Practical Methods to Measure Outcomes

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Agenda

HOW TO...

Plan for Evaluation

- Develop Your Program Theory
- Protect Human Subjects
- Ensure Culturally Competent Evaluation

Focus your Evaluation

Identify Your Program Outcomes and Measureable Indicators

Choose Evaluation Data Collection Methods

Select Practical Options for Your Cooperative Extension Activities

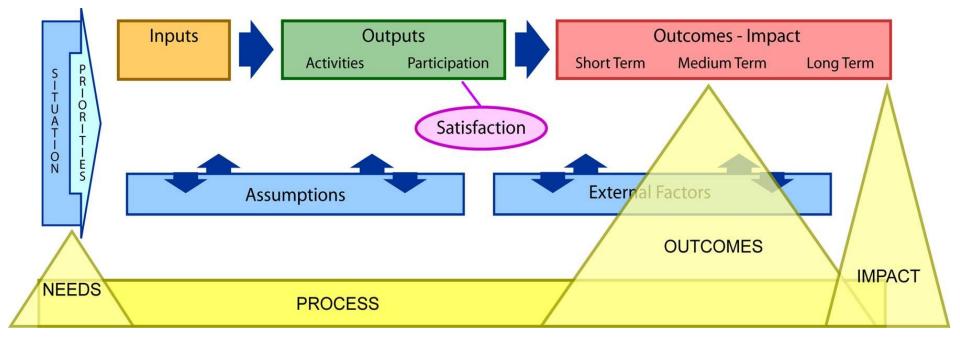
Incorporate Qualitative Evaluation Data

Analyze Qualitative Data

Desired Outcomes

Participants will gain...

- experience in defining your program theory
- understanding of why and when to get IRB approval for evaluation purposes
- experience in defining outcomes and measureable indicators
- understanding of options for evaluation data collection methods to measure



Types of evaluation

Needs assessment:

What are the characteristics, needs, priorities of target population?

What are potential barriers/facilitators?

What is most appropriate to do?

Process evaluation:

How is program implemented?

Are activities delivered as intended?

Are participants being reached as intended?

What are participant reactions?

Outcome evaluation:

To what extent are desired changes occurring?

Who is benefiting / not benefiting? How?

Are there unintended outcomes?

Impact evaluation:

What are the net effects?

What are final consequences?

To what extent can changes be attributed to the program?

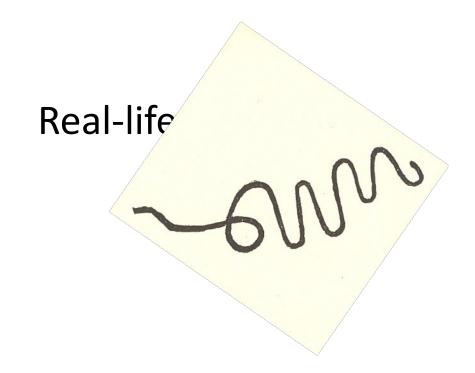
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Basic Steps for Outcome Evaluation

- Develop a program theory
- Define the intended outcomes
- Identify the indicators
- 4. Determine sources of information
- 5. Choose data collection methods
- 6. Analyze & interpret data

Program Theory

If this then that...



Leigh Johnson, UCCE San Diego Coastal Resources Advisor, Emeritus



Program Theory

Logic Model: chain of connections showing what the program is to accomplish

Issue

Situation:

Background, Rationale, Clientele Needs, Goals

What we invest

Inputs:

Time, Volunteers, Research base

Methods:

Outputs, Activities, Products, **Participation**

What you do

What results

Learning **Outcomes:**

Knowledge, Attitude/ Intent to Change,

Skill

Action Outcomes: Behavior,

Policy

Condition Outcomes: Economic gain, Societal or Environmental improvement





Time





Developing Your Program Theory Step 1

Individual exercise:

Draft a logic model for one of your programs

Partner interviews:

- Share your logic model & describe & edit as needed
 - what's going on in your program?
 - who participates?
 - how are people the community benefiting?

