2 Truths and 1 Lie Icebreaker

This is a get-to-know-you activity which should engage and challenge participants in fun way. If you have a large group (20+ people) split participants into smaller groups (3-4 people). If you have a smaller group (12 or less) divide participants into pairs.

Explain that during the activity each person will give the other member(s) of the group two truths and a lie about their farming experience and knowledge. The member(s) of the group will try to guess each other's lie. The goal is to: a) convince others that your lie is truth (and that one of your truths is the lie), and b) correctly guess other peoples’ lies.

Give them between 5 to 10 minutes for everyone to provide their 2 truths & 1 lie. Each member of the group should take notes to make sure that they don't forget the information being provided. You will probably need to urge people along and encourage them to be as inventive and creative as possible.

Gather everyone back after the allotted time and ask each member of the group to report back to the rest of the participants the information they gather about their group member(s).

For example one person reads the following three statements they obtained from their partner aloud (to remind everyone).

Statement 1: John Applebee has been farming for 15 years.
Statement 2: He is an expert in the production of numerous herbs.
Statement 3: He plans obtain organic certification for his 30 acre farm in 2015.

After the person is done reading the statements ask the rest of the participants identify the lie? Then ask the member which of the statements he thought was a lie.

The exercise can be run competitively, e.g., count up how many correct guesses of other people's lies and take away the number of people who correctly guesses your own lie. Highest score wins (honesty counts!).

Written by staff at the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) and Quality Certification Services (QCS). This product was developed with support from U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service, National Organic Program.