

Klondike Farmers Survey, 2020: Infrastructure Need & Demand

This survey was conducted between January and March of 2020 in order to assist the Klondike Farmers Forum learn more about:

- current and future needs and demands of regional farmers, and
- whether there is sufficient interest, activity and potential for growth for the development of agricultural infrastructure projects.

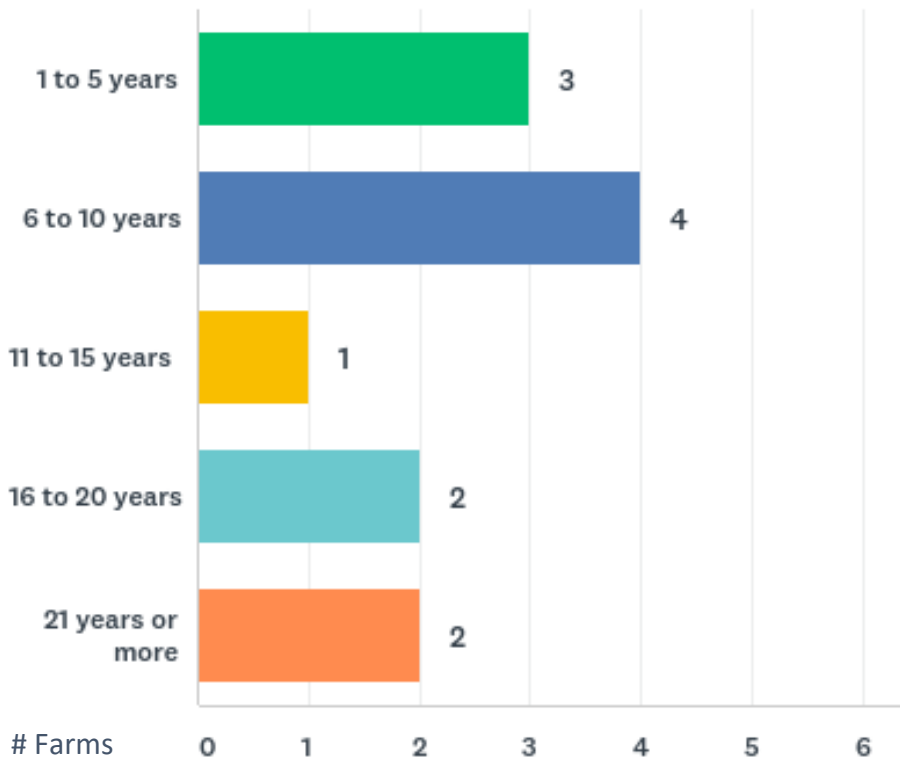
The smaller of the two project concepts being explored is a shared storage space for bulk farming inputs such as feed, seed or fertilizer and other supplies and whether this would benefit local farmers by enabling competitive bulk pricing and reduced overall shipping costs.

The second and larger project concept being explored is abattoir facilities. Meat production is on the rise in the Klondike, but it is important to try and quantify this growth to some extent in order to better understand and plan for supports that may be needed in the near or long term.

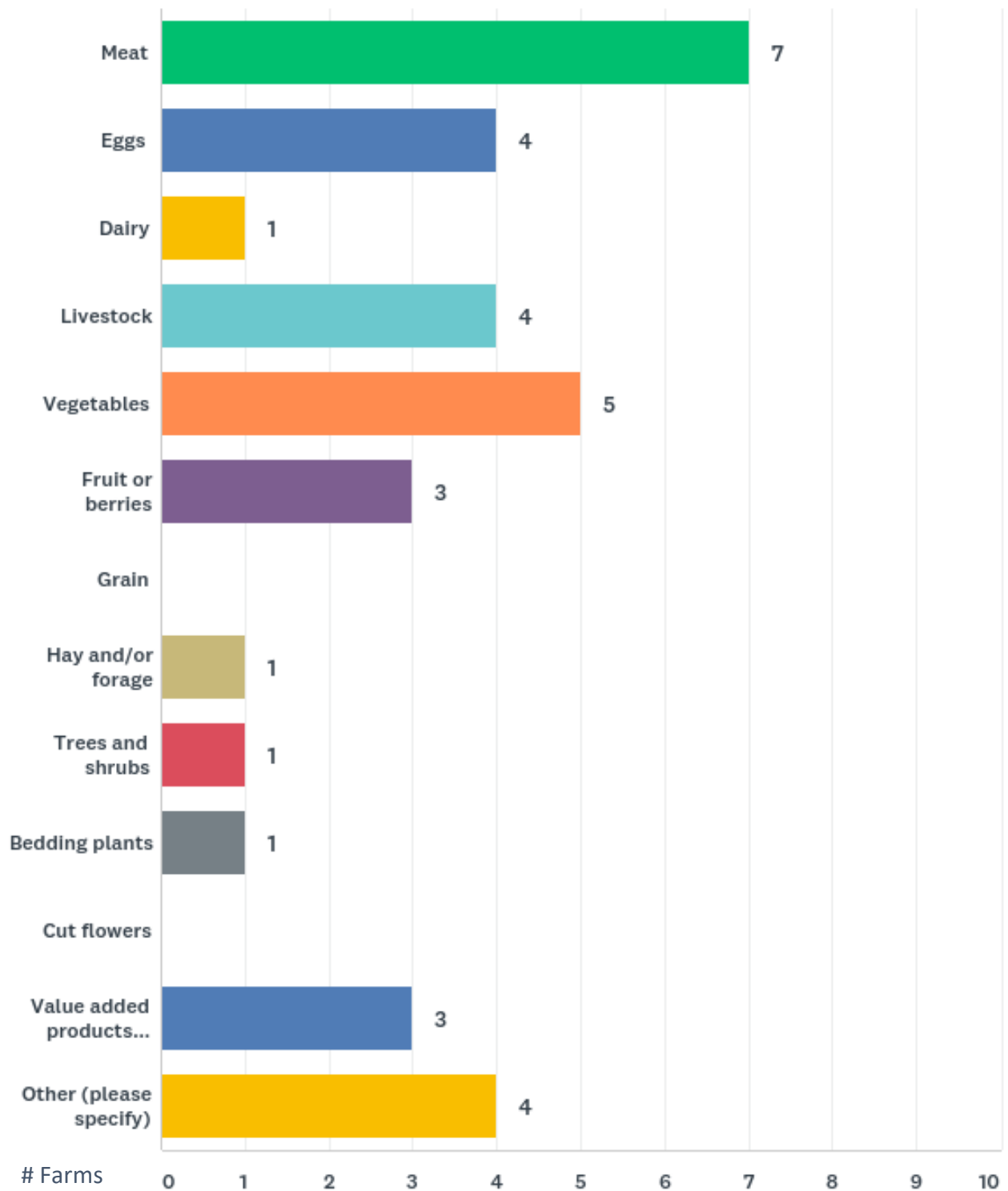
Parts 1 and 2 of the survey were completed by 12 respondent farmers of all varieties. Part 3 was completed by 8 farmers actively producing meat products.