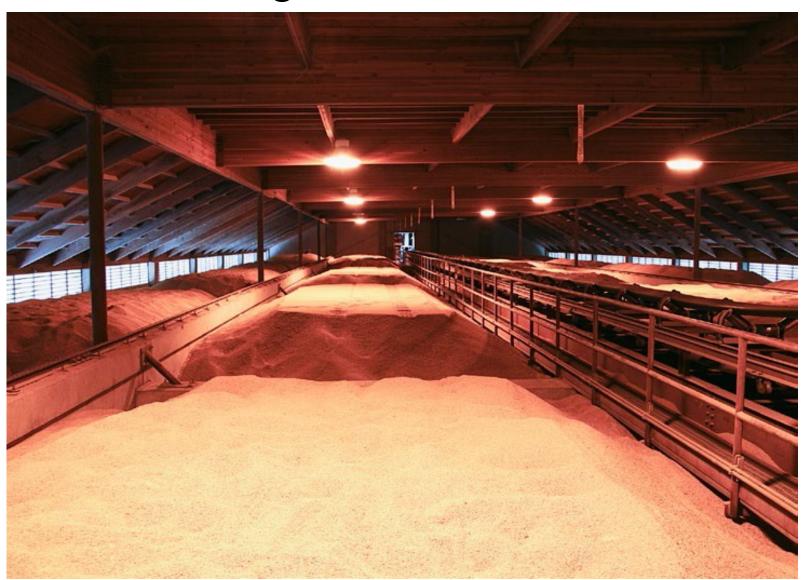
Protecting Human Subjects

- "A human subject is as a living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual; or (2) identifiable private information."
- Institutional Review Board = IRB
- · Core Principles: Respect, Beneficence, Justice

Do you need IRB approval?

- Do the human subjects represent a vulnerable population (e.g., youth, institutionalized individuals, or others whose participation may be considered involuntary)?
- Is it likely that participants' identities and/or contact information can be linked to their responses?
- ✓ Will evaluation results be published (in peer-reviewed journals)?

UCCE Example: Rice Storage Education Priorities



IRB Policies

- Principle Investigators must be academics with minimum of 50% appointment
- ANR utilizes UC Davis' IRB using new "IRBnet" online software. Begin here: http://research.ucdavis.edu/policiescompliance/ir b-admin/
- Investigators and staff conducting research must complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (<u>CITI</u>) human subjects online training

IRB Training Resources

- · CITI online training programs: citiprogram.org
 - This is not the same as the USDA-required Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) trainingmust do both to submit IRB application through UC Davis
- UC Davis Investigator Manual available: http:// research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/HRP-103-

Ensuring Culturally Competent Evaluation

Cultural Competence:

"a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals and enables that system, agency, or those professionals to work effectively in crosscultural situations."

[Cowles (2005)]

Ensuring Culturally Competent Evaluation



Cultural Considerations Group Discussion

1. How might participant characteristics affect your evaluation?

- Language
- Age
- Abilities: mental, physical, social
- Male-female interactions, communication styles, family relationships, decision-making styles
- Attitudes to conflict
- Concept of time
- Approaches to knowing and ways of knowing

2. How might you make the following data collection methods more culturally sensitive?

- Written questionnaire
- Mailed survey
- Observations
- Interviews

Focusing Your Outcomes Evaluation



What do you want to know?

Social-economicenvironmental impacts

Source: Bennett and Rockwell, 1995, Targeting Outcomes of Programs



Changes in behaviors and practices, policy/decision making

Learning

Changes in knowledge, attitudes, skills, aspirations

Reactions

Degree of satisfaction with program; level of interest; feelings toward activities, educational methods



Number and characteristics of people reached; frequency and intensity of contact

Define Intended Outcomes that are...

REASONABLE

- connected in a logical way to your program activities?

REALISTIC

achievable given the situation and resources/inputs

<u>IMPORTANT</u>

- represent an important change that is valued by participants and key stakeholders

Outcome Indicators

If the outcome is achieved, how will you know it?

What will it look like?

What is the evidence?

Criteria:

- Tangible
- Specific
- · Useful
- Practical
- Culturally responsive
- Adequate

Logic model with Indicators









Outcomes

Program implemented **Targeted** growers

Growers learn

Farmers adopt new techniques

Farm profitability increases

Number of workshops held **Quality of** workshops

Number and percent of growers attending **Extension** activities

Number and percent who increase knowledge of...

Number and percent who now practice researchbased

tochniques

Number and percent reporting increased profits; amount of increase

Sustainable Food Systems

Intended Outcome: Enhanced food system capacity, including new/improved plants, animals, technologies and management systems.



