

CCA / Partners for Western Conservation Ag Water NetWORK

Mission: "Keeping Ag Water Connected with Ag Land"

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Ag Producer Survey Results: Producer Perspectives on Watershed and Stream Management Planning

1. Survey:

- a) Assess ag familiarity with watershed management plans
- b) Help identify water-related priorities of ag
- c) Guide outreach and training

2. Outreach: Raise awareness, understanding among ag producers

3. Training: Train ag-oriented individuals interested in coordinating / leading / volunteering locally on watershed and stream management plan planning & implementation.

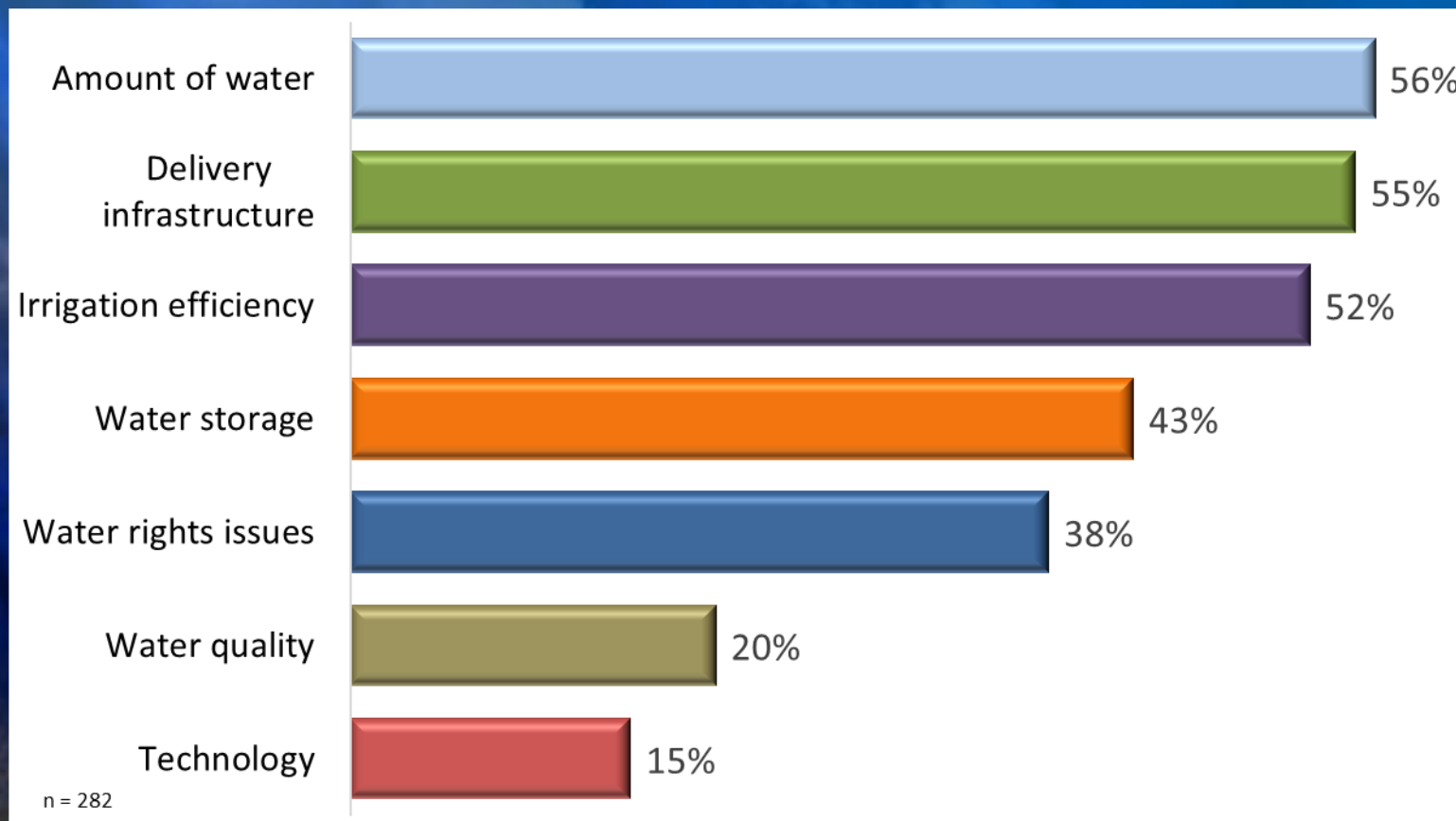
2019 Survey of Ag Producers on Watershed and Stream Management Planning

Survey Facts:

- Survey period: January 16 – April 30, 2019
- 330 total responses received; 288 responses used
- Responses received from producers in 56 counties (88%)
- About 84% irrigated and 16% dryland operations

Survey report and summary: www.agwaternet.org

For your operation, what water-related challenge(s) would you most like to improve upon?

