



Final Report
Advisor Track at the 2024
Organic Grain Conference
Champaign, IL

February 7-8, 2024

The Advisor Track at the 2024 Organic Grain Conference was held at the I Hotel in Champaign, IL, and organized by OATS. A pre and post evaluation was utilized to measure the impact and success of this training. A summary of the data is presented below.

Total Number of Attendees:

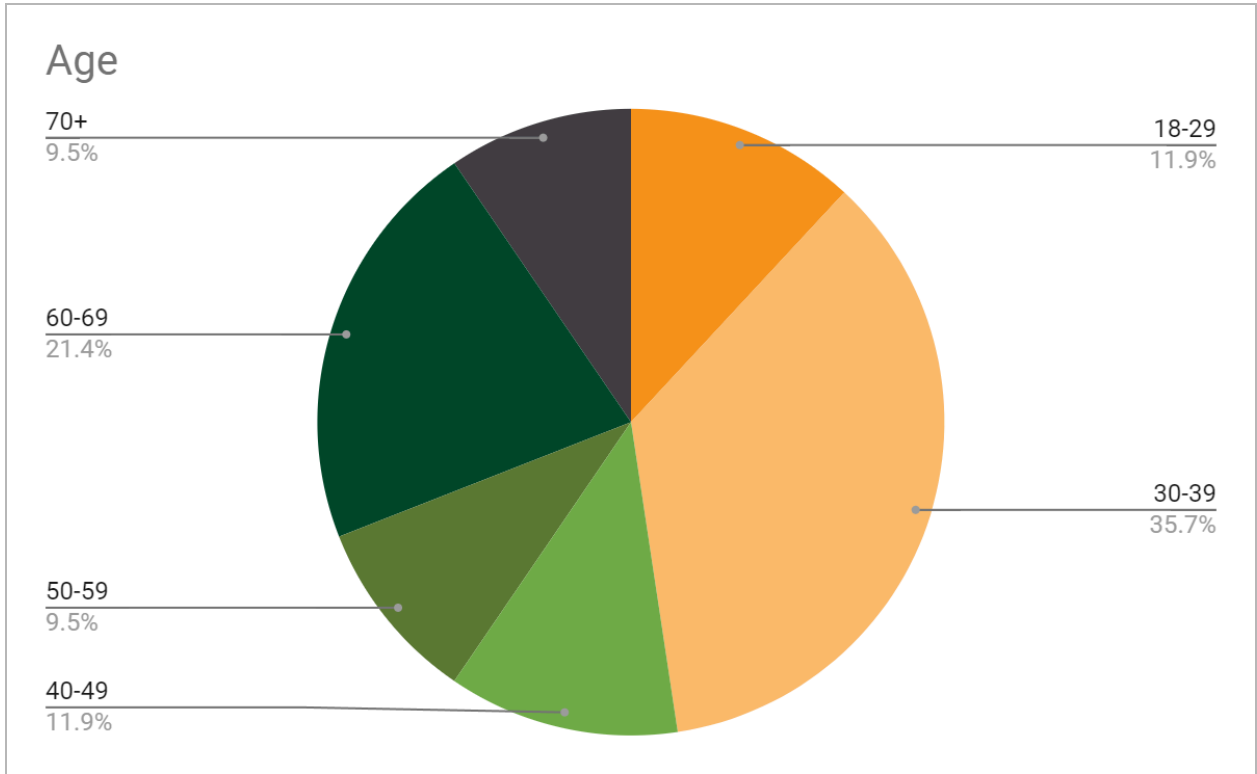
- Selling to Organic Farmer = 12
- Biologicals inputs = 23
- Drones = 8
- Advisors panel = 16
- Allowed inputs = 30
- Total = 49

Evaluation Response Rate:

