



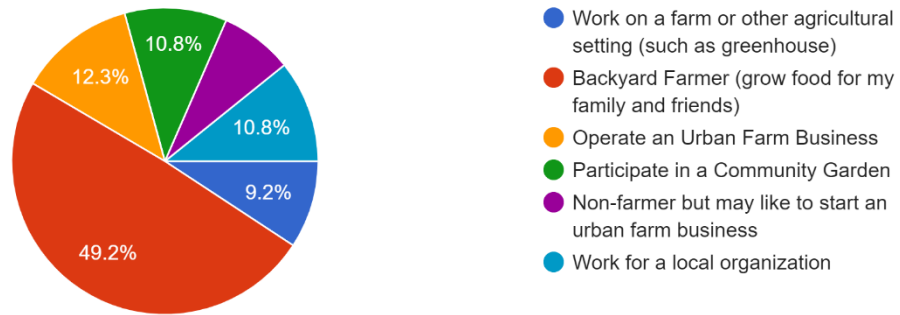
KALAMAZOO
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

RESULTS OF URBAN AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Survey data collected: January – May 2023

1. What best describes your situation? Urban Farm Business Definition: The USDA defines an urban farm agribusiness as a place from which \$1,000 or ...area and marketed to consumers within that area.

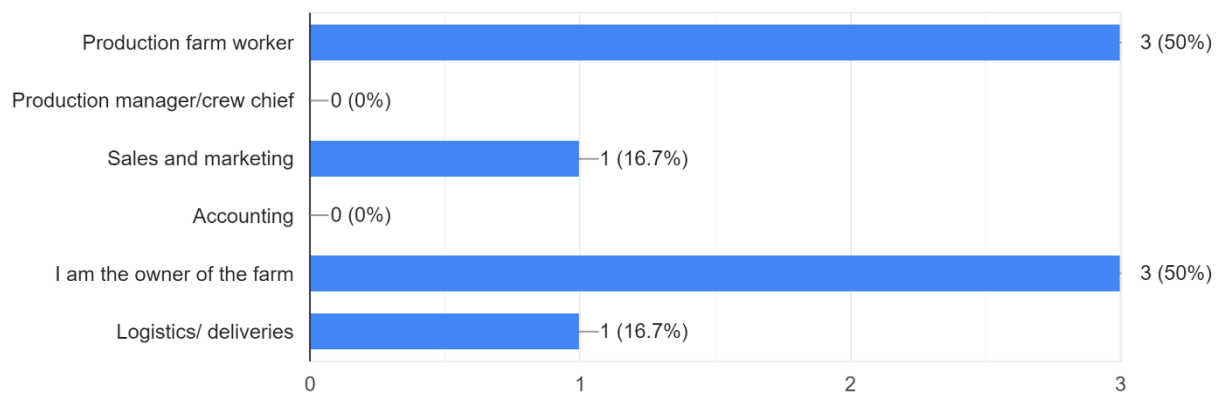
65 responses



START WORK ON A FARM, GREENHOUSE, OR OTHER AGRICULTURAL RELATED JOB

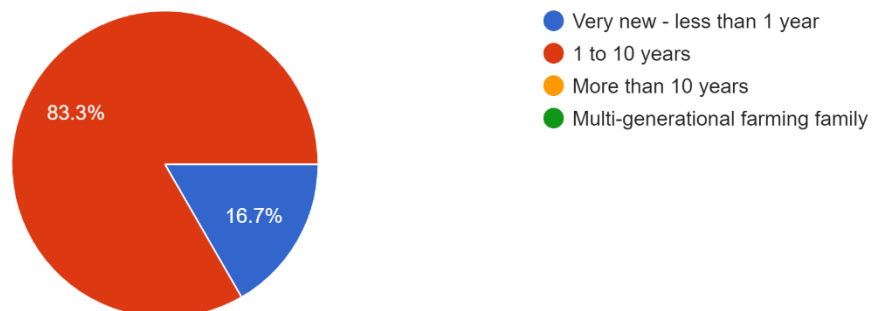
What best describes the work you do on the farm? (Please check all that apply) (Work on a farm, greenhouse or other agricultural related job)

6 responses



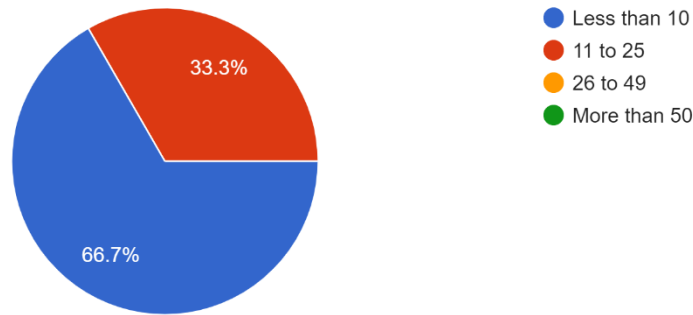
How long have you worked on farms? (Work on a farm, greenhouse or other agricultural related job)

6 responses



Approximately how many people are employed where you work during peak season? (Work on a farm, greenhouse or other agricultural related job)

6 responses



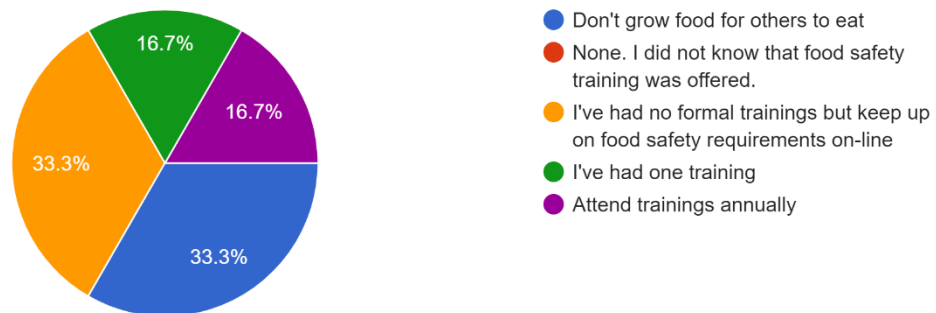
What best describes the type of training or education you have related to farming? (Work on a farm, greenhouse or other agricultural related job)

6 responses



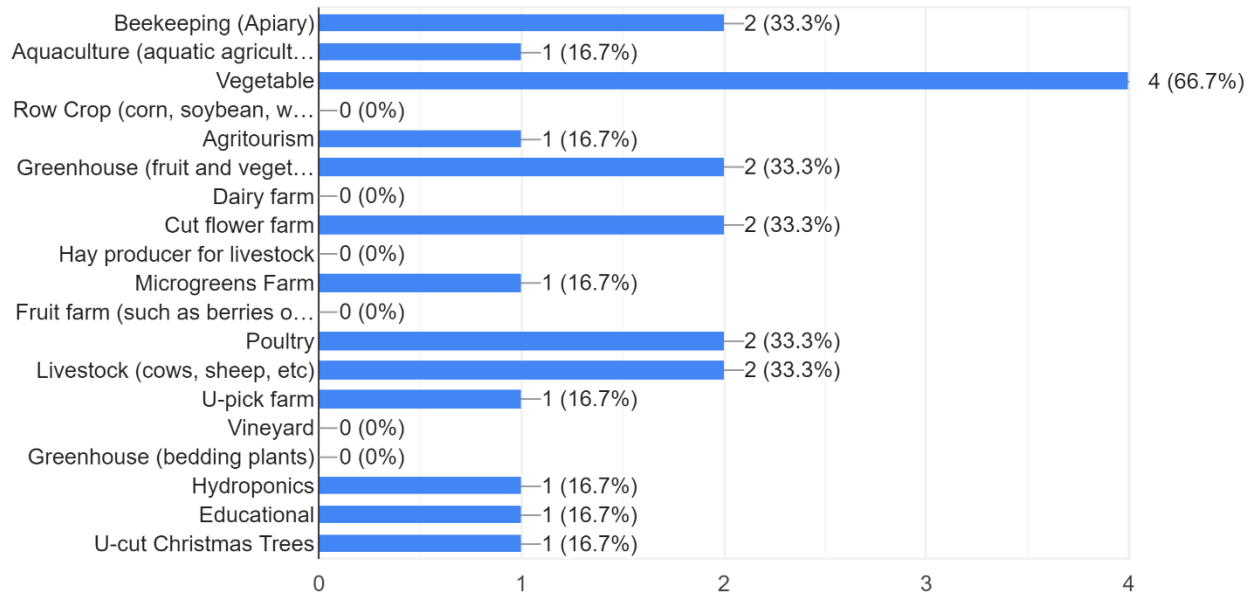
(Work on a farm, greenhouse or other agricultural related job) If you grow food that others are eating, how much food safety training have you received?

