

Comparative effects of animal agriculture on quality of life in surrounding communities

2008 Balancing Animal Agriculture and Communities
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COLLEGE OF
FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Presentation Goal

Briefly Explore critical aspects of
the evolving relationship between
agriculture & communities

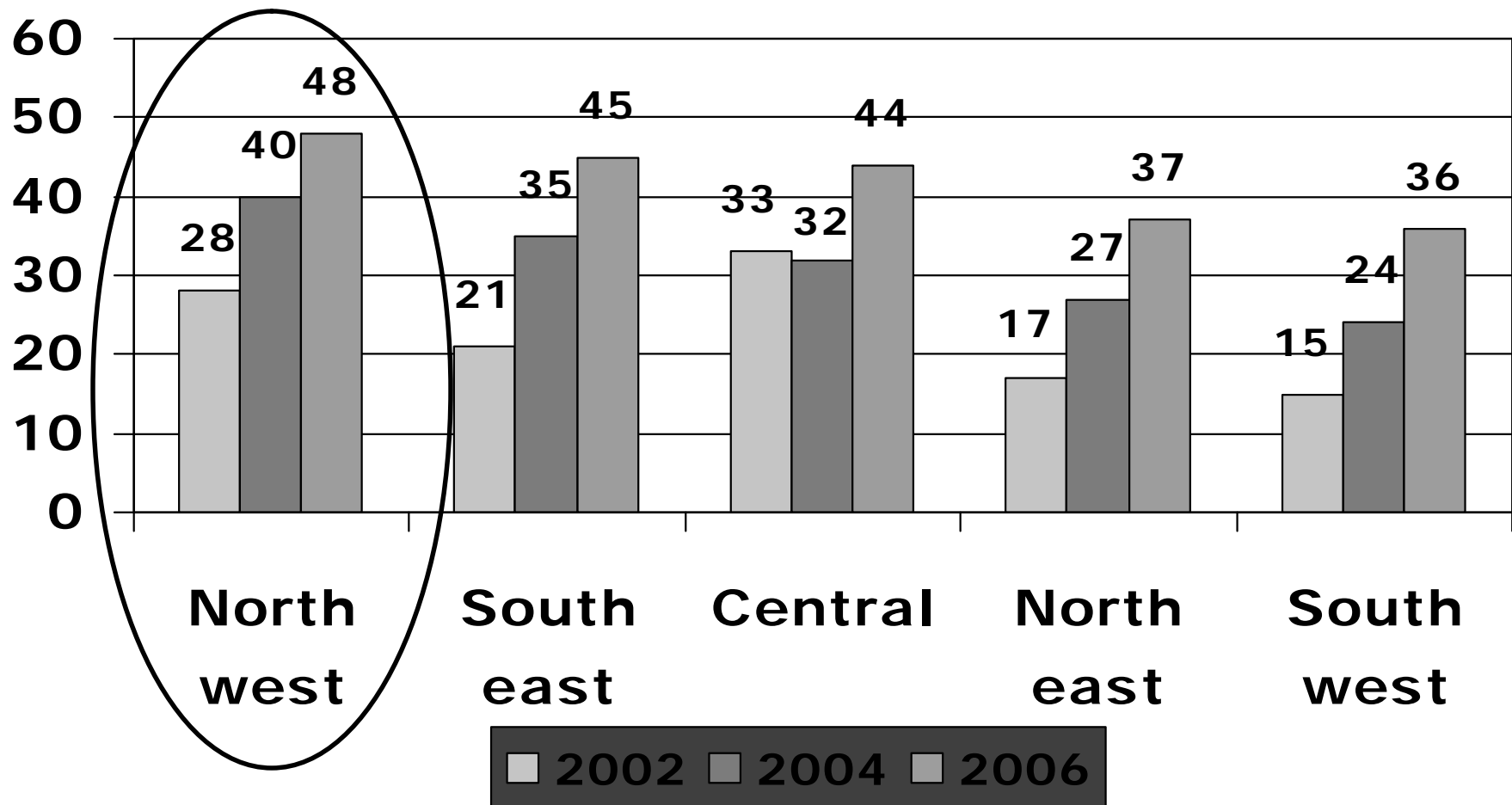
My context: Evolution of an Ohio Issue

Issue Concern (% Very Concerned)

