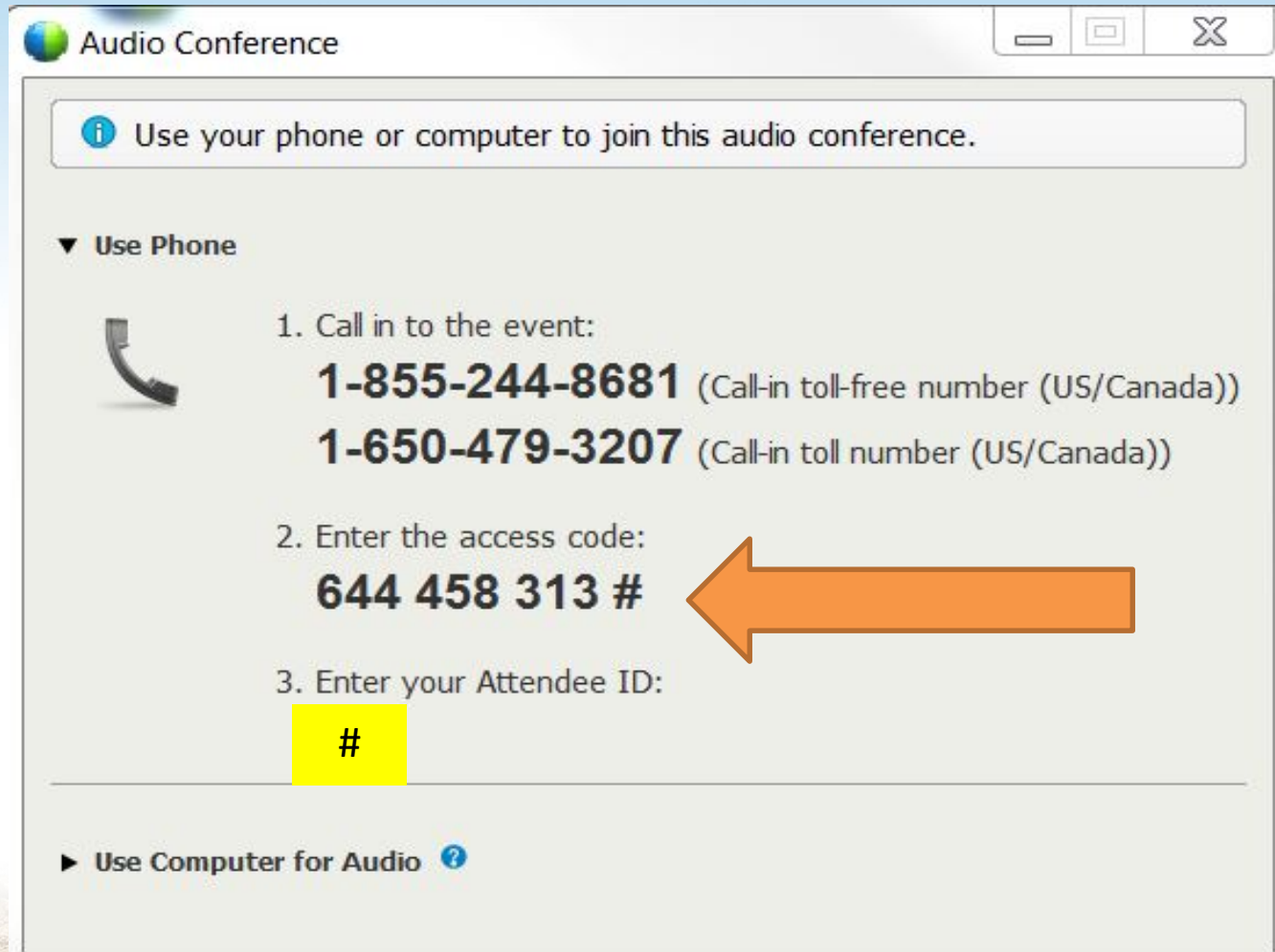


How To Join Audio



The screenshot shows a window titled 'Audio Conference' with standard window controls (minimize, maximize, close). Below the title bar is an information box with an 'i' icon and the text: 'Use your phone or computer to join this audio conference.' Below this is a section titled 'Use Phone' with a dropdown arrow. To the left of the instructions is a telephone handset icon. The instructions are as follows:

1. Call in to the event:
1-855-244-8681 (Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada))
1-650-479-3207 (Call-in toll number (US/Canada))
2. Enter the access code:
644 458 313 #
3. Enter your Attendee ID:
#

At the bottom of the window is a section titled 'Use Computer for Audio' with a right-pointing arrow and a question mark icon. A large orange arrow points from the right towards the access code '644 458 313 #'. The '#' character under 'Attendee ID' is highlighted in yellow.

***You must enter your attendee ID # when you call into the teleconference to 'raise your hand', be unmuted, and participate in the discussion.**



Produce Safety Educators Monthly Meeting #6

February 10, 2014

2PM EST



Cornell University
Department of Food Science

Instructions

- **All participants are muted.**
 - To ask a question or make a comment, please ‘raise your hand’ using the small button on the right hand panel
 - We may not get around to all comments/questions, BUT you may leave additional comments in the comment box to be compiled after the session
- **This session is being recorded.**
- **Notes will be circulated after the meeting.**



Agenda

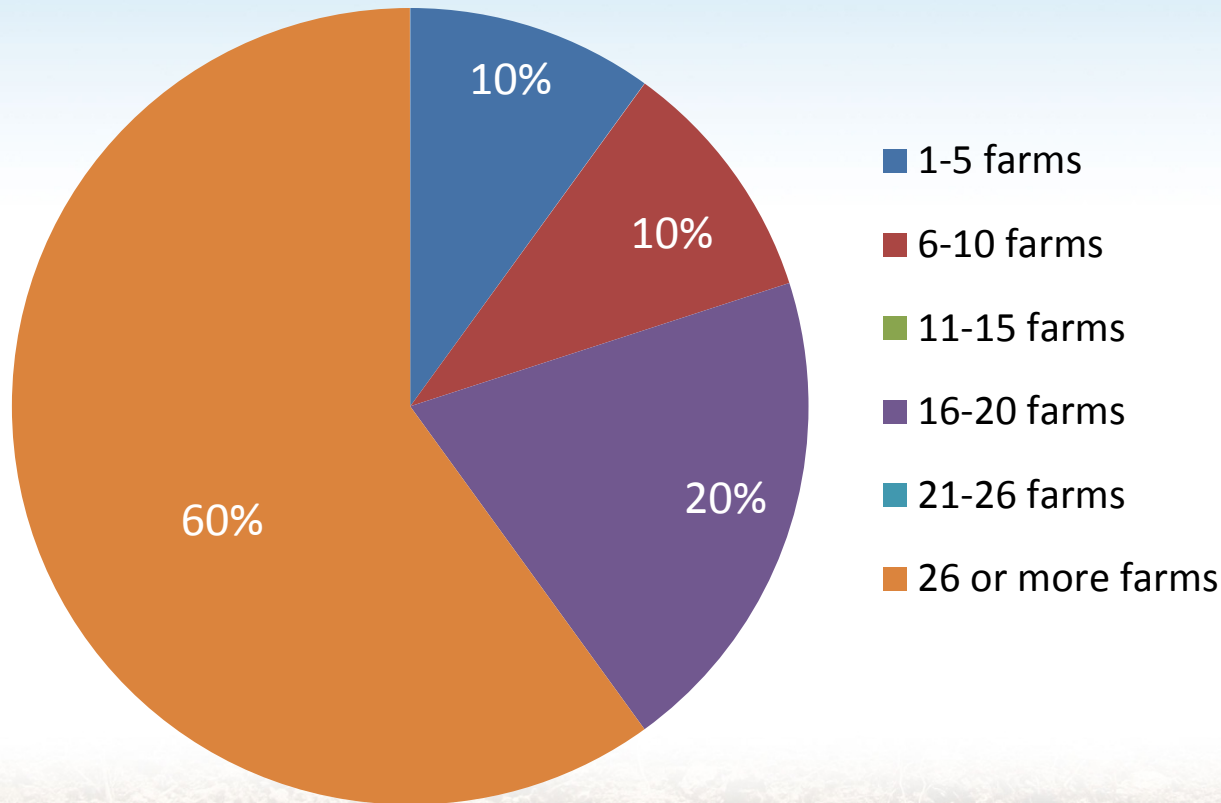
- **Preliminary survey results**
 - Discussion about Soil Amendments
 - Discussion about Packing, Handling, & Storage Practices