6 responses



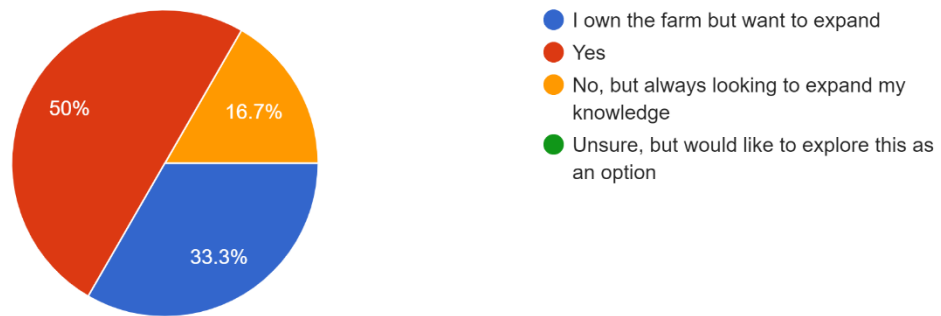
What type of farm do you work at? (choose all that apply) (Work on a farm, greenhouse or other agricultural related job)

6 responses



Would you like to own and run your own farm business someday? (Work on a farm, greenhouse or other agricultural related job)

6 responses

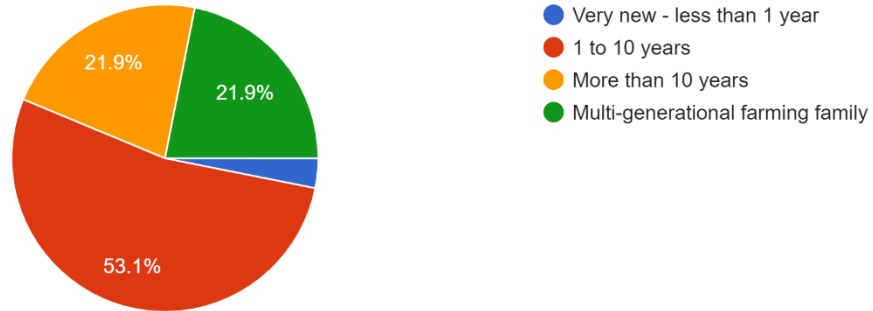


END WORK ON A FARM, GREENHOUSE, OR OTHER AGRICULTURAL RELATED JOB

START BACKYARD FARMING

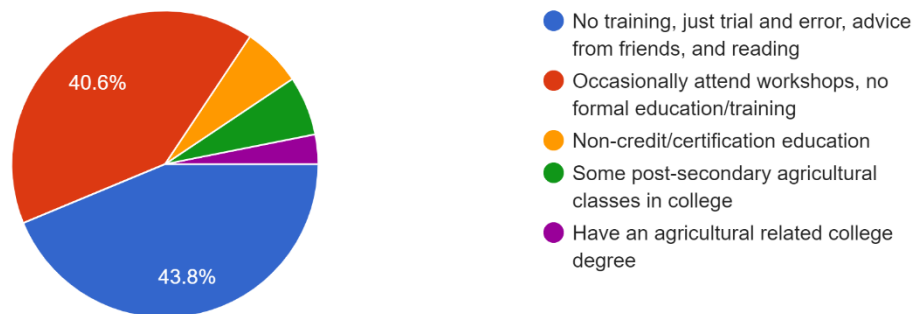
How many years have you grown your own food? (Backyard farmer - grow food for my family and friends)

32 responses



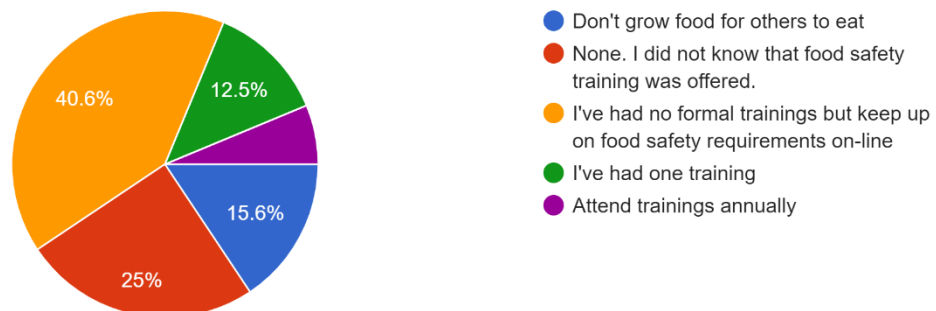
What best describes the type of training or education you have related to farming? (Backyard farmer - grow food for my family and friends)

32 responses



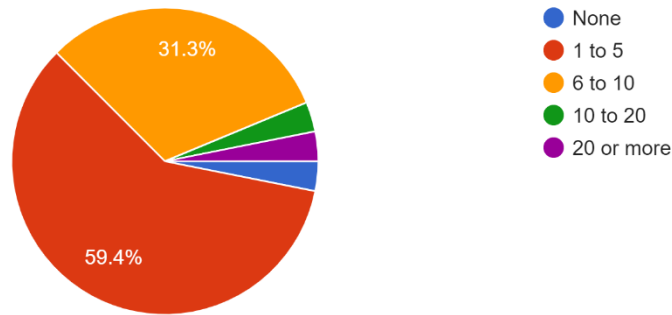
If you grow food that others are eating, how much food safety training have you received? (Backyard farmer - grow food for my family and friends)

32 responses



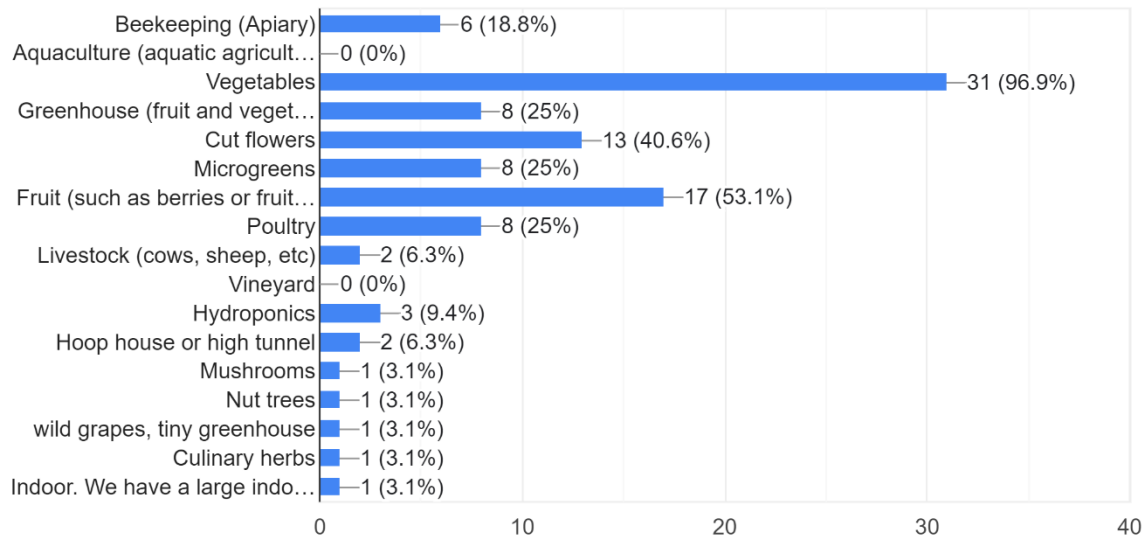
How many people do you regularly share food with? (Backyard farmer - grow food for my family and friends)

32 responses



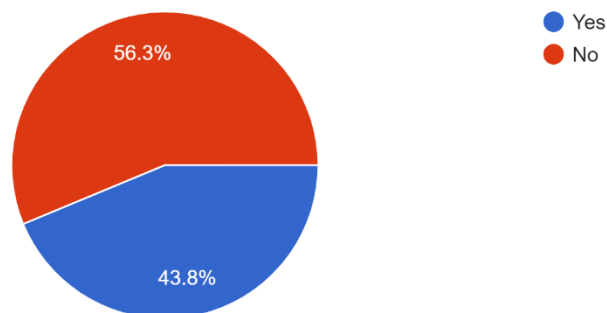
Which of the following do you have on your farm? (choose all that apply) (Backyard farmer - grow food for my family and friends)

32 responses



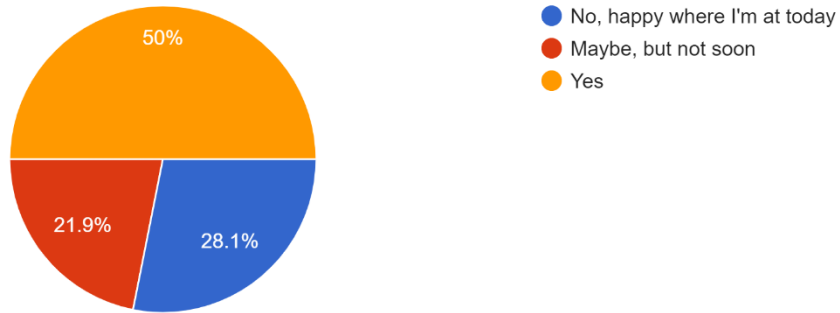
Are you familiar with the city or township ordinances for your backyard farm? (Backyard farmer - grow food for my family and friends)

