

Minnesota Long Term Grower Training Assessment

Methods & Results

Purpose

- 1) Determine if Farmers were adopting/improving GAP's after Trainings
- 2) Determine areas of improvement for future Trainings

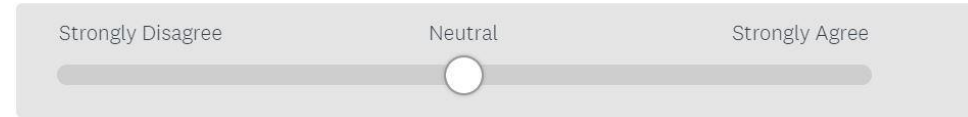
Methodology

- Identified MDA specific learning goals, and combined with PSA goals
- Developed assessment using multiple choice, ranking, and open ended questions
- Developed belief statements to measure agreement with important training concepts
- Distributed assessment through Survey Monkey
- Analyzed results to create recommendation for upcoming trainings

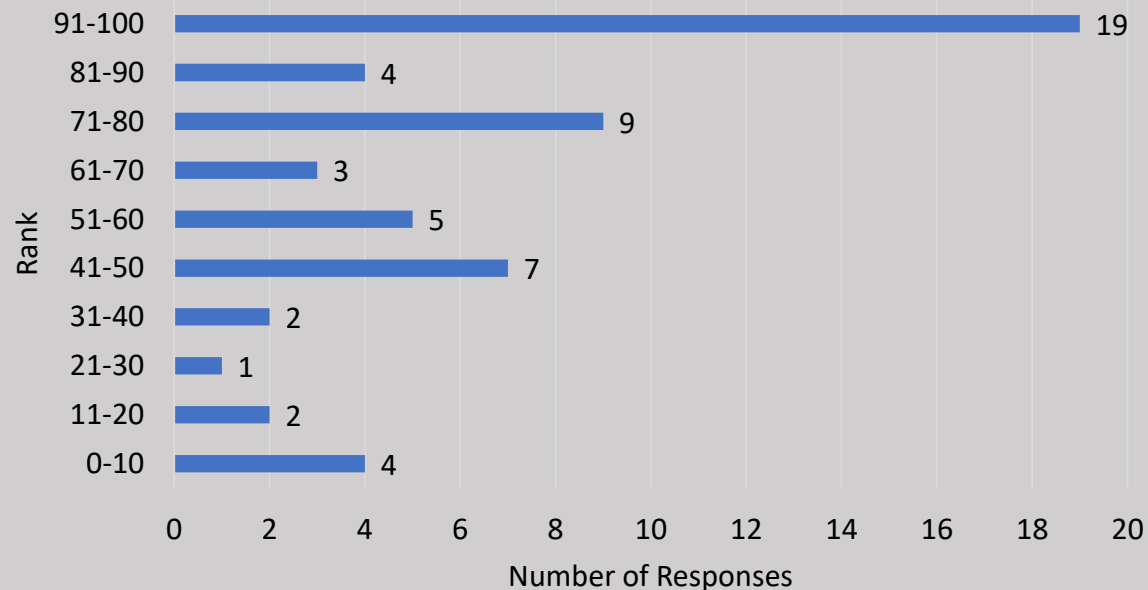
Results: Belief Statements

- Respondents used a sliding scale to indicate how strongly they agreed with important food safety belief statements. The default rank was 50 and represented a neutral response. 100 represents complete agreement, and 0 represents complete disagreement.