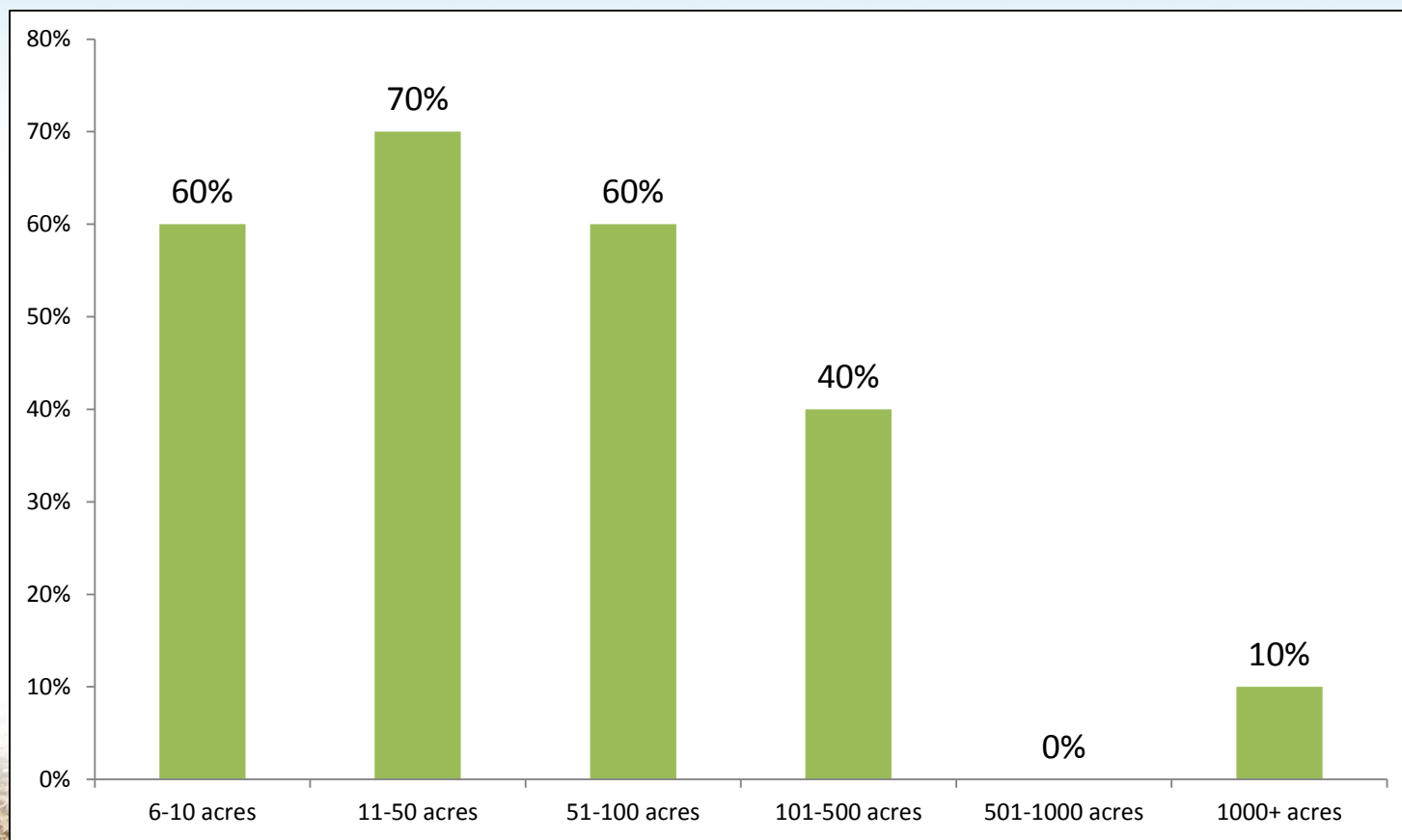
Preliminary Soil Amendments Survey Responses



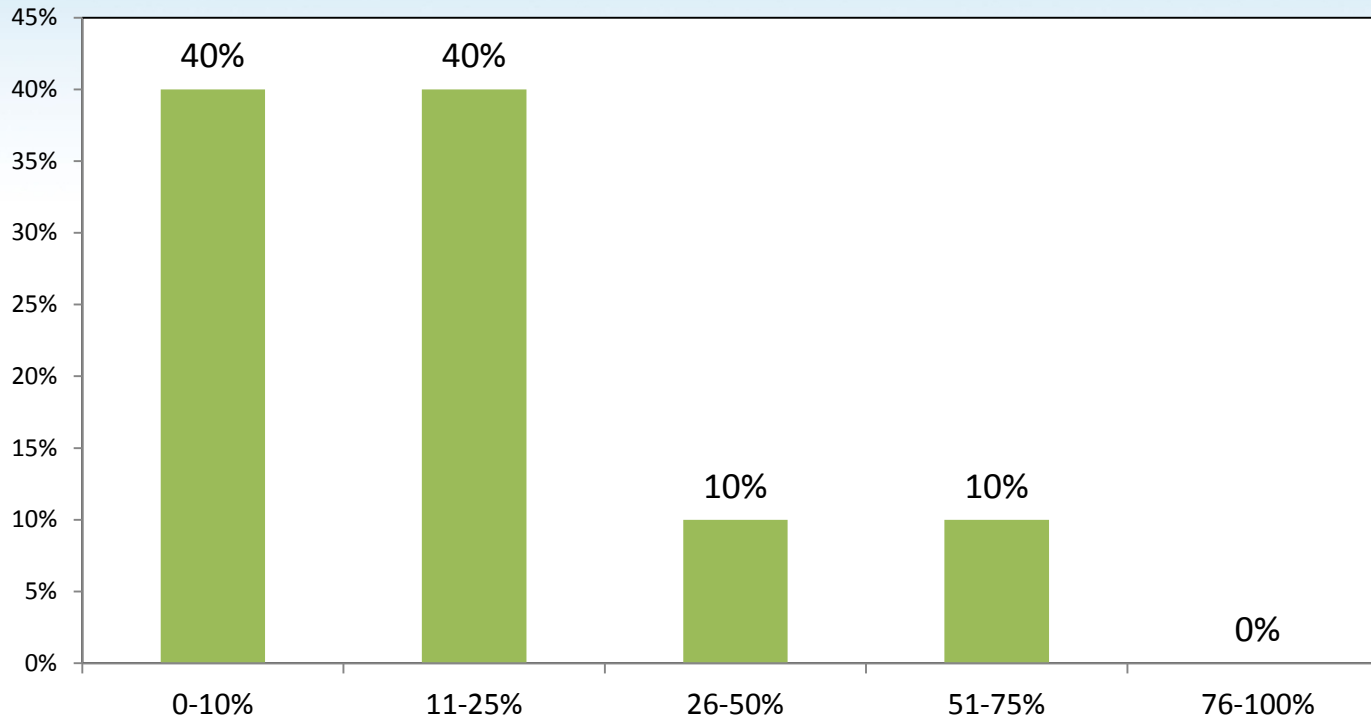
How many produce farms do you work with that use raw manure or treated compost every year?



