

3/11/11 ORGANIC PRODUCTION POST-WORKSHOP EVALUATION

NUMBERS IN RED ARE THE TALLIED RAW SURVEY DATA FROM 23 RETURNED SURVEYS

Number given = # respondents who gave that answer; in some cases more than one answer was given)

I am a:
 7 Grower – full time 10 Part-time or hobbyist 1 Farm employee
 1 Crop consultant 0 Ag Dealer 0 Packer/shipper/distributor
 0 Educator/Specialist 4 Faculty Research/Extension 1 Other
 (n=23)

What methods of apple production do you practice? (n=22) Conventional/IPM_10 Organic_4 Other_0_ I do not currently grow apples_4_ (Plus 4 who indicated they grew under both conventional and organic practices);

Did this workshop meet your expectations?

	Yes___	No___
All (n=23)	22	1
Conventional (n=10)	9	1
Organic & both (n=8)	8	0

Will you modify current production practices or adopt new ones based on what you learned today?

	Yes___	No___	NA___
All (n=22)	18	2	2
Conventional (n=9)	7	2	0
Organic & both (n=8)	8	0	0

Will you start any new ventures or value-added products based on what you learned today?

	Yes___	No___	NA___
All (n=21)	4	15	2
Conventional (n=9)	2	6	0
Organic & both (n=8)	1	7	0

Will you change any labor or human resource practices based on what you learned today?

	Yes___	No___	NA___
All (n=21)	5	12	4
Conventional (n=8)	1	6	1
Organic & both (n=8)	4	4	0

Do you expect to retain or improve your businesses profitability based on what you learned today?

	Yes___	No___	NA___
All (n=21)	14	4	3
Conventional (n=8)	8	0	0
Organic & both (n=8)	3	4	1

How will you change your *organic* apple production as a result of what you learned today?

	Begin production___	Increase___	Decrease___	End production___	No change___
All (n=23)	3	5	0	0	14
Conventional (n=9)	3	-	-	-	6
Organic & both (n=8)	-	3	0	0	5

What will you do **differently** as a result of this training?

use organic at hobby level to begin familiarity.
organic input in operation.
modify thinning; investigate ground cover options.
mowing strategies; mulches.
more use of mulching.
move toward softer chemicals as season advances; thinning experiments.
plan orchard right from the beginning.
use bark mulch.
better record-keeping.
not sure - hand spray surround?
more careful timing of sprays; change products used; other ways to improve tree health.
try different ground cover options; try different fungicide rates.
better understanding of disease control.
look for sources of bark chips and manure.
I believe in IFP. This training provides continued understanding of the organic approach/alternative.

What do you feel were the **strengths** of this workshop?

pool of professionals doing presentations.
instructor's information .
good control (by facilitator?); lots of information presented and great speakers; binder good resource went through whole process.
good sharing of information - good, bad, ugly.
good overview of state of organic.
quality of presenters and their research.
it is a start.
strong coverage of the basics.
product options; nutrient options.
pest and disease presentations.
knowledge of faculty.
it has given some validity to the organic system.
willingness of presenters to give disadvantages of methods/products.
so many aspects of production were addressed.
lots of great info; great binder for info and presentations.
very comprehensive; covered all aspects.
large overview of organic production
liked step-by-step approach thru season; .wants to hear Peter's bloom talk; binder has great info.
gave a broad view of steps to have successful orchard annually.
good detailing of strategies.
comprehensive!

What do you feel were the **weaknesses** of this workshop?

not enough time, need more financial analysis.
minor time limitations.
expand discussion of OMRI listed materials.
too little time for Q & A.
not much mention of life as goal.
not enough cutting edge info or technique discussion.
no windows in room.
most of the research is based on conventional systems.
want more info from growers.
some researchers are one-sided and stuck in their conventional ways.
far to travel and I was tired.
lots of info for one day.
too fewer growers.
a bit too long.

most presenters not doing full-time organic; panel growers not all enthusiastic about organic;
 not enough resources exist on organic production.
 need more orchard profiles.
 contrast IFP with organic, not just conventional with organic - last speaker covered this! I wrote this too soon.

How can we **improve** this workshop?

engage more actual organic growers.
 more extensive demo of NEWA.
 follow up meeting?
 stick to organic slides and research.
 more detail; more leading edge discussions.
 more research on organic.
 more info from growers and have vendors.
 have positive success stories to encourage; better time management.
 fewer basics; specifics from published research esp. in Europe; more specifics on new SRC apples.
 shorten it.
 bring in presenters doing totally organic - someone who buys philosophy.
 bring to the Hudson Valley.
 include more about IFP in general.

What **additional** training-development education would you like to see offered?

site visit to organic orchard

making organic apple production in NE profitable.
 beneficial hedges and insects.
 info on care of other fruit .
 more promotion of IFP.
 basic apple growing class;
 info on how much chemicals stay in fruit and impacts on taste, storage, human health.

How do you rate the workshop overall?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor
All (n=22)	12	9	1	0	0
Conventional (n=8)	5	3	1	0	0
Organic or both (n=8)	5	3	0	0	0