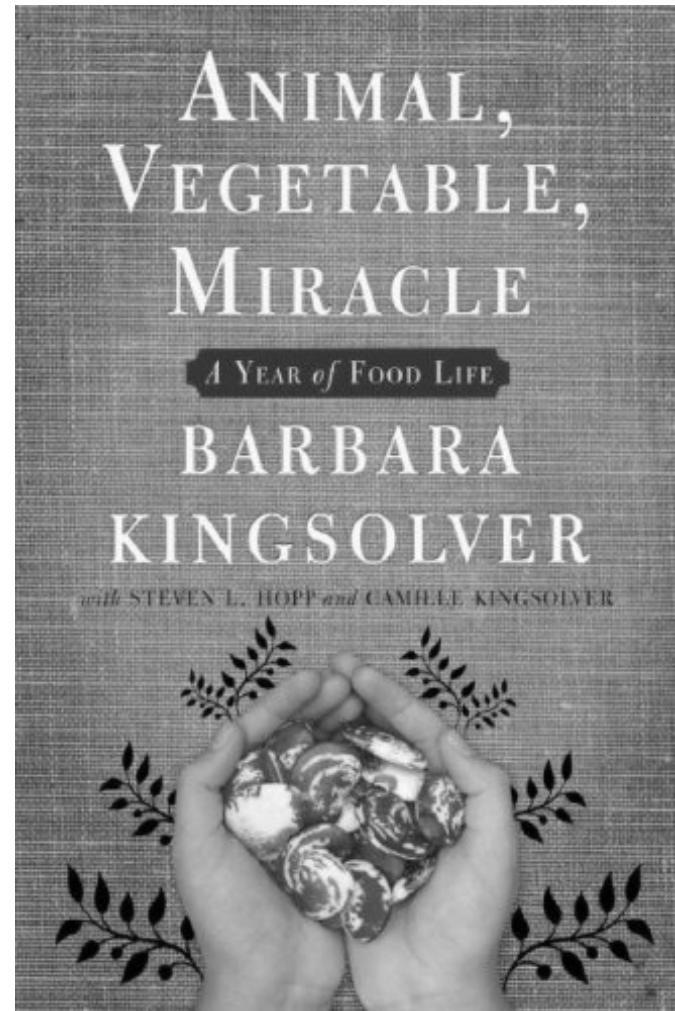
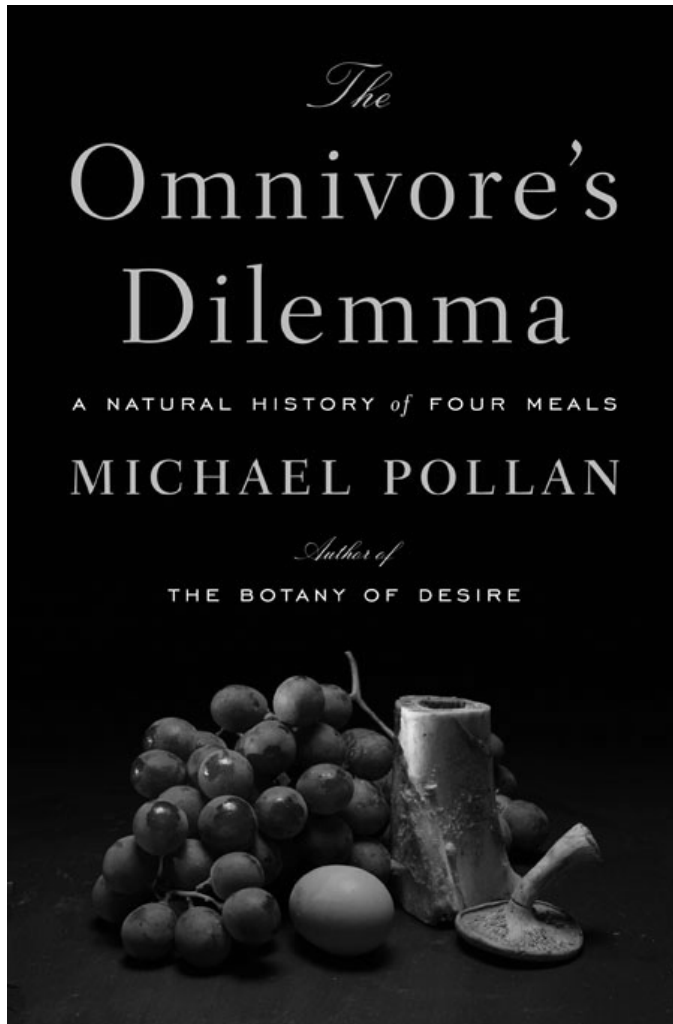
	2004	2006
Rising Obesity among Americans	69	73
Loss of Ohio jobs due to globalization	-	73
Pollution of rivers, streams or groundwater	65	72
Avian Influenza (Bird flu)	-	57
Mad cow disease	42	51
Global Warming	29	41
Large-scale poultry/livestock development	29	40

Concern about Large-scale Livestock by Ohio region, 2002-06*

(% Very Concerned)



*Response options changed between 2002 & 2004



Impacts & Animal Agriculture Development

Impact Assessment Framework

- ✍ Several classes of impacts
- ✍ Temporal variability in impacts
- ✍ Geographic scale differences

- ✍ Important goal of impact assessment: Seek to ameliorate potentially negative impacts

Categories of Impacts

- ✍ Physical
- ✍ Economic
- ✍ Cultural
- ✍ Political/Legal
- ✍ Social
- ✍ Psychological

What I am unable to answer

Why conflict in some places and not others?