- Selling to Organic Farmer = 12
- Biologicals inputs = 23
- Drones = 8
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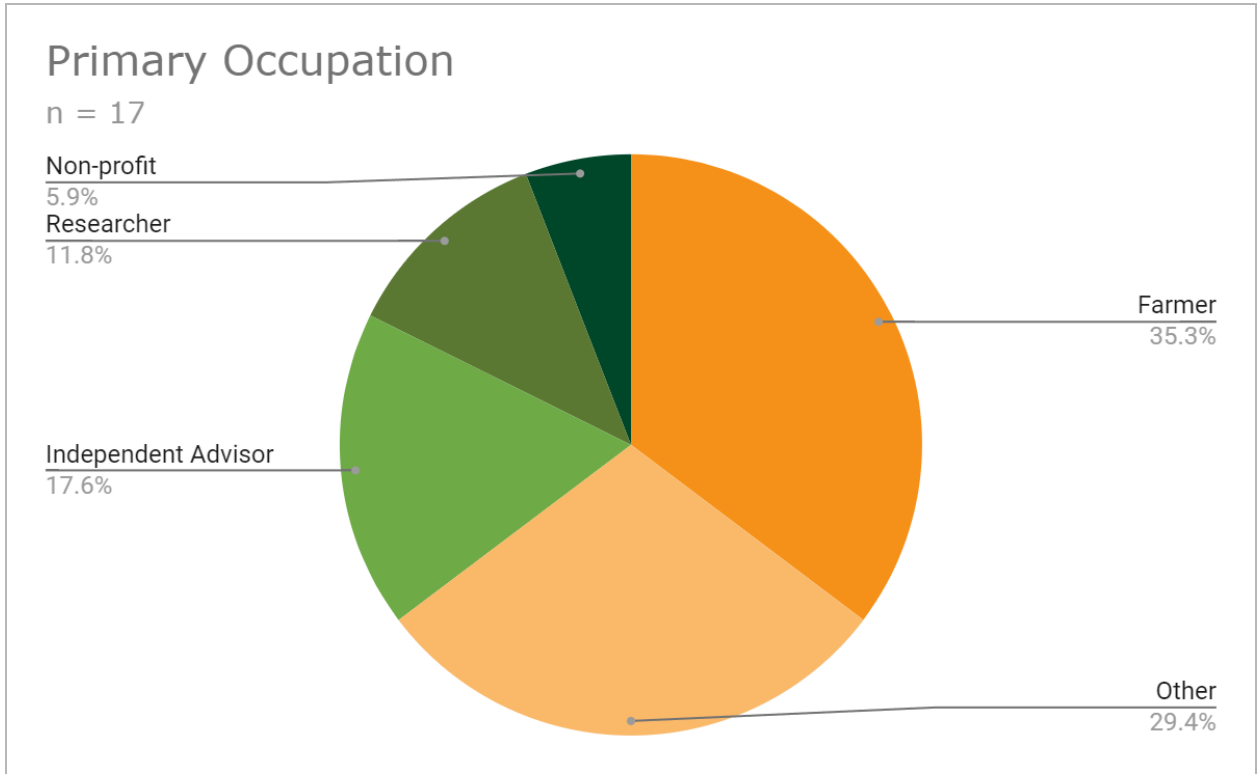
Demographics

Age: pre-workshop evaluation (n=42)