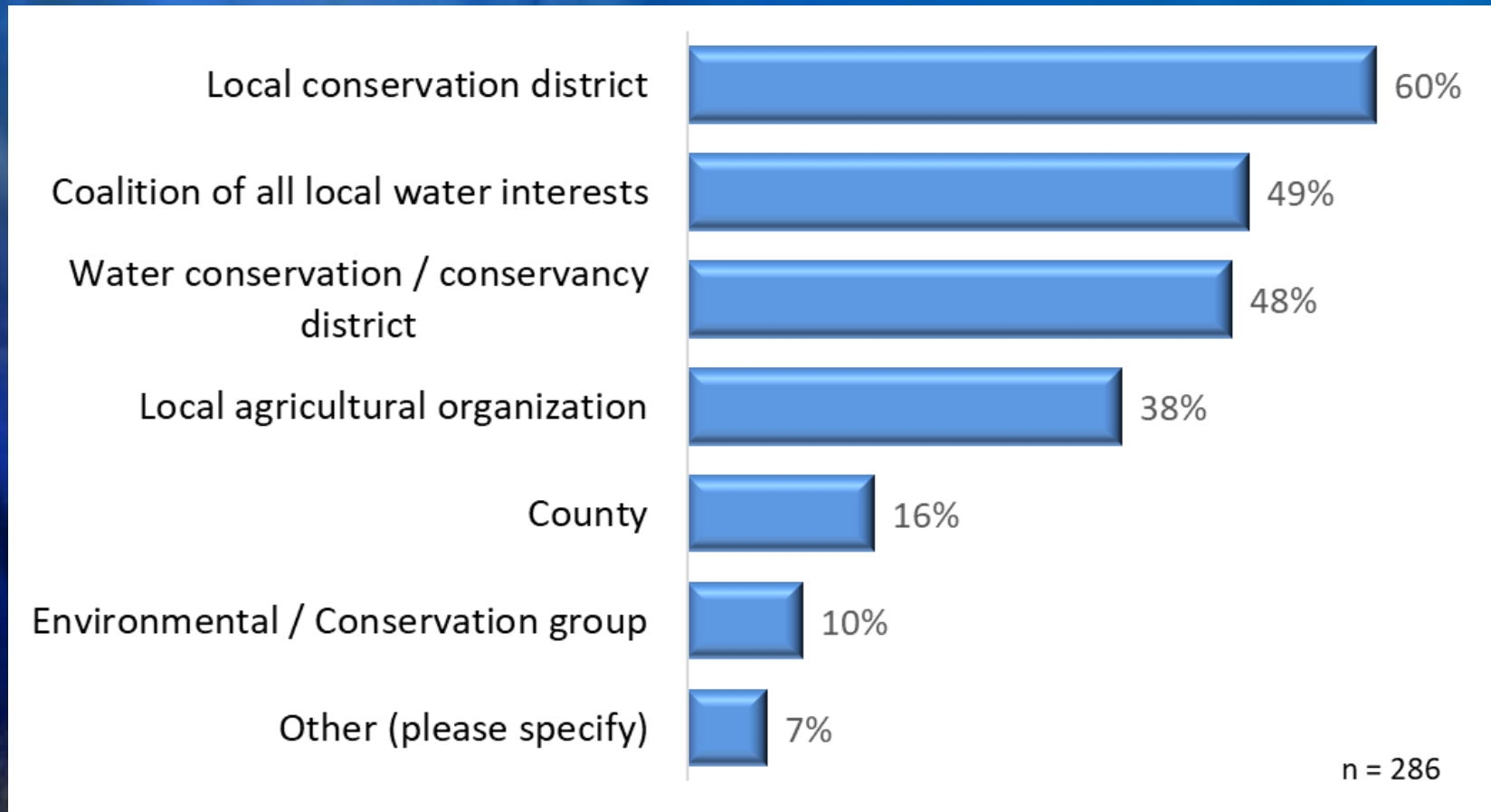


Comments:

“Evaporative and seepage loss”

“Correction of out-of-compliance augmentation plans”

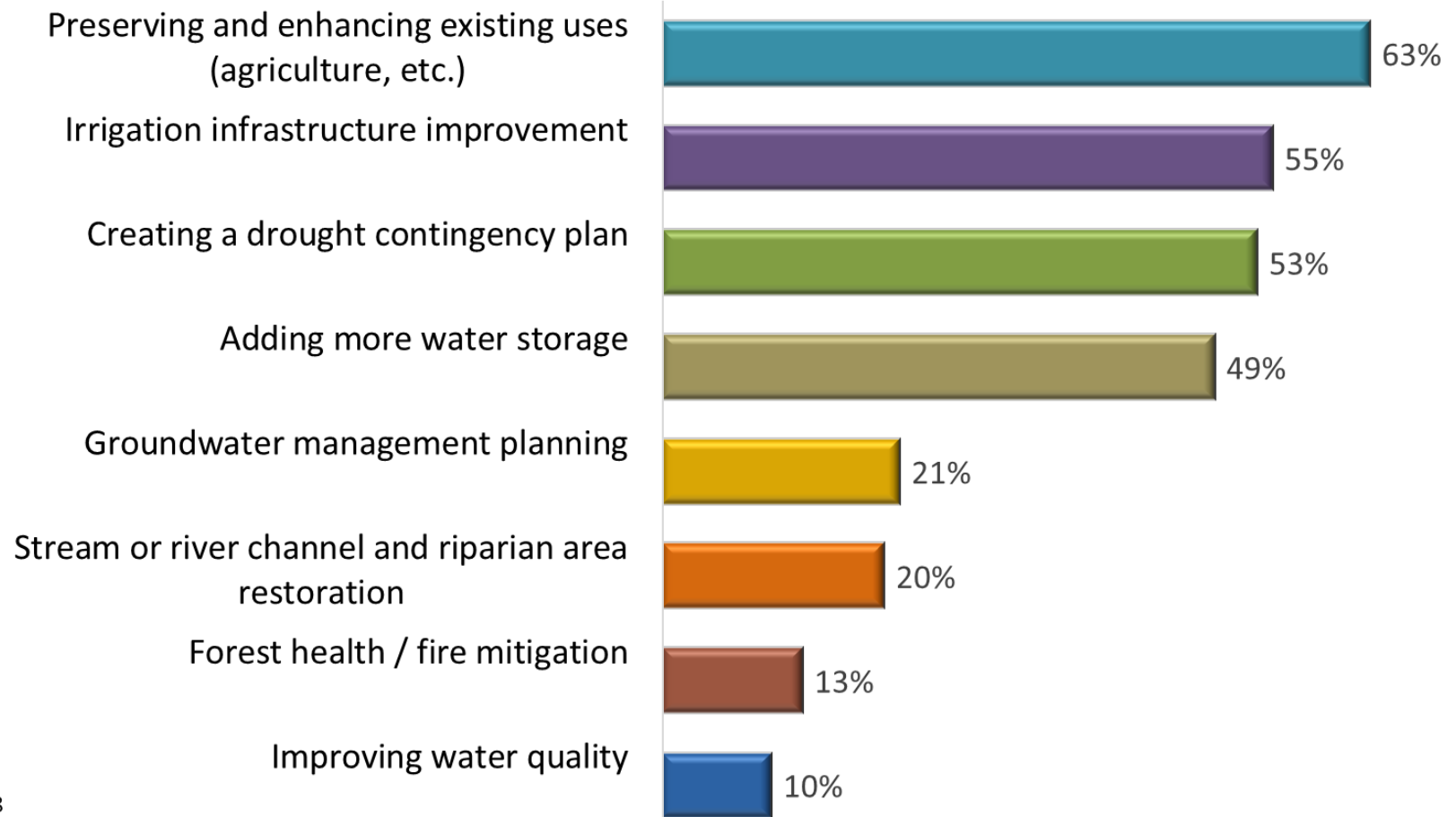
Who should lead watershed planning efforts in your area?