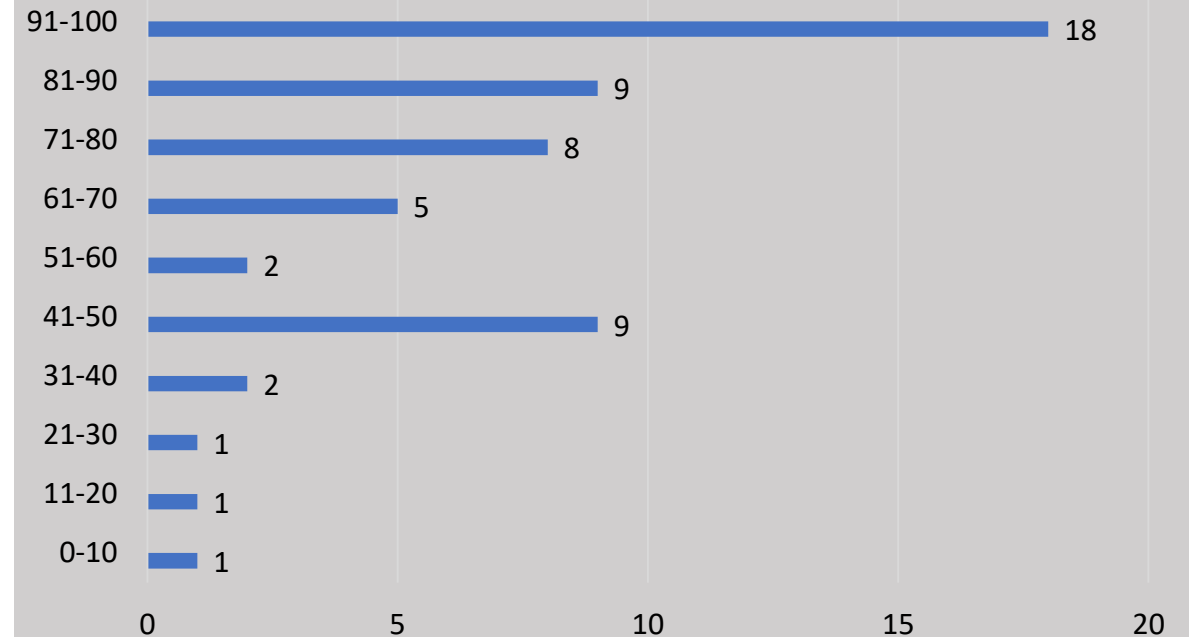
11. I believe on-farm produce safety practices are important.



I believe bacteria, viruses, and parasites are a potential risk on my farm.



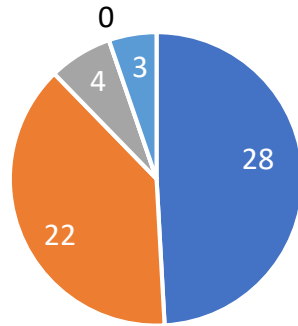
I believe there will be a return on investment from adopting produce safety practices on my farm.



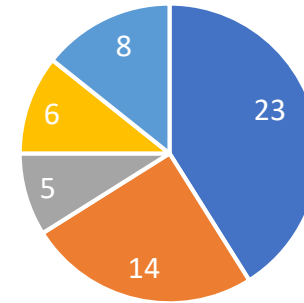
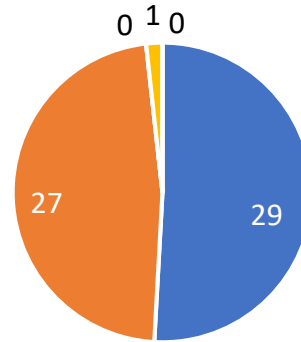
Number of respondents who ranked their level of agreement within the specified ranges.

Results: On-Farm Implementations

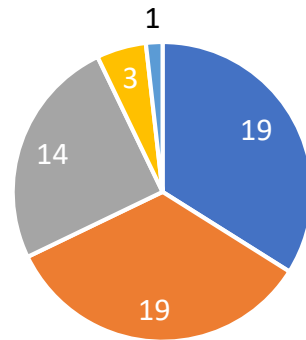
Worker Health/Hygiene



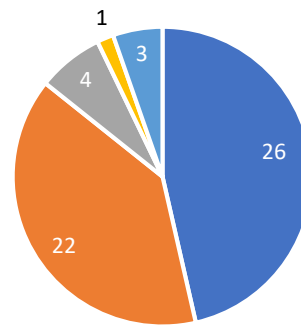
Cleaning and Sanitizing Water Testing and Management



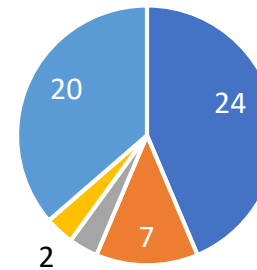
Food Safety Plan



Animal/Wildlife Monitoring



Use of Biological Soil Amendments



- Doing adequately before training
- Improved since training
- Started after training
- Not doing
- Not applicable to my operation

Results: Barriers to Implementation

What barriers have you encountered when trying to make changes to on-farm produce safety practices?

