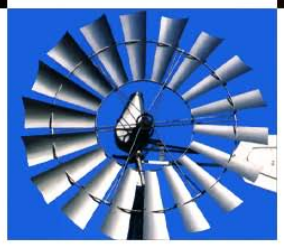
NASD
Winner
of
2003
ASAE
Blue
Ribbon

nasd



The National Agricultural Safety Database, 2003

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

NASD, Winner of the 2003 ASAE Blue Ribbon Award

ASAE, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, has awarded their highest honor, a Blue Ribbon Award, to the National Agricultural Safety Database as an outstanding Web site in the Educational Aids Competition. In presenting the award, ASAE stated, "Extra effort was required for [this] achievement and special recognition is merited."

The National Agricultural Safety Database, 2003. Prepared by Dr. Carol J. Lehtola, Jeffrey S. Nelson, Chris Knack and Charles M. Brown.

Editorial support for NASD is the responsibility of Dr. Carol Lehtola, University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service. Technical support and maintenance of the NASD Web site is provided by Conceptual Arts, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida. This project is part of the Southern Coastal Agromedicine Center, Susan Gustke, director.

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NASD Turns 10

2003 is the tenth anniversary of the National Agricultural Safety Database, NASD. During that time, NASD has become one of the most heavily used resources for agricultural safety and health information. The Web site typically receives over 500,000 hits each month, and that represents more than 75,000 unique users. A recent survey indicates that over 60% of NASD users are in academia or Extension. NASD is reaching a huge professional safety and health audience.

Objectives

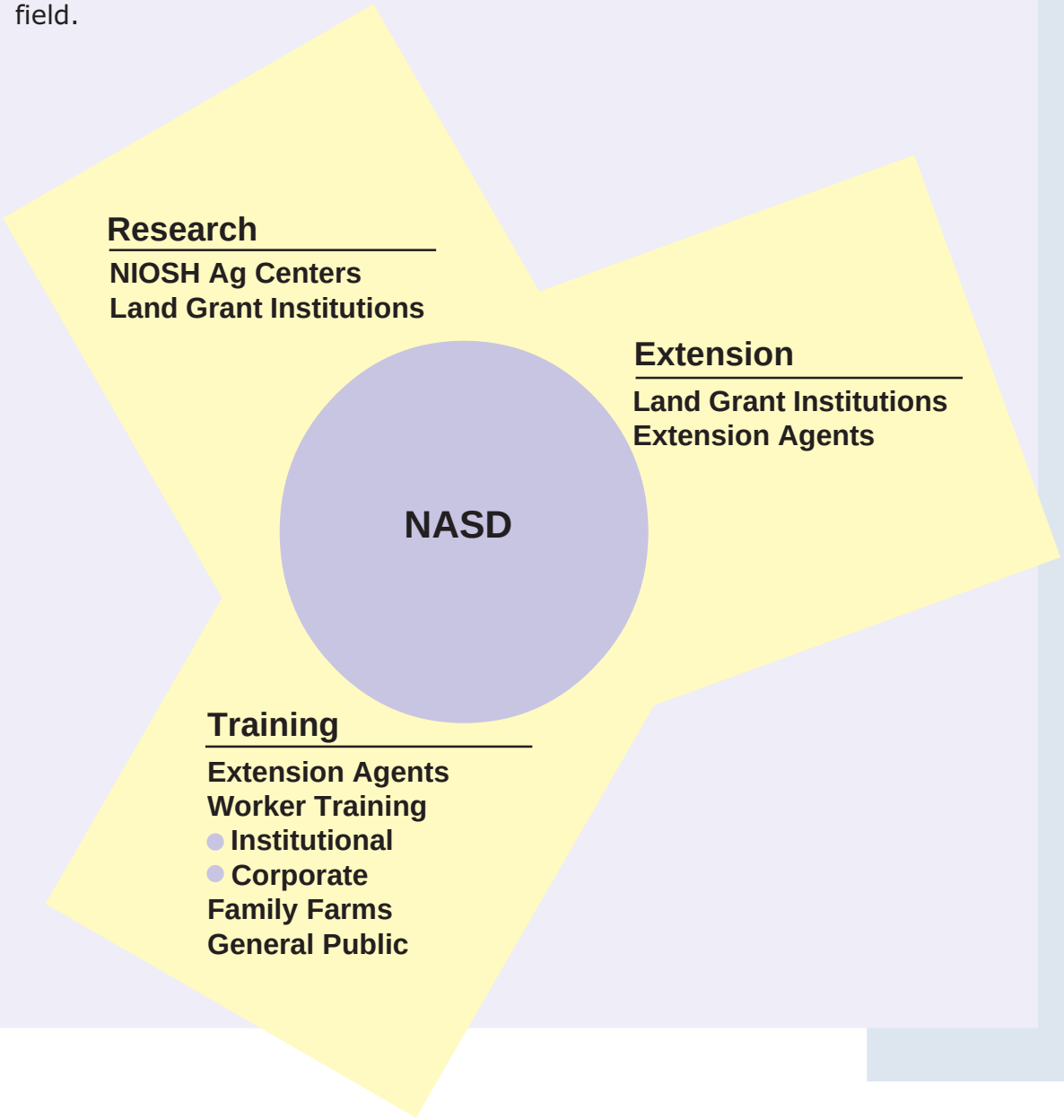
The objectives of the NASD project are:

- to provide a national information resource for the dissemination of information;
- to identify and disseminate prevention information to agricultural workers on occupational hazards associated with injuries, deaths and illness;
- to promote the consideration of safety and health issues in the management of agricultural operations for the purpose of reducing agricultural work-related injuries and illnesses; and
- to provide a convenient way for members of the agricultural safety and health community to share educational and research materials with their colleagues.

Putting It All Together

NASD is an ideal forum for sharing the latest research with academic colleagues, and for sharing new educational materials with Extension agents and safety trainers. NASD is also used by the general public and by family farmers, concerned with the well-being of their families and employees. In the 2003 survey, NASD users indicated the top three kinds of materials they were seeking: ready-to-go presentations, research publications, and Extension publications.

NASD is a way to disseminate, publish, and publicize. It is a tool for finding out what has been done and learning about needs in the field.



History of NASD

In October 1993, NIOSH provided funding through its Agricultural Health Promotion System (AHPS) grant program to develop the first National Agricultural Safety Database. NIOSH recognized that although information exchange between state Extension Services was encouraged, research showed that awareness of other state's material and accessing materials was often hit-or-miss and inconvenient.

The first NASD was a CD-ROM product developed through the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service. Florida CES was actively engaged in a project led by Dr. Pierce Jones to harness new software and hardware tools to create information distribution and retrieval products. Several such projects had been developed and distributed. These projects seemed like ideal models for NASD.

In October 1994, the first prototype was delivered on CD-ROM to a select group of reviewers. The CD-ROM contained materials from institutions participating in the AHPS grant and others.

In March 1995, a workshop was held at the University of Florida in Gainesville to evaluate and review the proposed NASD CD-ROM. Reviewers provided many useful suggestions. General release of the NASD '95 CD-ROM occurred in June 1995. The original concept called for the periodic release of updated CD-ROMs.

In the meantime, a new tool became available for the efficient distribution of information — the Internet. The Information Technology program associated with Florida CES was already developing tools to deliver Extension publications via this new medium, and the decision to bring NASD to the Internet was a natural one.

In October 1996, NIOSH funded a three-year program to update the database and deliver it on the World-Wide Web. Dr. Rick Niemeier of NIOSH directed the project and coordinated the identification, solicitation and procurement of new content.

By October 1997, the entire database had been converted, a Web site established and a CD-ROM (NASD'97) produced. Expansion of the database continued through the end of the project (September 1999) and two more CD-ROMs were produced (NASD '98 and NASD '99).