32 responses



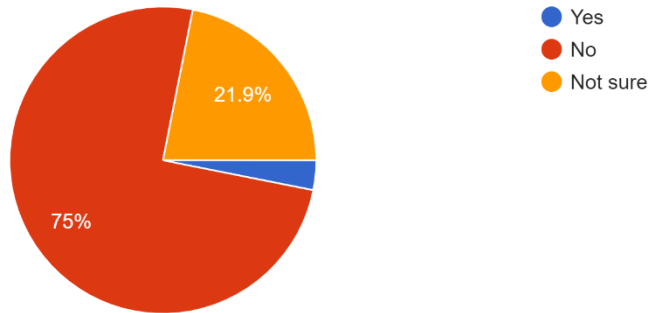
Would you like to expand your farm someday and sell your produce/farm products? (Backyard farmer - grow food for my family and friends)

32 responses



Has the area being used for farming been evaluated for contaminants or other potential environmental risks? (Backyard farmer - grow food for my family and friends)

32 responses

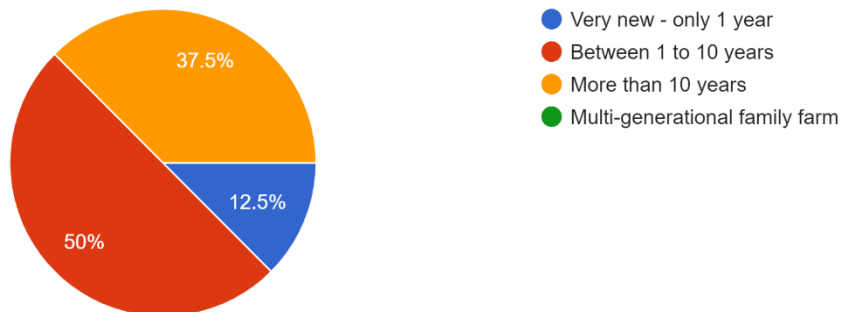


END BACKYARD FARMER SECTION

START OPERATE AND URBAN FARM BUSINESS

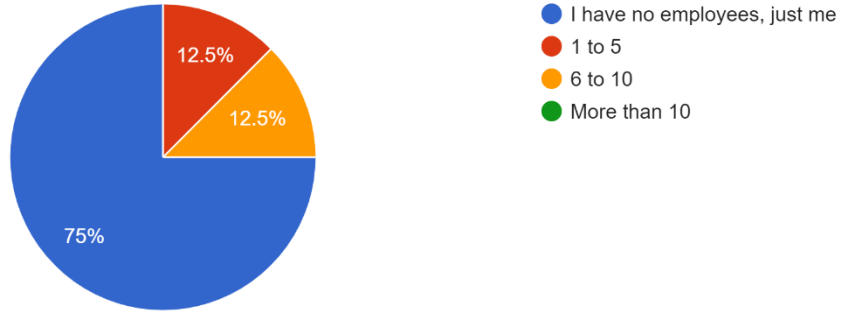
How many years have you operated an urban farm? (Operate an Urban Farm business)

8 responses



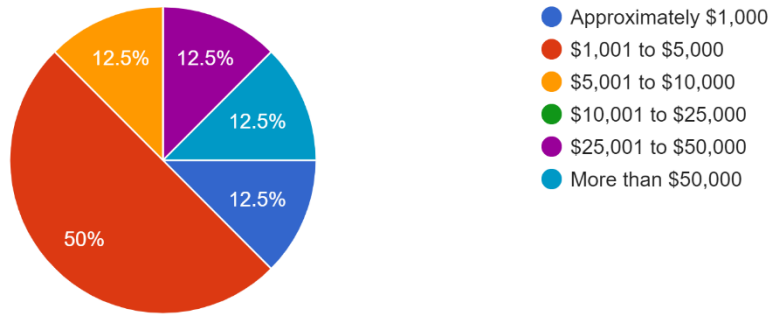
How many employees work on the farm? (Operate an Urban Farm business)

8 responses



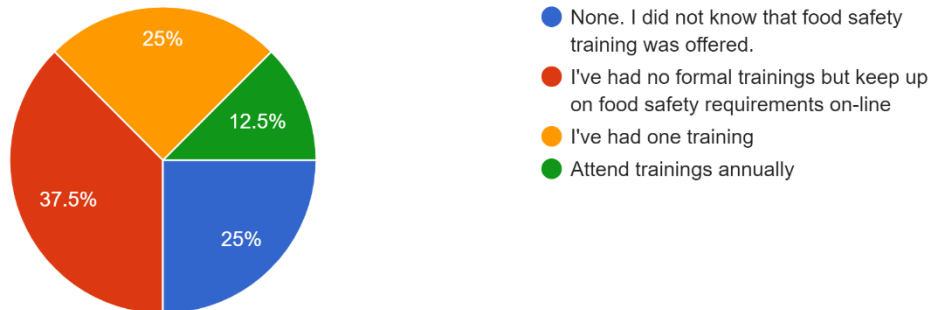
What is the approximate annual sales? (Operate an Urban Farm business)

8 responses



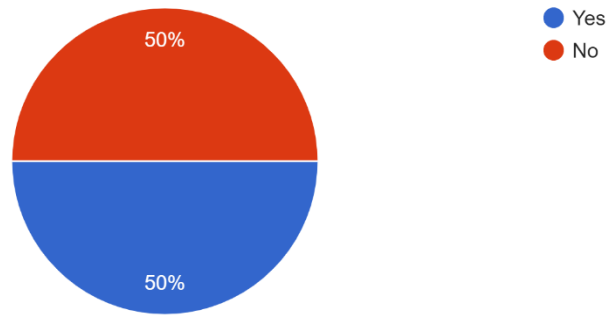
How much food safety training have you received? (Operate an Urban Farm business)

8 responses



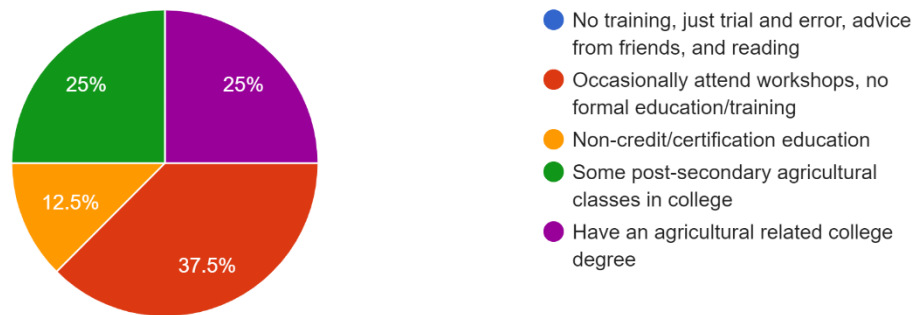
Have you experienced land use regulation challenges or ordinance issues? (Operate an Urban Farm business)

8 responses



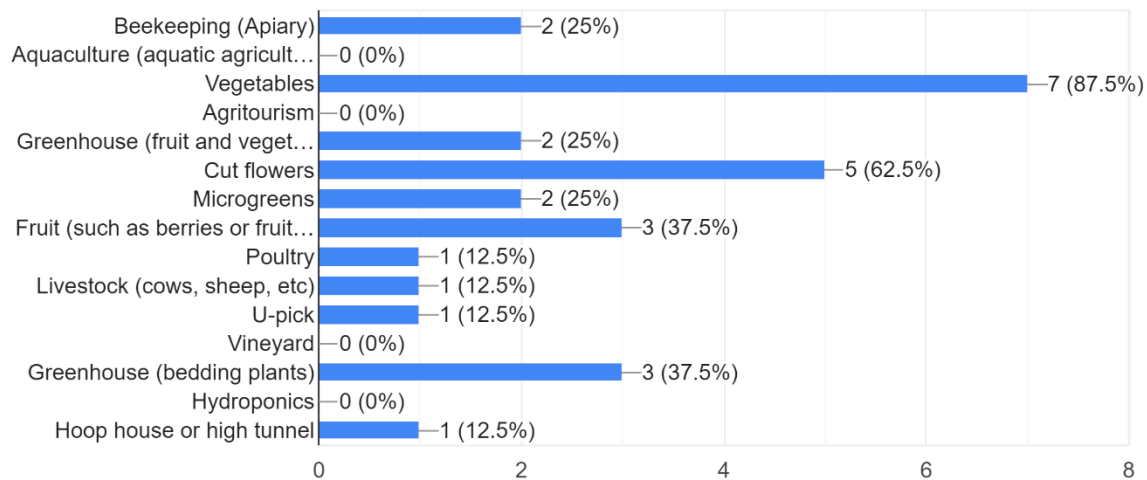
What best describes the type of training or education you have related to farming? (Operate an Urban Farm business)

