

# CCA / Partners for Western Conservation Ag Water NetWORK

Goal: Keeping Ag Water Connected with  
Ag Land

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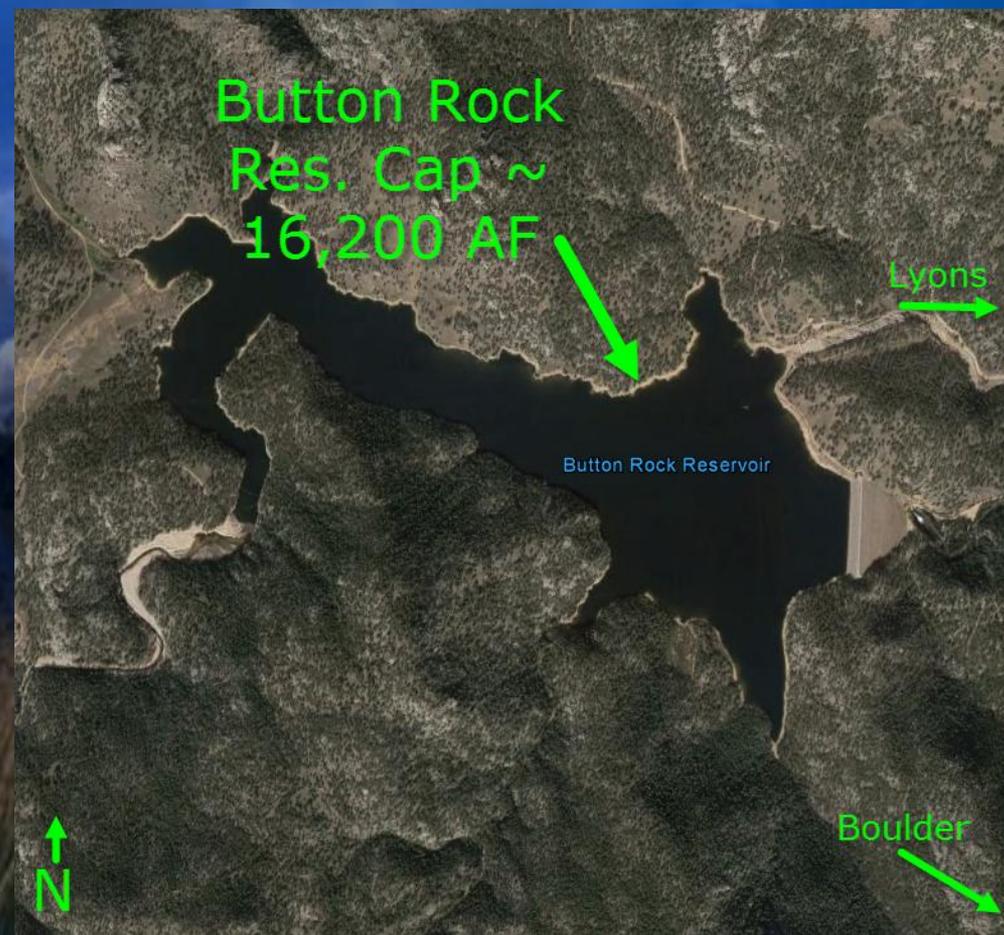


What Colorado town is this?

Hints: It's named after a mountain, and it's home to about 100,000 residents.



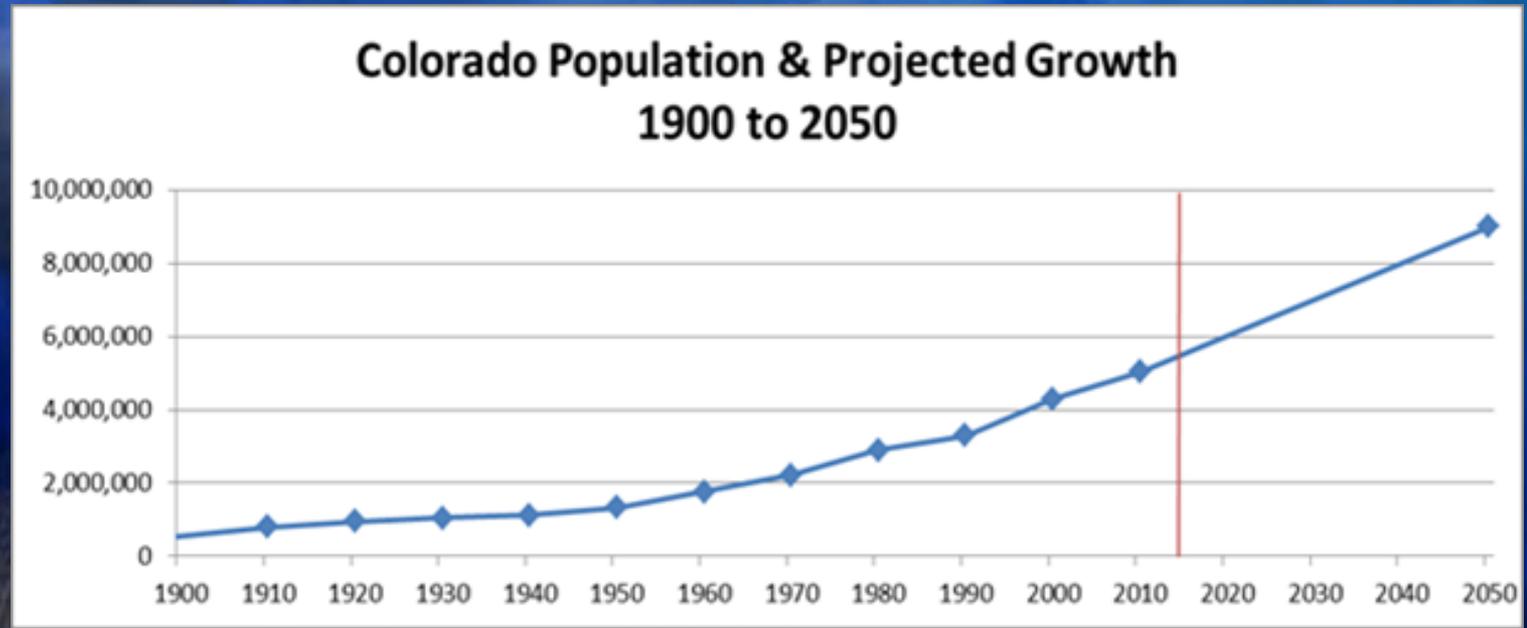
Longmont Water Use: 2010 = 16,258 AF  
Approx. equal to Button Rock Reservoir



