

CCA / Partners for Western Conservation Ag Water NetWORK

Goal: Keeping Ag Water Connected with
Ag Land

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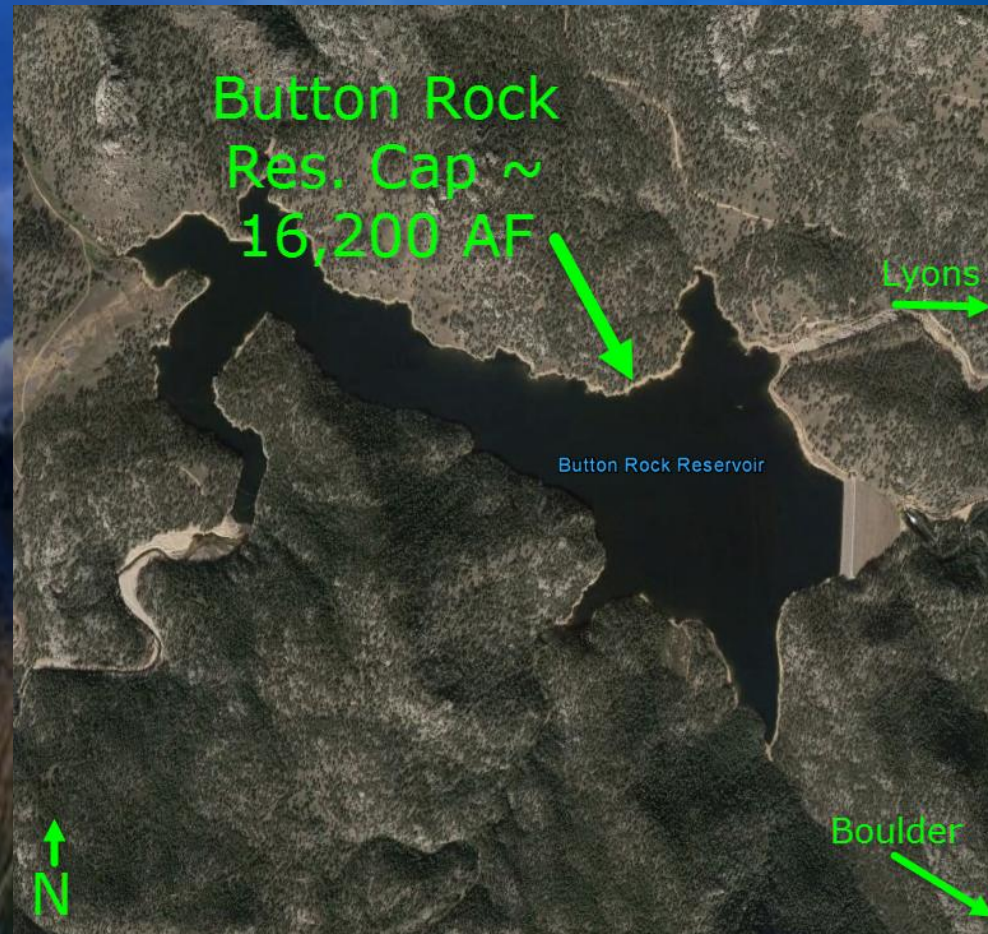


What Colorado town is this?

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



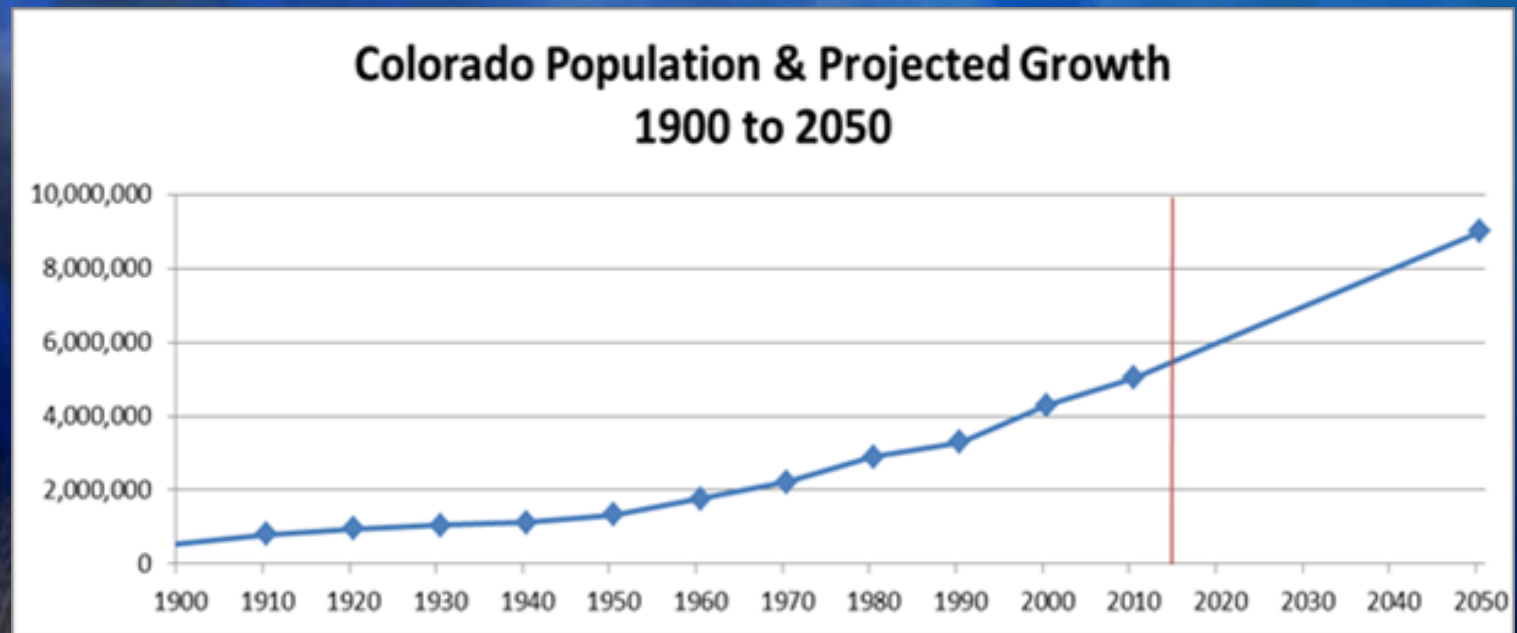
Longmont Water Use: 2010 = 16,258 AF
Approx. equal to Button Rock Reservoir



* 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...)

