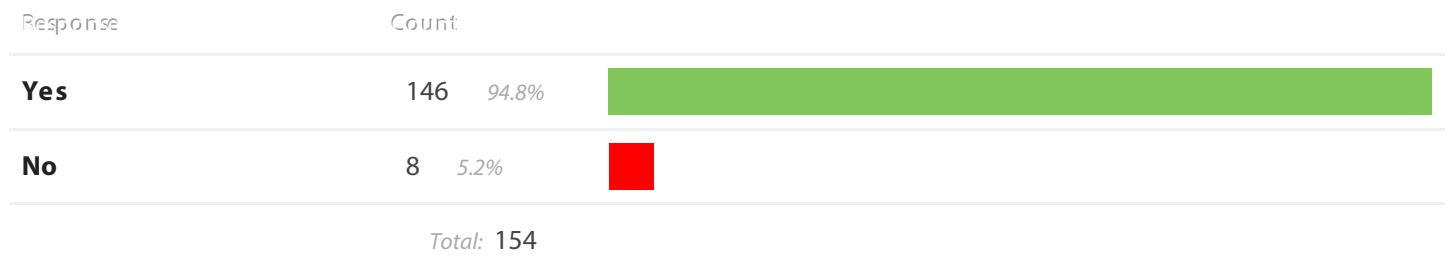
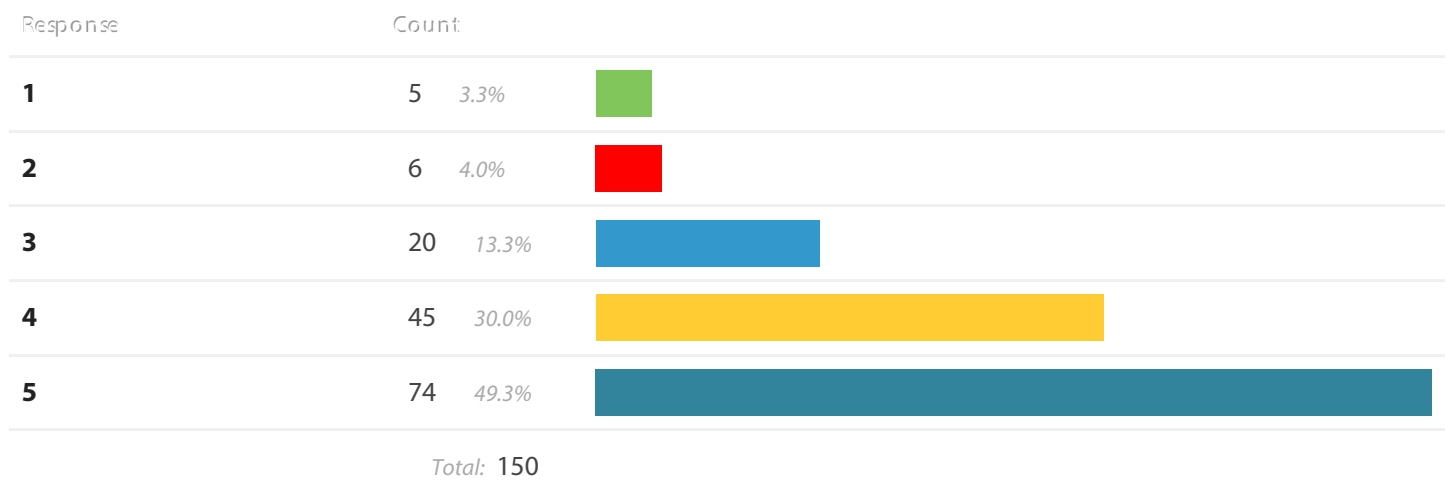


# BSE Survey Results

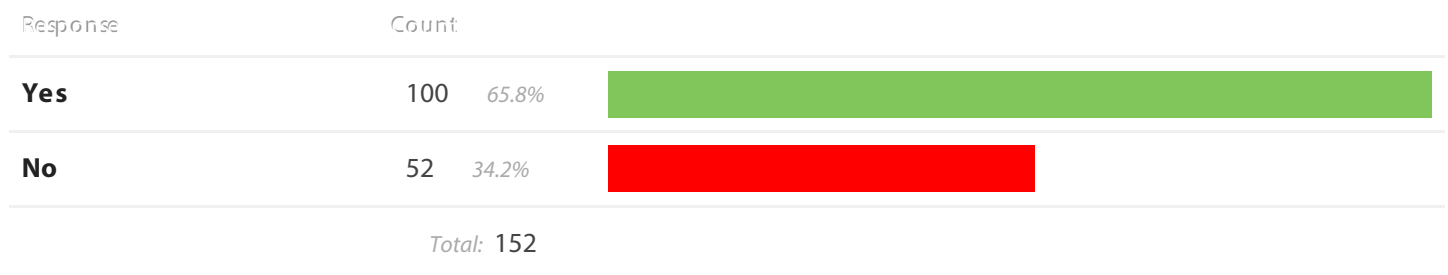
## 1. Did you know that Canada has a national BSE surveillance (testing) program?