What I can try to answer

Are there ways that we might build stronger communities to manage change and develop local agriculture?

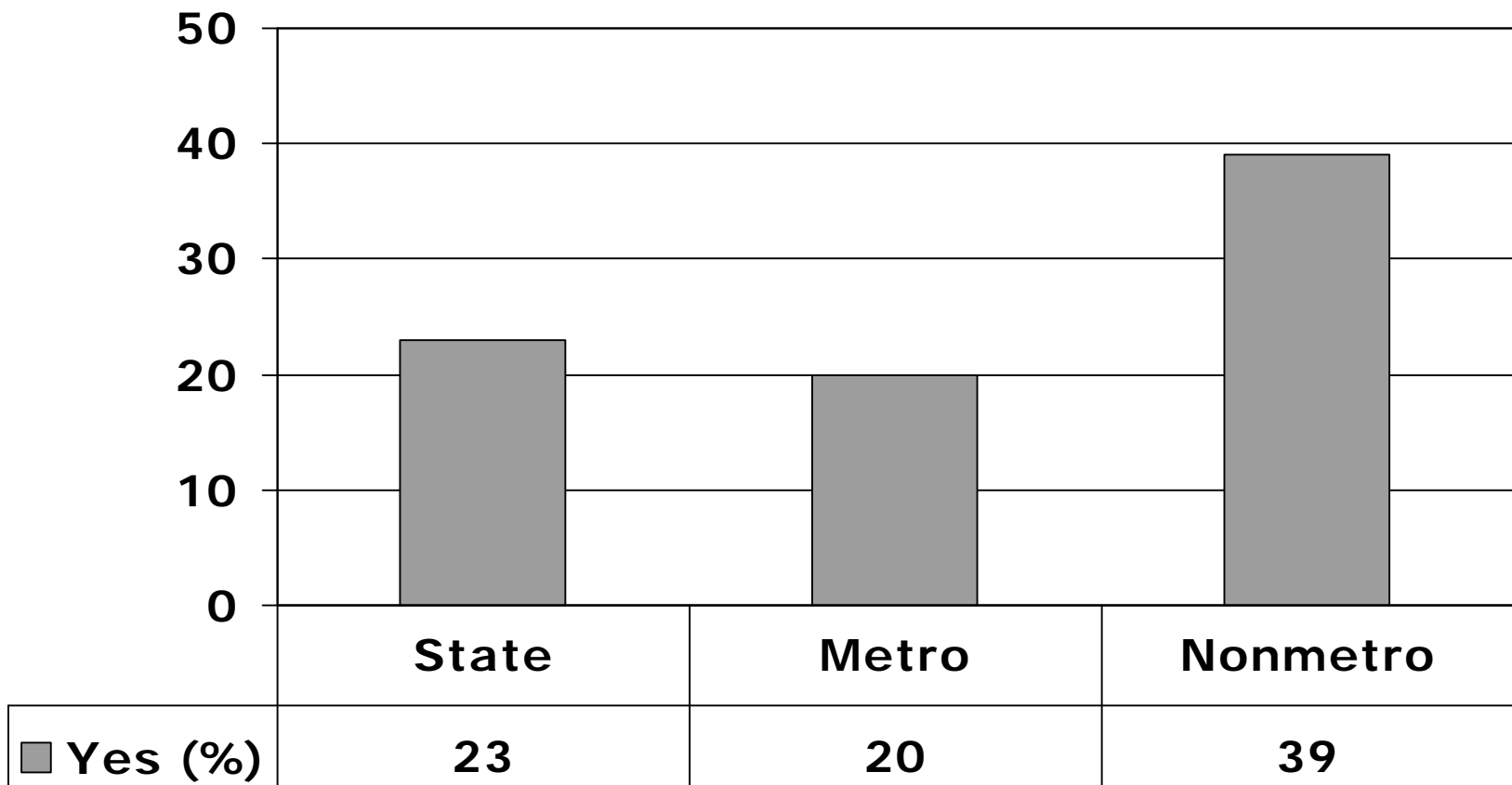
Data Source

- ✍ Ohio example may parallel Michigan
- ✍ Biennial Ohio Survey of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Issues (2002-2006)
 - ✍ 2006 Mail survey returned from 1,729 Ohioans (55% response rate)
 - ✍ Just over 3 percent of respondents resided on a farm

