Office of the Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor Kevin M. Atticks, Secretary Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary Maryland Young Farmers Advisory Board

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry mda.maryland.gov

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building 50 Harry S Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-5882 Baltimore/Washington 410-841-5914 Fax

2025 Maryland Young Farmers Survey Supplemental Analysis

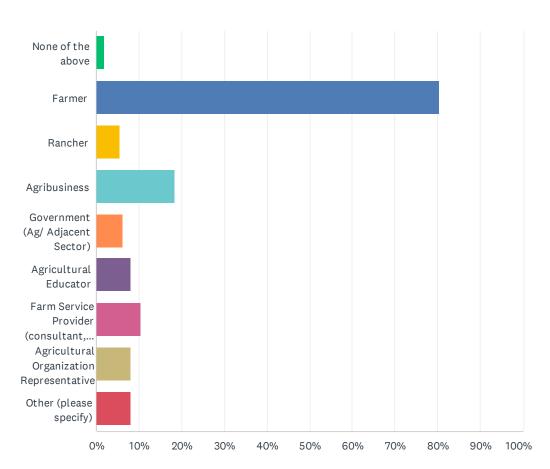
Full Survey – Data Summaries

This document includes summaries of all data points from the 2025 Maryland Young Farmers Survey, but no data from open-ended questions.

Questions containing personally identifiable information have been removed from the document.

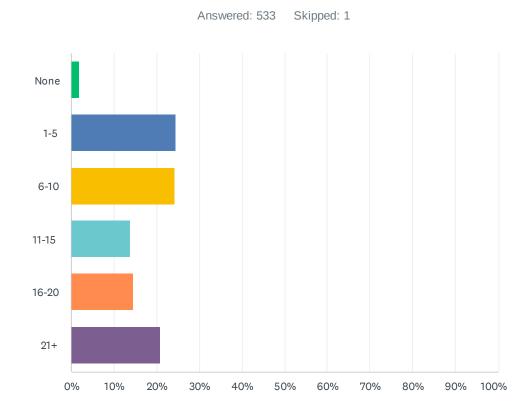
Q1 How do you define your involvement in Maryland Agriculture? (Select all that apply):





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	1.88%	10
Farmer	80.45% 42	28
Rancher	5.64%	30
Agribusiness	18.23%	97
Government (Ag/ Adjacent Sector)	6.20%	33
Agricultural Educator	8.08%	43
Farm Service Provider (consultant, ag mechanic, etc.)	10.53%	56
Agricultural Organization Representative	8.08%	43
Other (please specify)	8.08%	43
Total Respondents: 532		

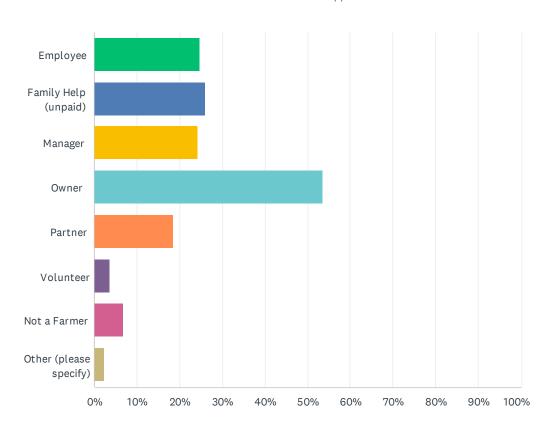
Q2 How many years of experience do you have in the agricultural industry? (actively engaged on a farm, as a principal operator, or within your field of work)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	1.88%	10
1-5	24.58%	131
6-10	24.39%	130
11-15	13.88%	74
16-20	14.45%	77
21+	20.83%	111
TOTAL		533

Q3 What is your role/position on the farm? (Select all that apply):

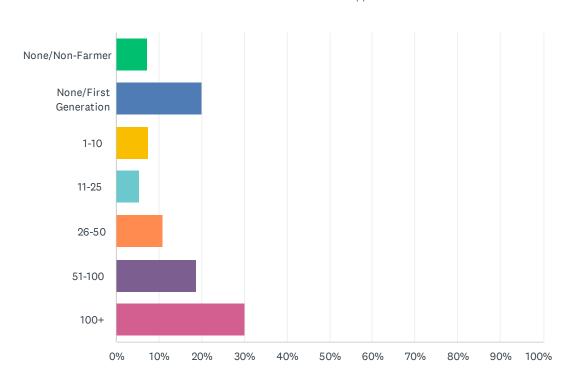




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employee	24.77%	132
Family Help (unpaid)	26.08%	139
Manager	24.20%	129
Owner	53.47%	285
Partner	18.57%	99
Volunteer	3.56%	19
Not a Farmer	6.75%	36
Other (please specify)	2.25%	12
Total Respondents: 533		

Q4 How many years has your family been farming?

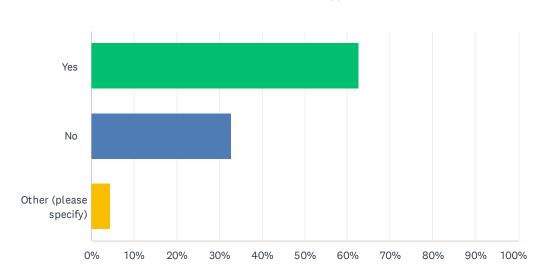




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None/Non-Farmer	7.30%	89
None/First Generation	20.04% 10	7
1-10	7.49%	10
11-25	5.43% 2	29
26-50	10.86% 5	8
51-100	18.73% 10	0
100+	30.15% 16	1
TOTAL	53	4

Q5 Did you grow up on a farm?

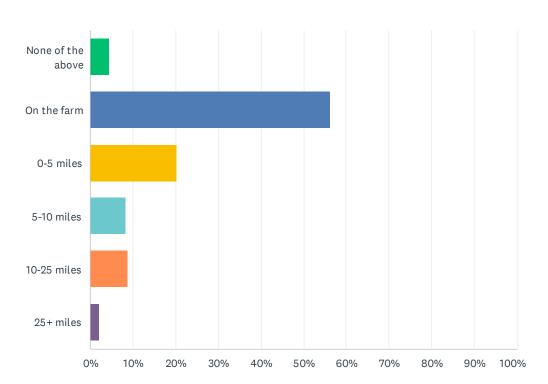
Answered: 533 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	62.66%	334
No	32.83%	175
Other (please specify)	4.50%	24
TOTAL		533

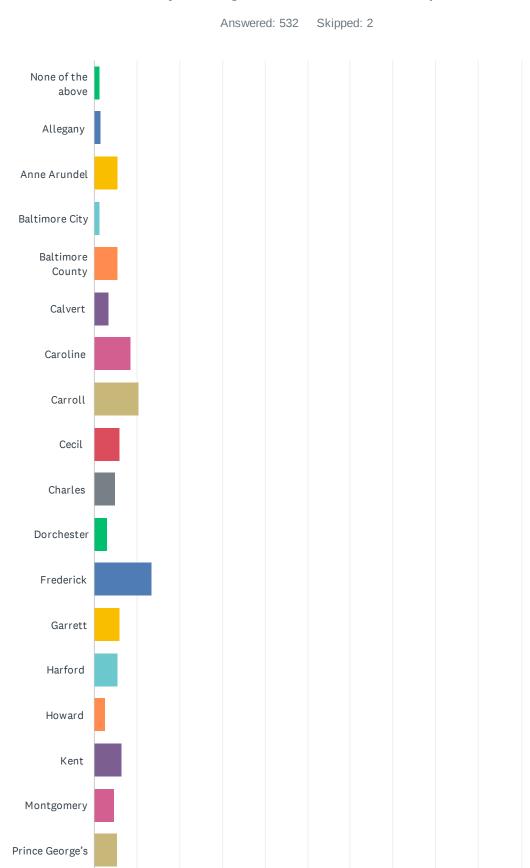
Q6 Where do you live in relation to your ag operation? (Distance in miles)



