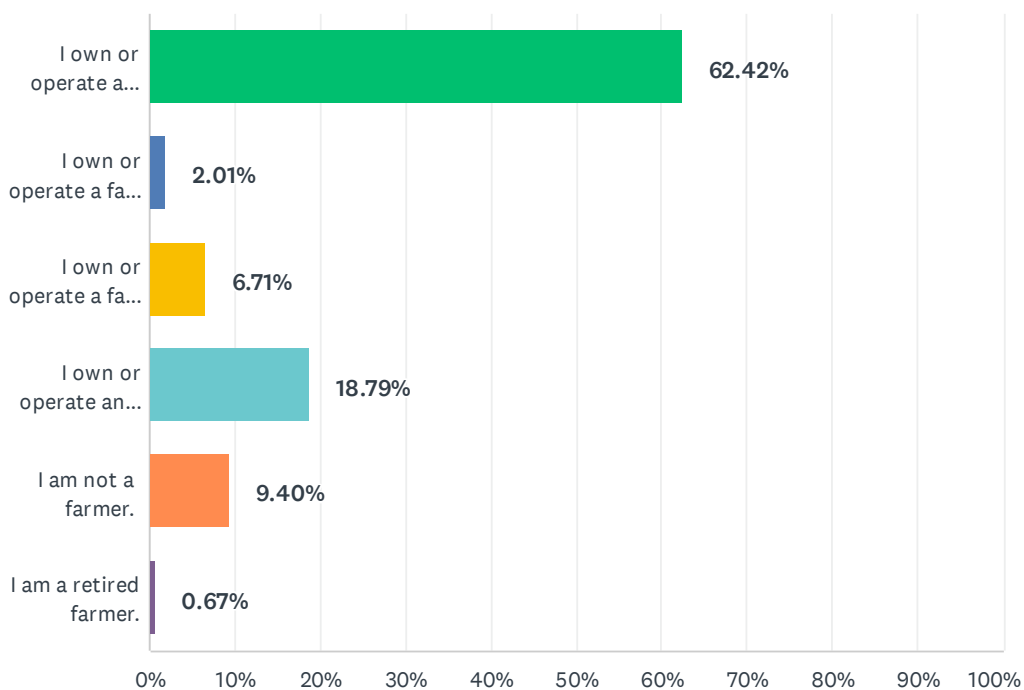


## Q1 Please select the description that best describes you.

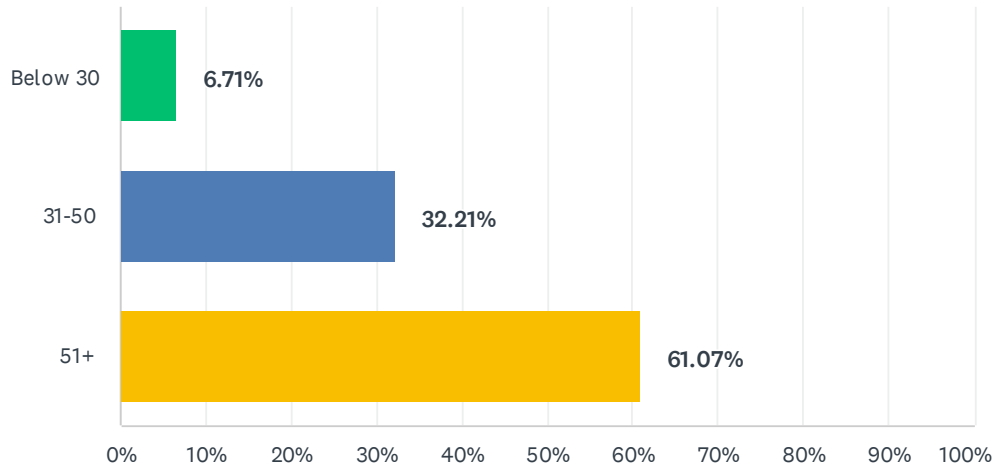
Answered: 149 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I own or operate a certified organic farm.	62.42%	93
I own or operate a farm currently transitioning to organic.	2.01%	3
I own or operate a farm considering transitioning to organic certification.	6.71%	10
I own or operate an organic farm that is not certified organic.	18.79%	28
I am not a farmer.	9.40%	14
I am a retired farmer.	0.67%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>149</b>

## Q2 Age

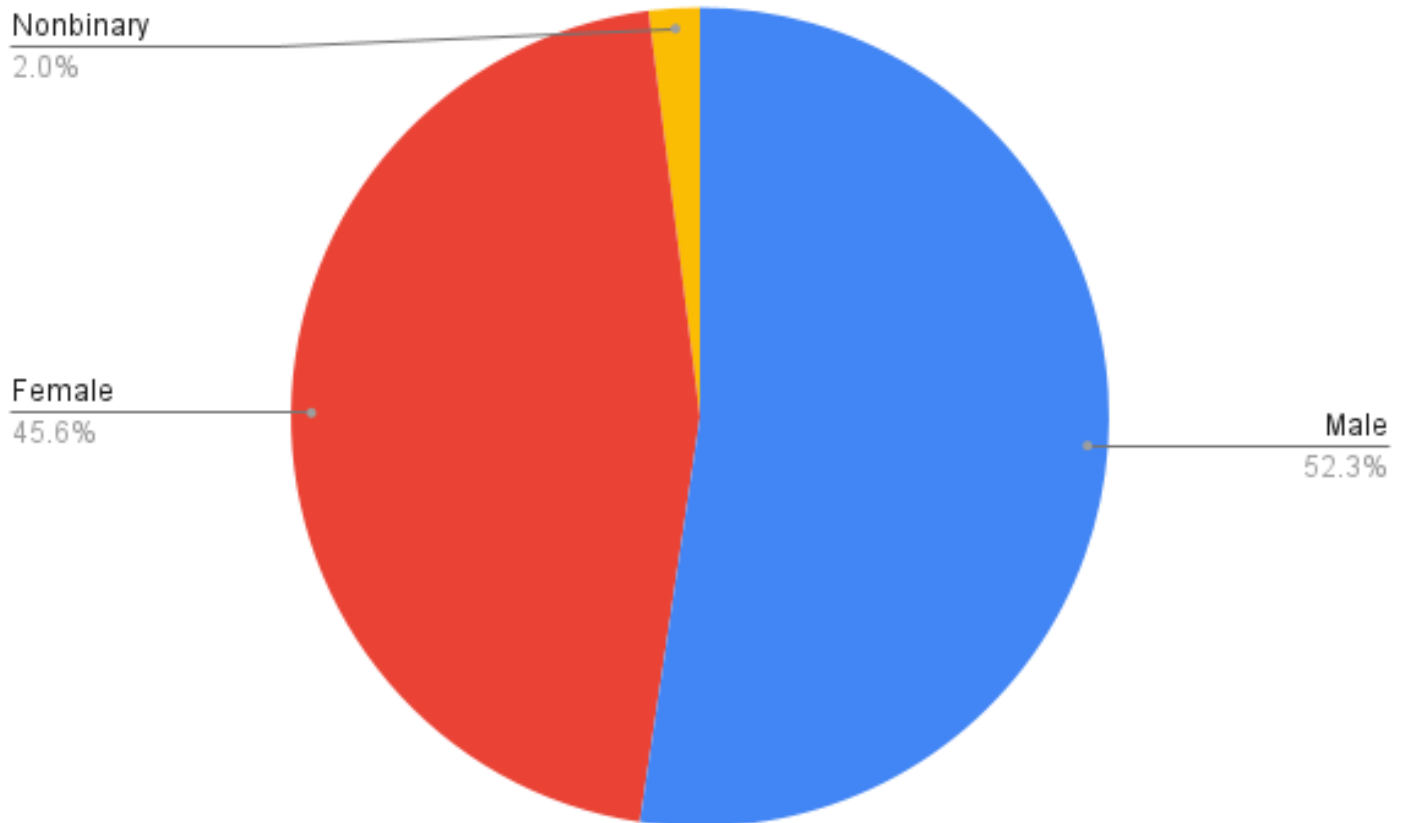
Answered: 149 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Below 30	6.71%	10
31-50	32.21%	48
51+	61.07%	91
TOTAL		149

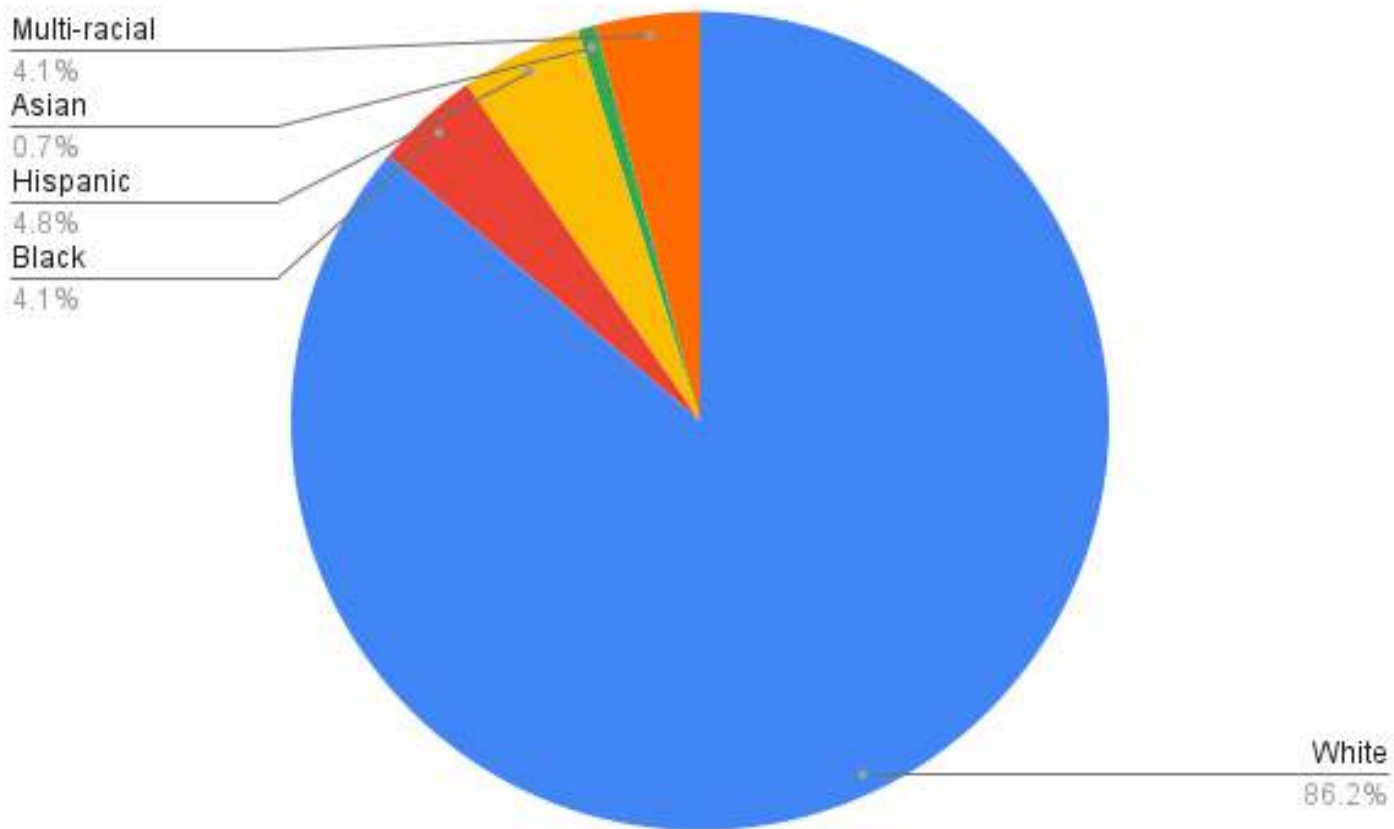
### Q3 Gender

Answered: 149 Skipped: 0



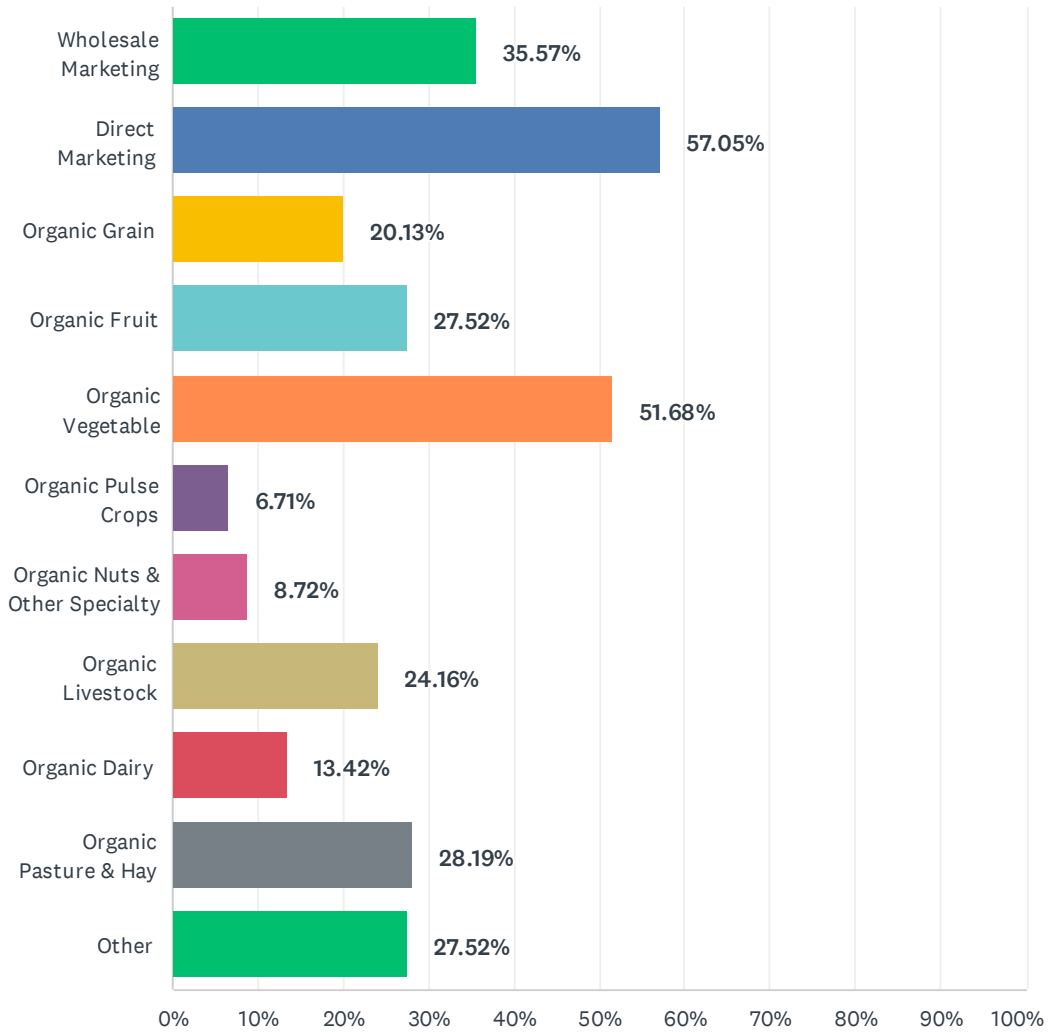
## Q4 Race/Ethnicity

Answered: 149 Skipped: 0



## Q5 General Commodities & Market (Please select all that apply)

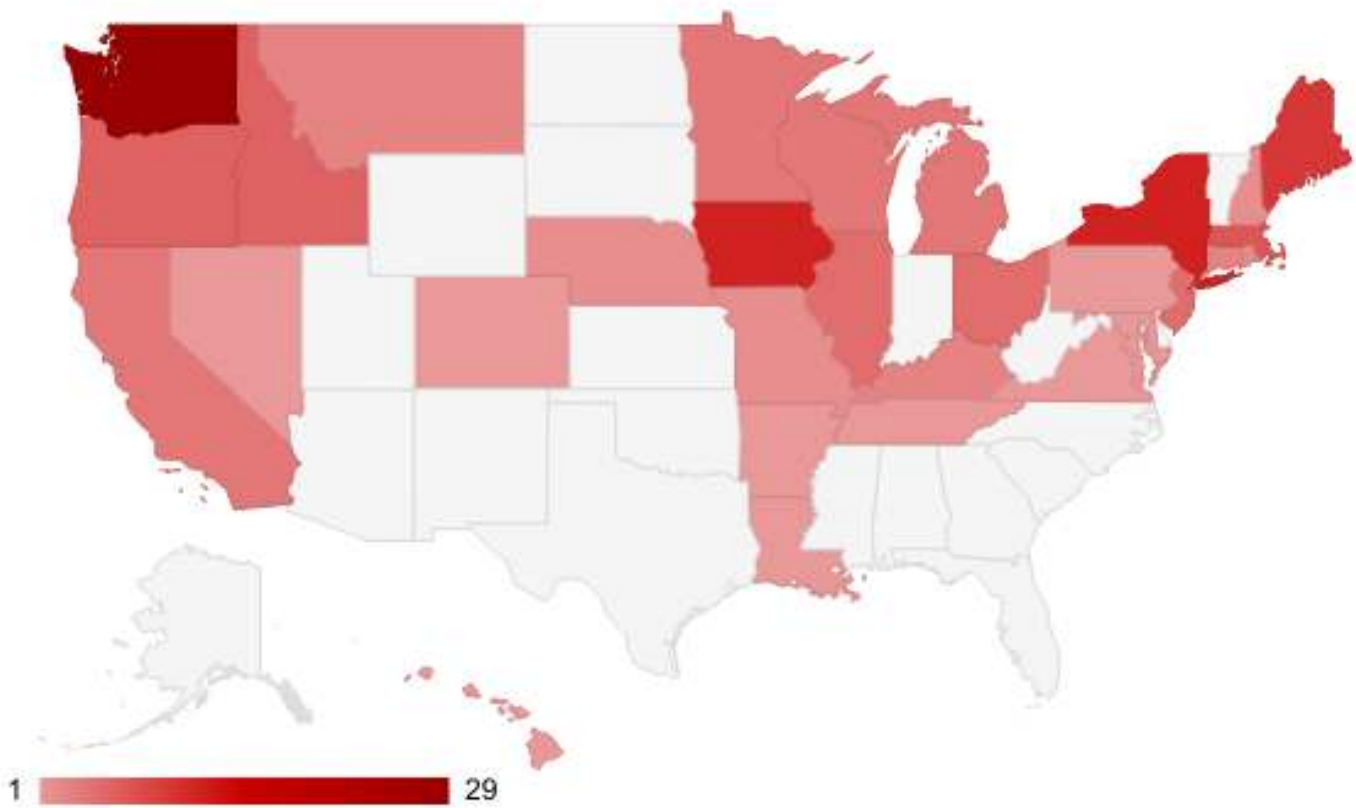
Answered: 149 Skipped: 0



## 2023 Farm Bill Organic Farmer Survey

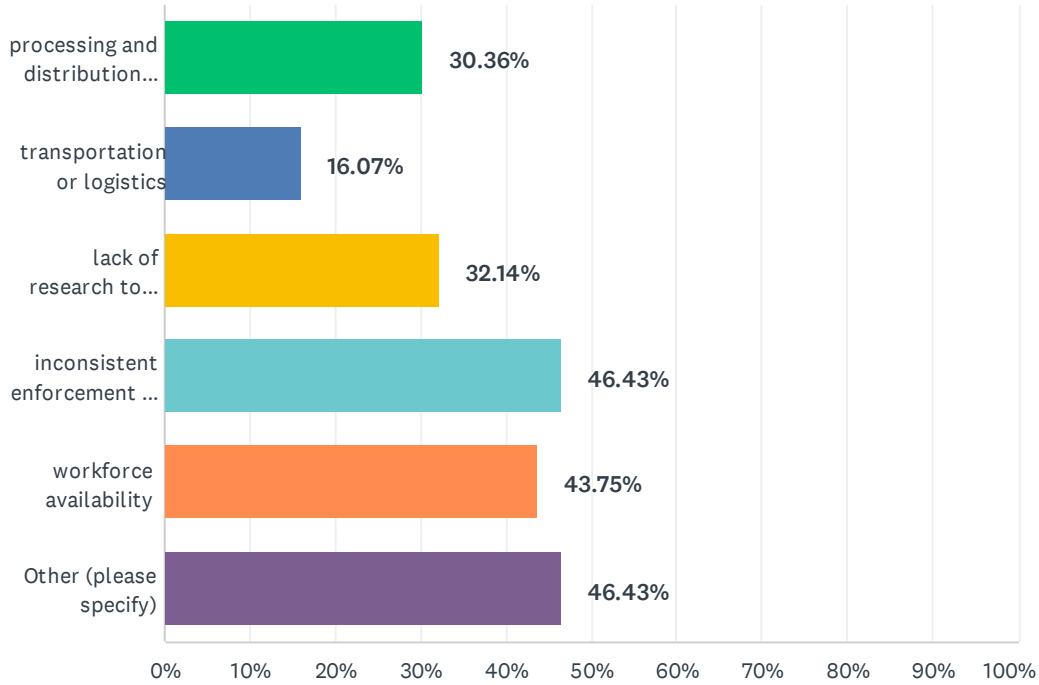
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Wholesale Marketing	35.57%	53
Direct Marketing	57.05%	85
Organic Grain	20.13%	30
Organic Fruit	27.52%	41
Organic Vegetable	51.68%	77
Organic Pulse Crops	6.71%	10
Organic Nuts & Other Specialty	8.72%	13
Organic Livestock	24.16%	36
Organic Dairy	13.42%	20
Organic Pasture & Hay	28.19%	42
Other	27.52%	41
Total Respondents: 149		

## State/Territory (Where You Farm)



## Q7 What factors are holding back growth in organic markets? Check all that apply:

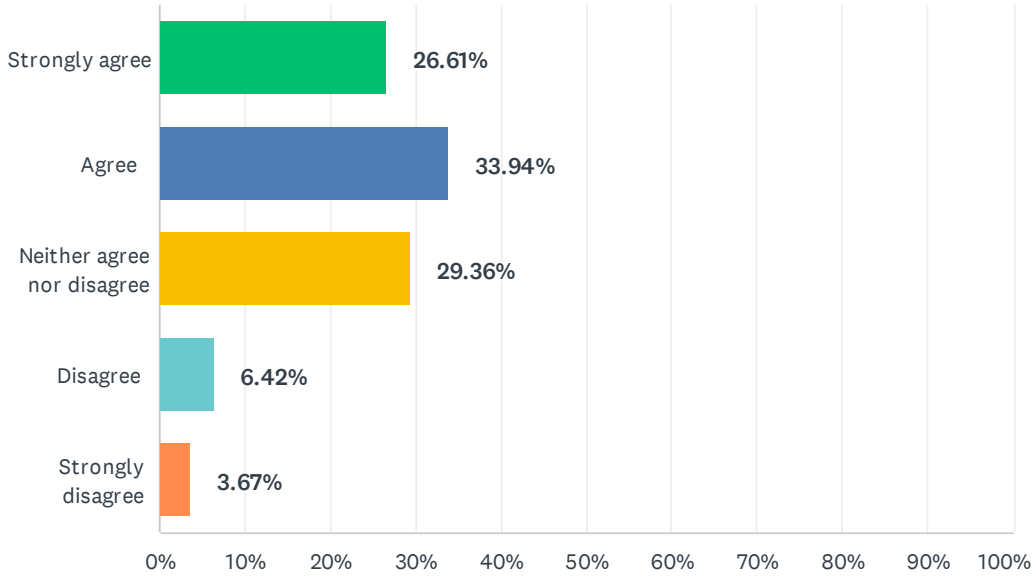
Answered: 112 Skipped: 37



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
processing and distribution capacity	30.36%	34
transportation or logistics	16.07%	18
lack of research to address production problems	32.14%	36
inconsistent enforcement of standards	46.43%	52
workforce availability	43.75%	49
Other (please specify)	46.43%	52
Total Respondents: 112		

Q10 Indicate the degree with whether you agree or disagree with this statement: USDA programs should help facilitate connections between farmers and buyers.

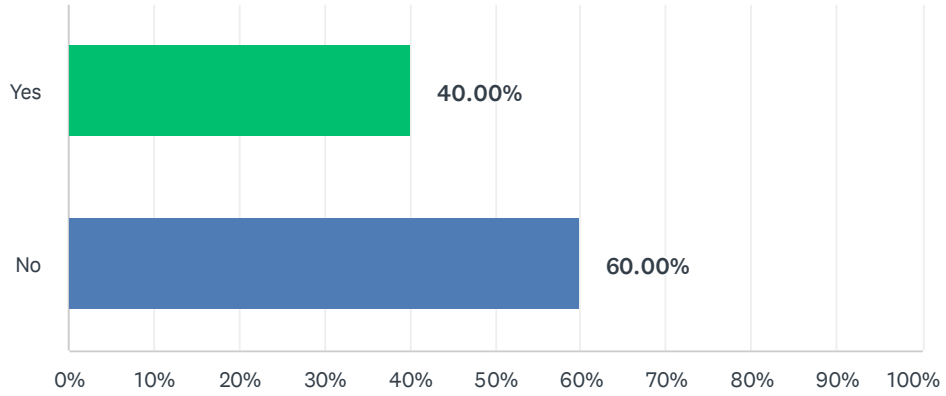
Answered: 109 Skipped: 40



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	26.61%	29
Agree	33.94%	37
Neither agree nor disagree	29.36%	32
Disagree	6.42%	7
Strongly disagree	3.67%	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>109</b>

## Q11 Should the USDA Organic seal be updated and modernized to capture improved organic standards?

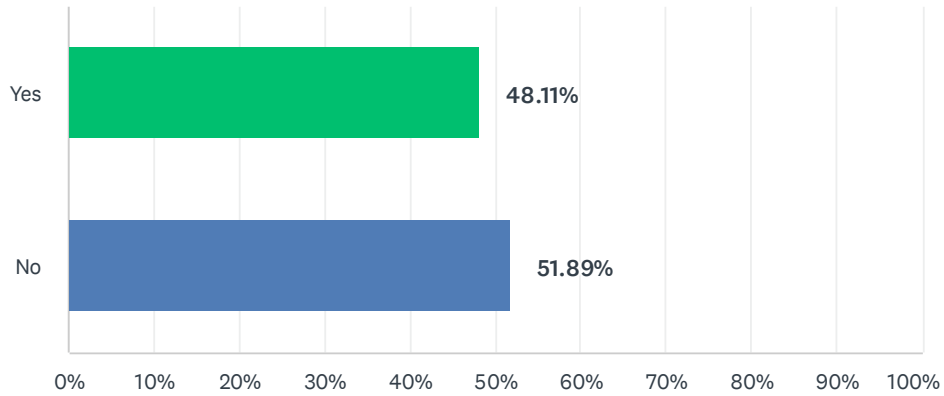
Answered: 100 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	40.00%	40
No	60.00%	60
TOTAL		100

### Q12 Should additional claims be added to the USDA Organic seal? (E.g. adding “non-GMO” or “climate-friendly” to the Organic Seal?)

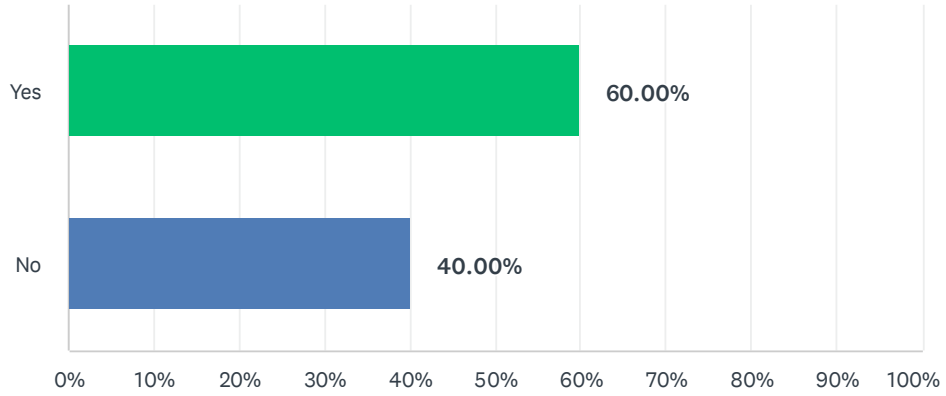
Answered: 106 Skipped: 43



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	48.11%	51
No	51.89%	55
TOTAL		106

### Q13 Does the organic seal need new or improved standards behind it to make additional claims?

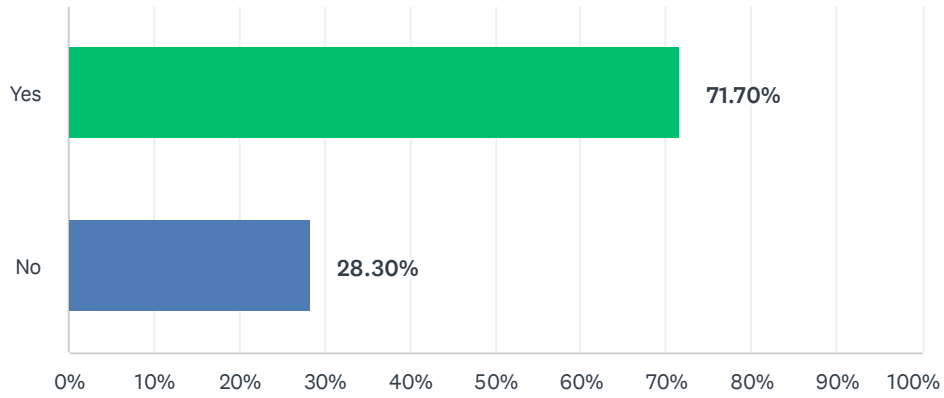
Answered: 105 Skipped: 44



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.00%	63
No	40.00%	42
TOTAL		105

## Q14 Should the organic standards be improved so that no additional claims are needed?

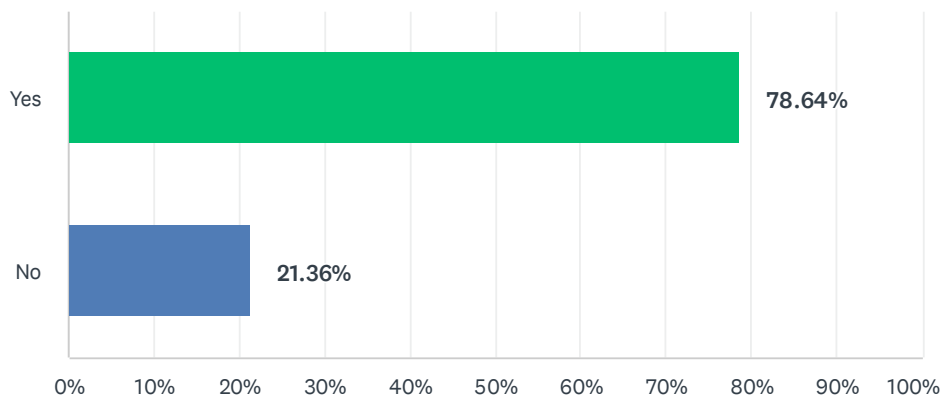
Answered: 106 Skipped: 43



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.70%	76
No	28.30%	30
TOTAL		106

## Q15 Do organic farmers feel pressure to use additional certification/marketing claims for areas that are inadequate in the organic standards?

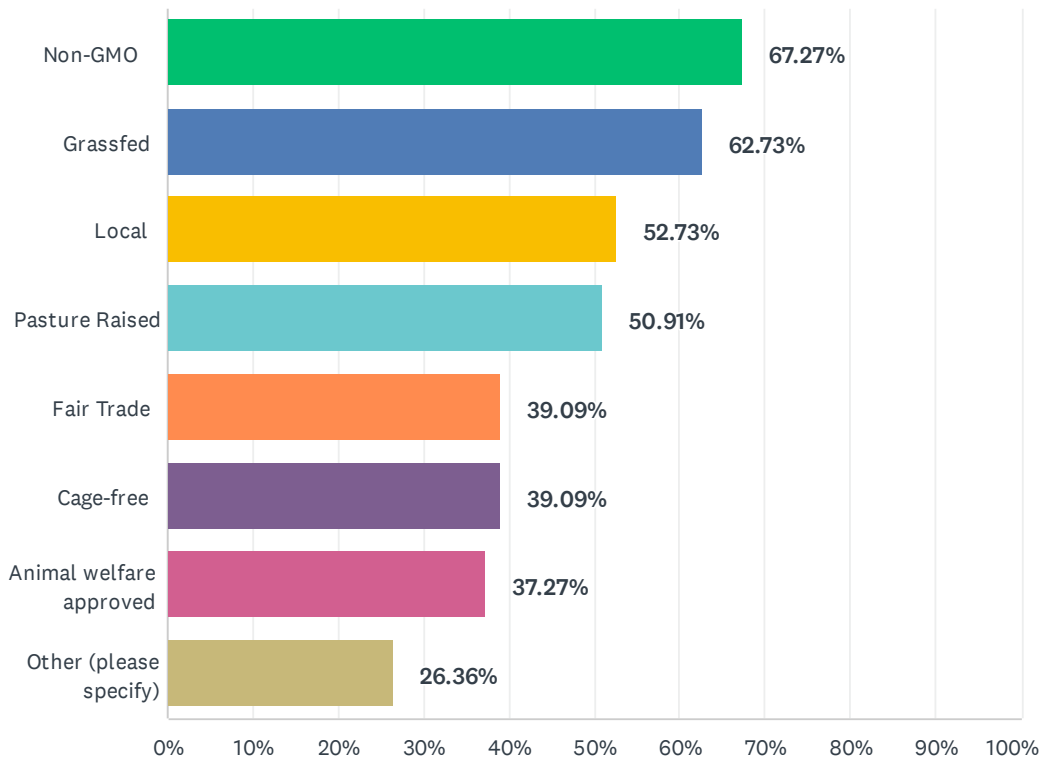
Answered: 103 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	78.64%	81
No	21.36%	22
TOTAL		103

### Q16 What labels do you see most commonly accompanying organic certification? (Check all that apply)

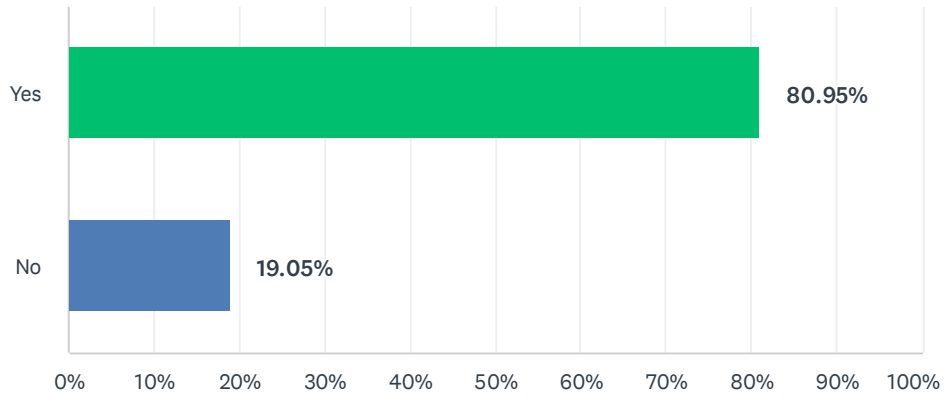
Answered: 110 Skipped: 39



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Non-GMO	67.27%	74
Grassfed	62.73%	69
Local	52.73%	58
Pasture Raised	50.91%	56
Fair Trade	39.09%	43
Cage-free	39.09%	43
Animal welfare approved	37.27%	41
Other (please specify)	26.36%	29
Total Respondents: 110		

## Q17 Do you prefer that the organic standards cover these issues?

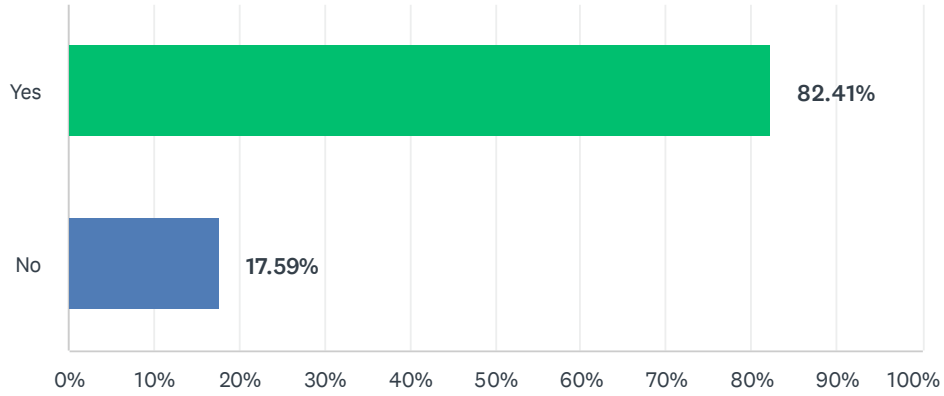
Answered: 105 Skipped: 44



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	80.95%	85
No	19.05%	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>105</b>

## Q20 Do you see organic certification as a tool for your farm's economic viability?

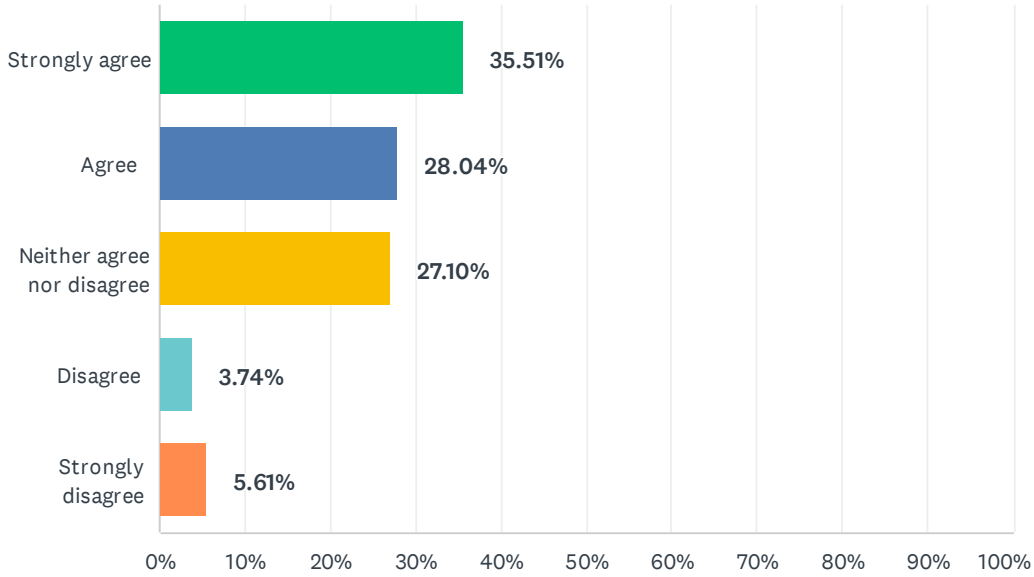
Answered: 108 Skipped: 41



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	82.41%	89
No	17.59%	19
TOTAL		108

**Q23 Indicate the degree with whether you agree or disagree with this statement: USDA and the federal government should do more to reduce or address consolidation in organic markets.**

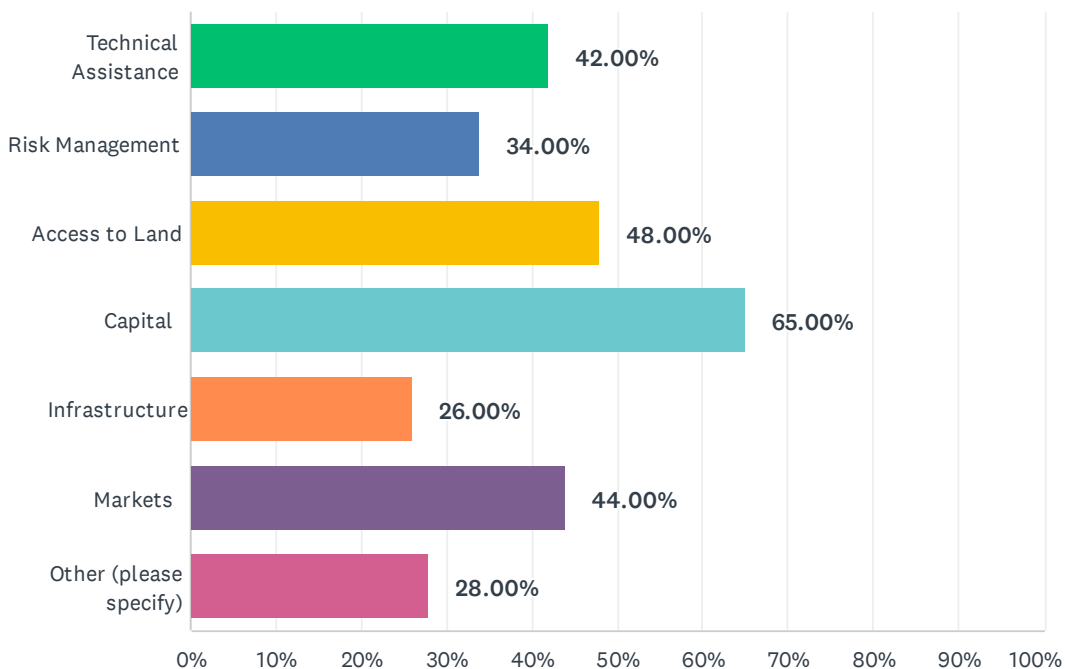
Answered: 107 Skipped: 42



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	35.51%	38
Agree	28.04%	30
Neither agree nor disagree	27.10%	29
Disagree	3.74%	4
Strongly disagree	5.61%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>107</b>

## Q24 What are the TOP THREE (3) barriers you see preventing farmers from transitioning to organic or current organic farms expanding organic acres? (Select 3)

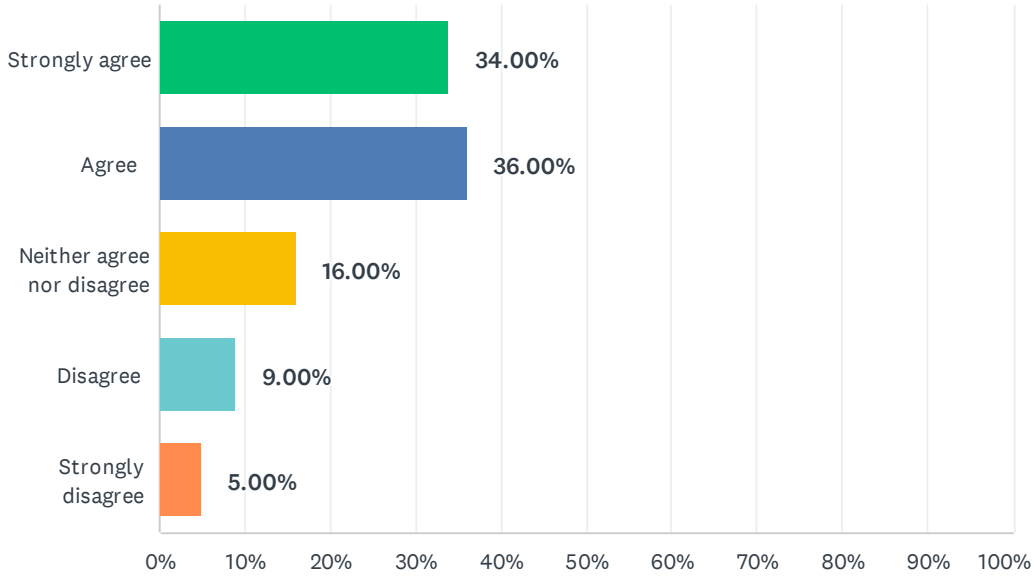
Answered: 100 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Technical Assistance	42.00%	42
Risk Management	34.00%	34
Access to Land	48.00%	48
Capital	65.00%	65
Infrastructure	26.00%	26
Markets	44.00%	44
Other (please specify)	28.00%	28
Total Respondents: 100		

## Q26 Indicate the degree with whether you agree or disagree with this statement: USDA should provide financial support for farms going through organic transition?

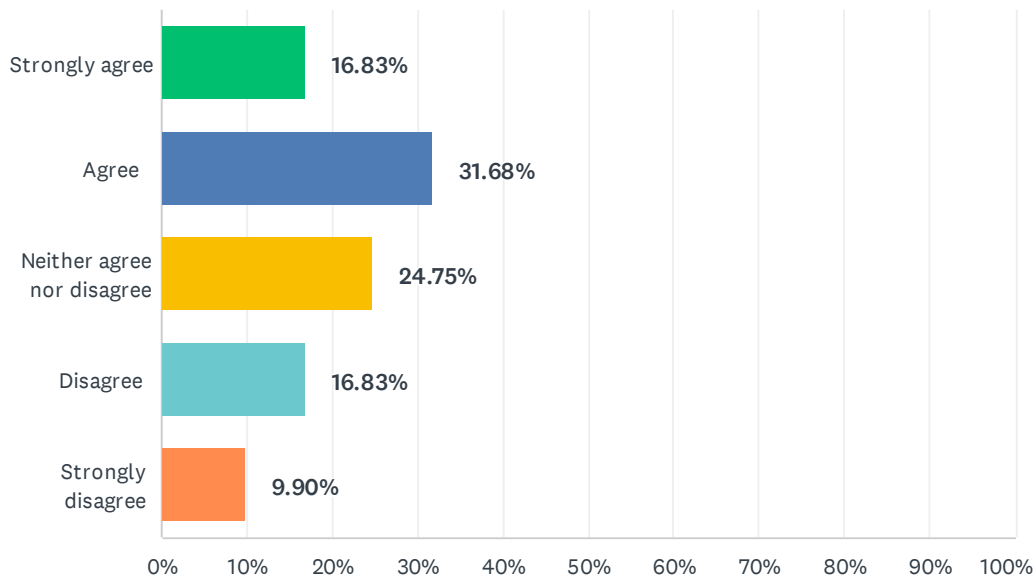
Answered: 100 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	34.00%	34
Agree	36.00%	36
Neither agree nor disagree	16.00%	16
Disagree	9.00%	9
Strongly disagree	5.00%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

**Q28 Indicate the degree with whether you agree or disagree with this statement:USDA should establish a transitional organic certification program.**

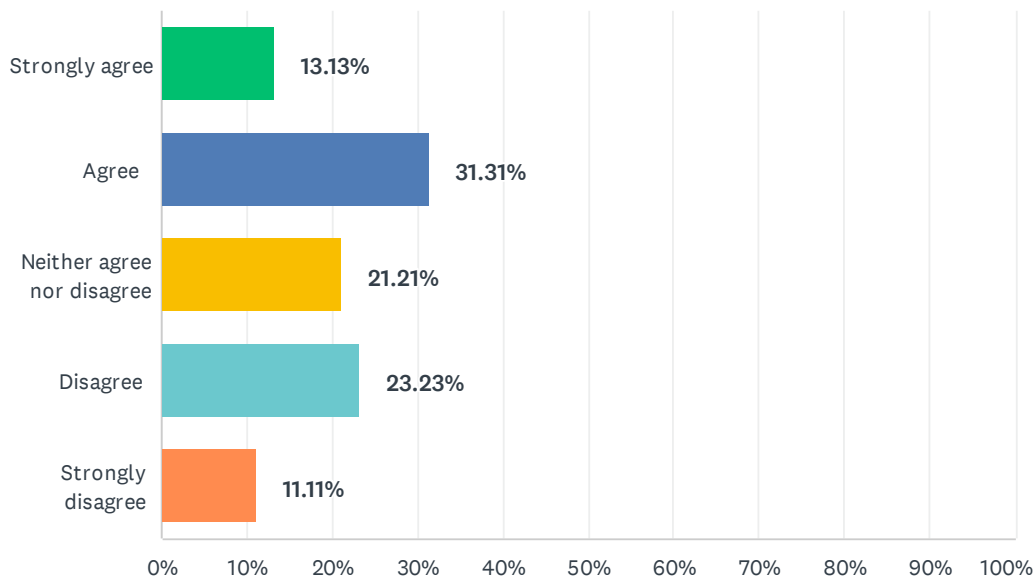
Answered: 101 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	16.83%	17
Agree	31.68%	32
Neither agree nor disagree	24.75%	25
Disagree	16.83%	17
Strongly disagree	9.90%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>101</b>

Q30 Indicate the degree with whether you agree or disagree with this statement: There should be a public-facing organic transitional label.

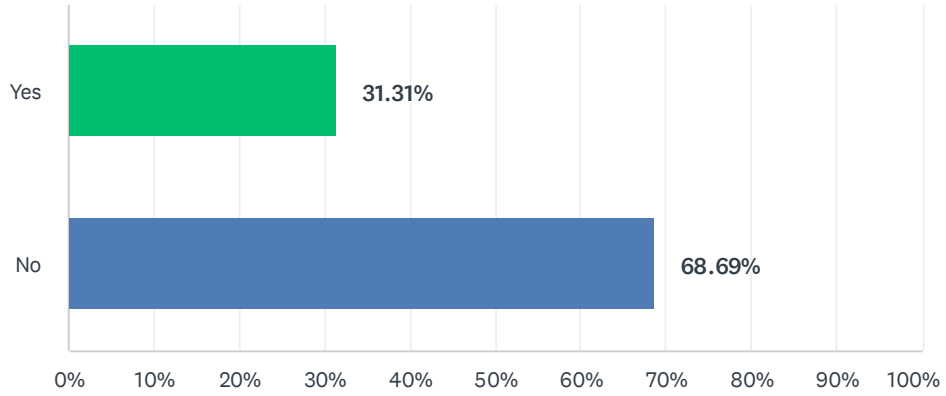
Answered: 99 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	13.13%	13
Agree	31.31%	31
Neither agree nor disagree	21.21%	21
Disagree	23.23%	23
Strongly disagree	11.11%	11
TOTAL		99

### Q31 Do you have any concerns about USDA encouraging more farmers to transition to organic?

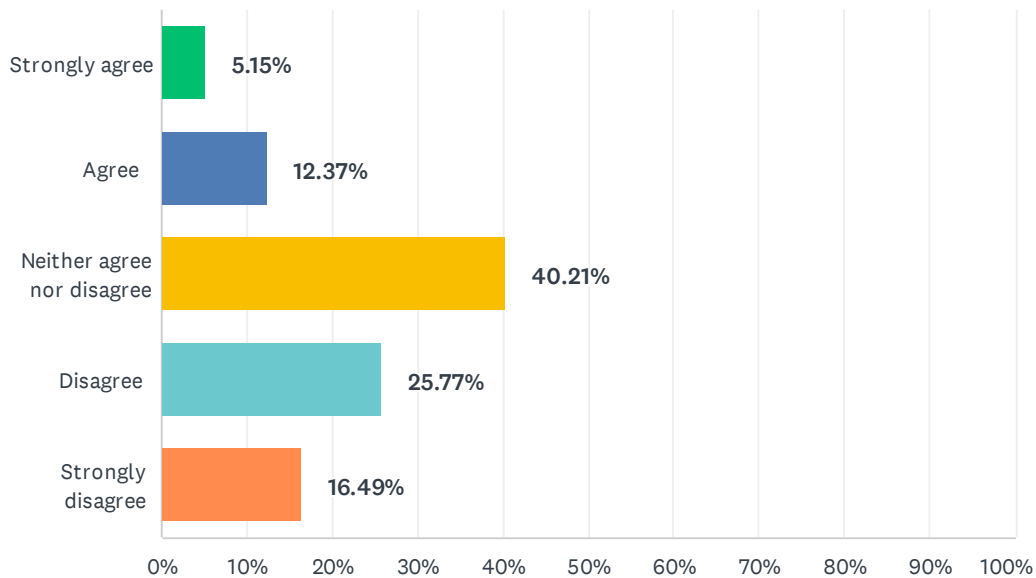
Answered: 99 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	31.31%	31
No	68.69%	68
TOTAL		99

**Q33 Indicate the degree with whether you agree or disagree with this statement: We have the processing and infrastructure capacity to encourage and support a transition program.**

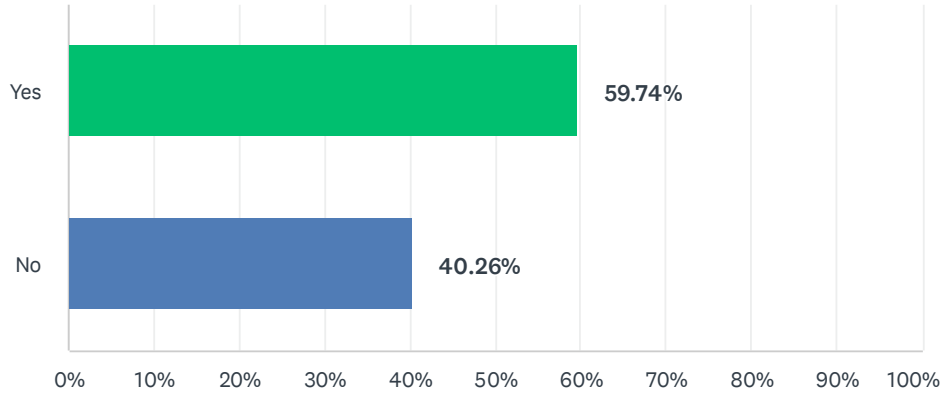
Answered: 97 Skipped: 52



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	5.15%	5
Agree	12.37%	12
Neither agree nor disagree	40.21%	39
Disagree	25.77%	25
Strongly disagree	16.49%	16
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>97</b>

### Q34 Are there sectors that should be prioritized for supporting transition to organic?

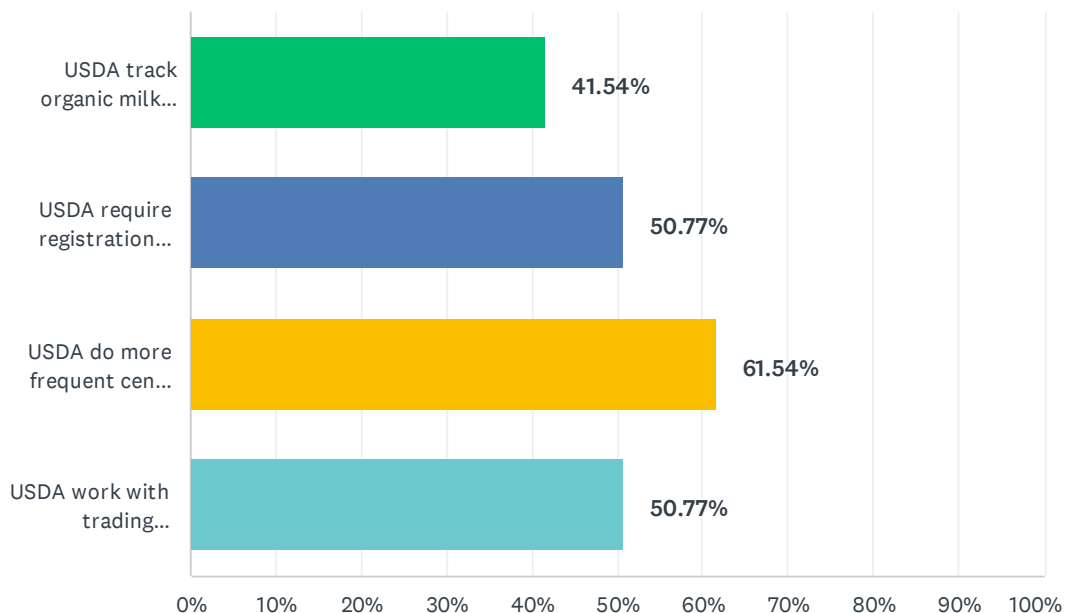
Answered: 77 Skipped: 72



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	59.74%	46
No	40.26%	31
TOTAL		77

### Q35 What USDA data would help farmers and buyers assess transition and market volume for future industry growth and planning? (Check all that apply)

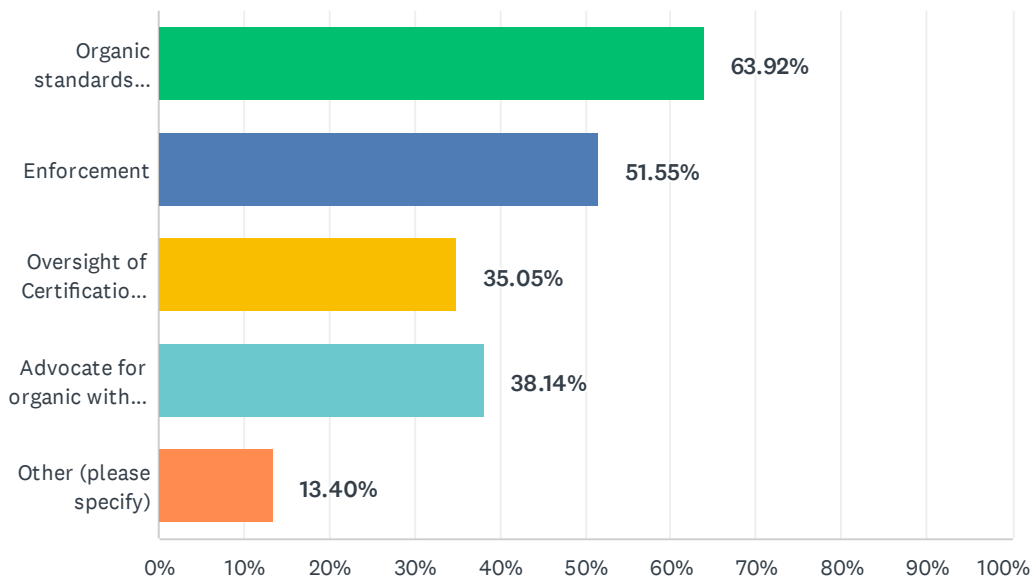
Answered: 65 Skipped: 84



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
USDA track organic milk data similar to what is done in the conventional market	41.54%	27
USDA require registration of land going through organic transition and make summaries by crop publicly available	50.77%	33
USDA do more frequent census of organic agriculture and ask conventional operations if they plan to transition to organic	61.54%	40
USDA work with trading partners about trends in their organic industry in acres transitioning to organic	50.77%	33
Total Respondents: 65		

### Q36 Select what you believe are the TOP TWO (2) most important roles of the National Organic Program:

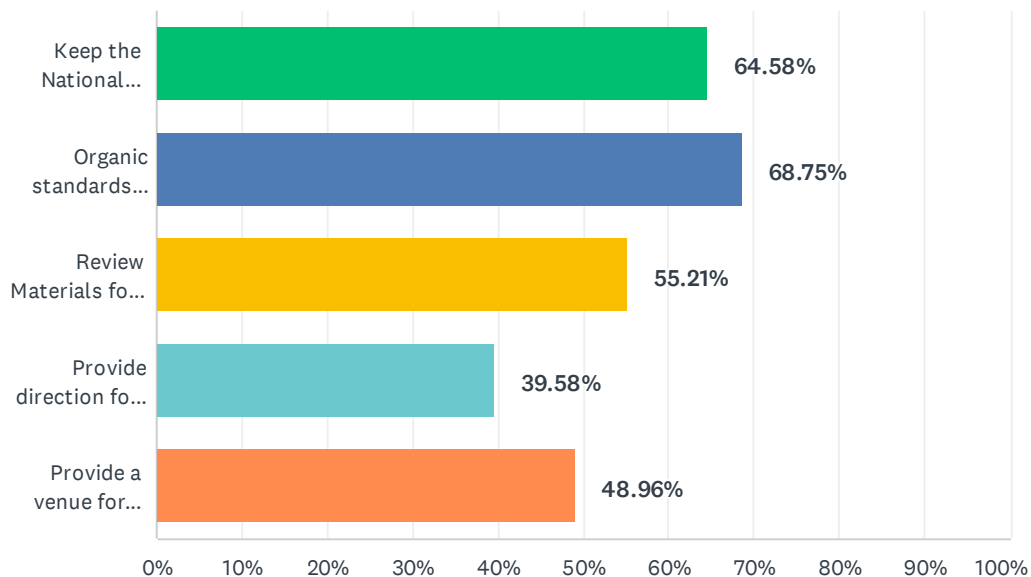
Answered: 97 Skipped: 52



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Organic standards (rules) development	63.92%	62
Enforcement	51.55%	50
Oversight of Certification Agencies	35.05%	34
Advocate for organic within other USDA programs	38.14%	37
Other (please specify)	13.40%	13
Total Respondents: 97		

### Q37 Select what you believe are the TOP THREE (3) most important roles for the National Organic Standards Board?

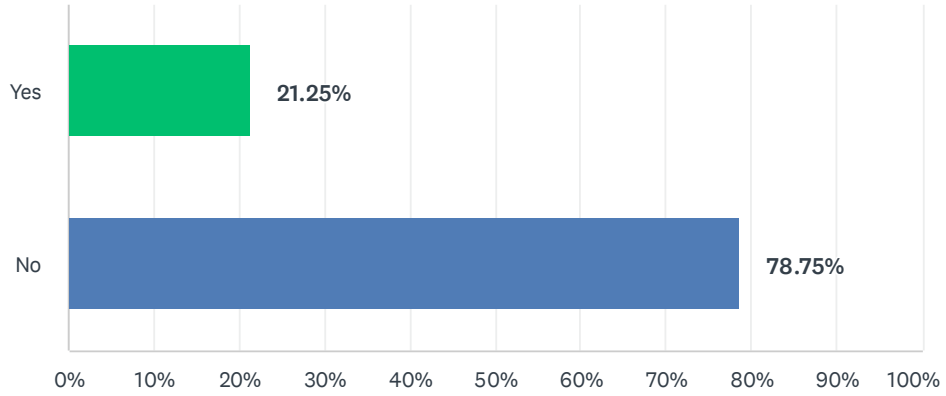
Answered: 96 Skipped: 53



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the National Organic Program rooted in grassroots democracy	64.58%	62
Organic standards (rules) development	68.75%	66
Review Materials for Organic Approval or Prohibition	55.21%	53
Provide direction for the future of organic	39.58%	38
Provide a venue for organic stakeholders to debate and discuss current and future organic issues.	48.96%	47
Total Respondents: 96		

### Q38 Are farmers' voices adequately represented in the standards development process?

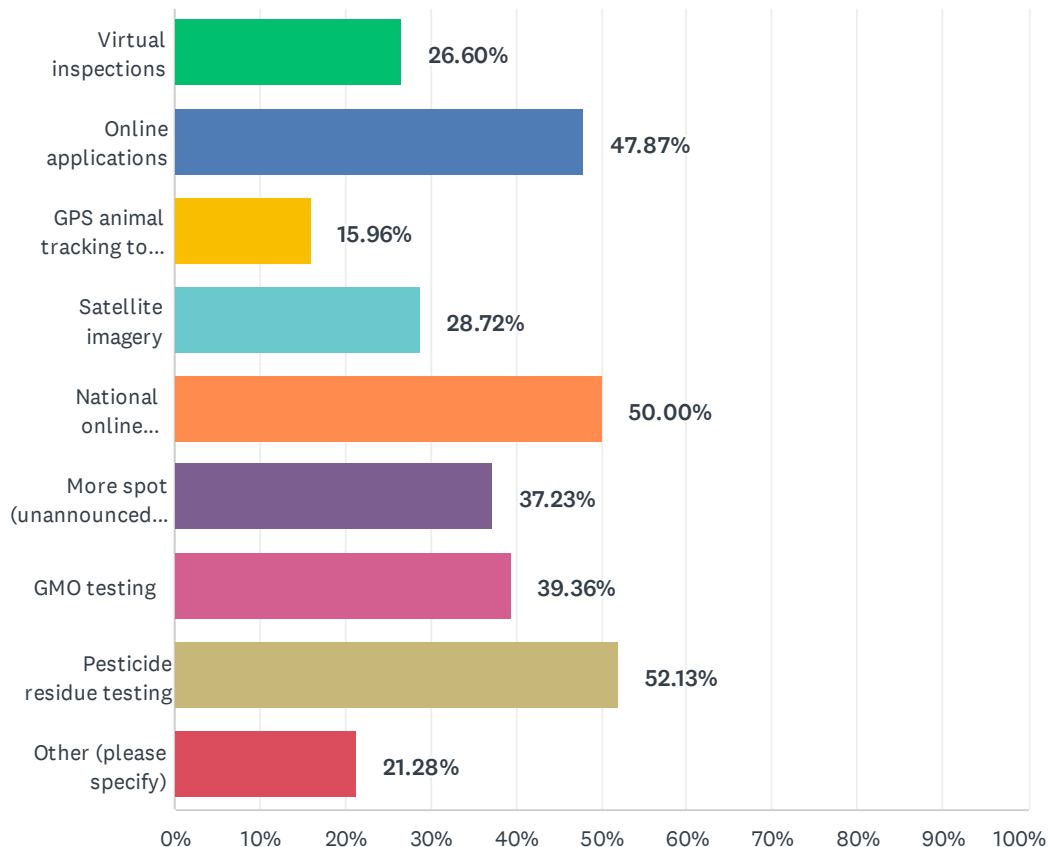
Answered: 80 Skipped: 69



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	21.25%	17
No	78.75%	63
TOTAL		80

### Q39 Select the various innovations, tools and technologies you would find helpful to improve certification and inspections:

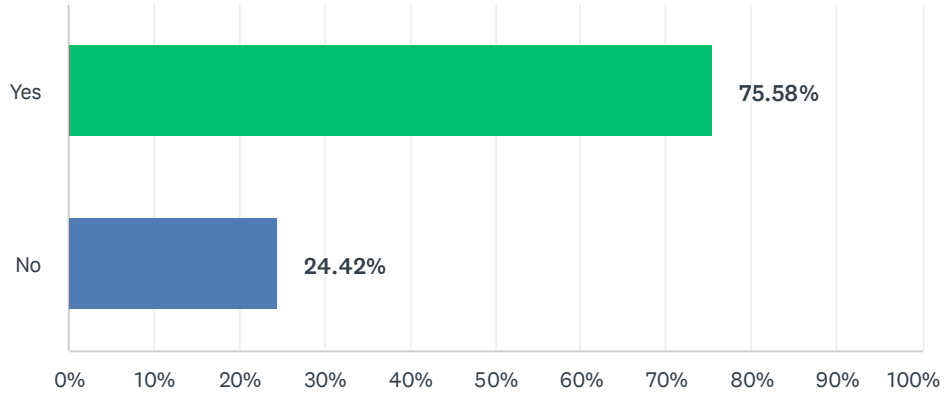
Answered: 94 Skipped: 55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Virtual inspections	26.60%	25
Online applications	47.87%	45
GPS animal tracking to prove pasture access & grazing days	15.96%	15
Satellite imagery	28.72%	27
National online certification forms so all certifiers collect information in the same way	50.00%	47
More spot (unannounced) inspections	37.23%	35
GMO testing	39.36%	37
Pesticide residue testing	52.13%	49
Other (please specify)	21.28%	20
<b>Total Respondents: 94</b>		

### Q40 Do you find the process of the Organic System Plan valuable to the certification process?

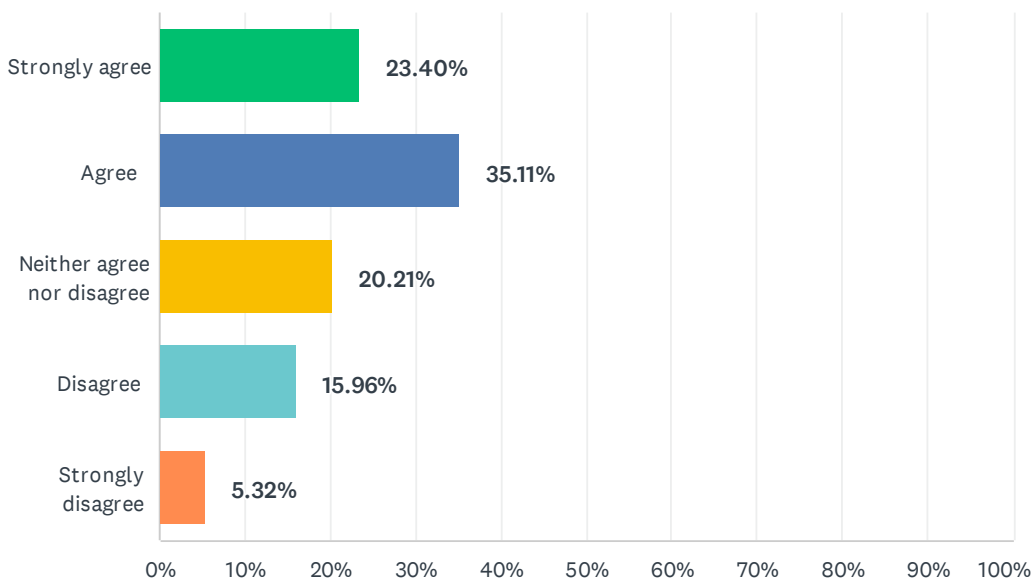
Answered: 86 Skipped: 63



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.58%	65
No	24.42%	21
TOTAL		86

**Q41** Indicate the degree with whether you agree or disagree with this statement: Risk assessment should be used in the organic certification and inspection process so that operations that present higher risk should receive annual or twice-annual inspections but those who have a proven track record of low-risk should receive an inspection every 3-5 years.

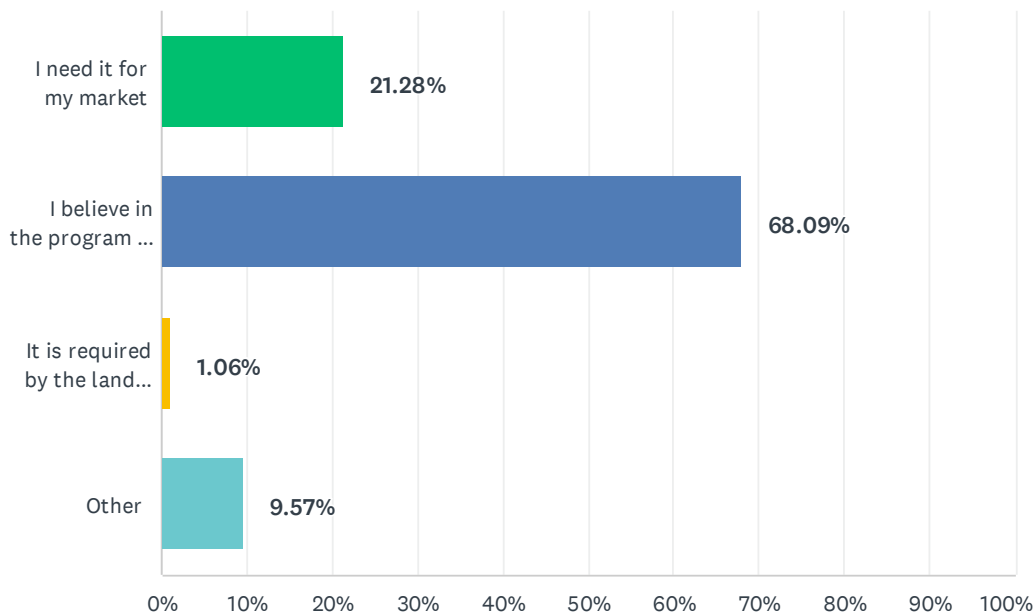
Answered: 94 Skipped: 55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	23.40%	22
Agree	35.11%	33
Neither agree nor disagree	20.21%	19
Disagree	15.96%	15
Strongly disagree	5.32%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>94</b>

### Q42 Why do you certify organic? (Pick the one that carries the most weight in your decision making)

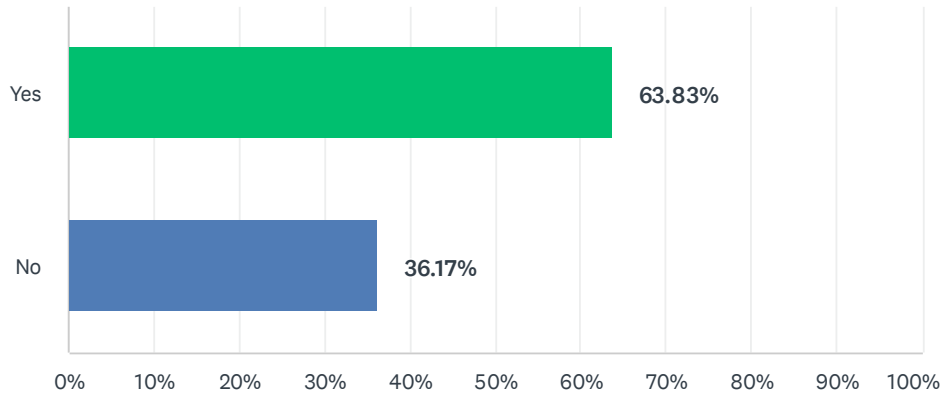
Answered: 94 Skipped: 55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I need it for my market	21.28%	20
I believe in the program & want to be certified to demonstrate my farm practices	68.09%	64
It is required by the land owner	1.06%	1
Other	9.57%	9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>94</b>

## Q43 Are certification fees affordable for your operation?

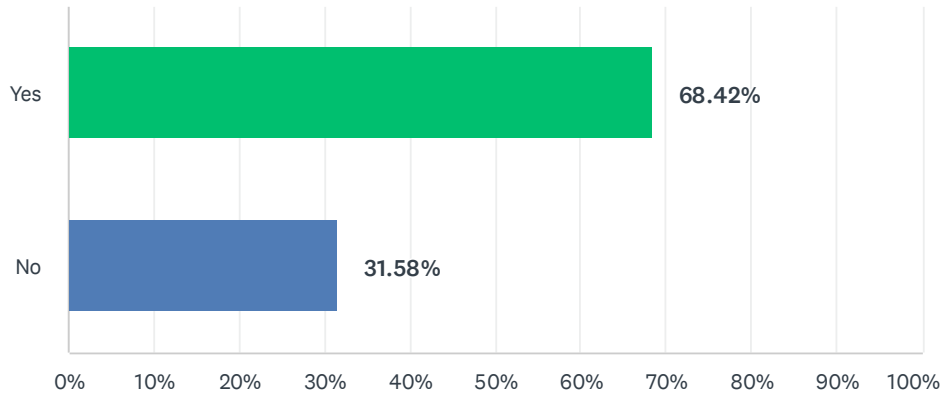
Answered: 94 Skipped: 55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63.83%	60
No	36.17%	34
TOTAL		94

## Q44 Do you use the Organic Cost Share Program?

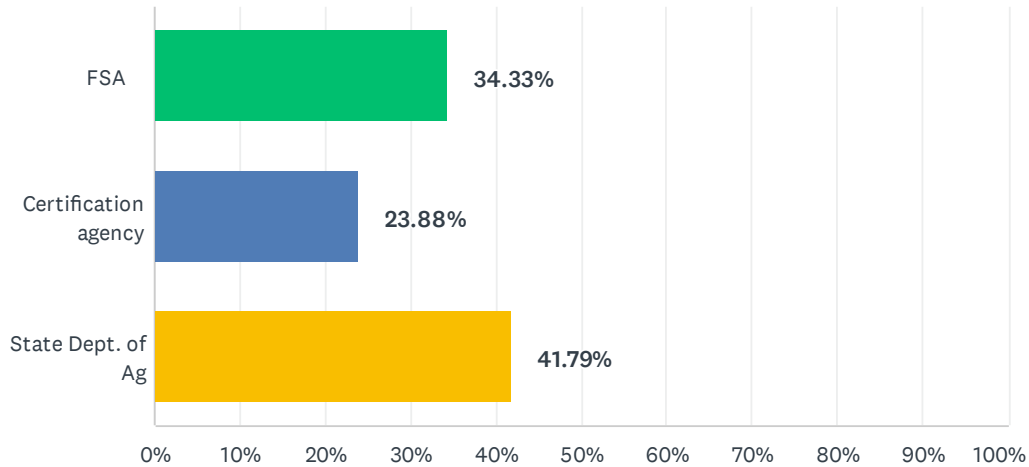
Answered: 95 Skipped: 54



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	68.42%	65
No	31.58%	30
TOTAL		95

## Q45 If YES, where do you file your annual certification cost share information?

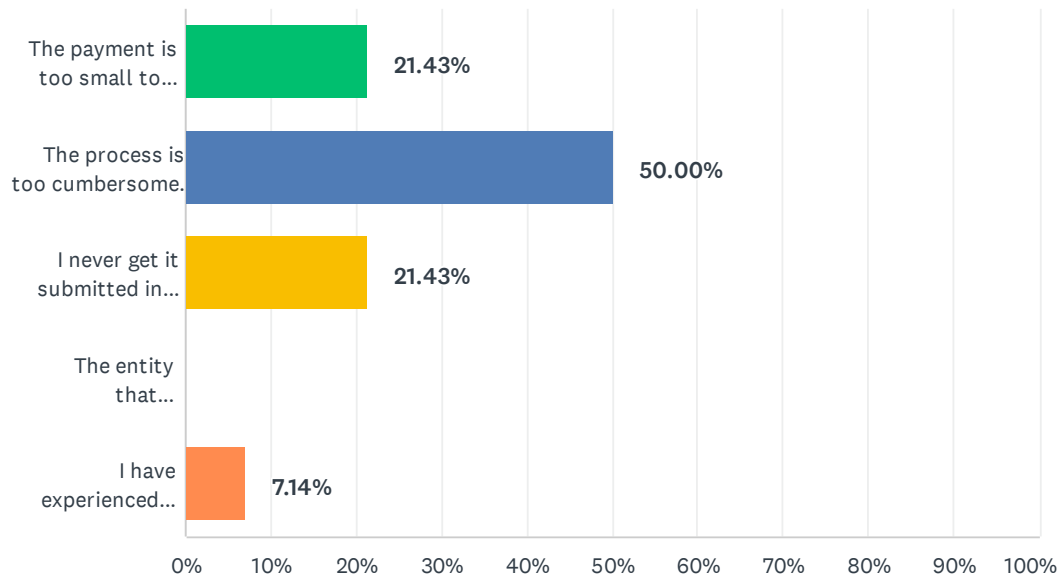
Answered: 67 Skipped: 82



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
FSA	34.33%	23
Certification agency	23.88%	16
State Dept. of Ag	41.79%	28
TOTAL		67

### Q46 If NO, why not?

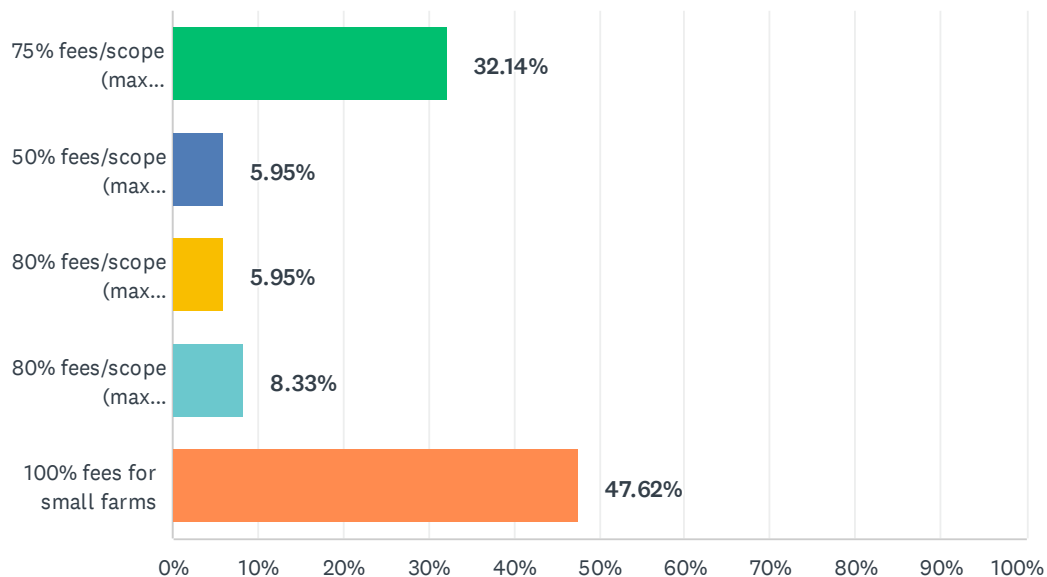
Answered: 14 Skipped: 135



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The payment is too small to make it worth the effort to apply.	21.43%	3
The process is too cumbersome.	50.00%	7
I never get it submitted in time to qualify.	21.43%	3
The entity that administers the program is too difficult to work with.	0.00%	0
I have experienced discrimination when trying to apply.	7.14%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>

### Q47 Is there a reimbursement percent of certification fees that seems appropriate?

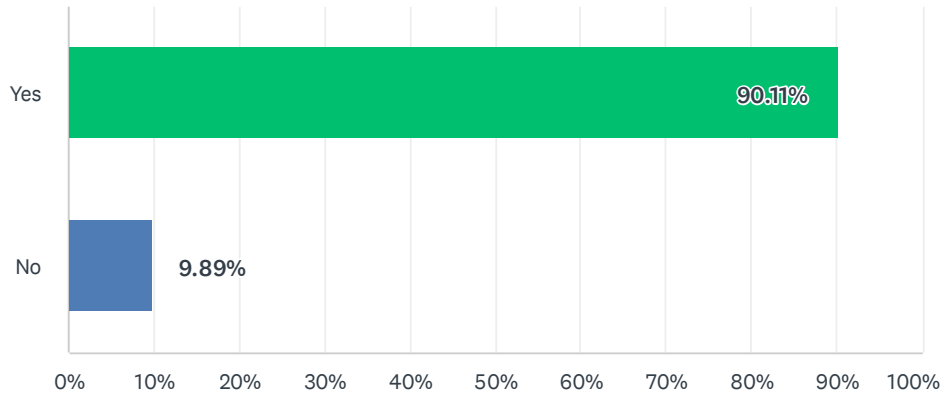
Answered: 84 Skipped: 65



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
75% fees/scope (max \$750/scope) = Historic amount	32.14%	27
50% fees/scope (max \$500/scope) = 2020 & 2021 amount	5.95%	5
80% fees/scope (max \$750/scope)	5.95%	5
80% fees/scope (max \$750/scope)	8.33%	7
100% fees for small farms	47.62%	40
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>84</b>

### Q48 Should organic producers continue to be offered the cost share subsidy for organic certification?

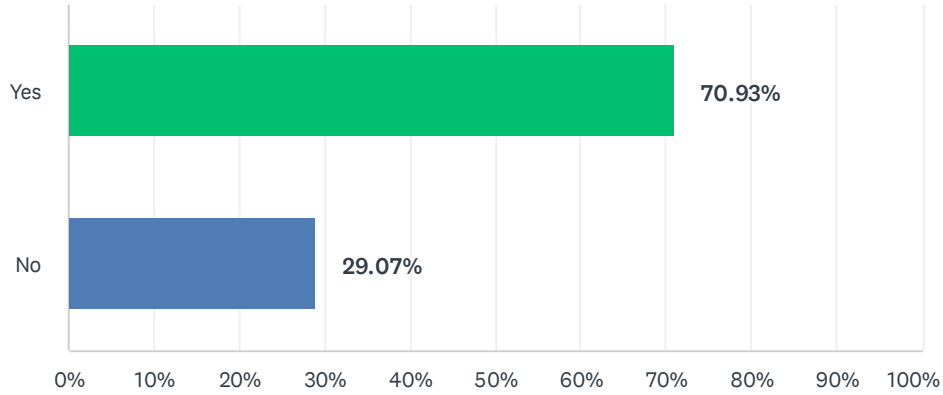
Answered: 91 Skipped: 58



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.11%	82
No	9.89%	9
TOTAL		91

### Q49 Would you prefer to have the organic certification cost share subsidy subtracted from your initial certification payment rather than paying for certification and getting reimbursed later?

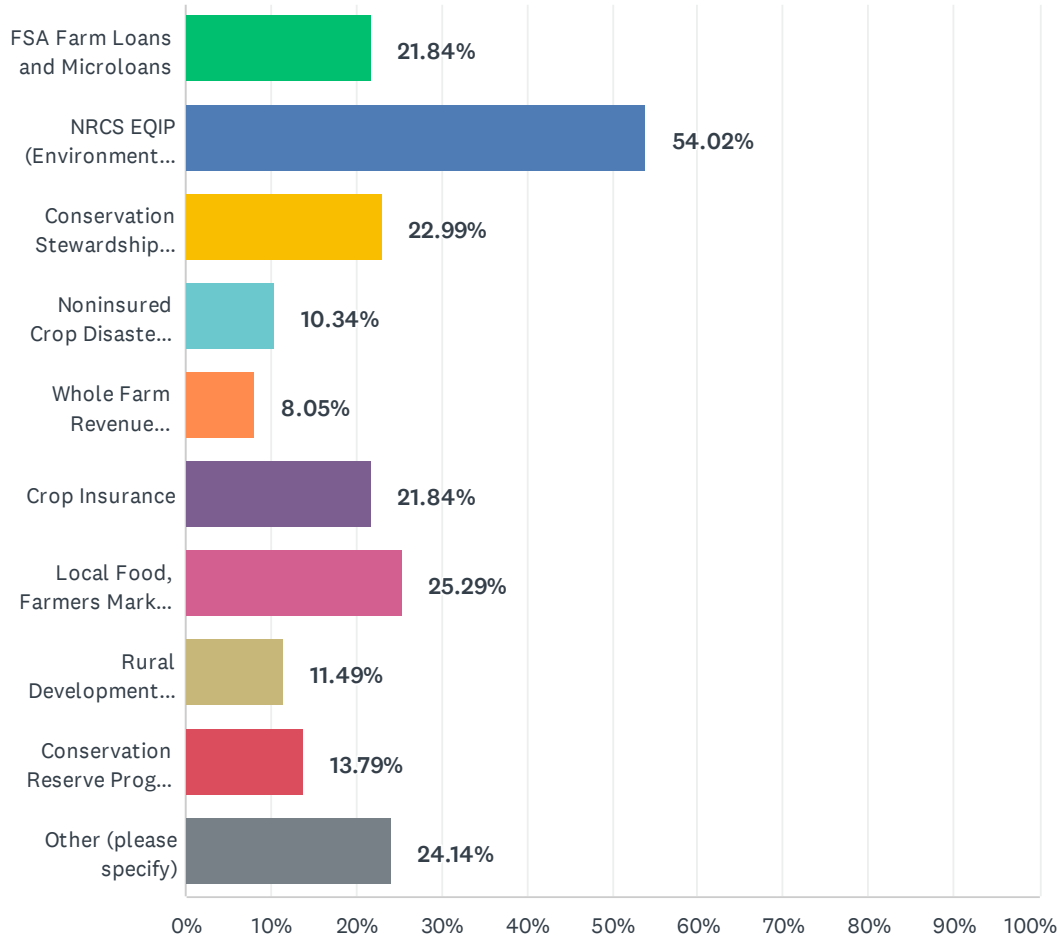
Answered: 86 Skipped: 63



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.93%	61
No	29.07%	25
TOTAL		86

### Q50 Please select the USDA programs that you are currently using or have used in the past.

Answered: 87 Skipped: 62

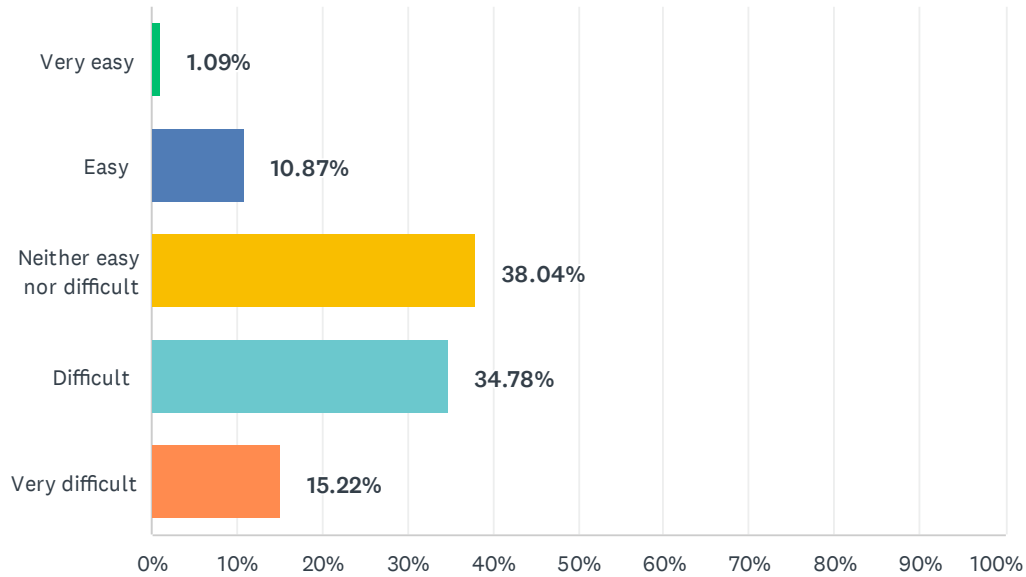


## 2023 Farm Bill Organic Farmer Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
FSA Farm Loans and Microloans	21.84%	19
NRCS EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)	54.02%	47
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	22.99%	20
Noninsured Crop Disaster Program	10.34%	9
Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP)	8.05%	7
Crop Insurance	21.84%	19
Local Food, Farmers Market, and/or Market Access Programs	25.29%	22
Rural Development Business Loans and Grants	11.49%	10
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	13.79%	12
Other (please specify)	24.14%	21
Total Respondents: 87		

Q51 On the below scale, indicate how easy or difficult is it for you to navigate and identify the various organic resources at USDA agencies:

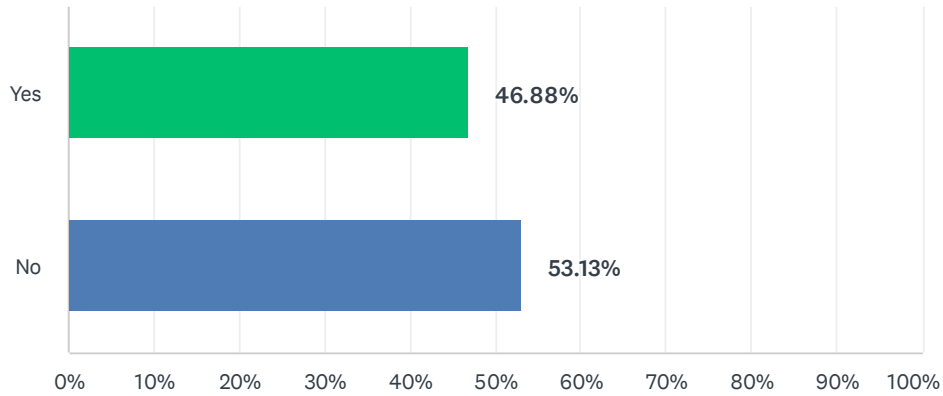
Answered: 92 Skipped: 57



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very easy	1.09%	1
Easy	10.87%	10
Neither easy nor difficult	38.04%	35
Difficult	34.78%	32
Very difficult	15.22%	14
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>92</b>

## Q52 Are there conflicts between NOP standards and the requirements of other USDA programs or services?

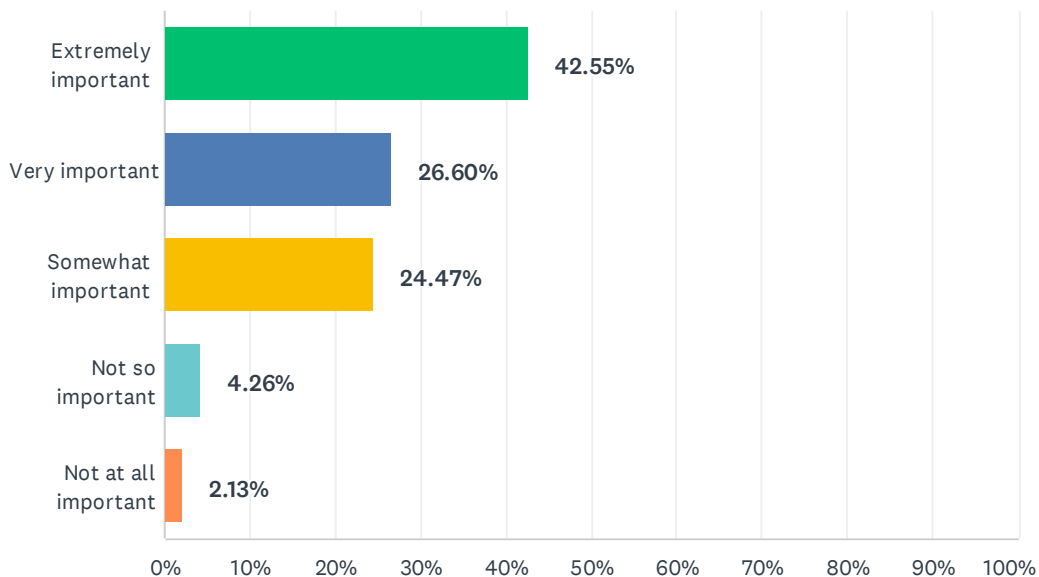
Answered: 64 Skipped: 85



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	46.88%	30
No	53.13%	34
TOTAL		64

### Q53 How important is continuous improvement for meeting the overall goals of organic agriculture?

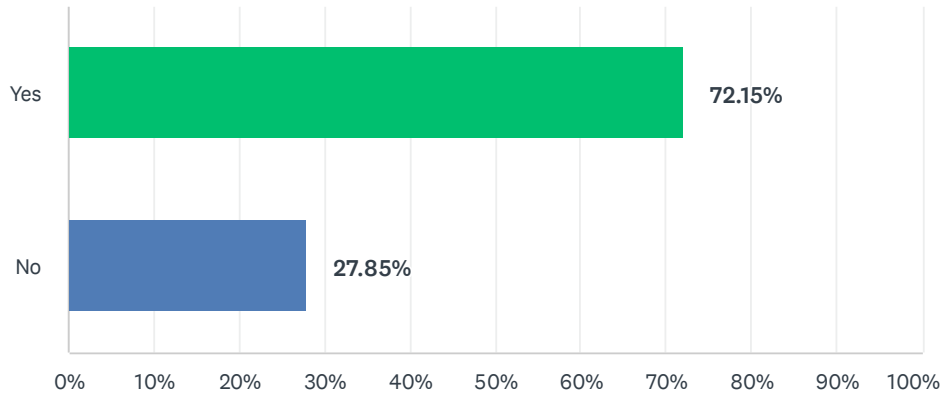
Answered: 94 Skipped: 55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	42.55%	40
Very important	26.60%	25
Somewhat important	24.47%	23
Not so important	4.26%	4
Not at all important	2.13%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>94</b>

### Q54 Can the Organic System Plan serve as an effective vehicle for holding organic businesses accountable to continuous improvement requirements?

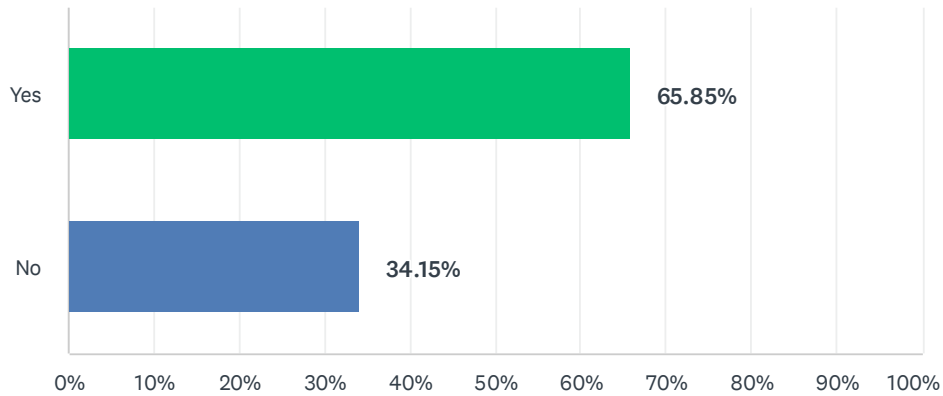
Answered: 79 Skipped: 70



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	72.15%	57
No	27.85%	22
TOTAL		79

### Q55 Should the organic regulations incorporate and adapt to emerging environmental challenges (examples: water use, fuel use, carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions)?

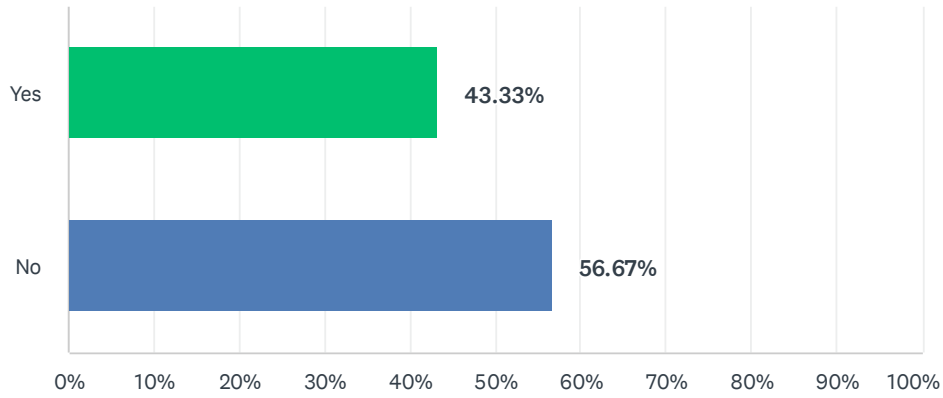
Answered: 82 Skipped: 67



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	65.85%	54
No	34.15%	28
TOTAL		82

## Q56 Should labor and other social justice standards be included in the organic regulations?

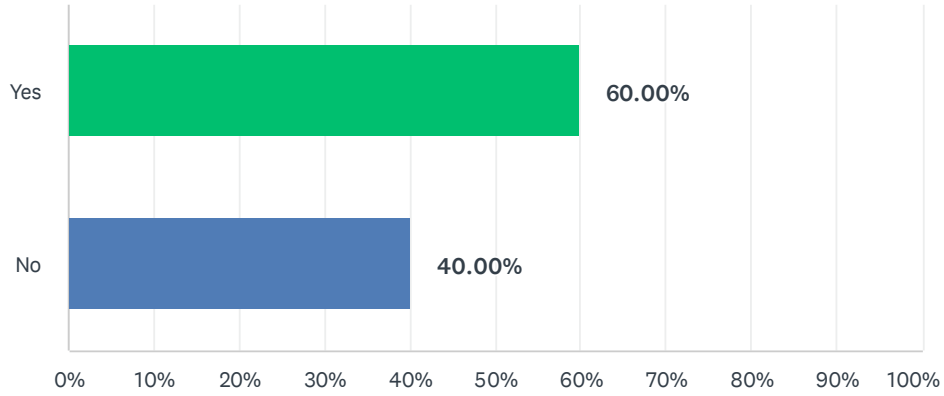
Answered: 90 Skipped: 59



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	43.33%	39
No	56.67%	51
TOTAL		90

## Q57 Should organic standards address issues related to the nutritional content of foods?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 59



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.00%	54
No	40.00%	36
TOTAL		90