Outcome Indicators:

- # of new/improved plant releases
- # of improved animal genetics
- # of producers who report adoption of recommended practices (those that increase yields, efficiency, and economic return, reduce inputs, and conserve resources)

Intended Outcome: UC ANR programs serving growers and ranchers have contributed to their realizing lower production costs and/or higher return on investment.



Outcome Indicator: "Pistachio owner/operators, with orchards covering 50,000 acres, have begun to utilize mechanical pruning instead of labor-based cultural practices, which reduce their management costs from \$200 per acre to about \$50."

Endemic & Invasive Pests & Diseases

Intended Outcome: Increased use of research-based IPM practices.

Outcome Indicators:

- #of program participants that gained the skill to identify natural enemies
- # of program participants that increased use of reduced-risk pesticides
- # agencies that incorporate science-based information into city wide policy



Sustainable Natural Ecosystems

Intended Outcome: Farmers increase native bee populations on agricultural land.

Outcome Indicator:

"There are 18 newly established acres of native bee habitat on the treatment farms. While more study is required, it appears these habitats are working to

increase native bee population

farms, and may

be supporting increased populations of native

Water Quality, Quantity & Security

Intended Outcome: Participants in UC ANR programs adopt research-based recommended practices for water conservation.

Outcome Indicator:

"professional irrigation associations and landscape irrigation leaders adopted use of the new simplified landscape irrigation demand estimation procedure I

taught and are now more effectively managing and conserving water in landscapes."

Group Discussion

Intended Outcome: Growers have expanded economic opportunities.

What are some possible outcome indicators?

Focusing Your Outcomes Evaluation Exercise:

Step 2 Define Intended Outcomes & Step 3 Identify Indicators

- 1. On your own
- Write intended program outcome(s)
- Identify measureable indicator(s)
- 2. Partner interview
- What do you (and stakeholders) want to know about your program, and how you will know?
- 3. Group sharing

Practical Methods for Evaluation Data Collection to Measure Program Benefit to Participants

Your sources of evaluation information

Most often your program participants!

Other sources may include:

- Existing data
 - Program records, sales records, etc.
 - Pictures, charts, maps, pictorial records
- Others/Non-participants
 - Key informants
 - Funders
 - Collaborators

Extension Evaluation Data Collection Methods

- Document review
- Observation
- · Interview
- Group assessment
- Survey

OTHERS:

- Case study
- Diaries, journals
- Expert or peer review
- Portfolio review

MIXED METHODS:

Convergent Exploratory

Content analysis of existing information

Use it for:

- Behavior change
- Quantitative data
- Qualitative data

Content analysis of existing information

Use it for:

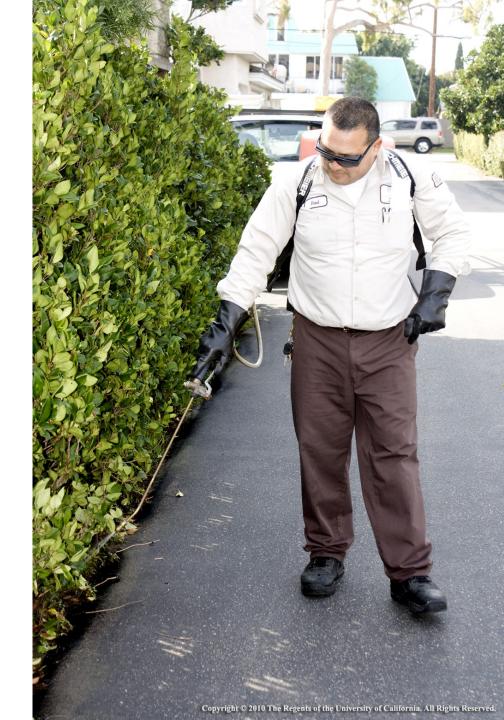
- Behavior change
- Quantitative data
- Qualitative data

- Sales records or use records
- Little to no participant burden
- If possible, get pre and post data for comparison

UC IPM & MG example:

"The four local Orchard Supply Hardware stores have a "quick tip" card holder kiosk at the end of each pesticide aisle and "shelf talkers" identifying less-toxic products. OSH reported a 12 percent increase in the sale of less-toxic products compared to the moretoxic alternatives."

Using submitted use records to evaluate IPM adoption and water quality outcomes for a decade of training city and county landscape professionals



Seeing & listening!