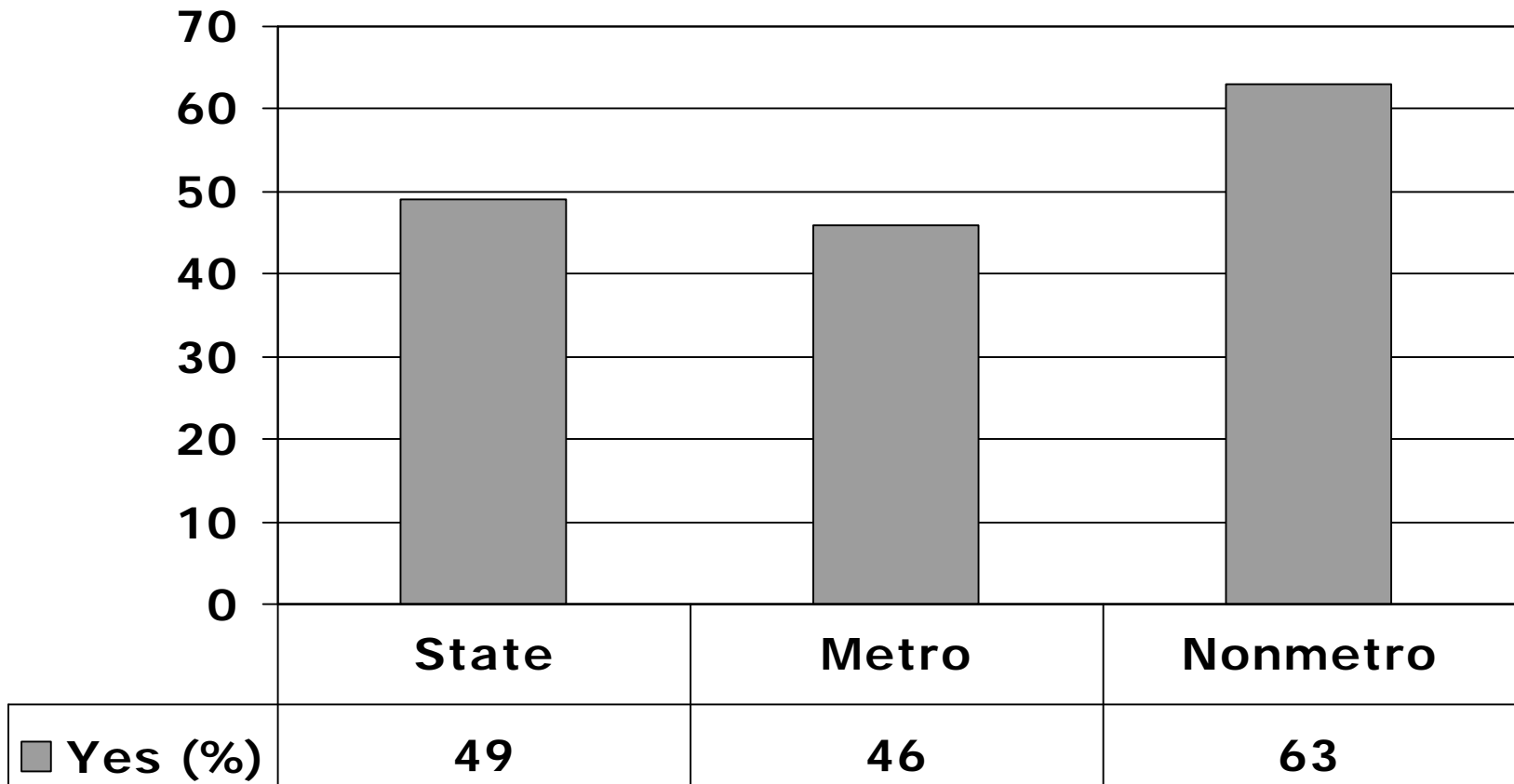
Society & Agriculture

Increasing Social
Distance

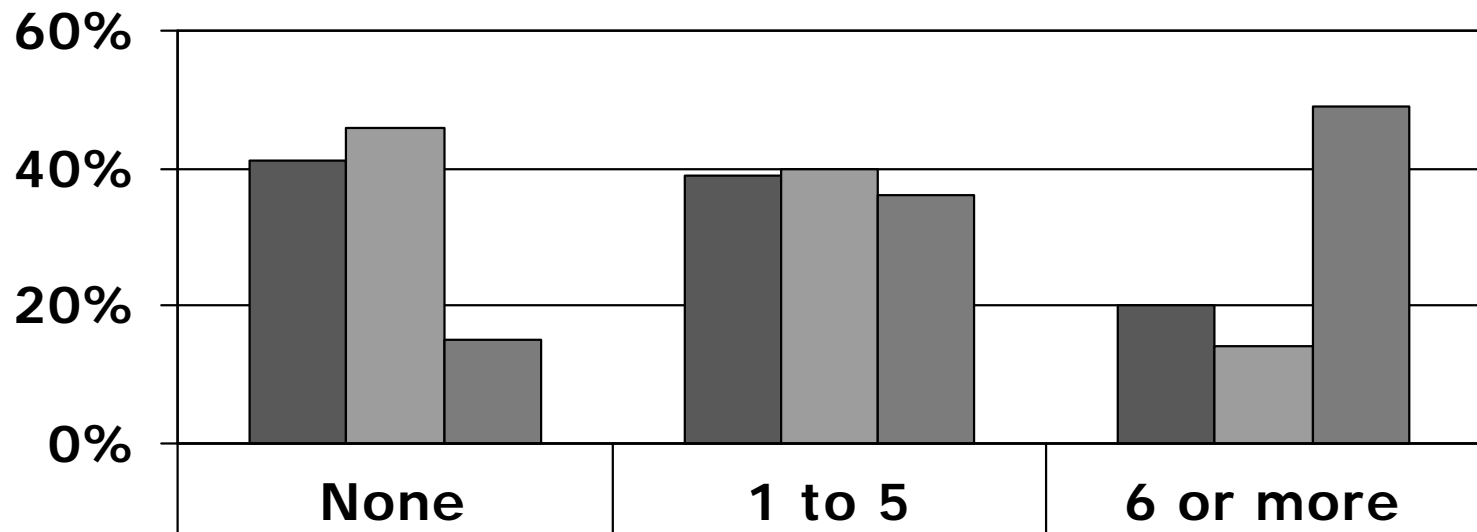