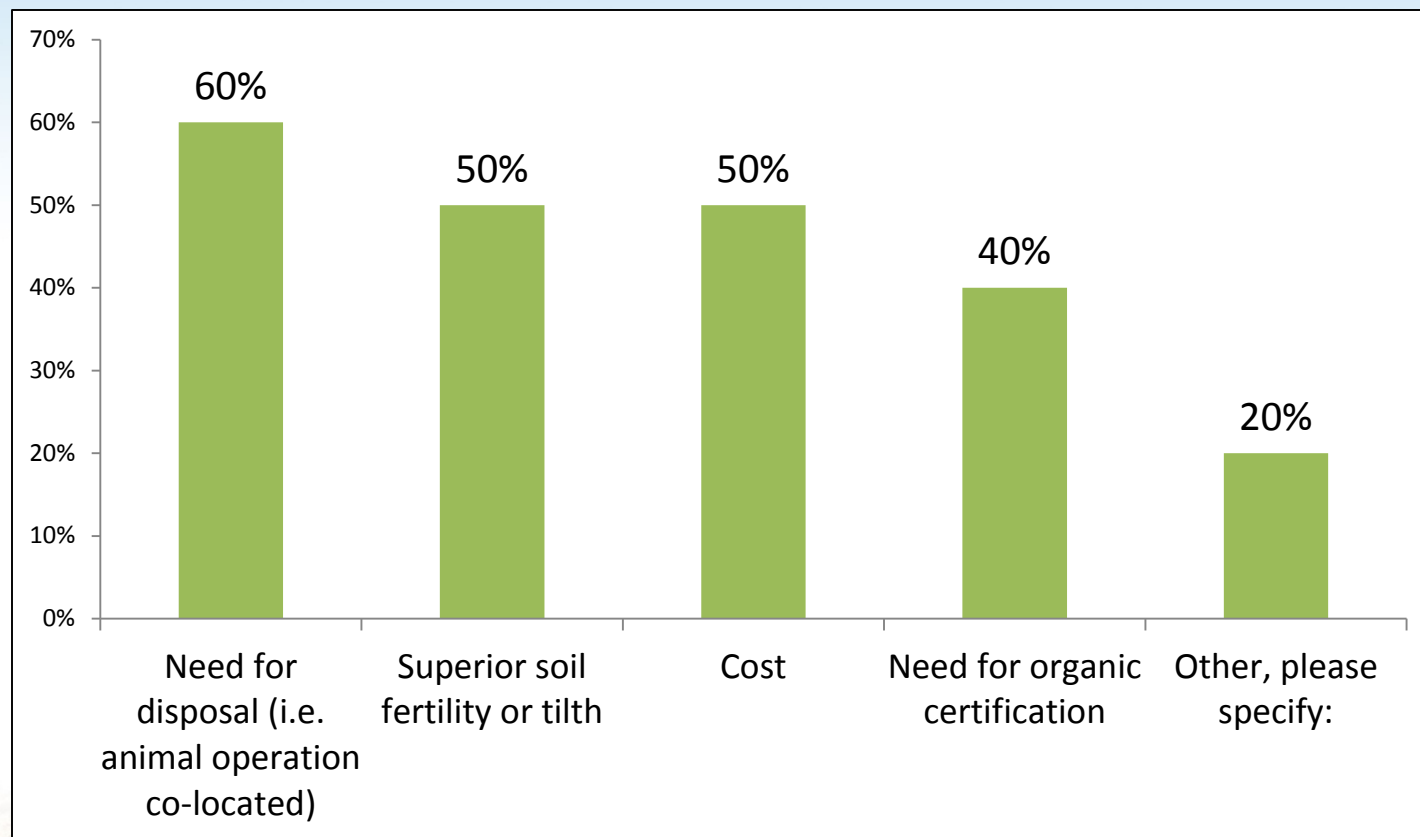
Of the farms you work with who may be impacted by the proposed soil provision of the produce rule, can you estimate the number of acres they may have in fruit and vegetable production?



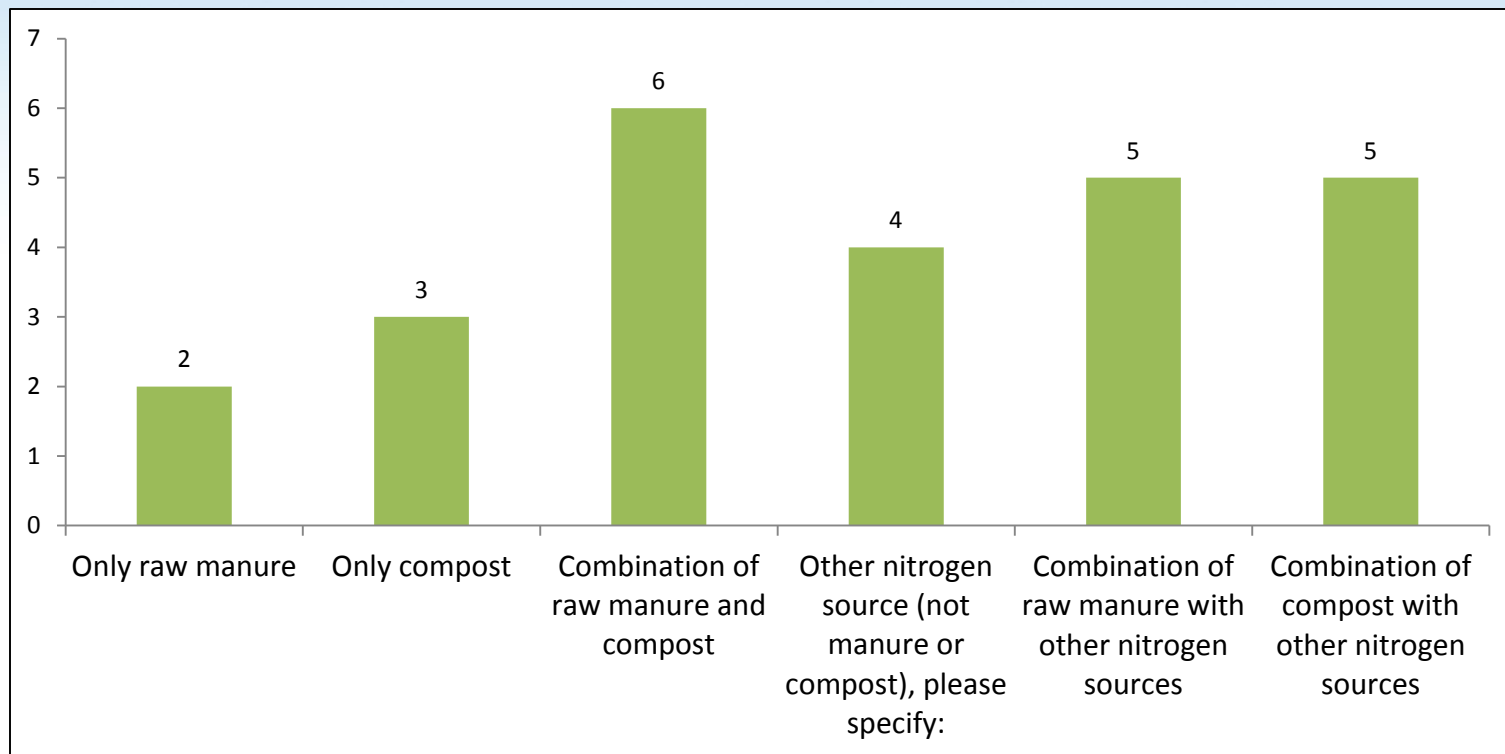
Of the farms you work with, can you estimate what percent are considered organic growers?



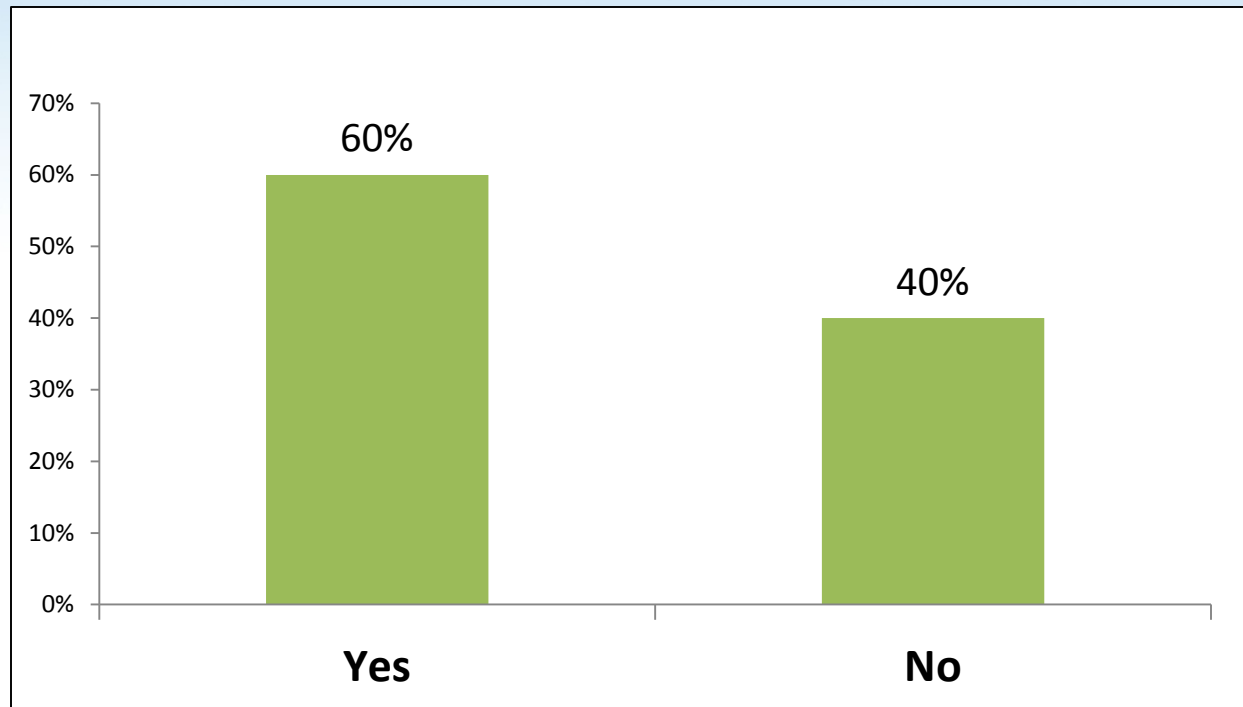
What is the primary reason for using manure or compost on the farms?



