a client?”: Pre-workshop/post-workshop evaluation (4-point scale; 1 = not at all confident and 4 = very confident)



“Mark the phrase that most closely fits your opinion of organics.”:

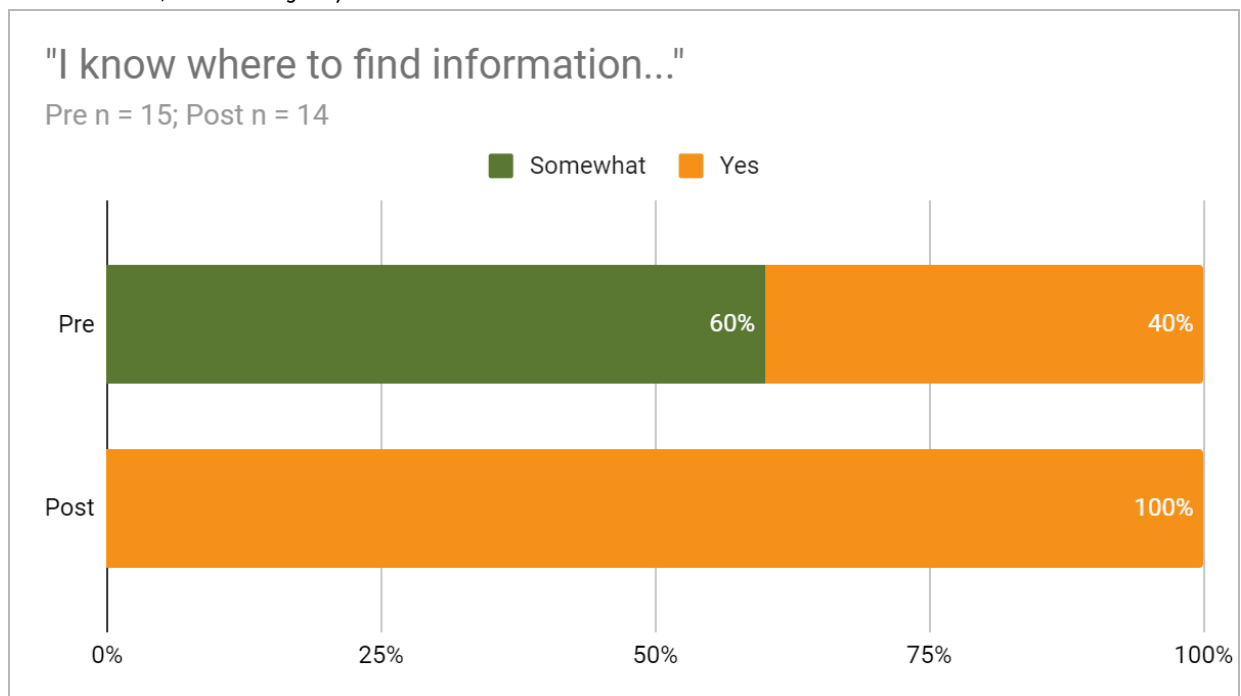
pre-workshop/post-workshop evaluation

- *Organic is a solution to many of the problems facing agriculture*
- *Organic is bogus, but I feel pressured to learn about it*
- *Organic is a means to make money*
- *Organic is gaining momentum and I am curious about it*
- *Organic is a threat to my livelihood*



“I know where to find the information that I need about a given question or topic

in organics.”: Pre-workshop/post-workshop evaluation (3-point scale; 0 = no, 1 = somewhat, and 2 = yes)



Plans to apply information from the training in farm operation or ag business/organization?": Post-workshop evaluation (Options: No, Unsure, and Yes)
(n = 12)

