

Evaluation of Professional Development Resources for Swine Science Distance Education Instructors

U.S. Pork Center
of Excellence
Communities of National Cooperation



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Purpose

- Evaluate professional development tools for swine science distance education instructors
 - Professional Development Conference
 - Instructor Resources Webpage
 - Webinar

Programs

- Instructors from two online programs included in study



Professional Development Conference

- Face-to-face workshop
- Instructors traveled to Iowa
- Presentations focused on distance education techniques
- Mostly presentation and lecture format

Instructor Resources Webpage

- Set up by the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence
- Only available for those with an approved login and password
- Includes:
 - Tutorials for programs commonly used
 - Help Center contacts at universities
 - Instructor supplied course materials

Webinar

- Scheduled based on availability of instructors
- Presentation conducted by Todd Vens of Iowa State University
- Instructors could interact via chat or over microphone
- Allowed time after presentation for discussion among instructors

Methods and Procedures

- Online survey through Qualtrics software
- Survey link e-mailed with four informational letters
- Fifth contact by US mail

What would you predict
were the results of this
survey?

Why do you predict that was the
outcome?

Results

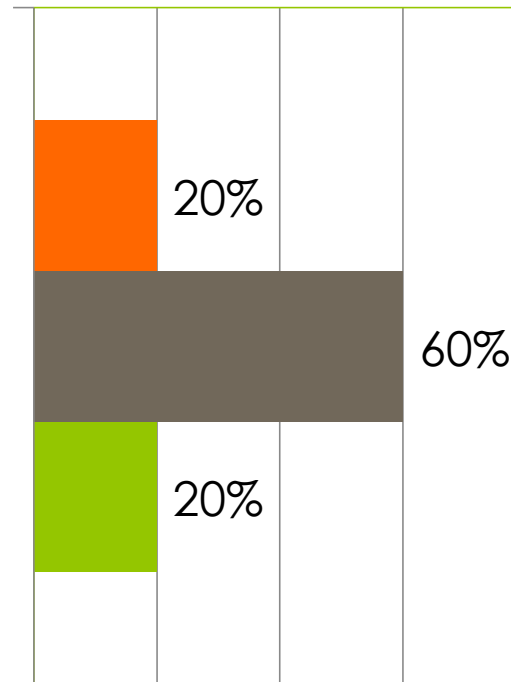
- Response rate was 55.6% (n=10)
- All resources had some value to instructors
- Majority of instructors showed interest in future conferences or webinars

Results

- Unanimous indication of above average quality of webpage
- Webpage resources rated good or excellent

Results

Please rate the overall value of the webpage.



