

# IMPACT

 University of Idaho  
Cooperative  
Extension System

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## University of Idaho/College of Agriculture Off-Campus Courses Benefit Crop Producers

### *The Situation*

Area crop producers, fieldmen, and others have expressed the need for continuing education credits and University of Idaho accredited courses.

Since 1984, the Nez Perce County Area Fieldman Committee has underscored the need to receive University of Idaho/College of Agriculture accredited courses to help them remain competitive.

Many of the area farmers are unable to attend classes on the University of Idaho campus because of travel and time constraints.

### *Our Response*

University of Idaho/College of Agriculture accredited courses have been successful with up to 80 people attending some of the classes held in Lewiston.

With cooperation from the College of Agriculture administrator and faculty an accredited University of Idaho course was made available during the 1999-2000 winter. The class "Herbicide Mode of Action", instructed by weed scientist Donn Thill, was presented for both undergraduate and graduate credits and for continuing educational units. In addition the course provided pesticide license recertification credits from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Washington State

Department of Agriculture, and Certified Crop Advisor continuing education units.

### *Achievements*

A questionnaire was provided to participants at the conclusion of the class sessions to evaluate the usefulness of the course.

The results from the class questionnaire indicate the following:

- ◆ All of the students were provided with new information that they would use in their profession or farm operation.
- ◆ 95% found the class to be a good overview and review.
- ◆ When queried regarding the value of the course to their business, career, or farming activities:
  - ◆ 55% rated the course as excellent
  - ◆ 41% rated the course as good
  - ◆ 4% found the class to be of fair value
  - ◆ None of the students found the class to be of poor value

### *The Future*

The advisory committee has recommended a course regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for the winter 2000-01.

 University of Idaho  
*College of Agriculture*

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University of Idaho and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

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A high amount of interest in the GMO course was exhibited by the students completing the Herbicide Mode of Action course.

- ◆ 55% indicate they would attend
- ◆ 43% indicate they would attend if conditions permit
- ◆ 2% indicate they would not attend

The appropriate parties will be contacted to explore possibilities of the delivery of a UI/College of Agriculture accredited off-campus course in Lewiston, Idaho, overlooking genetically modified organisms.

### ***For More Information***

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