Comments (statewide):

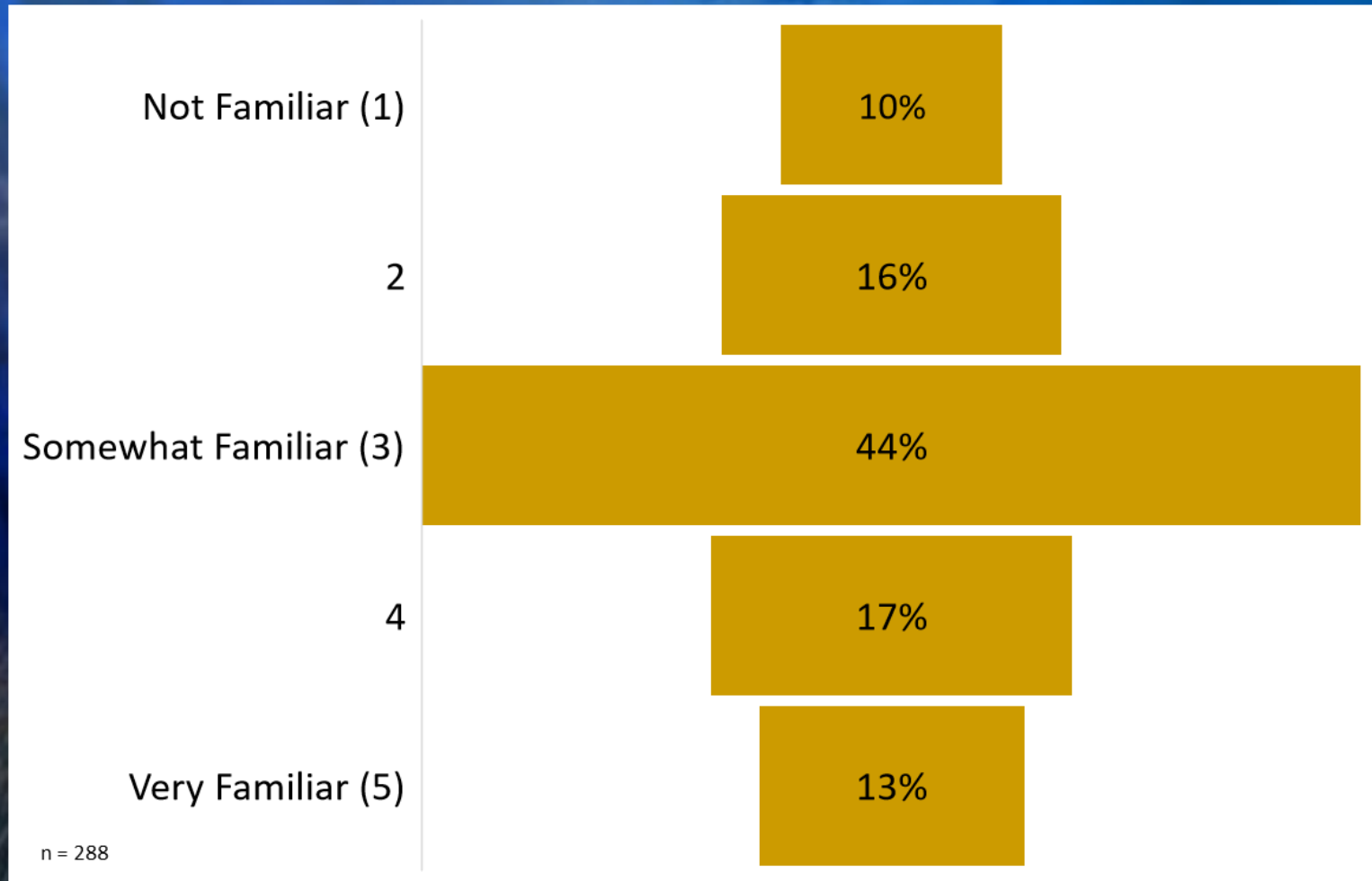
- Ditch companies
- Basin Roundtables
- Groundwater Districts

What should the Priorities of your local watershed management plan be?