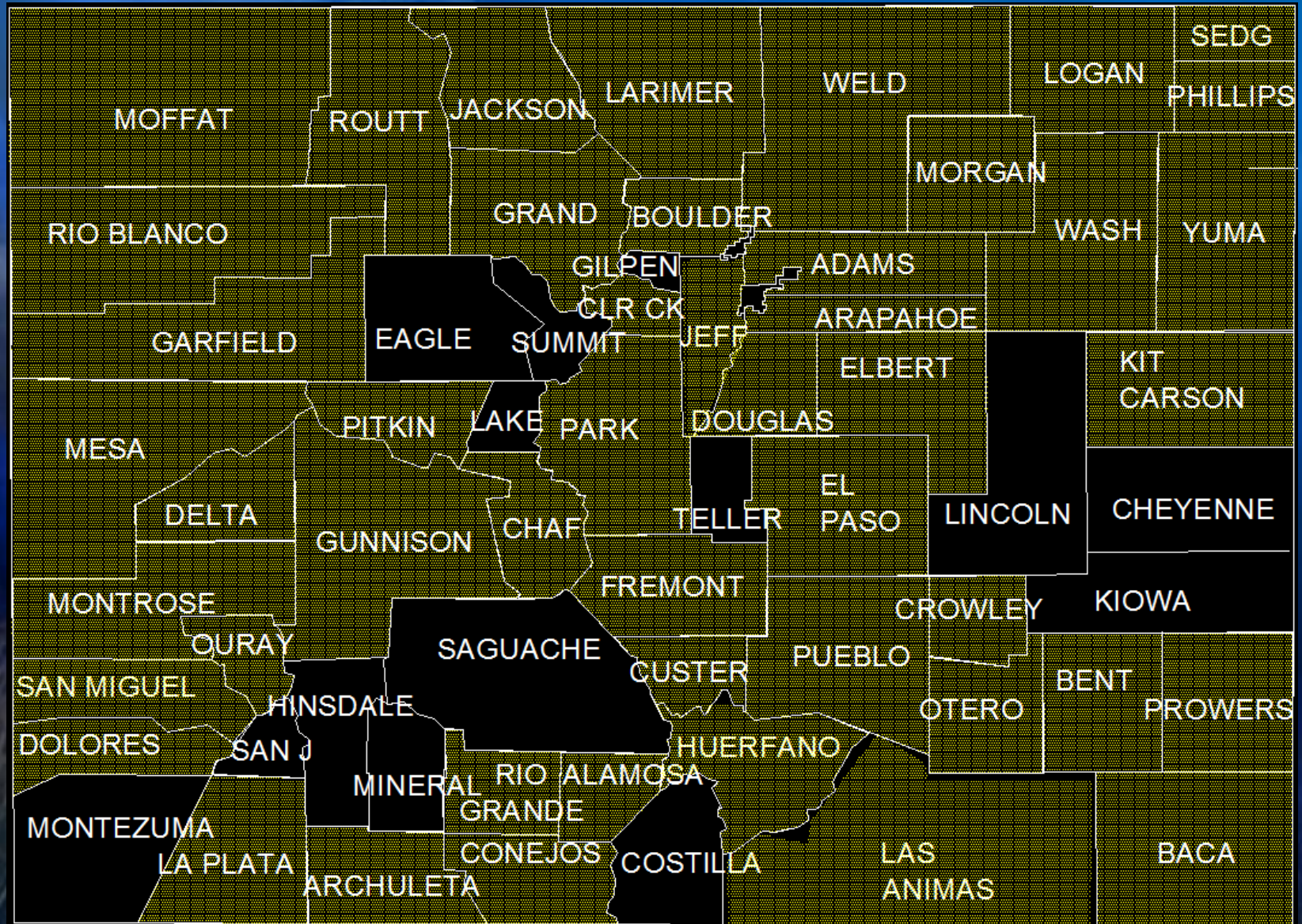
- Identifies 3 methods to close the demand - supply gap
 1. Conservation
 2. Storage
 3. Ag water leasing (goal: 50,000 AF / yr)

Ag water leasing represent opportunity to preserve irrigated agriculture in Colorado

