



**Final Report**  
2024 Effective Weed  
Management in Row Crops  
El Paso, Illinois

August 29, 2024

**Date: July 18, 2024**

**Location: El Paso, IL**

**Format: In Person Workshop**

**Planning Committee:**

- Sam Oswald Tilton
- Mallory Krieger
- Amanda Gullett
- Stephen Riggins
- University of Illinois Extension
- The Land Connection
- Krug Family Farms

**Attendance:**

- Registrants + Sponsors: 50
- Planning Committee + Speakers: 5

Total Number of Attendees:

- n = 55

Evaluation Response Rate out of 50 evaluations:

- Pre-Evaluation, n = 29 : 58%
- Post-Evaluation, n = 27 : 54%

**Summary**

- All participants gained confidence in giving advice for all topics covered at the training.
- The percentage of participants who knew where to find information about a given question or topic in organics increased from 21% to 76% in response to the training.
- 90% of participants planned to apply information they learned at the training to their farm or advising.
  - All info practical and good to pass on to producers
  - Answer questions producers have
  - In field and in programming
  - Increased crop rotation options

- Looking at other tillage implements.
- NRCS Programs
- Process - management techniques
- Process for organic certification
- Sorghum Sudan grass for Canada thistle
- Weed control strategies
- Weed management (X2)

### *What Went Well*

- Local partner (Mallory) with strong promo connections.
- Outreach to NRCS and Extension was successful.
- Farm host was organized and highly engaged. Content delivered was high quality.
- Hosting a classroom in a farm shop added nice authenticity.

### *What Didn't Go Well*

- The morning was too short. Could have started a full hour earlier and had more time for deeper discussions.

### *Ideas for the Future*

- Increase time for unstructured morning discussion/meet and greet

## Evaluations Report

### *Background*

The Organic Agronomy Training Service (OATS) conducted a one day, in-person training workshop on the topic of Effective Weed Management in Row Crops on July 18, 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 three 30 to 45 minute presentations on various topics, each delivered by different content area experts. After lunch, a farm tour was conducted. The training ended with a farmer panel. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) were available for certified crop advisors.

### *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.

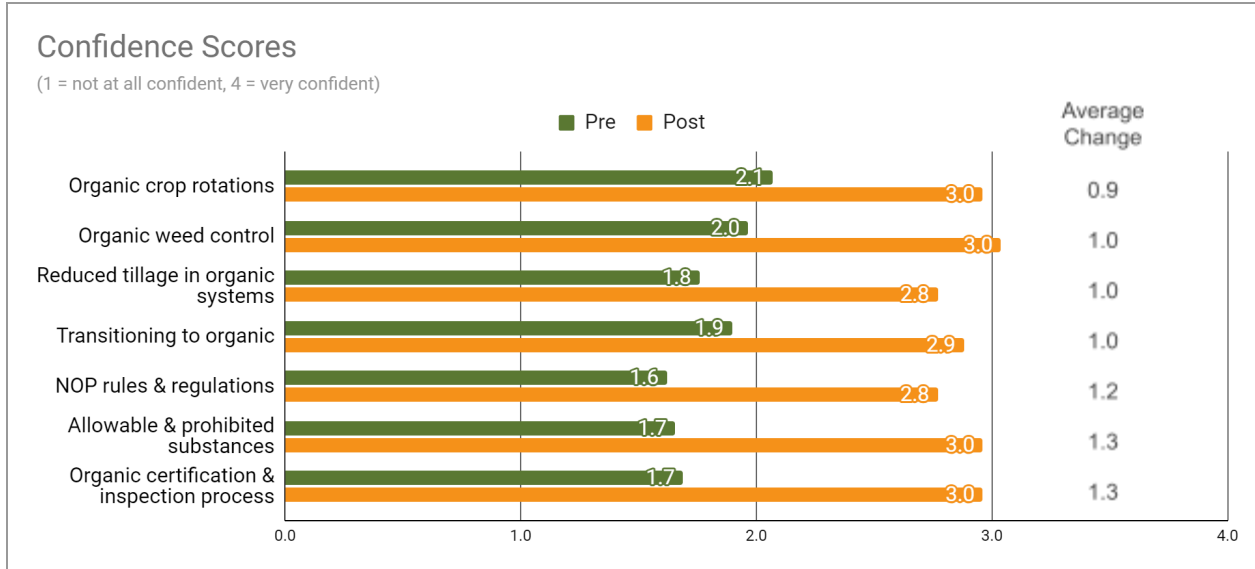
At the close of the training, each participant was asked to complete a paper evaluation asking them to rate their confidence on the same topics after completing the training. The post evaluation also asked participants to rate the quality of each

presentation and a set of questions about their interest in future trainings 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)