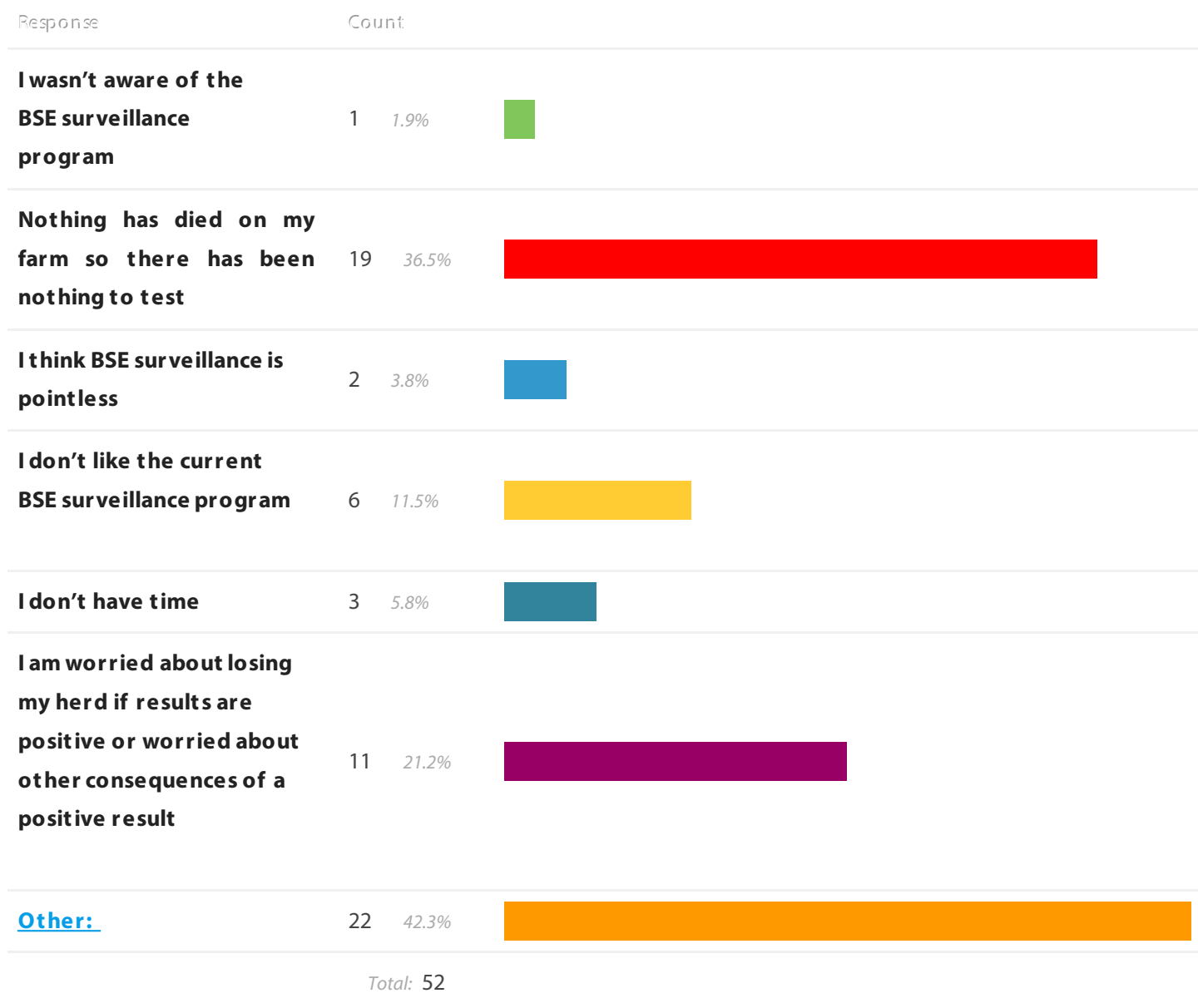
## 2. On a scale of 1 to 5, how familiar are you with BSE? (With 1 being not at all familiar and 5 being very familiar.)



## 3 a. Have you ever had an animal tested for BSE before?



## 3 b. If "No," why not?



---

Not familiar with the program and what age of animal to be tested

---

Any animals that have died have not had symptoms of BSE

---

hard to get to the animals that would fit the requirement

---

Seemed difficult

---

No cattle

---

I think BSE should not be such a big issue, we are more likely to die from food poisoning

---

I understand that in most cases; CFIA inspector does not show up as they are short of staff in PA since they laid off 2 out of 4 of their inspectors

---

For an animal that has died I just haven't thought about the program, most other animals get culled before they die.

---

I had a cow die and the vet refused to do the BSE test. He charged me for the necropsy and never came up with a reason for her death, but said It wasn't BSE

---

So small a number of livestock, personal consuming only.

---

I'm not a farmer, just a consumer

---

I don't fully understand the implications of not meeting the testing requirements as a country. these details need to be made more clear in order for me consider it as part of my management

---

Hassle getting vet in to kill and test

---

Animals are too young to be likely

---

not sure if it's compulsory. and if it's not, have never overly thought that much about it. Not that I am for or against

---

I had sold my cattle before the BSE outbreak.

---

Not a farmer

---

Don't have cattle

---

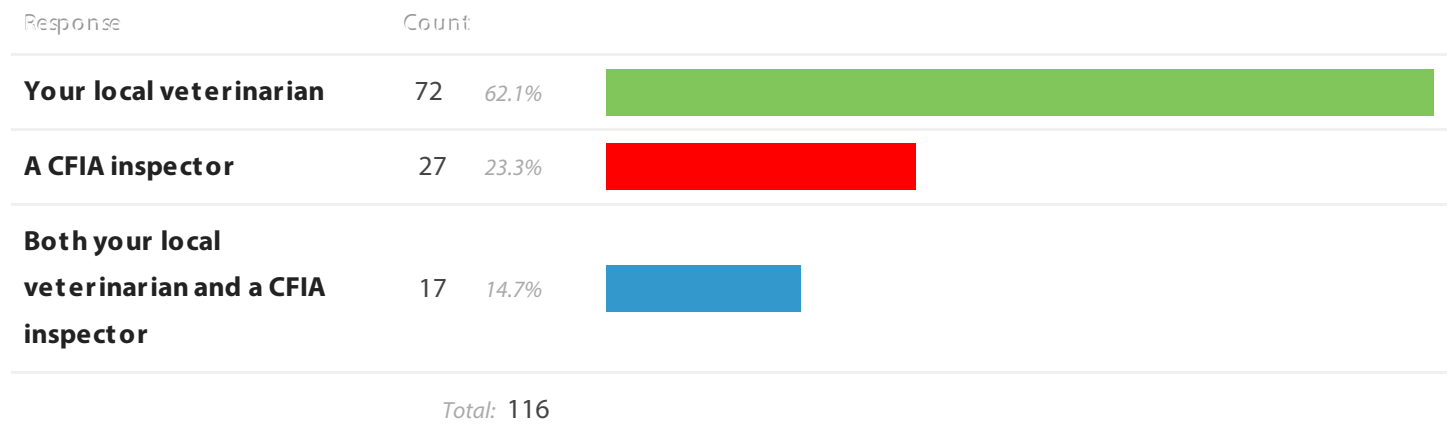
Don't have cattle

---

the compensation for the SASK vets and owner's is way below the compensation for Alberta Vets. We live very close to the Alberta Border and vets do not want to come all the way out to the ranch for so little.

---












4. In the past, who collected samples for BSE testing on your farm?



5 a. When samples were collected on your farm, were you satisfied with the process?



5 b. If "No," why not?