Use it for:

- Skills gained
- Behavior change
- Qualitative data
- Quantitative data, if systematically collected

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- Behavior change
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- Quantitative data, if systematically collected

Seeing & listening!

- You likely already do it!
- Less to no participant burden
- When there is physical evidence that can be readily seen
- When written or other data collection procedures seems unnecessary
- Pre/Post approach for comparison

Field Notes

- Least structured way
- You can commit observations to memory and make notes later
- Carefully record date, location, relevant information
- Leave a wide margin for analysis later
- Consider creating a simple database to pull out participant outcomes to later report



Use of spotted wing drosophila traps



Observation Checklist

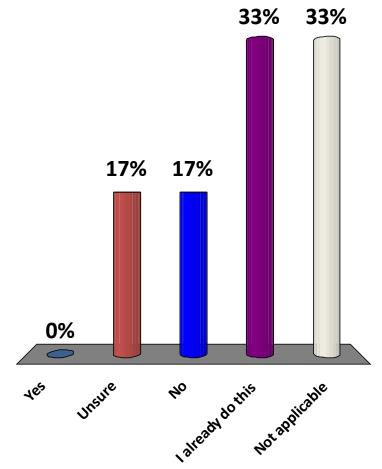
- Tool to document what you've seen & heard for later evaluation write-up
- · Clip board in the field or later in the truck
- Organizes data collection for quantification

Observation sheet for Winter Feeding and Extended Grazing Observer: VIRGINIA ECD EXAMPLE Audience: Location: Did you observe the following practices during the on site farm visit?

Extended Grazing	YES	NO	EXPLAIN
Stockpiled pasture for extending fall grazing			
Grazing or baling of crop residues			
Using annual crops for summer or extended fall grazing (type of crop)			
Limit-fed grain supplementation (when, how much?)			

Are you interested in using an observation checklist to measure outcomes?

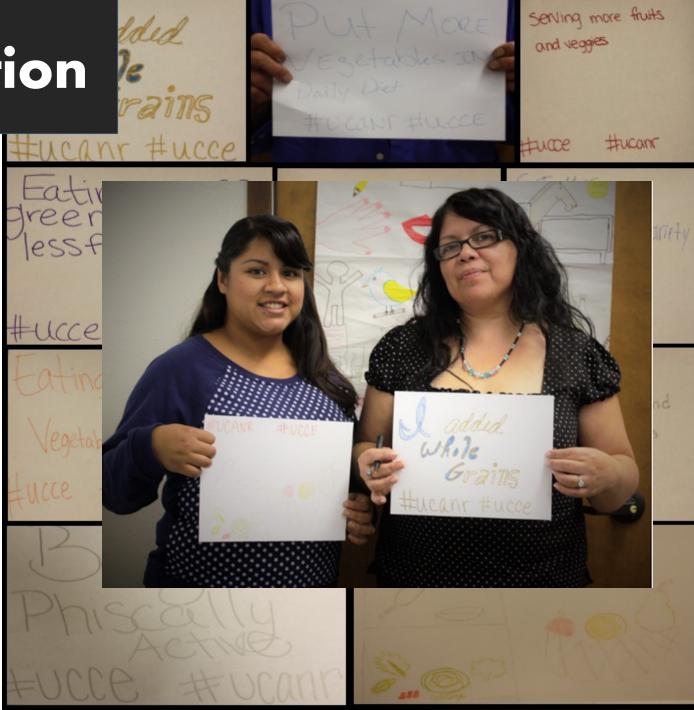
- A. Yes
- B. Unsure
- c. No
- I already do this
- E. Not applicable



Photograph/Video

- Present powerful visuals to illustrate behavior change or adoption
- Can be documented by volunteers, participants, YOU!
- Can be analyzed using matrices/rubrics (e.g. youth photo journals)

Participants
document
outcomes
using
#healthyselfie



Talking and listening to people

Use it for:

- Self-reported knowledge, attitude, behavior changes
- When surveys inappropriate
- Qualitative data
- Some quantitative data

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- Range from free-flowing, semi-structured, tightly structured
- Helpful to create an interview protocol for consistency
- Can also ask about impact, unintended outcomes, as well as process evaluation questions (ideas for improvement or barriers to implementation)

