Everyone Benefits
Computer Technology makes Distance Learning Beneficial for all Learning Styles

Who can benefit from distance learning?
Everyone can benefit form distance learning. Learning on Web-based courses and using Web training programs allows all learning styles to succeed, as long as the programs are highly interactive.

Extension program can benefit by cutting travel expenses and having agents available to answer questions instantly via the Internet. It would allow others to access previously posted information at any time through forums and provide immediate feedback.

What advantages could this bring to agriculture?
Online courses and training programs may become more assessable to everyone in the world of agriculture. Both presenters and learners may be less hesitant to use online programs with the knowledge of all learning style experiencing learning online with the same success rate as face-to-face teaching. This could lead to more Web-based courses for:

- Agriculture Education
- Extension Education
- Extension Training Programs

What disadvantages are created?
Learning styles do not help program creators make a program that is specifically for tactical, kinetic, or visual learners. All learning styles have the ability to learn from online programs as long as the program is highly interactive. The main disadvantage created by having the same learning styles is that Web site creators have to make the Web site interactive, which causes the expense of the program to increase. If learning styles could be targeted, then classes could be tailored to that particular learning style.

What is in the future for agriculture and technology?
Online learning through multiple Web channels is successful for all learning styles. The more interactive the program, the closer the experience is to face-to-face interaction. Teachers and Extension agents will be able to reach students or trainees in online courses by knowing that everyone has the ability to learn in an online environment.

Educators can offer agriculture programs online at the university level and for a fee to non-university students interested in learning more about the topic. The

Technology allows the farmers to access the extension information online in the field

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The extension program has used an interactive program for online 4-H volunteer training and campuses across the nation teach Web-based agriculture courses. In the future, Extension agents may use this technology to conduct 4-H clinics, agriculture workshops, and training programs. The obstacle will be convincing the public that the online courses are easy to use and most importantly as effective as being in a face-to-face classroom setting.

References


