**Question 21: How has LOTL changed the way you view and manage your property, if at all?**

Better steward of the land (help environment through sustainable practices) - 16

Management of weeds – 14

More aggressive management - 13

Increased knowledge of caring for crops and animals (grazing) - 12

Water quality/system – 11

Erosion control / Soil quality - 10

Improved irrigation – 9

View farm as more holistic (including the small components to the large) - 8

Aware of impact with chemicals – 7

Yes – 6

New recourses - 6

Economic possibilities – 5

More aware of neighbors - 5

Realized more issues to address on land - 4

Compost - 3

Increase production - 3

Did not - 3

Septic - 2

Rotational grazing

Add variety to production

Better outlook on how to deal with small acreage

Do not have land

Organic only

Better perspective for future land

Since I rent our properties at this time, I have used asked the renters to follow some of the practices I learned. The renters are life-time farmers and know a lot.

Because of LOTL class we attend the university /community classes in forage management. We also took Alan Savory's Holistic Management Course. While in Nebraska we helped develop multi-species mob grazing and helped put it into practice.

I was a city girl, so LOTL gave me the basics.

There were so many things i didn't know, this course showed me many possibilities.

I think it has brought issues to a higher level of importance. This class should be a county requirement for purchasing small acreage.

Made us aware of different ways of doing things.

Gave me the courage to try and farm. I knew I wanted to be organic and I now understand more of the dynamic in soil etc.

The program motivated me to do the responsible things I knew I should be doing, but had let slide over the years since I first learned management ideas.

**Open Ended Q22: What is the most valuable tool or piece of information you obtained from the LOTL course?**

Resources provided/Where to find resources – 26

Soil quality/testing/management – 23

Pasture management - 18

Water Quality/Management/testing - 14

Weed management – 12

All of it – 7

How to improve business/income – 6

Affects of chemicals – 5

Opportunity to learn and discuss – 5

Forage - 5

Grazing practices – 5

Legalities of water – 4

Irrigation info – 3

Better grasp of reality – 3

More in depth of what is already taught – 3

Resource book Weeds of the West - 2

To be a good steward of the land – 2

Pest control – 2

It takes time – 2

Impact on neighbors

Improve land management

Power resources

Confidence

**Open Ended Q23: Do you have any needs or requests for future small acreage education, and if so, what?**

None – 10

Separate course for raising livestock/poultry /alpacas– 8

Legal issues (water rights/easements/property) – 4

Fruit /tree care – 4

Organic farming – 3

Marketing – 3

Financial assistance info – 3

Water – 3

Soils - 3

Profitable production -2

Equipment use – 2

Keep people informed and in contact(reunion)– 2

Sustainable gardening - 2

More in-depth with composting – 2

Dealing with fungus

Unsure

Reach out to home owners

How to set up irrigation lines

Create an internet portal to contact alumni

One day workshops are good

How to purchase small acreage

What can grow where

Info on vineyards

Animal first aid

Alternative crops

Multi-species farming

Greenhouse

Flowers

Irrigation

How to get involved with Planning and Zoning

Management

Full sustainable ag .program in Boise

Good book references

Labor

Get more people involved

Notify alumni about the field trip

Hay production management

How to develop pond habitat

Alternative energy

IPM and weed management classes

City farming

Youth education

Winter forage

Being a good neighbor

I am working with Stephanie Etter to keep a section on record keeping and Taxation. We have presented once this fall.

**Open Ended Q24: Do you have a success story you'd like to share with us?**

Improved production – 9

Changing or increasing products - 4

Creating wildlife habitat - 3

Expanded knowledge - 3

Improved connections/resources – 3

More confident - 3

Land reclamation/restoration – 2

No – 2

Planting wind breaks

Improved weed management

Taught others

Figured out chemical weed spraying

Found Farm land

Native planting

Converted irrigation system

Made good compost

Controlled erosion

Rotational grazing

Involved with equipment program

Improved land

Becoming “green”

Check our website www.idahorefugees.org click global gardeners. We have around 100 refugee families farming or community gardening with us. Our two community farms had a gross income of around $10,000 in 2009, increased from $3,000 in 2008. We did a farm planning course for refugees in 2009 using many of the LOTL materials. At least 8 participants are planning to begin independent farming ventures including one person who is already raising goats. I don't know a lot about livestock so LOTL was useful for that.

I started a small egg business and cannot keep enough eggs on hand for all my customers. It has been a very interesting endeavor. I was supplying eggs to a CSA, I still deliver eggs to a country market.