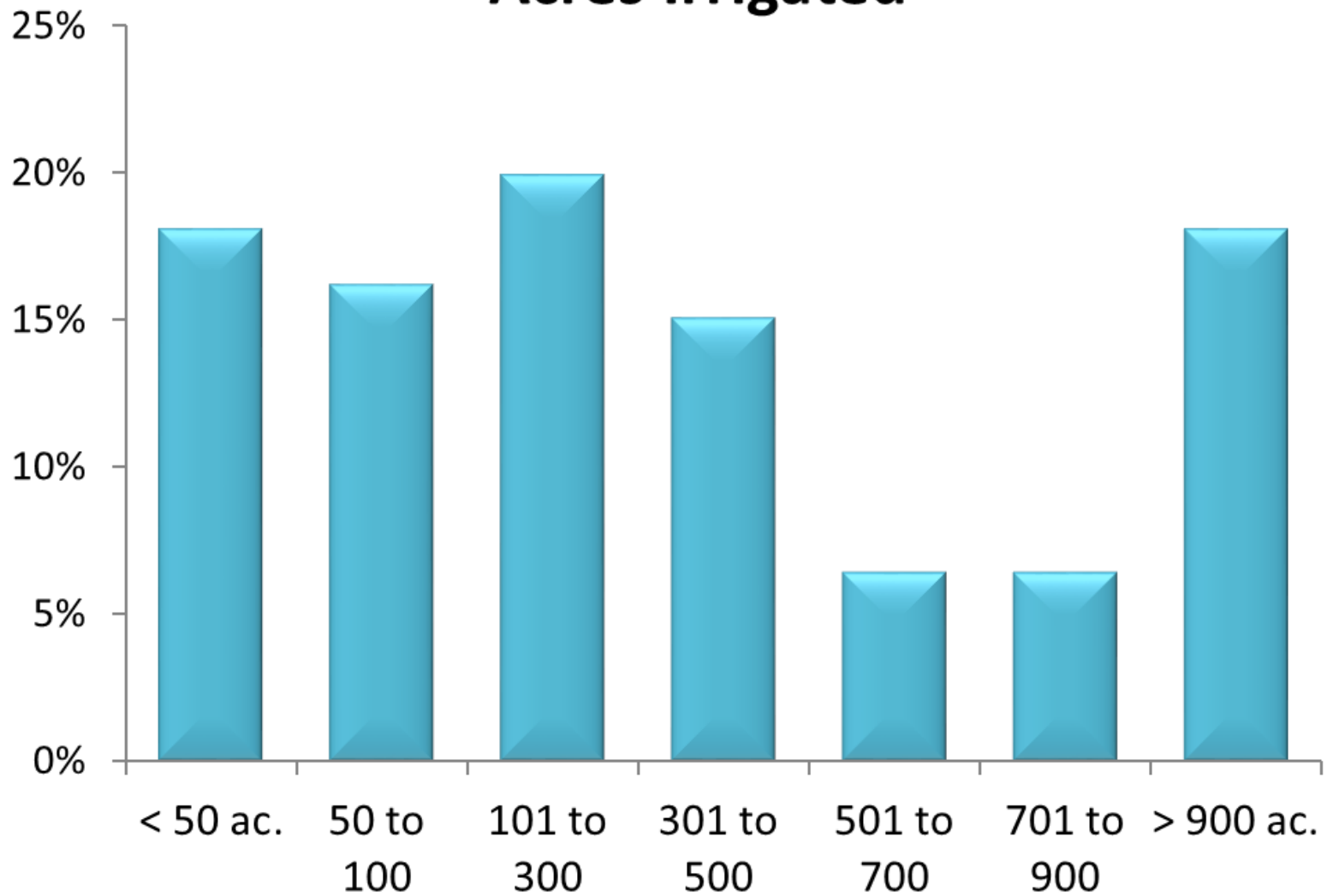
Ag water survey:

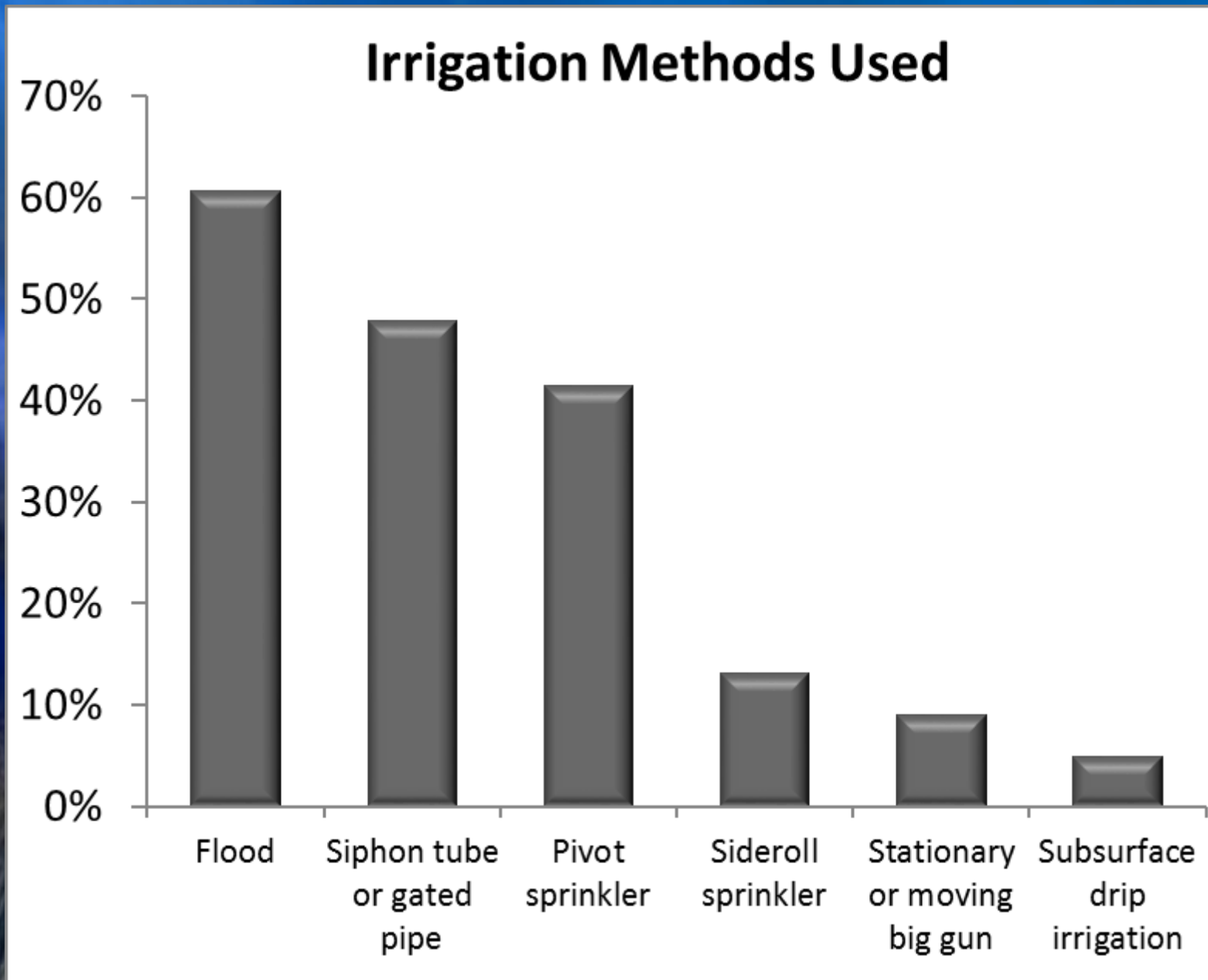
- Web-based
- Collaboration with Colorado Corn, CLA, CPPC, Ag Council, CAWA, TNC, individuals
- 25 questions + comment section
- 260+ returned surveys