PART I - General Information

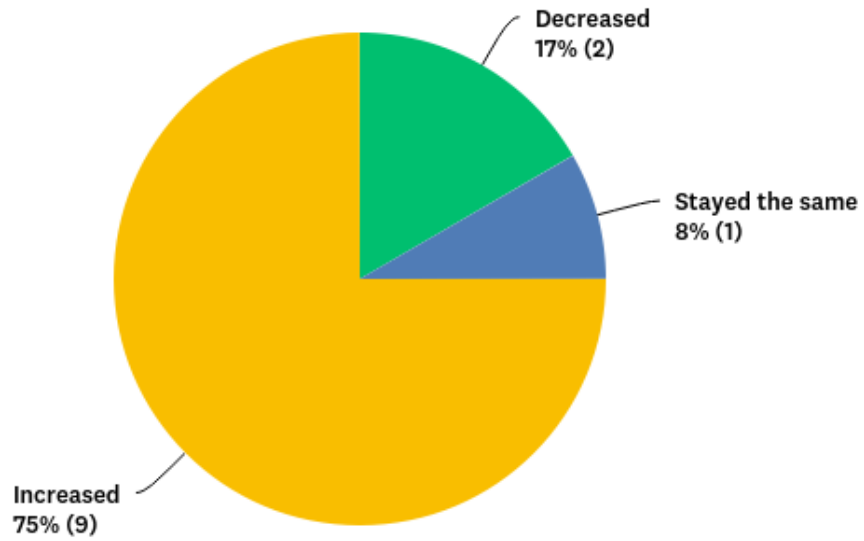
I - How long has your farm been in operation?



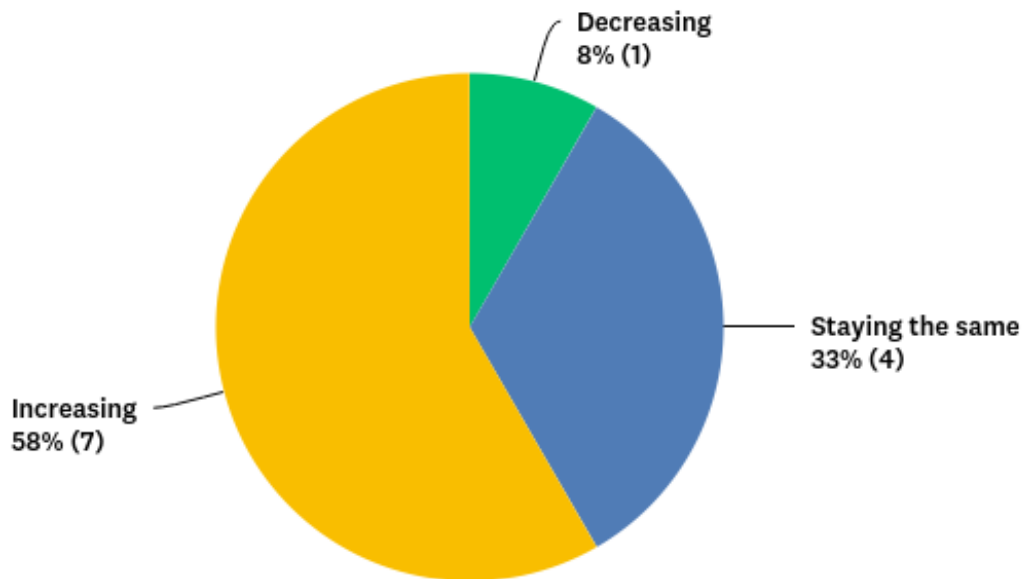
2- What types of products does your farm produce for sale?



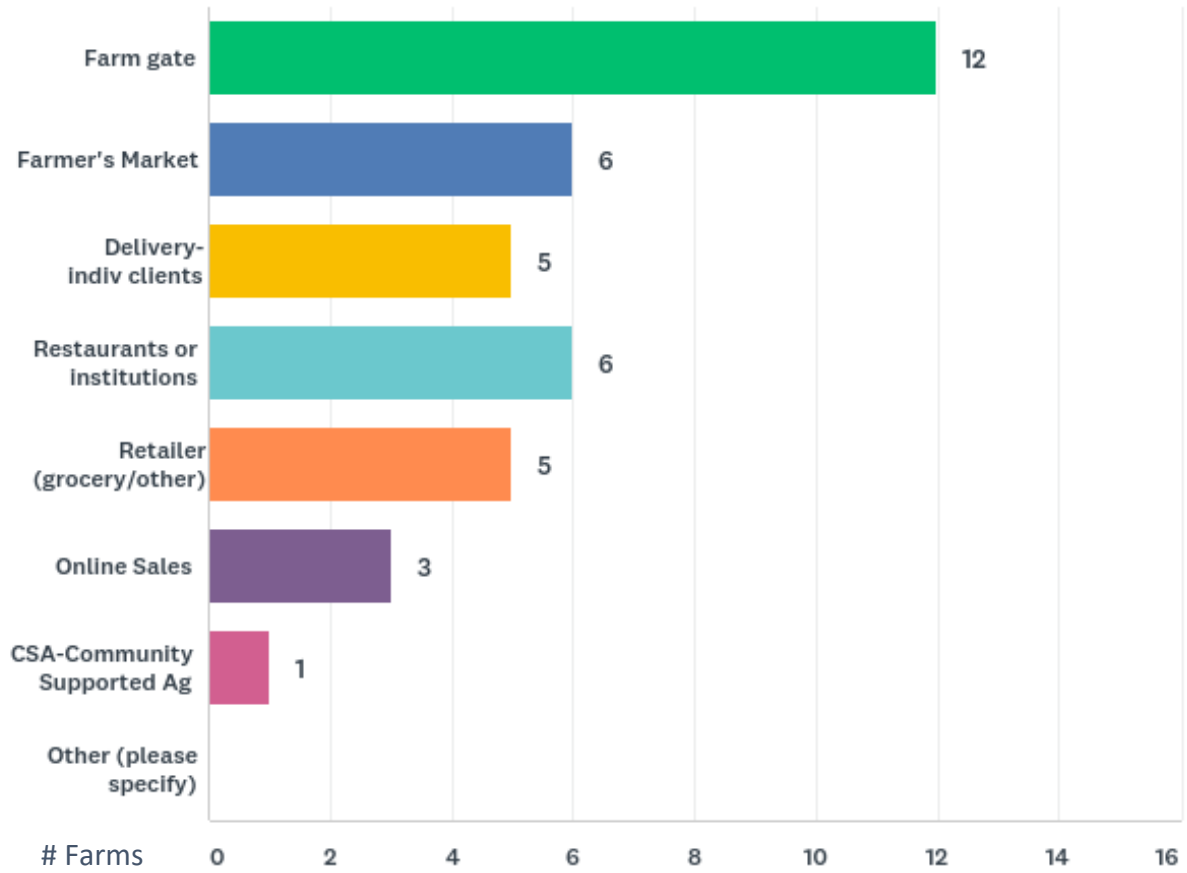
3- Over the past three years, would you say that the size of your farming operation or production has...