In October 2001, NIOSH funded the current program to expand and maintain NASD. In 2002, USDA-CSREES (Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service) added funding support for NASD.

NASD Timeline

1993	**NASD Project initiated**
1994	**Prototype CD-ROM complete**
1995	**NASD '95 CD-ROM General Release**
1996	**3-year NASD Update Project begins**
1997	**NASD '97 CD-ROM released**
	NASD Web site launched
1998	**NASD '98 CD-ROM released**
1999	**NASD '99 CD-ROM released**
2001	**New multiyear NASD Project begins**
2002	**NASD Web site relaunch**
2003	**Streaming video feature added**

Recent Progress

Renewed funding through NIOSH made possible a thorough revision of NASD. Early in 2002, the NASD Web site received major structural and cosmetic renovations in keeping with progress in software concepts, experience with database usage, and current interface design principles.

The new funding helped create an editorial review board and review process. Every item in the NASD database was reviewed and numerous outdated or duplicative materials were removed. The reviewed, renovated NASD Web site was installed in June 2002. A presentation about the renovated site was made at a plenary session of the National Institute of Farm Safety's annual meeting on June 24, 2002.

In the year since that presentation, efforts have focused on identifying, procuring and incorporating new materials into NASD. USDA joined the NASD team with grant support starting in September 2002. These additional funds have purchased staff time to assist with creating database entries and developing an outreach strategy.

In early 2003, an online survey was conducted to identify user needs and establish priorities for future NASD development. The results of that survey are featured in this booklet.

New Features

Streaming Video

In addition to fact sheets, training materials, research articles, and video abstracts, the NASD Web site can now accommodate streaming video. Authors can now contribute entire videotapes – or sample clips – which can be viewed on the NASD Web site.

'What's New' Page

NASD users can now view the most recent additions to the database on the 'What's New' page.

A special highlight is the display of recently added Spanish language publications. Safety and health information in Spanish is being requested more often as Hispanic workers make their way into agricultural operations throughout the United States and Canada.

NIOSH Ag Centers Page

The NASD home page now features a "NIOSH Ag Centers" link. NASD users can follow this link to a page that gives them archived issues of AgConnections, which, in its own words, is "a newsletter dedicated to disseminating information about the NIOSH Centers for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention." For each center, there is a link to the center's home page and a paragraph or two describing the geographic region served and research focus areas.

NASD Survey

NASD continues to be a well used resource for information on agricultural safety and health, consistently receiving around 500,000 hits per month. Who is using NASD? How are they using it? What are they looking for at the site?

To answer these questions and others, a survey was added to the NASD Web site in May of 2003. For around six weeks, users were invited on the home page to participate. The survey was closed on July 4, 2003, and at that time approximately 150 users had given their input. The following summarizes the most important findings of the survey.

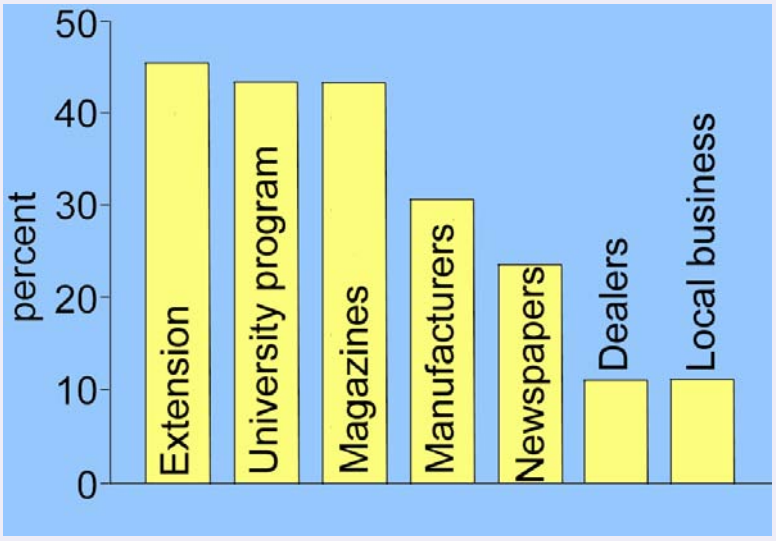
Generally, results indicate that NASD is very important to its users and that they find it simple and effective to use. Over 80% of surveyed users ranked the site as very important or somewhat important. The highest percentage of users were academics and Extension professionals, but significant numbers of users worked in safety-related fields. Agricultural owners, managers, and government agency workers also use NASD.