Response	Count		
<b>I didn't get paid enough for participating</b>	26	63.4%	
<b>The sample was rejected and I did not get paid at all</b>	5	12.2%	
<b>Too much paperwork</b>	5	12.2%	
<b>It took too long to receive my payment</b>	6	14.6%	
<b>I had to wait too long for the vet to show up</b>	4	9.8%	
<b>I had to wait too long for the CFIA inspector to show up</b>	3	7.3%	
<b>The vet never showed up</b>	2	4.9%	
<b>It was hard to find a vet who would come collect the sample</b>	5	12.2%	
<b>It was hard to find a CFIA inspector who would come collect the sample</b>	2	4.9%	
<b>It took too long to get test results back</b>	4	9.8%	
<b><u>Other:</u></b>	14	34.1%	
<i>Total: 41</i>			

The small amount paid is not worth the hassle of setting up a time for CFIA inspector to come out and be sure I am around the yard

We have not had any samples done

Had to give my banking information to get paid

did not get paid at all nor did I get a report. It was like they lost it

did not get paid nor did I get the test results

Too cool

Long weekend in summer nobody available so lost the samples

See above

We will never do a test on our cattle I will not be responsible for the destrustion of cattle industry.

We should be paid more for testing the animals. \$75 is too low.

The timing is so quick that it's tough to find them in the summer to get them done while they're still viable.

Never had one tested










Direct payment is hard for me to control. I would like a check

not worth doing .vet gets well paid-farmer very little

5 c. Have you stopped submitting samples for BSE testing because of these problems with the submission process?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	28 25.7%	
<b>No</b>	81 74.3%	
Total: 109		

6. What do you believe is/are the major reason(s) that cattle producers do not submit samples for BSE testing?

Response	Count		
<b>Lack of awareness about the BSE surveillance program</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35.2%</b>	
<b>Difficulty getting a vet out to collect the sample</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	
<b>Difficulty getting a CFIA inspector out to collect the sample</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	
<b>Do not get paid enough for each sample submitted</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>59.3%</b>	
<b>Worry about the consequences of a positive test</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>59.3%</b>	
<b>Carcasses cannot be disposed of until test results come back</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	
<b>Do not want CFIA inspectors on their farm</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	
<b>Do not see any personal benefit to BSE testing</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>33.1%</b>	
<b><u>Other:</u></b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	
<b>Total: 145</b>			

Animal health cfia inspectors have provided people with a bad impression of cfia and they don't want them on their farm

My perspective is that the husband likely isn't going to make the effort to get the testing done unless his wife tells him he is going to do it. Getting the wife to tell the husband to do it involves making it easy for her to be familiar with getting the test done and providing an incentive she would want enough to have the argument/discussion with her spouse likely necessary to achieve success.

we love government checks not direct deposits

Vet doesn't get paid enough

price for cows is good so are sold before they get geriatric

Not easy!

the government caused this problem they should be paying for it and producers should be paid fairly for any animals tested the vets get paid more than the producers do

My be refused to do the sample

see answer above. what are the consequences of Canada not meeting its testing limits. there was a resolution passed at the SCA meeting last year to investigate this and to date there have been no answers. the CCA has also been very vague as to the implication of meeting the testing level even though producers have asked about the specifics. where is the accountability regarding this information?

to make a comment on what other people think is not a correct analysis of an industry because the answers can be misinterpreted.

Vets are getting told by CFIA that samples do not count so the vets are not compensated so they are not liking testing any more.

Probably using animal products in feed

Summer time samples are bad by time someone can take them

I understand animal has to show signs of unusual symptoms

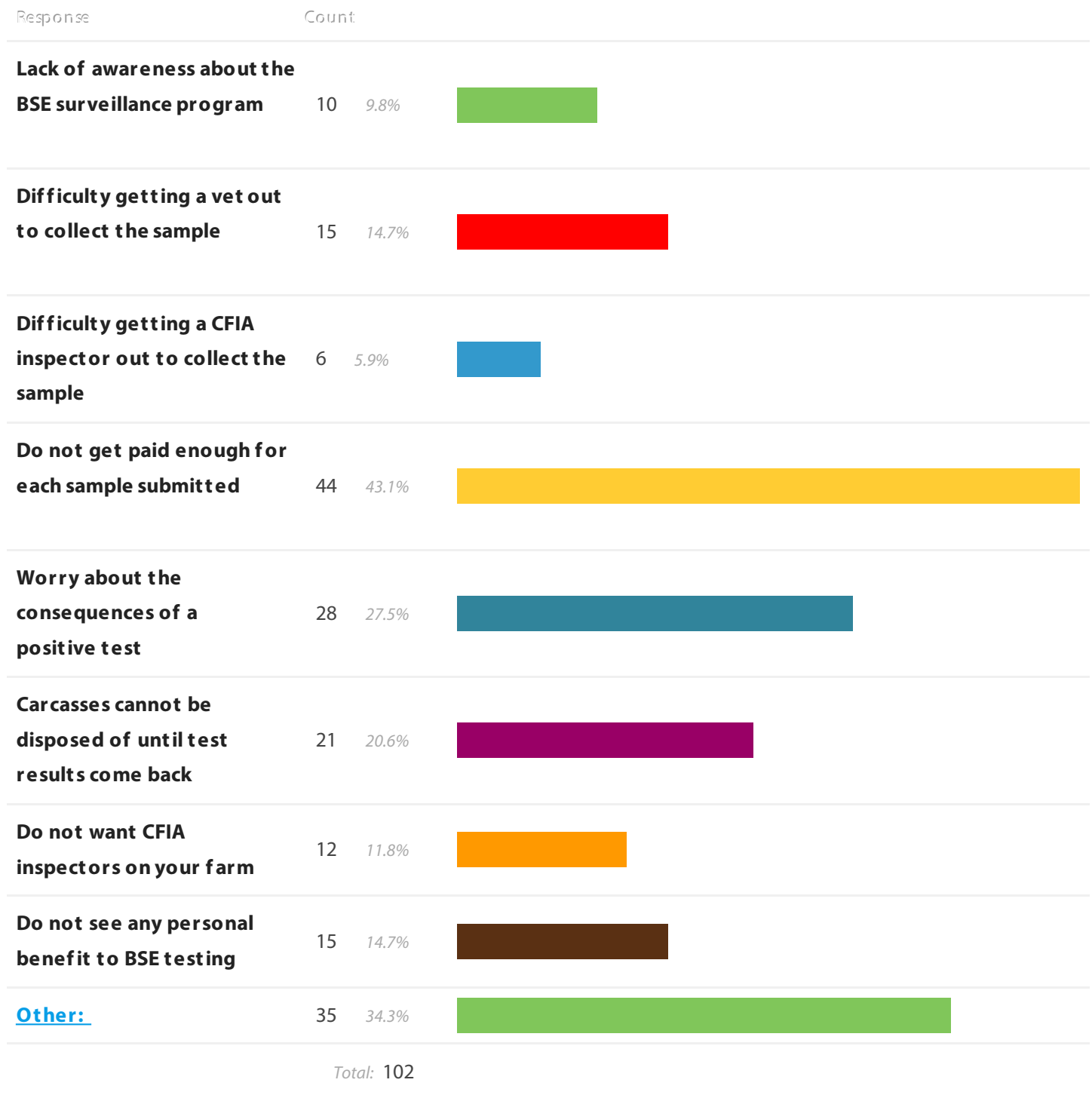
Sold. Cows

Record prices without sending them in. More in means more positives.