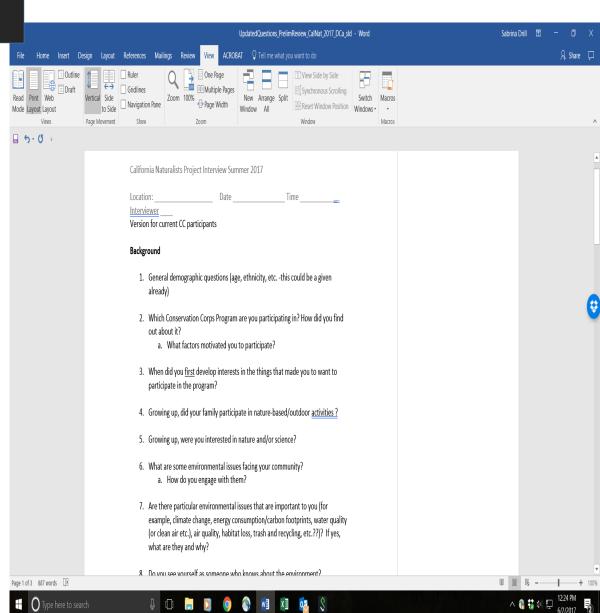
50 % adoption (over time) of new nitrogen guidelines discovered through informal interviews with growers

- Some adopted the practice early on, many more during the dry winters (and subsequent nitrogen burn from preplant fertilizer).
- Informal interviews in fields with pointed questions about nitrogen use and total acreage.

California Naturalist Program

Formal interviews

- Collect
 consistent data
 overtime; using
 the same
 questions
- · IRB



Uses group processes such as focus groups & forums

Use it for:

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Uses group processes such as focus groups & forums

- Group processes foster trust and relationship-building in addition to the activity's goals
- Costly (time/personnel) to analyze
- Piggy back off existing meetings
- 4-10 people for in person
- Can also ask about impact, unintended outcomes, as well as process evaluation questions (ideas for improvement or barriers to implementation)

Assessment for UC IPM
Program Strategic Planning:
Questioning Route for Pest
Control Advisers Focus Group

TOPIC: Current Usage

Opening Question

 Please tell us your name, who you work for, the general area and crops in which you work, how long you have been a PCA, and how long you have been interacting with the UC IPM program.

Transition Question

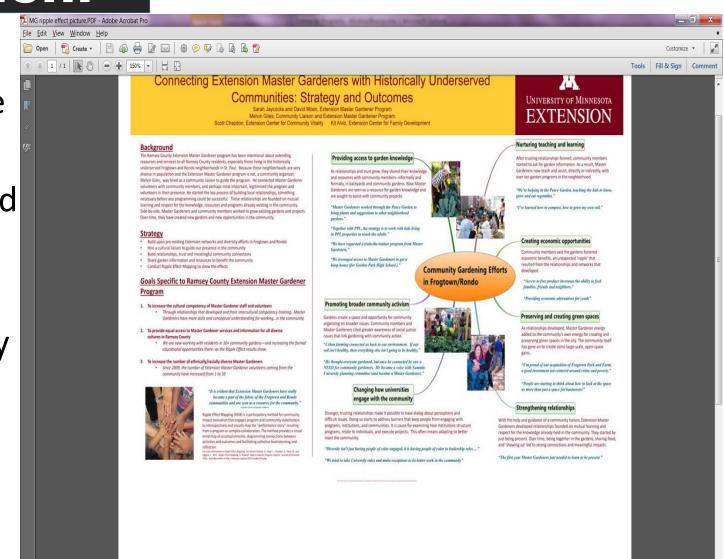
How did you learn about the UC IPM program and the information it offers?

Key Questions

- Which UC IPM products do you use? How do you use them? How often?
- Prompts for *facilitator only* specifically do they use the following: sections of the PMGs on water toxicity information; air quality information, natural enemies/bees chart, pesticide recommendations table, year round program information, manuals, degree day models, etc.
 - *Probes:* What value do you find in these products? What has been particularly helpful? What has been particularly frustrating?

Ripple Effect Mapping

- Appreciative Inquiry
- Intended and unintended outcomes
- Participatory
- · Visual
- Qualitative analysis



Use it for:

- Knowledge change
- Self-reported knowledge, attitude, behavior change
- Qualitative data
- Quantitative data

Collecting standardized information through structured questionnaires

Use it for:

- Knowledge change
- Self-reported knowledge, attitude, behavior change
- Qualitative data
- Quantitative data

Collecting standardized information through structured questionnaires

- Fast and cheap
- Typically used for participant reaction, but potential for much more!
- Consider using for in person and online Extension activities
- People are over surveyed consider adding an incentive or use clickers for better engagement
- Qualtrics!
- Always test your survey
 (cognitive interviews)

Incentives?!