Most users were looking for materials in the following areas: machinery safety and chemicals/pesticides. Child safety, injury prevention, and electrical safety were ranked near the 50th percentile.

Extension figures prominently in the survey as the source of most ag safety and health information for NASD users, as a substantial percentage of its users, and as the most used Web sites for ag safety and health information. Users are locating NASD and its resources primarily through their colleagues, conference presentations, and Web searches.

Materials that users expressed strongest interest in were "ready-to-go" presentations, such as PowerPoint slide shows, and Extension publications. Interestingly, very strong interest was expressed in research reports. A significant number of users (30th percentile) expressed an interest in online videos, a capability which is now available on NASD.

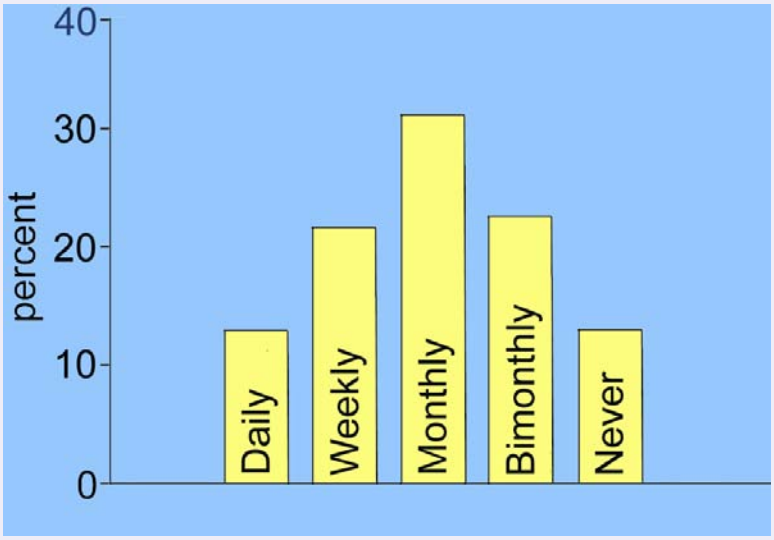
Earlier editions of NASD were distributed on CD-ROM. These disks were produced in the hundreds. Today NASD is accessible over the World Wide Web and is used by tens of thousands of academics, Extension agents, trainers, producers, and the general public.



1. Where do you obtain ag safety and health info?

Where do you typically obtain AS&H info? (N=152)