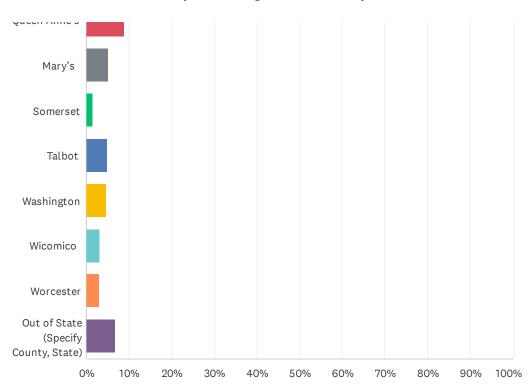


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	4.51% 24
On the farm	56.20% 299
0-5 miles	20.30% 108
5-10 miles	8.27% 44
10-25 miles	8.65% 46
25+ miles	2.07% 11
TOTAL	532

Q7 In what counties is your ag business located? (Select all that apply):

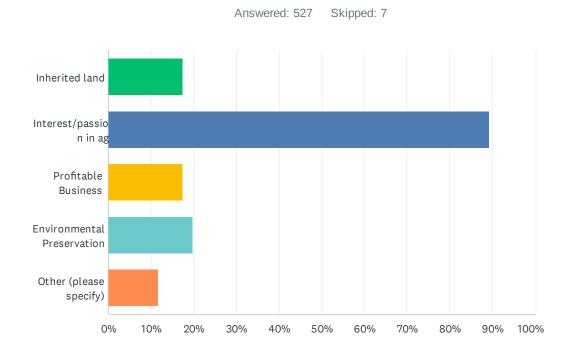


Oueen Anne's



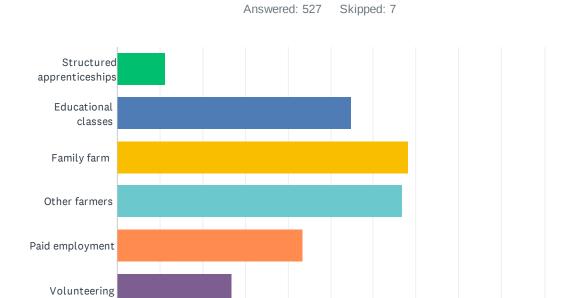
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	1.32%	7
Allegany	1.50%	8
Anne Arundel	5.64%	30
Baltimore City	1.32%	7
Baltimore County	5.45%	29
Calvert	3.38%	18
Caroline	8.46%	45
Carroll	10.53%	56
Cecil	6.02%	32
Charles	4.89%	26
Dorchester	3.01%	16
Frederick	13.53%	72
Garrett	6.02%	32
Harford	5.45%	29
Howard	2.63%	14
Kent	6.39%	34
Montgomery	4.70%	25
Prince George's	5.26%	28
Queen Anne's	9.02%	48
Mary's	5.08%	27
Somerset	1.50%	8
Talbot	4.89%	26
Washington	4.70%	25
Wicomico	3.20%	17
Worcester	3.01%	16
Out of State (Specify County, State)	6.77%	36
Total Respondents: 532		

Q8 What motivated you to continue/ start farming? (Select all that apply):



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Inherited land	17.46%	92
Interest/passion in ag	89.37%	471
Profitable Business	17.46%	92
Environmental Preservation	19.92%	105
Other (please specify)	11.76%	62
Total Respondents: 527		

Q9 In what ways have you gained farming experience? (Select all that apply):



Other (please specify)

0%

10%

20%

30%

40%

50%

60%

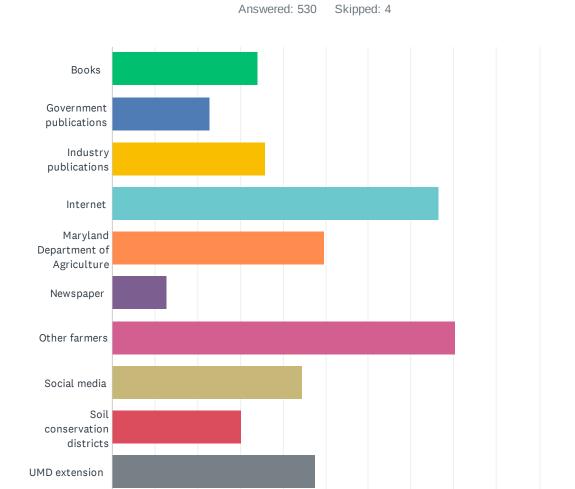
70%

80%

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Structured apprenticeships	11.39%	60
Educational classes	54.84%	289
Family farm	68.31%	360
Other farmers	66.79%	352
Paid employment	43.45%	229
Volunteering	26.94%	142
Other (please specify)	9.30%	49
Total Respondents: 527		

90% 100%

Q10 What sources do you use when you need information regarding farming? (Select all that apply):



Trade
Organization
(Farm Bureau...
Successful
Farming
Magazine
Other (please
specify)

0%

10%

20%

30%

40%

50%

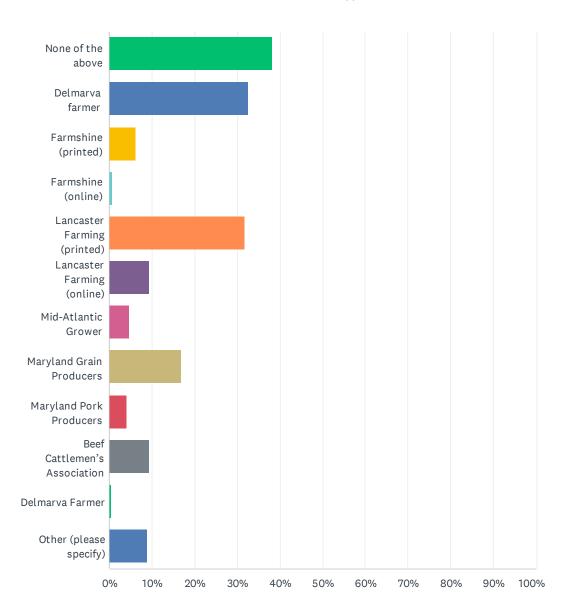
90%

100%

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Books	34.15%	181
Government publications	22.83%	121
Industry publications	35.85%	190
Internet	76.60%	406
Maryland Department of Agriculture	49.62%	263
Newspaper	12.83%	68
Other farmers	80.38%	426
Social media	44.53%	236
Soil conservation districts	30.38%	161
UMD extension	47.55%	252
Trade Organization (Farm Bureau, Corn Growers Assn., etc.)	33.21%	176
Successful Farming Magazine	16.60%	88
Other (please specify)	5.66%	30
Total Respondents: 530		

Q11 Do you subscribe to any online farming/ag publications? (Select all that apply):