- Average Value
- Valuable
- Very Valuable

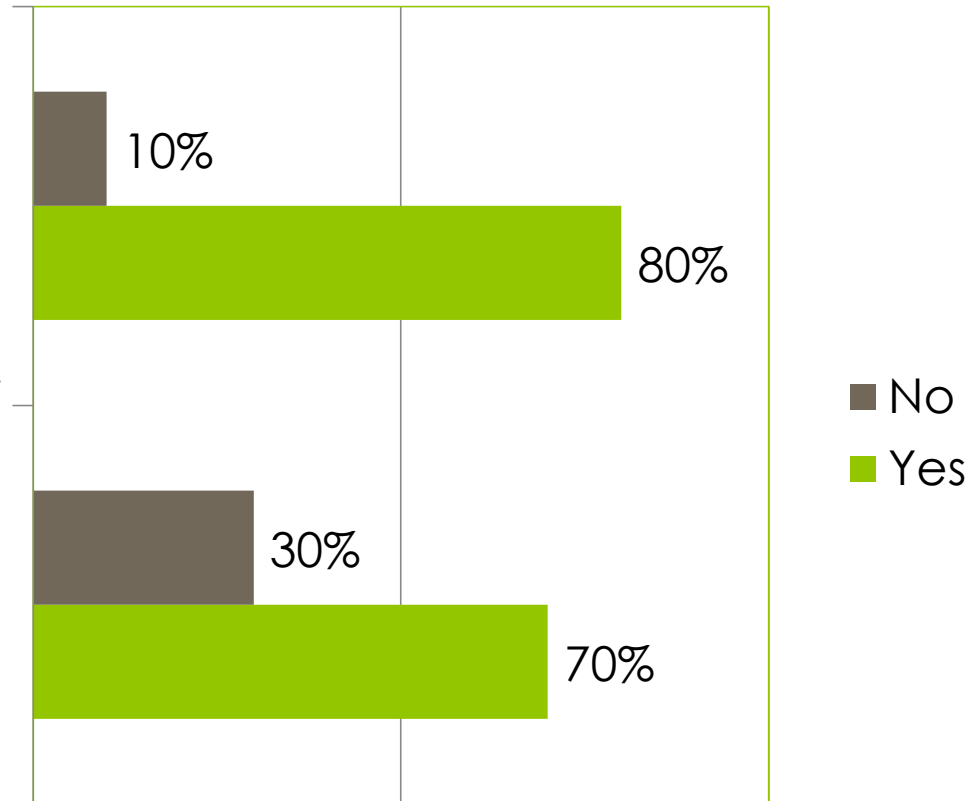
Results

- Two instructors used webpage resources prior to taking the survey
- Webpage resources were rated as good or excellent
- Both the face-to-face conference and the webinar were considered about equally as valuable individually
 - Ranking exercise was helpful in determining comparative value of the two

Results

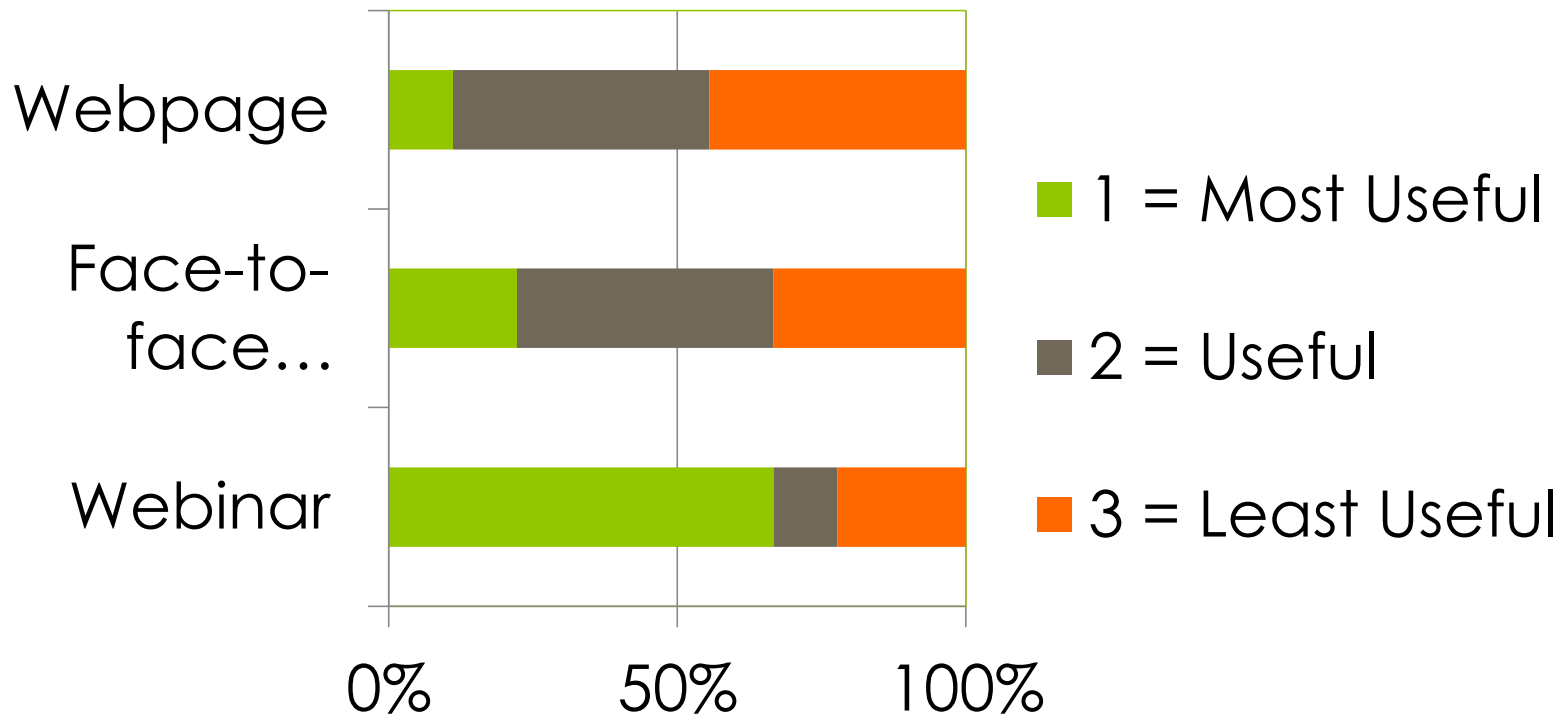
If you had the chance to attend a second webinar, would you take advantage of the...