not many animals dying to have to test ( our situation)



## 7. What is/are the major reason(s) for you personally not submitting samples for BSE testing?



heard that cfia was sampling dead stock at the local renderer and paying the renderer for the samples obtained from other people's cattle when they had personally chosen not to call cfia themselves. not appropriate.

Once there is a positive test the media attention and it looks like our beef product isn't safe.

---

Not difficulty getting someone out just the hassle of setting up a time

---

I know there is a program but not sure of the specifics.

---

Few ever die and you forget about the program. Try to bury the animal as soon as possible.

---

Cows butchered so no one there to take the sample

---

There is not enough incentive for me to have an argument/discussion with my husband to get the test done. Also to do the test would involve having someone come out likely on an evening or weekend as we work as well as farm so we don't see our animals during the work week.

---

Not want certain Inspectors on farm

---

vet is only at the farm a few times a year and mileage is too much for only one sample

---

getting to the animals

---

There is not enough emphasis put on the importance of BSE testing. Our industry needs to test a much higher percent of animals. I think the best way to achieve a higher percent is to test more of the D3 cull market.

---

Vet doesn't get paid enough

---

If it is possible to get the vet before brain stem deteriorates I do.

---

If you don't think about right away in the summer when the cow dies it can be too late to have it done. Too busy its too late

---

Young herd with no suspect animals

---

No longer own cattle

---

Haven't really thought about the program since the crisis past.

---

BSE is not contagious .Small numbers of BSE cases occur naturally.

---

Takes too long; we are too busy

---

vets get paid more than the producer does

---

Never had dead animal

---

Vet refused

---

Nothing enters the public food system.

---

see above answer

---

Animals are young

---

Animals are young
We will not be responsible for destruction of cattle industry
My vet does not like doing this.
Not worth the hassle,needs to be more compensation for samples
Forget sometimes
I operate a small closed herd of cattle that are culled heavy and are Aled only cows over 12 years old don't exist on the farm, no need for that old genetics
Did not have an older animal die on the farm recently.
We do submit
havent had any to do
I do submit samples

8. In your opinion, how important is it that we meet the BSE surveillance targets for Saskatchewan?

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>Important to Cattle Industry</b>	6 4.1%	1 0.7%	12 8.2%	31 21.2%	96 65.8%	Total: 146
<b>Important to Individual Producers</b>	9 6.2%	11 7.5%	27 18.5%	28 19.2%	71 48.6%	Total: 146
<b>Important to Public Health</b>	36 25.0%	15 10.4%	22 15.3%	18 12.5%	53 36.8%	Total: 144

9. If you selected "not important" to any item in question 8, please explain your reasoning.

Response	Count
	36 responses

Risk of BSE is so minimal the importance to public health is low

We do not consume the brain in Canada and there is so few cases to make a fuss. Consumers only think it is worth worrying about when the new media creates awareness by using the title "mad cow".

More politics than any proven direct link to JCdisease in my opinion. Tens of thousands of BSE diagnosis in

some countries, I believe we have had less than 20 over the past 13 years despite national producer awareness. I believe our meat inspection and human food safety nets are second to none when protecting our consumers here in Canada

There is no measureable health risk health risk to sask people from BSE

I donot know of any health risk to people from bse over blown issue.

the health risk is negligable its about trade publicity

BSE does not cause illness in HUMANS so why is it important to Public Health??

Public health isn't the concern, publics view/opinion is the concern

Not a health risk in general as opposed to cancer risk

No health riskmoney

Given the very low number of infected animals and the other protocols in place it is highly unlikely that meat from an infected animal would make it into the food chain.

Bse does not cause a human health problem

See answers in #7

I do not believe BSE poses a significant health risk to the population

Relative risk to public is very low, Money would be better spent on other areas of concern.

BSE shouldn't be such a big issue more people die of food poisoning, any animals tested should not be in the food chain anyway. I don't believe anyone actually knows what causes it for sure, look at our last case, probably caused by feed !!!

I don't feel we have a BSE problem in Canada. I feel it is under control

This is a trade issue not a public health issue

how can we even answer the above rating if the specific details regarding implications of not meeting the testing guidelines are not made known to producers?

The deads that occur on the farm/ranch never enter the good chain. And if disposed of properly are no threat to anything else

Not a priority

Canada ano ounces bse. Usa has more postive then we do yet they don't tell the world. Canada has affected its trade. And cool is still wanting it closed

BSE controls in the feed and food system make this not a public health issue.

---

No risk for the public ,bigger risk of being struck by lightening

---

The chances of anything entering the food chain are very slim

---

USA does not go this far. We wiped out a generation of cattle farmers in 2002 over something that we do not know enough about.

---

I don't believe BSE is a great concern to the consumer, or a risk to the consumer.

---

To industry as a whole it may be important to an individual producer I don't see the importance.And i see no importance at all to public health as animal will not enter food chain anyways.

---

The health risks are so minimal that I am not concerned. If we had many positive cases it would be a different story

---

BSE is not a significant issue,it is so rare, my understanding is less than a dozen Canadian expected.

---

Pay \$500 for each cow sampled

---

How is this a public health issue ?

---

BSE is not a risk to North American consumers. If you graph the frequency of BSE and the number of people infected with the human form of BSE the lines diverge - this proves there is no cause and effect. Also, in North America we do not eat spinal tissue or brains, so risk is minimal even if there is a connection.

---

If a BSE case is found on farm,export borders are closed and the media blows every case out of proportion makes the case bad for Canada and farmers

---

Bse is not a threat to public health.

---

BSE was blown out of proportion in North America , there has been very few human cases and the link between the human cases and bse seems to be questionable

---

10. In your opinion, what would encourage cattle producers in Saskatchewan to submit samples for BSE testing?

---

Response

Count

---

116 responses

---

---

start paying more sask \$ 75 alberta \$250

---

increase the dollar amount

---

---

Awareness

---

Needs to cover the vet costs.