\* Source: City of Longmont Water Demand Evaluation report; Jan. 2012

## State Water Plan – November, 2015

- Population: up to 10M by 2050
- M & I water gap: 560,000 AF / yr



- 500K to 700K irrig. acres lost if no changes

## State Water Plan (continued...)

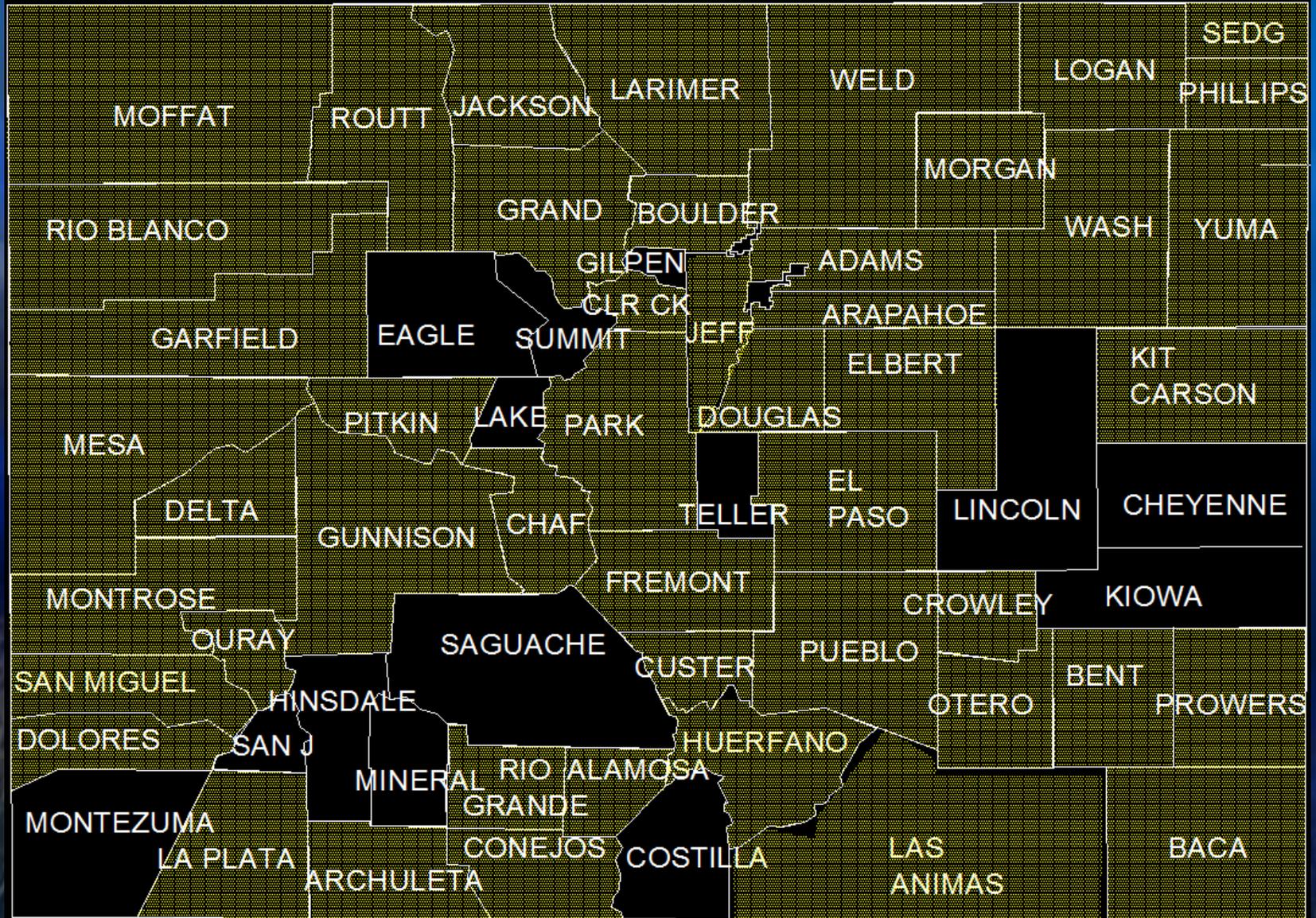
- Identifies 3 methods to close the demand - supply gap
  1. Conservation
  2. Storage
  3. Ag water leasing (goal: 50,000 AF / yr)

Ag water leasing represent opportunity to preserve irrigated agriculture in Colorado

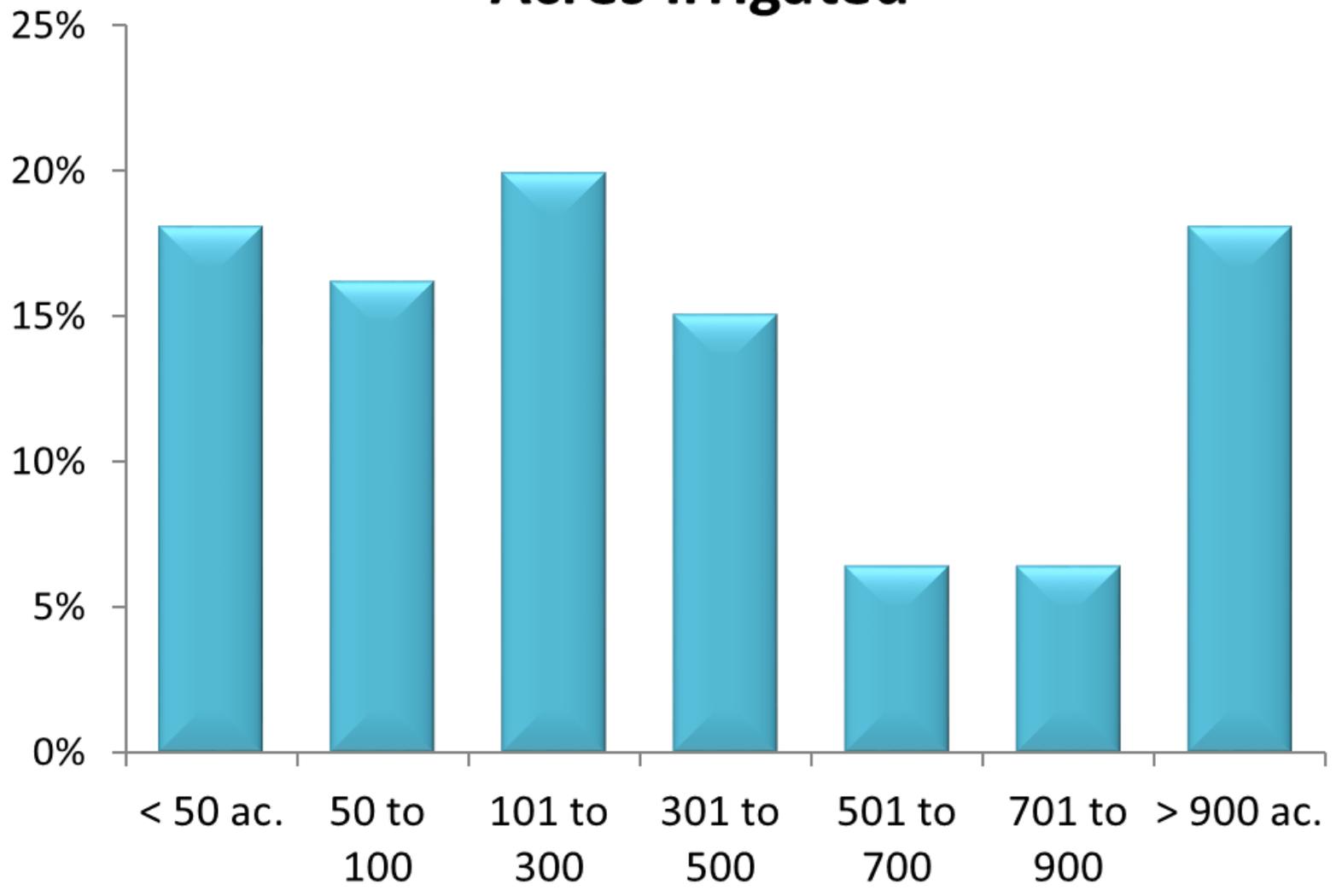
Ag water survey:

- Web-based
- Collaboration with Colorado Corn, CLA, CPPC, Ag Council, CAWA, TNC, individuals
- 25 questions + comment section
- 260+ returned surveys

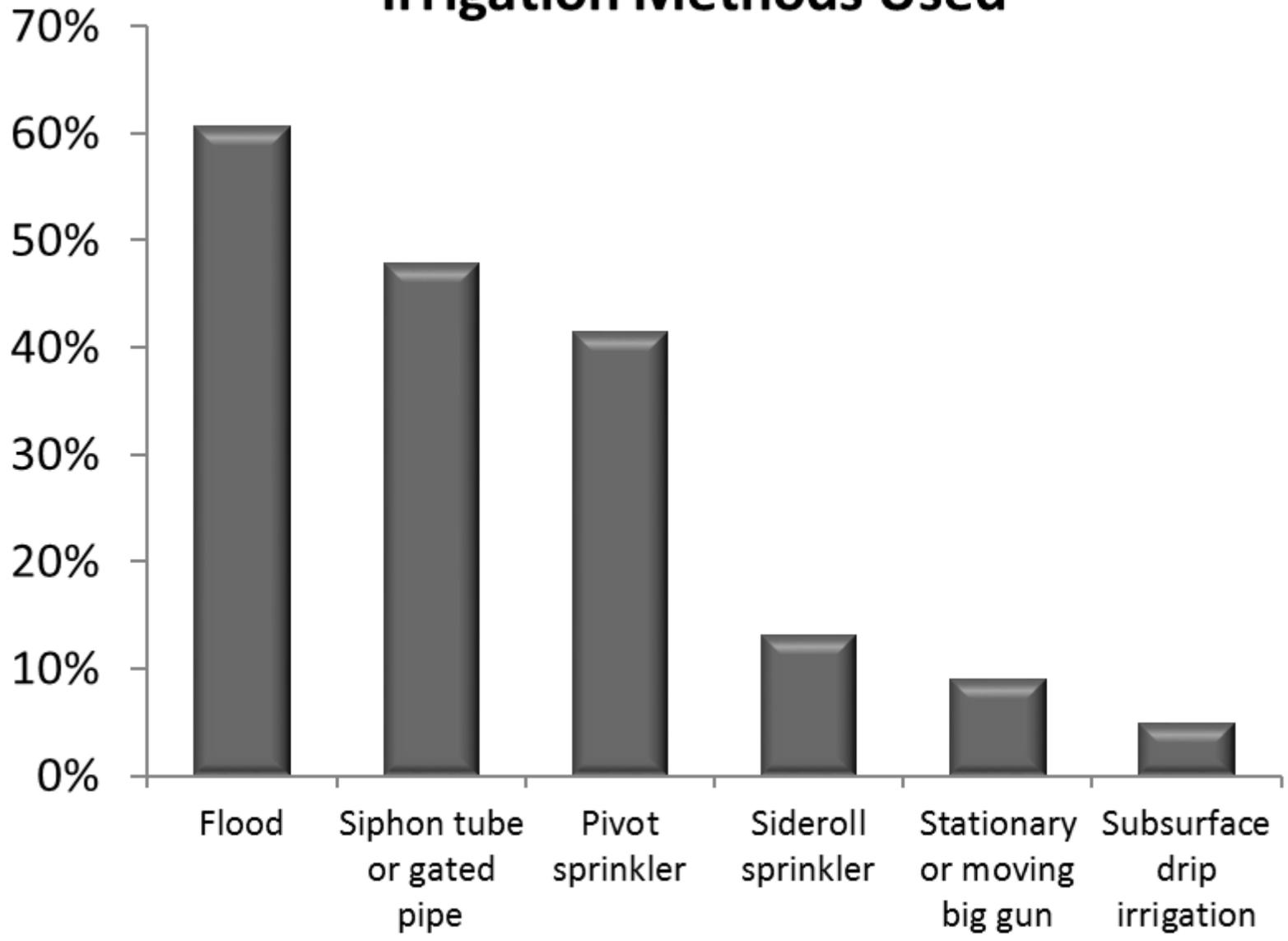
# Survey Responses



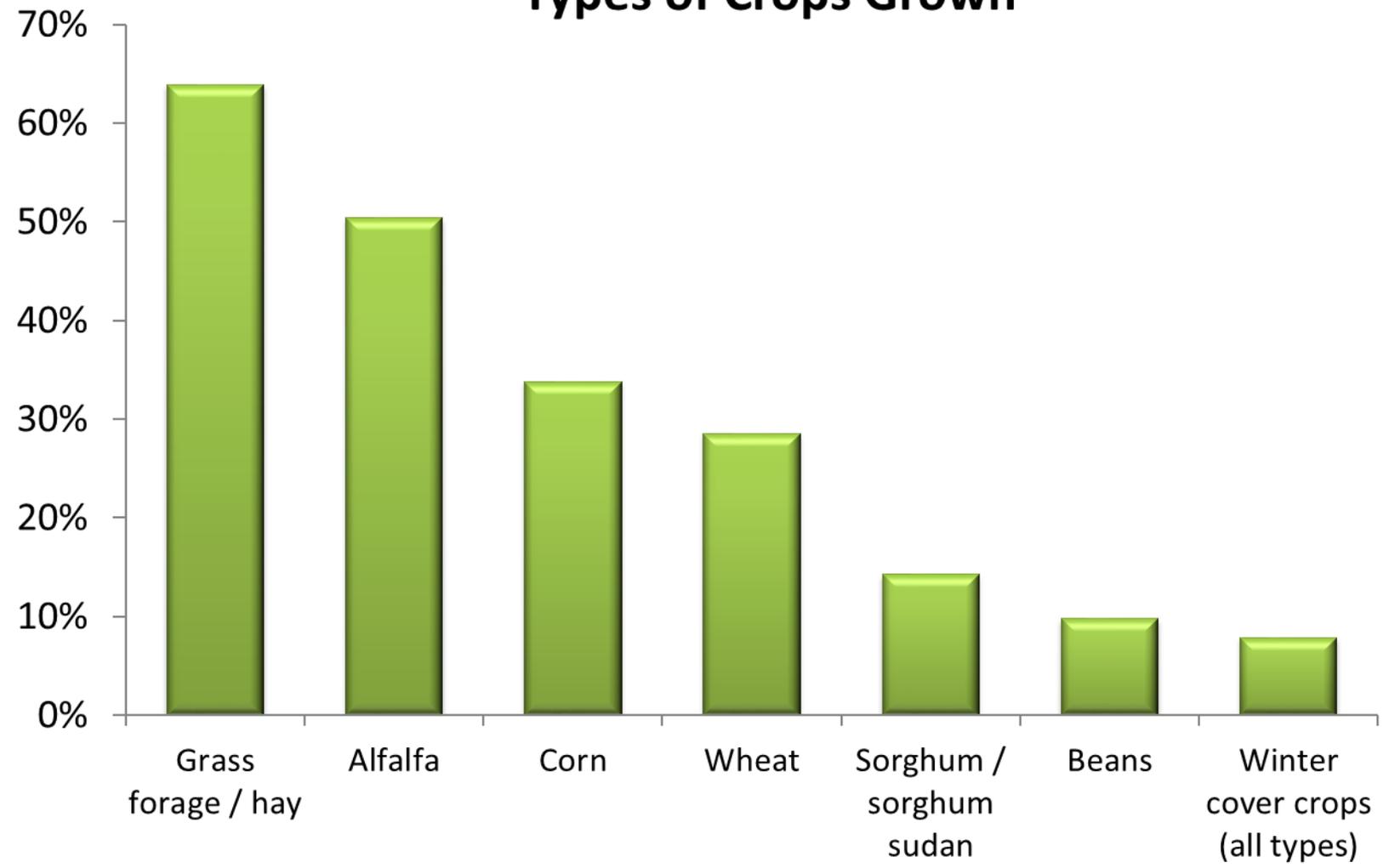