8 responses



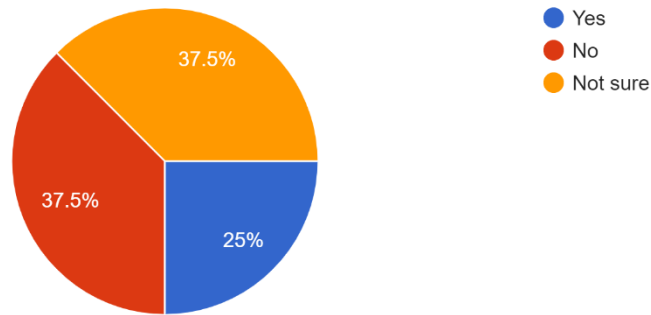
Which of the following do you have on your farm? (choose all that apply) (Operate an Urban Farm business)

8 responses



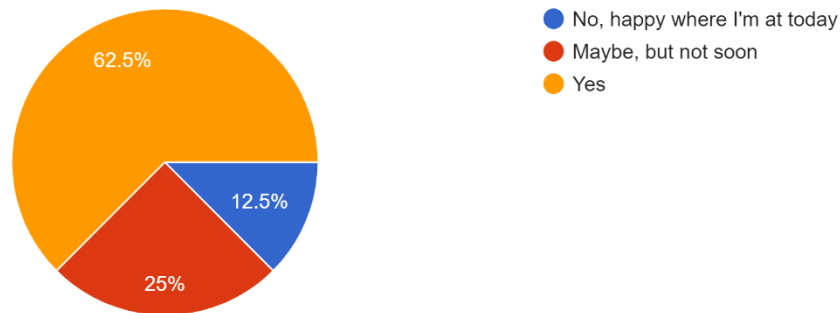
Has the area being used for farming been evaluated for contaminants or other potential environmental risks? (Operate an Urban Farm business)

8 responses



Would you like to expand your urban farm someday and sell additional produce/farm products? (Operate an Urban Farm business)

8 responses



END OPERATE AN URBAN FARM BUSINESS

START COMMUNITY GARDEN

Briefly, describe your role at the community garden:

I am the Lead Gardener and Executive Director of our organization.

Coordinator and passionate initiatives to restore two gardens at the Northside.

Director of a non-profit organization who maintains and educates sustainable homesteading to homeschoolers.

Coordinator

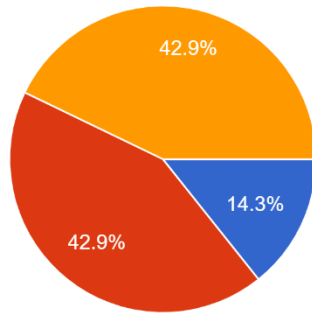
I am the Director/Connector of a community organization in a low-income neighborhood. We have a side and rear lot donated to our organization for a community garden and flower nursery. My role is connecting residents with local agriculture educators, raise funds to build raised beds and donation for supplies. I also am feet on the ground shovel in hand participant.

Plant vegetables, weed, mulch and harvest.

I farm vegetables to donate to local foodbank.

What best describes the type of training or education you have related to farming? (Participate in a community garden)

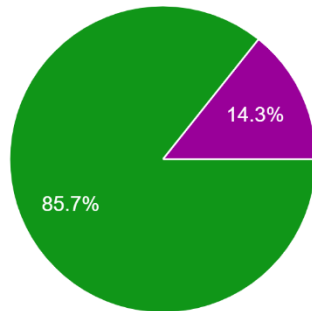
7 responses



- No training, just trial and error, advice from friends, and reading
- Occasionally attend workshops, no formal education/training
- Non-credit/certification education
- Some post-secondary agricultural classes in college
- Have an agricultural related college degree

How much space are you responsible for? (Participate in a community garden)

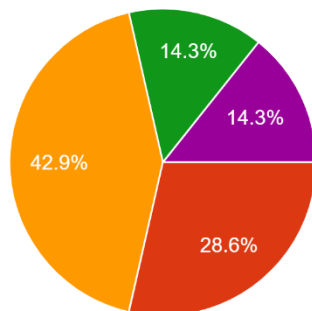
7 responses



- Less than 100 square feet (10 feet by 10 feet)
- Between 101 square feet and 250 square feet
- Between 251 square feet and 1,000 square feet
- More than 1,000 square feet
- 1/8 acre garden area

If you grow food and share it with others, how much food safety training have you received? (Participate in a community garden)

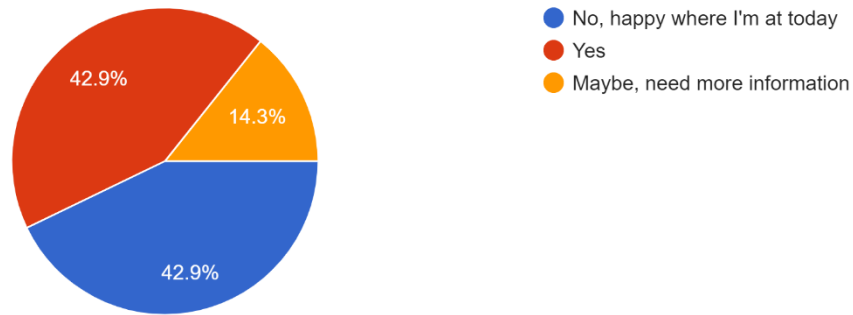
7 responses



- Don't grow food for others to eat
- None. I did not know that food safety training was offered.
- I've had no formal trainings but keep up on food safety requirements on-line
- I've had one training
- Attend trainings annually

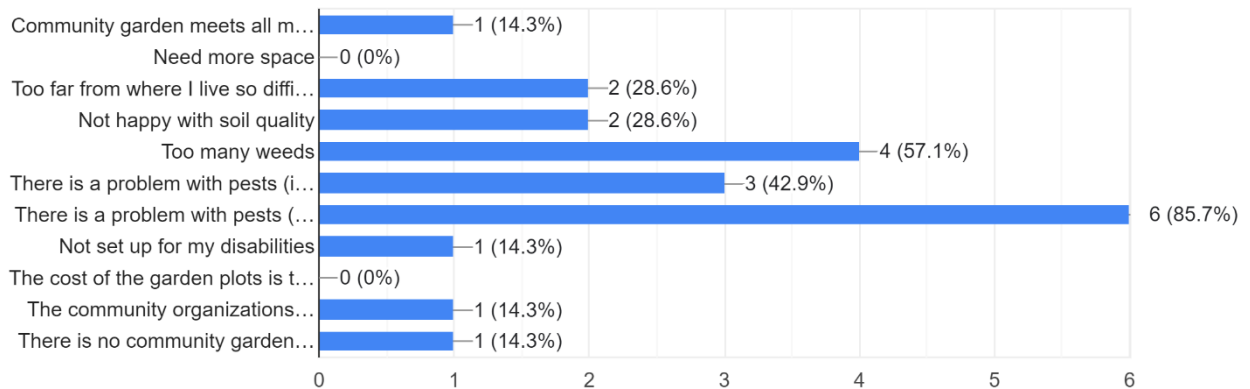
Would you like to have your own farm someday and sell your produce/farm products? (Participate in a community garden)

7 responses



What needs, if any, are NOT being met in the community garden? Please select all that apply (Participate in a community garden)

7 responses

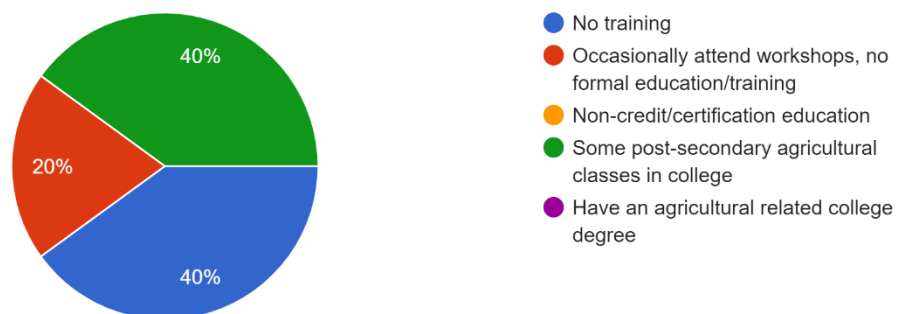


END PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY GARDEN

START NON-FARMER BUT MAY LIKE TO START AN URBAN FARM BUSINESS

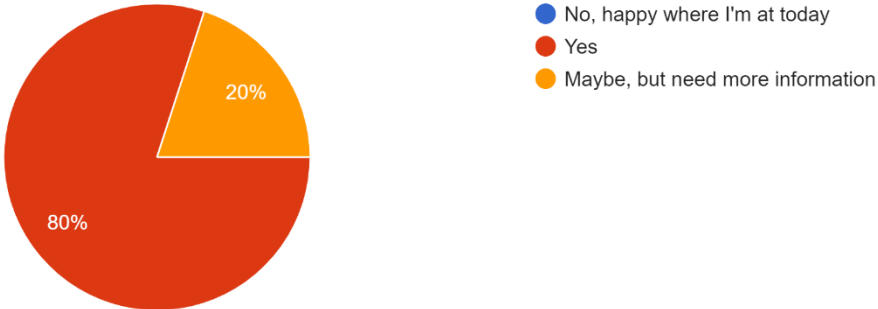
What best describes the type of training or education you have related to farming? (Non-farmer but may like to start an urban farm business)