---

A monetary payment worth their time and effort and a "what to do with the carcass" till results come back. Not sure how you value the time and effort but \$75 is a joke! If it was a amount that made it worth while you would have much less trouble meeting your targets. That might have to be several hundred dollars.

---

Make the process easier and offer incentives

---

Take samples at packing plant

---

more information about the testing

---

Higher compensation for submission

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Payment

---

Getting compensated for the hassle.

---

Create a magnet which is distributed to producers which outlines how to arrange for testing to be done and which animals to test so that the information is readily available and easy to find when the need arises. Have an incentive that when you book an appointment to test an animal the person making the call gets a \$25 gift card for making the call. Then have a payment for successfully testing the animal. Have a cattle rep call each and every cattle producer in their territory to explain the program and ask if they have any questions about it - great job for a summer student. Have a facebook post with a 3 minute video on what/where/why/how of BSE testing and why it's good for cattle producers and have an incentive for people to like and share it - eg. a randomly selected person each week who has done so gets a prize. Have a 4H program which emphasizes BSE testing and have participants create a short video on why BSE testing is good for Canadian producers. Use the winners productions as advertising for the program. Overall my impression of BSE testing in Canada is that producers don't know how to get it done, can't be bothered, and don't understand what happens if their animal is positive so they are leery of letting someone from the gov't onto their place. Also, my experience is that men aren't going to go through the effort unless their wives tell them to do so. As a result you need to engage women to want to go through the hassle with their spouse of getting the job done. Inform women, empower women to get the ball rolling, give women an incentive which means something to them. Engaging children through 4H also makes it more likely that the testing will be done as if the kids think it should be done the parents are more likely to follow through on it.

---

More awareness, and personal benefit

---

get a payment plan in place that will make it at least worth \$400 so people will take the time and effort. Current payment gives no incentive. If it requires a further checkoff then it should be collected and producers will have a goal to get their money back by submitting heads.

---

Better knowledge and better communications.

---

---

need more awerness of prgram

---

need more awerness of program

---

offer more compensation

---

Quicker disposal and more money. Cow man is getting spoiled with high price for there cows. They think \$75 is not worth the hassle. When cull cow prices go back down to \$500 per head then \$75 is attractive.

---

Pay producers more for samples to make us think you are interested in exporting the product we produce. Assist veterinarians with mileage cost so that they can pickup samples if they are close. Accept and pay for samples from cows slaughtered for on farm use.

---

Up the producer compensation to Alberta levels or more. It takes significant time energy cost and loss of otherwise valuable productive hours on the farm to participate in the field program

---

Allow them to assign cull animals to the test program when delivered to auction

---

Allow producers to assign cows to be tested from the cull cow auction market

---

Pay comparable cull cow price for sample

---

cull cattle are worth more now and cheques aren't sent out ( only direct deposit) so it is not convenient for producers

---

More money.

---

\$75 is an insult why do producers always have to foot the bill for the public

---

I believe that getting the word out with regards to the numbers required for testing and the importance for the individual as well as the industry

---

Possibly teaching producers how to remove the brain stem w/o damage and submit it.

---

I don't believe the price is high enough today to make it worth while, Even \$75 when it started was a joke but everyone did what they could for the program. Today whats \$75 with not only the price of cows but the cost of your time, today my time is worth so much, just can't find good help so one has more important things to do without waiting for a vet for \$75 to protect all of Canada's cattle industry, packers and unions workers etc.

---

Start paying the cattle producer for their time as well as some salvage fee for the animal being tested as well as continuing paying the veterinary and lab fees.

---

Higher payout for voluntary samples. Insurance that a positive case would not cause you to lose your herd, reputation, and financial well-being

---

more education about the program and higher payout for having a test done.

---

Maybe higher payments

---

---

Easier process

---

Education and awareness

---

Money

---

need to pay more for samples

---

more money

---

More information on the testing. The producer gets results back on his own animals but information on aggregate results is not readily available. With the current high prices producers don't see an economic impact of not testing.

---

Better incentives. \$75 is hardly worth the effort of calling a vet to come out.

---

Pay more

---

Use provincial plants and health inspected plants

---

a bigger compensation-a fast & discreet sample processing-more knowledge of the process & why it is important

---

a faster & discreet sampling & testing process-a speedy reply for nonpositive results-more knowledge of the process and importance to industry

---

increase the money paid to the cattle producer for cooperating with the program

---

Make the process easier.

---

Not sure.

---

More info. The last cow we had tested, we weren't sure how to go about. Call vet and they gave us number.

---

getting paid a reasonable amount for their time and effort to test their animals

---

If testing could be done at provincial and federal slaughter plants

---

A personal connection...free sampling.....

---

Greater awareness that this is important to our industry.

---

Higher payment per animal tested

---

Payment and ease of process

---

Knowledge of the disease.



Greater compensation

Money

Increase the payment to

If producers received more money or some incentive for submitting samples you would get more samples! If it was not so difficult to meet the criteria to submit a sample you would get more submissions! Go back to the 4 D's and more producers would submit!

More financial incentive and better assurance/education that they wouldn't risk the industry's position if they had a positive test.

If vets were more accommodating

education

Financial compensation

Speed, accuracy

awareness of program .

Testing should be free, and easily available. And each farm should be tracked results available online

a clearer understanding as to the consequences associated with not meeting the testing levels

I suspect getting paid more per sample would help. Cattle are worth a lot of money right now, if something looks only a little diseased, producers may be more likely to ship it, then to go about putting it down for testing.

I don't know. The worry of repercussions will probably keep inhibiting submissions

Getting paid for their animal.

higher salvage payout

Increased public awareness of disease; help farmer with costs associated with cost & disposal of infected carcass.

More money for samples

Nothing. Done to many for a vet. Seen the wrong people get money.

A little more compensation for both the producer and the vet. And more acceptance of samples so vets and producers are not getting crushed by CFIA when they make the effort.

\$

They need to be paid more for the animal, then they would get it tested.

Needs to be done at processing plants where you have to numbers to do fair testing

More education about the disease

paid more

The producer payment is not worth the effort a larger payment is needed. It is also difficult to access someone to get the brain perhaps there should be more people trained in harvesting brains and a larger payment for this process as well. The vets in our area are run ragged servicing "live" animal calls. No CFIA inspector available in close proximity.

Yes

Fear of losing a market

Awareness of BSE ,how it affects future of beef industry.

