



**Iowa Learning Farm Field Day  
Follow-Up Evaluations  
January 2008**

Compiled and Submitted by Jacqueline Comito

Iowa Learning Farm sponsored six field days from June to August and one stakeholder field day. At the October steering committee meeting, members of the committee asked that we send follow-up evaluation questionnaires before 2008 spring planting.

**Field Days Evaluations**

We have asked participants to share their experience in three ways: **comment cards** (filled out at the event, one per household), **evaluation questionnaires** (sent via mail two weeks after the field day to all those who filled out a comment card), and **follow-up evaluation questionnaires** (sent via mail, January 2008, to all those who filled out a comment card at the field days).

*ILF Field Day Audience Participation*

	#Attendees	#Comment Cards	#Returned Evaluations	#Returned Follow-up Evaluations
Zwiefel	50	24	11	8
Deahr & Nolte	26	12	7	6
Stout	45	24	8	9
Caviness	35	14	6	2
Campbell	31	18	3	5
Crew	70	24	16	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>51*</b>	<b>52*</b>

\*This is a 41% response rate to mailed questionnaire: a good rate of response for only one mailing and an exceptional rate of response for the follow-up questionnaire.

**Summary of Comment Cards (filled out by those who attended field days)**

<b>Which statement best describes you?</b>	
Farmer	45%
Landowner	9%
Government employee	2%
Other	7%
Farmer/Landowner	34%
Farmer/Government employee	3%



<b>How did you hear about the field day?</b>	
Neighbor	20%
ISU Extension Staff	19%
DNR/NRCS Staff	12%
Website	1%
Radio	17%
Newspaper	18%
Other	13%
71% of these wrote postcard*	

\*Brown supplied the cooperators with a postcard that they could mail to neighbors and friends. This was the idea of one of our cooperators.

<b>Write in your reason for attending (summary of comments)</b>	
Looking for specific information being presented	34%
Looking for information in general	46%
Learn about new directions	4%
Free food	3%
Involved in program	8%
Family or sponsor	5%

**Summary of Follow-up Evaluation Questionnaires (sent by mail in January 2008 to all those people who filled out comment cards)**

Please describe at least one way you will integrate what you learned at this meeting into your farming (check all that apply):

**The first is number of respondents who said yes; second is overall number of possible respondents on this question.**

	<b>Jan 2008 follow-up</b>	<b>Two-week evaluation</b>
I am using swine manure as a crop nutrient source in 2008 (Caviness, Deahr & Nolte only)	3 (8)	7 (13)
I am using fall-seeded rye cover crops on some of my acres in 2008 (Stout only)	1 (9)	2 (8)
I am discussing putting land into CRP (Campbell only)	1 (5)	2 (3)
I am converting CRP land to pastureland rather than row crops (Campbell only)	1 (5)	1 (3)
I am working on a joint purchase of strip-till equipment with my neighbors (Caviness, Zweifel, Crew)	3 (32)	n/a



**These questions were asked for all the field days (n=52).**

	Jan 2008 Follow-up	Two-week evaluation
Increased use of surface residue management (no-till or strip-till) on some of my acres in 2008	56%	61%
Total # of acres put in no-till or strip-till for 2008	4,677	n/a
Average # of acres per respondent who said they were putting acres into no-till or strip-till for 2008	223	n/a
Sought additional information via web, state agencies or ISU employees	29%	n/a
I discussed +/- of using no-till or strip-till with my landowners	19%	16%
I discussed conservation ideas with other farmers in my area	58%	51%
I did not make any changes	15%	20%
Already do no-till	14%	10%

**The final two questions were only asked on the follow-up questionnaire:**

Do you think, in general, we are moving toward increased or decreased implementation of soil conservation practices (check best answer)?

96% INCREASED

4% DECREASED

Are greater conservation practices needed in your area (check best answer)?

92% YES

8% NO