5 responses



Would you like to have your own farm someday and sell your produce/farm products? (Non-farmer but may like to start an urban farm business)

5 responses



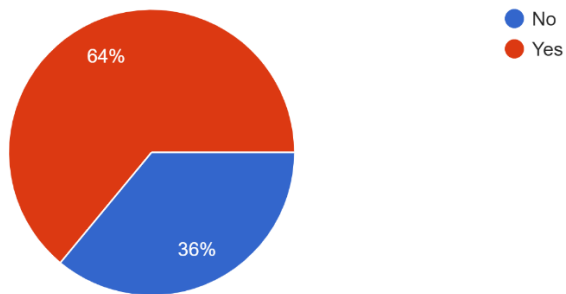
Workshops and Continuing Education for existing farmers or agricultural workers:

Not interested in starting own farm business

(Expand farming knowledge)

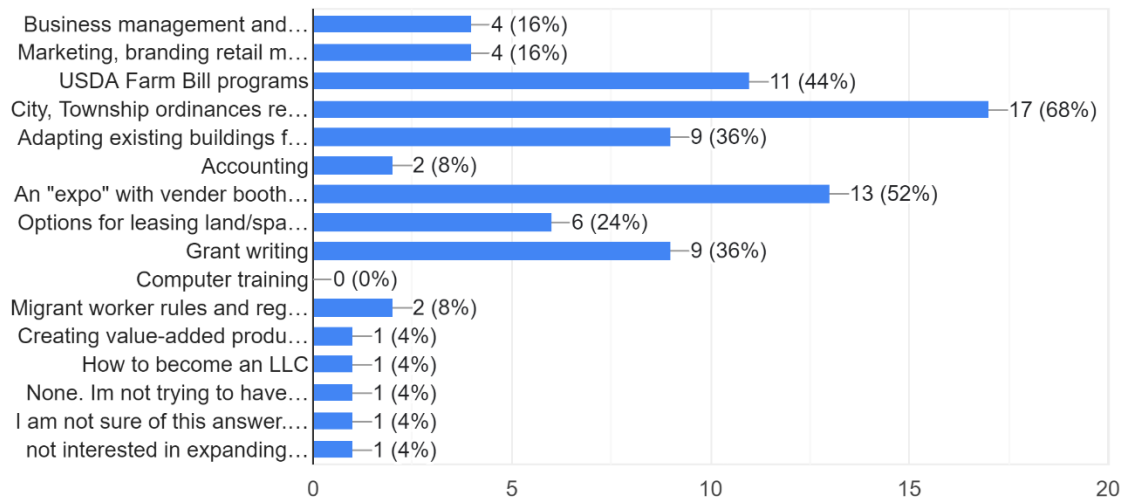
Would you consider mentoring someone that may be interested in learning new skills? (Expand farming knowledge)

25 responses



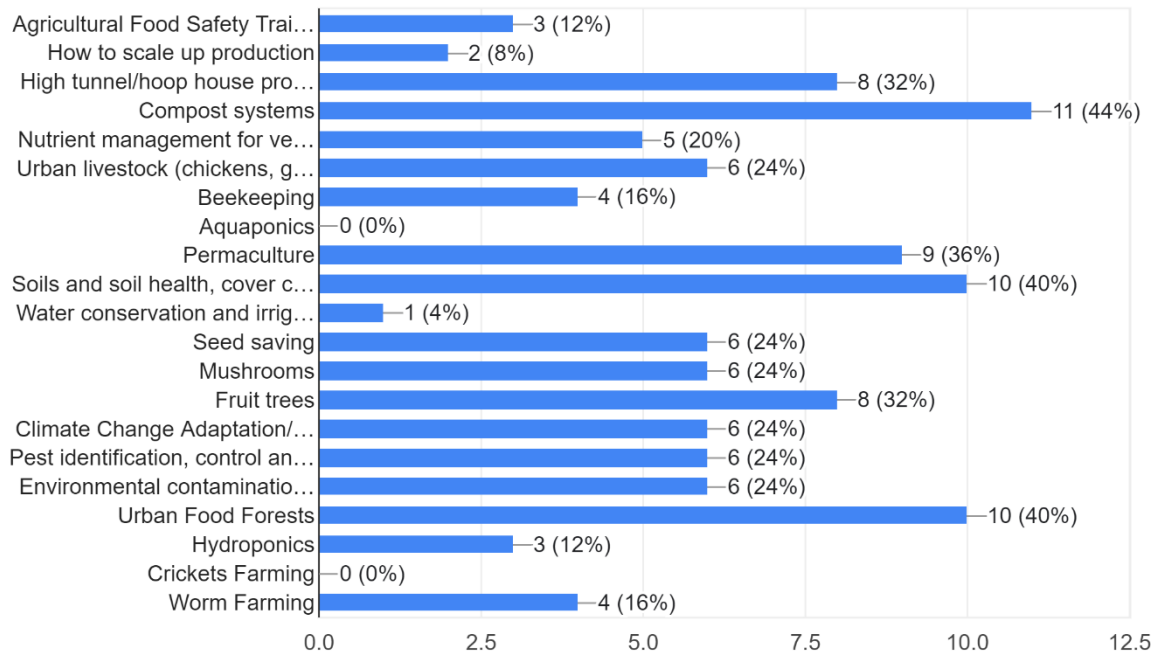
Choose below the top 5 trainings that you would like to take to expand your business knowledge:
(Expand farming knowledge)

25 responses



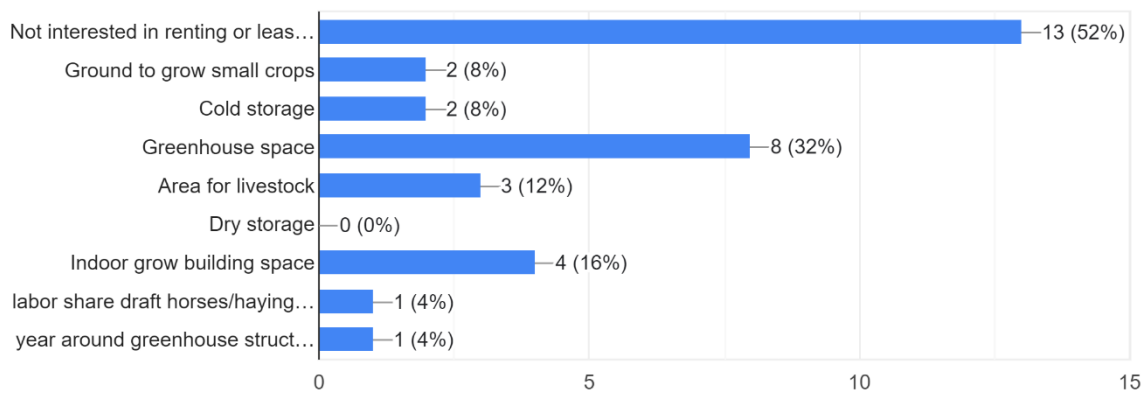
Choose below the top 5 trainings that you would like to take to expand your technical knowledge:
 (Expand farming knowledge)

25 responses



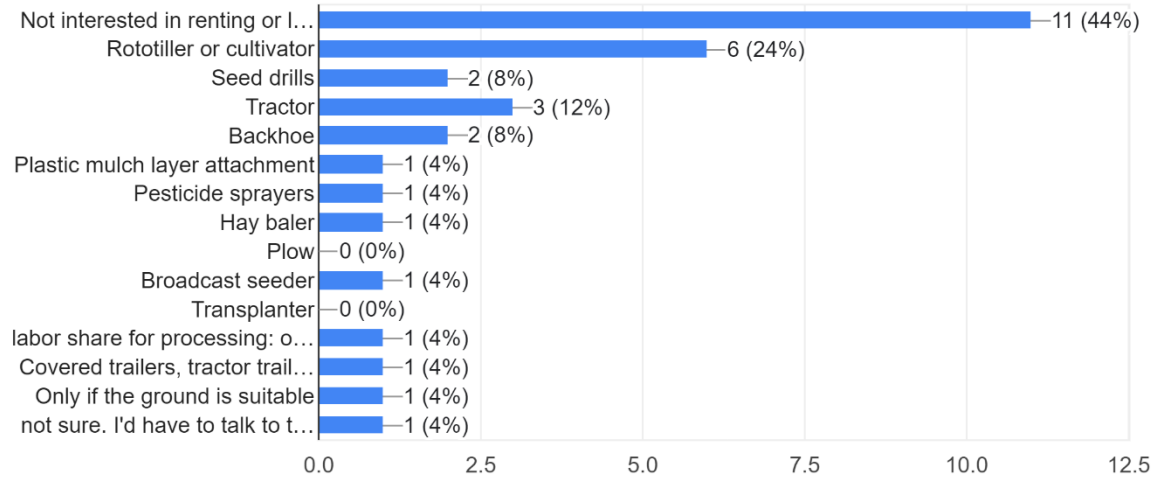
Would you be interested in renting or leasing any of the following land or space? (Expand farming knowledge)

