

## Quantitative scores for SARE ENC11-125: Professional training for sustainable agroforestry in Kansas

### Outcomes/impacts

We asked the participants to fill out evaluation forms at the end of each meeting, with both quantitative and qualitative categories.

Rating scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree

The training improved my general knowledge about <i>agroforestry practices</i> (types of agroforestry practices, their potential benefits, etc)	4.4
The training improved my general knowledge about <i>woody invasive species</i> (biology, life cycles, etc)	4.5
The training improved my general knowledge about <i>insect pests of trees</i> (biology, life cycles, etc)	4.6
The training improved my general knowledge about <i>tree diseases</i> (biology, life cycles, etc)	4.5
The training improved my ability to identify <i>tree species</i>	3.8
The training improved my ability to identify <i>insect pests</i> of trees	4.5
The training improved my ability to identify <i>diseases</i> of trees	4.5
The training improved my ability to identify <i>woody invasive species</i>	4.2
The training improved my ability to answer client/stakeholder questions about <i>agroforestry and tree health</i>	4.4
I am now more aware of existing resources about agroforestry and tree health and how to access such information	4.5
OVERALL AVERAGE	<b>4.4</b>

### Open-ended questions

There was some overlap in the first three questions, so I will summarize them collectively below.

- ***What were the most important items you learned from the training session, and why?***
- ***What types of resources that were presented in the training sessions do you think will be most valuable in your programming with clients?***
- ***How will the information you obtained from the training assist you in your own programming with clients?***

Participants highly valued the hands-on nature of the training, including the outdoor tree walks and also the opportunity to view and touch insect, disease, honeysuckle, and tree-id samples that we brought. Several participants noted that this type of training works much better for their learning style than traditional classroom lectures.

We provided flash drives that we filled with a large array of resources on agroforestry, general tree care, diseases, insects, woody invasives, and other topics. Numerous participants noted in the comments that they were excited to obtain this information and they looked forward to using it. We also provided print copies of some publications and they appreciated that as well.

Many participants said that with the increased knowledge from the day's training, plus the flash drive, they are much better equipped to answer stakeholder questions about tree health, agroforestry, etc.

Participants appreciated the small discussion-oriented nature of the training. Several mentioned the benefit of networking with each other as well as with the instructors. For example, several county educators met each other for the first time, or they met their regional district forester for the first time, or the local NRCS person. They can now work together on local issues.

***How could these training sessions be improved?***

There weren't many suggestions here. Many participants left it blank or used it to note more positives about the event. The few suggestions included making the outdoor part longer and making the whole event even more hands on.