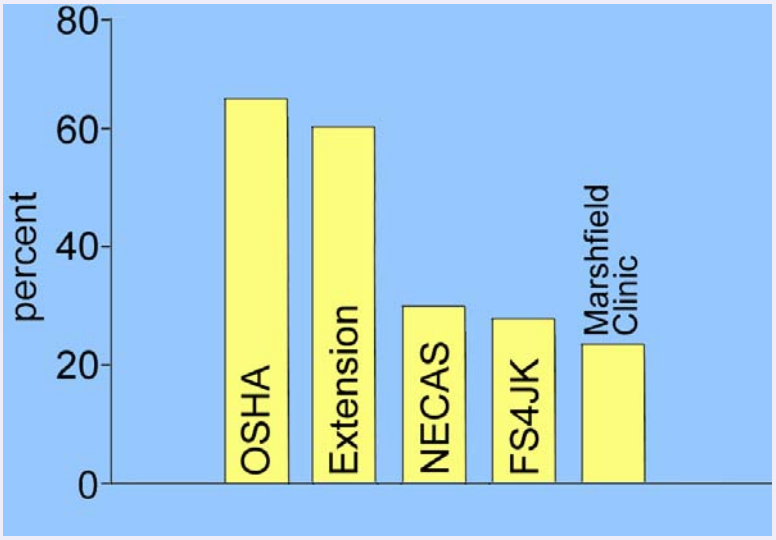
		%
1. Extension Service	68	45
2. University or college programs	66	43
3. Magazines	65	43
4. Equipment/machinery manufacturers	45	30
5. Other	42	28
6. Newspapers	33	22
7. Pesticide dealers	23	15
8. Don’t recall	18	12
9. Machinery dealers	17	11
10. Local agribusiness	17	11



2. How often do you use the Internet to find AS&H info?

2. On average, how often do you use the Internet to find information about AS&H? (N=149)

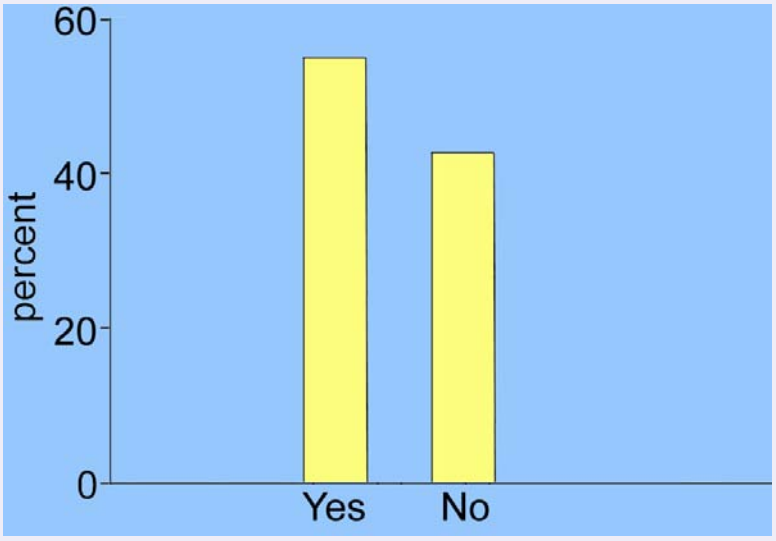
		%
1. Monthly	46	31
2. Less than 6 times per year	33	22
3. Weekly	32	21
4. Daily	19	13
5. Never	19	13



3. Which Web sites have you used for AS&H info?

3. Which of the following Web sites have you used to obtain AS&H info? (N=124)

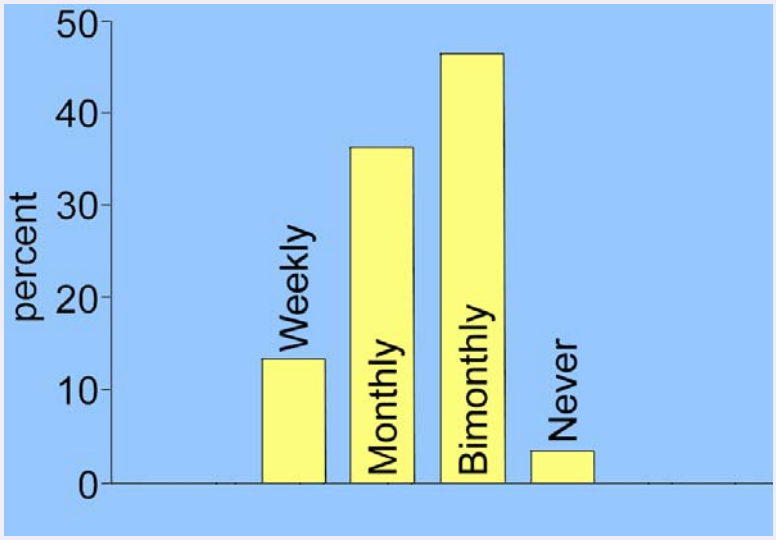
		%
3. Occup. Safety & Health Admin. (OSHA)	80	65
1. Local or state extension Web site	75	61
2. Nat'l Educ. Ctr. for Ag. Safety (NECAS)	37	30
4. Farm Safety 4 Just Kids Web site	33	27
5. Marshfield Clinic Web site	29	23
6. Other	27	22