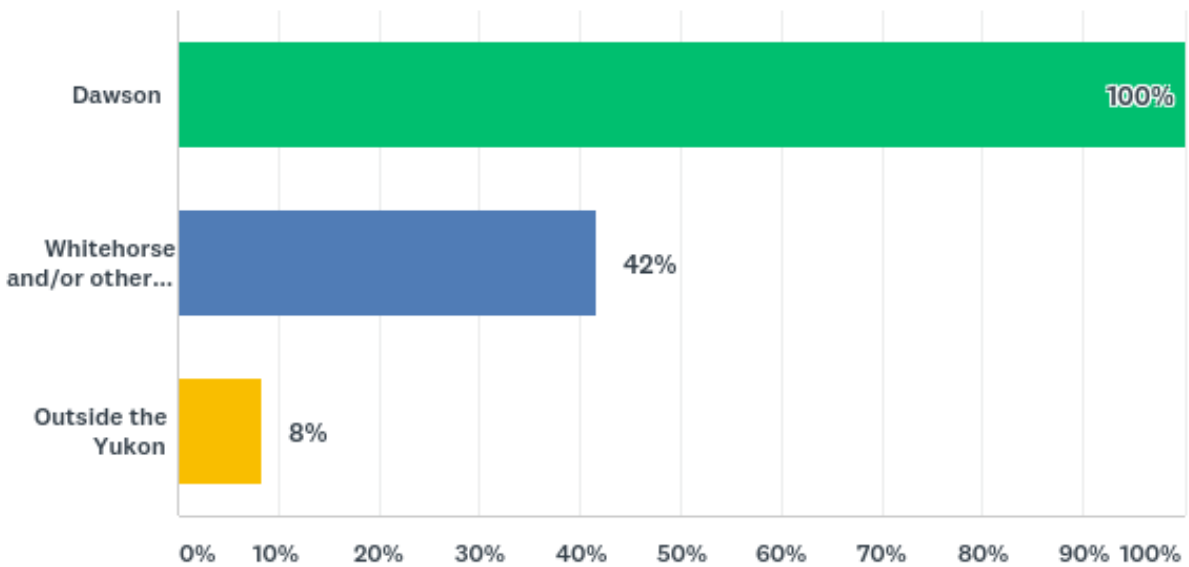
4- Over the next three years, do you anticipate the size or production level of your farming operation or production...



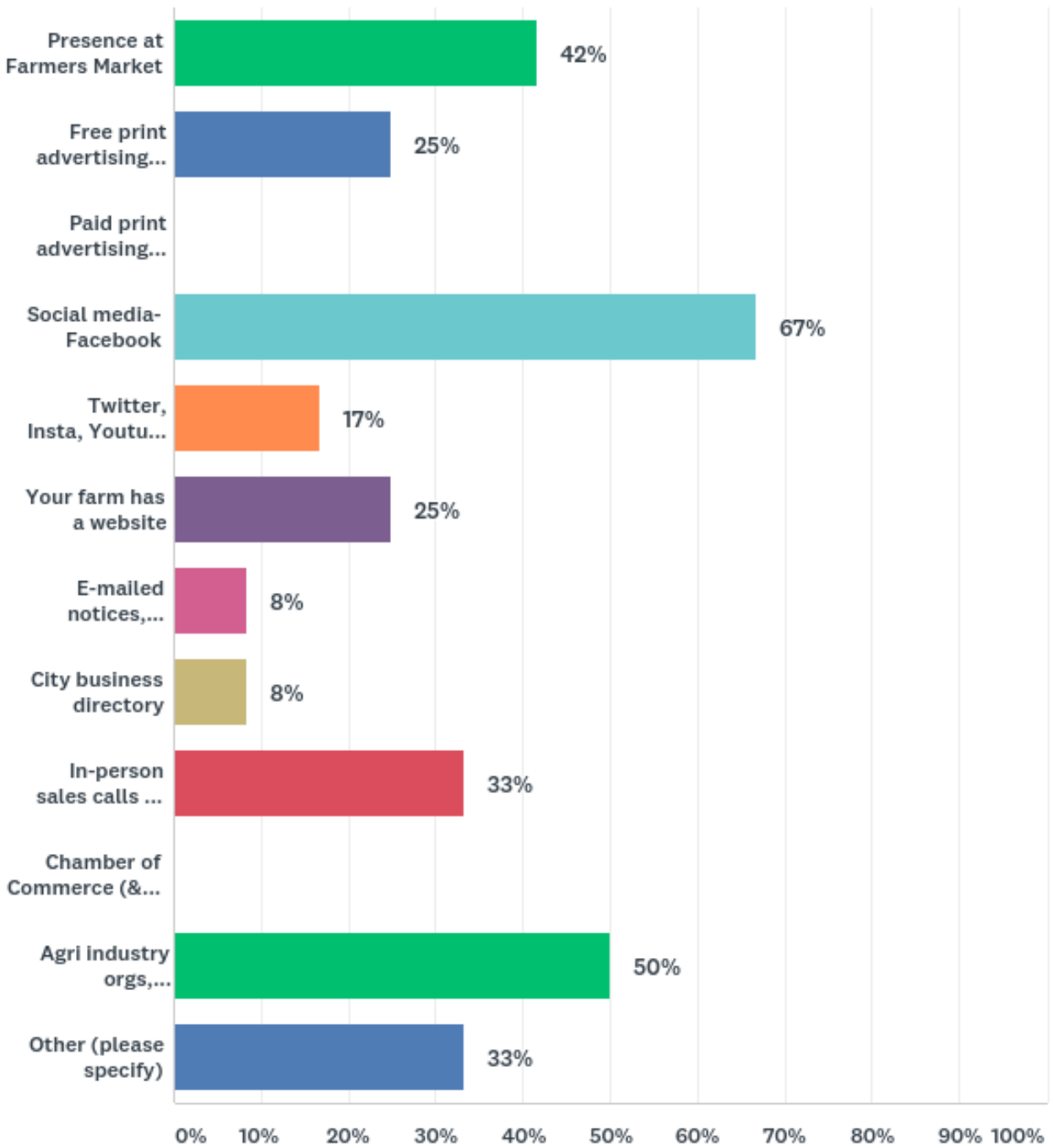
5- Where are your products sold or distributed (check any that apply)?