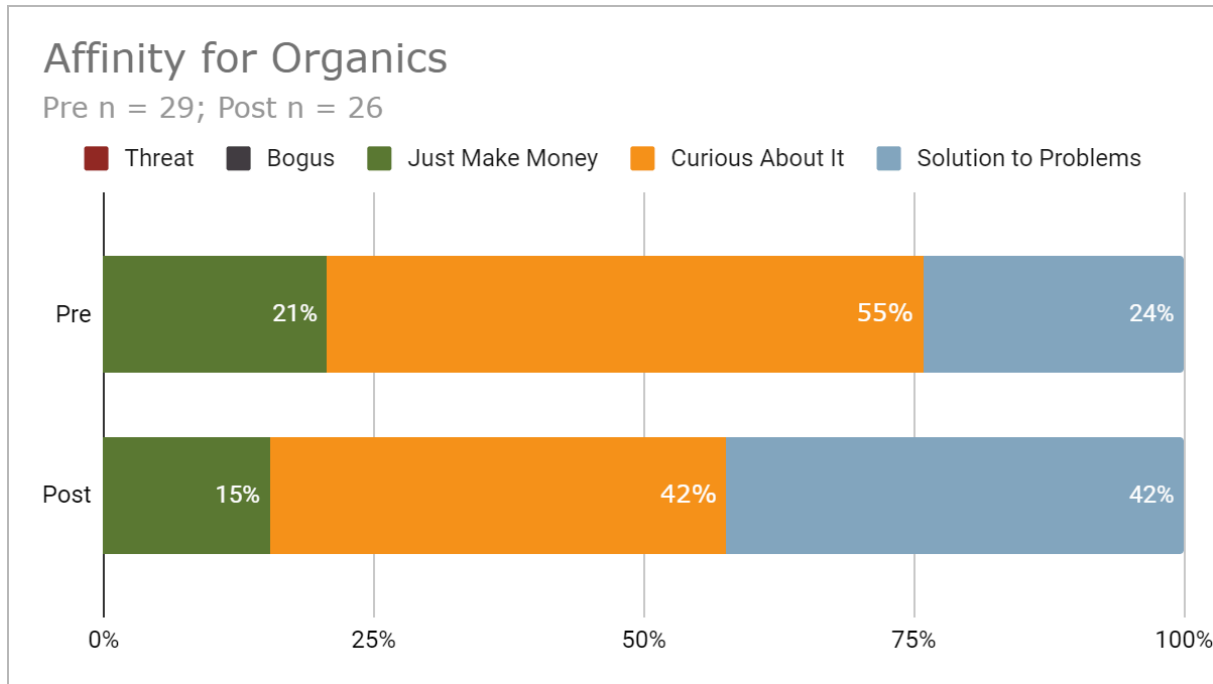
Pre: n = 29; Post: n = 26



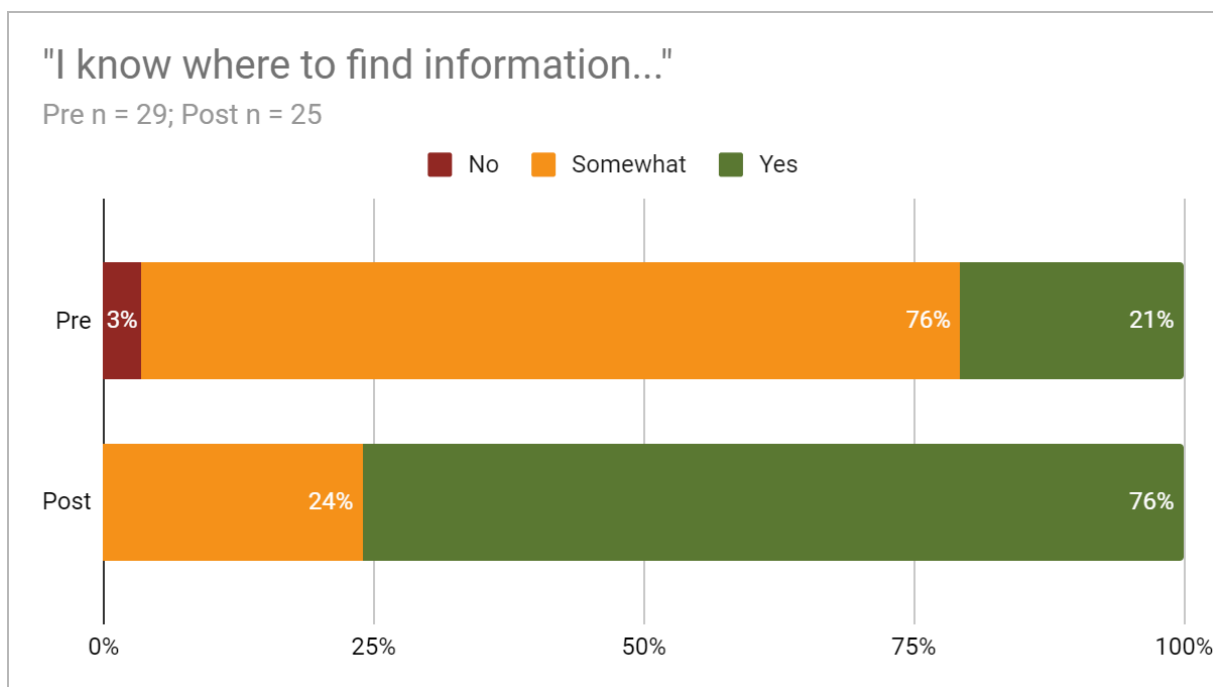
**“Mark the phrase that most closely fits your opinion of organics.”:**

pre-workshop/post-workshop evaluation

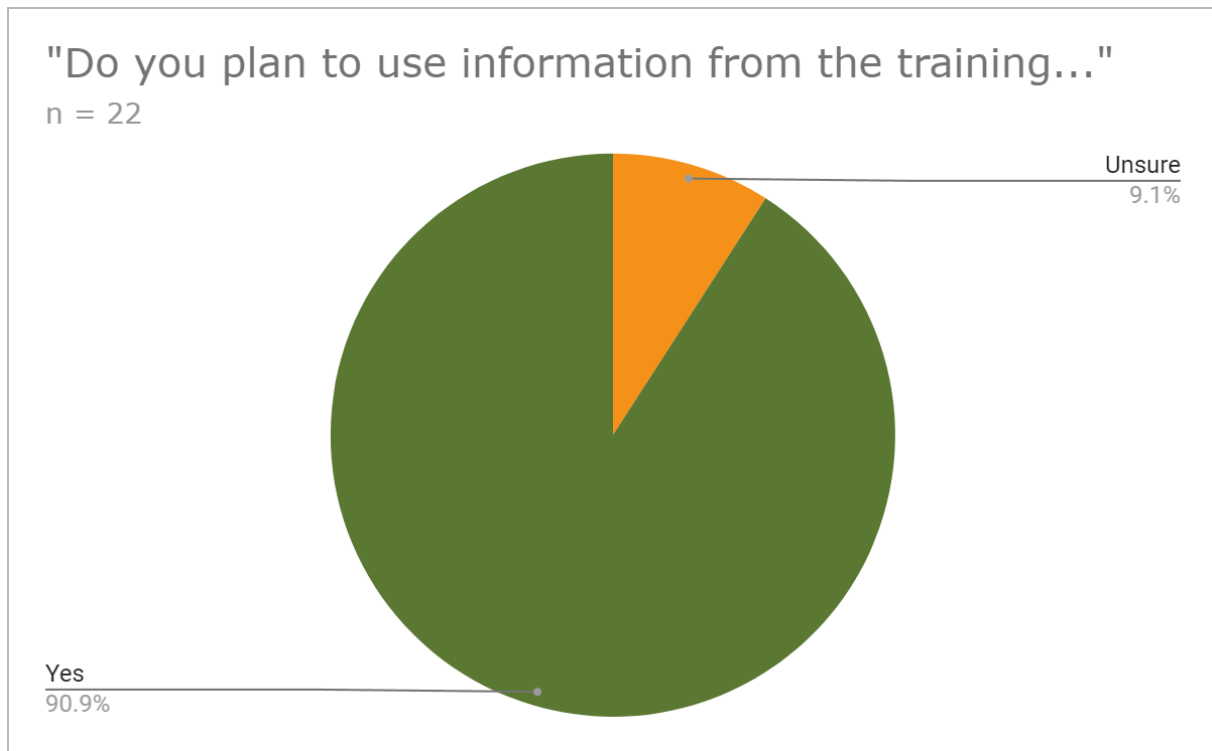
- *Organic is a solution to many of the problems facing agriculture*
- *Organic is bogus, but I feel pressured to learn about it*
- *Organic is a means to make money*
- *Organic is gaining momentum and I am curious about it*
- *Organic is a threat to my livelihood*