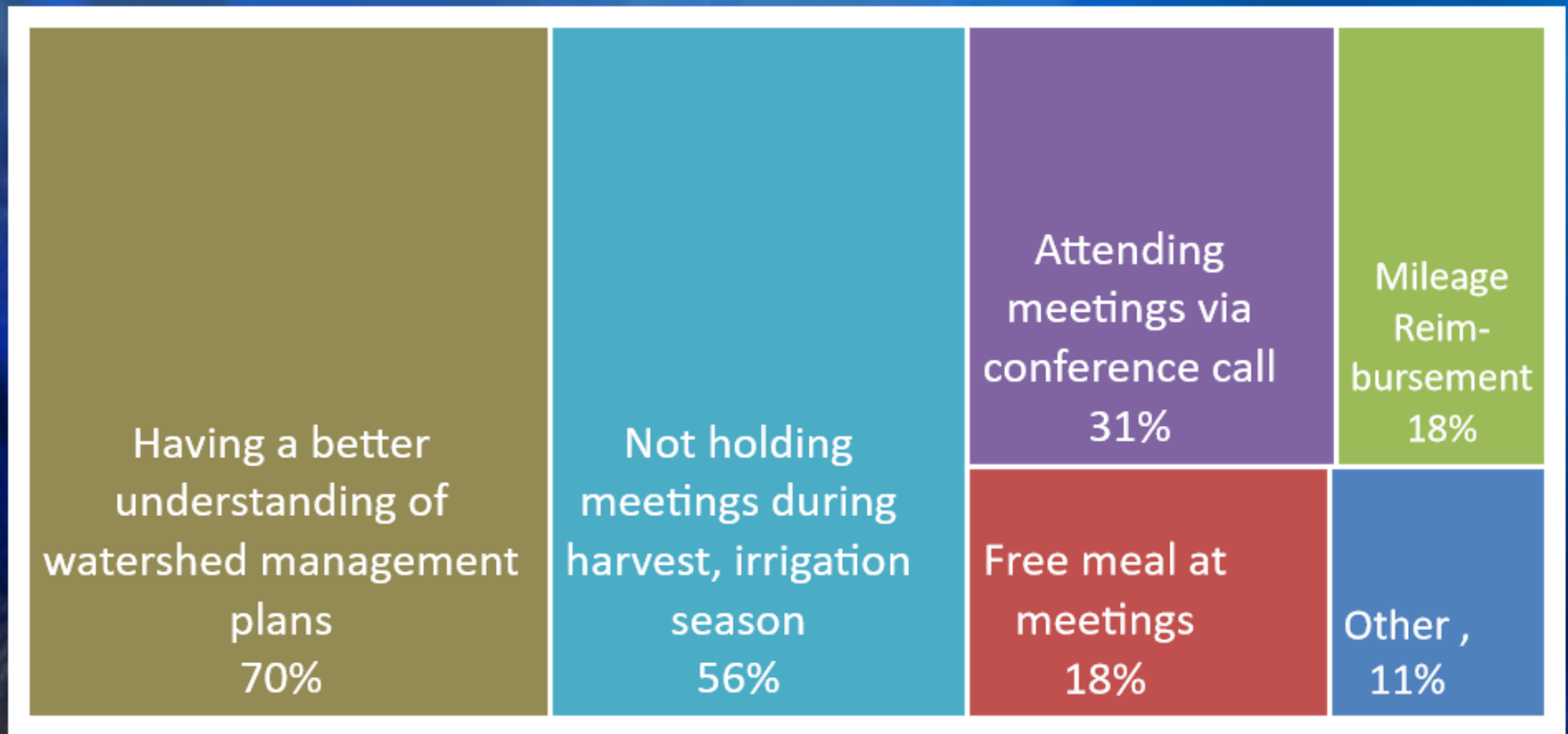


n = 288

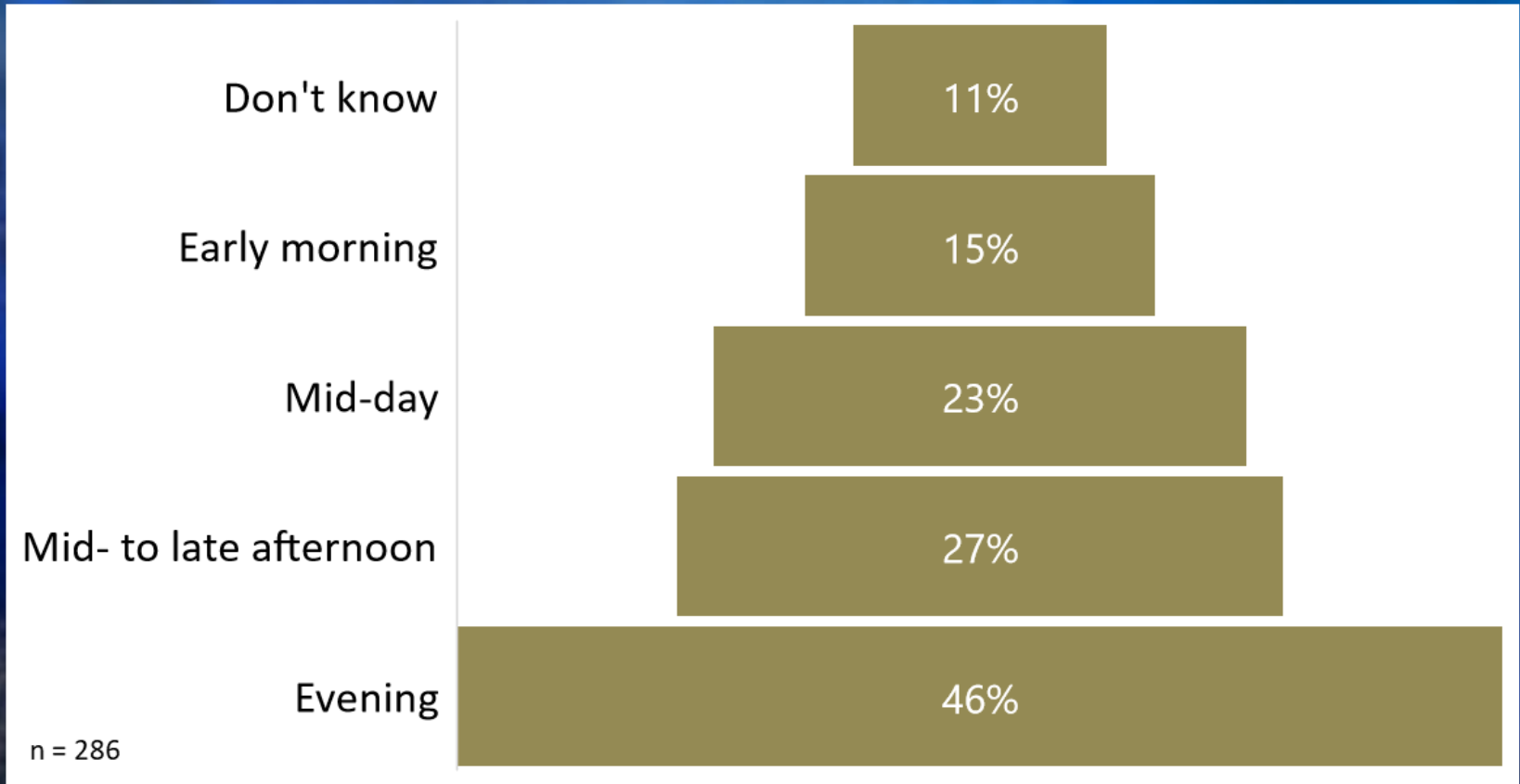
Rate your familiarity with what a Watershed Management Plan is and what it is intended to accomplish