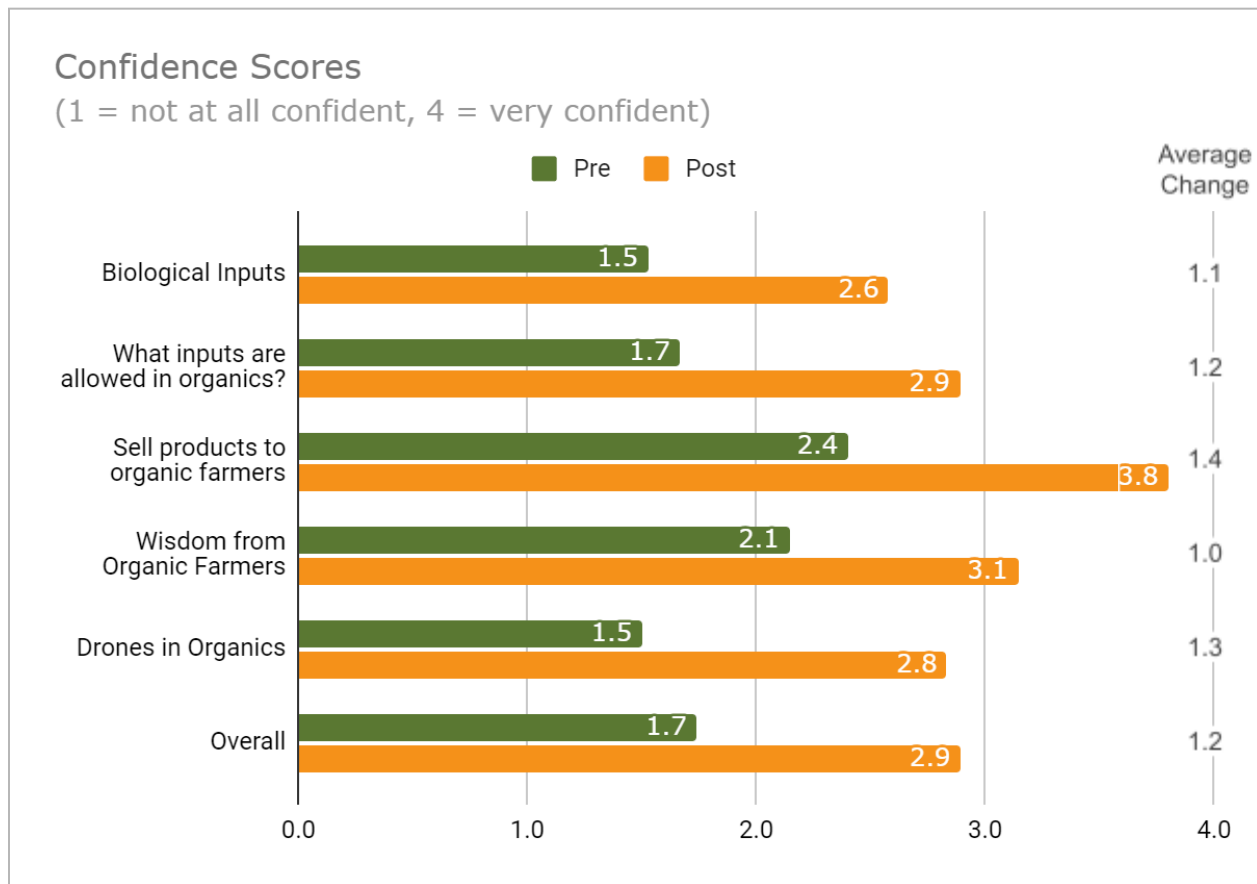
Professional Experience

Primary occupation: pre-workshop evaluation (n=40)



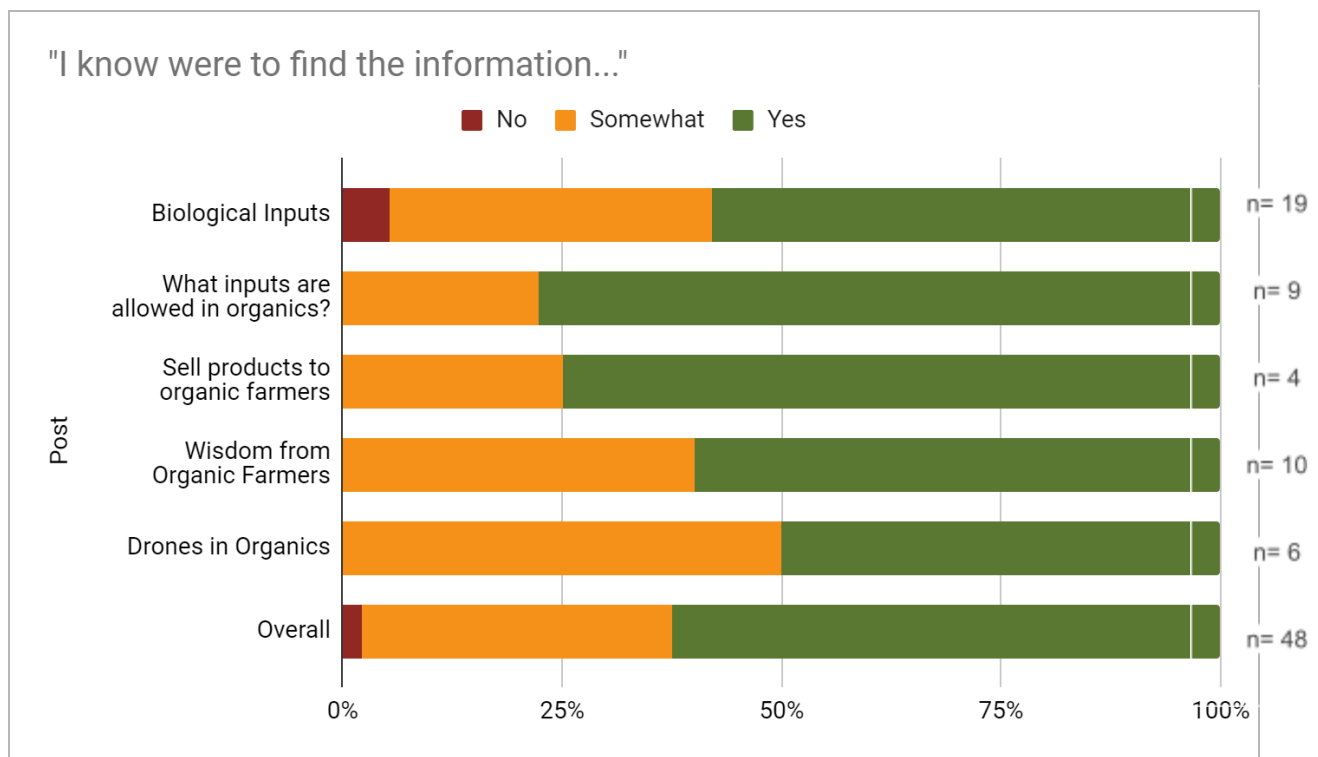
“How confident are you with providing advice on the topic of this session to a client?”: Pre-workshop/post-workshop evaluation (4-point scale; 1 = not at all confident and 4 = very confident)