**“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)

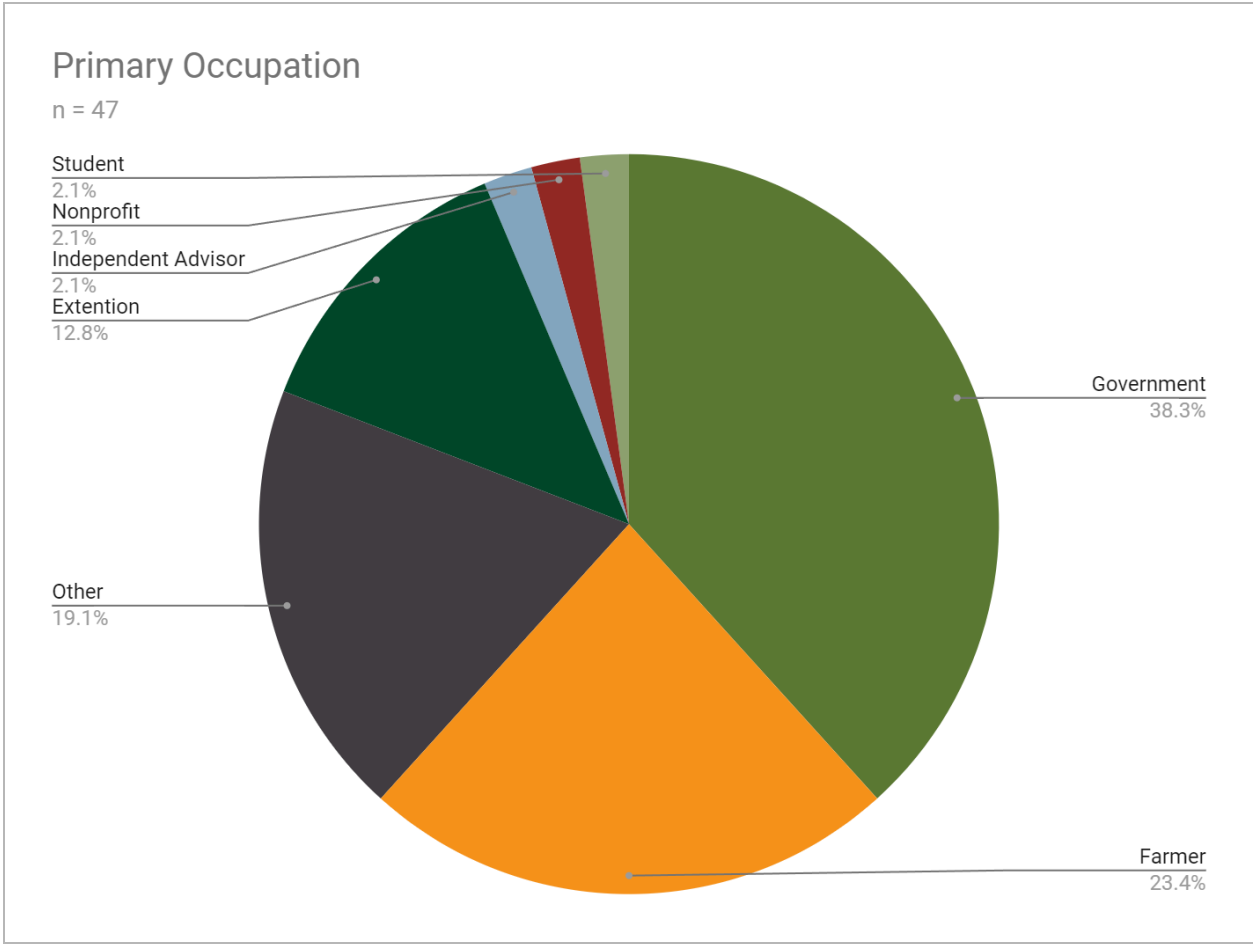


**If yes, what?**

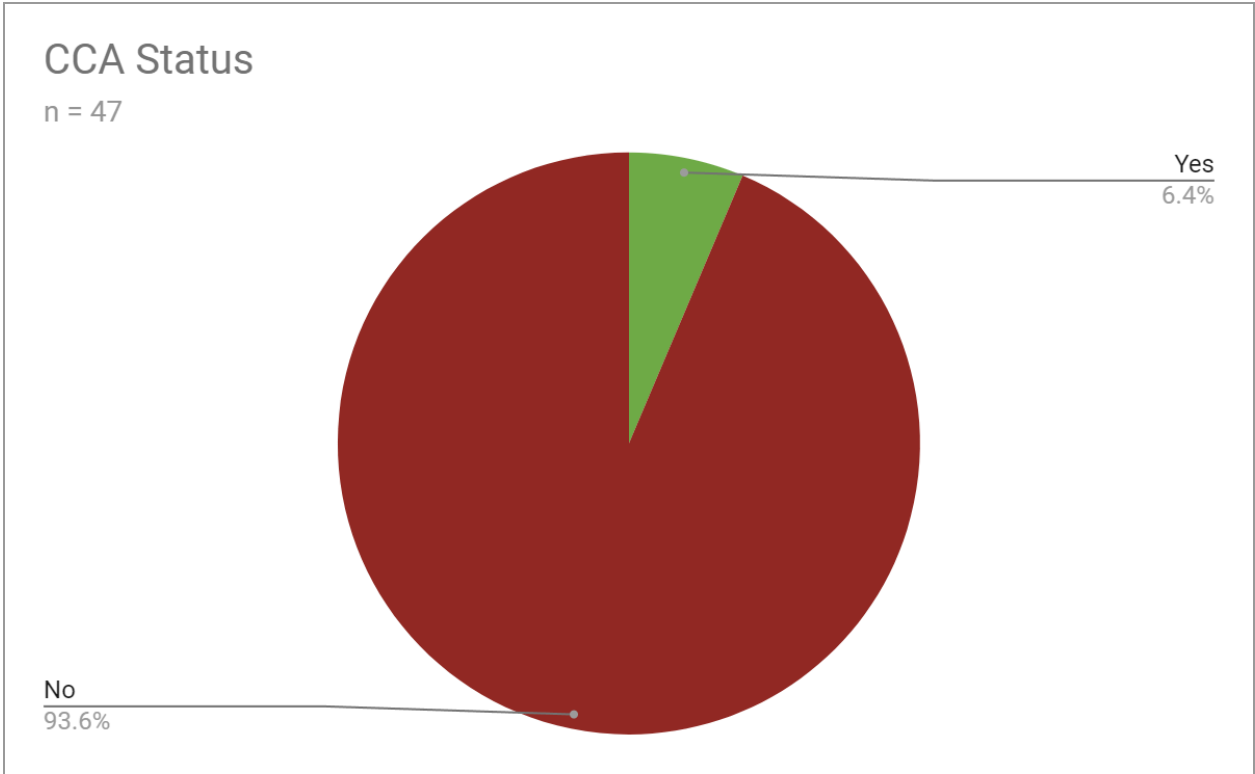
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- When working with producers

Professional Experience

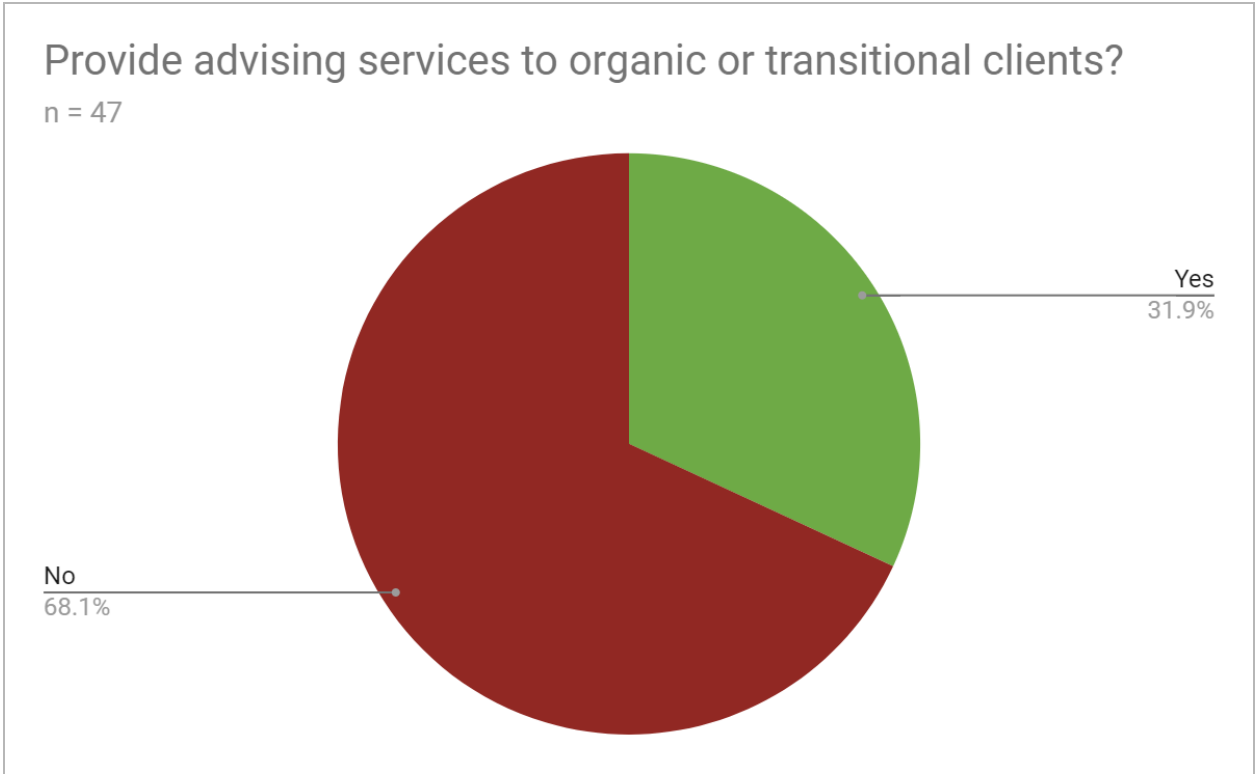
**Primary occupation:** pre-workshop evaluation