Pre/Post

- Survey participants at the beginning and end of activity
- Objectively measures learning gain (limited)
- Comparison data allows for attribution of learning gain to the Extension activity
- Can use clickers



The snail pictured above is a: *

- White garden snail
- Brown (European) garden snail
- Decollate snail
- Amber snail
- I don't know



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- White garden snail
- Brown (European) garden snail
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- Amber snail
- O I don't know

Post with Retrospective-Pre

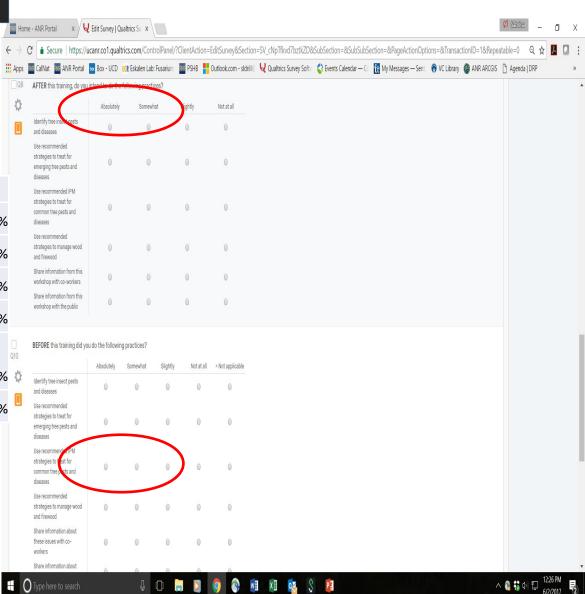
- Survey participants at end of activity only
- Measure self-reported learning gains AND changes in skills, attitudes, <u>intent</u> to adopt, etc.
- Comparison data allows for attribution of gains to the Extension activity
- · Respondent bias

Shot-hole Borer Workshop

On-site (or shortly after) survey with retrospective questions

Practice	Abs Before	Abs After	#VALUE!
ID pests	29.00%	63.00%	34%
Treat emerging	25.00%	54.00%	29%
Treat common	27.00%	57.00%	30%
Manage wood	32.00%	75.00%	43%
			Q10
Share to co-workers	37.00%	85.00%	48% (
Share to public	40.00%	78.00%	38%







Implementing the Grape Powdery Mildew Index in

Foothill Vineyards

2. Prior to this presentation, had you visited the UCIPM powdery mildew page with the Amador and El Dorado stations? (Yes/No)

3. <u>Since</u> this presentation, will you visit the UCIPM powdery mildew page with the Amador and El Dorado stations? (Yes/No/Maybe)

RESULTS:

2013: Electronic ANR survey sent after workshop via email. 24/104 responded (23%). 83% of respondents said they would visit the UCIPM powdery mildew webpage SINCE my presentation, up from 29% who said they had visited PRIOR to my presentation.

2014: Paper survey given at workshop. 20/90 responded (22%). 90% of respondents said they would visit the UCIPM powdery mildew webpage SINCE this presentation; up from 50% of respondents who said they had visited the page PRIOR to my presentation.

Quantifying Potential Impact Using Cost Study Data

Conversations with vineyard managers revealed they are looking at the PMI index-some are using it and think they saved a spray. We showed in trials that we saved one spray using the index during that particular season.

If one applied spray costs \$82/acre

(cost study referenced), one fewer spray on 8,000 acres, estimated winegrape acreage in the MCP,

= \$ 656,000 saved!



Follow-Up

- Highly recommended practice
- · Can measure self-reported behavior change
- · 3-6 months, but it depends!
- · Mail, online, phone
- Can identify barriers to participant implementation
- Standalone or combine with a pre/post or post/retro-pre survey

Online educational materials evaluated with follow-up survey

Downloadable at no cost, but asked for name, email, employer, city, and state to gather evaluation information

Did you increase your knowledge on the use of pesticide handling best management practices to protect water quality?