My success story is simply that our little farm is better managed. Improvements have been made in different aspects of our operation. They say the purpose of dog training is to train the Dogs owner. In this instance, LOTL has successfully trained the farms' owner.

After years of 'no time' we have returned to gardening and sell at farmers markets which has opened a better market stream for our lamb.

We were able to kill the wild carrots in our hay grown using escort.

After completing this course I spent the next year evaluating and re-evaluating the direction of our farm, life and family. I created a 10 year, 5 year, 2 year, and 1 year plan. I looked at where I wanted the farm and family to be. Running 350 head of market goats is very labor intensive, I'm personal and I had two llama as guards for the goats and didn't interact with them except to shear. As I learned more about my land I came to learn it was well suited for llamas. As I researched llamas I soon learned that there was no market in this economy for older pet quality/fiber/older guard or "yard art" llamas. Sale yard would not even let you off load them. As I spoke with breeders and others in the field I found repeated need for not only a rescue but more a retirement home for fiber animals. I have acquire over 30 llamas and alpacas over the last year not for breed but for fiber. It is much less labor intensive, I can do most of the work myself. I enjoy my land much more, the farm works with the land not against it. We have llama and fiber 4-H projects that local kids would have never had. I have product in the fiber and value added in products made from fiber.

Bought this place 7.92 acres originally in 2003 and we were thrilled. We realized we owned the water rights, but the waste water was actually .5 miles away. We were lied to about access to the property by previous owner. When we called the county to make a inquiry the person I was talking to finally got our parcel located and said if you tell them you're calling in reference to the Hadtfield/McCoy place out by Kuna, they will know which place you are talking about... long story... we were hitting obstacles (large) left and right and beginning to wonder what were we thinking when we bought this place. It was overwhelming but were here and it was all we had. Actually we moved back here from Oregon. This mess was partly why we took LOTL in 2007 and saw some hope. Retook LOTL in 2008 and 2009 and we are not there yet but getting much closer and can see a producing , functional, sustainable small acreage farm as a very real possibility. and we are much encouraged; have come a long way toward that goal and are very grateful to LOTL alumni for their help.

This program helped me so much and when I talk to other people thinking about starting a farm I tell them about this class. I’m planning on going back to farm full time when I retire.

**Open Ended Comments:**

Learned a lot/Very valuable - 15

Have recommended it to others - 7

Thank you - 5

Great instructors - 5

Books were very helpful – 3

Will take it again – 3

Great resources - 2

More info on managing dry graze land could be helpful.

Increased confidence

I took the class to help in the future purchase and operation of a small acreage.

Keep offering classes.

I've learned good info on how irrigation, finances/taxes work for small farms in Idaho, and laws in general especially for small farmers.

As our small acreage or surburbanation of our valley develops, we need to educate the citizen to be good neighbors. Planning and zoning: water. sewage, weed control, wildlife habitat. Be good steward of the land. My opinion this class is critical/very important. see way too many overgrazed pastures.

This was an incredible class with an amazing amount of material. Our instructors were very knowledgeable and taught in a manner that was fun and challenging. It was fun to get to know our classmates and we missed the fellowship when the class was over. We have used our resources over and over since we took the class. Having a farming background, I thought I knew quite a bit but this class opened my eyes.

Need more info about crop compatibility such as what and what not to plant next to each other or the in the following year. I would like to especially thank the Parma Agricultural extension service. They really encourage me to grown more and help me take care of what I have. Questions: How is Idaho going to keep up its Agriculture when we lose so much to urban development? We used to have a good forest industry. How can we get it back? How so we get trees back and manage and grow right?

Let this be the last survey. We won't be filling any more out. You get to a point where you reach survey saturation. When that happens the data become unreliable because people may just be circling anything to get done.

Thank you! We have come a long way! At a friend's 60th anniversary party he introduced a friend who found himself in the same position as us in regard to accessing and bringing his irrigation water to his place. He has spent much time plus $30,000 trying to get this water and it isn't any closer. We've spent time and 1/2 the money and we have out water and grow a crops of hay this summer. I estimated our fist bale to cost much time less at least $12,000 but by the second bale it was only $6000/bale we are done to only $64/bale and dropping and we are way ahead of the friends at the 60th celebration and we are truly grateful and thankful to LOTL 2007, 2008, 2009 have been incredibly helpful. Without them I think we would have given up.