## Acres Irrigated



### Irrigation Methods Used

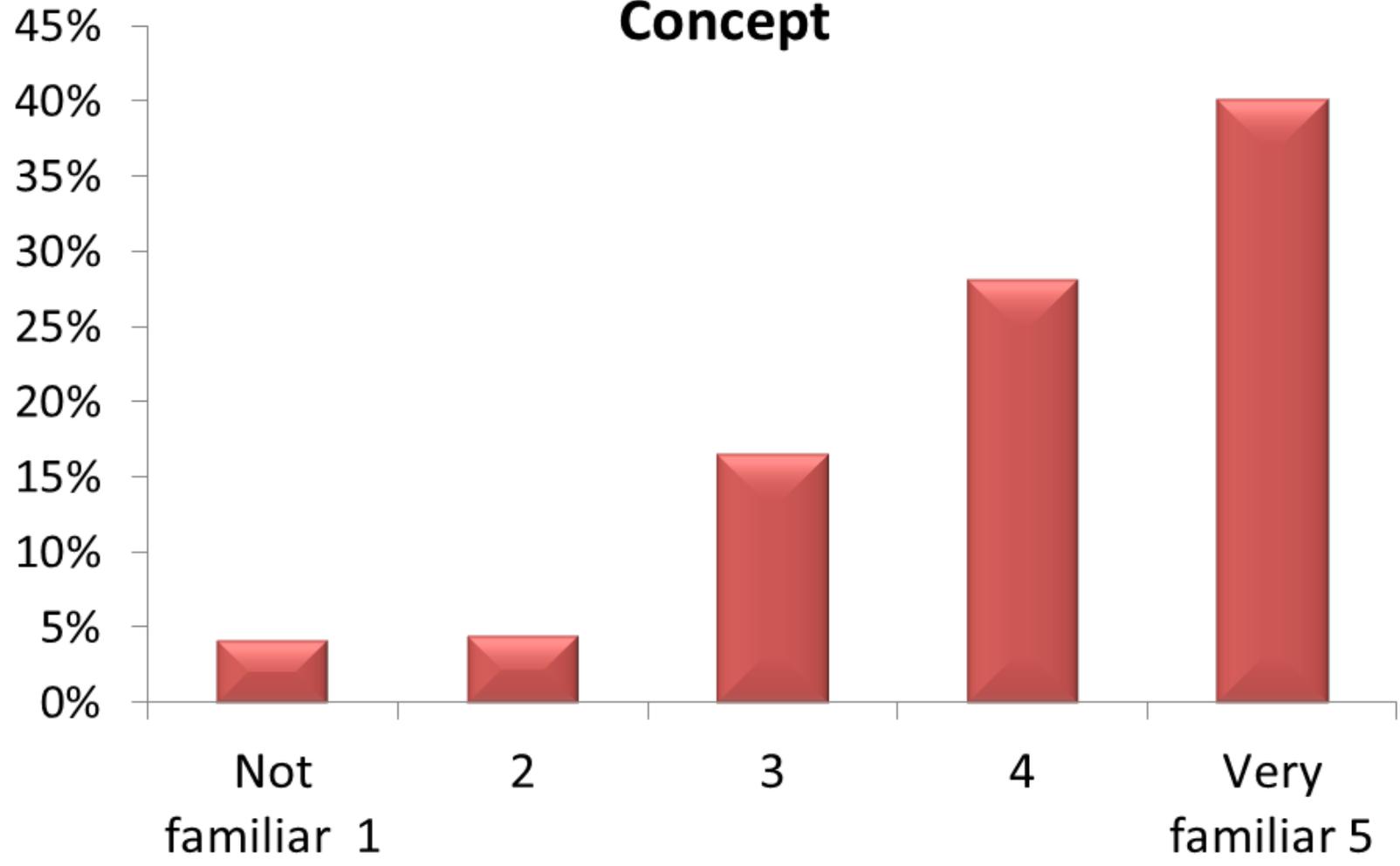


### Types of Crops Grown \*



\* Other crops included truck crops, barley, beets, potatoes, onions, fruit crops, other specialty crops