Parents ever owned or operated a farm



Grandparents ever owned or operated a farm



Number of farmers known

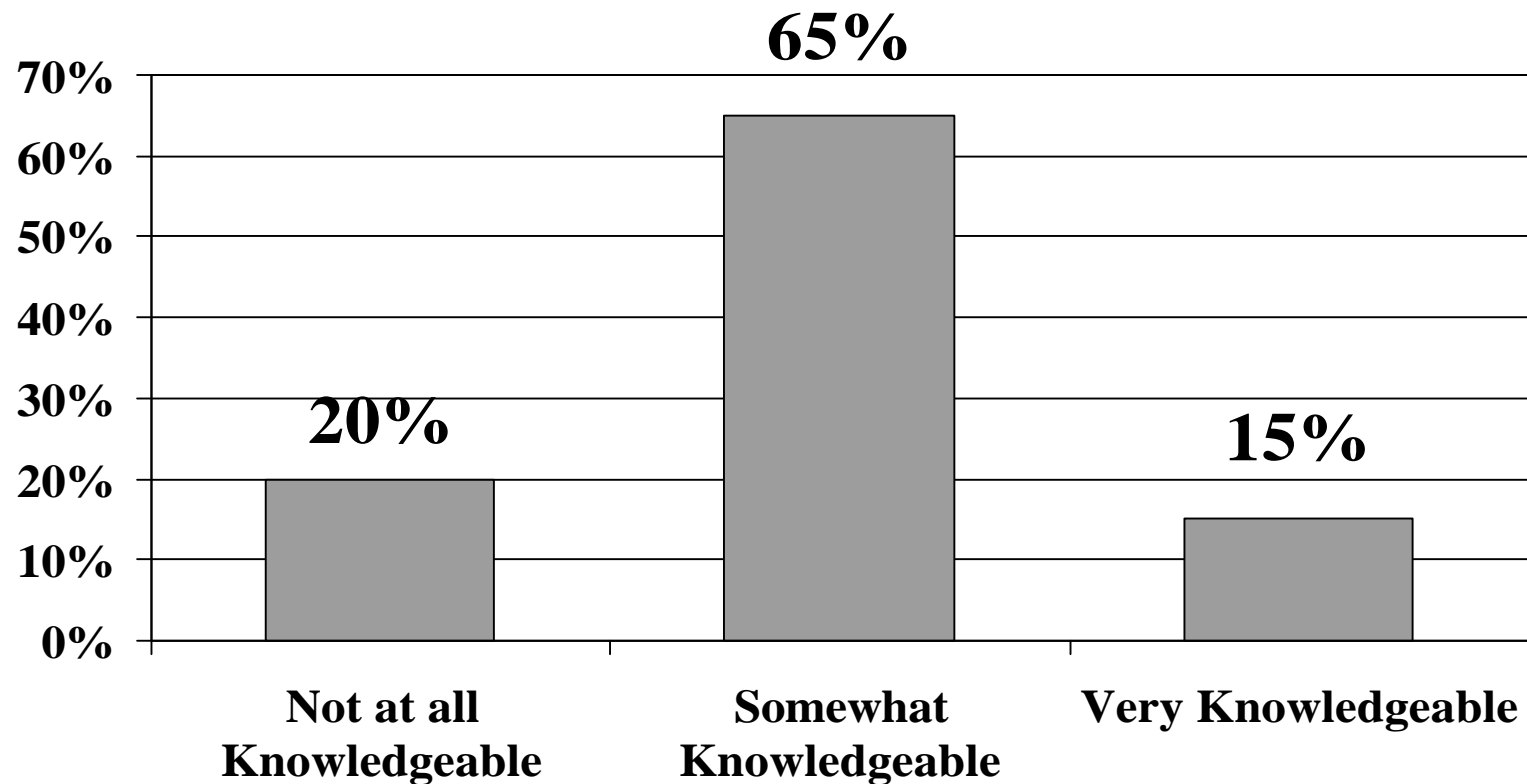


