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# Training, Developing, & Mentoring Beginning Organic Dairy & Feed Producers

Presenter: Dave Reed

PD: Dave Reed/Perry Garner

National Farmers

BFRDP Award # 2016-03304-XXXXX



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# Project Overview

- dience Beginning Farmers Organic Dairy & Grain
- Key approaches Seminars, Field Days, Mentoring
- Overall target outcome: by the end of this project we will have helped 900 BFRs start/improve their farms by educating them regarding the pros & Cons of Organic Production. We will establish 120 mentoring relationships, and assisted 36 BF's actually start farming. Increase the # of organic operations by 60, increase the value of products sold by those in the mentoring program by 10%



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# Project Accomplishments

- 2014 Development Grant
- Developed Presentation materials
- Developed Communication Channels
- Presented 6 Day long seminars in 5 states
- Attended by 150 Beginning Farmers (20% Women)
- Established Pool of Mentees and Mentors
- Established a network of collaborators for the 2016 program





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# Impacts and Evaluation

- Progress is evaluated immediately during seminars by on site surveys at start of seminar and at the end of the day.
- Follow up surveys are conducted by personal contact, email, and by mail.
- Data Base established of all participants
- Mentor Feed Back



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# Lessons Learned & Best Practices

- Being able to offer stipends to cover cost of being gone from current farming operation is critical to attendance.
- Don't think you know it all. A strong network of experts in each area of material presented is invaluable.
- Involve as many real world farmers as possible





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## Next Year & After

- Project is divided into 3 years
- 12 meetings per year
- Follow up and mentoring in year 1- 3 with participants from 2014 project
- Year 2 Establish mentoring with year 1 participants
- Year 3 Establish mentoring with year 2 participants and maintain mentoring relationships into the future



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# Questions?

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