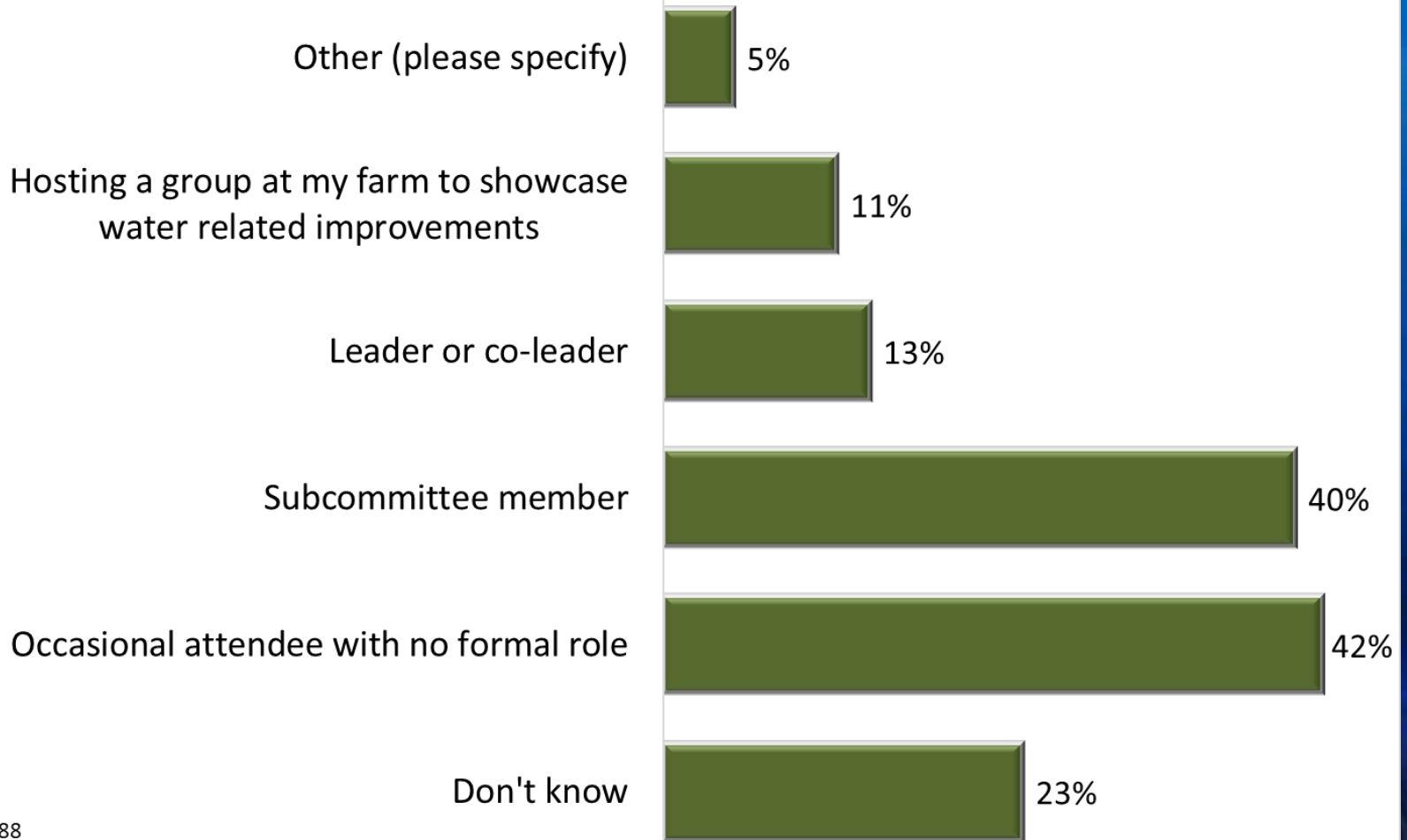
If you were to participate in watershed management planning meetings, which of the following would be helpful to you?



If you were to attend a watershed planning meeting, what time of day would work best for you to meet?



