

WEED SCIENCE TRAINING AT CORN/SOYBEAN EXPOS AND SOYBEAN MANAGEMENT FIELD DAYS. Robert N. Klein and Alex R. Martin, Professors, University of Nebraska, North Platte, NE, and University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE.

Research has shown that an audience remembers only about 10% of what it hears. The learning experience greatly increases if the audience participates. In the past, the weed science training consisted of the usual 20 to 30 minutes lecture with slides. At the Corn/Soybean EXPO's in 2001 we changed the format to one-hour sessions emphasizing four areas. We wanted the audience involved as active participants. The weed science session was called, "How to put together a cost efficient weed management program". "Pesticide Application - Nozzle tip selection, sprayer setup, reducing drift, and increase sprayer efficiency" was another one of the four sessions. A pre-test and post-test were given on the four areas with the participants greatly increasing their knowledge in all areas. The format used in the sessions was as follows: the presenter gave the participants information and a problem to work on in groups of 4 to 6. Then the groups were asked to discuss their answers with the audience. The application section dealt with having boxes of nozzle tips, literature and a demonstration. The Soybean Management Field Days also had one hour sessions and these Days were held on farms. Those attending were presented a weed management problem and divided into groups the same as at the Corn/Soybean EXPO's. These sessions were concluded with a tour of plots established to demonstrate the various weed control measures discussed. In summary, the idea was to get the audience involved in the activity.