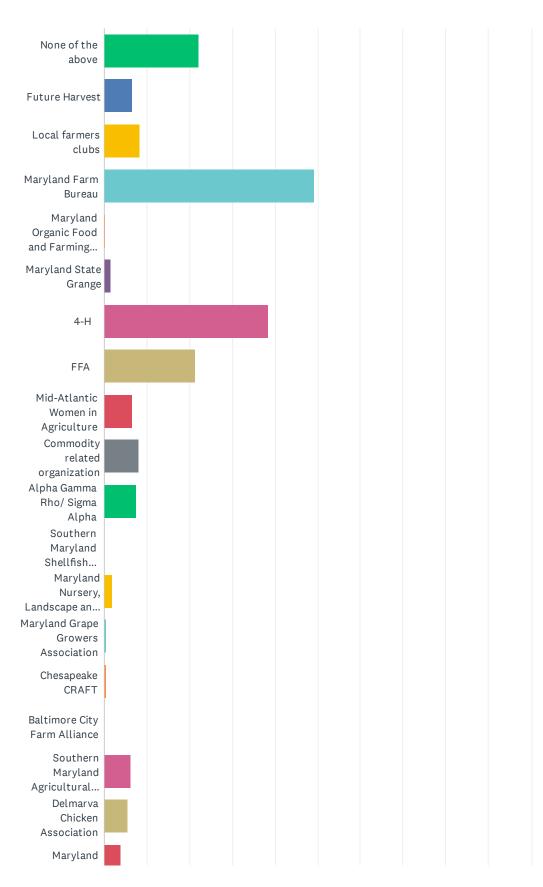


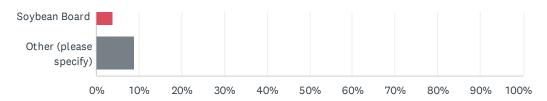


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	38.21%	188
Delmarva farmer	32.72%	161
Farmshine (printed)	6.10%	30
Farmshine (online)	0.61%	3
Lancaster Farming (printed)	31.71%	156
Lancaster Farming (online)	9.35%	46
Mid-Atlantic Grower	4.67%	23
Maryland Grain Producers	16.87%	83
Maryland Pork Producers	4.07%	20
Beef Cattlemen's Association	9.35%	46
Delmarva Farmer	0.41%	2
Other (please specify)	8.94%	44
Total Respondents: 492		

Q12 With what ag organizations are you affiliated? (Select all that apply):



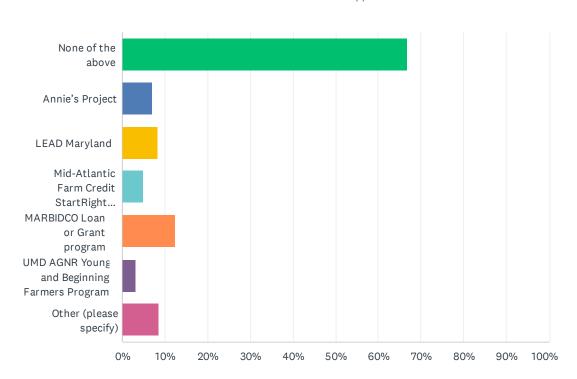




	RESPONSES	
None of the above	22.16%	113
Future Harvest	6.67%	34
Local farmers clubs	8.24%	42
Maryland Farm Bureau	49.22%	251
Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association	0.20%	1
Maryland State Grange	1.57%	8
4-H	38.43%	196
FFA	21.37%	109
Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture	6.67%	34
Commodity related organization	8.04%	41
Alpha Gamma Rho/ Sigma Alpha	7.45%	38
Southern Maryland Shellfish Growers Association	0.00%	0
Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association	1.96%	10
Maryland Grape Growers Association	0.39%	2
Chesapeake CRAFT	0.39%	2
Baltimore City Farm Alliance	0.00%	0
Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission	6.08%	31
Delmarva Chicken Association	5.49%	28
Maryland Soybean Board	3.92%	20
Other (please specify)	9.02%	46
Total Respondents: 510		

Q13 In what ag programs have you participated? (Select all that apply):

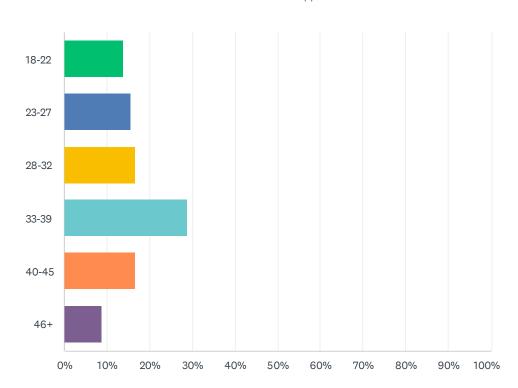




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	66.67%	286
Annie's Project	6.99%	30
LEAD Maryland	8.39%	36
Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit StartRight Program	4.90%	21
MARBIDCO Loan or Grant program	12.35%	53
UMD AGNR Young and Beginning Farmers Program	3.26%	14
Other (please specify)	8.62%	37
Total Respondents: 429		

Q14 What is your age:

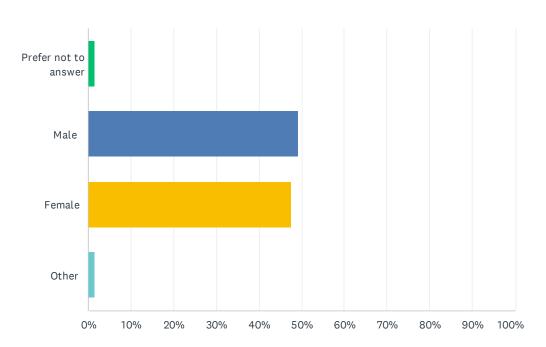
Answered: 530 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
18-22	13.77%	3
23-27	15.66% 83	3
28-32	16.60%	3
33-39	28.68% 152	2
40-45	16.60%	3
46+	8.68% 46	5
TOTAL	530)

Q15 What is your gender:

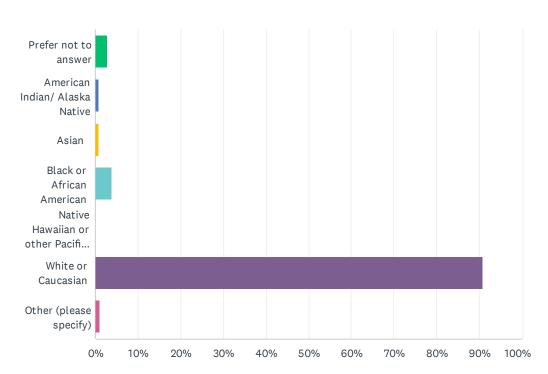




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prefer not to answer	1.51%	8
Male	49.34%	261
Female	47.64%	252
Other	1.51%	8
TOTAL		529

Q16 Please specify your race

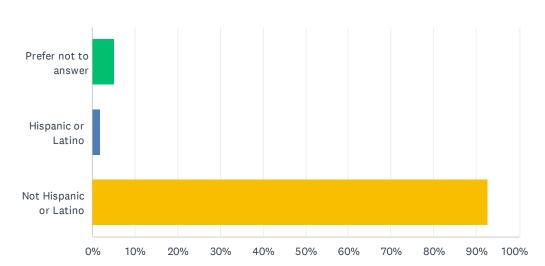




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prefer not to answer	2.84%	15
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.76%	4
Asian	0.76%	4
Black or African American	3.78%	20
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
White or Caucasian	90.74%	480
Other (please specify)	1.13%	6
TOTAL		529