Survey Responses

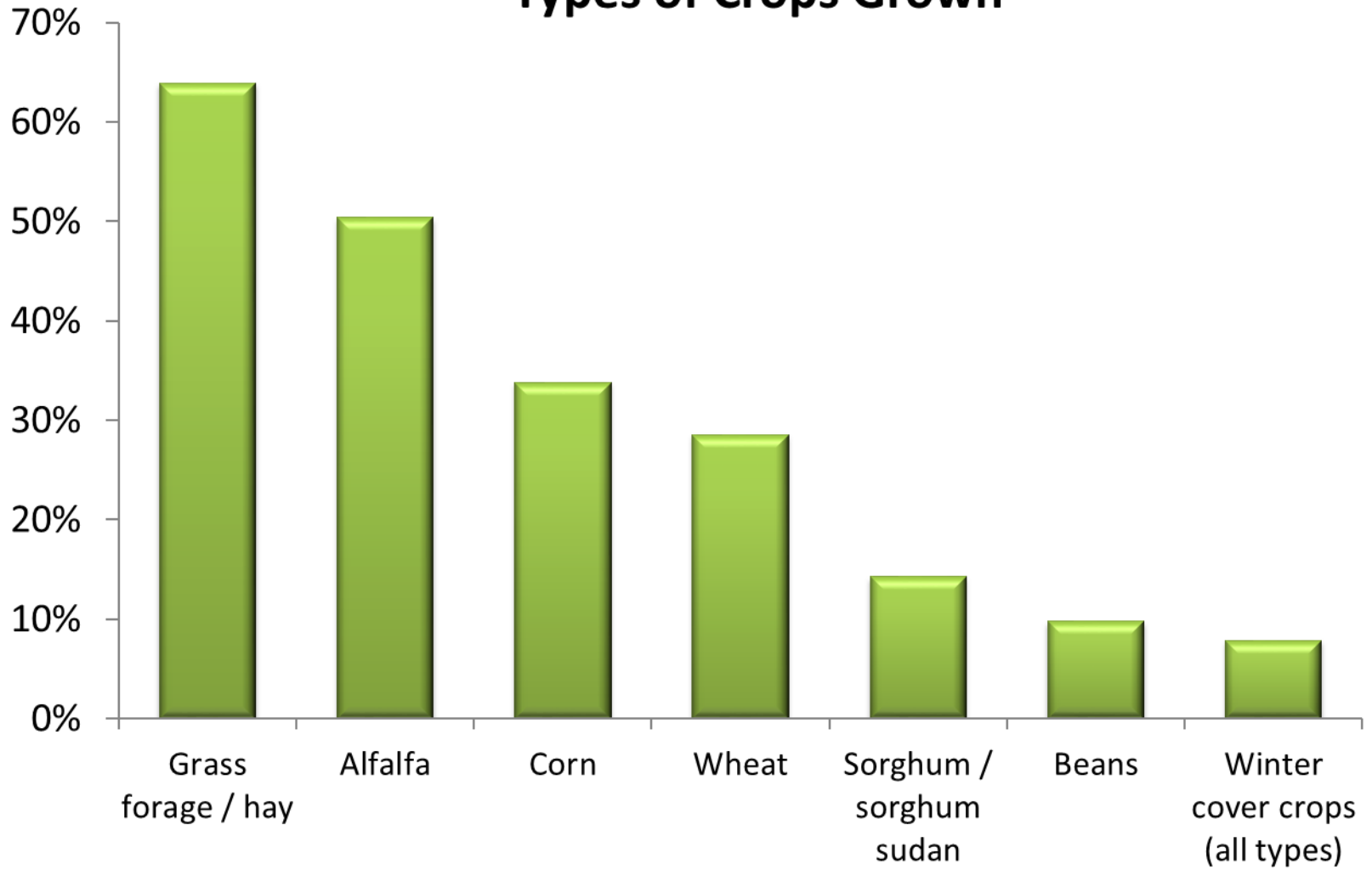


Acres Irrigated



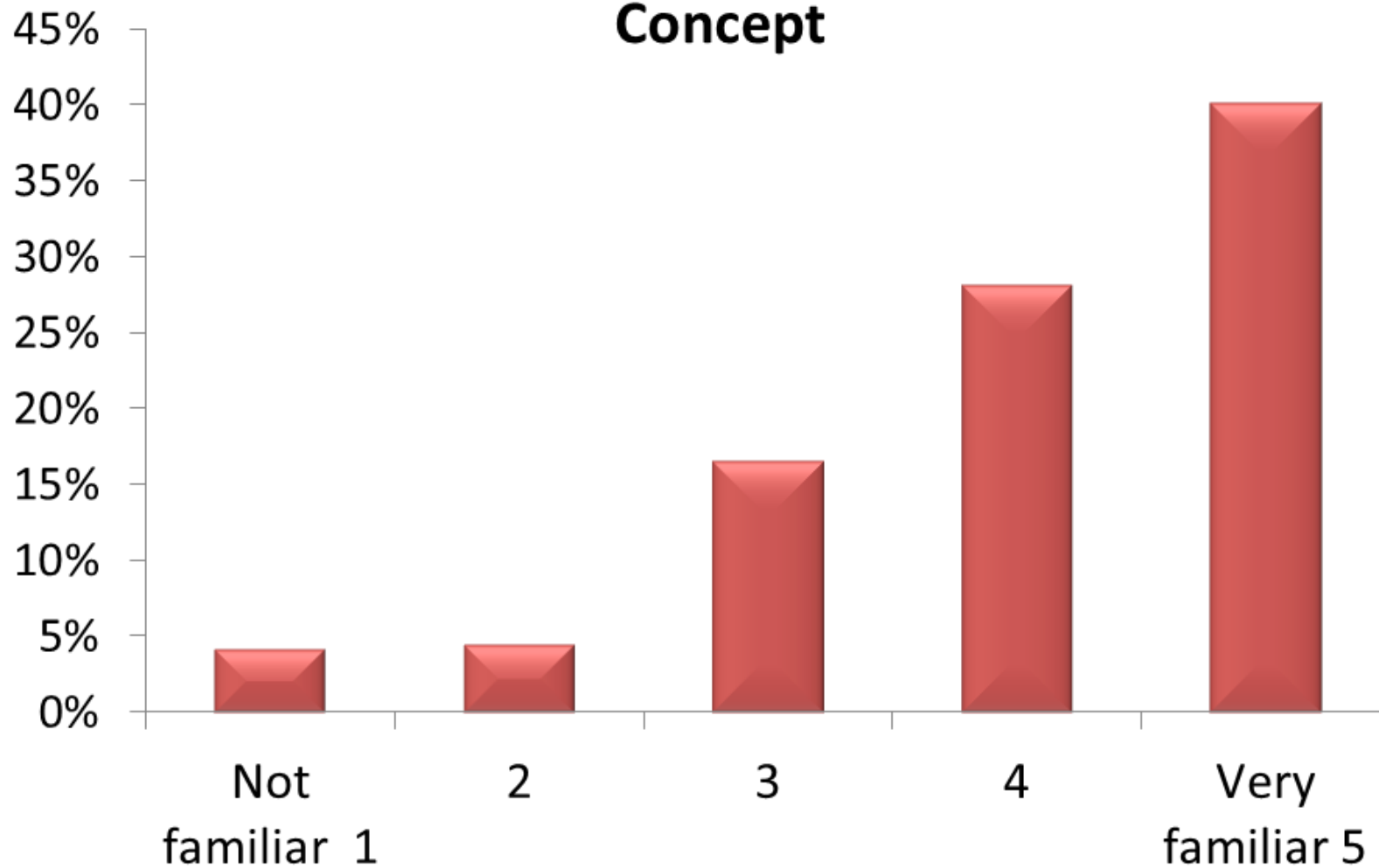


Types of Crops Grown *