■ State	41%	39%	20%
■ Metro	46%	40%	14%
■ Nonmetro	15%	36%	49%

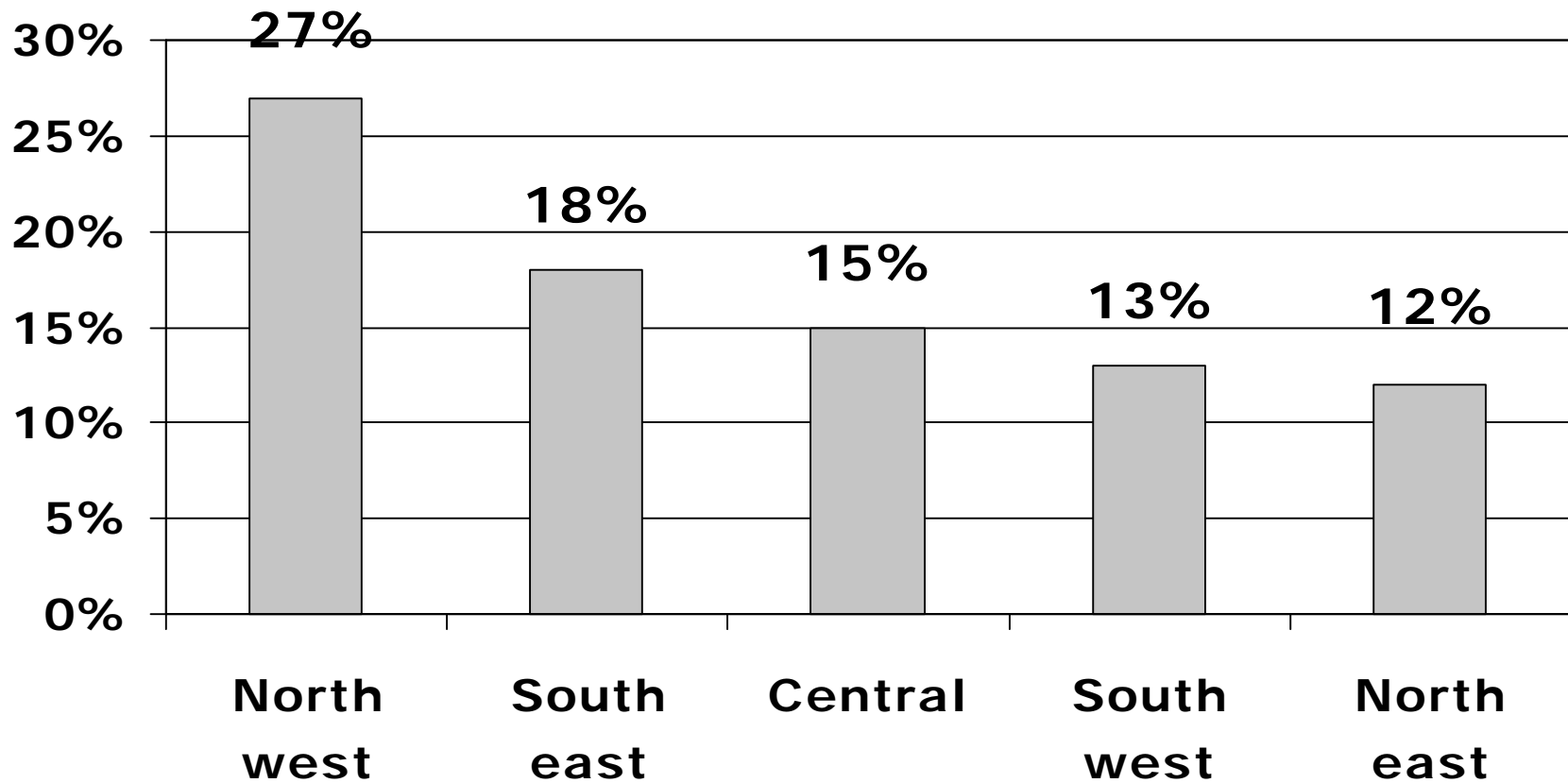
Society & Agriculture