Yes = 100%

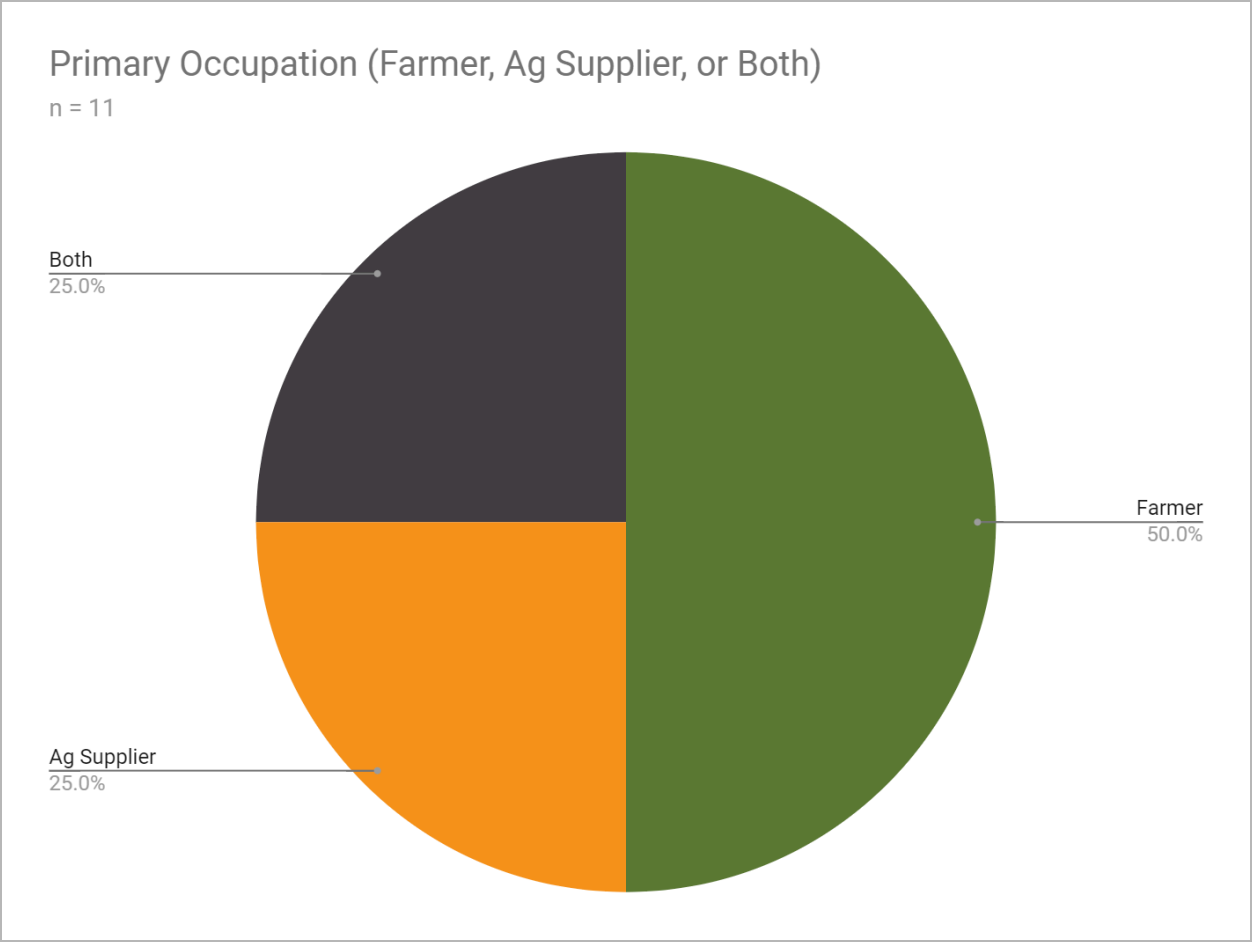
No = 0%

If yes, what?