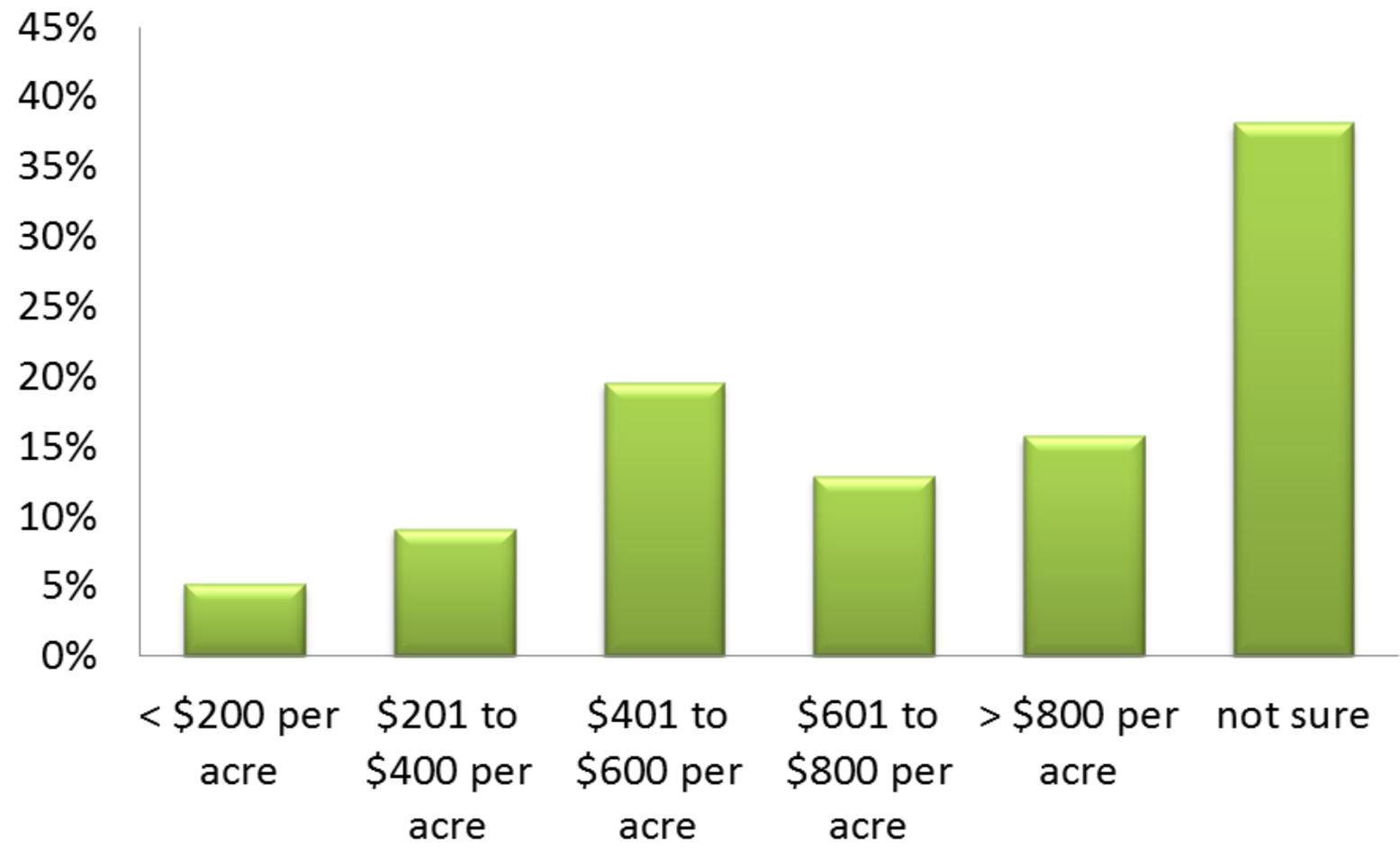
### Familiarity with "Consumptive Use" Concept