6- Do you currently sell products into... (check all that apply):



7- How do you promote your farm and/or your products? Check all that apply.



8- Do you believe there is a market for your products outside your current market, and if so, what are the main barriers to reaching it?

Yes. Inspection for products to cross Territorial lines.
n/a
We are able to sell everything we grow/produce, except we have an excess of goat meat, people are not familiar with how to use it in our community.
yes, ability to get the meat slaughtered and inspected for retail market
Yes , I need more land
Could sell more produce to Whitehorse but freight is a barrier.
Yes. Size of operation
-
N/A..I am a tiny farm and have enough regular buyers for what I can produce
Yes, safe transport for live plants, safe storage for live plants on highway side
Yes. Access to a abattoir for inspected meats

8- Do you believe there is a market for your products outside your current season, and if so, what are the main barriers to providing a longer season of supply and/or service?

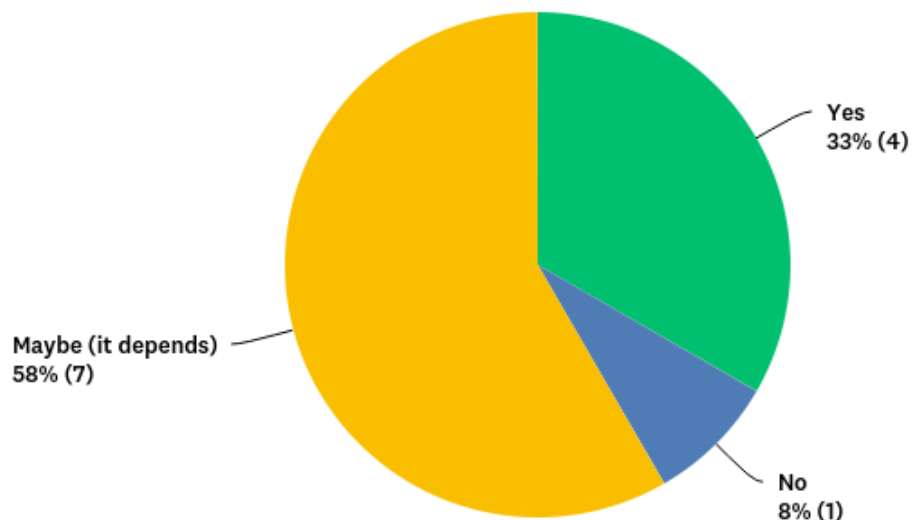
We will not be seasonal... constant and high quality feed are our main barriers.
n/a
Our customers struggle to find butcher for their pork in the fall.
we produce year round, but need more infrastructures de bread year round too
Freezer/cooler but we have just purchased one
Could sell root veggies in the winter but I am not here to sell them
Yes. Size of operation
Root cellar
N/A..I am a tiny farm and have enough regular buyers for what I can produce
yes, reliable freezer space & potentially cold storage on highway side
Yes, year round access to abattoir for inspected meat. This would enable a more consistent year round meat supply

PART 2- Shared Bulk Buying and Storage

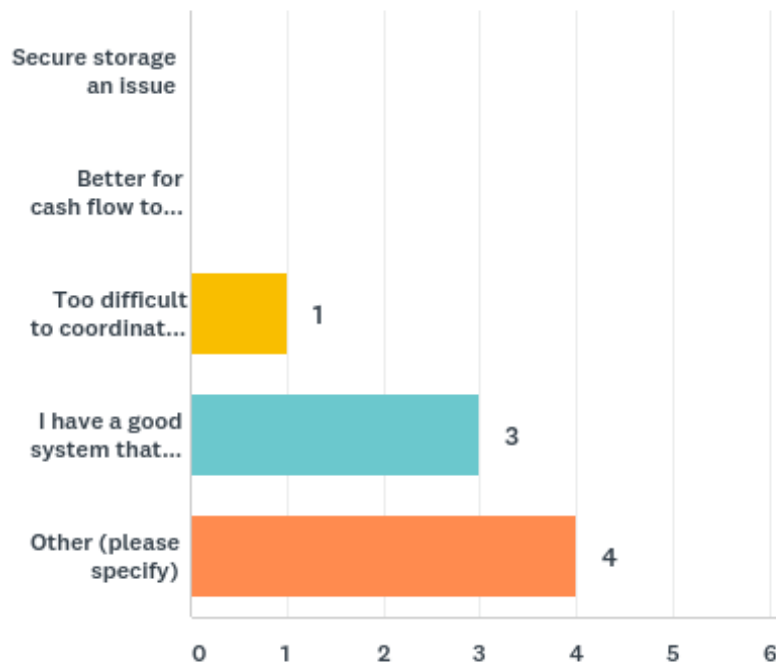
I- What are the main ongoing supplies you must order in from outside the community for your farming operation, and where do you source them from?

