THE OHIO FARM POLL

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The Ohio Farm Poll:

Unpacking the Diversity of Trends and Perspectives in Heterogenous Agricultural Landscape

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ORIGIN STORY:

- HIGH LEVELS OF STRESS IN OHIO AGRICULTURE IN 2018, 2019
  - Weather, Trade Wars, Suicides
- NO GOOD STATEWIDE DATA
- KEY QUESTIONS:
  - How are farmers doing?
  - What are biggest stressors?
  - How does this vary by farm type?

https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2019/07/30/ohio-crops-2019-farmers-40-counties-can-apply-disaster-relief-after-tough-year/1864664001/

2020 Ohio Farm Poll (OFP)

- **Survey designed w/ stakeholder input**
- **FOCUS: 2019 stresses: weather, markets, health, etc.**
  - **Document overall situation**
  - **Explore differences by farm type, size, marketing approach, HH demographics**
  - **Capture attitudes on key issues**
  - **Capture baseline data on farm practices**

2020 OHIO FARM POLL
Ohio Farmers Speak

We know that last year was a difficult time for many Ohio farm families. We designed this survey to gather accurate information about how different types of farms are adapting to changing market, weather, and community conditions.

Our goal is to take the pulse of the farm community on a range of important issues. We will use the results to guide OSU research and extension programs in 2020 and beyond. We will also share results with policy makers to ensure their decisions are made based on the best information available on the state of agriculture in Ohio.

We thank you in advance for taking the time to answer these questions.

This survey is designed to be completed by someone who is familiar with your farm operation. You must be over 18 to fill out this survey.
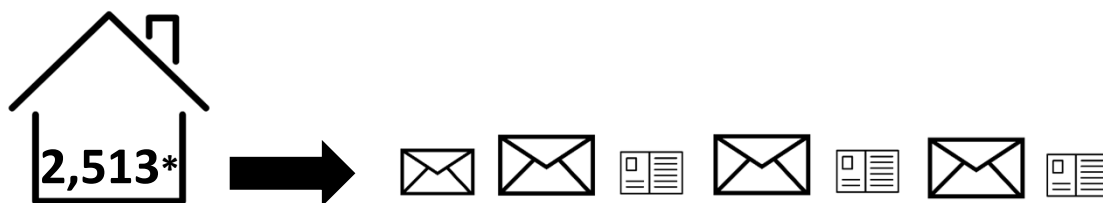**Did you or other members of your household operate a farm in Ohio in 2019?**
☐ NO → *Please ✓ and return survey in envelope*   ☐ YES → *Please continue*

METHODS

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- **Implemented February to May 2020**

- **Random samples**

  - **2,500 statewide farm operators (DTN) – stratified by acreage**

  - **500 certified organic farms (USDA)**

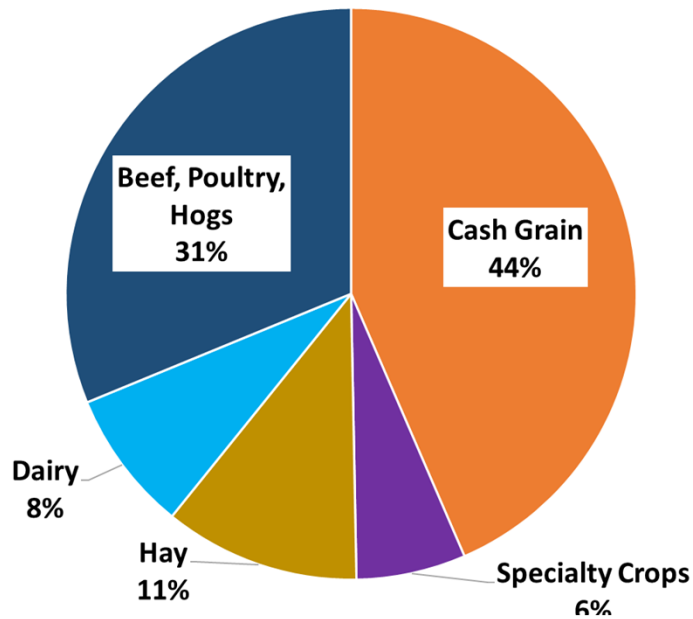- **Modified Dillman <u>Mail</u> <u>Survey</u> (w/ online option)**