Agricultural
Knowledge

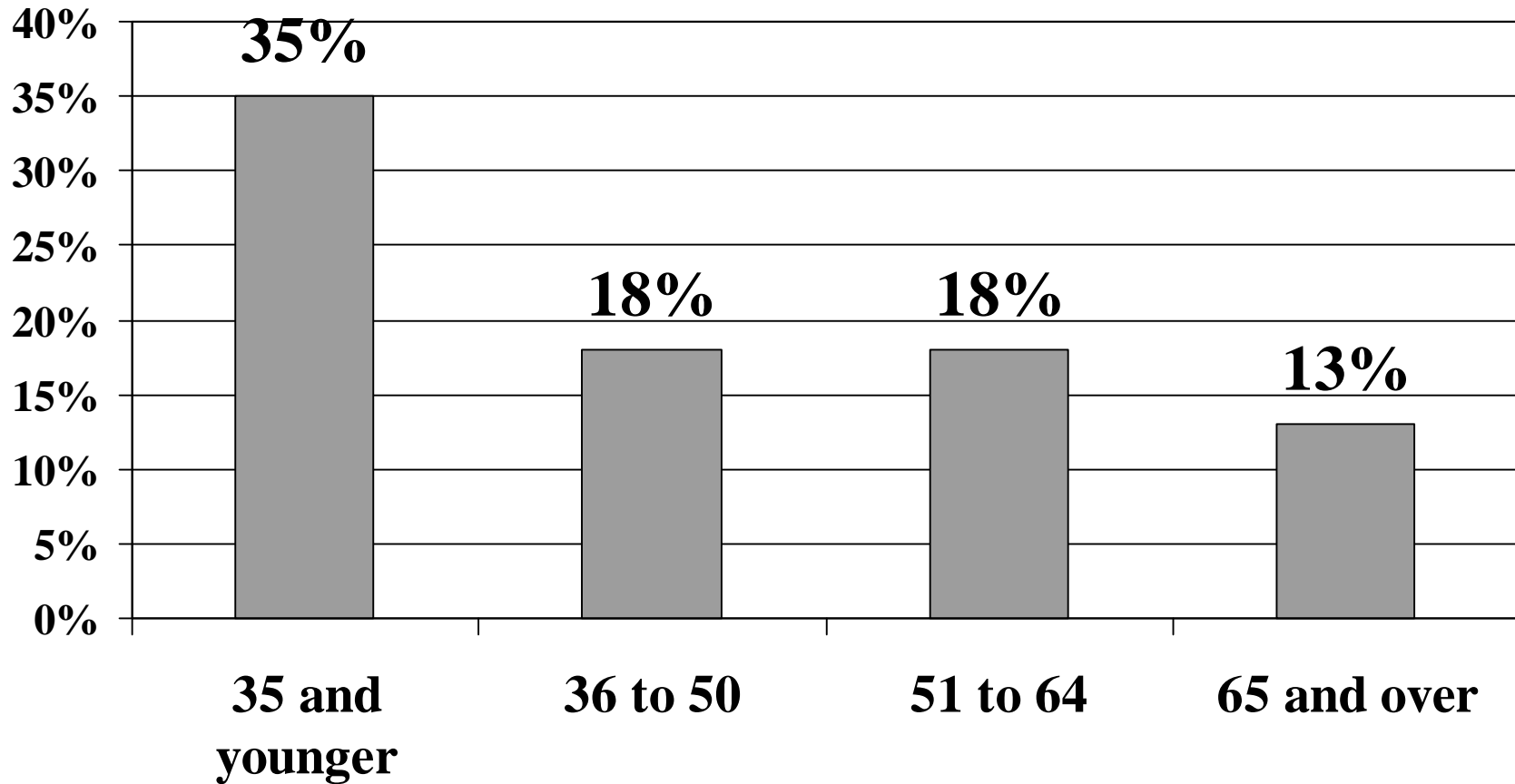
Self-reported level of knowledge about how or where food is grown