Hay- Peace Country area or northern BC. Seed barley- Beaver Lodge Alberta
Fertilizer and seed / Yukon Grain Farm and Fosters in Grande Prairie
Pig/chicken/goat feed. Seed. Bottles/lables/buckets
grain, from organic farm producer northern BC and straw, where we can find some.
Livestock from Whitehorse, seeds from ontario/u.s Feed from whitehorse/alberta
Seeds - sourced from seed companies and Yukon Grain Farm; soil mix for bedding plants - Arctic Inland; fertilizers - ordered from Alberta & BC and Yukon Grain Farm
Grain
Only seeds from Westcoast seeds, William Dam and Veseys seeds
Feed
Grain, straw....Yukon Grain farm. Hay...Dan.
Fertilizer - bagged hen manure pellets from quebec; pots/poly from alberta; live trees/shrubs from alberta
Livestock feed from Whitehorse

2- Would you be interested in ordering farm inputs such as feed, fertilizers or other items in bulk in cooperation with other farmers in the area in order to get better prices and reduce shipping costs?



3- If you answered no, for what reason? Are there any issues you would see with buying and shipping in bulk?



Details of 'Other' responses:

- we want organic feed
- Size of packaging is limited due to farm location.
- I put maybe....I would like to see my money stay in the Yukon and so if orders were outside, say Alberta, my answer would be no...
- Our operation is in flux and it is difficult to predict our needs and how we will meet them over the coming years; also we don't see currently that others have the same needs as us. However, this survey could help identify unknown overlaps!

4- If you answered yes or maybe above, OR if the KFF could offer secure storage and a simple and efficient means of coordinating orders, what (if any) items would you order in bulk and what approximate quantity per year?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 3

	0 TO 499 KG	500 TO 999 KG	1000 TO 1999 KG	2000 + KG	TOTAL
Feed	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	16.67% 1	66.67% 4	6
Seed	60.00% 3	20.00% 1	0.00% 0	20.00% 1	5
Fertilizer	75.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	4
Soil mix, mulch, etc.	100.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3
Packaging (wraps, cartons, etc.)	66.67% 2	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	3
Fencing	50.00% 1	50.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	2
Other	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0

5- If you checked any items above, please specify the type of product (for example if you checked feed, tell us what kind: poultry grower, layer, pig, etc.) and your preferred brand if you have one.

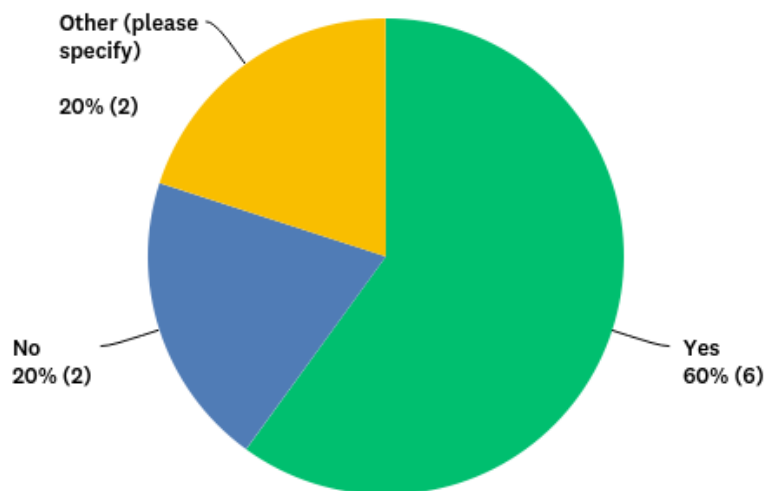
Certified seed barley for fodder growth. Dairy protein concentrate.
Grain and Brome seed
Pig starter and grower, chicken starter and grower, Dairy Ration and Alfafa Oat and Field Pea seed, Some kind of Hay Seed
organic grain for pig and poultry feed
Poultry, hog, rabbit
20-20-20 granular fertilizer - brand not important
Layer, rolled oats and barley, ground barley (pig feed),chick starter,
Poultry grower, layer and pig grower. (Yukon grain farm), any organic fertilizer, egg cartons.
Fertilizer: ActiSol 5-3-3 350lbs/year, animal manure 250lbs, blaed peat- 10 bales, 50 lbs, soil mix, 20lbs perlite
3 tons chicken layer, 8 tons chicken grower, 15 tons pig grower

6- Would you be willing to change your preferred brand/source if there were an option to buy feed as a group?

Yes: 2
 No: 2
 Maybe: 2
 Other: 2

- We like supporting the Yukon Grain Farm as they are local
- No, unless there was somewhere else to buy good quality, Yukon produced grain....

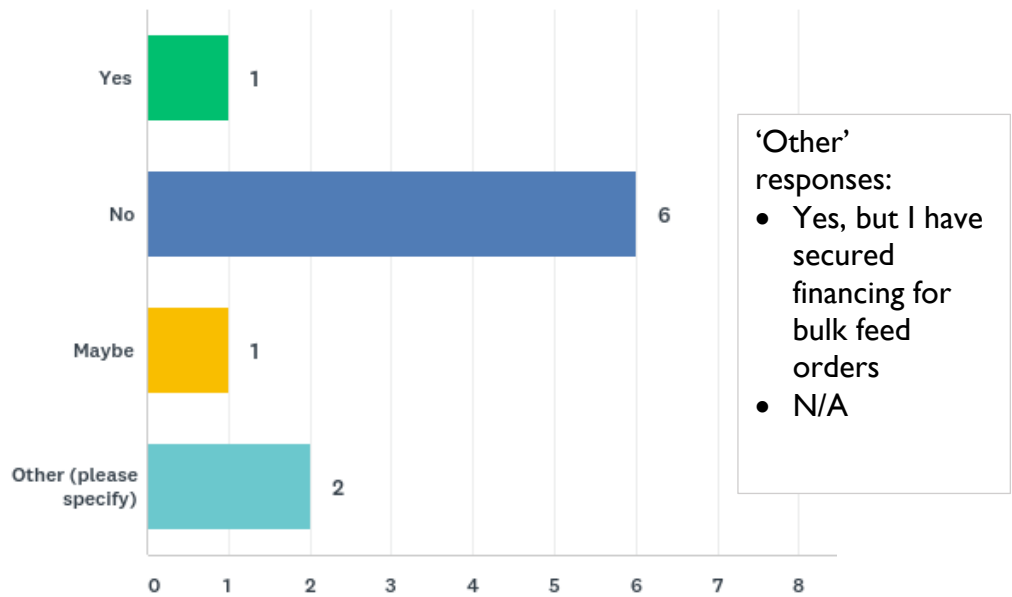
7- If coordinated supply orders were made, do you have somewhere to store your portion of the order (for up to a year)?