Q17 Please specify your ethnicity:

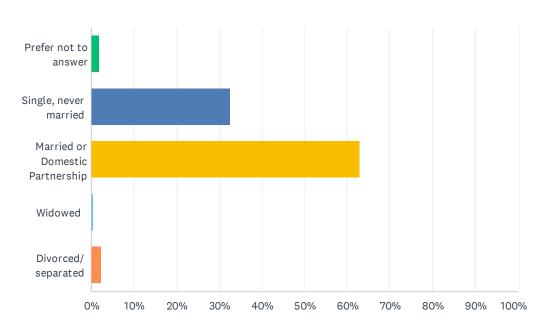




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prefer not to answer	5.22%	27
Hispanic or Latino	1.93%	10
Not Hispanic or Latino	92.84%	480
TOTAL		517

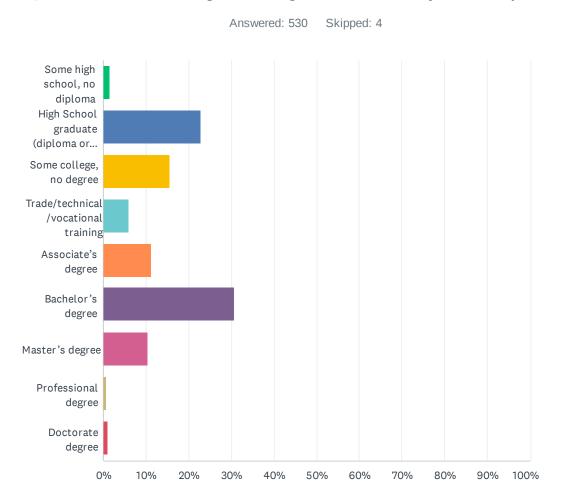
Q18 Marital Status?

Answered: 530 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prefer not to answer	1.89%	10
Single, never married	32.64% 1	.73
Married or Domestic Partnership	62.83% 3	33
Widowed	0.38%	2
Divorced/ separated	2.26%	12
TOTAL	5	30

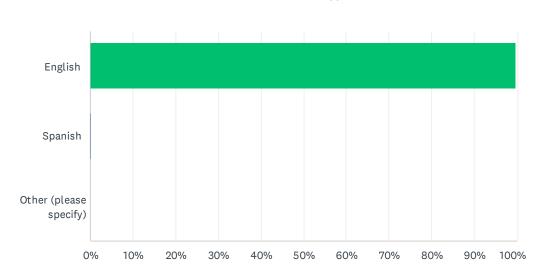
Q19 What is the highest degree of school you completed:



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Some high school, no diploma	1.51%	8
High School graduate (diploma or eq.)	22.83%	121
Some college, no degree	15.47%	82
Trade/technical/vocational training	6.04%	32
Associate's degree	11.32%	60
Bachelor's degree	30.75%	163
Master's degree	10.38%	55
Professional degree	0.57%	3
Doctorate degree	1.13%	6
TOTAL		530

Q20 What language do you prefer to see communication?

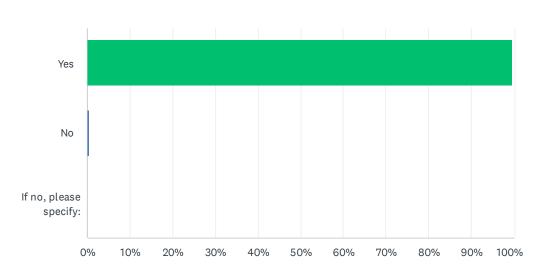




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
English	99.81% 528
Spanish	0.19% 1
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0
TOTAL	529

Q21 Is English your first language?

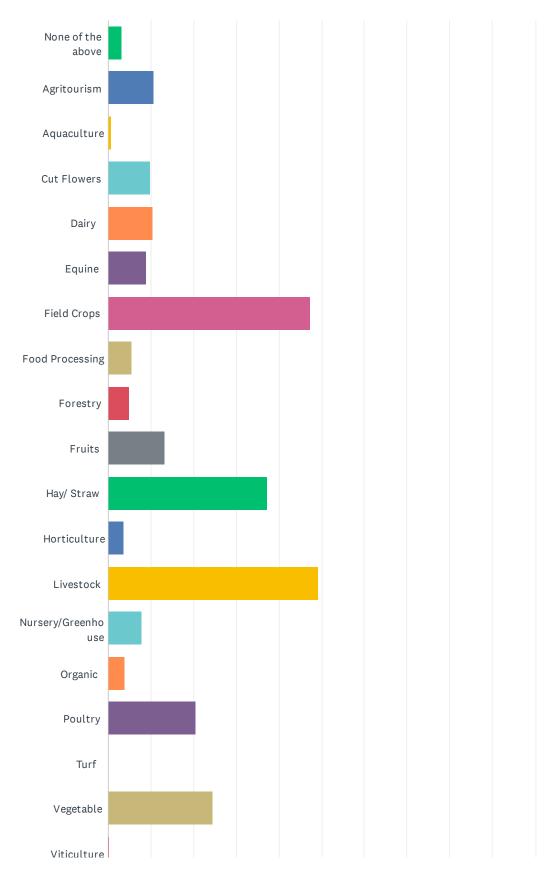
Answered: 530 Skipped: 4

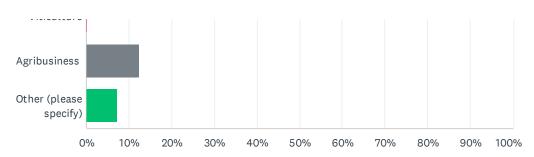


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	99.62% 528
No	0.38% 2
If no, please specify:	0.00% 0
TOTAL	530

Q22 What products do you grow/ operate? (Select all that apply):







ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	3.13%	13
Agritourism	10.60%	44
Aquaculture	0.72%	3
Cut Flowers	9.88%	41
Dairy	10.36%	43
Equine	8.92%	37
Field Crops	47.23%	196
Food Processing	5.54%	23
Forestry	4.82%	20
Fruits	13.25%	55
Hay/ Straw	37.35%	155
Horticulture	3.61%	15
Livestock	49.16%	204
Nursery/Greenhouse	7.95%	33
Organic	3.86%	16
Poultry	20.48%	85
Turf	0.00%	0
Vegetable	24.58%	102
Viticulture	0.24%	1
Agribusiness	12.29%	51
Other (please specify)	7.23%	30
Total Respondents: 415		

Q23 How many acres of each crop do you grow/ operate? (Select all that apply):

Answered: 321 Skipped: 213

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agritourism	10.90%	35
Aquaculture	1.56%	5
Cut Flowers	12.15%	39
Field Crops	59.19%	190
Forestry	6.23%	20
Fruits	13.08%	42
Hay/ Straw	49.22%	158
Horticulture	4.05%	13
Nursery/Greenhouse	8.72%	28
Organic	5.61%	18
Turf	1.56%	5
Vegetable	29.28%	94
Viticulture	1.56%	5

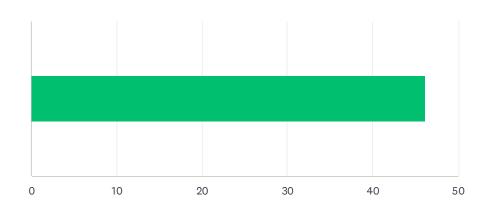
Q24 How many head of each livestock do you raise? (Select all that apply):

Answered: 281 Skipped: 253

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Beef Cattle	58.72%	165
Dairy Cattle	17.44%	49
Pigs	24.91%	70
Goats	22.42%	63
Sheep	17.08%	48
Laying Hens	34.52%	97
Meat Chickens	23.13%	65
Horses	18.86%	53
Turkeys	11.03%	31
Rabbits	11.74%	33
Alpaca/ Llama	3.20%	9

Q25 What percentage of your acreage do you plant in cover crops?