  2,513*

  * = 487 disqualified – mostly from statewide random sample
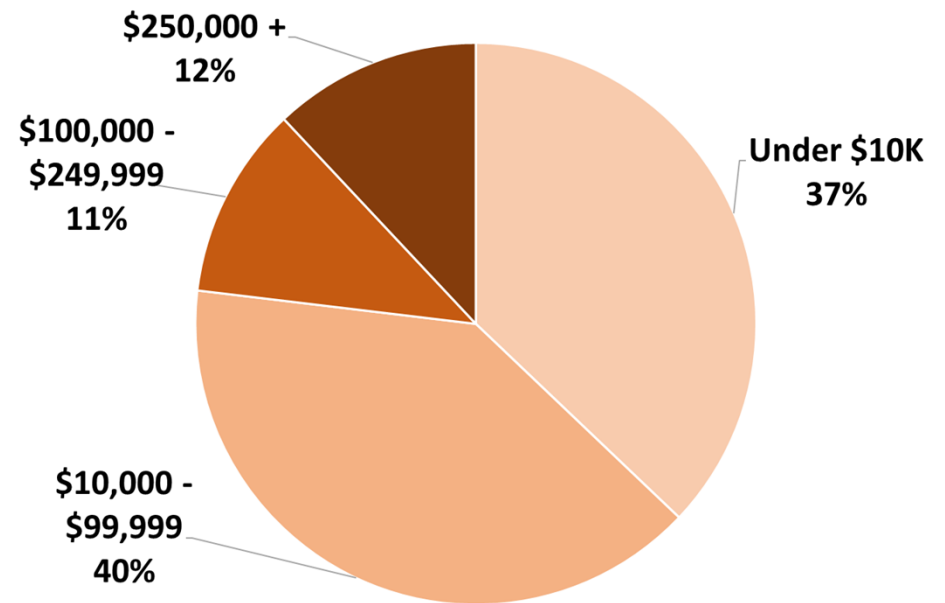
1,112 responded
44% response rate
- **41% statewide (837)**
- **56% organic (275)**
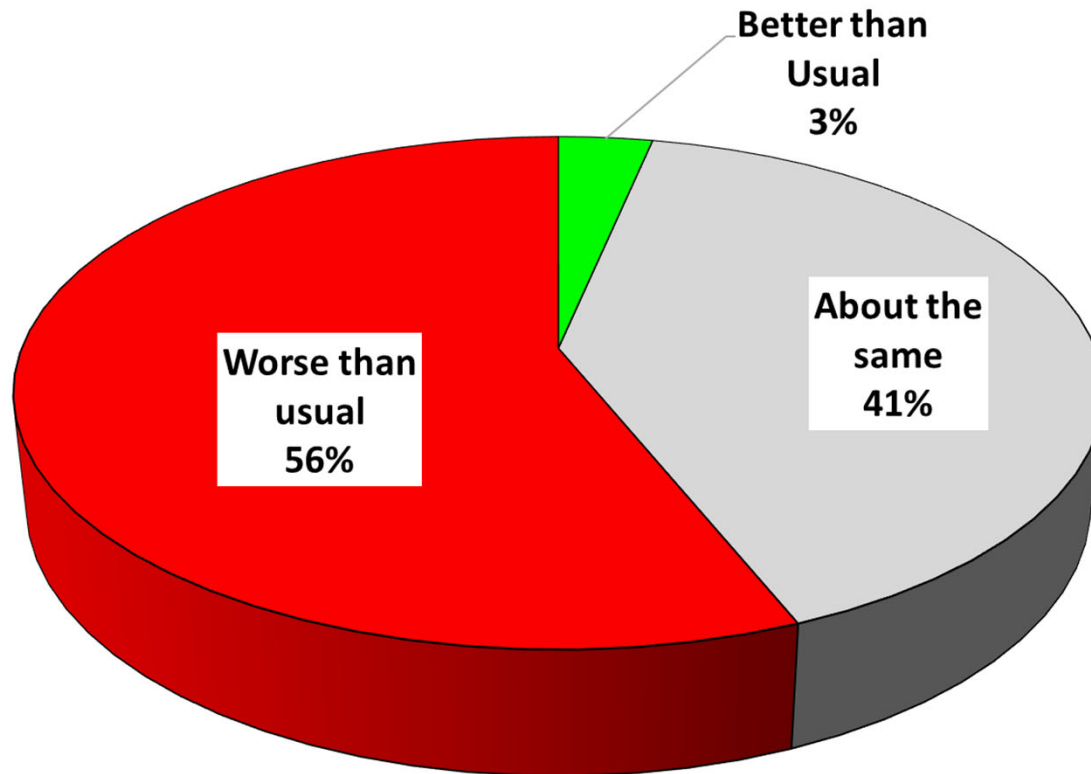
Profile of 2020 OFP Respondents *(weighted statewide)*

