

**SRSFC Blueberry Agent Training
June 19-21, 2007**

Training Day Evaluations

<u>Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
What did you like best about the training?	Broad spectrum of presentations
	Cultural management program was excellent! Chance to talk to other agents.
	Information from specialist and researchers
	The information regarding ideal cultural conditions for optimal production were very useful.
	Range of topics covered; Ability to see/taste many different varieties in the field
	Gerard's talk on practical things
	Interacting with specialists and agents from different states, getting different perspectives on blueberry production.
	Tours and literature (CD, notebook, IPM pocket field guide)
	The tour of mechanical harvesting and equipment for Blueberry
	The topics were timely and useful.
	Excellent information and presenters.
	IPM guides, tours of farms—(commercial and research), meeting agents/specialists from other counties and states
	Meeting other specialists and agents from around the area
	Opportunity to talk to other workers one-on-one.
	Overall, a very informational training.
	I felt it was well-planned and the speakers were prepared
	Variety information and sampling!
	Combination of Presentations (covering all aspects of blueberry production) and field tours in the same workshop
	All of it. Great presenters. Very comprehensive for the academic to the practicum
	The combination of lecture and in the field—great facility
I liked the balance of classroom and field training. Also, I liked the speakers who seemed to be carefully chosen and who were very knowledgeable.	
Personally and as an economist, all the training topics were equally important to me. I needed to know the various cost components that I could use in developing future budgets and each topic provided the information I needed.	
The topics and the field trip to the farms	

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<u>Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
Which talks/presentations were most helpful to you?	Cultural
	Cultural Management by Gerard Krewer
	Variety of information
	I learned from every presentation so they all were helpful.
	Investment analysis; insects and diseases
	Gerard Krewer's
	Each talk/presentation was helpful. Bill Cline was especially interesting.
	The budget/investment analysis talk, followed by cultural practices. Blueberry breeding in GA, then disease/insect management were the presentations most beneficial.
	All of them, with special emphasis on "Investment Analysis..."
	Blueberry disease and control, Investment analysis
	Investment Analyses and Weed Management stand out...although all were very good.
	I must say the integration of all talks: each complemented the others (or you can say "whatever Bill presented")
	The talks on variety selection and pest control
	They were all good but not particularly enlightening for me.
	All were beneficial.
	All of them. The least helpful was the economic projection
	Economic analysis talks
	All talks/presentations were very useful
	N/A
	Varietal specifics, herbicides
The variety talks are least helpful to those from other regions. The talks regarding pests and diseases were the most helpful to me.	
All	
They all were very helpful. Also liked the one on one time with presenter and agents	

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<u>Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
Were the field tours useful to you?	Yes
	Great tours.
	Very good!
	Absolutely; seeing plants in production is always worth while. Also enjoyed tasting and eating different varieties.
	Extremely
	Yes, but took too long to get there
	Absolutely! I enjoyed the hands-on part of the training
	Yes, very much! Particularly liked scouting field for diseases, as well as the time spent observing the Blueberry packaging and visiting with the farm manager.
	Yes. Both the Bladen County tour and the NCSU Horticultural Crops Research Station in Castle Hayne, NC were very beneficial.
	Very useful; soil types, effect of freeze damage, packing sheds
	Yes I enjoyed the production/processing; very educational
	Yes! 1) Tell about it 2) Show it 3) Put your hands on it (very few extension programs can provide the total package)
	Extremely useful
	I saw changes on blueberry farms that I had visited in the past. Obviously, if it had not rained, Wednesday afternoon would have been better. I was unable to go on the expt. Stat. tour due to prior commitment.
	Yes, to be able to see cultivars and breeding work
	Very
	Critical! This training would not have been worth it to me without it.
	Yes, it was very instructive
	Yes, the tour gave a feel of the breadth of the industry in NC
	Yes!
Yes, very.	
Yes	
Yes. This allowed me to see how other blueberry farms work and see soil types.	