**Certified Crop Advisors (CCA):** pre-workshop evaluation (Yes, No)

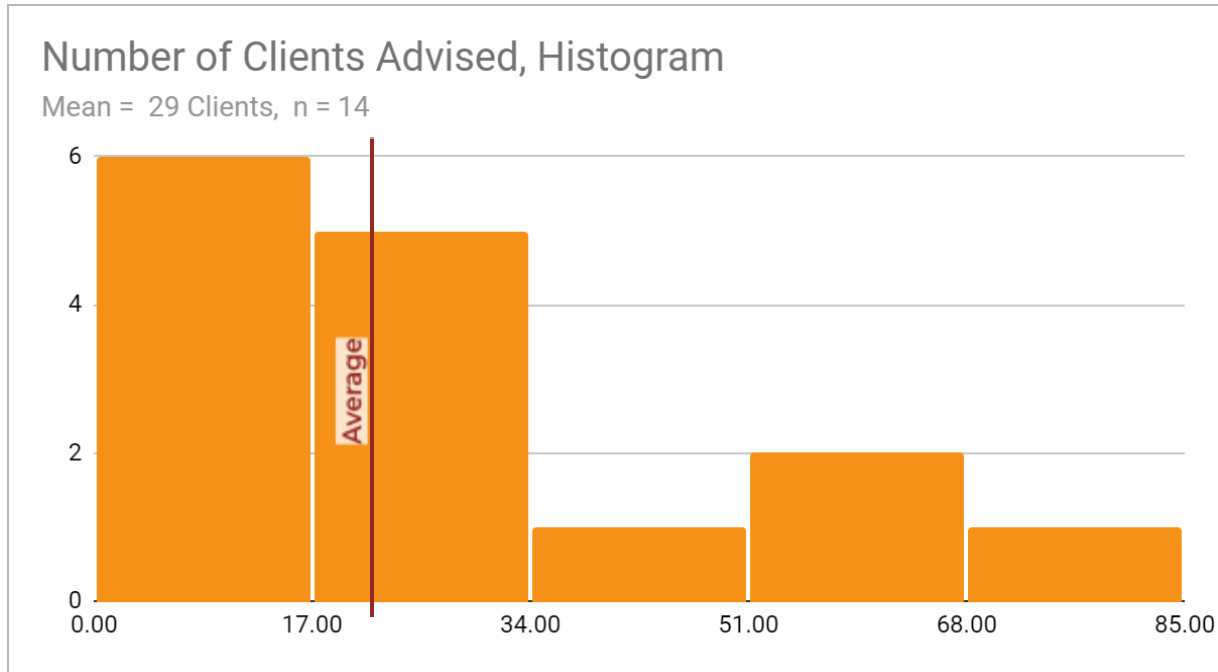


**Experience working with organic or transitioning clients:** pre-workshop evaluation (Yes, No)



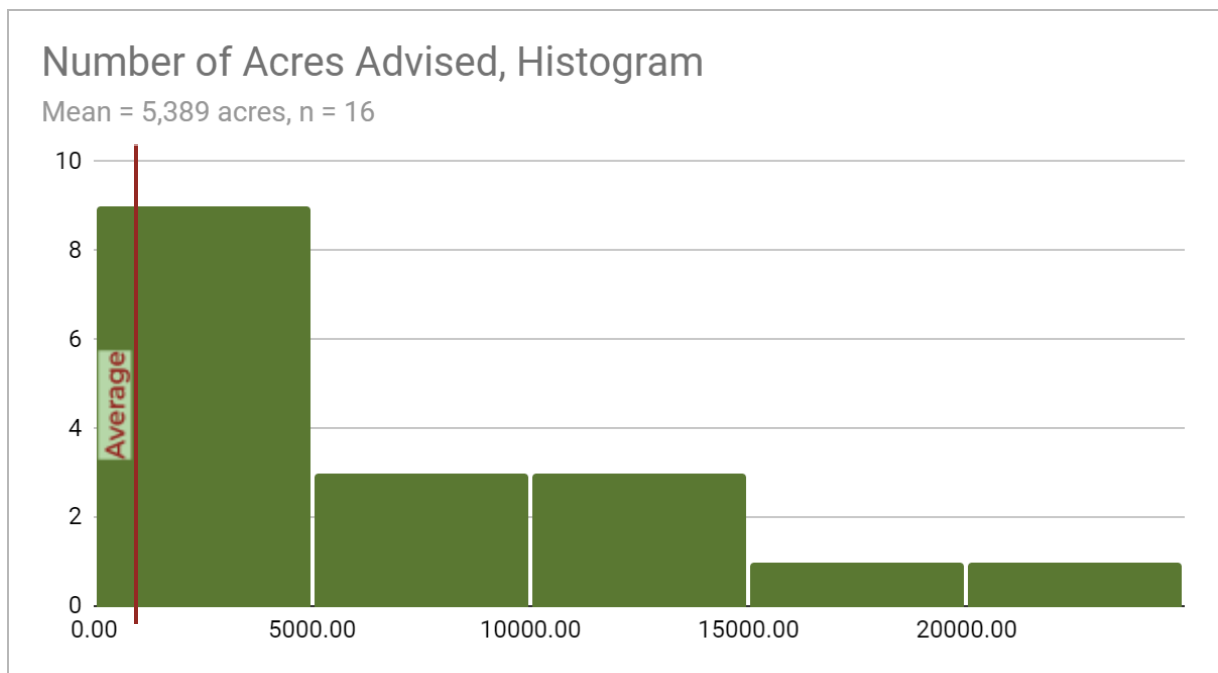
**Number of organic/transitional clients currently advising:** pre-workshop evaluation (n=47)