'Other' responses:

- We have capacity to store 1 tonne of feed at a time aprx, not counting hay
- N/A

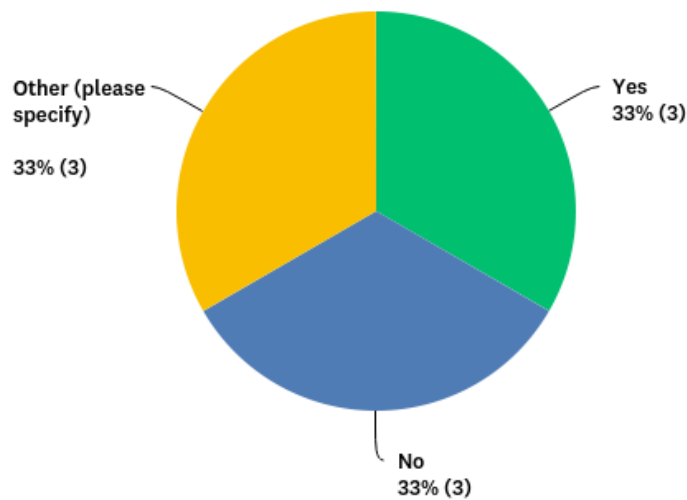
8- Would you need financing in order to purchase supplies in bulk?



9- If KFF were to pursue obtaining a shared storage space for bulk purchases such as those listed above (pending sufficient demand), what characteristics should it have (type of shelter, means of securing, etc.)? What suggestions would you have for keeping operation complexity and costs to a minimum?

Our products must stay dry. Security of some kind to prevent theft. Fabric covered buildings are economical.
Bulk seed and fertilizer bins
Appropriate for storing feed, secure, dry, accessible in all seasons
Make it simple
I probably would not use this as I have my own storage space
I don't know enough to be helpful here other than to suggest it is sited at the TH farm...
Dry, fenced, access to pressurized water (for live plant storage); bays? Things to consider are whether bulk items will be divvied up and stored separated for access when folks need it, or for those items that show up e.g. in a tote how 'self weighing' will happen. Think bulk bins at the grocery...
Secure and locked perimeter fencing, quansit hut type cold/dry storage facility, forklift/loader to lift and clear snow, designated person(s) to manage. Facility should be for storage pick up for tons at a time, not bags.

10- Would you be willing to pay a membership fee to have access to a secure storage area?



'Other' responses:

- If it is still economical of course!
- Only because I don't need it... if I did, I would.
- Depends on relevance to our products

11- Is there anything you currently purchase in bulk that you would be willing to sell to other farmers?

barley seed
No
Bottles, glass and plastic. Buckets
yes
We already sell feed, straw, shavings
no
No, we only buy what we use
No, there isn't enough margin for the service.

12- Is there anything you would prefer to buy from a local farmer if it were available?

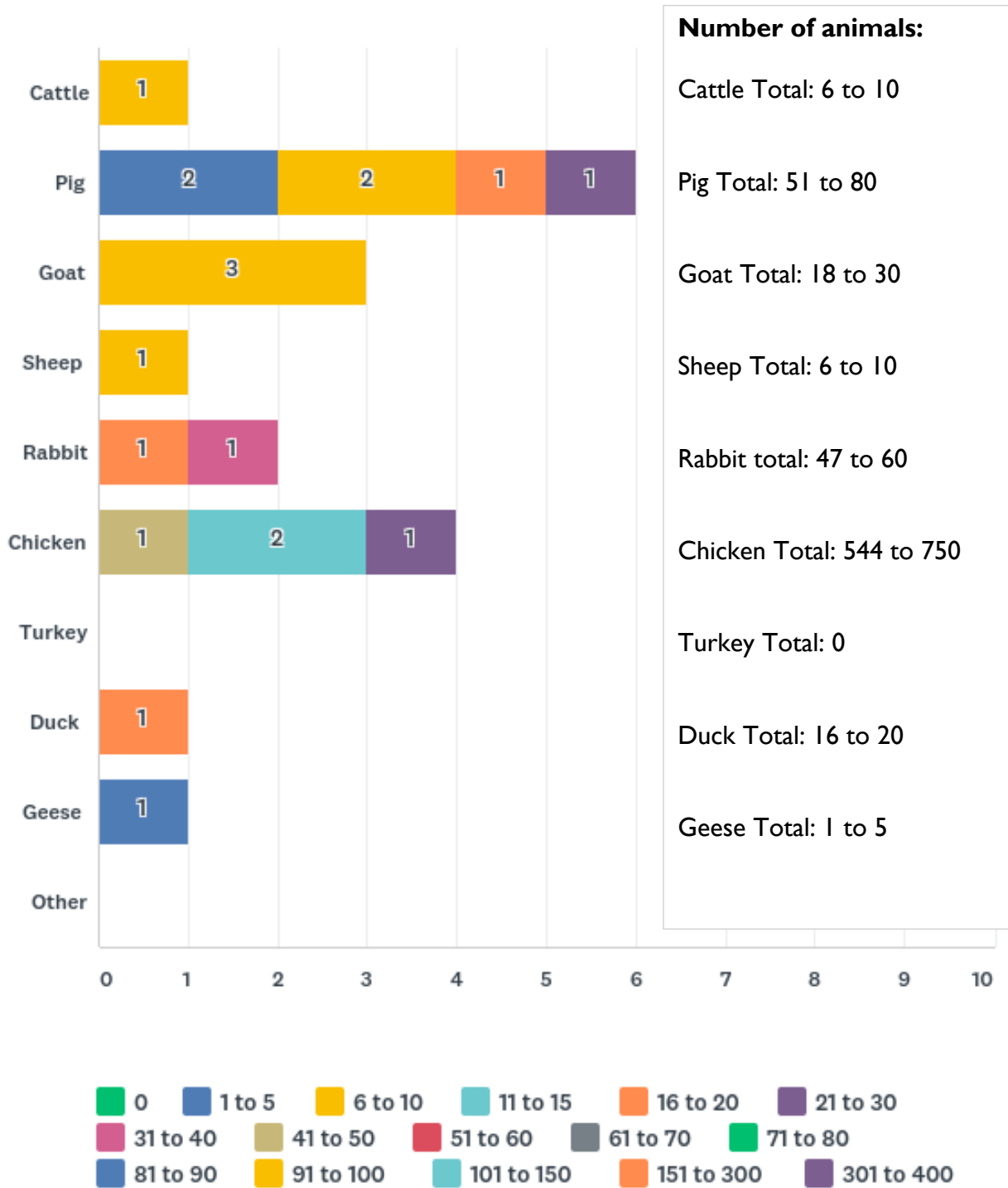
more hay
Fertilizer and seed
Whatever we can get locally we will if it is affordable. We buy as much from the Yukon Grain farm as possible and get our hay that we can't yet grow from Reynolds.
Yes, organic grain, hay and straw
Seed potatoes, straw
no
Grain
Animal feed for sure! Seeds for veggies. Straw.
Manure!
livestock feed-grain