Percent “Very Knowledgeable” by region



Percent “Not at all knowledgeable” by Age



Society & Agriculture

Public Views of Farming

Views of Farming

- ✍ Overall, farming positively contributes to the quality of life in Ohio
 - ✍ 2006: 88 percent agree or strongly agree
 - ✍ 2004: 90 percent
 - ✍ 2002: 92 percent

Ag & Economy

- ✍ Ohio's Economy will suffer if the state continues to lose farmers
 - ✍ 2006: 84 percent agree or strongly agree
 - ✍ 2004: 85 percent
 - ✍ 2002: 80 percent

Views of Farmers

- ✍ I trust Ohio farmers to protect the environment
 - ✍ 2006: 63 percent agree or strongly agree
 - ✍ 2004: 67 percent
 - ✍ 2002: 60 percent

Livestock Facilities & Rural Quality of Life

✍ Large-scale poultry and livestock production facilities in rural areas are a threat to rural quality of life.*

✍ 22% Strongly Disagreed or Disagreed

✍ 19% Undecided

✍ 59% Agreed or Strongly Agreed

*Findings from 2002, responses from only those indicating familiarity with the issues

Regulation & Livestock Production

✍ There needs to be increased regulation of livestock production in Ohio to protect the environment.

✍ 17% Strongly Disagreed or Disagreed

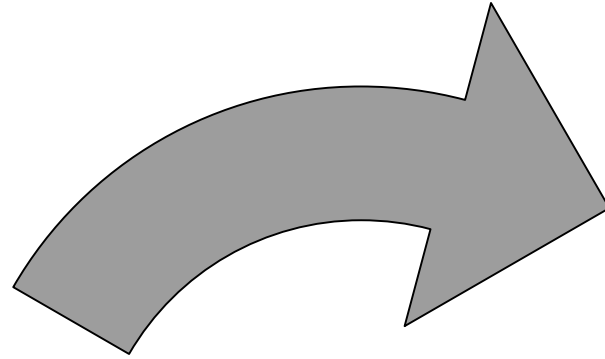
✍ 26% Undecided

✍ 57% Agreed or Strongly Agreed

Livestock & the Economy

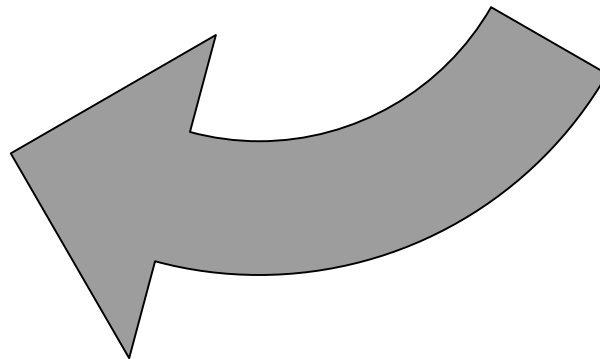
- ✍ Large-scale livestock facilities positively contribute to the economy of Ohio
 - ✍ 13% Strongly Disagreed or Disagreed
 - ✍ 27% Undecided
 - ✍ 60% Agreed or Strongly Agreed

**Opportunity or Threat?
Farmers, Community & the
Environment**



Community

Agriculture



The Farmer

A New Hat: Public Relations &
Communications

Does neighboring have an impact?

- ✍ Nonfarmers who frequently meet a farmer or report high levels of trust of farmers also report:
 - ✍ Higher levels of support of local agriculture
 - ✍ Greater support of farmland preservation
 - ✍ Less frequent annoyances with farmers
 - ✍ Less support for more regulations of agriculture

The Community

Together at the Table

Community Social Capital

- ✍ How well are farm and nonfarm interests organizationally connected in the community?
 - ✍ Historic pattern of farming as separate and special?
- ✍ Current study: early finding that community social capital that connects farm and nonfarm interests enables more successful agricultural adaptation

Give & Take

- ✍ Finding common ground & making space for animal agriculture
 - ✍ Rethinking land-use policy
 - ✍ Balancing a bifurcated farming structure
 - ✍ Agricultural Economic Development

Three concluding thoughts

**#1: Agriculture Enjoys
Widespread Public Support**

Generational transitions

**#2: Neighboring—
Farmer/Nonfarmer
Relationships Matter**

#3: A New Paradigm of Farming & Community:

**Mutually limiting and
uplifting**

Questions?

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