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

Familiarity with "Consumptive Use" Concept



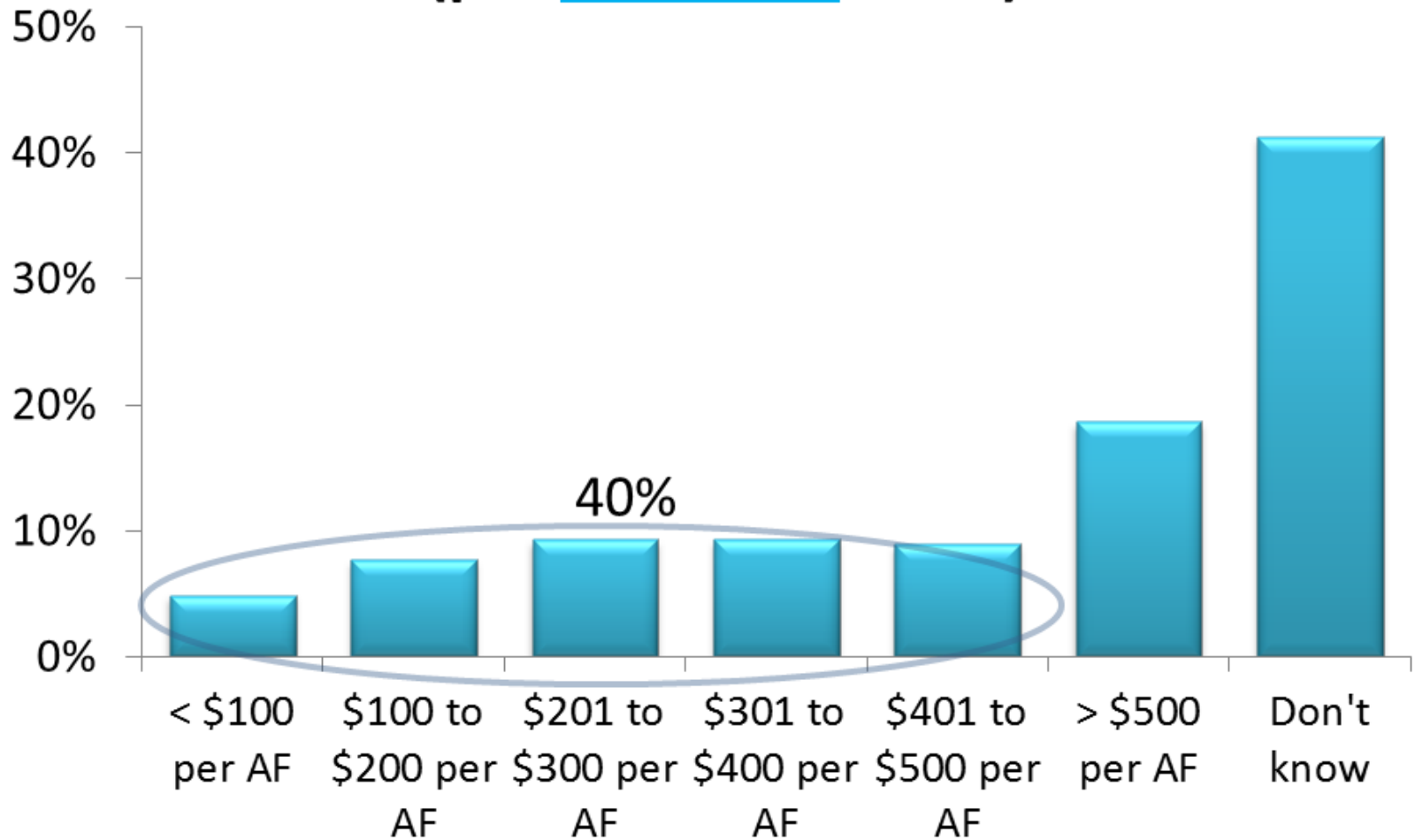
Preferred Type of Ag Water Lease Arrangement



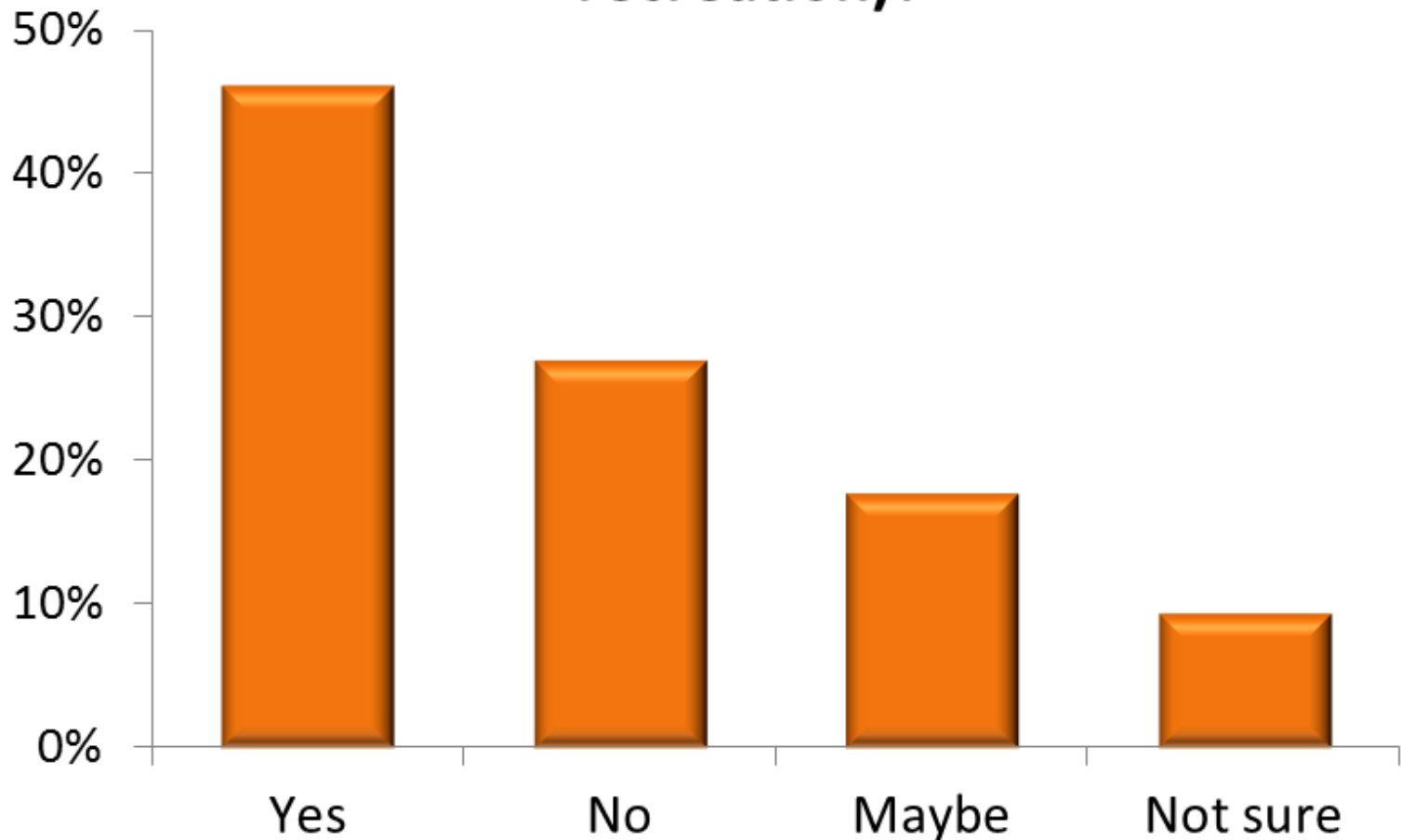
Fair Payment for Leased CU Water on a per Acre Basis?