25 responses



Would you be interested in renting any the following equipment? (Expand farming knowledge)

25 responses

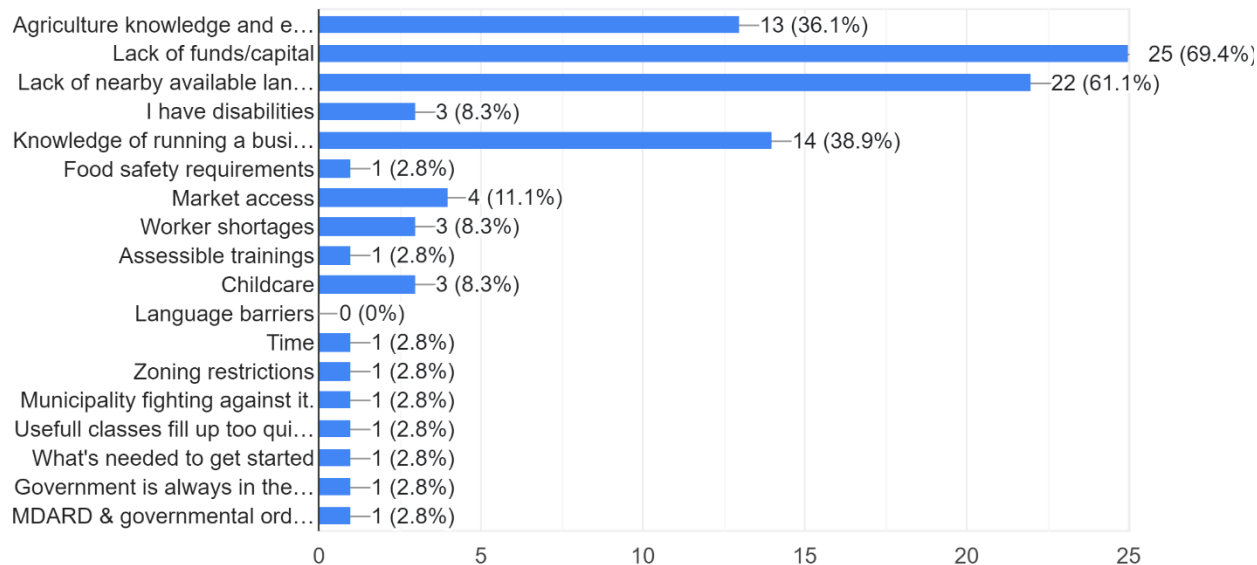


For those who would like to start a farm business: Trainings and workshops.

Those who would like to start a farm business.

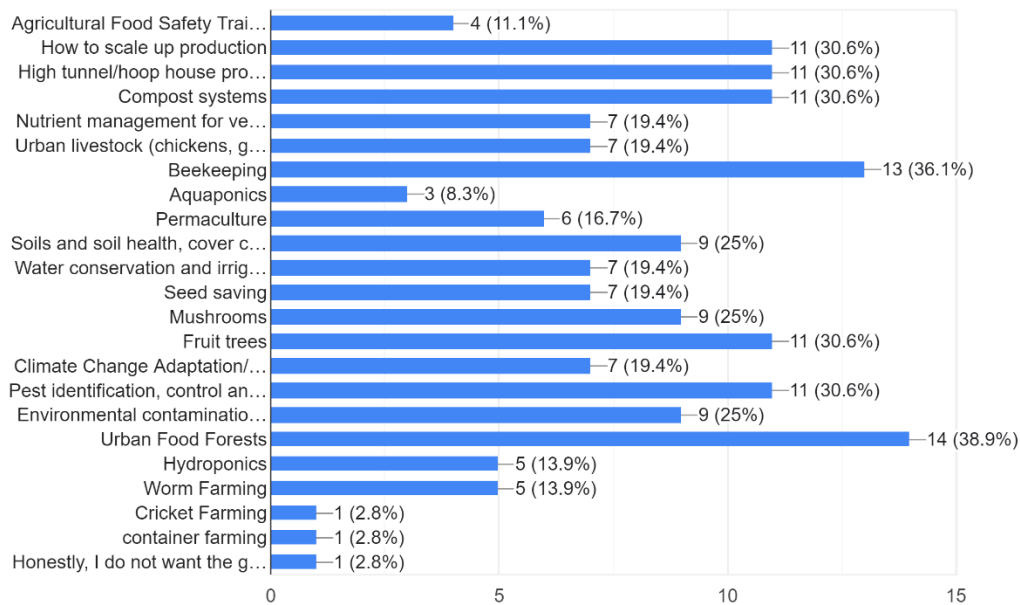
What do you consider the three (3) greatest obstacles or barriers to starting a new farm? (Those who would like to start a farm business)

36 responses



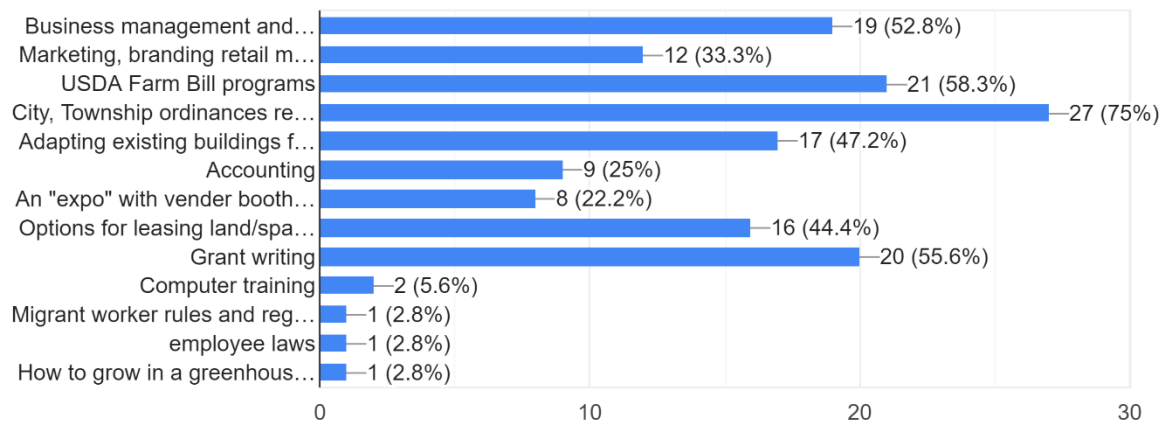
Choose below the top 5 trainings that you would like to take to expand your technical knowledge: (Those who would like to start a farm business)

36 responses



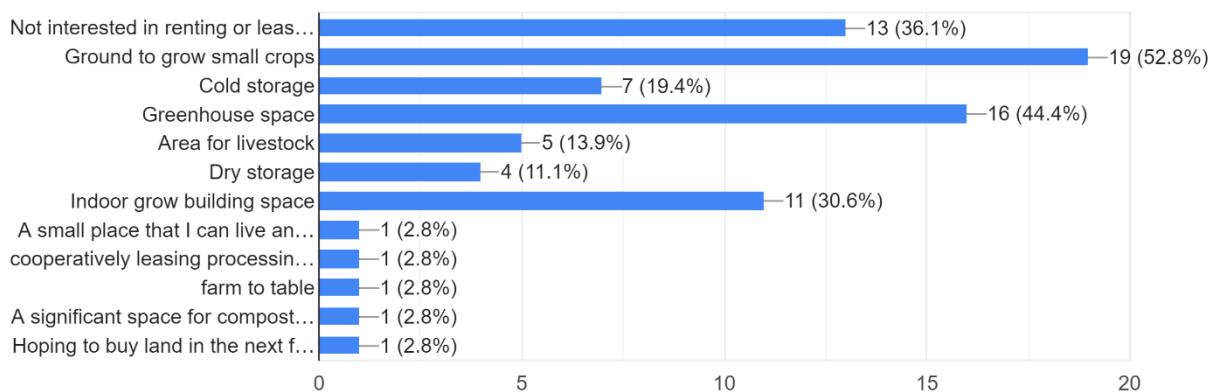
Choose below the top 5 trainings that you would like to take to start your own business: (Those who would like to start a farm business)