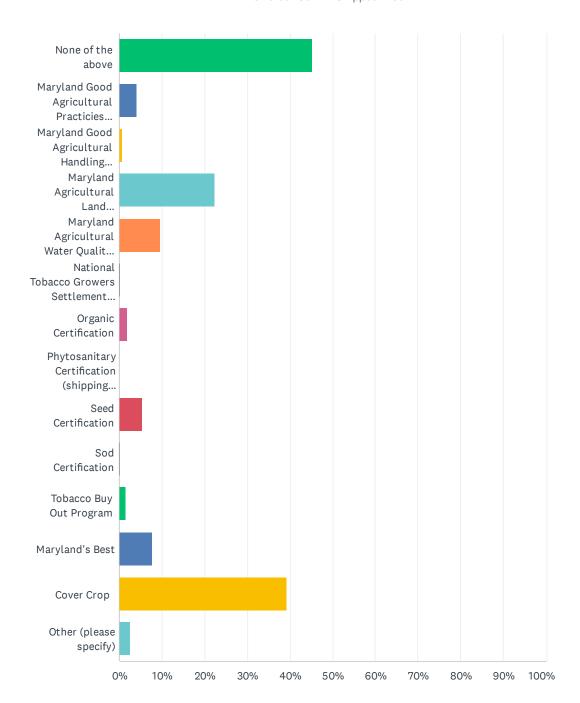




ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	46	13,903	301
Total Respondents: 301			

Q26 In what MDA programs do you participate? (Select all that apply):

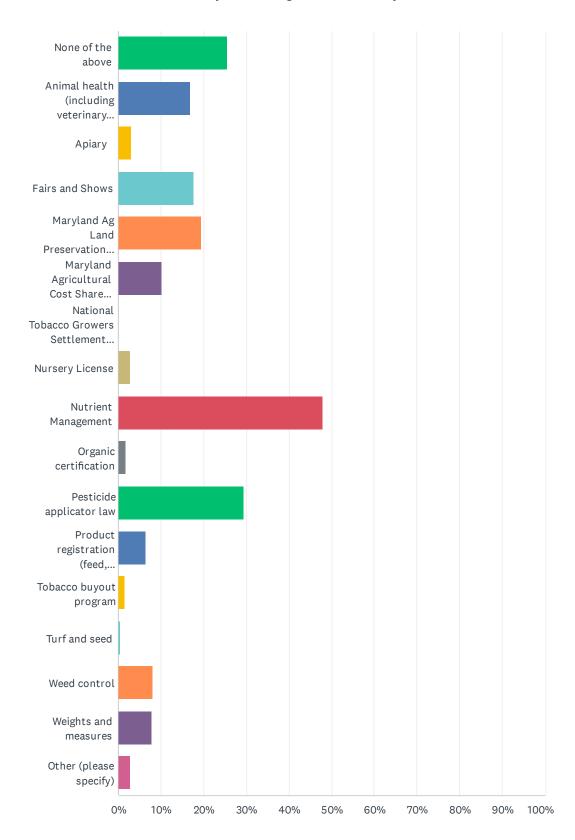
Answered: 354 Skipped: 180



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	45.20%	160
Maryland Good Agricultural Practicies (GAP) Certification	3.95%	14
Maryland Good Agricultural Handling Practices (GHP)	0.56%	2
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)	22.32%	79
Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share Program (MACS)	9.60%	34
National Tobacco Growers Settlement Trust	0.28%	1
Organic Certification	1.98%	7
Phytosanitary Certification (shipping nursery and greenhouse products out of state)	0.00%	0
Seed Certification	5.37%	19
Sod Certification	0.28%	1
Tobacco Buy Out Program	1.41%	5
Maryland's Best	7.63%	27
Cover Crop	39.27%	139
Other (please specify)	2.54%	9
Total Respondents: 354		

Q27 Are you or your business in any way regulated or subject to the regulatory authority of Maryland Department of Agriculture? (Select all that apply):

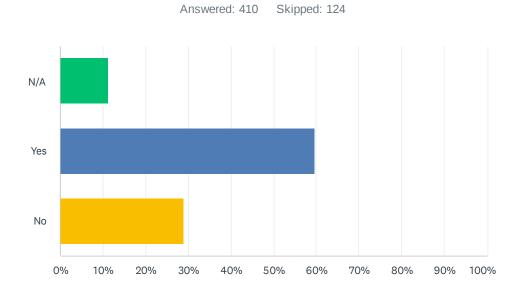
Answered: 390 Skipped: 144



Maryland Young Farmers Survey 2024

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	25.64%	100
Animal health (including veterinary licensing)	16.92%	66
Apiary	3.08%	12
Fairs and Shows	17.69%	69
Maryland Ag Land Preservation Foundation	19.49%	76
Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program	10.26%	40
National Tobacco Growers Settlement Trust	0.00%	0
Nursery License	2.82%	11
Nutrient Management	47.95%	187
Organic certification	1.79%	7
Pesticide applicator law	29.49%	115
Product registration (feed, fertilizer, pesticides)	6.41%	25
Tobacco buyout program	1.54%	6
Turf and seed	0.51%	2
Weed control	8.21%	32
Weights and measures	7.95%	31
Other (please specify)	2.82%	11
Total Respondents: 390		

Q28 Has your farm been negatively impacted by deer damage?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
N/A	11.22%	46
Yes	59.76%	245
No	29.02%	119
TOTAL		410

Q29 If you answered "yes" to experiencing deer damage, what percentage of your crop is lost annually to deer?

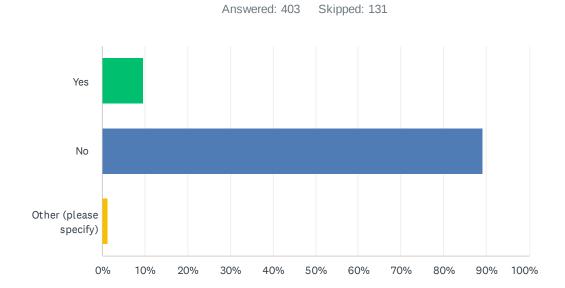


50

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	23	5,697	251
Total Respondents: 251			

10

Q30 Do you use Artificial Intelligence in your farming operation?