4. Have you ever used NASD before?

4. Have you ever used NASD before? (N=124)

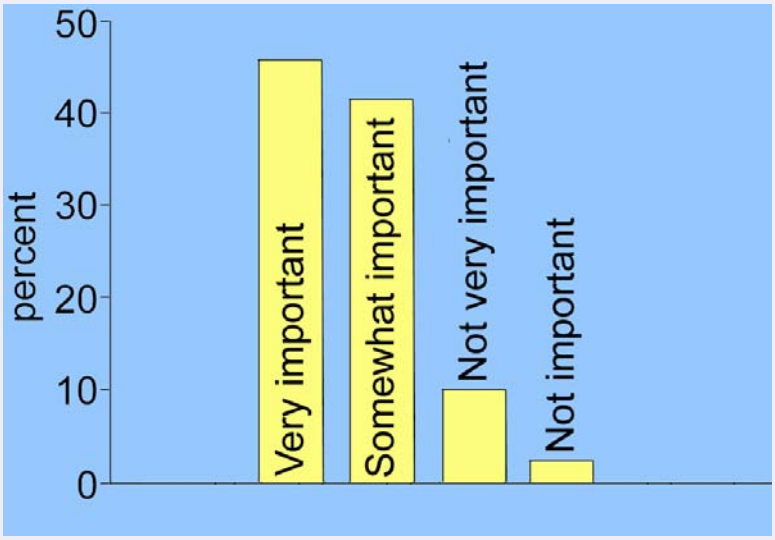
		%
Yes	68	55
No	56	45



5. How often do you use NASD to find AS&H info?

5. On average, how often do you use NASD to find information about AS&H? (N=68)

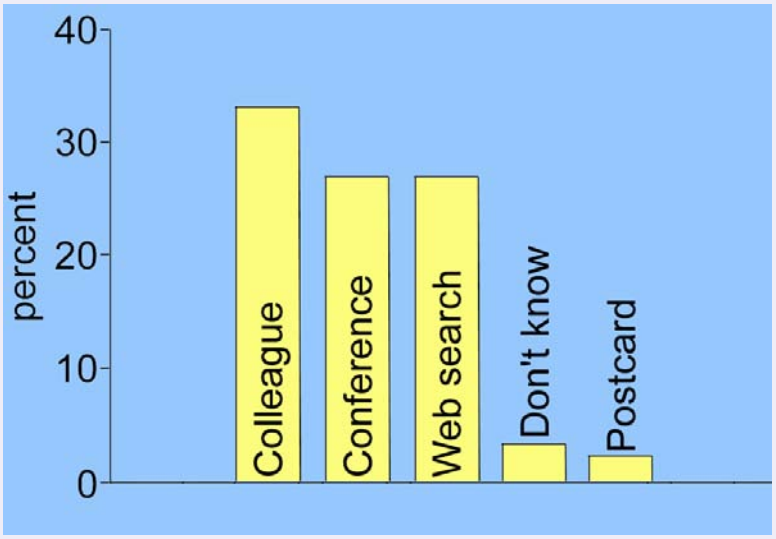
		%
1. Less than 6 times per year	31	46
2. Monthly	26	38
3. Weekly	8	12
4. Never	2	3
5. Daily	1	2



