

**Organic – Conservation Cross Training
September 21-24, 2009; Wilsonville, OR
EVALUATION FORM - AGGREGATE REPORT**

1. Which of the following best describes your background and expertise:

- a resource conservation professional - 12
- an organic agriculture professional - 7

Total = 19 Evaluations (out of 19 participants)

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

| Audience | Very Dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Very Satisfied |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| Resource Conservation | | | | 4 | 8 |
| Organic | | | | 2 | 5 |
| Combined total | | | | 6 | 13 |

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

| Audience | No | Somewhat | Yes |
|-----------------------|----|----------|-----------|
| Resource Conservation | | | 12 |
| Organic | | 1 | 6 |
| Combined total | | 1 | 18 |

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:

- Would like an insect farm walk.
- This course is a good introduction in understanding organic farming and regulations.
- I thought it was just right. Want the IPM power point.
- More detail on soil quality assessment.
- Real life scenarios. What is NRCS doing out there with organic producers – most common practices in the State, the Valley, etc.

Organic Professionals' responses:

- Good quantity for time frame.
- More organic production practices for conservation folks.

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

| Audience | No | Somewhat | Yes |
|-----------------------|----|----------|-----------|
| Resource Conservation | | | 11 |
| Organic | | | 7 |
| Combined total | | | 18 |

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

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- The University speakers
- Meeting & listening to organic farmers & professionals. Talking to the farmers.
- Discussions w/NRCS from Oregon; with ODA, Tilth, & NCAT.
- Speakers & interaction with organic growers.
- Cover crop; IPM; being certified.
- On-farm discussions. Having NRCS & organic looking at the same farm, comparing how it fits into their programs.
- Gained an overall understanding of organic production.
- IPM Segment; discussion w/growers; farm visit; info on organic certification.
- Panel discussion by farmers. Also, supplying a CD rather than notebook is great.
- The basic organic information; the rules governing organics; not had time to educate myself.
- Looking at real data from a real farm-site & visiting the site.

Organic Professionals' responses:

- Loved the in-field assessments @ Mustard Seed Farm. Dialogue that was fostered by NRCS was wonderful. Have a better understanding of how we can work more closely together.
- Interaction of the groups was very valuable.
- All of the info from NRCS.
- Networking & relationship building w/NRCS professionals.
- Time spent on the farm; very good dialogues; Paul Jepson presentation.
- Info on NRCS – how they approach plans/resource issues; the “language” of NRCS.
- Field visits; NRCS folks passionately trying to use RUSLE2 and WIN-PST; learning about resource assessment tools used by NRCS; picks tools to assess the farm we visited.

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

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- Great!
- Get more WA people to attend (busy schedules, not organizers' responsibility).
- Follow-up training for NRCS people; understanding provisions of the NOP & how it can be incorporated in our planning process.
- Include more producers w/successes of how their operation works.
- It was very well done; good mix of learning activities & lots of time for discussion.
- Could use an NRCS specific training to improve my technical knowledge of these systems.
- Generally dislike the training model of breaking into groups to develop recommendations. NRCS seems to use this method & find it inefficient. Not worth the time.
- Maybe a real NRCS organic EQIP contract could be shared & illustrate how we are helping organic producers
- Adding additional site visit.

Organic Professionals' responses:

- Wonderful training. Could be improved if it was a requirement that certifiers job shadow NRCS conservationists; loved grower panel discussion; more dialogue opportunities if there was more time.
- Great start – maybe incorporating extension agents, educators, consultants, & producers for subsequent work would help broaden the impact.
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- Somewhat difficult for commuters to attend evening sessions comfortably, perhaps 3 full days rather than 2 full and 2 ½ days.
- More on models of conservation practices being implemented on farms – examples.
- More general discussion between groups about what organic practices are and what are issues threatening sustainable agriculture; discussions about pros/cons of sustainable ag.

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 | | | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| Organic Profs | | | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Combined total | | | 1 | 10 | 6 |
| Speaker video and discussion (Monday evening) | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| Resource Conservation Profs | | | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| Organic Profs | | | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| Combined total | | | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Background, process, & standards: NRCS <i>or</i> Organic (Tuesday morning) | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| Resource Conservation Profs | | | | 5 | 5 |
| Organic Profs | | | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Combined total | | | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| Host farm visit and assessment (Tuesday afternoon) | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| Resource Conservation Profs | | | | 3 | 8 |
| Organic Profs | | | | 4 | 3 |
| Combined total | | | | 7 | 11 |
| Soil quality indicators (Wednesday morning) | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| Resource Conservation Profs | | | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| Organic Profs | | | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Combined total | | | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Farm management scenarios (Wed. morning & afternoon) | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| Resource Conservation Profs | 1 | | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| Organic Profs | | | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Combined total | | | 2 | 10 | 5 |

| | Poor | Weak | Average | Good | Excellent |
|--|------|------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Producer panel (Wednesday evening) | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| Resource Conservation Profs | | | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Organic Profs | | | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Combined total | | | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| Integrated Plant Protection Strategies (Thursday morning) | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| Resource Conservation Profs | | | | 5 | 6 |
| Organic Profs | | | | | 6 |
| Combined total | | | | 5 | 12 |
| Take home strategies (Thursday morning) | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| Resource Conservation Profs | | | 2 | 6 | |
| Organic Profs | | | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Combined total | | | 3 | 10 | 1 |

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 | | | 3 | 8 |
| Organic | | | | 7 |
| Combined total | | | 3 | 15 |

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

Resource Conservation Professionals' responses:

- Very good group distribution
- Well developed training, wished I could have attended the other 3.
- Thanks! Great workshop! Need more of these cross-training sessions.
- Found contrast between the organic producers interesting; felt that they represented two ends of the spectrum; didn't feel that the soil quality indicators session was very useful to the NRCS folks (training already had); perhaps useful to stimulate discussion in groups.
- Excellent food
- Great food!! All organic???

Organic Professionals' responses:

- Good training; learned a lot; expanded my awareness. Thanks.
- More food!
- Thanks!
- Great class, thanks for offering the opportunity.
- Loved it!
- Let's do it again!