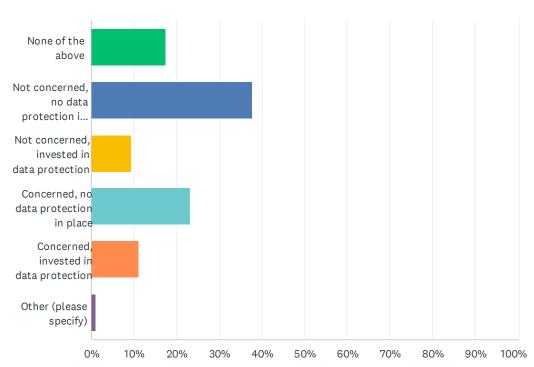
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	9.68% 39
No	89.08% 359
Other (please specify)	1.24% 5
TOTAL	403

Q31 If you use AI, how do you incorporate to assist your farm?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 495

Q32 Are you concerned with cyber security threats and are you proactively working to protect your data?

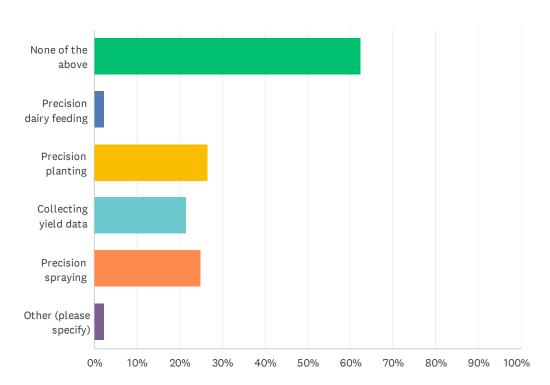




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	17.53%	71
Not concerned, no data protection in place	37.78%	53
Not concerned, invested in data protection	9.38%	38
Concerned, no data protection in place	23.21%	94
Concerned, invested in data protection	11.11%	45
Other (please specify)	0.99%	4
TOTAL	40	05

Q33 Have you adopted any precision agriculture into your farming operation? (Select all that apply):

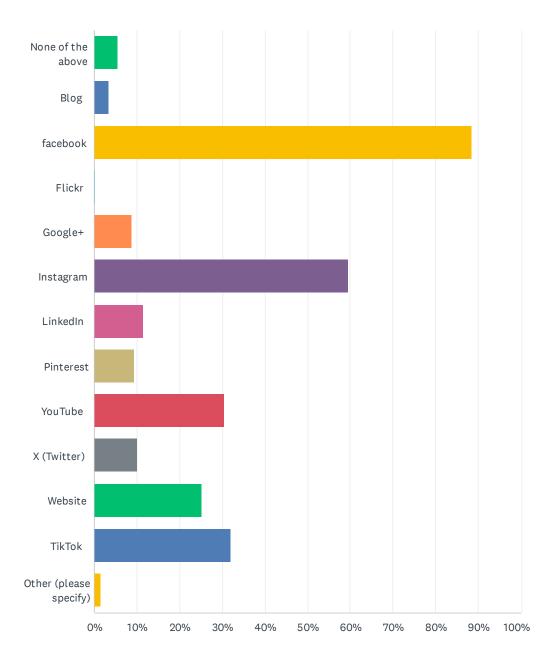




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	62.44% 241
Precision dairy feeding	2.33% 9
Precision planting	26.68% 103
Collecting yield data	21.50% 83
Precision spraying	24.87% 96
Other (please specify)	2.33% 9
Total Respondents: 386	

Q34 What social media platforms do you use? (Select all that apply):



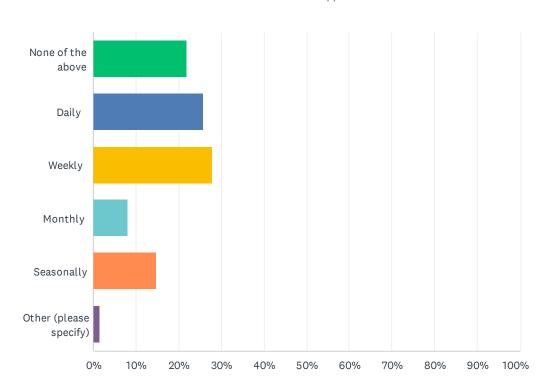


Maryland Young Farmers Survey 2024

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	5.58%	23
Blog	3.40%	14
facebook	88.59%	365
Flickr	0.24%	1
Google+	8.74%	36
Instagram	59.47%	245
LinkedIn	11.41%	47
Pinterest	9.47%	39
YouTube	30.58%	126
X (Twitter)	9.95%	41
Website	25.24%	104
TikTok	32.04%	132
Other (please specify)	1.46%	6
Total Respondents: 412		

Q35 How frequently do you use social media for your farm?

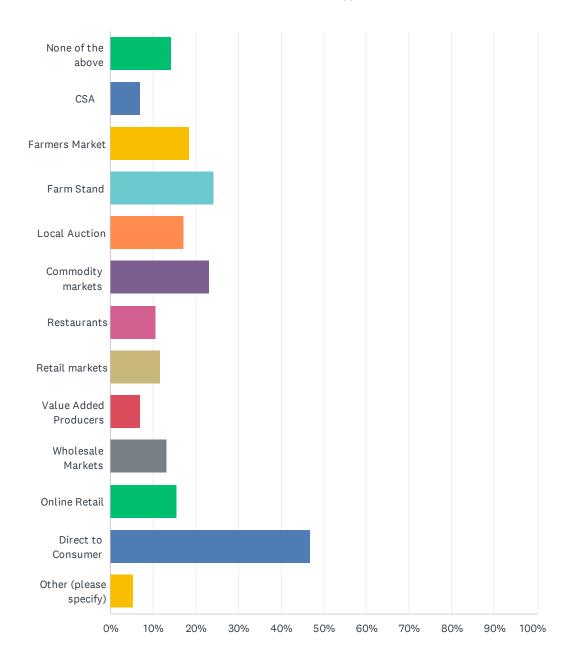




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	21.92% 89
Daily	25.86% 105
Weekly	27.83% 113
Monthly	8.13% 33
Seasonally	14.78% 60
Other (please specify)	1.48% 6
TOTAL	406

Q36 How do you market your products? (Select all that apply):

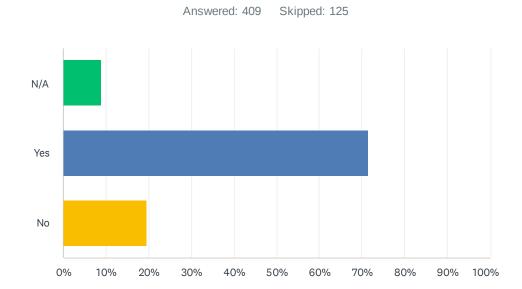




Maryland Young Farmers Survey 2024

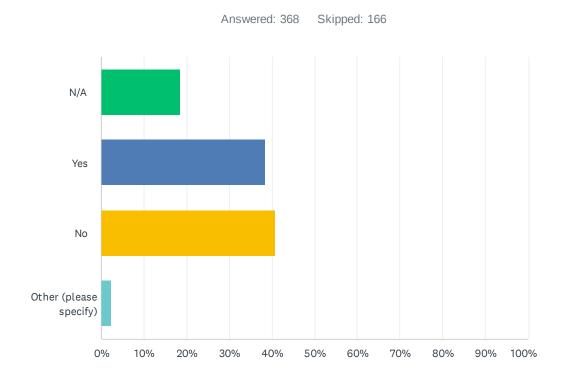
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	14.25%	57
CSA	7.00%	28
Farmers Market	18.50%	74
Farm Stand	24.25%	97
Local Auction	17.25%	69
Commodity markets	23.25%	93
Restaurants	10.75%	43
Retail markets	11.75%	47
Value Added Producers	7.00%	28
Wholesale Markets	13.25%	53
Online Retail	15.50%	62
Direct to Consumer	47.00%	188
Other (please specify)	5.25%	21
Total Respondents: 400		

Q37 Do you depend on off-farm income to continue farming?