For soil amendments, are the farms you work with using:



Do you think raw manure is a critical source of nitrogen on produce farms?



What are your thoughts on raw manure use?

- Used properly, it can be a good source
- Depends on how it is handled and applied
- Good, cheap resource – keeps manure on farms and not in landfills
- FSMA should align with existing NOP standards
- Farms in my area cannot meet composting standards without infrastructure investment
- Generally less desirable, re: odors, runoff
- Necessary for Plain Growers

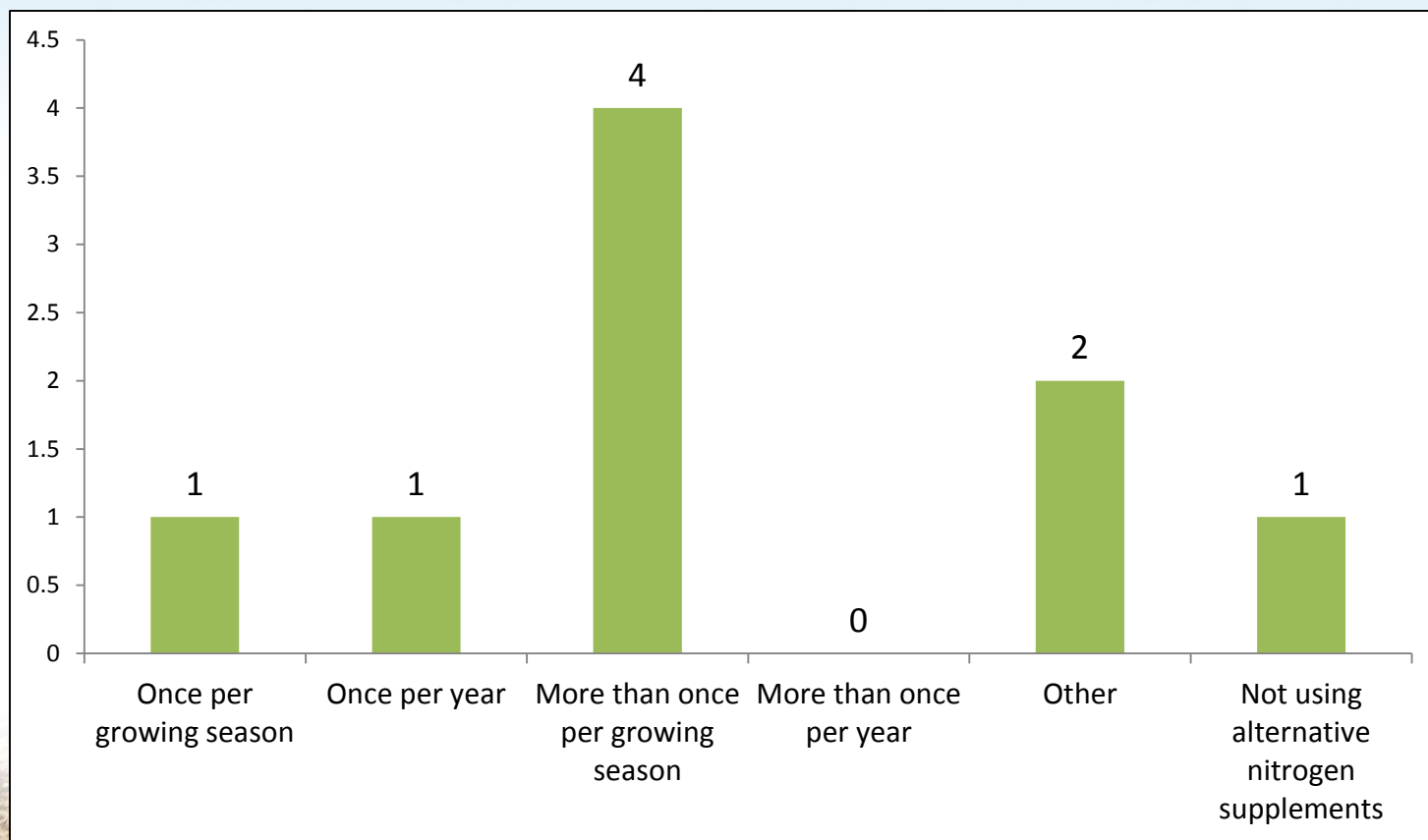


What are your thoughts on raw manure use (cont.)?

- Highly risky for small farms who do not have training in food safety
- 'Aged' manure is an issue
- Some growers have given up on the idea of manure because they are aware of food safety issues
- Dairy farms NEED to be integrated for nutrient cycling



How frequently are the growers you work with using alternative nitrogen supplements (i.e. not manure or compost)?



Are there any limitations to using alternative sources of nitrogen (i.e. not manure or compost)?

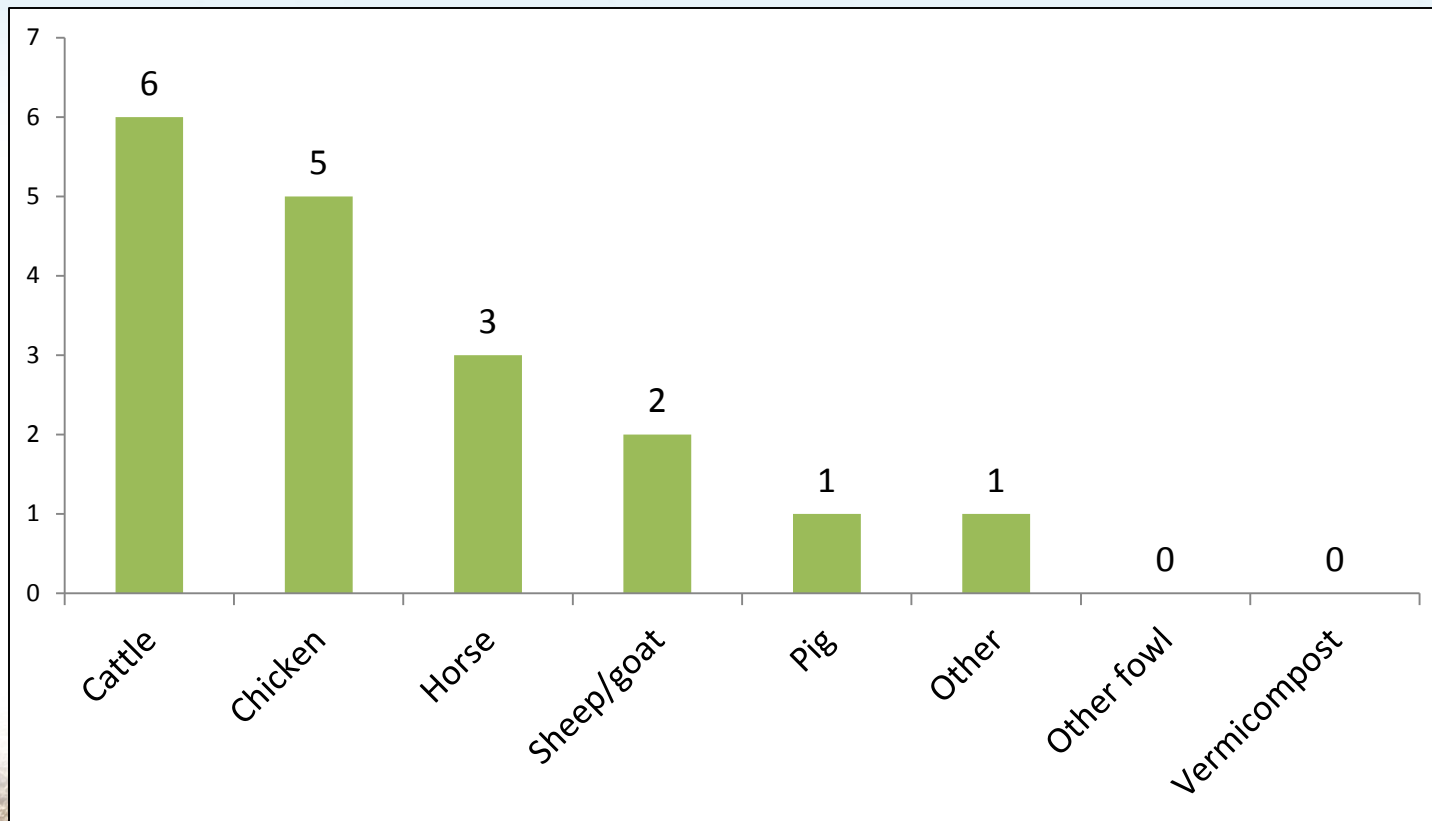
- **Yes (4)**

- Cost of purchase and transport of conventional fertilizers to remote parts of my state would be extremely high/prohibitive in some cases
- Cost, leaching potential in high rainfall area
- It doesn't build organic matter