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<u>Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
What did you not like about the training?	Genetics got a little too deep
	Benny did not have blueberry pre-picked for us!
	Everything was great!
	The first day was a lot of sitting.
	Nothing—everything was excellent
	Drive
	Would liked to have spent more time on a few subjects, but that is hard to do when you have to cover so many subjects
	Would have liked more one on one, or time spent visiting with growers. What about irrigation/frost protection set ups?
	No dislikes about the training. One of the best I have attended in many years.
	I know and respect Dr. Ballington very much, but I didn't need the depth of genetics I got from his talk. Dr. NeSmith's presentation was more valuable and practical.
	I could have used additional information on varieties, especially northern highbush (a specialist from northern area would have been nice)
	2 fried chicken and BBQ meals back to back (better than a cold hot dog, though)
	It was well planned
	In depth discussion of topics was lacking; most of the info, I could have gleaned from the website.
	Nothing
	Overall, it was very helpful
	Nothing!
	None
	N/A
	All good
Nothing	
Starting time was too early for me traveling form South GA., other than that like everything.	

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<u>Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
<p>What are your suggestions for improving future agent training sessions?</p>	More economics, harvest, post-harvest, marketing
	Nothing! The format and length of the training is perfect!
	Travel and then talks on the same day is tough.
	Add a component on marketing
	Do more of the same. Keep a good mix of classroom and field activities where possible.
	Increase time exposure to growers (Q&A) during tours.
	Continue to have similar trainings in other areas of fruit production.
	The current program approach is excellent. Having a broad range of topics that includes IPM, new cultivars and basic horticulture.
	Organization and logistics have been excellent. Possible break-up of presentations and tours (we sat a little too long)
	Substitute 1 meal with shrimp, scallops, crab, fish etc. (you know –inexpensive seafood)
	Two nights is just right
	Make sure that sessions are primarily comprised of material that can be gotten off of the website.
	Keep in mind the positives from the 2007 training
	Entomologist talk seemed to miss needed practical experience
	Maybe meeting with a couple of blueberry farmers to better understand blueberry producers need
	Marketing and expanding the industry. Also machine harvesting tour.
	I can't think of much of anything worth mentioning.
	If possible, the training session should be organized in the same hotel where participants are living to avoid waste of time and facilitate participants movements to and from the conference hall.
I would not change anything. You had the right mix of classes and tours	