Farms by Most Important Source of Income

- Cash Grain 44%
- Beef, Poultry, Hogs 31%
- Hay 11%
- Dairy 8%
- Specialty Crops 6%

Percent of Farms by Gross Farm Sales

- Under $10K 37%
- $10,000 - $99,999 40%
- $100,000 - $249,999 11%
- $250,000 + 12%

How were Business Conditions on your Farm in 2019?

Better than Usual 3%

About the same 41%

Worse than usual 56%

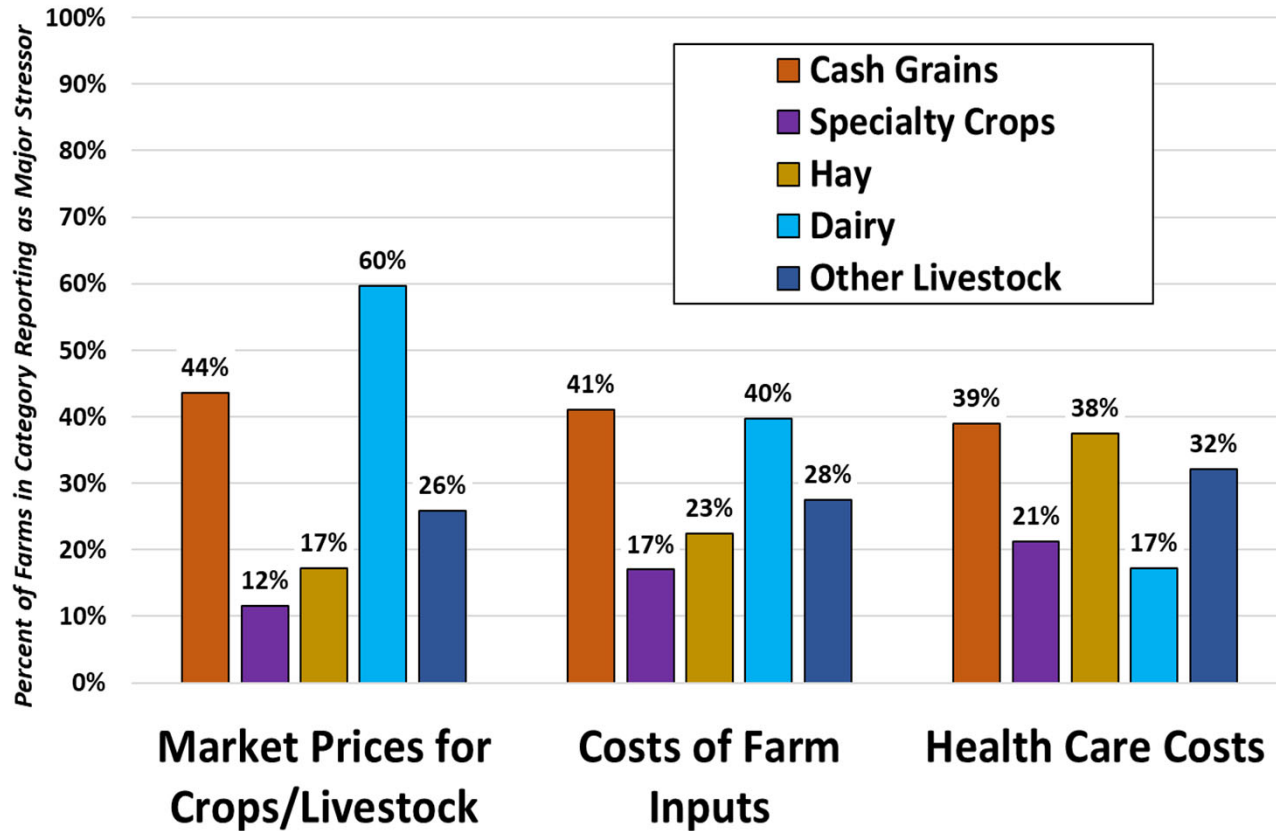2019 was a tough year for farm businesses