36 responses



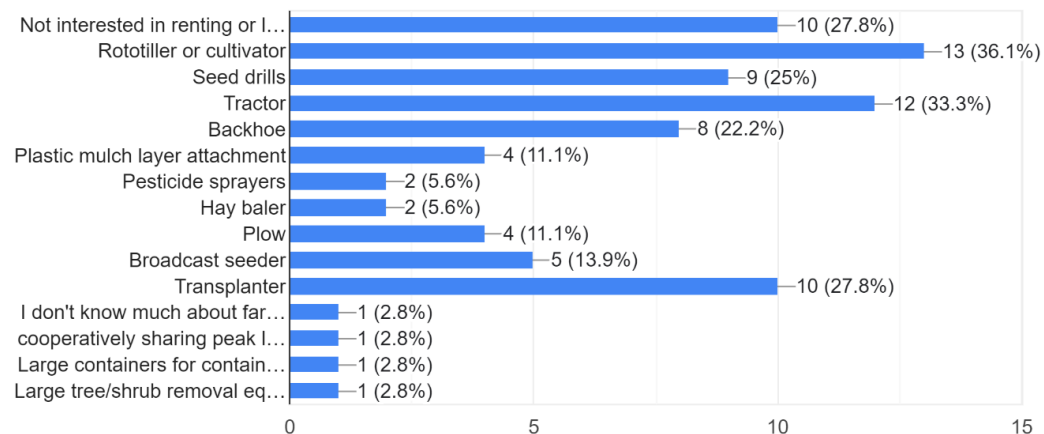
Would you be interested in renting or leasing any of the following land or space? (Those who would like to start a farm business)

36 responses



Would you be interested in renting any the following equipment? (Those who would like to start a farm business)

36 responses



Do you have any additional information, suggestions, or needs that you would like to add relative to urban farming?

Our Read and Seed Community Garden supports adult learners working a GED, basic literacy, English as a Second Language, and jobs skills. We are interested in strengthening career pathways into related jobs and industries.

Help with disability funds and investments.

I would like to learn to operate Big Machinery, and classes on build outs of indoor grow spaces would be good as well.

zoning seems to be a relatively consistent issue with urban agriculture.

Would like to start a farmers' market for others can sell their wares (produce, food). Would information on u-pick, microgreen & greens & vegetable safety/best practices (pick it, bagged with a labeling).

Where to have assistance to build raised beds, grants for startup materials for backyard farmers, not selling to the public. Help for those of very low income that rent & would like a small herb garden or grow their own produce with little to zero space. Kitchen herb garden on a windowsill. How to teach /provide home grown food skills for our poor populations.

My interests are mostly in sustainable and, more importantly, economically accessible practices, producing dye plants, and how to best utilize my existing space before I even contemplate scaling up.

Any organized forum to bring together the farmers of all scales in K-zoo county would be great! Main benefit being resource sharing and networking for farmers to know and support one another.

I do have a lot of experience farming, both growing up and as an adult.

More classes need to be available. The current classes fill up too quickly and are only available once a year.

Please provide more easily interpreted guidance on owning chickens, ducks, goats, etc

I'd like to better understand how to incorporate animals into small-scale regenerative farming where you grow lettuce. All the examples come from big grain farmers, but I'd like to understand how the rotational grazing works when you're dealing with beds of vegetables that are vulnerable to pathogens from manure.

Very interested in Permaculture and Urban food forest planning and design for residential properties. Classes and consultations for those of us just getting started.

Yes. I have some ideas for community urban gardens. These could be linked with non-profit organizations such as Loaves and Fishes.

Managing pests, deer, raccoons, opossums, neighbor's cats

Urban flower gardens

Canning should be partnered with farming.

Less government is always better for the people, leave our back yard farms alone.

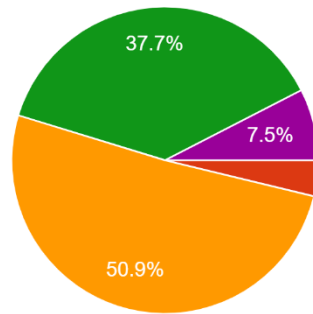
1- My husband is a veteran. 2- training and assistance with invade plant removal (autumn olive, garlic mustard, etc.)

I think I've already made enough comments about the possibility of saving some money on food vs starting a business. Anything is possible!

Additional Information:

How old are you?

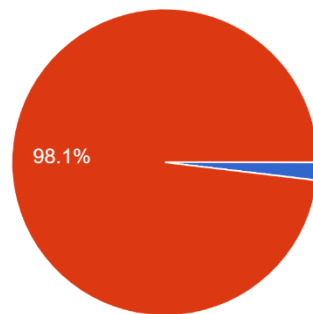
53 responses



- under 18
- 18-29
- 30-49
- 50-69
- 70+

Are you Hispanic/Latino or of Arab Origin?

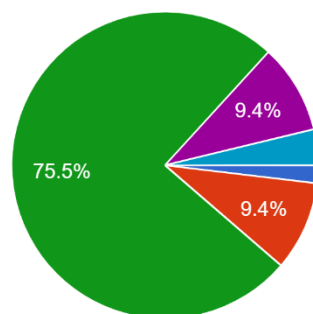
53 responses



- Yes
- No

Which race best describes you?

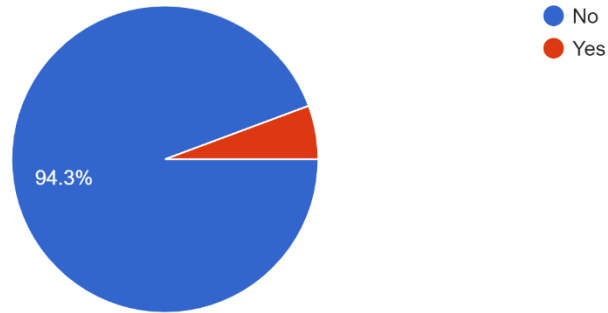
53 responses



- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Native American or Alaskan Native
- White or Caucasian
- Multiracial or Biracial
- A race or ethnicity not listed here

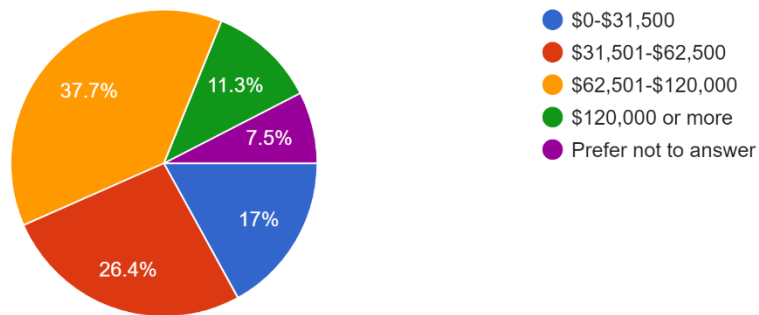
Are you a veteran?

53 responses



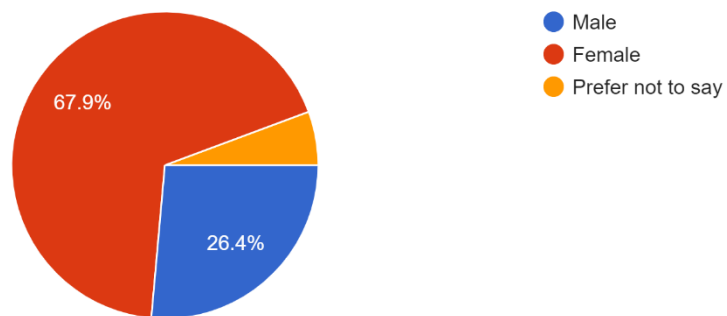
Optional: What household income bracket do you fall under?

53 responses



What is your gender?

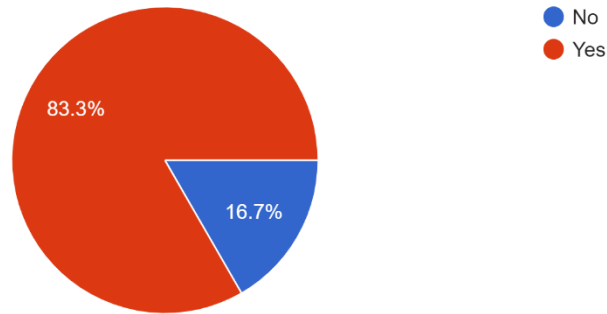
53 responses



Input from partnering agencies.