- Mean: 28.6
- Median: 22.5
- Range: 1 - 80



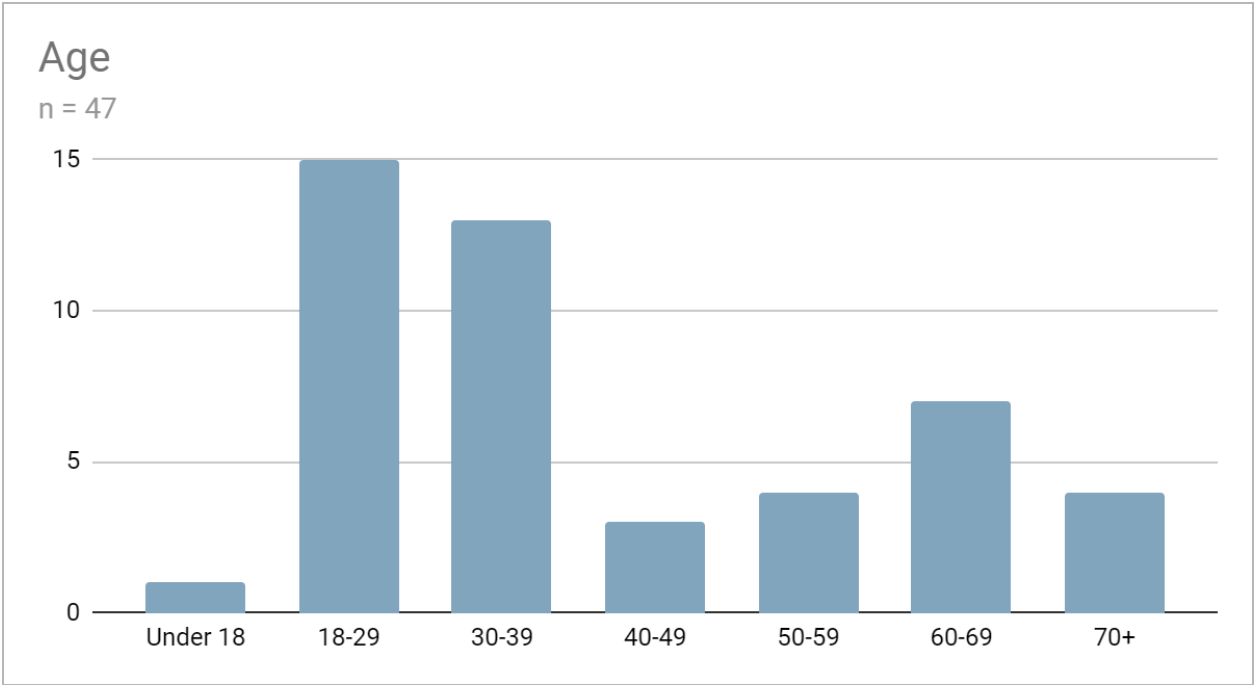
**Number of organic/transitional acres currently advising:** pre-workshop evaluation (n=47)