As a newer farm employee, it takes time and repetition to learn the processes.

Casual attitude with some family. Breaking bad habits.

Crew communication

No online checklists for making daily checking quick and easy

old ignorant ideas, foreign cultural practices, being female

push back on paperwork

Remembering to do all of them all the time

Struggling with teaching school-age employees who can't live without their cell phones.

Time consuming when conducting training.

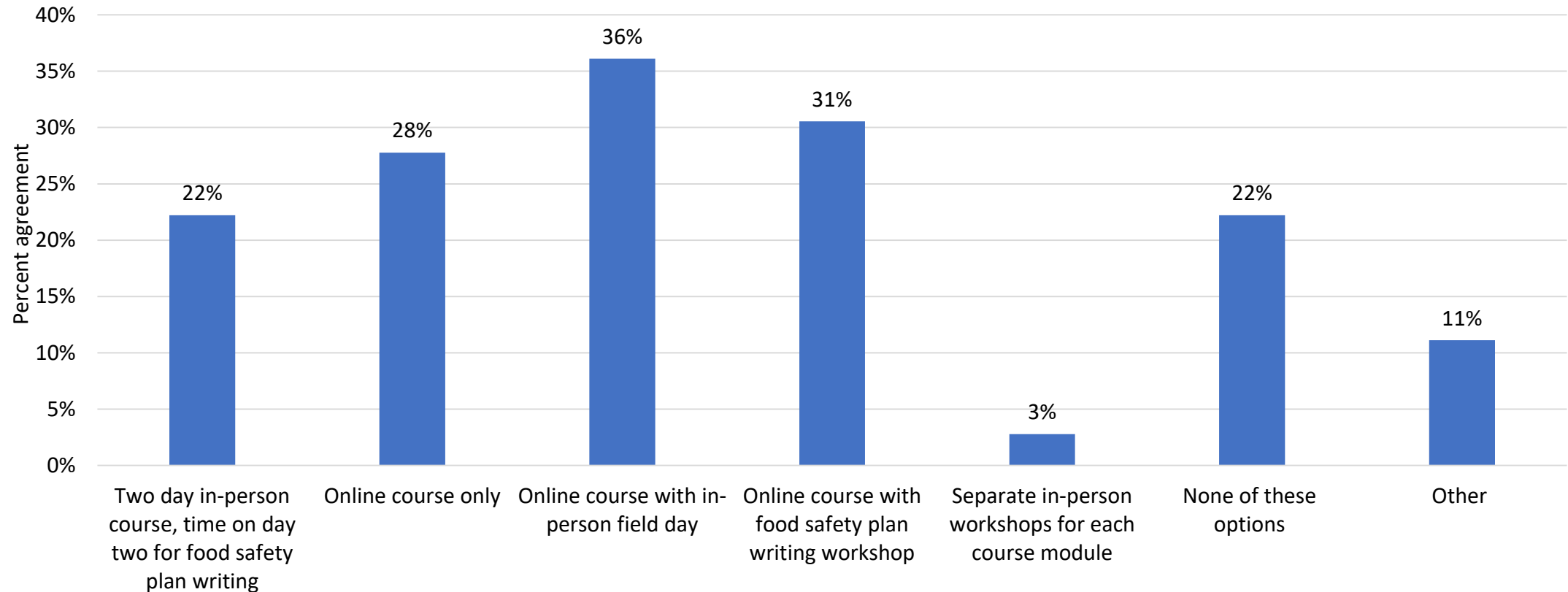
Time for documentation

Trying to figure out how to best implement change.

Worker compliance, and language barriers

Results: Format

Would you have been interested to learn about the Produce Safety Rule in any of the below formats?



Attendees were 3 to 1 in favor of the current training format. 25% would be interested in alternate training formats, however, with no strong consensus on preferred alternate format, growers would be best served by multiple training types.

Conclusions & Long Term Needs

- Many training goals are being successfully met
- There are areas for improvement and a need for additional education opportunities.
- Future training plans include:
 - continued grower trainings
 - expanded offerings for underserved communities
 - development of hands on events such as field days or food safety plan
 - increased involvement from farmer trainers and stories of how they implement GAP's on-farm
 - maintaining consistent communication through a variety of channels.