Would you attend a similar face-to-face workshop given the chance?



Results

Please rank the tools from most to least useful. Number each tool with a 1, 2, or 3. (One instructor chose not to rank the tools.)



Instructor Comments

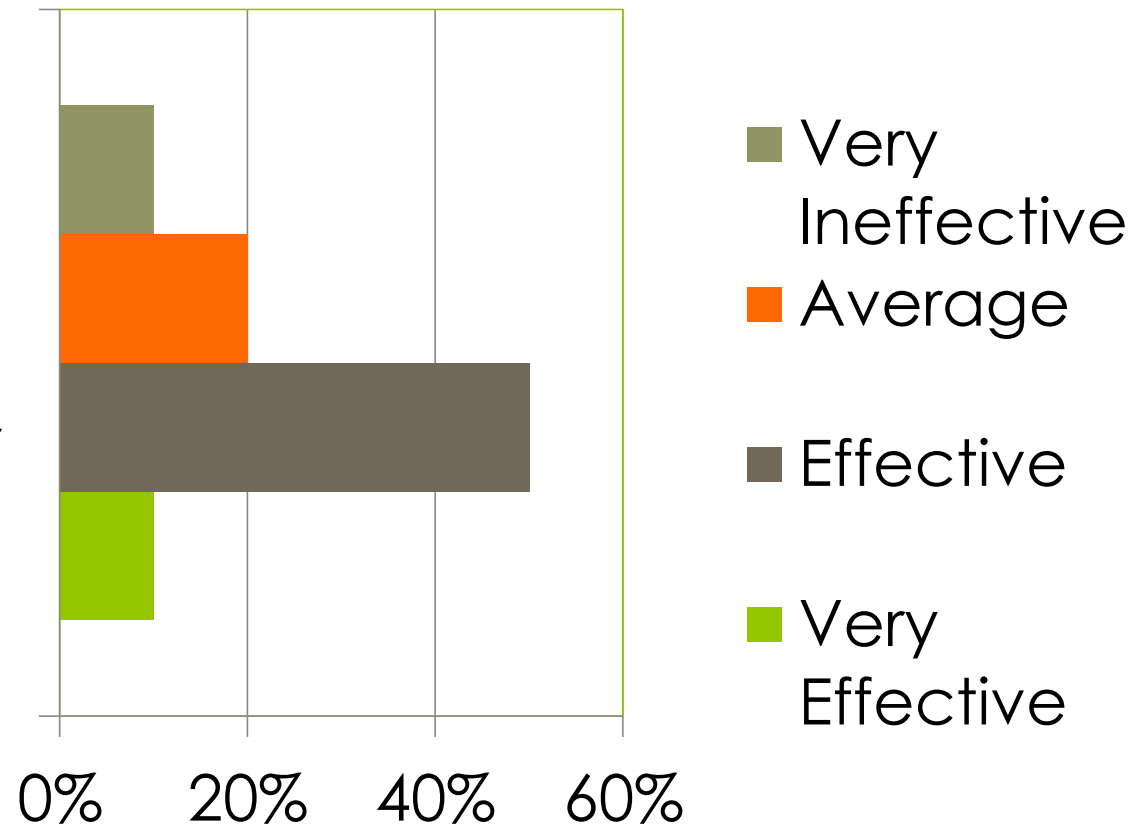
- “Webinars typically are easier to accommodate in my schedule and they allow one to ask questions, etc. They are superior to the Webpage because they have an interactive component. Webpage is second since it can be updated with new information on a regular basis and I can access it at anytime.”

Instructor Comments

- “Face-to-Face is the least. It is the most time consuming and typically the least productive. I think it might be good as an introductory step...”
- “The face-to-face meeting was very helpful as it was right before my first time teaching. I think as I continue, the web resources will be just as valuable.”

Results

Please rate the overall effectiveness of these tools together in developing your online teaching methods and techniques.



Conclusions

- All resources had some value to instructors
- Going forward, instructors tend to prefer web-based resources
- Webinars should be prioritized for future delivery of new information and further discussion

Conclusions Continued

- Discussion between instructors is most important feature of development tools
- Include largely new technologies or methods in future professional development
 - Experienced distance educators desire to learn new things, not repeat what they already know

How could you apply the results of this research to your context?