Cover Sheet

Supplemental Material: Interview Questions and Script

Manuscript: Farmers as Researchers: A Model to Promote Productivity and Profitability
Hi, this is __________ from the Bureau of Sociological Research. I’m calling in regards to your interview for the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network. Is now still a good time to talk? To give you a little more information before we begin, the questions will center around your experience with the On-Farm Research Network and the research you have conducted on your own farm. There are no right or wrong answers, we just want to hear about your unique experiences and you do not have to answer any questions that you don’t want to. Your feedback will be used to help Nebraska Extension evaluate their program. When reporting on this data, no names will be used and all responses will be reported in aggregate so that no individual’s responses can be identified.

Is it okay if I audio record this to use as a reference when writing a report?

Do you have any questions before we get started?

1) Why did you decide to participate in the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network?
   a. Probes: What were your motivations?
   b. What were your expectations?

2) Can you tell me about your overall experience working with the Nebraska on-farm research network?
   a. Probe: What do you like most?

3) Thinking about your last research project, how did you come up with your research topic?
   a. Probe: Were you asked to test a product or practice by someone else, like Nebraska Extension or someone in the industry?

4) Did you use any type of agriculture technology, like a GPS system or monitors?
   a. [If so]: What did you use?
   b. [If not]: Why not?

5) How did you feel about your project results?
   a. Probes: Did you feel they were reliable?
   b. Did you have confidence in the statistical analysis?

6) Have you put your research results into practice in any way since then?
   a. Probe: Did you make a change based on the results OR confirm the way you are doing something?
   b. [If yes]
      i. What was the economic impact of making this change?
         1. Probes: How many acres were impacted? What was the cost of the changed practice thinking about yield gain or input cost savings?
      ii. For how many growing seasons have you used this new way?
c. [If no]
   i. What more would you like to see before putting it into practice?

7) Did you share your results with anyone?
   a. [If yes] Why did you share your results?
      i. Who did you share your results with? Such as a banker, neighbor, or relative.
         1. Probe: Did you share your results with anyone outside of the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network?
   b. [If no] Why not?

8) How much time did you spend on your research last year?
   a. Did you ever feel it was taking up too much time or feel like quitting?

9) Do you plan to participate in the program again?
   a. [If yes] Why?
   b. [If no] Why not?

10) Thinking again about the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network as a whole, what changes or improvements would you like to see in the program?

11) Just to wrap up, can I get
   a. The size of your operation?
   b. How much of your crop land is irrigated?
   c. Your age?

12) Is there anything else you would like to add?

13) The Nebraska On-Farm Research Network may be interested in conducting a follow-up study like this in the future. The responses you gave me today would remain confidential, and would be kept separate from your contact information. We will keep your contact information for up to five years on a secure server at the Bureau of Sociological Research. Are you willing to participate in a follow-up survey by the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network in the future if one is planned?