- “Biological Inputs - A waste of money or printing money?” with Lea Vereecke and Connor Sible: n= 19
- “From fertilizers to pesticides - what inputs are allowed in organics?” with Mallory Krieger: n=9
- “Want to sell products to organic farmers? Here’s what you need to know!” with Mallory Krieger: n=5
- “Wisdom from Organic Farmers” with Matthew Gibson, Ashley Adair, and Nic Podoll: n=10
- Drones in Organics: A Business “Opportunity” with Sam Oswald Tilton and Seth Hesterberg n=6
- Overall n=49



“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)

- “Biological Inputs - A waste of money or printing money?” with Lea Vereecke and Connor Sible: n= 19
- “From fertilizers to pesticides - what inputs are allowed in organics?” with Mallory Krieger: n=9
- “Want to sell products to organic farmers? Here’s what you need to know!” with Mallory Krieger: n=4
- “Wisdom from Organic Farmers” with Matthew Gibson, Ashley Adair, and Nic Podoll: n=10
- Drones in Organics: A Business “Opportunity” with Sam Oswald Tilton and Seth Hesterberg n=6
- Overall n=48



Certified Crop Advisors (CCA): workshop evaluation (n= 42)

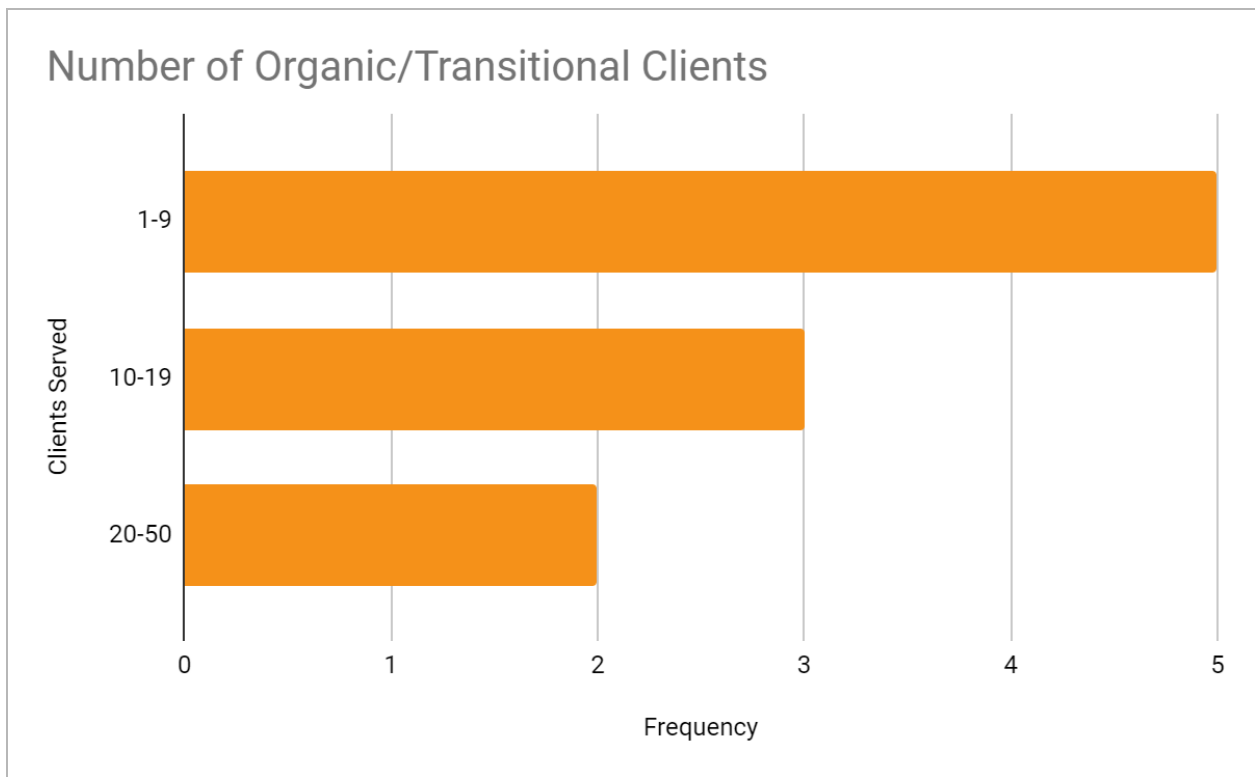
- Yes = 2
- No = 40

Provide advising services to organic or transitional clients: workshop evaluation (n= 41)

- Yes = 13
- No = 28

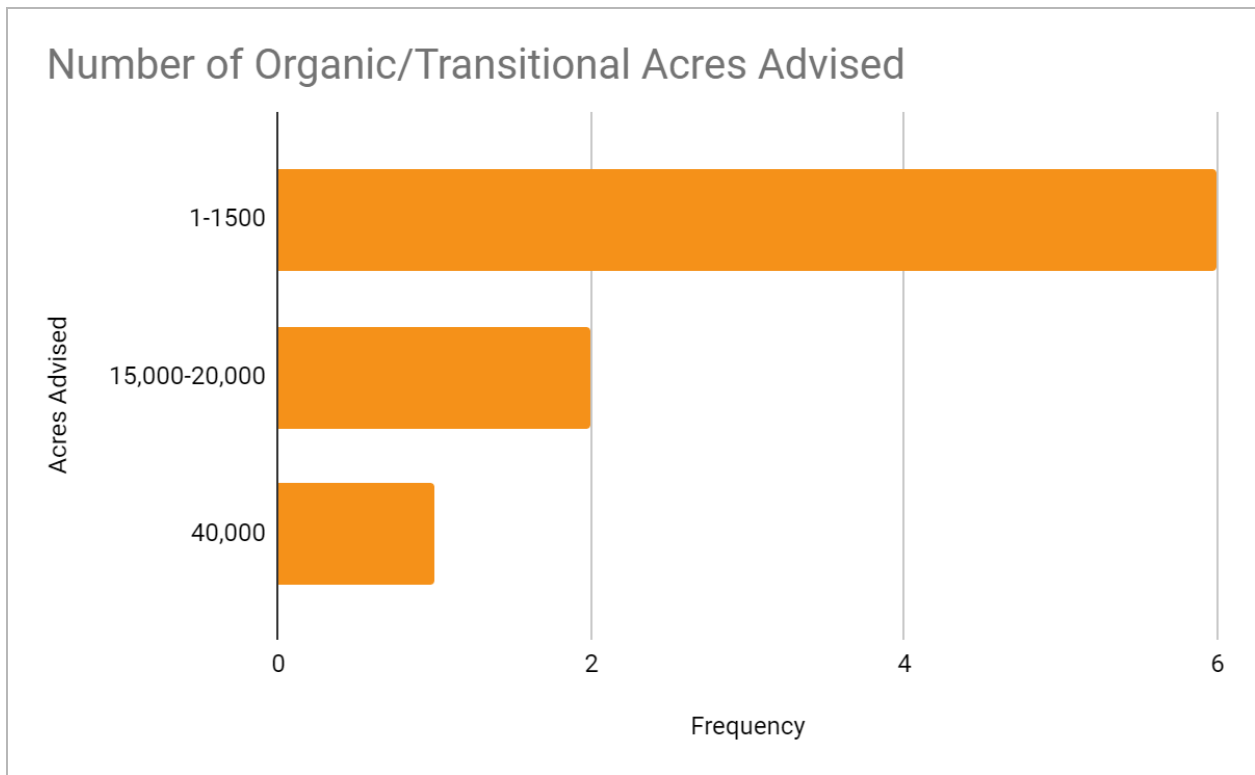
Number of clients currently served: pre-workshop evaluation (n= 10)