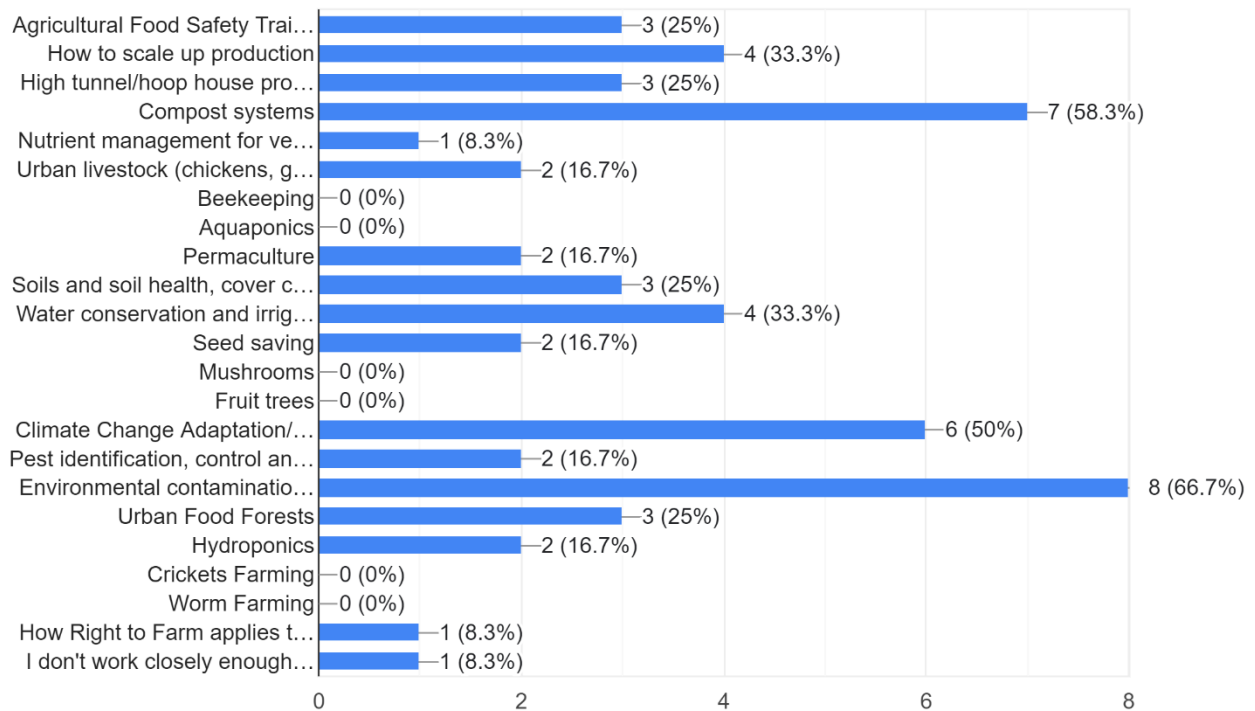
Do you feel there is a need for a urban agriculture mentoring program in Kalamazoo County? (Input from partnering agencies)

12 responses



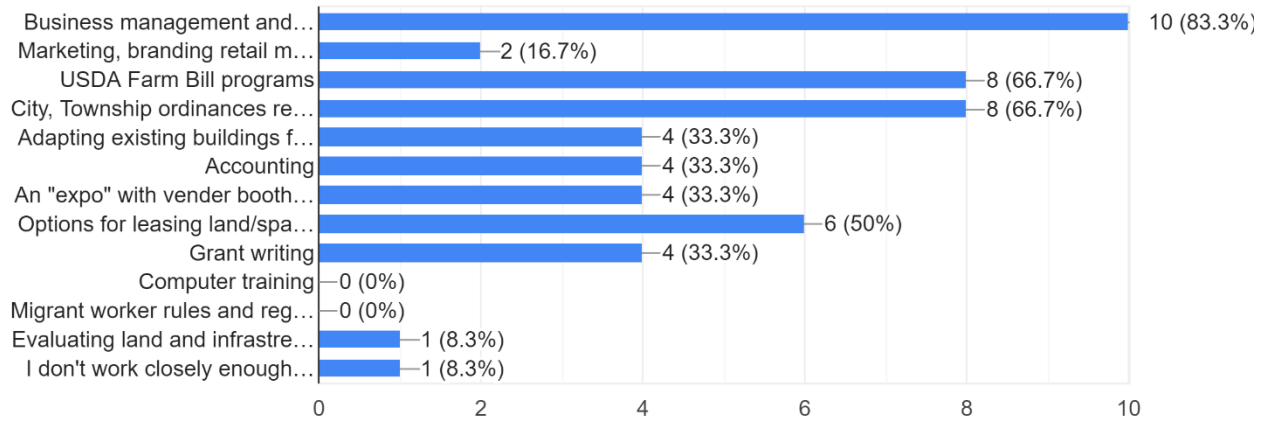
Choose below the top 5 technical trainings that are needed in Kalamazoo County to assist those interested in urban agriculture. (Input from partnering agencies)

12 responses



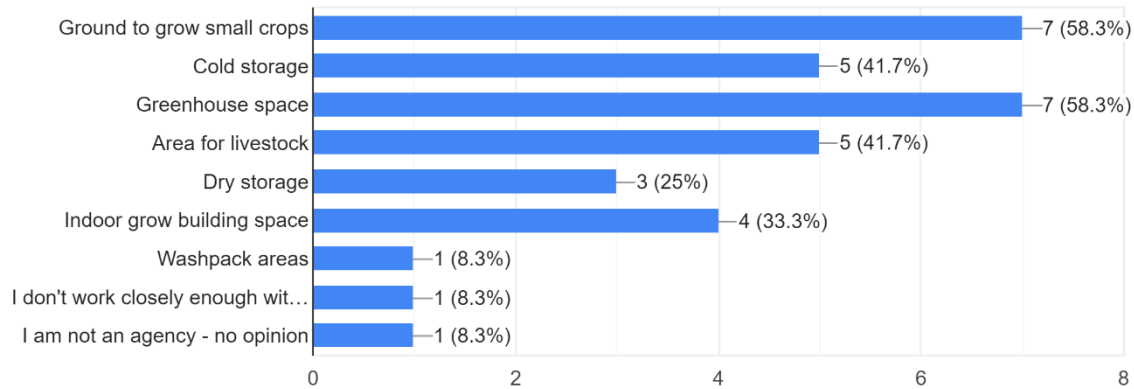
Choose below the top 5 business trainings that are needed in Kalamazoo County to assist those interested in urban agriculture: (Input from partnering agencies)

12 responses



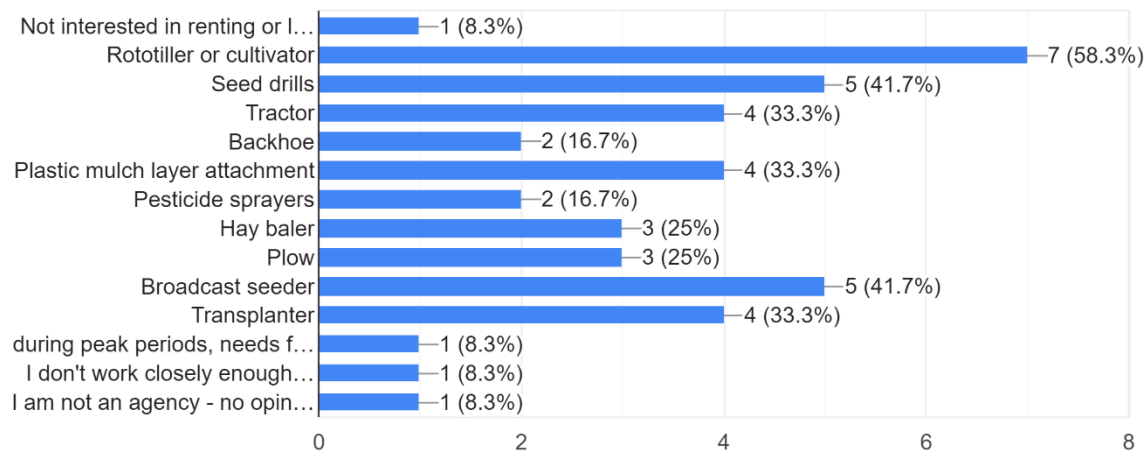
Is there a need for urban farmers to rent or lease any of the following land or space? (Input from partnering agencies)

12 responses



Is there a need for urban farmers to have the option to rent any the following equipment? (Input from partnering agencies)

12 responses



Please provide any comments that you may have relative to urban agriculture needs in Kalamazoo County: (Partnering agencies)

I think Food Safety will need several levels of training to ensure people transitioning to growing for sale are providing safe food for our community.

Most farmers want to learn from people who look like them, and when working with diverse farmers is vital to have diverse educators. It is also important to engage hoping to learn as much about urban farming from them as they will from you. This survey is a good start.

Adapting to new invasive pests, animals, plants plus weather changes and soil quality is very important, not in a theoretical sense but specific actions growers can take now!

People need to be aware of training and potential options.

Ground and soil preparation along with the timing for planting would be capacity building sessions to consider.

Mentorship programs that take students from the classroom to successful entrepreneurship would be a great asset to this effort.

Looking forward to learning more.

Awareness and promotion of the possibilities