More money might do it. But I doubt it.

more money, accurate knowledge of what will happen if there is a positive test

Training to do it ourselves. More people to take samples

More monetary compensation.

Dollars for their labour

Higher level of compensation

Less time for test results

test any older animal no matter their conditions

More compensation, awareness and an easier collection process.

More money clear convenient guide lines for the pick up and disposal

Increase in compensation

More awareness through farm shows and ag programs on TV.

Higher compensation.

Education. Personal benefit or reward.

---

Pay \$500 for. Each cow sampled

---

If caught destroying animals without notification should get jail time

---

Easier to get a vet out to ranch. More education to the producers on what would happen if the animal did test positive. More respect shown to the producer.

---

More money

---

Increase allowance to at least keep up with cost of living increases. It is hard to accept that anyone takes this seriously when the actual value of the payment goes down every year. I question if all vets are on side either. Auto deposit is more trouble than you think

---

Continued promotion & emphasis on the importance for testing for the industry in its relationship with consumers and the international community, and an awareness of the negative consequences of not having a traceable testing program in place. Promotion and support for the testing program should be federal, provincial & industry based.

---

Financial incentive maybe

---

More education, and EASE of getting tests done. We had a mystery loss - found a dead cow, no CFIA vet could come out. We called and asked for a vet to come out to test two crippled/injured cows we were euthanizing. It took over a week and he came from Prince Albert to to do so. We missed testing the mystery death - coyotes got her before he could come out. The other two were tested, but we had to feed them \$250 a ton hay to keep them alive long enough for him to come out. One died a day or so before he came - she NEVER should have had to suffer like that, we should have been able to put her down as soon as she was injured, however we nursed her along to try to keep her alive so she could be tested.

---

Make it worth their time.

---

to pay more and that the vets dont see it as a huge ordeal to come get a sample

---

money and awareness

---

Pay slaughter price for animals tested.

---

A reasonable fee for testing as it isn't worth the hassle for the current fee and the fear of a positive case seems to always effect our market but has no effect on human health

---

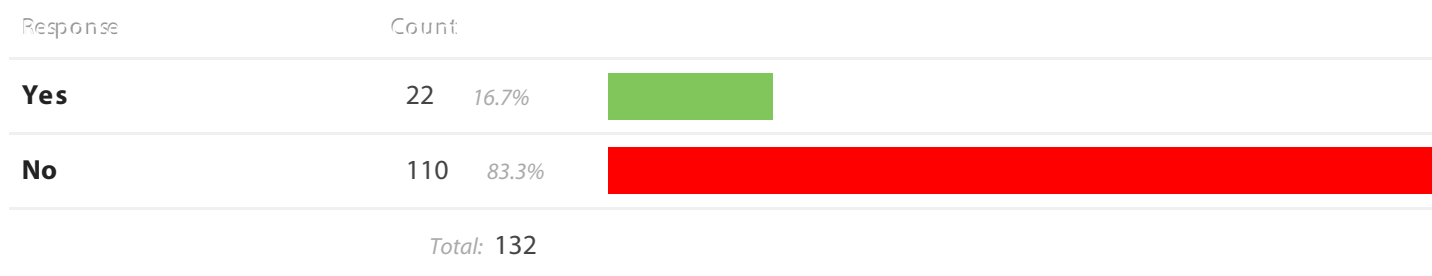
More \$ would help. Clearer picture of what happens if you did have a positive test

---

Higher payments

---

### 11. Were you aware that Alberta Agriculture has created a video promoting BSE testing?



### 12. What types of informational material would you find useful to learn more about BSE surveillance?



See answer to #10

pay more for samples

In more magazines. Like the western producer or cattleman a magazine.

waste of money that could go towards paying for samples

stay connected

I know the procedure and the reasons

none I am update on why CFIA need it done.

A process that is more streamlined

emails through groups like SSGA

Vets should be encouraging producers to get cows tested no matter the age or cause of death.

No need to reinvent the wheel, just use the one from Alberta

Vet visits!

more funding for cfia

clear, specific information from our provincial and national cattle organizations as to the implications of not meeting the testing number

Information inserted in auction mart mail outs talking about euthanasia and BSE testing on cattle unfit for sale.

Ads in cattle magazines and the Western Producer

Inform the public of how little risk there is of becoming sick from beef ,do some positive marketing

I think there is adequate info. available spend the \$ on the collection.

All of the above on the Sask ag website

News articles, active promotion by vets

Refocus on why people aren't cooperating. Create some buzz at coffee row by upping the price. People will start talking about it again.

Promotional reminders in cattle magazines. I think we all know why we need to test. If not, maybe we should not be in the business.

none above

13. Do you feel that some producers believe finding a positive case on their farm might have a negative effect on their operation, and are therefore reluctant to participate in BSE surveillance?

Response	Count	
<b>Yes</b>	117	88.6%
<b>No</b>	15	11.4%
<i>Total: 132</i>		

14. Please use this space if you would like to comment further about any question on this survey or about BSE surveillance in general.

Response	Count
33 responses	

importance of losing trade through countries shutting doors must be emphasized. To many producers sit at coffee shop and brag about how they won't ever let anyone tell them what to do. They need to realize that that bit of pride could cost the industry Billions!

A video link on a website would be good. All information in one place.

why sample cows that are condemned at slaughterer all D3 cows to increase numbers

With less than 20 cases in our many million head national herd it and the triangular area in Alberta seemingly the major point of concern since 2003 , it shouldn't surprise anyone that cattle producers don't and haven't really embraced BSE as a significant health risk but rather as a devastating cattle industry trade issue

our export success would be greatly enhanced by an increase in the numbers of animals tested. Deal with the need to retain the carcass issue and you will get more animals tested. Allow producers to assign animals as a part of their cull program and coordinate this with auction marts.

Over blown issue.

again \$75 is not worth the time and effort if the public wants testing make it worth it

I believe some people feel that testing can be done at slaughtering facilities and their cow would make little difference in the overall numbers

Now that old cows are worth a great deal more, there are more of them going to market, there are fewer old cows out there to test.

With the high price for cull cows the past few years there are not a lot downer cattle on farms. For younger animals if they know what caused the death (ie nitrate poisoning) they are not likely to get the animal tested. The message should be to get all cows tested no matter what they died of.