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



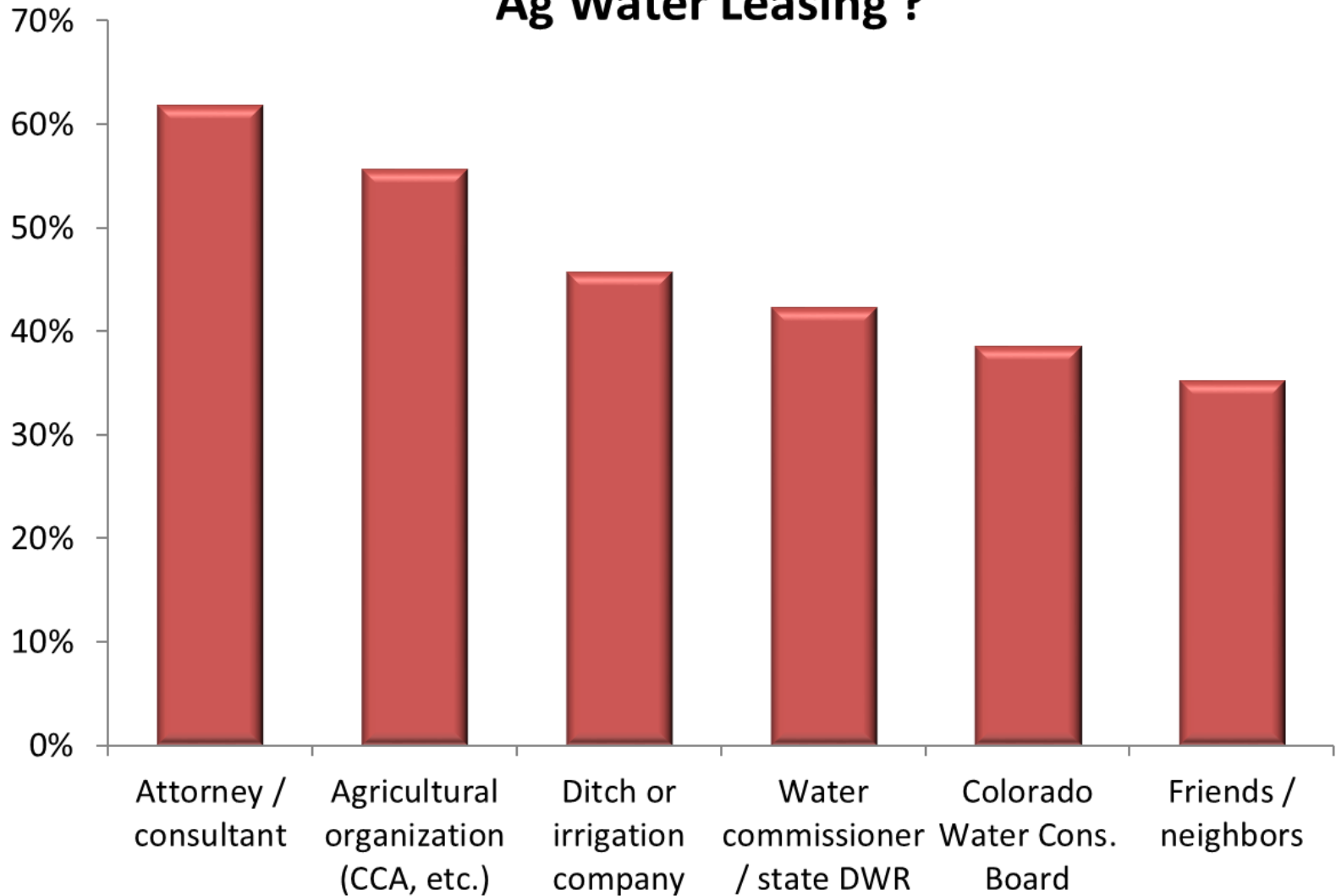
Does it Matter How the Leased Water is Used (ie. M & I, environment, recreation)?



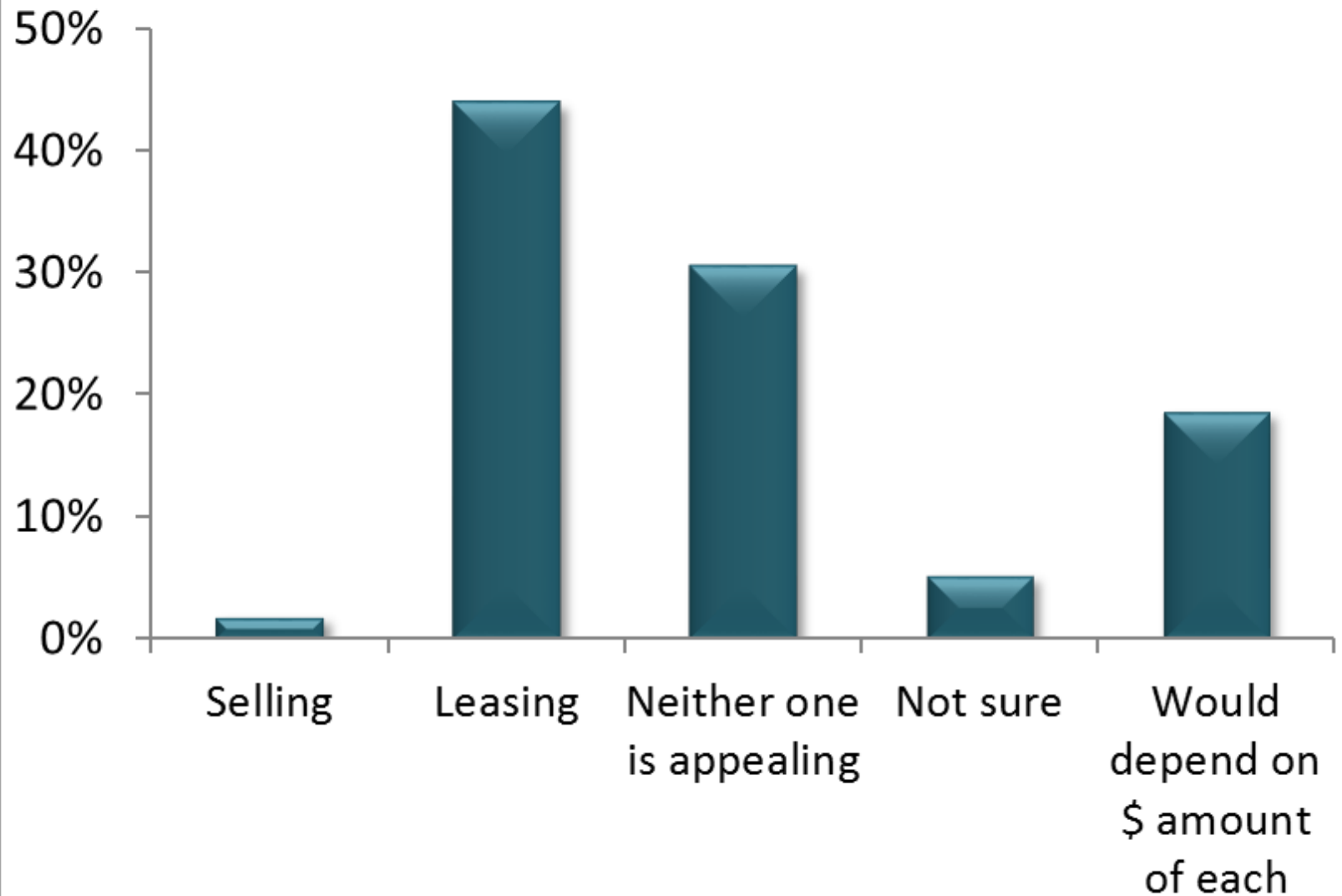
What Advantages Do You See in Ag Water Leasing?