- Mean: 5,389
- Median: 1000
- Range: 50 - 20,000

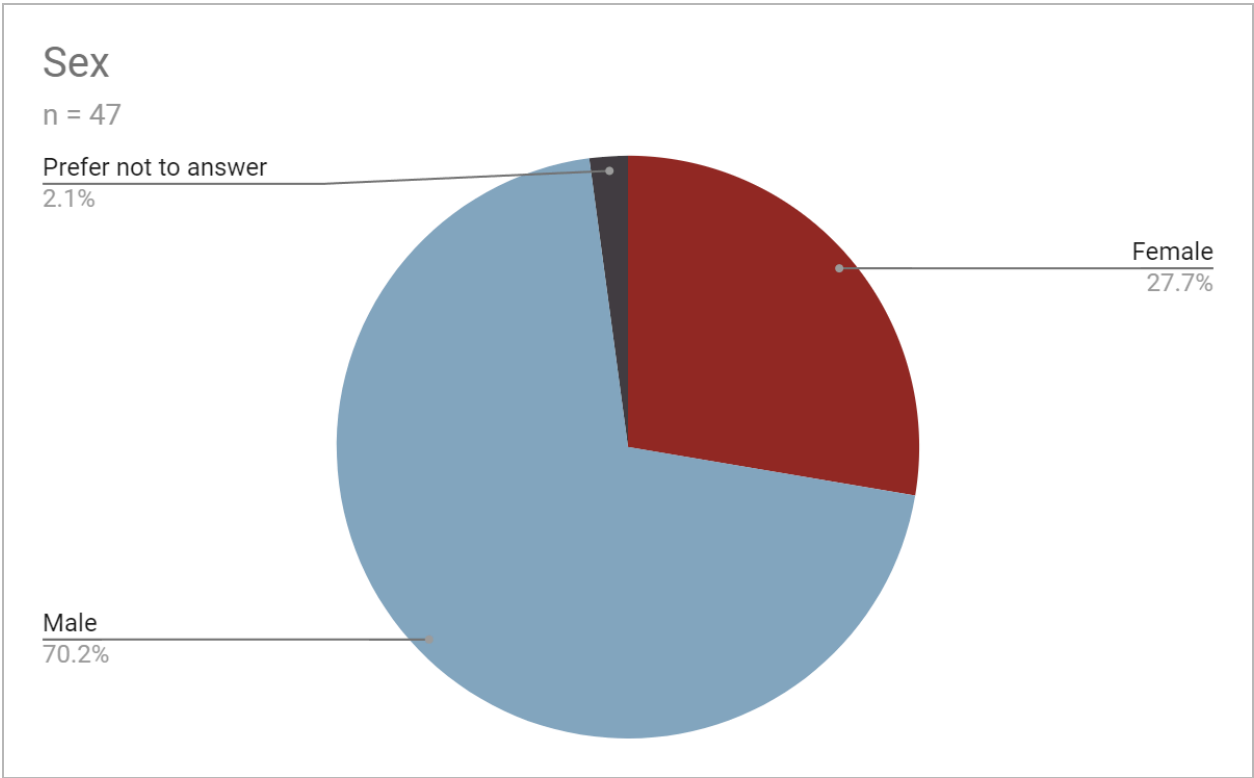


Demographics

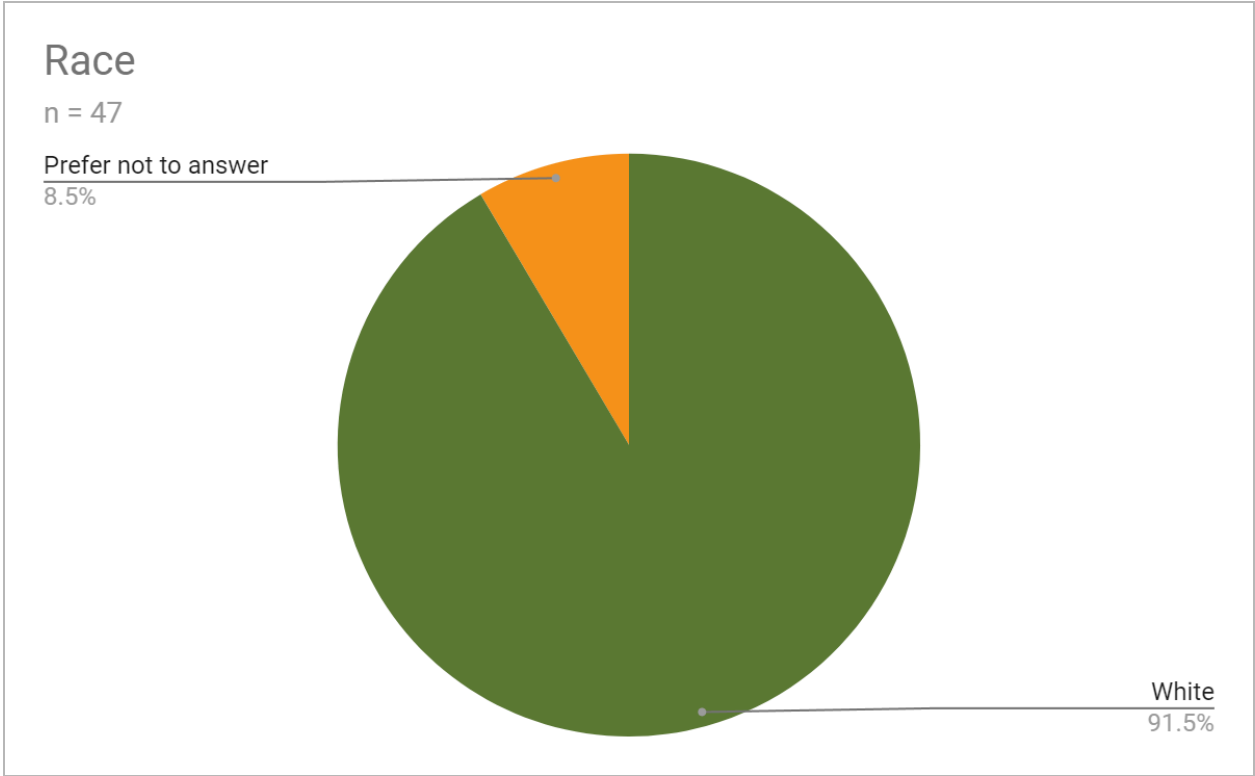
**Age:** pre-workshop evaluation



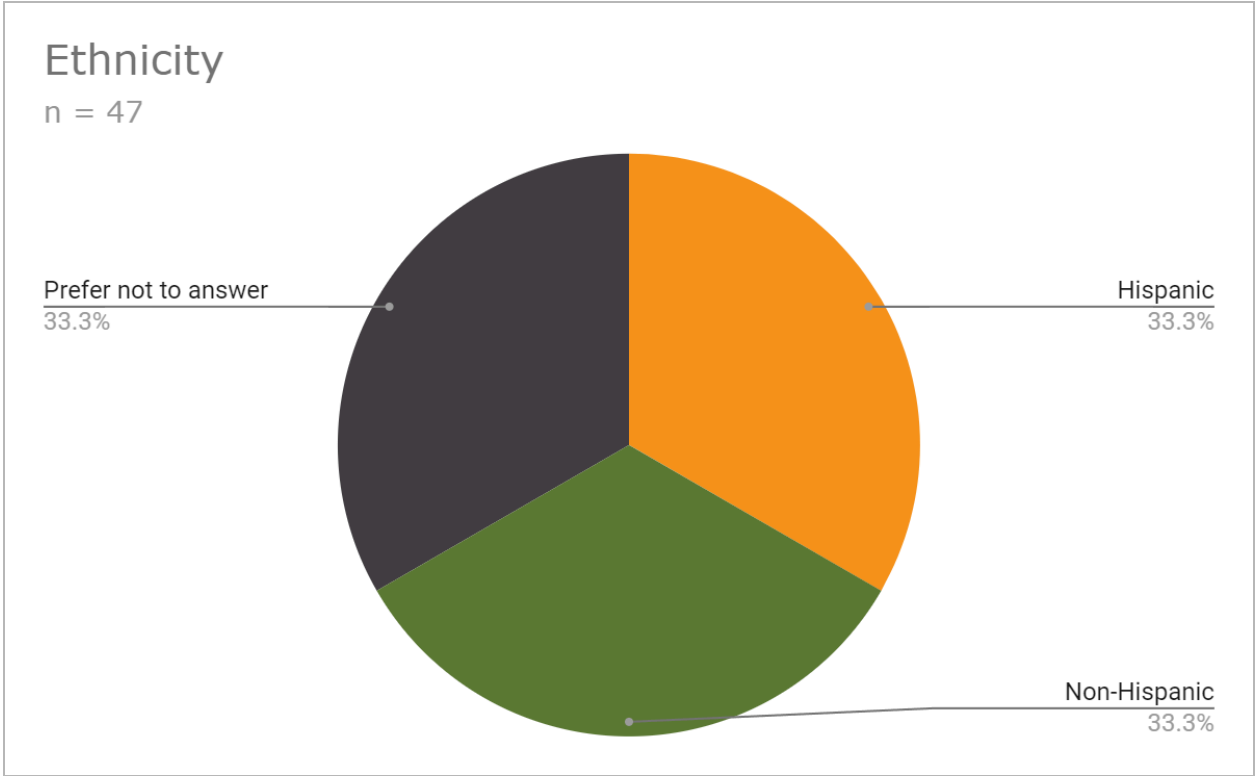
**Sex:** pre-workshop evaluation



**Race:** pre-workshop evaluation

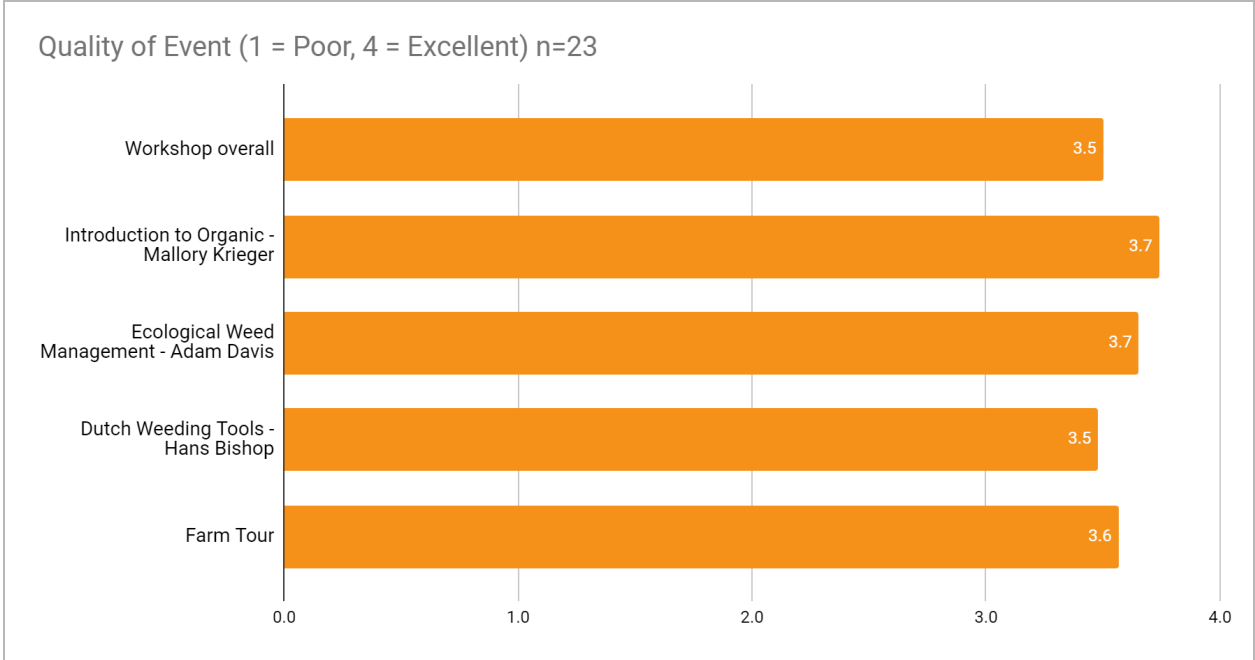


**Ethnicity:** pre-workshop evaluation



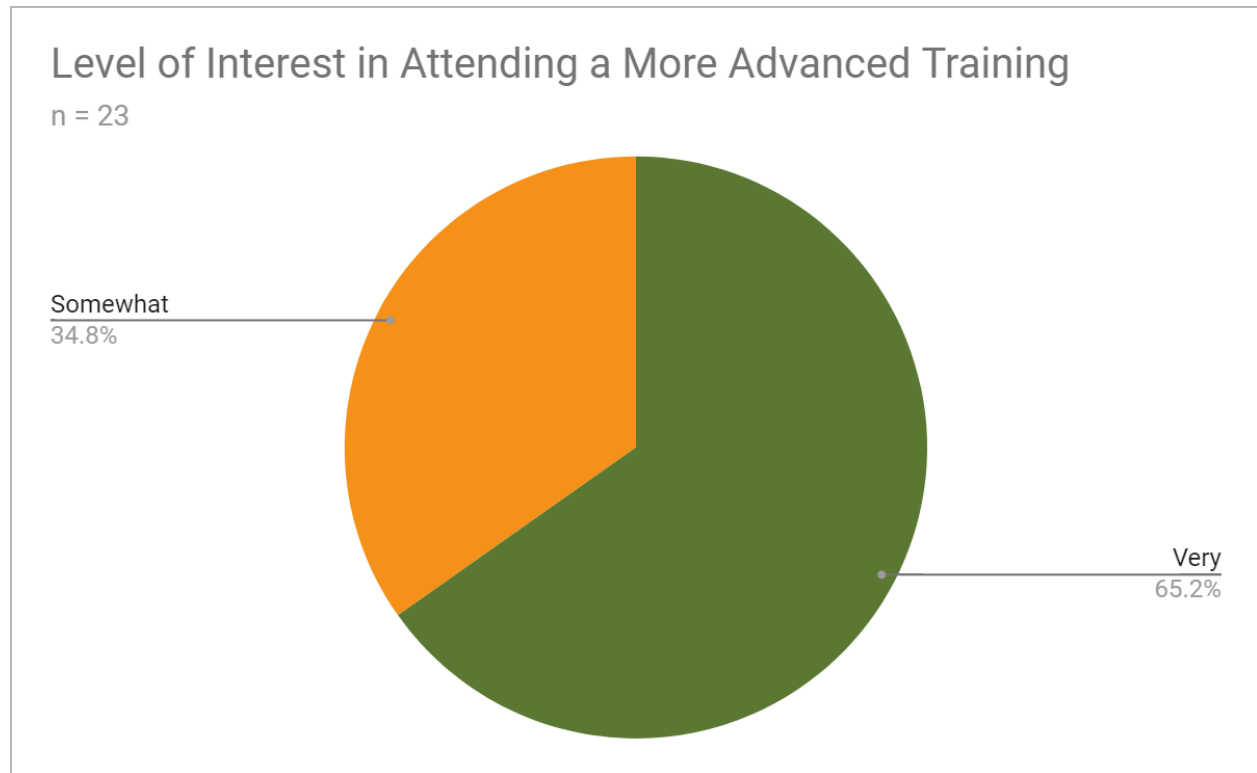
# Experience at the Training

**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

- Animal integration of organic
- Biological principles - similar to Dr. Davis
- ID'ing markets for food grade
- Nitrogen management
- Nutrient management
- Organic management
- Organic pest control
- Pest control
- Production
- Synthetic allowable fert/herbicides
- Weed control / organic matter in soil
- Weed management (X2)
- Weeding tools and weed management

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

- Adam Davis needed more time, excellent info
- Adam Davis needed more time, his talk was very informative and interesting. I would've liked to hear more
- Add farmer panel
- Longer focus on regulations
- More hands-on / tours.
- More in-depth explanation of why and how tillage implements are utilized
- More info on equipment

- More on small grains
- More time for presentations
- Not rushing the presentations
- Not sure we needed as much time for break/lunch
- There was some background noise.

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

- Animal integration
- Border width was eye opening
- Good Program

Stories

Testimonials

Photos