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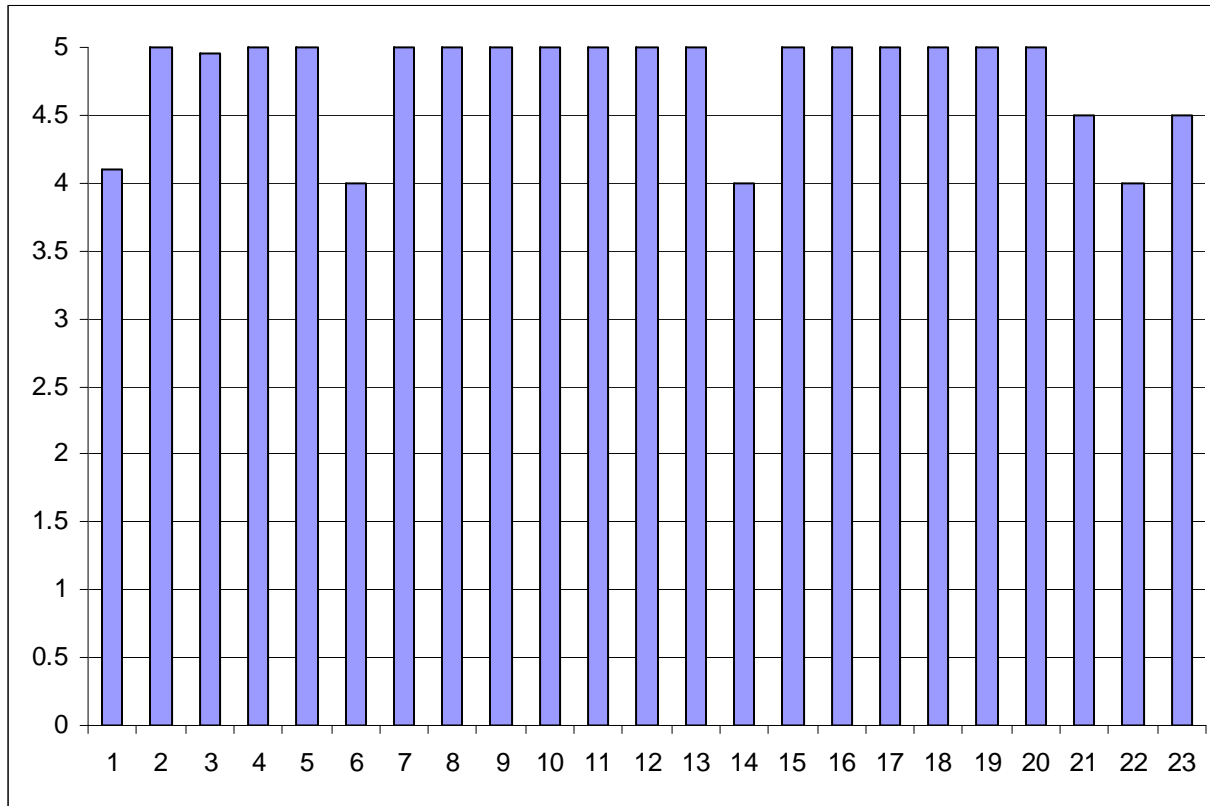
<u>Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
<p>What topics dealing with small fruits would you identify as high priorities for future training sessions?</p>	Marketing--Buyer, how to get into these markets
	Blackberry/raspberry production; Peach production or figs, plums etc. Cold hardy citrus--? Any possibilities for production of this crop?
	Strawberry production; small scale/local production on any small fruit.
	Similar training covering strawberries; training covering economics of small fruit for new producers—deciding what to grow
	Maybe more specific training, for example, diseases of small fruits. This would allow more specific training, but on a variety of crops.
	Grapes—and the fast growing wine industry!
	Besides blueberries, topics on muscadines and blackberries would be helpful.
	New cultivars with disease resistance, Pruning by variety of types, IPM
	Propagation of stock and grafting for vineyards, blueberry and brambles
	Perhaps small-scale pick-your-own economics and post-handling if enough attendees are from non-commercial areas.
	Maybe a session on brambles
	Food Safety issues that are facing the industry including small fruit producers.
	Monies and varieties
	Updated cultivars for taste, regions etc. for both highbush and rabbiteye berries
	Any alternative/specialty berries/fruits, --kiwi etc.
	Keep the balance between field and classroom education.
	Brambles is the most necessary in for my area. We continue to have a demand that far exceeds our supply of berries.
	Any
	Blueberries, Strawberries, Bunch Grapes of the South and Blackberries.

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<u>Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
Other comments/suggestions?	More on blueberry marketing, labor, budget
	Having specialists on-hand and in the field to ask questions was helpful. Fantastic job, thanks!
	Thank you!
	I found the training very educational! Thanks for the scholarship and opportunity to attend!!
	Again, one of the BEST agent's trainings I attended in a very long time!!
	Agent training is always a good idea. Everyone eventually gets better at what they do. As agents get better, specialists will get better and everyone's knowledge will increase.
	Please notify us when the updated presentations are posted. Thanks for an excellent workshop.
	Thank you for the scholarship. This training was well planned and well executed. Excellent job, and worth every day. Any participants who had to leave early really missed a great opportunity.
	I think that the training was our usual high quality and excellent training for county agents, particularly those whose main responsibilities and primary training are not in small fruit horticulture.
	I thoroughly enjoyed the training. Although it was a long way away, it was well worth my time!
	The workshop was very well organized. I want to thank Dr. Monaco for his time.
	Excellent training
	Bill Cline served as excellent tour guide—I learned a lot that I have already used in my county
	This training initiative is crucial to extension agents, specialists, and growers as well. The organizing committee did a wonderful job to put all these together and I hope this will continue to other small fruits as well.

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On a scale from 1-5 with 1 being the lowest rating and 5 being the highest, what rating would you give the training overall?



Average = 4.82

23 evaluations

Highest rating = 5

Lowest rating = 4