

## Appendix B – Planning Grant Symposium Documents



# *No-Till* Organic Vegetable Production *in Western Washington*

*Workshop & Planning Session • October 28-29, 2009 • Everett, WA*



## Agenda

*Wednesday, October 28*

- 8:00-9:00AM Registration, Coffee & Tea
- 9:00-9:20AM Welcome, Introductions, Purpose of Meeting; Colleen Burrows, WSU Extension
- 9:20-10:00AM Introduction to No-Till & the WSU No-Till Organic Vegetable Research Project; Andrew Corbin, WSU Extension & Doug Collins, WSU Extension
- 10:00-10:20AM Break; Refreshments
- 10:20-11:05AM Benefits of No- & Low-Till; Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute
- 11:05-11:50AM Issues and Challenges to No-till Organic Crop Production; Carmen Fernholz, A-Frame Farm & University of Minnesota
- Noon-12:45PM Box Lunch
- 12:45-1:20PM Strip Tillage: A Hybrid System for Organic Vegetable Production; John Luna, Oregon State University
- 1:20-2:00PM Cover Crops and Equipment for No-Till Organic Vegetable Farming; Ron Morse, Virginia Tech.
- 2:00-2:30PM Load onto bus & travel to 21 Acres in Woodinville
- 2:30-4:30PM 21 Acres Demonstration & Discussion

This Workshop & Planning Session is sponsored by a grant from the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service in partnership with Washington State University Extension. The SARE publication *Managing Cover Crops Profitably, Third Edition*, is provided through a grant from the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR).



Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office or to the WSU Center for Human Rights.



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*in Western Washington*

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## Agenda

*Thursday, October 29*

- 8:30-9:00AM Check in, Continental breakfast
- 9:00-10:00AM Plan for the day  
What we hope to accomplish
- 10:00-11:15AM Break into discussion groups on these areas of interest:
- Weed Management
  - Equipment Development
  - Soil fertility/soil building
  - Cover crops/crop management systems
  - Profitability/economics
  - Others?
- Discuss, brainstorm, and build a list of the needs, benefits, activities, & long-term goals possible under each topic.
- 11:15-12:00PM Come back together for a short presentation from each group. Start planning discussion.
- 12:00-1:00PM Buffet lunch
- 1:00-3:00PM Continue discussion & develop draft plan
- 3:00PM Adjourn

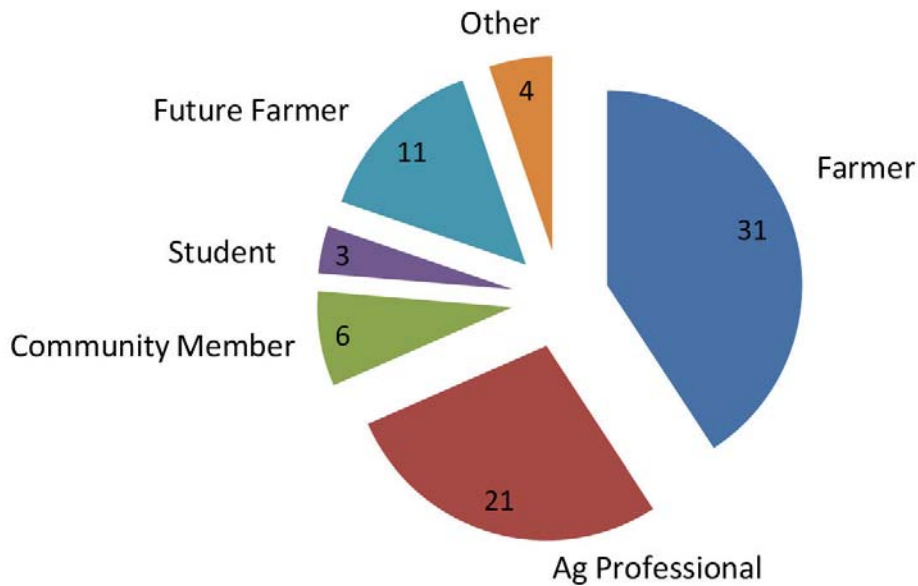
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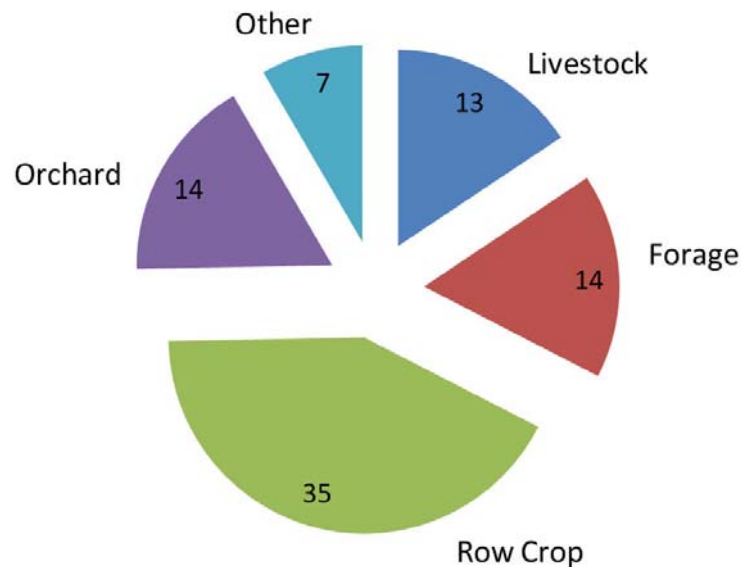
October 28, 2009