- Mean 14 clients
- Median 7
- Range 1 to 50



Number of organic/transitional acres currently advising: pre-workshop evaluation
(n= 9)

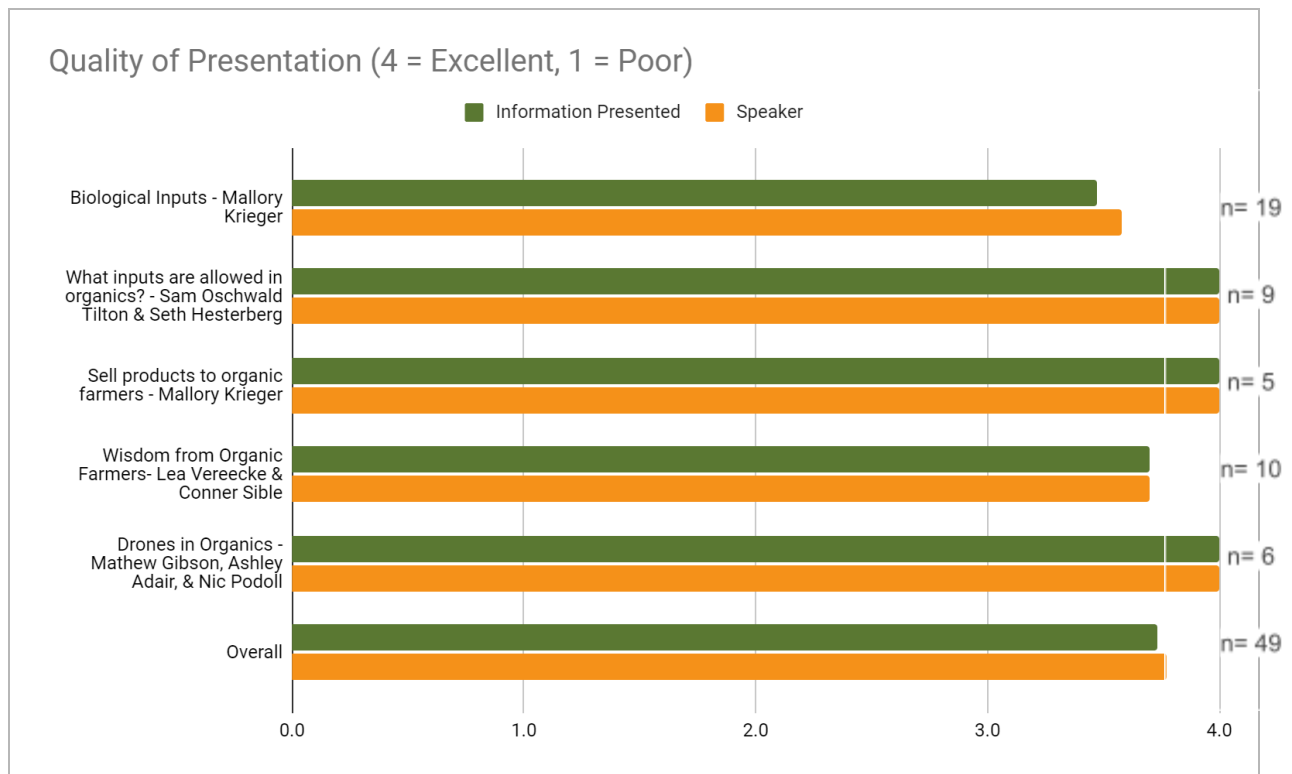
- Mean 8758 acres
- Median 1200
- Range 20 to 40,000