I3- Is there any other infrastructure that is needed by farmers in the Klondike area that would bridge gaps or otherwise support improving and expanding operations, market access, etc.? (If an abattoir, please proceed to next section of this survey).

abattoir
No
Rentable Chicken Plucker
See next section of survey
Cooler freezer

PART 3- Abattoir and Meat Production

I- In 2019, what types of animals did your farm process, and how many of each?



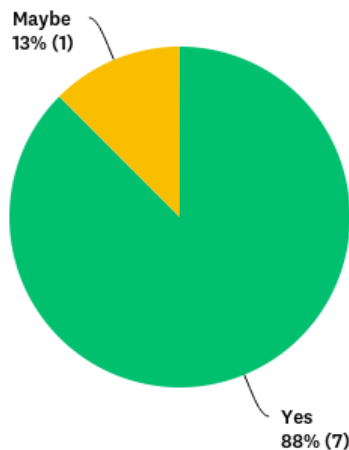
2- In 2020, what types of animals do you expect to process, and how many of each?

Animal	Total anticipated production in Klondike area for 2020 (# animals)	Number of farms producing & contributing to this total
Cattle	6 to 10	1
Pig	71 to 100	6
Goat	13 to 25	3
Sheep	6 to 10	1
Rabbit	31 to 40	1
Chicken	605 to 820	5
Turkey	91 to 100	1
Duck	21 to 30	1
Geese	1 to 5	1

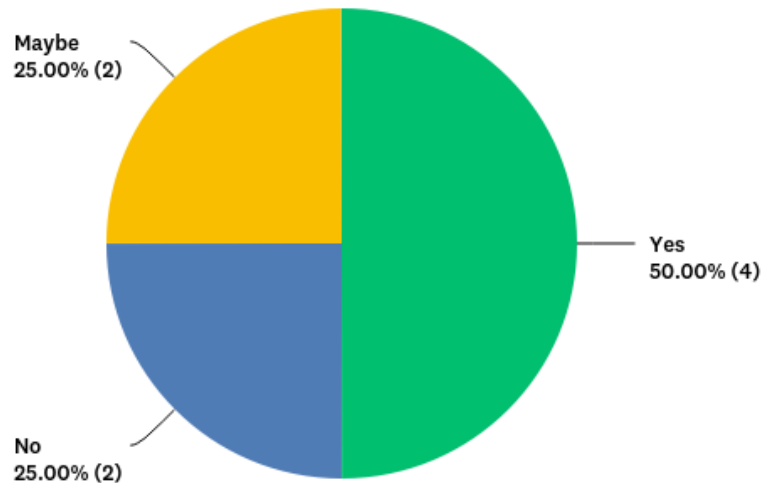
3- Thinking about your operation in 5 years time, do you anticipate numbers of animals processed to change, and if so in what way?

Animal	Total anticipated production increase in Klondike area (# of animals over 2019 production)	Number of farms increasing production of this animal
Cattle	10	1
Pig	135	3
Goat	10	1
Sheep	10	1
Rabbit	35	2
Chicken	1000	2
Turkey	200	1
Duck	100	1
Geese	10	1

4- Do you expect to continue farming for the next 10 years?



5- Would the construction of a local abattoir influence whether you decide to expand herd/flock sizes and increase inspected meat production?



6- Is there anything that would enable increased meat production by Klondike farmers in between the systems in place now and obtaining a localized abattoir?

Transport of live animals. Inspected transport of meat.
If the butcher could have more time in the fall
While an abattoir is a wonderful project, I believe that a certified killing floor could be built at any location for a minimal expense. As long as there is a proper supply of water, an adequate cool storage and a qualified inspector is present for the kill, there is no reason for an abattoir.
Not for me
Subsidized shipping service to Whitehorse abattoir or bringing up the mobile abattoir in the spring and longer availability in fall.

7- If an abattoir were built in the Dawson area, what services do you think it should offer (and specifically that your farm would make use of)?

Red and white meat
Inspected slaughter
slaughtering facility to make inspected meat
Specifically- slaughter and processing of chickens. For others, I would say the same plus basic butchery services
Red and white meat, CFIA inspected facility to enable export out of Yukon to NWT, Alaska and BC

8- Do you see opportunities for value added meat product development as part of your operations? Or, as part of a co-operative operation?