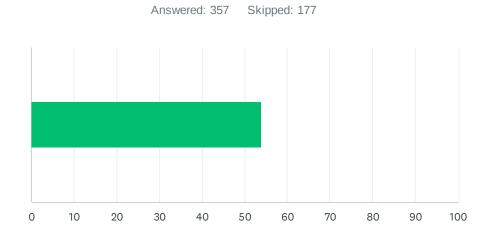
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
N/A	9.05%	37
Yes	71.39%	292
No	19.56%	80
TOTAL		409

Q38 If you answered depend on off-farm income, is your off farm job agrelated?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
N/A	18.48%	68
Yes	38.32%	141
No	40.76%	150
Other (please specify)	2.45%	9
TOTAL		368

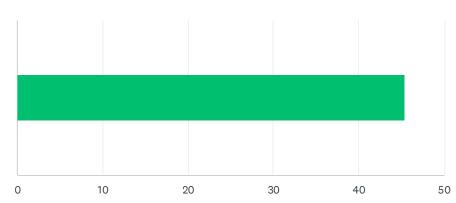
Q39 What percentage of your personal income is from agriculture?



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	54	19,271	357
Total Respondents: 357			

Q40 What percentage of your household income is from agriculture?

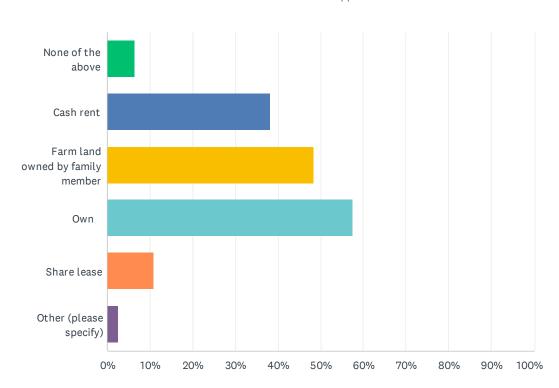




ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	45	15,612	344
Total Respondents: 344			

Q41 In regards to land, do you: (Select all that apply)

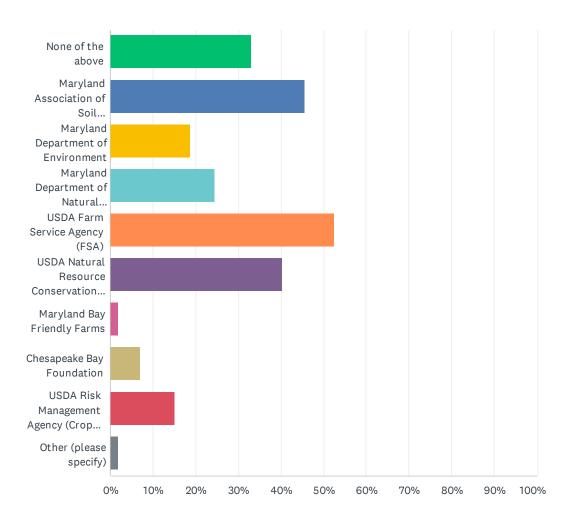




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	6.45%	26
Cash rent	38.21%	154
Farm land owned by family member	48.39%	195
Own	57.57%	232
Share lease	10.92%	44
Other (please specify)	2.48%	10
Total Respondents: 403		

Q42 Do you interact with the following organizations? (Select all that apply):





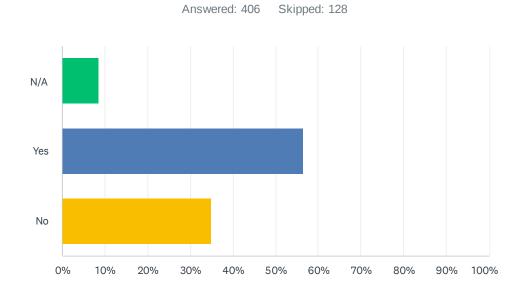
Maryland Young Farmers Survey 2024

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	32.97%	120
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts	45.60%	166
Maryland Department of Environment	18.68%	68
Maryland Department of Natural Resources	24.45%	89
USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)	52.47%	191
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)	40.38%	147
Maryland Bay Friendly Farms	1.92%	7
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	7.14%	26
USDA Risk Management Agency (Crop Insurance)	15.11%	55
Other (please specify)	1.92%	7
Total Respondents: 364		

Q43 If you selected any of the programs in the last question, what is your interaction with each? (ex. NRCS Cost Share, RMA crop insurance, etc.)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 403

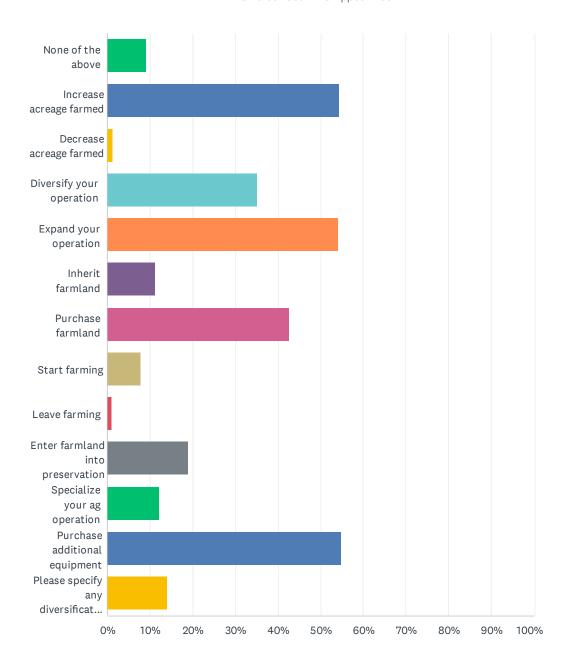
Q44 Do you use social media to promote your farm?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
N/A	8.62%	35
Yes	56.40%	229
No	34.98%	142
TOTAL		406

Q45 In the next 5 years do you plan to: (Select all that apply)





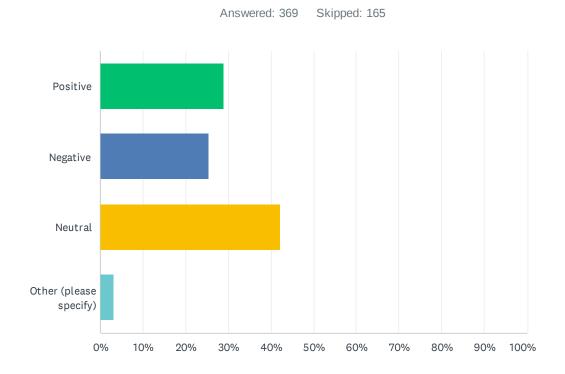
Maryland Young Farmers Survey 2024

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	9.21%	34
Increase acreage farmed	54.47%	201
Decrease acreage farmed	1.36%	5
Diversify your operation	35.23%	130
Expand your operation	54.20%	200
Inherit farmland	11.38%	42
Purchase farmland	42.55%	157
Start farming	7.86%	29
Leave farming	1.08%	4
Enter farmland into preservation	18.97%	70
Specialize your ag operation	12.20%	45
Purchase additional equipment	54.74%	202
Please specify any diversification, specialization, or expansion:	14.09%	52
Total Respondents: 369		

Q46 What programs have you utilized directed towards young farmer success? (i.e. MARBIDCO Next-Gen, etc.)