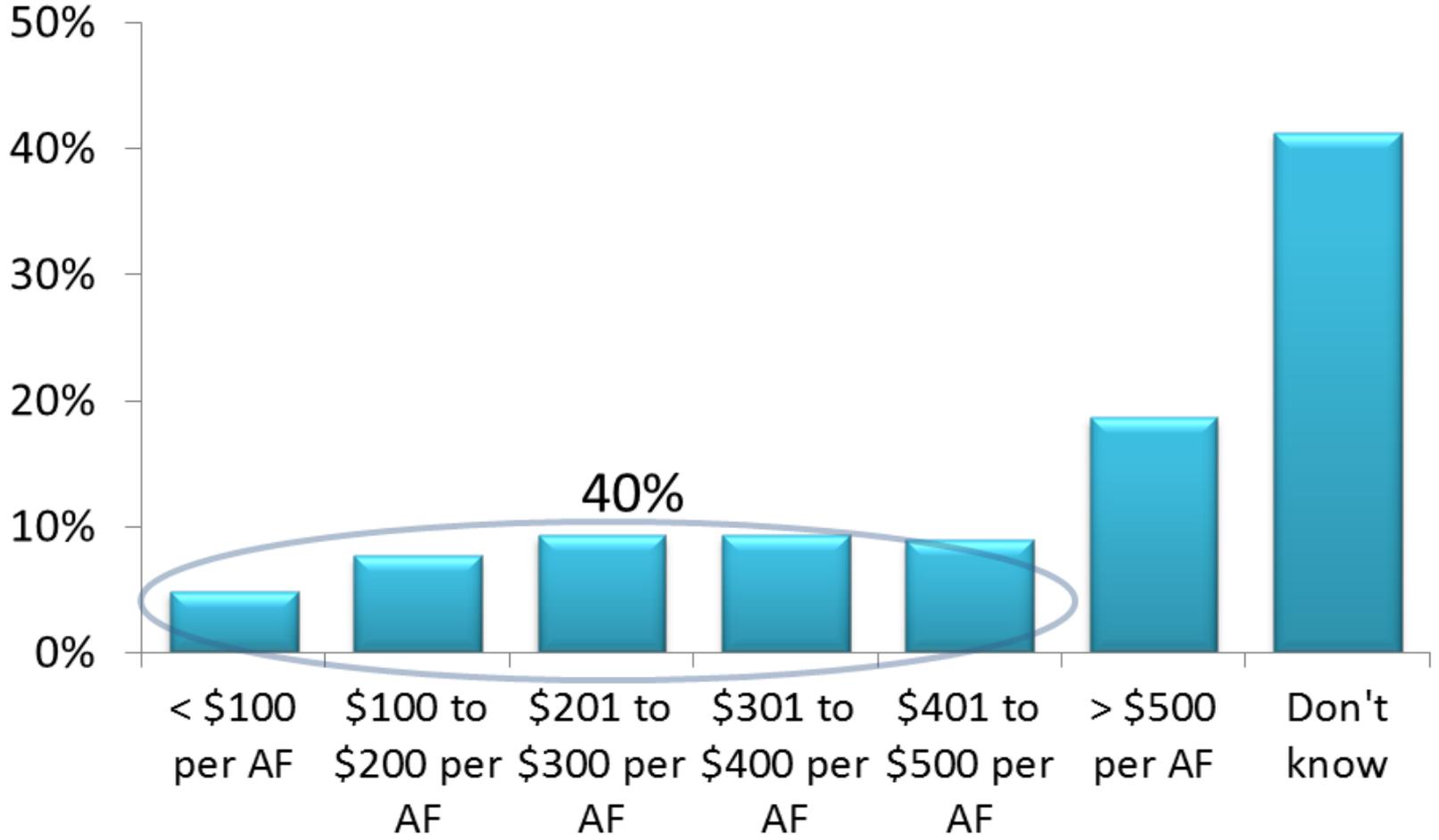
## Preferred Type of Ag Water Lease Arrangement



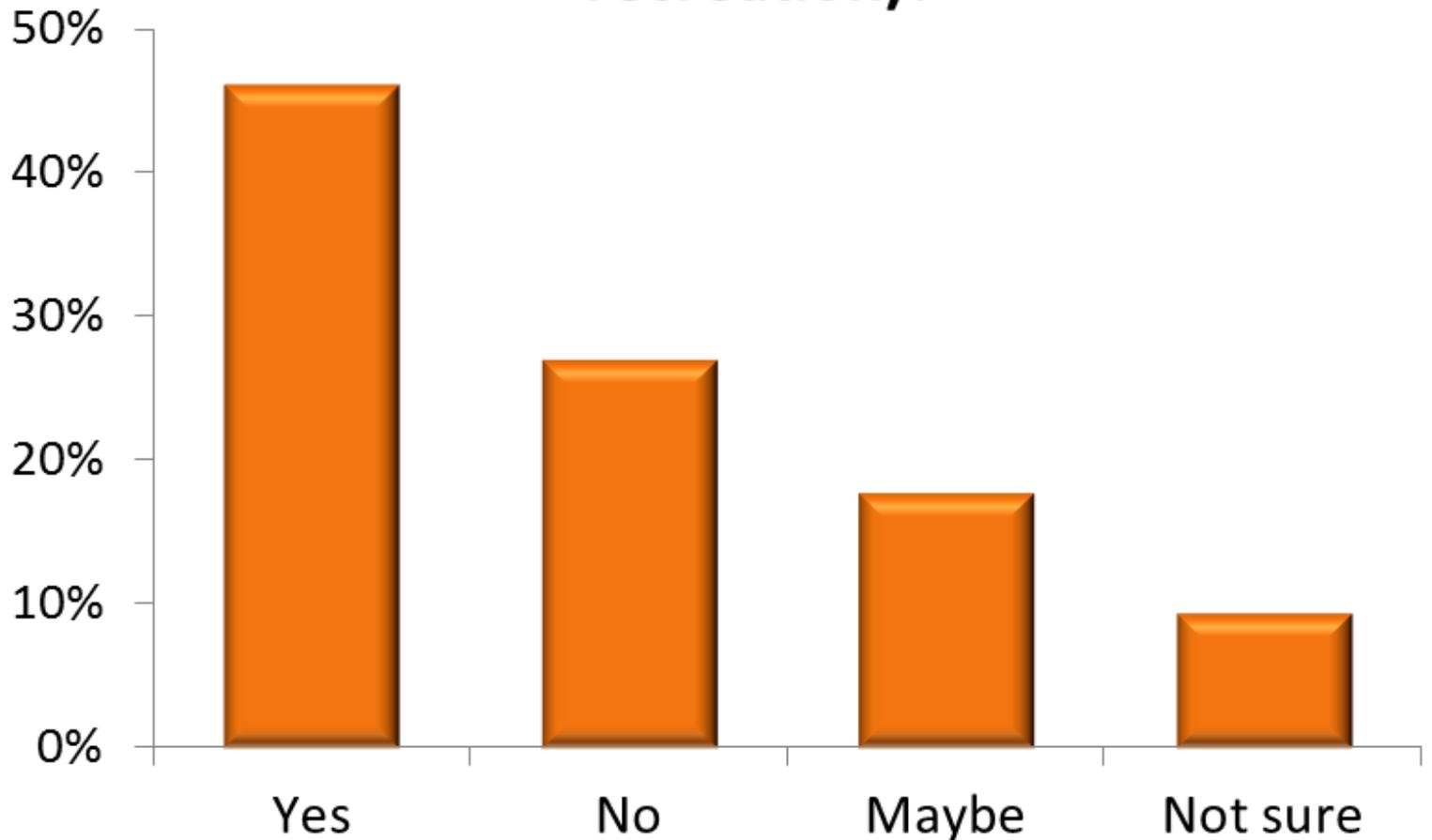
## Fair Payment for Leased CU Water on a per Acre Basis?