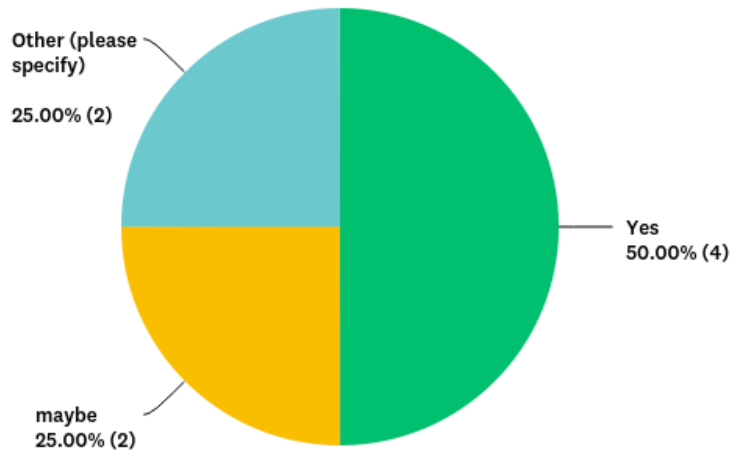
Yes: 3 responses

No: 1

Not sure: 1

Comment: I think the abattoir facility should include a butcher/commercial kitchen area.

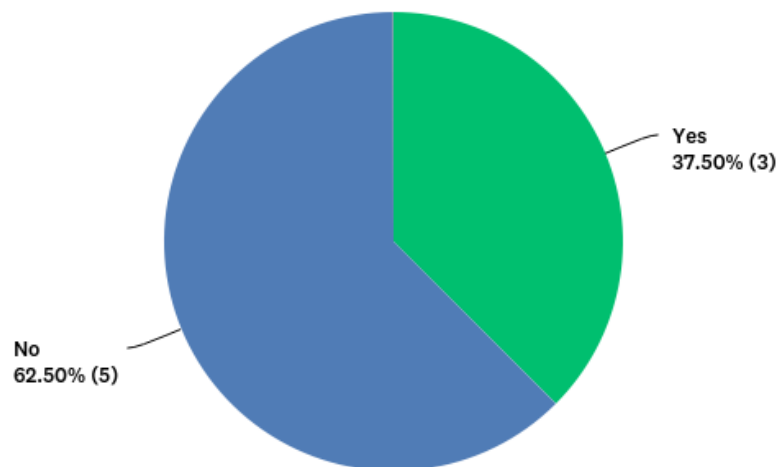
9- If a land-based abattoir were built in the Dawson area, would this serve your needs better than a mobile facility?



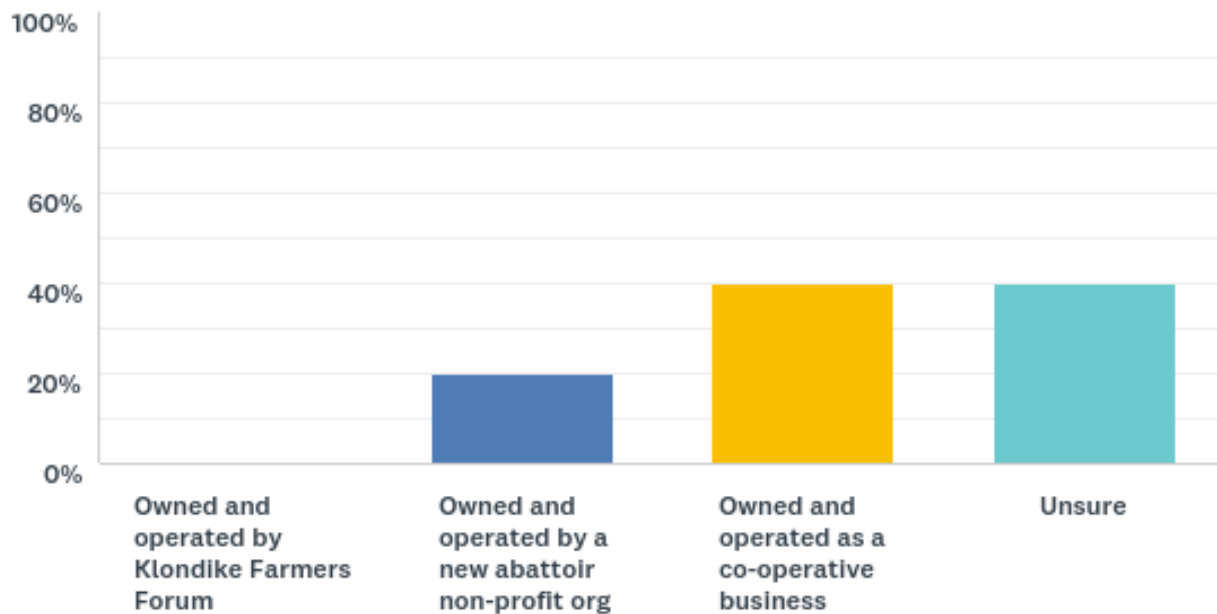
Response details for 'other':

- Yes, because I am presuming it could also cater for white meat?
- No, because we don't think a mobile abattoir would make it to our farm, and we don't want to stress our animals by transporting them to slaughter.

10- In the absence of increased local abattoir services, would you consider transporting animals for processing in Whitehorse (subject to costs being feasible)?



11- Considering who could be the proponent as well as operational models for an abattoir, which of the following would be your preference? Owned and operated...



12- Do you have any concerns about the introduction of an abattoir to the area?

5 respondents indicated no concerns.

2 respondents commented the following concerns:

- Our meat may seem less desirable compared to the commercial standard of the abattoir. That ought to be reflected in the price, and that will make the difference for us, as long as the abattoir cost is reflected in the price of the meat to the consumer. I like to do it myself because it keeps the skills of butchering alive and it proves that a small farm can do a good job on farm as ordinary people have through the ages. I am afraid that this will be outlawed as it has been in other provinces, and I would not like to see that happen in the Yukon. I fear that our society all too often comes to depend on expensive experts to do what people can do for themselves, sapping our confidence and rendering us quite useless. On the other hand, I see the beauty and efficiency of an abattoir and beautiful product that it can produce with relative ease for the farmer. Because we can not access this option from our remote location, I remain committed to the ideals that make me feel proud of the product that we can deliver with the means that we have, I do not want to see this method frowned upon.
- Unnecessary and under-utilized. Farmers stopping production. No one to operate it.

13- Is there anything else we should have asked, or that you would like to tell us about your observations re: the development of agriculture in the Klondike?

We took all the most positive comments and made a word cloud that celebrates local farming!