Are you a: *Farmer, Ag professional, Community member, Student, Future farmer, Other*



*“Other” was comprised of extension educator, government, university or researcher.*

What type of farm/land do you have? *Livestock, Forage, Row crop, Orchard, Other*

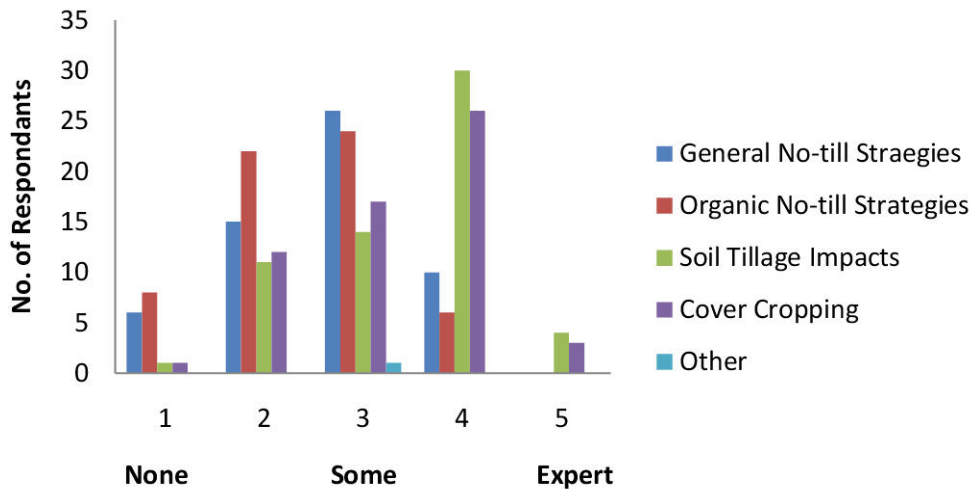


*“Other” was comprised of Hop yard, (small) vegetable, nursery or research.*

Rate your knowledge on these topics **BEFORE** attending the workshop:

General no-till strategies, Organic no-till strategies, Impacts of tillage on soil, Cover cropping, Other

### Knowledge of Topics Before Workshop

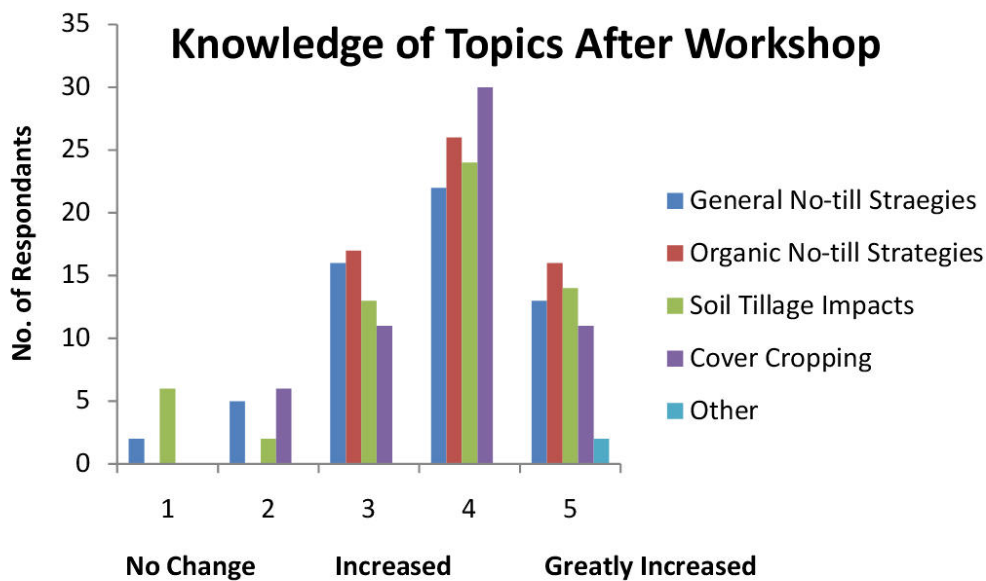


*“Other” was cover crop varieties.*

Rate your knowledge on these topics **AFTER** attending the workshop:

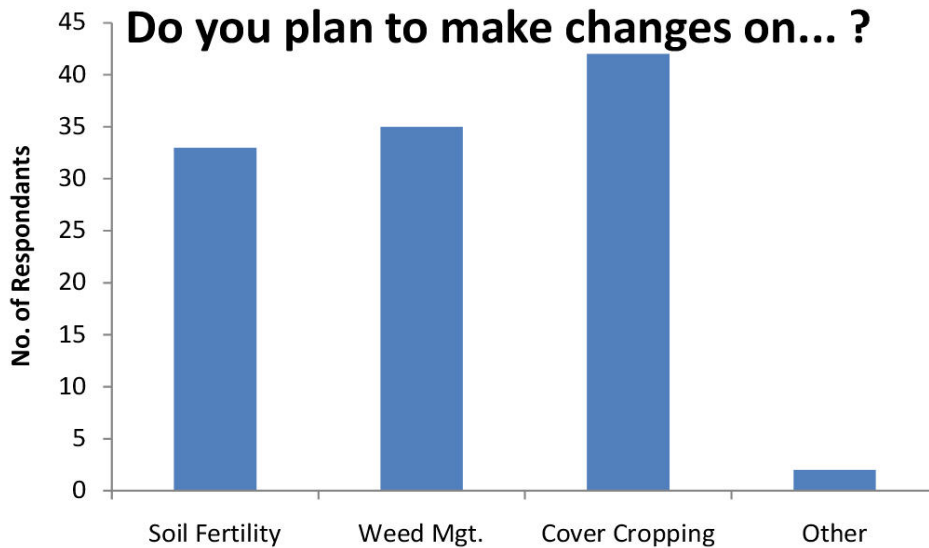
General no-till strategies, Organic no-till strategies, Impacts of tillage on soil, Cover cropping, Other

### Knowledge of Topics After Workshop



*“Other” was cover crop varieties and equipment.*

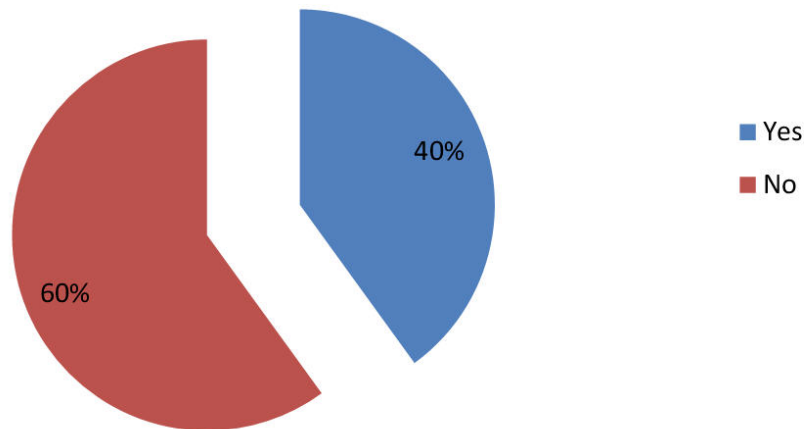
After today's workshop, do you plan to make changes on your farm in any of these areas? Soil or nutrient management, Weed management, Cover cropping, Other



*“Other” was machinery.*

We will be developing a research grant proposal following this event. Are you interested in having your farm participate with on-farm research trials?

### 40% of Respondants Indicated Willingness to Participate in On-Farm Trials



60 total respondents. No Negative Comments. Many Positive Comments – “...best ag program ever!” and the like. Many great comments on speakers, local staff and organization of program. Lots of “Thank You’s” and “keep up the good work” etc...

## WSU No-Till Organic Vegetable Production Workshop and Planning Session

### 10/29/09 (Day 2) Group Session Instructions

The entire group consisted of 35 participants, 17 on the production side and 18 research, extension and resource professionals. Individual participants ranked their top 3 topic areas of interest. Groups were formed around areas of interest and were balanced between producers and research and extension professionals into the following categories:

- Weed Management
- Equipment Development
- Soil fertility/carbon sequestration
- Cover crops/crop management systems
- Profitability/economics

Each group appointed a presenter prior to discussion. After break-out sessions, presentations were made to the whole group about ideas generated from the following points of view:

1. Industry Needs (general)
2. Research Activities (specific to topic area)
3. Outreach Activities (specific to topic area)
4. Potential economic, social, environmental benefits (general)
5. Long term goals (general)

Core PI's (Corbin, Collins, Benedict and Burrows) took notes and facilitated discussion on all topics presented. Parallels were drawn across groups and points of view to build the focus areas:

**Weed Management** – Species shift, seedbank, timing of BMP's, costs of production (time management), strip vs. no-till, field days and demo plots, decision tool and manual, website, adaptation to a broad range of producers.

**Equipment** – “Reducing tillage” vs. strict no-till, strip or zone till, mowing, rolling/crimping, combinations of above, weeding with above, capital returns, field days and demo plots, manual, website, video, train the trainer, adaptation to a broad range of producers.

**Soil** – Long-term soil quality, weed seedbank, “Reducing tillage” vs. strict no-till, field days and demo plots, website, decision tool, train the trainer, adaptation to a broad range of producers.

**Cover Crops** – Identifying varieties, timing, termination method and timing, seed availability, costs of production (time management), strip vs. no-till, field days and demo plots, decision tool and manual, website, adaptation to a broad range of producers.

**Economics** – Increase profits, customer recognition of ecosystem services, enterprise budgets, production cost comparisons, social networking, on-farm research, decision tool, workshops, website, adaptation to a broad range of producers.