## Fair Payment for Leased CU Water ? (per Acre-Foot Basis)



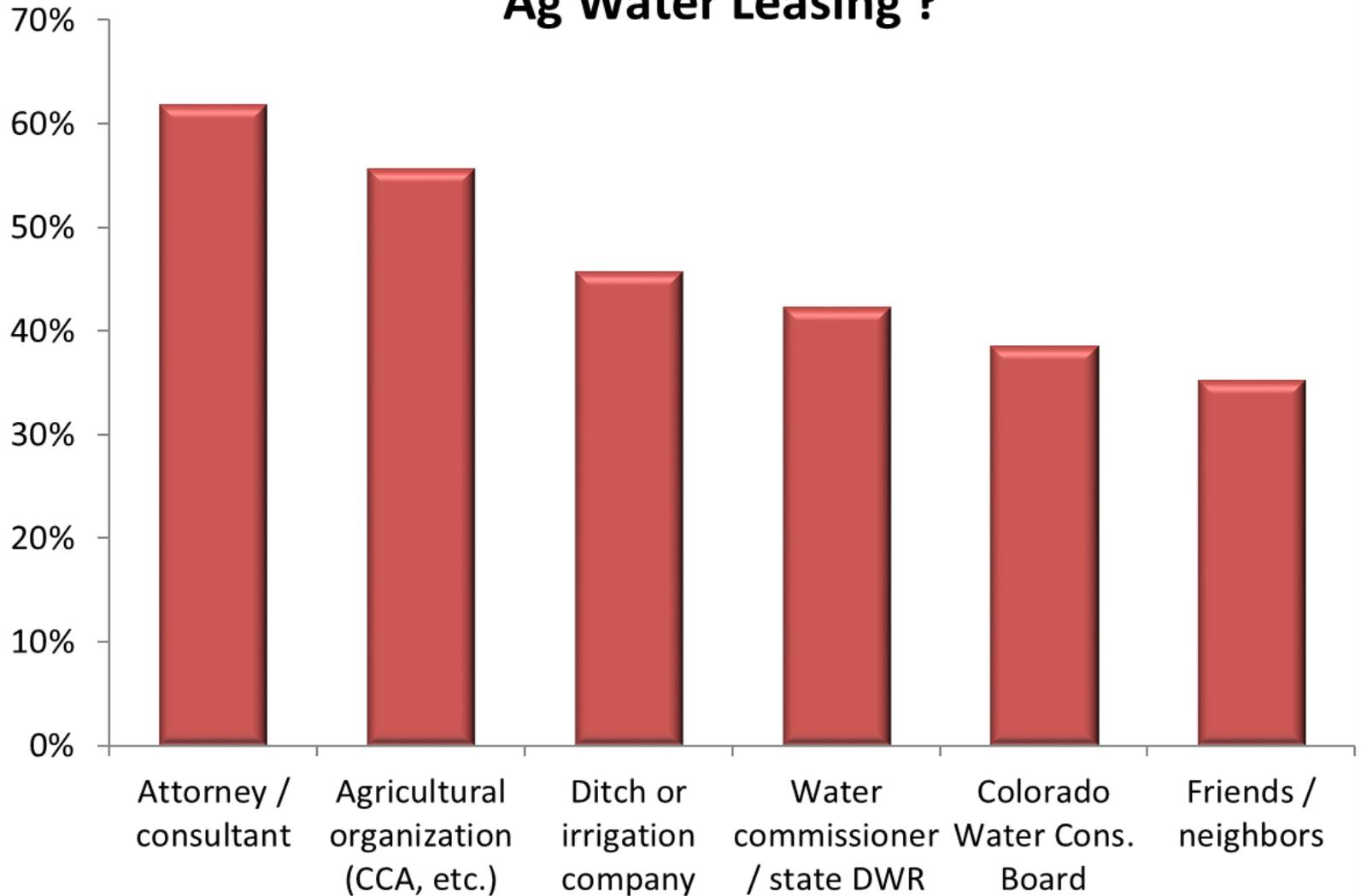
## Does it Matter How the Leased Water is Used (ie. M & I, environment, recreation)?



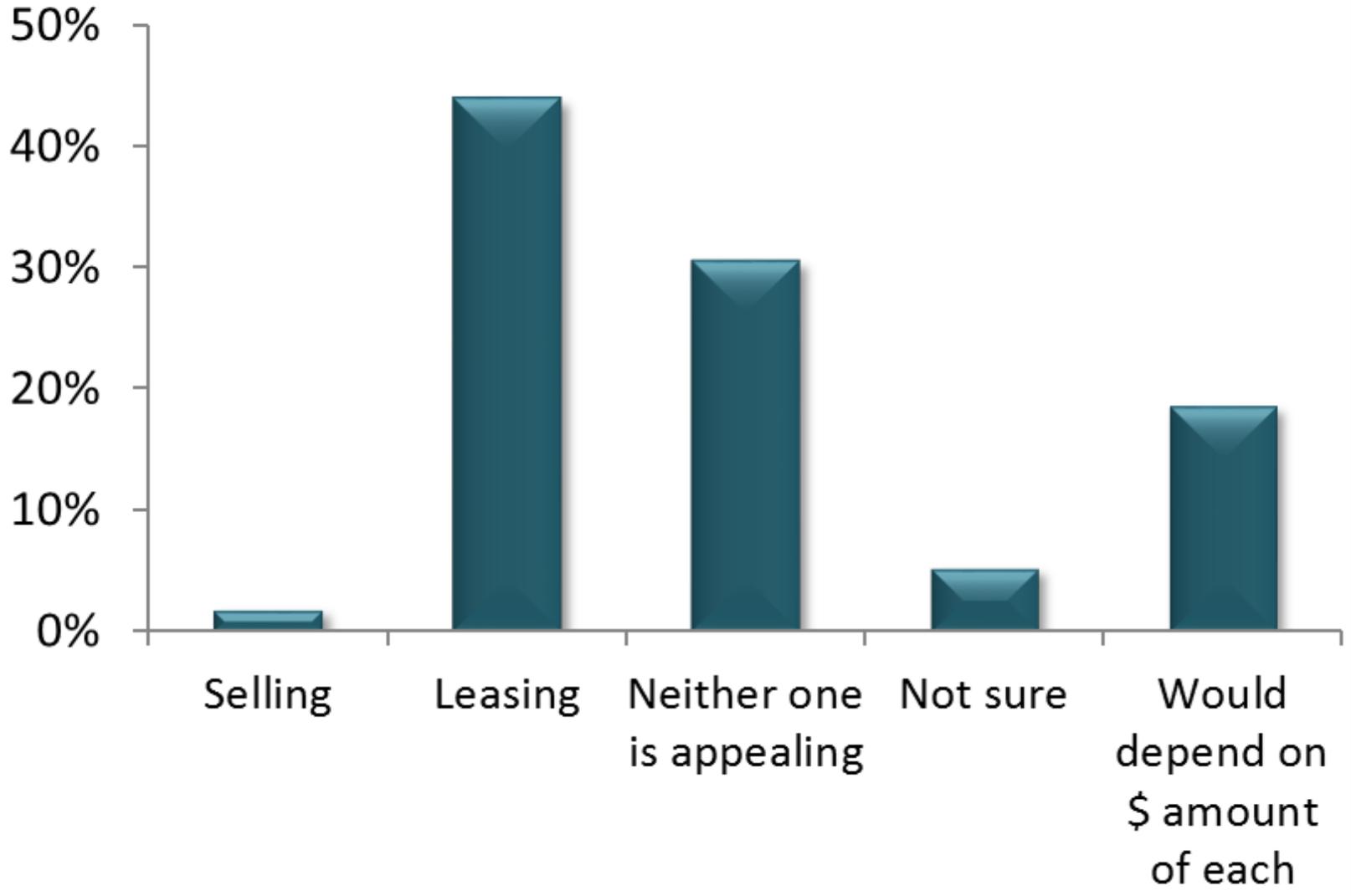
## What Advantages Do You See in Ag Water Leasing?