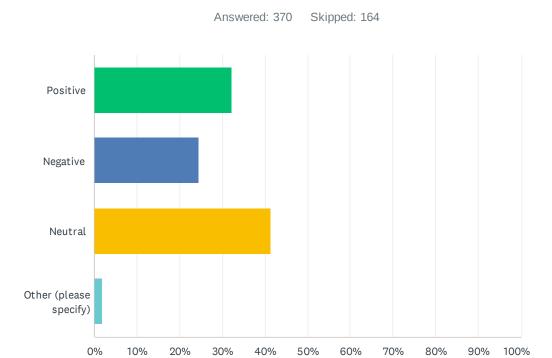
Answered: 116 Skipped: 418

Q47 What do you think is the average Maryland citizen's perception of agriculture?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Positive	29.00%	107
Negative	25.47%	94
Neutral	42.28%	156
Other (please specify)	3.25%	12
TOTAL		369

Q48 What do you think the average Maryland citizen's perception of Maryland farmers is?



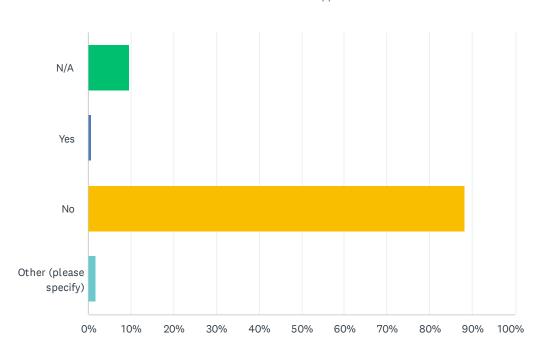
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Positive	32.16%	119
Negative	24.59%	91
Neutral	41.35%	153
Other (please specify)	1.89%	7
TOTAL		370

Q49 What actions can the Maryland Department of Agriculture take to promote a positive perception of Maryland agriculture?

Answered: 197 Skipped: 337

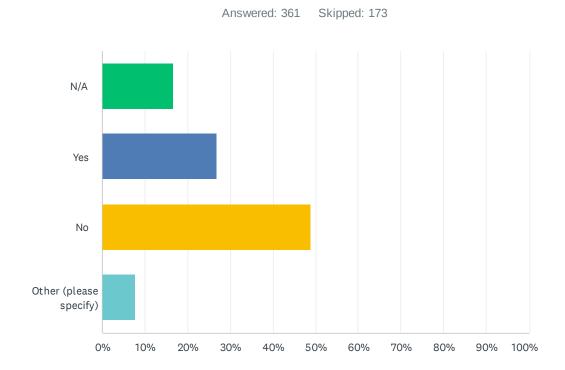
Q50 Do you sell carbon credits?





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
N/A	9.51%	35
Yes	0.54%	2
No	88.32%	325
Other (please specify)	1.63%	6
TOTAL		368

Q51 Would you be interested in participating in a pilot carbon credit exchange program?



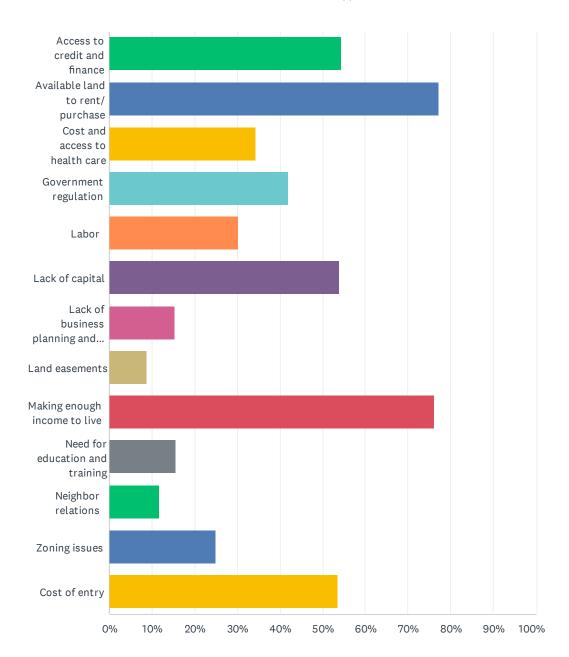
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
N/A	16.62%	60
Yes	26.87%	97
No	48.75%	176
Other (please specify)	7.76%	28
TOTAL		361

Q52 What programs would you like to see the Maryland Department of Agriculture make available to assist young farmers?

Answered: 165 Skipped: 369

Q53 From your experience please select up to five main obstacles that young farmers face:

Answered: 373 Skipped: 161

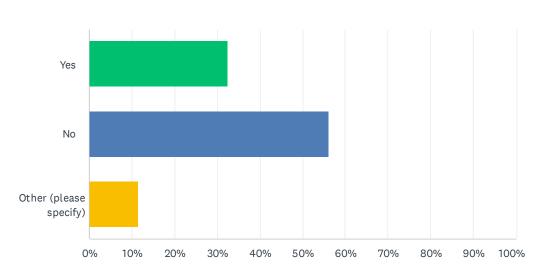


Maryland Young Farmers Survey 2024

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Access to credit and finance	54.42%	203
Available land to rent/ purchase	77.21%	288
Cost and access to health care	34.32%	128
Government regulation	42.09%	157
Labor	30.29%	113
Lack of capital	53.89%	201
Lack of business planning and marketing trainings	15.28%	57
Land easements	8.85%	33
Making enough income to live	76.14%	284
Need for education and training	15.55%	58
Neighbor relations	11.80%	44
Zoning issues	24.93%	93
Cost of entry	53.62%	200
Total Respondents: 373		

Q54 Do you apply for grants to help advance your operation?





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	32.49%	116
No	56.02%	200
Other (please specify)	11.48%	41
TOTAL		357

Q55 If so, what grants have been most valuable to you and your operation?

Answered: 102 Skipped: 432

Q56 If you had the opportunity to speak with a legislator, what would you ask them to do for Maryland agriculture?

Answered: 199 Skipped: 335

Q57 If you have any additional comments, please specify below:

Answered: 35 Skipped: 499

Q58 Name:

Answered: 302 Skipped: 232

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
First name	100.00%	302
Last name	99.67%	301
	0.00%	0
	0.00%	0
	0.00%	0

Q59 Email:

Answered: 300 Skipped: 234

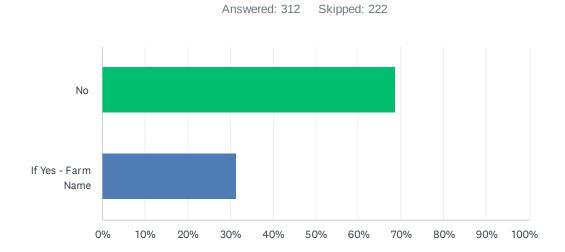
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Email address	100.00%	300

Q60 Phone:

Answered: 278 Skipped: 256

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Phone number	100.00%	278
	0.00%	0

Q61 Did you complete this survey on behalf of your farming operation with multiple young farmers involved? Only 1 prize opportunity per farm.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	68.59%	214
If Yes - Farm Name	31.41%	98
TOTAL		312