



New Animal Shelter Design and Expansion

COUNTY EDUCATOR

Dan McFarland, York County, Capital Region

PROGRAM

State of the art animal shelter design can prevent disease, increase production and maximize labor. In this extension program, the agent had many one-to-one contacts with producers, providing individualized recommendations. In this type of program where impact can take years to see, periodic contact with the producer is important.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Dairy and livestock producers will learn state-of-the-art animal shelter design that promotes good animal health, increased production, and effective use of labor.

EVALUATION STRATEGY

The phone survey, conducted by a staff assistant to minimize bias, evaluated the influence of one-to-one farm contacts each year over a period of six years. The evaluation, providing another opportunity for contact, surveyed a random sample of 32 of the 101 farms that the agent had visited and provided the producer with specific information on shelter design and expansion. The results of the evaluation were included in a dossier, used for program improvement and integrated into a county report. This evaluation also received good response when it was sent to other producers as a postage paid post card along with a letter.

DATA COLLECTION METHOD: TELEPHONE SURVEY

To increase the reliability of the data, the questions and answers are specifically formatted for a telephone survey. The format should increase the accuracy and speed of both the interviewer and the person entering the data onto a spreadsheet for summary of the results.

As a result of the agent's work on your farm:

KNOWLEDGE
QUESTION

1. To what extent did you increase your knowledge of new shelter design? (circle number)

- NOT MUCH....1
- SOMEWHAT....2
- MODERATE AMOUNT....3
- A GREAT DEAL....4

REACTION TO
RESOURCES

2. How helpful were each of the following that you received in the program?

The plans, would you say they were: (circle number)

- NOT VERY HELPFUL....1
- SOMEWHAT HELPFUL....2
- MODERATELY HELPFUL....3
- VERY HELPFUL....4

REACTION TO
RESOURCES

Written information, would you say it was: (circle number)

- NOT VERY HELPFUL....1
- SOMEWHAT HELPFUL....2
- MODERATELY HELPFUL....3
- VERY HELPFUL....4

REACTION TO
RESOURCES

3. How helpful were the suggestions you received from the agent? (circle number)

- NOT VERY HELPFUL....1
- SOMEWHAT HELPFUL....2
- MODERATELY HELPFUL....3
- VERY HELPFUL....4

BEHAVIOR
QUESTION

4. Have you built a new shelter? (circle number)

- NO....1
- YES....2

REACTION

If YES,
Did you use the suggestions given by the agent?

- NO....1
- YES....2
- NOT SURE....3

REACTION

How satisfied are you with the suggestions? (circle number)

- NOT VERY SATISFIED....1
- SOMEWHAT SATISFIED....2
- MODERATELY SATISFIED....3
- VERY SATISFIED....4

INTENTION

If NO,
How likely are you to build within the next year?

- NOT VERY LIKELY....1
- SOMEWHAT LIKELY....2
- MODERATELY LIKELY....3
- VERY LIKELY....4

INTENTION

How likely are you to use the suggestions given?

- NOT VERY LIKELY....1
- SOMEWHAT LIKELY....2
- MODERATELY LIKELY....3
- VERY LIKELY....4

For further information about the evaluation, please contact Daniel McFarland (dfm6@psu.edu). This Web site is copyrighted by the Pennsylvania State University. The information may be used for educational purposes but not sold for profit.