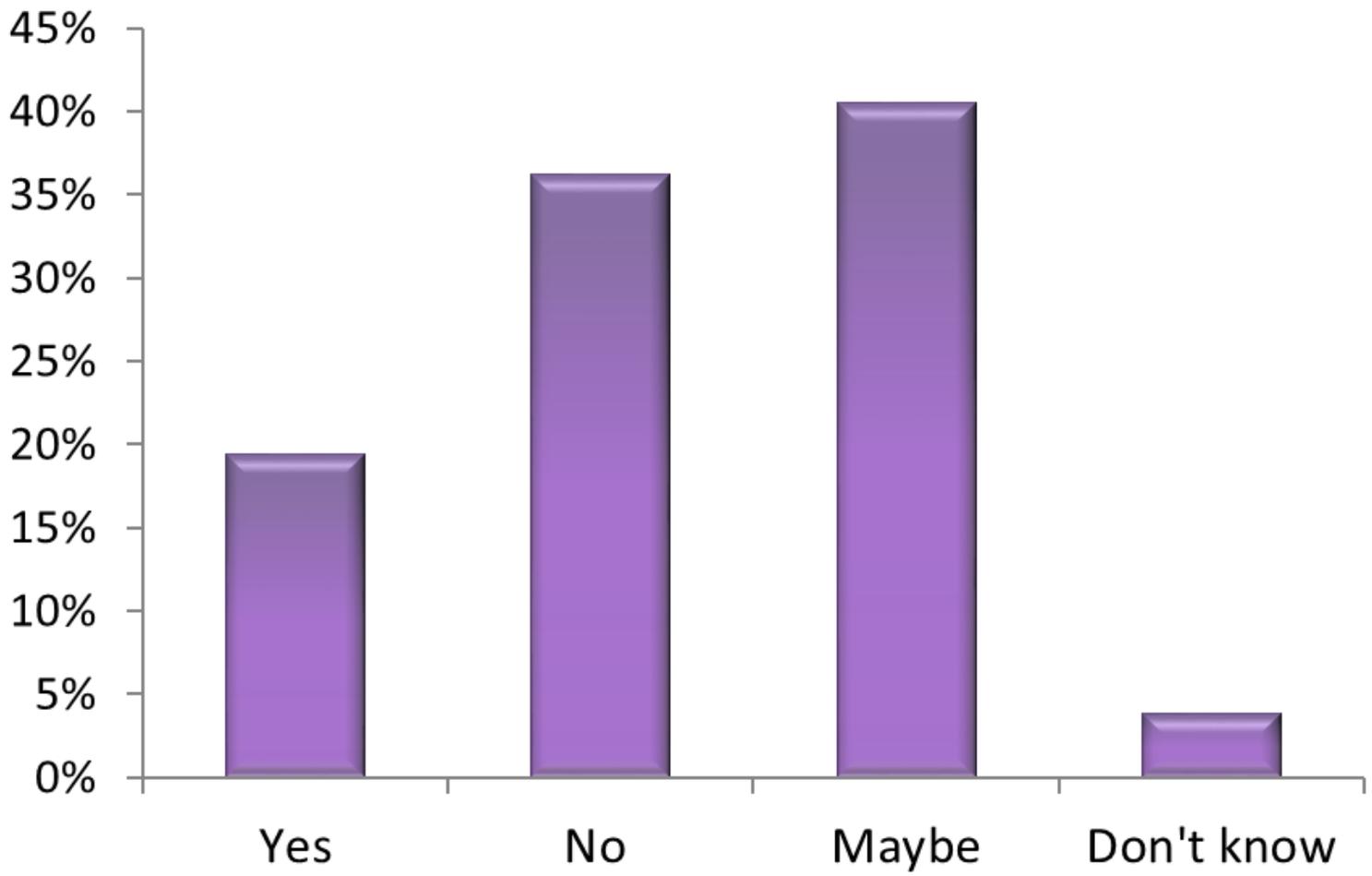
## Where Would You Look for Guidance about Ag Water Leasing ?



## Which Option is More Appealing?



## Would You Participate in an Ag Water Lease if Asked Today ?



## Examples of Comments Received

- Need more storage.
- More \$ needed for irrigation efficiency upgrades (sprinkler, subsurface drip).
- How can we get water near KS border to the Front Range?
- Need more funding and more options for lease programs.
- Leasing is appealing now, but will be less so when crop prices turn around.
- How can I feed my livestock if I don't grow feed for them?

## Examples of Comments Received

- Not sure how small producers could participate.
- More information is needed on risks / benefits.
- If they see that I can use less water, they will take the “extra.”
- Family is presently involved in Catlin Lease-Fallow project. I see no negative impacts to the community, only positive.
- Need pros and cons for my particular operation.
- The bottom line is: control population growth.

# Survey Summary

- About 2/3rds of respondents expressed interest in leasing.
- Reduced total delivery was preferred over other leasing practices.
- Income diversification was seen as the greatest advantage of ag water leasing.
- There is concern that water rights could be put in jeopardy.
- Acceptable lease rates will vary with location.
- More research and information is needed about cropping systems and soil quality under reduced or fallow irrigation.

# Ag Water NetWORK

[www.coloradocattle.org/agwaternetnetwork.aspx](http://www.coloradocattle.org/agwaternetnetwork.aspx)

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[www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/](http://www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/)