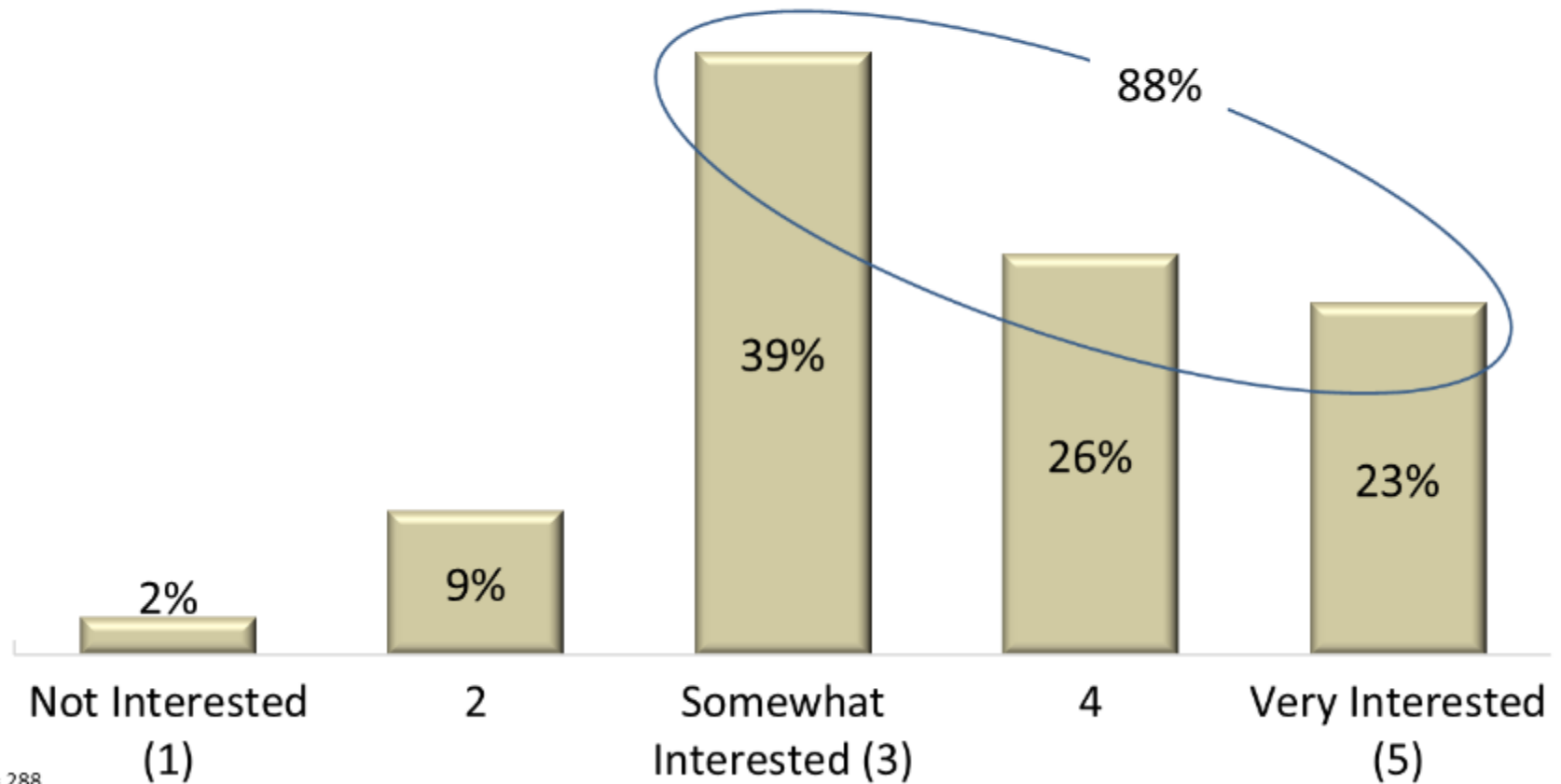
In what role would you like to serve if you participated in watershed or stream management planning activities?



n = 288

Last Question!..

Please rate your interest in participating in a local watershed management planning initiative:



n = 288

Summary of Producers Comments & Questions:

- More information is needed on watershed and stream management plans.
- Make it EASY to find out what is going on.
- Meetings: Short with well-defined objectives and timelines, and positive atmosphere.
- Avoid meeting during local calving, irrigation and harvest seasons.
- Avoid acronyms and jargon

Agricultural Water Rights:

- Address security of ag water rights and agricultural viability protection.
- Work on ag water leasing (ATMs).

Implementation:

- Reach watershed / stream project implementation phase sooner.

Potential multi-benefit project areas:

- Diversion structures incorporating fish passages
- Irrigation upgrades (reduced selenium, salinity in return flows)
- Channel improvement / bank stabilization
- Riparian area / floodplain improvement
- Groundwater recharge / aquifer sustainability planning
- Storage enhancement – can better enable ATMs
- Forest Health Assessment / Fire mitigation
- Drought Contingency / Demand Mgmt. Planning



Agricultural involvement is essential to achieving the goals, priorities and values of watershed and stream management plans!



Survey report and summary: www.agwaternet.org
Questions? Phil Brink (303) 475-3453 or phil@brinkinc.biz