U.S. Department of Agriculture/Risk Management Agency/The Rodale Institute
Survey

Beta Test Online Course Survey

All information collected in this survey is
confidential and will be used for
research purposes only. Data will be
reported in the aggregate and no
individual information will be disclosed.

The
RODALE 🕸 INSTITUTE   **RM/**

Cover Letter Beta Test Users

Date, 2006

Dear Beta Test Team member,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our Beta test program for the *OTSM Farm Select tool and online course*. As a Beta tester, you will receive **$$$$** compensation for your time testing the products and submitting the requested feedback to our project team. When you have submitted the requested feedback, we will immediately send you the payment.

Our goal at the Rodale Institute is to provide users with the knowledge and tools to effectively transition from conventional to organic farming systems. To that extent, we need your objective feedback on how well we are meeting those objectives. Please be as open and honest as possible in how well these products are meeting that objective. Enclosed you will find additional information and instructions for completing the testing. If you encounter any difficulties or have any questions, please feel to contact us at 610-683-1400. If you any questions or experience any problems during the testing stage, please contact us at: helpdesk@farmselect.org or at (610) 683-1400.

Your participation in this effort is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

The Rodale Institute Project Team

Beta Test Online Course

First Name: _____   Last Name: _____
E-mail: _____   Phone: _____
Occupation: _____   Professional Affiliation: _____

Please complete the questions in the table below using the 5-point scale. Enter your comments in the space provided.

Item	Assessment						Comments
Overall: The online course...	**Strongly Agree-----Strongly Disagree**					**Don't know**	
Is useful to me now, or it will be in the near future	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Provides the resources I need	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Is relevant to what I want to learn	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Is easy to adapt to my learning style	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Requires manageable technical and data entry effort	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Provides information that is new to me	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Has stimulated my learning	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Has clearly stated objectives	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Met my expectations	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Will help farmers acquire the knowledge they need to transition to organic	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Overall impression of the tool is good	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Overall value to farmers is high	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Technical Content							
Has a sound research foundation	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Uses credible information	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Uses up-to-date information	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Uses the appropriate variety of training methods	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Uses the right amount of information	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Uses the right amount of outside resources	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Uses proper terminology	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Uses terms that are easy to understand	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Has appropriate toolbars, menus, commands and options	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Data formats are useful	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Pace of delivery of the material is appropriate	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Depth of coverage of the material is appropriate	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Length of course is appropriate	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Length of modules is appropriate	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Software Operation	**Strongly Agree-----Strongly Disagree**					**Don't know**	**Comments**
Operates trouble-free	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Easy to navigate	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Consistent and logical flow navigating the modules	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Easy to find what you are looking for	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Software works as expected (uses standard user interface features)	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Clear graphical presentation	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Outside resource links work smoothly	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Prints properly to a printer	1	2	3	4	5	DK	

Documentation							
Clearly describes software purpose	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Organization is clear and logical	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Examples show how to use the main features	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Tables, graphs & figures provide clear guidance through the modules	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Error messages are clear	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
On-line help is sufficient	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Technical support information is available	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Appearance							
Colors, symbols, and graphics are legible and pleasing	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Looks professional	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Correct spelling & grammar	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Application windows have consistent look and feel	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Features	Very Important – Not Important at all					Don't know	Comments
Interaction with instructor	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Real-life examples and case studies	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
References to The Rodale Institute original research	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Tests and quizzes	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Links to Farm Plan builder in various modules	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
The Farm Plan builder framework	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Ability to ask questions of experts	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Ability to link to outside tools and resources (like FarmSelect™)	1	2	3	4	5	DK	
Additional Comments							

Please answer the following questions.
Note: If you feel that you do not have sufficient information to answer a specific question, please indicate so in the space provided.

1. What do you think is the **most useful** aspect of this online course for farmers who want to transition to organic agriculture? (Please be specific.)

....

2. What do you think is the **least useful** aspect of this online course for farmers who want to transition to organic agriculture? (Please be specific.)

....

3. What do you think is the **most useful** aspect of this online course for Agriculture Educators who teach or provide training in organic agriculture?

....

4. What do you think is the **least useful** aspect of this online course for Agriculture Educators who teach or provide training in organic agriculture?

....

5. What topics, if any, would you rather have spent more time on —whether or not they were addressed in the course?

....

6. On what topics, if any, would you rather have spent less time?

....

7. Please list three topics you would add to the curriculum of this on-line course:

a. ....

b. ....

c. ....

8. Please list three topics you would take away from the curriculum of this on-line course:

a. ....

b. ....

c. ....

9. Overall recommendations for *improving* the online training course. Please be specific.

....

....

10. Any other comments or suggestions:

....