- 1.5 inch weed control
- Being more strategic when/how to weed
- Cover crops, organic pollinator
- Everything
- NRCS programs
- Practical skills shown in weed management
- Soil / identification
- Tillage styles
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- Weed ecology

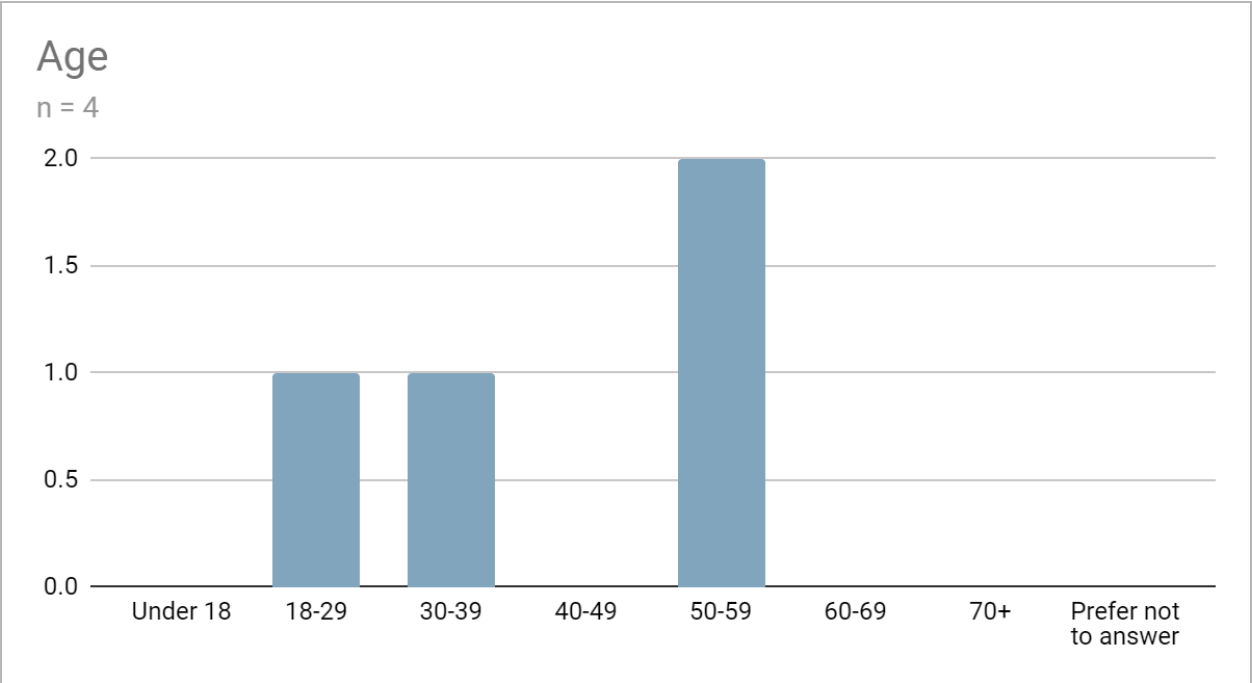
Professional Experience

Primary occupation: pre-workshop evaluation

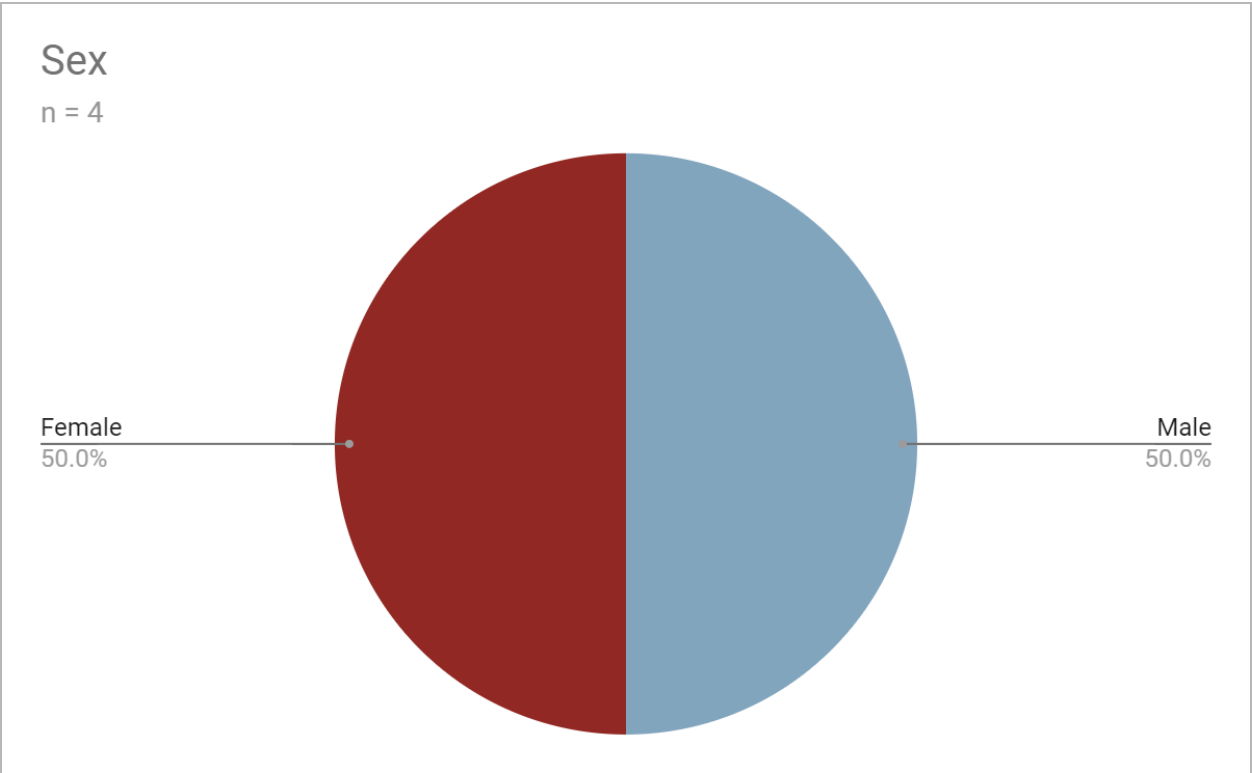


Demographics (n=4)