Experience at the Training

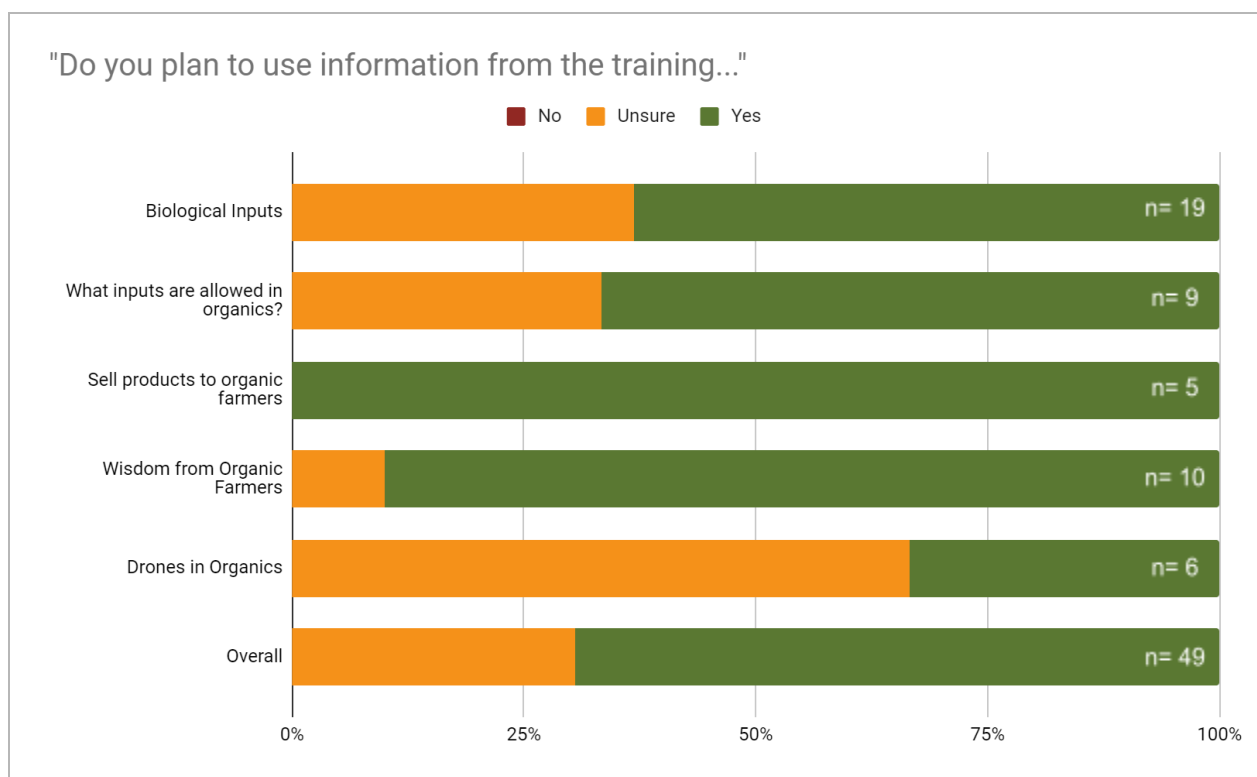
Quality of the following: Post-workshop evaluation (4-point scale; 1 = poor and 4 = excellent)

- “Biological Inputs - A waste of money or printing money?” with Lea Vereecke and Connor Sible: n= 19
- “From fertilizers to pesticides - what inputs are allowed in organics?” with Mallory Krieger: n=9
- “Want to sell products to organic farmers? Here’s what you need to know!” with Mallory Krieger: n=5
- “Wisdom from Organic Farmers” with Matthew Gibson, Ashley Adair, and Nic Podoll: n=10
- Drones in Organics: A Business “Opportunity” with Sam Oswald Tilton and Seth Hesterberg n=6
- Overall n=49



Plans to use information from the training in farm operation or ag business/organization: Post-workshop evaluation

