



COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

Program Evaluation

Getting an indication of confidence or self-assurance

TIPSHEET

88

CONTEXT

As part of a workshop, Extension educators demonstrate skills and recommend practices for adults and youth to adopt to reach some goal. In evaluating a workshop, educators typically want to know the bottom line for the workshop: the percent of the participants who plan or intend to put the skills or practices into action within a certain period of time. Questions to measure intentions can be found at: <http://www.extension.psu.edu/evaluation/Questions.html>.

PROBLEM

Putting those skills or practices into action, however, takes confidence and self-assurance. If the participants have not developed sufficient confidence and self-assurance during the workshop, they are not as likely to make the change. Especially in a situation where an educator is teaching a new workshop or target audience, it is wise for an educator to get an indication of how certain the participants are that they can do that skill or practice in order to improve the educator's presentation.

One approach is outlined below.

First, ask if the participants have ever performed the skill or practice so you can observe those who have never done it. Consider the first one a screen question. Then ask about their self-assurance or confidence.

ASK	Have you ever _____ (<u>done a soil test</u>) _____? (Circle number)
	1 NO
	2 YES

THEN ASK	Do you think you can? (Circle number)
	1 NO, I DON'T THINK I CAN
	2 YES, I THINK I CAN, BUT I'M NOT SURE
	3 YES, I FEEL SURE I CAN

ADVANTAGES

- Both the format and the ideas in the questions are simple and easy to read.
- The simplicity of the question makes it ideal for youth and audiences with levels of low literacy.

DISADVANTAGES

- If many skills or practices are measured, the evaluation might become too long.

RESOURCES

Other approaches to measuring confidence or self-assurance can be found in

TIPSHEET #52 [Analyzing Before – After Data Using Excel](#)

PA EXAMPLE #6 [Measuring the Impact of a Master Gardener Training Program](#)

PA EXAMPLE #24 [Training the Trainers: To What Effect?](#)

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Available at: <http://www.extension.psu.edu/evaluation/pdf/TS88/pdf>.

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