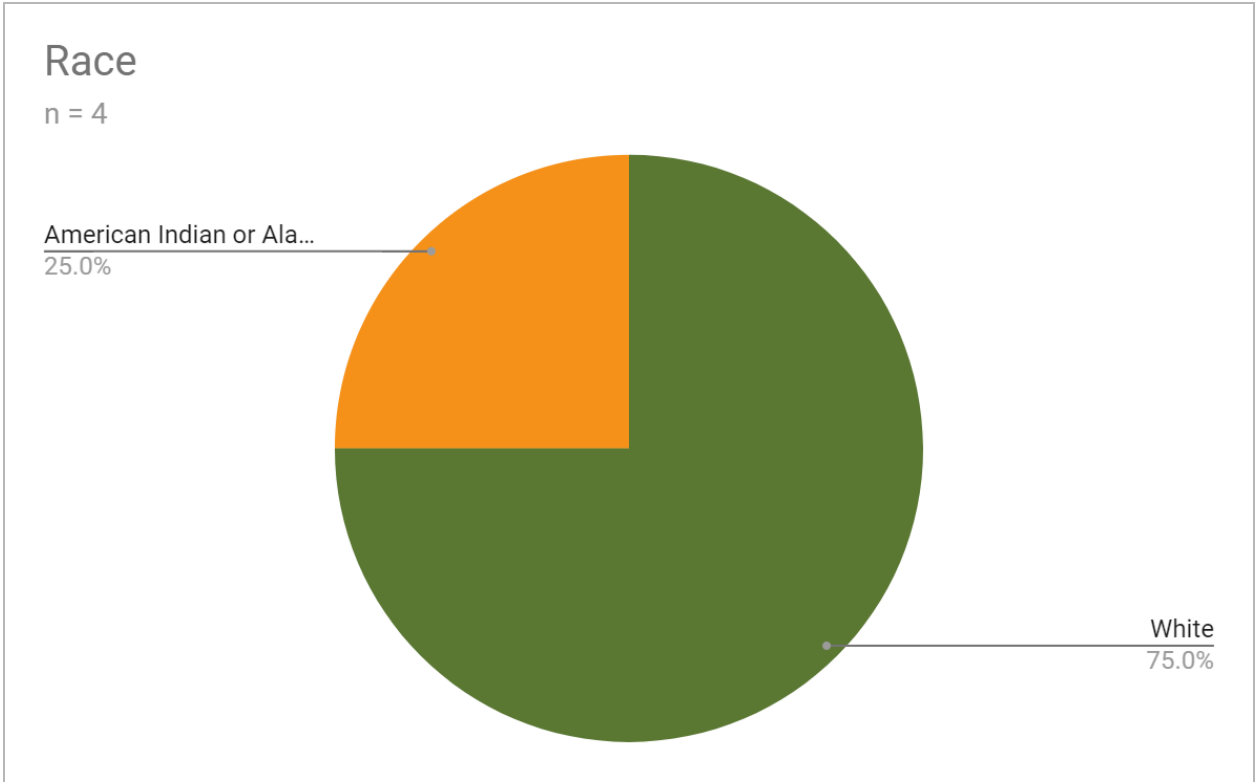
Age: post-workshop evaluation



Sex: post-workshop evaluation

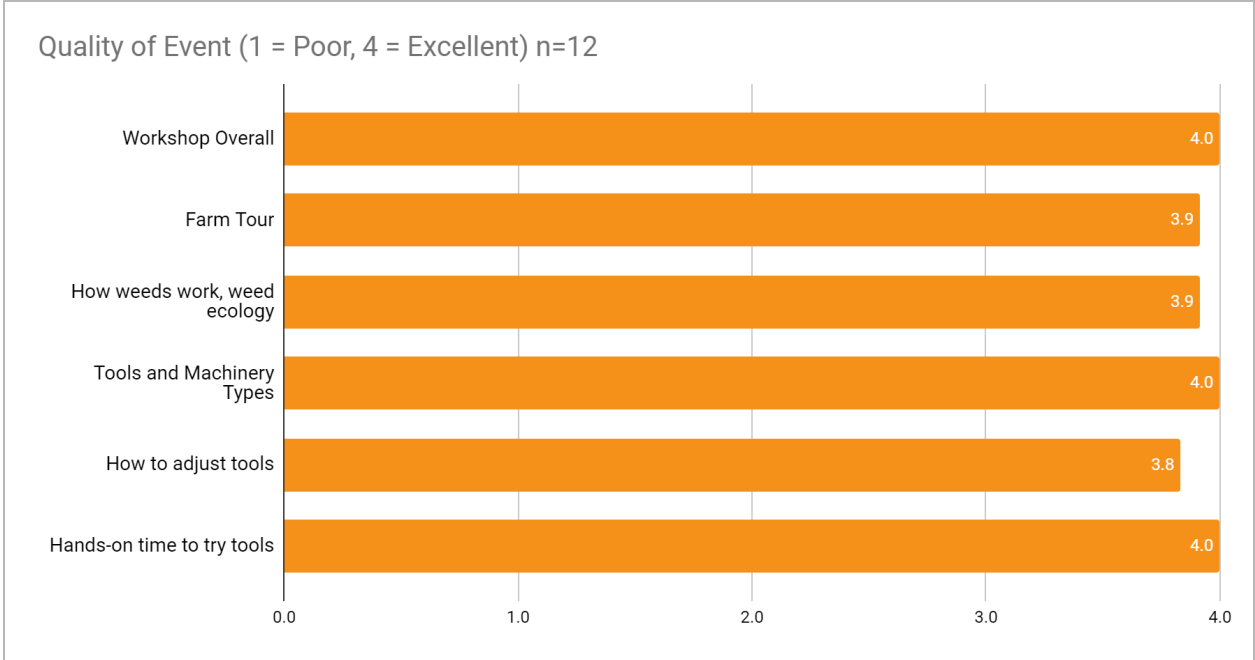


Race: post-workshop evaluation



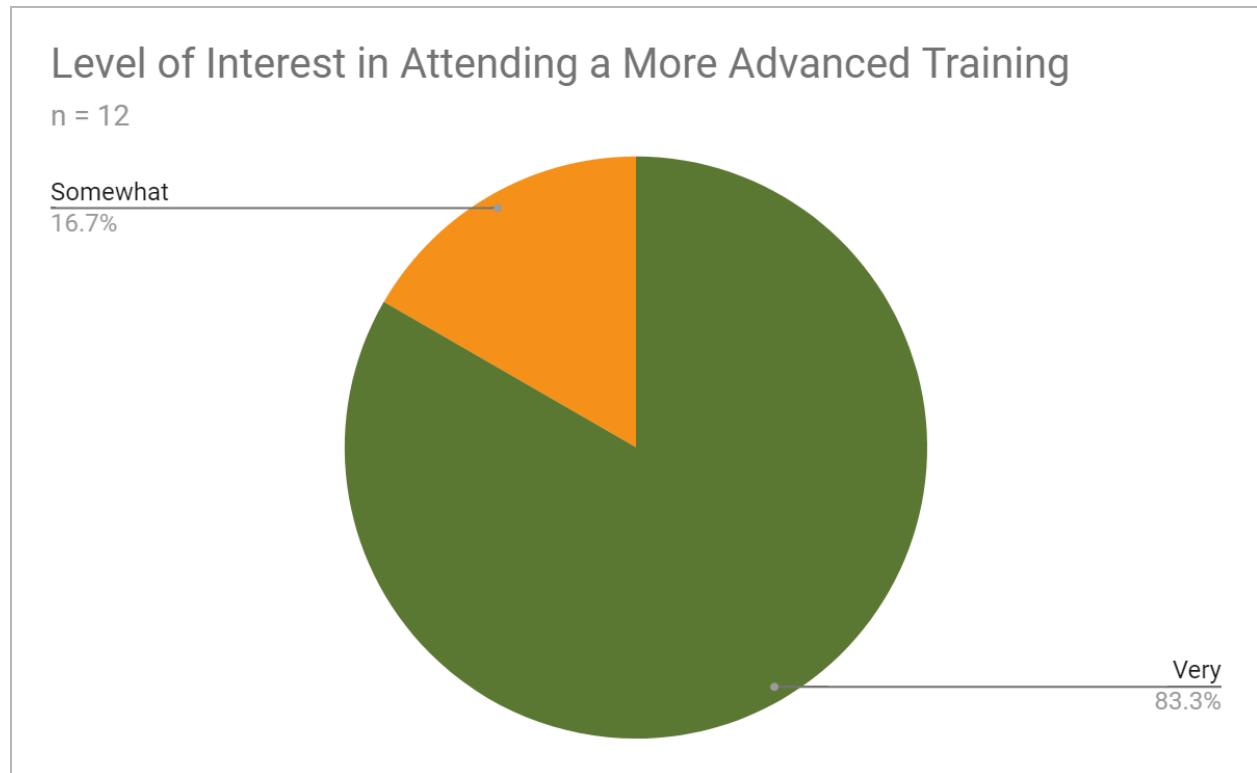
Experience at the Training

Quality of the following: Post-workshop evaluation (4-point scale; 1 = poor and 4 = excellent)



Level of interest in attending a similar workshop that is more advanced:

Post-workshop evaluation



List of topic desired for future training (as written): post-workshop evaluation

- Cover cropping, urban growing
- Crop rotation, production
- Growing, weeding, marketing
- Misc. farming practices
- Org crop rotations, org forestry
- Soil
- Tillage & soil structure
- Tunnel making

List of ways training could be improved (as written): post-workshop evaluation

- All good
- Earlier in the day
- Excellent job
- More on grants & Finances

Anything other comments (as written): post-workshop evaluation

- I thank Kat & Logan and everyone for putting this on!
- Sam, Kat, Logan were great
- Thank you & most of all thanks to God for all we have-soil, plants, everything we have comes from God
- Thanks so much! Genuinely learned everything I'd hoped to
- This was a wonderful training!
- Was nice meeting everyone

Stories

- Ann Kowenstrot, the new Diversified Vegetable Specialist for UW-Extension, drove from 4 hours away for the training. She said the event gave her exactly what she wanted to learn about organic weed management, and that she appreciated the topics, quality of instruction, and hands-on demos.

Testimonials

Photos