75% (9/12) Yes

17% (2/12) No

8% (1/12) Did not answer

Follow-up survey sent as part of Extension product



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UCCE-LA

http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/Natural_Resources/Wildland_Fire.htm phone #323-260-2267

or contac

Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council http://www.lasgrwc.org phone #213-229-9945

Now that 2008 is over, save this calendar as a seasonal guide to fire safety.

minute story photo scotl victims

series and conclusion contained in this document are those of the authors, and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions opinions of the U.S. Committee of the National Flah, and Wild unundation. Mention of fusier names or commencial products does not constitute their endocument by the Committee of the National Flah and Wildie Flah and

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Takes and Redecial laws.









We hope you enjoyed this SAFE-Landscapes Calendar! Please take a few minutes to answer these questions so that we can improve our program!

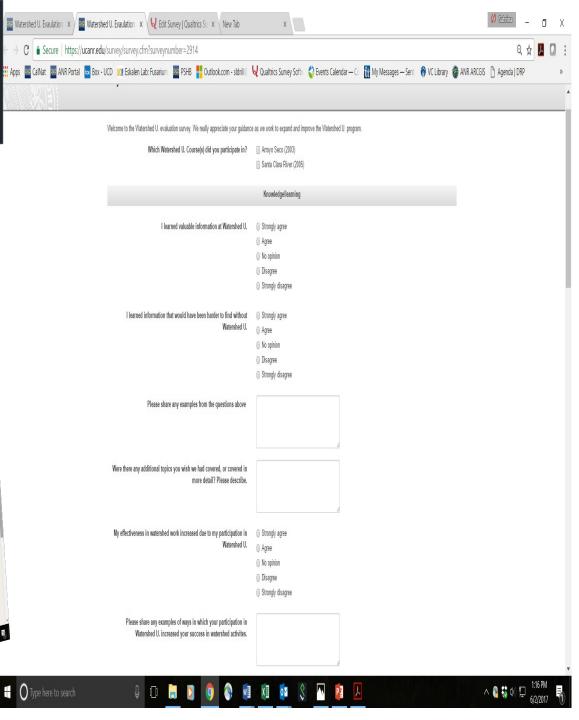
Do you live in or own property in the wildlife-urban interface? __Yes __N

ease rate the following: (circle one)		Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strong
1.	I found this calendar useful	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Information in this calendar was new to me	1	2	3	4	5
3.	I liked having the information in a calendar format	1	2	3	4	5
4.	I am saving this to review in future years	1	2	3	4	5
5.	I would have preferred to get this information in another format	1	2	3	4	5
6.	I still feel the need for more information	1	2	3	4	5
7.	I am changing/have changed my landscape because of this calendar	1	2	3	4	5
8.	I am more concerned about Invasive species	1	2	3	4	5
9.	I have taken invasive species out of my landscape	1	2	3	4	5
10.	I avoided buying any invasive landscape plants	1	2	3	4	5

Do you recommend any additional topics?

Follow-up survey: Watershed University 3-5 years later





Post, Retrospective Pre, and Follow Up

BEHAVIORS: Identify natural enemies, use reduced-risk pesticides

SCALE: Not at all, Slightly, Somewhat, Absolutely, Not applicable

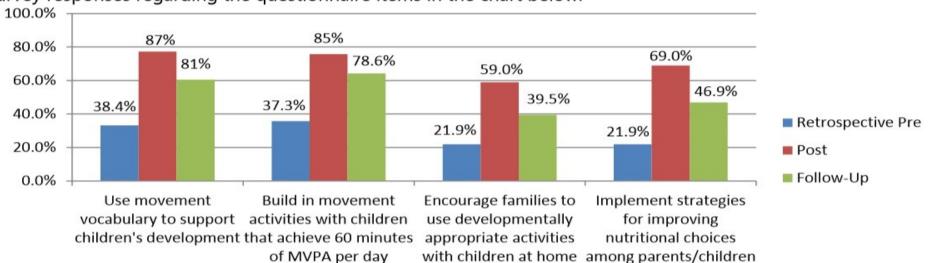
QUESTIONS

- AFTER the training, do you intend to do the following practices?
- BEFORE the training, did you do the following practices?
- · [Several months later]: Do you do the following

Post, Retrospective Pre, and Follow Up

- Compare pre responses with more conservative follow up responses
- Consider lumping positive and negative for data visualization:

Positive and significant changes (p<0.01) occurred between retrospective pre-, post-, and follow-up training survey responses regarding the questionnaire items in the chart below:



Analyzing pre/post/follow up data:

- Numerical data: T-tests, etc.
- Everything else: Change scores

Assume a rank to each response category (not at all=1, slightly=2, somewhat=3, absolutely =4). Subtract the follow up response and the pre response for each participant to see if individuals progress from a lower level or a higher level. You can report the number of individuals who progress for each question.