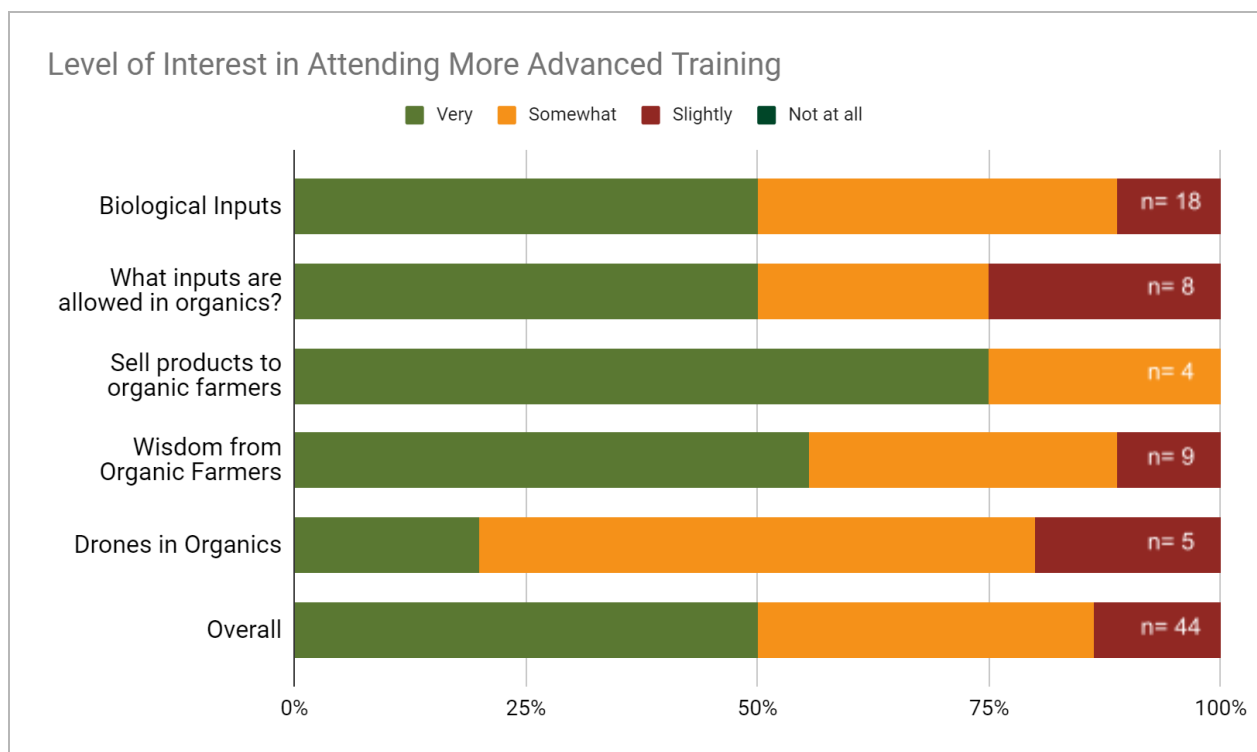
- “Biological Inputs - A waste of money or printing money?” with Lea Vereecke and Connor Sible: n= 19
- “From fertilizers to pesticides - what inputs are allowed in organics?” with Mallory Krieger: n=9
- “Want to sell products to organic farmers? Here’s what you need to know!” with Mallory Krieger: n=5
- “Wisdom from Organic Farmers” with Matthew Gibson, Ashley Adair, and Nic Podoll: n=10
- Drones in Organics: A Business “Opportunity” with Sam Oschwald Tilton and Seth Hesterberg n=6
- Overall n=49



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

Post-workshop evaluation

- “Biological Inputs - A waste of money or printing money?” with Lea Vereecke and Connor Sible: n= 18
- “From fertilizers to pesticides - what inputs are allowed in organics?” with Mallory Krieger: n=8
- “Want to sell products to organic farmers? Here’s what you need to know!” with Mallory Krieger: n=4
- “Wisdom from Organic Farmers” with Matthew Gibson, Ashley Adair, and Nic Podoll: n=9
- Drones in Organics: A Business “Opportunity” with Sam Oschwald Tilton and Seth Hesterberg n=5
- Overall n=44



List of topic desired for future training (as written): post-workshop evaluation, as written (n= 17)

Biological Inputs

What inputs are allowed in organics?

- Any regen organic production, processing, marketing
- Biologicals, used in different rotations
- Crop rotation for organic grain
- Drones
- Marketing
- Markets for grains and more info on constraints for growers
- Microbial additives to use existing nutrients
- More on biologicals, compost tea, etc. Bio-char
- nutrient management; crop rotations; managing moisture holding capacity
- Organic transition (X3)
- Overall production
- Same/Repeat
- Specific farming practices for larger scale
- Tea extract, tea compost - how to make and apply
- Updates on ongoing research

Suggested ways this training could be improved: post-workshop evaluation, as written (n= 9)

Biological Inputs

- Less university, more experienced producers
- Longer for more details
- Longer session
- Longer!
- More data
- No suggestions - excellent presentation
- Not sure

Drones in Organics

- More videos or in depth case studies

Wisdom from Organic Farmers

- Not sure