There seems to be some general distrust of CFIA. They are the heavy hand of the law and not there in the best interest of the industry. Much like the perception of Fisheries and Oceans.

test older cattle at provincial slaughter plants, pay them to hold carcasses till tests are complete

Why can't we have slaughter plants sort older, thinner, stifted and suspect cattle in a suspect pen and then run them cattle up the kill line at the end of the shift and have CFIA inspectors collect samples at that time. They may have to slow the line down but at least we get the required number of samples. Everyone has this attitude that cow/ calf producers should do it all for the sake of the industry but in my opinion; the packing plants should step up to the plate as well and share in this responsibility, both financial and moral obligations.

Nobody knows which cattle classify anymore and it seems hard to have a cow or sample qualify for the program unless they are dead! More samples would be submitted if there was more money paid out to the producer! Cattle are worth more now than when BSE first hit us so producers are more willing to spend a little money on them to keep them healthy and try to sell them rather than test for BSE for a few dollars!

Greater percentage of animals entering the public food system & done in a timely fashion!

I do not understand why cows cannot be randomly tested on the kill line, after all these are the cows going in to the food chain.

If we have one positive cow. Why announce it? Usa has more positives and they don't announce it. Yet we get trade sanctions.

Talk to cattle vets about how CFIA is affecting testing numbers. Producers get this but are getting rebuffed.

Pay them more and the heads will come!

It will be difficult to meet the target collection numbers as the cow herd is decreasing and all the old cows were weeded out after BSE. The cow herd, in general, is younger therefore less unexplainable losses. Cattle producers are doing better \$75.00 may have been a little more attractive in the really hard times following BSE but, with cattle prices where they are now, many producers will feel that \$75.00 is not worth it. Collection takes time and effort on the producers part.

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Thank you

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I'm a supporter of the program if it keeps the foreign buyers happy.

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Getting the vets to encourage their clients I think will be the way to get more tests done.

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I believe if monetary compensation was more it might encourage more producers to participate for the hassle of getting in touch with CFIA and not being able to dispose of carcass immediately.

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Producers are basically very private about their business. They do not trust anyone or anything that may put their farms and lively hood at risk. The government needs to work really hard to gain the trust of the producers, and be able to communicate and work with them in a respectful way. Most producers have struggled to keep their operations going since BSE. They have eroded their equity and are just starting to be able to rebuild. The government made so many errors in how the BSE incident was initially handled that they nearly crippled the whole beef industry beyond repair. As a generation cattleman I am trying very hard to trust anyone when it comes to our cattle herd.

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Think about what will allow this to be talked about. 1) border closure. 2) increased producer payment.

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I think that the problem is a lack of awareness for the reason for the surveillance program. Producers need to realize that in the event of a case of BSE the government & the industry need to show diligence in monitoring and data to support the overall herd health in the industry. You cannot support the claim that an incident is isolated & controlled if you cannot support the overall herd health in the industry through data supported by continual monitoring.

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I think concern about negative impact on operation is huge deterrent as to why guys don't submit. Do we lose all our cattle? What happens?

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A few producers MIGHT be worried about a positive result. But the bigger issue is people just forget - we had one we could have tested a year ago we just did not think about testing. AND the biggest issue is waiting for testing. Coyotes eat them first, or you have to feed them until the vet comes. Many producers will not invest in keeping them alive until you can come out to test.

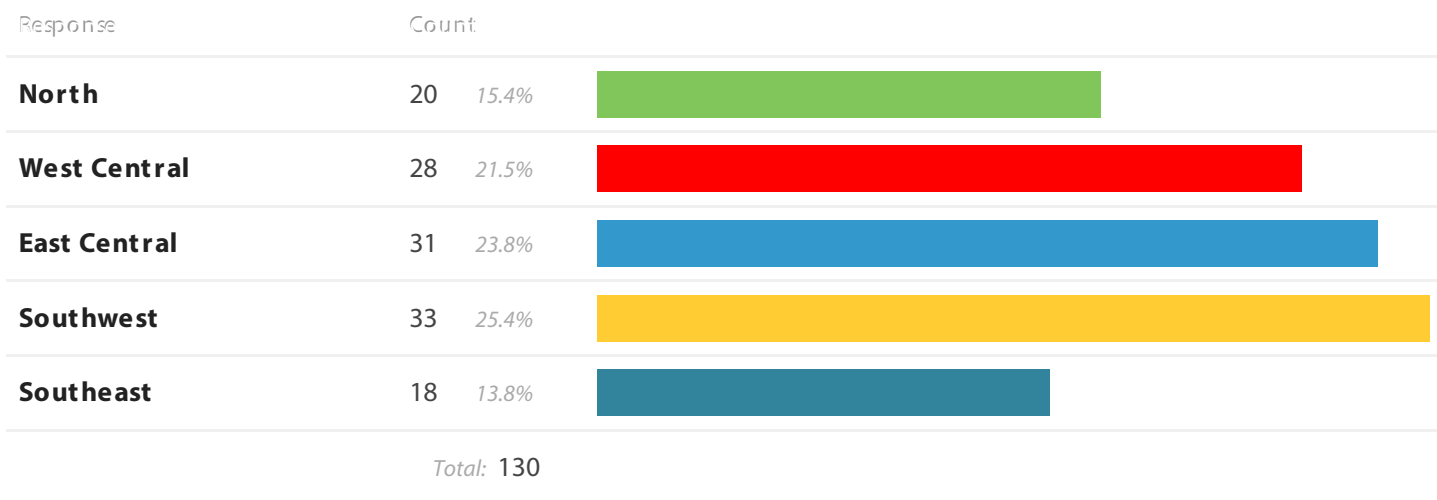
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Start a check off so you can pay full slaughter value for animals tested, you will get a lot more outfits taking part in the testing.