Example in the works: Measuring success to increase pesticide application understanding and adoption of good spraying practices within management structures.

- Retrospective pre-post survey after trainings
- Follow-up survey at the end of the season (non-paired for feasibility)

<u>Mixed</u> Method

Satisfaction: (satisfied

+ very satisfied)

Evaluating environmental education, citizen science, and stewardship through naturalist programs

Adina M. Merembender, * ¶ Alycia W. Crail, † Sabrina Dritt, † Michella Psystry, † and Heidi Ballardj.

Mt. Diablo Region

2017 California **Naturalist Course** Scorecard

Evaluation tools:

- Retrospective survey
- Interviews with select groups
- Focus group with instructors
- VMS to record hours, activities, 2° contacts, acres

Plan to Volunteer

(n=11)

Self-Confidence:

Change in the % of respondents that strongly agree they are capable of making a positive impact on the environment from pre to post course

> 36.3% pre 81.8% post

General Stats:

- Number of Courses & Participants: 33
- Graduation Rate: 94% (31/33)
- Evaluation Response Rate: 33% (11/33)
- Course History: 2017 (first course)



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

California Naturalist Program

Data Collection Plan Exercise Step 4 Determine Sources of Information Step 5 Choose Methods 1. Complete your data collection plan:

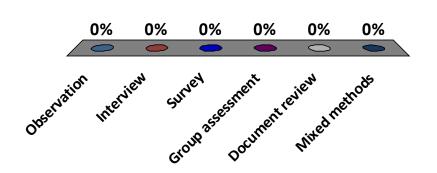
 Write down what methods you think would work well for you and your clientele.

2. Partner interview:

- Why did you chose this evaluation method(s)?
- What questions/concerns do you have that others may be able to help with?

What evaluation method are you most interested in using?

- A. Observation
- в. Interview
- c. **Survey**
- Group assessment
- E. Document review
- Mixed methods



Qualitative Data

Why ask open-ended questions in surveys, interviews, and focus groups?

- To explore respondents' thoughts and opinions
- To collect more context or detailed information on successes, challenges, barriers, etc.
- When you don't know what close-ended response categories to use

Practical Approach to Analyzing Qualitative Data

- Organize data all in one place
- Read through open-ended answers & identify emergent themes
- 3. Develop *codes* to categorize data
- 4. Apply *codes* to each response
- Count repetitions of codes & highlight representative responses for code
- Interpret results (more than description) -- with colleagues!

Group Exercise

- Review end-of-session/workshop evaluation data example
- 2. Practice developing themes/codes
- 3. Apply themes/codes

Qualitative Analysis

"Gold Standard" = same steps but working with a team

- Decide on how to code each line or quote.
 - Pre-existing list vs. emergent list (commonly used); or combo
- 2. First and a second team member "code/index" each line of data. Apply the categories to every single line of data.
- Compare each person's coding to ensure that you coded in the same way. Discuss discrepancies. Finalize list of codes.
- 4. Additional team members repeat steps 2& 3.
- 5. Review and summarize the data that falls under each code.
- 6. Interpret.

The more people, the more "validated" your coding.

Some things to remember...

- There is no one right method for collecting evaluation data
- Each has a purpose, advantages and challenges
- Consider purpose, participants, and resources available when selecting you method
- The goal is to obtain trustworthy, authentic and credible evidence
- Often a mix of methods is preferred

Evaluation Methods Group Reflection

Given what you discussed in small groups, is there something you might change or do differently in your approach to measuring outcomes?

Extension Evaluation Resources

- New Evaluation CE Specialist COMING SOON!
- ANR CE Program Evaluation Resources http://ucanr.edu/sites/CEprogramevaluation/
- Toolkit for Assessing IPM Outcomes & Impacts http://ipmimpact.ucanr.edu/
- University of Wisconsin-Extension Program Development and Evaluation http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/index.html
- Collecting Evaluation Data: An Overview of Sources and Methods http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/g3658-4.pdf
- Using Research Methods to Evaluate Your Extension Program http:// www.joe.org/joe/2002december/a1.php

"Measure what you value and others will value what you measure."

-- John Bare,

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation