

10 Steps for Conducting Research on Your Farm or Ranch



Lesson 6 Worksheet Collect and Manage Data

The full workbook is available online or to order in print at www.sare.org/research-workbook.

ASSIGNMENT

1. List each type of data you'll collect.

Example: *Rain gauges at all locations will be emptied after each precipitation event within the study period; the amount of water will be recorded.*

2. For each data type (such as a soil test, measurement, photo, or observation) describe your procedure in detail. Where appropriate, cite the published protocol.

3. What can you do to eliminate or reduce bias in your data collection process?

4. Describe how you'll record the data you collect. Will you maintain a field notebook? Are there paper or electronic forms you'll enter data into? How will you make sure your data stays safe from loss or damage?

5. Describe your QA/QC plan to ensure good data.

Example: *Data will be collected on paper forms. At the end of each day, the data sheets will be checked for accuracy and completeness, and the person performing this check will sign the bottom of the sheet.*

ASSIGNMENT SELF-EVALUATION

1. As your experiment progresses, frequently look back through your project journal and the answers to the questions above. Consider:

- Are you keeping up with your planned data collection schedule?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- Is all of the data you've collected stored safely and organized properly?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- Are you adhering to your QA/QC plan? How can you improve this process?
☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Are you taking notes in your project journal to help you remember key observations, unexpected events, and questions that emerge from your project?

☐ Yes ☐ No