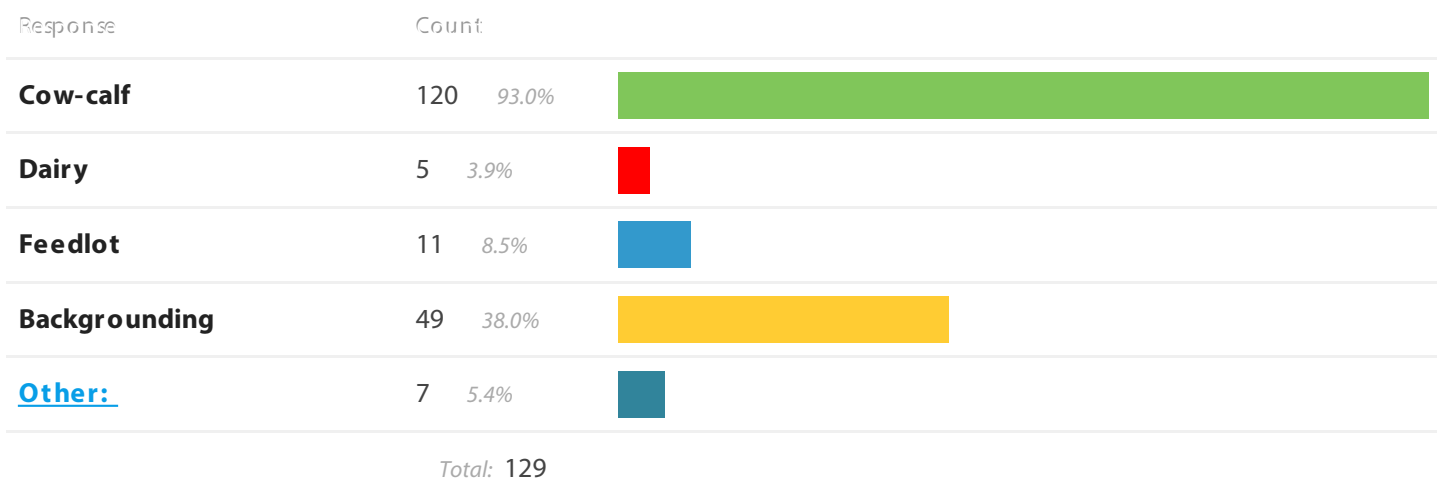
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15. What region is your operation in?





16. My cattle operation is:



grass-fed finishing

Subsistence

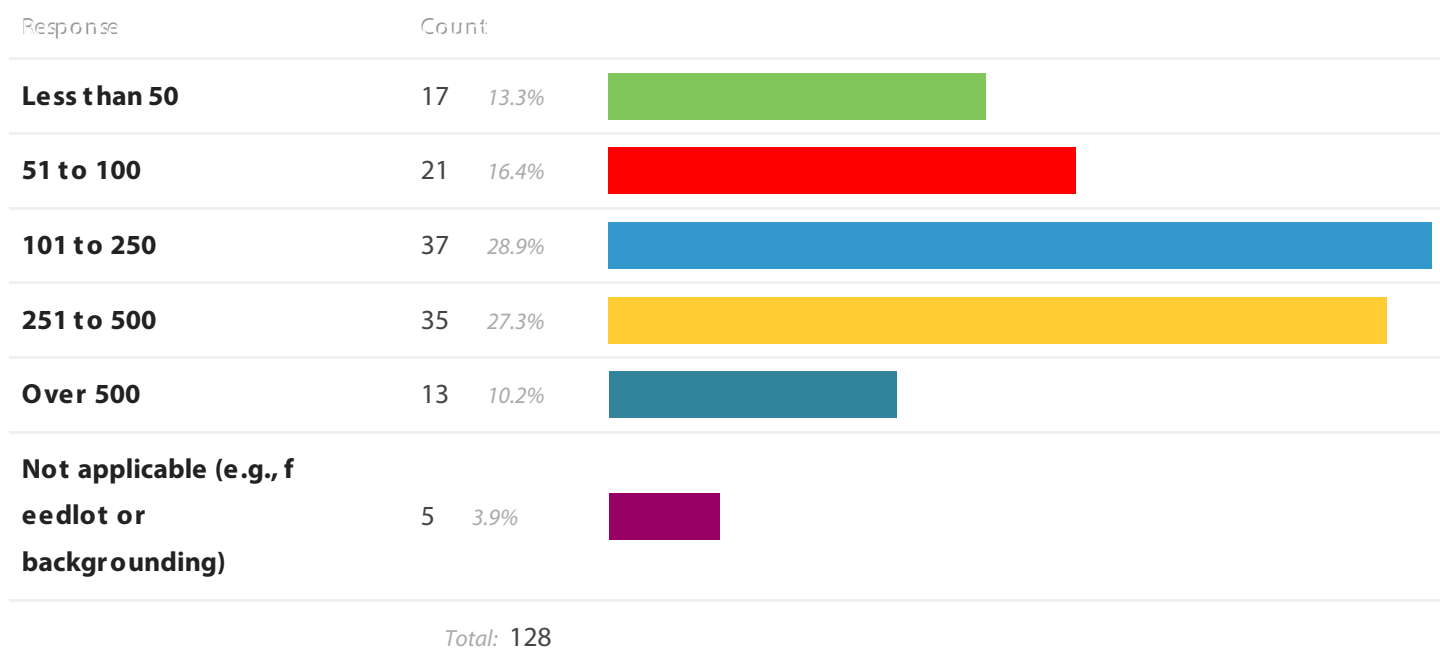
Backgrounding til spring and feeding replacement heifera

Purebred

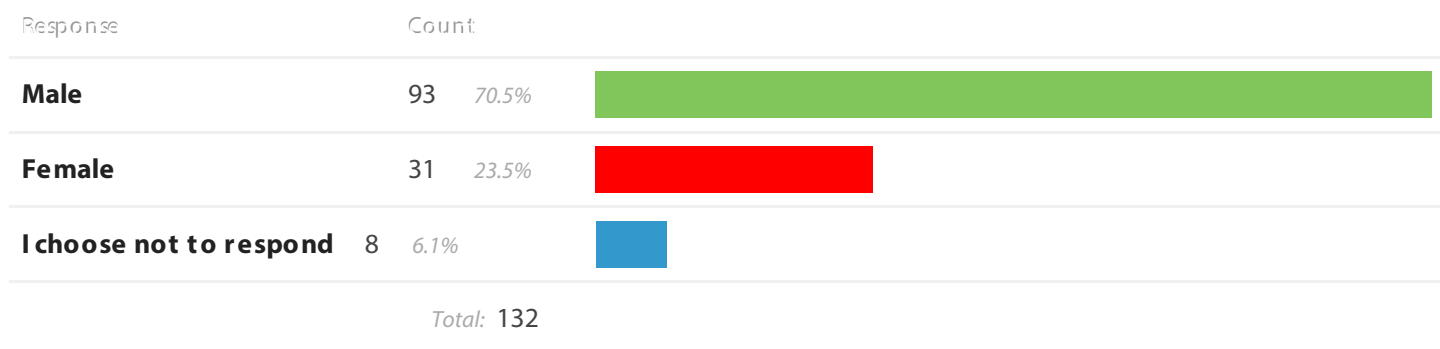
Purebred

Seedstock

17. My herd size is:



18. What is your gender?



19. What is your age?