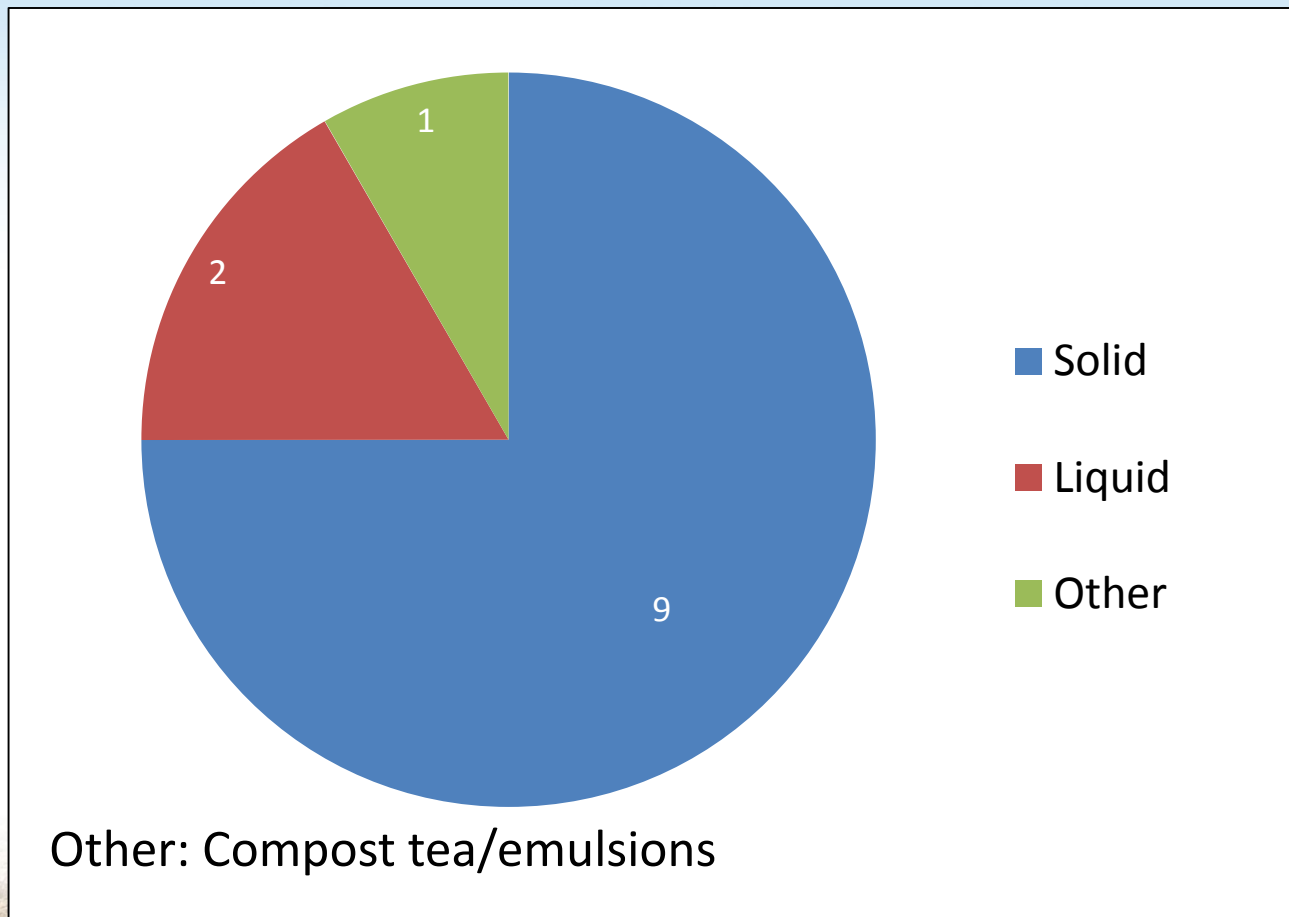
- **No (6)**



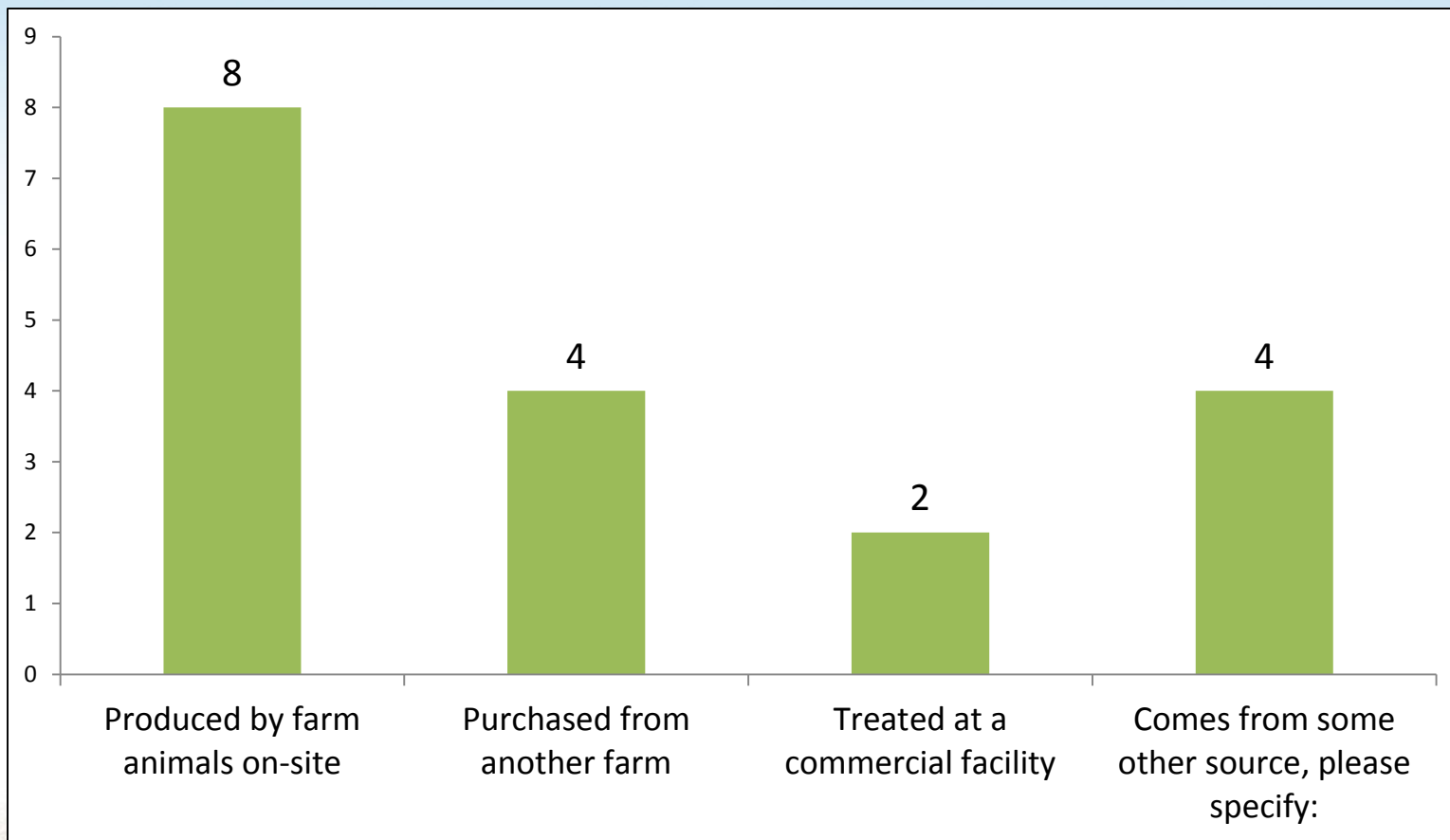
If you work with farms who are using animal manures or composts, what is the primary animal species of origin?



Is the consistency of the manure or compost primarily solid or liquid?



Is the compost or manure used on the farms you work with:



What do you feel will be the impacts to growers in your area of the required time periods between application of biological soil amendments and harvest of fresh produce as outlined in the proposed in the produce rule?

- Severely limit or eliminate its use
- Will change grower practices (fall appl. rather than spring)
- Less healthy/productive trees, more drought susceptible
- Growing season too short for 9 mo. to be practical
- **Most do not have storage capacity for 9 mo. (3)**
- More data needed on pathogen survival in cold soils
- Additional time substantially reduces fertilizer value of manure – with respect to N

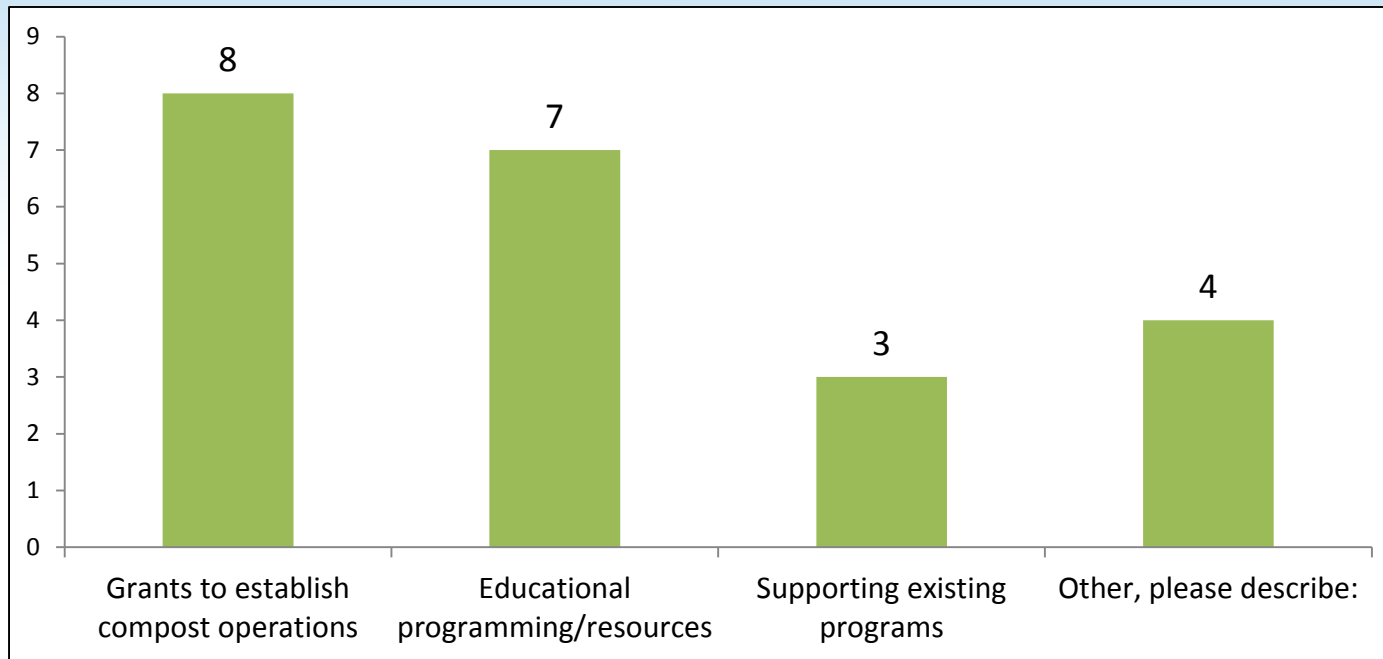


What are your thoughts on promoting composting as a method of risk reduction?

- Has to be done at source
- Will add to cost
- Standards need to be clear on what is meant by proper curing and insulating
- Difficult for Plain Growers
- Composted manure can be safe, reduce costs, more sustainable
- Emphasis needs to be placed on proper composting techniques
- Absolutely essential – adding organic matter is key to soil health
- Need educational materials on this for small farms



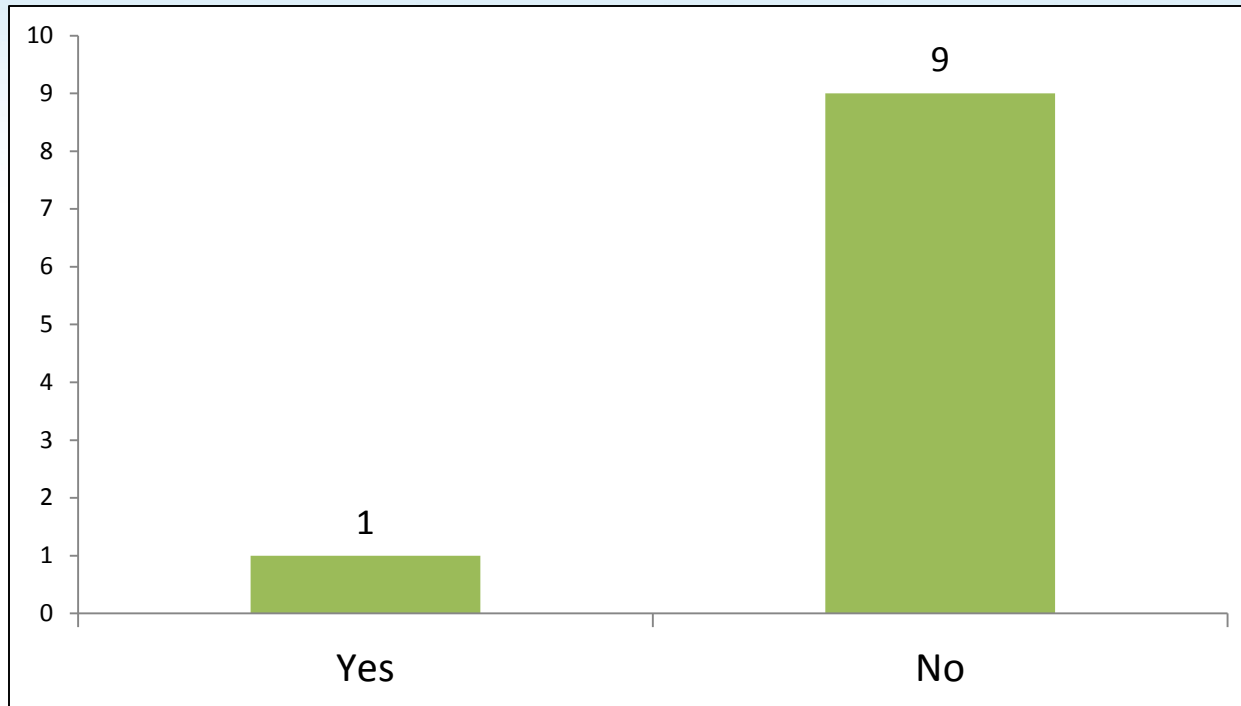
How can the industry best facilitate the transition from raw manure use to composting practices?