6. How important is NASD as an information resource?

6. How important to you is NASD as an information resource? (N=68)

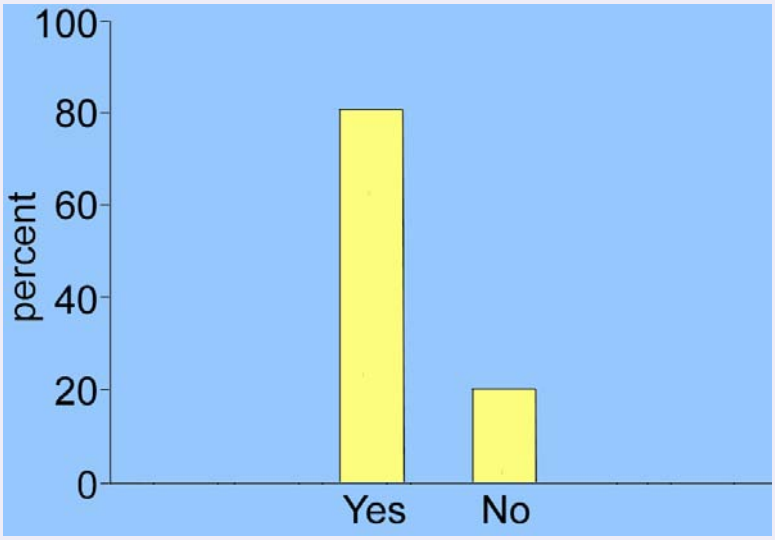
		%
1. Very important	32	47
2. Somewhat important	28	41
3. Not very important	7	10
4. Not important at all	1	2



7. How did you first find out about NASD?

7. How did you first find out about NASD? (N=67)

		%
1. Through a colleague	22	33
2. Ag safety presentation/conference	18	27
3. Through a Web search engine	18	27
4. Other	6	9
5. I don’t recall	2	3
6. Postcard or brochure	1	2



8. Is it easy to find info on NASD?

8. Are you able to find enough information on NASD quickly and without frustration? (N=67)

		%
Yes	53	79
No	14	21

Safety Topic	Score
Machinery Safety	126
Chemicals/Pesticides	119
Child Safety	60
Injury Causes & Prevention	53
Electrical Safety	43
Pers. Safety & Health/Stress	35
Ergonomics	35
Standards/Regulations	31
Animals: Beef	31
Back Safety	28
Fruit/Veg Crops	21
Safety Programming	19
PPE	18
Home Safety	14
Fire Safety	14
Animals: Dairy	14
First Aid	13
Grain Operations	13
Farming with Disabilities	9
Animals: Hogs	9
Heat/Cold Ilness, Skin Cancer	9
Other	9
Supervising for Safety	8

n=130

9. Rank the top 3 ag safety topics of interest to you.

In questions 9–11, respondents were able to rank their top three choices. Scores were computed by assigning 3 points to a first choice, 2 points to a second choice, and 1 point to a third choice. The score listed is a sum of the points assigned by all respondents

Media Type	Score
Ready-to-go Presentations	145
Research Articles/Reports	140
Extension Publications	139
Materials in English	81
Video Abstracts	55
Online Videos	50
Materials in Spanish	42
Newspaper Articles	39
PSA Scripts	32
Supervising for Safety	8
n=127	

10. Rank the top 3 types of materials you prefer.

Field	%
Academia	33
Extension	27
Safety Training	20
Safety Research	15
Safety Consulting	14
Gov't Agency (non-regulatory)	14
Gov't Agency (regulatory)	10
Large-scale Ag	7
Small-scale Ag	6
Ag Management	5
n=133	

11. What field do you work in?

NASD Editorial Review Board

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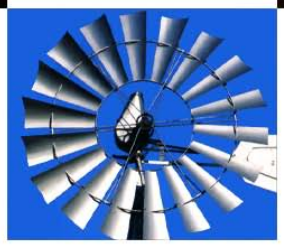
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