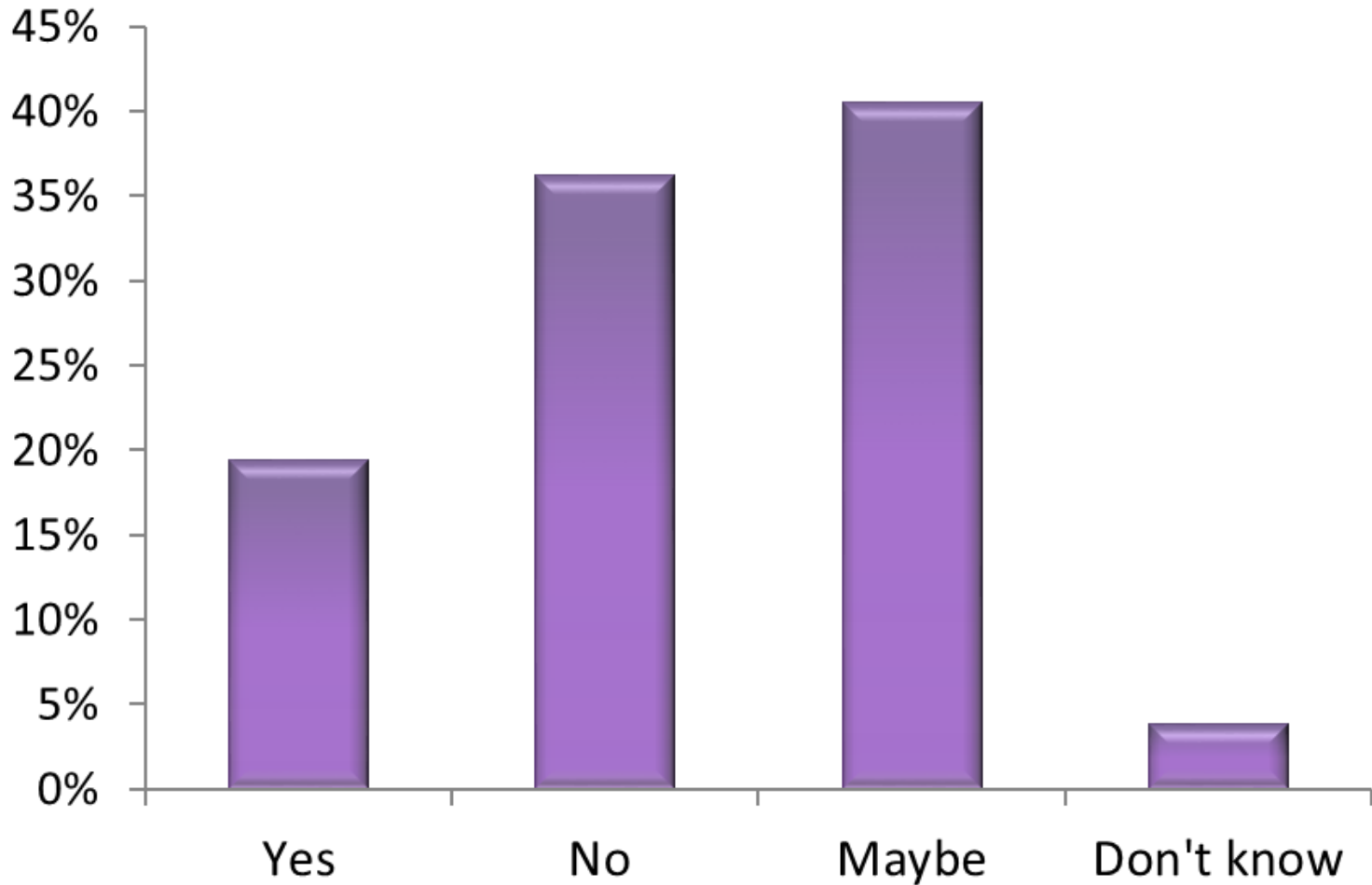
Where Would You Look for Guidance about Ag Water Leasing ?



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

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www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/