Other: EQip funds from NRCS, research on how to do safely and affordably, model effects of temp and humidity of pathogens – couple with weather data for risk assessment



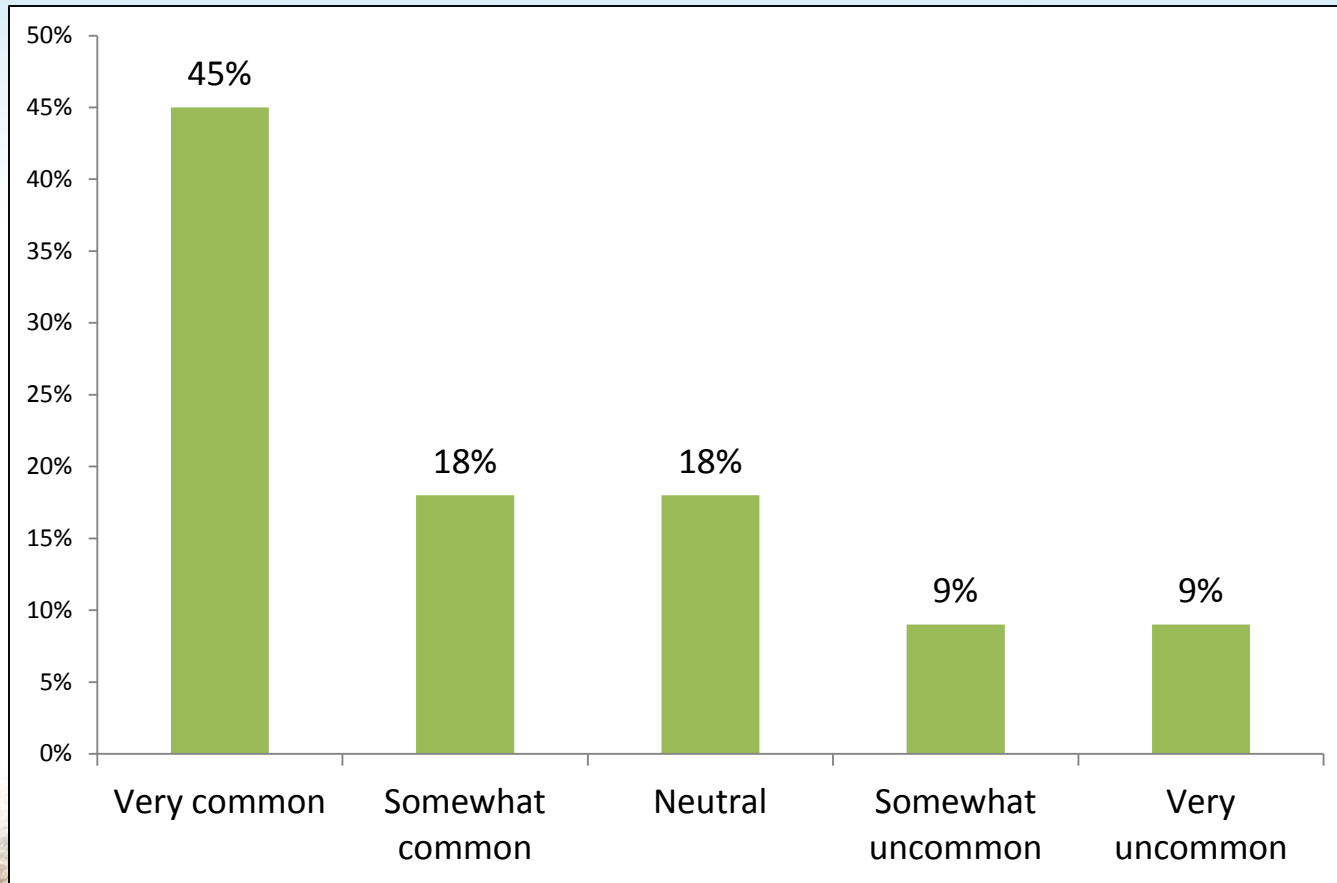
Do your state regulations differ from the proposed produce safety rule with regards to the soil amendment provisions?



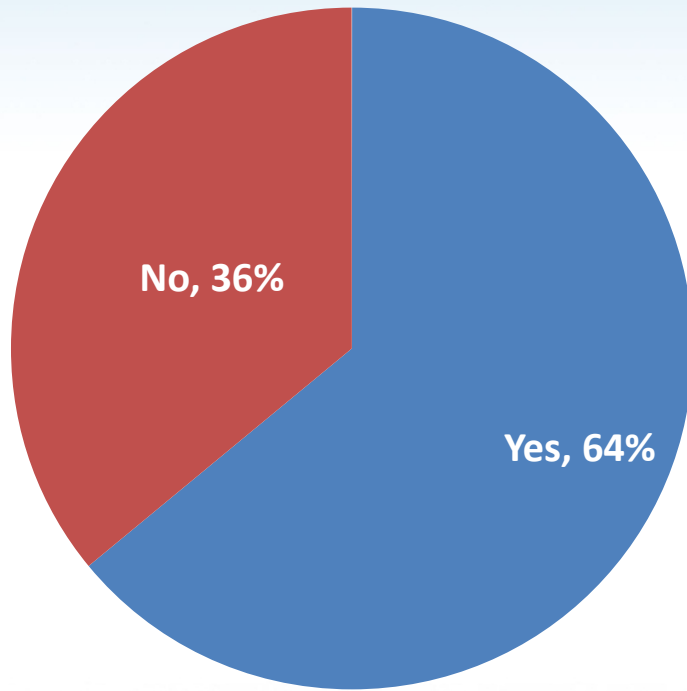
Packing, Handling, & Storage of Fresh Produce



How common is it for farms to have their produce packed, stored, or held by another company that is not legally owned by the farm?



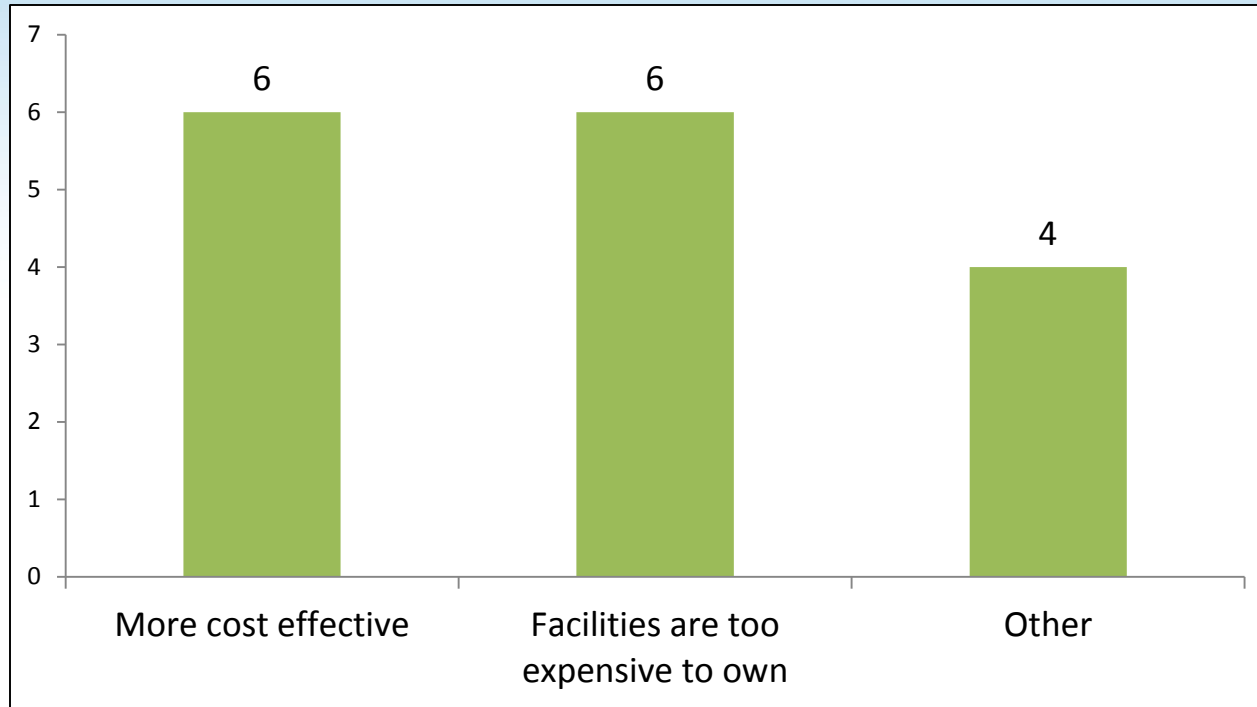
Is this type of packing, storage, or holding more prevalent in certain types of commodities (i.e. apples, leafy greens, nuts)?



- Tree fruit (2)
- Kiwi
- Nuts
- Onions
- Potatoes/root veg (2)
- Peaches
- Blueberries
- Greens (2)
- Cabbage (2)



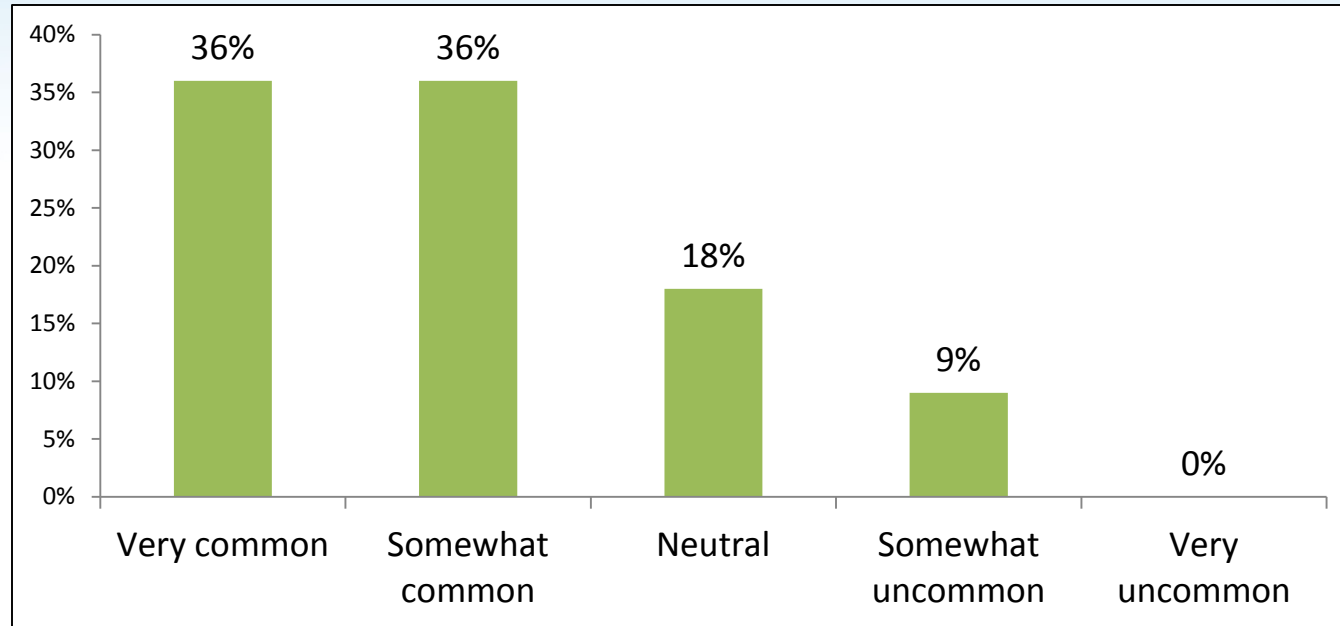
Why do farms decide to contract packing, storing or holding to other companies?



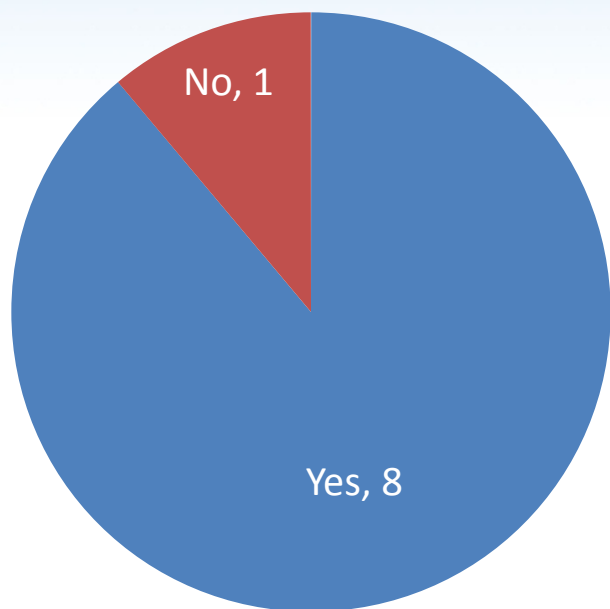
- No sense in every farm having a packing/storage area
- It's not necessarily contracted
- More product than they can sell on their own
- To broaden farm offerings



How common is the practice of farms buying, packing, or holding produce grown on another farm?



Is this practice of farms buying, packing, or holding produce grown on another farm more common with some commodities than others?

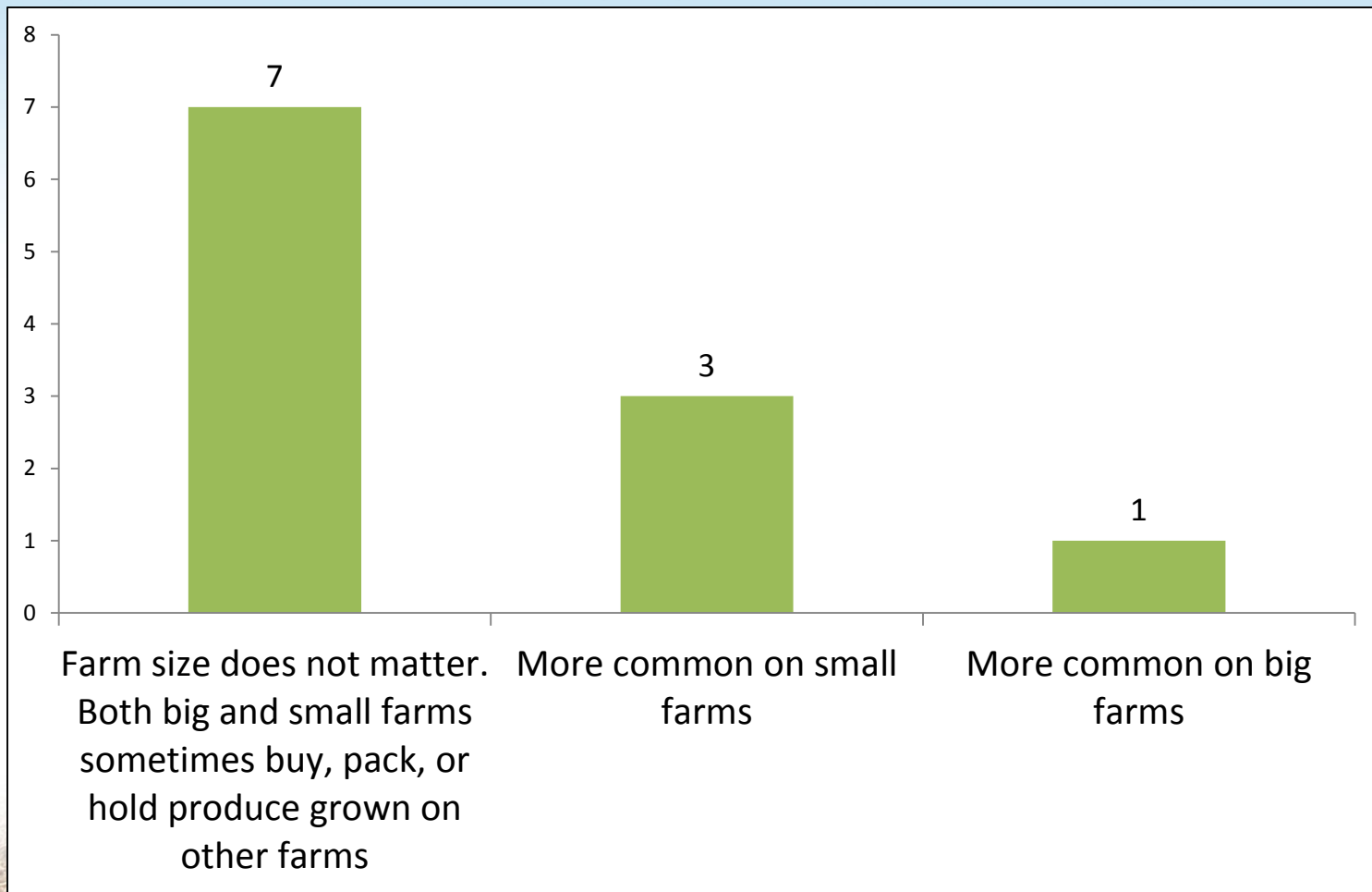


If yes, please share commodities:

- Not commodity focused – based on size of farm and market channels
- Apples
- Mandarins
- CSA enterprises
- Farm stands, farm markets
- Wholesalers
- Commodities will vary



Is it impacted by farm size (i.e. more common on small farms or big farms)?



Why do people buy, pack and/or hold produce grown on another farm?

- More common on small farms
- CSA/co-op situations
- Lack of inventory to fill order
- Desire for buyer to receive mixed loads
- If you cannot grow profitably, you buy
- Crop failure
- Customers expect diversity of products
- Items are generally purchased locally to fill orders
- To expand variety offering (such as apples)
- Opportunity to 'rent' packhouse space



Other Topics

- Next meeting:
Monday March 3rd at 2PM EST
- Send Gretchen (glw53@cornell.edu) agenda items



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