Major Sources of Stress in 2019
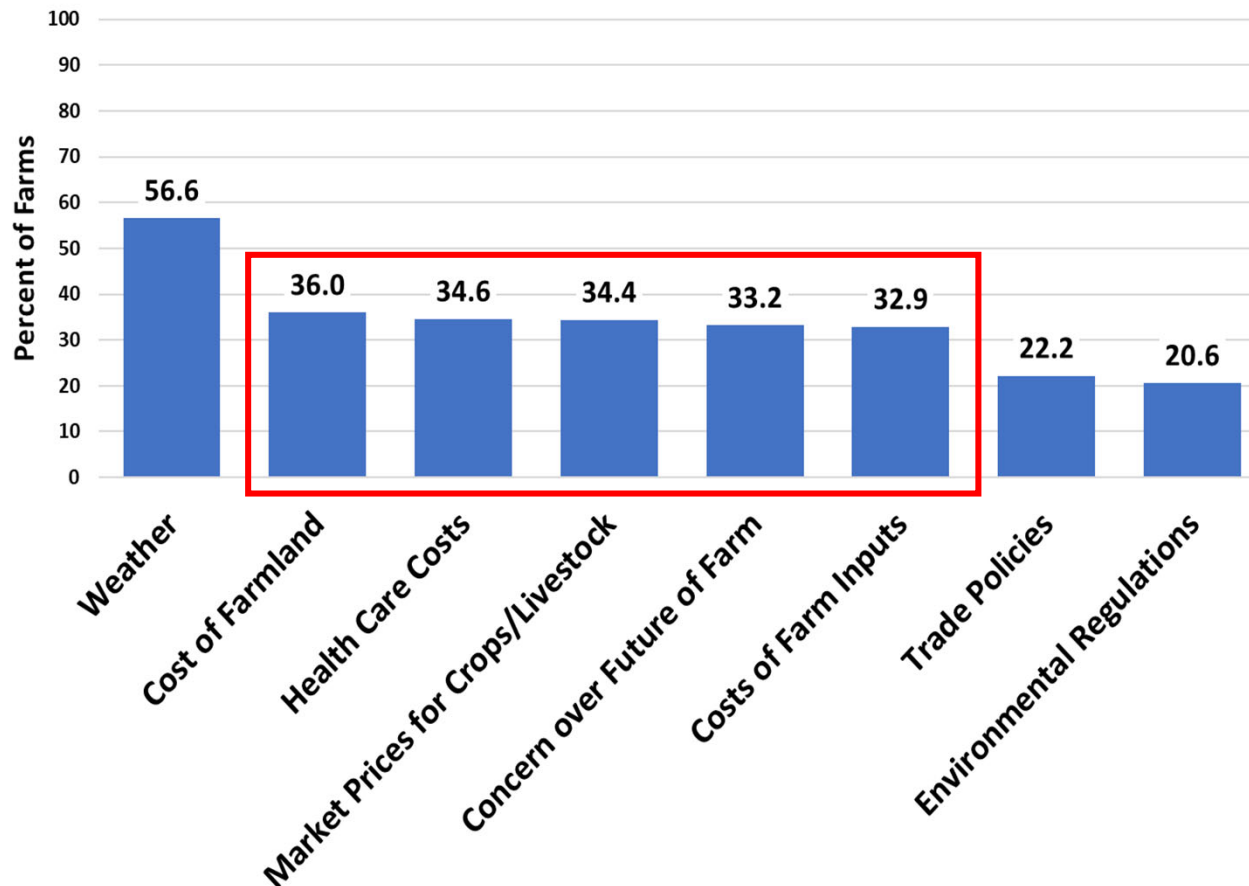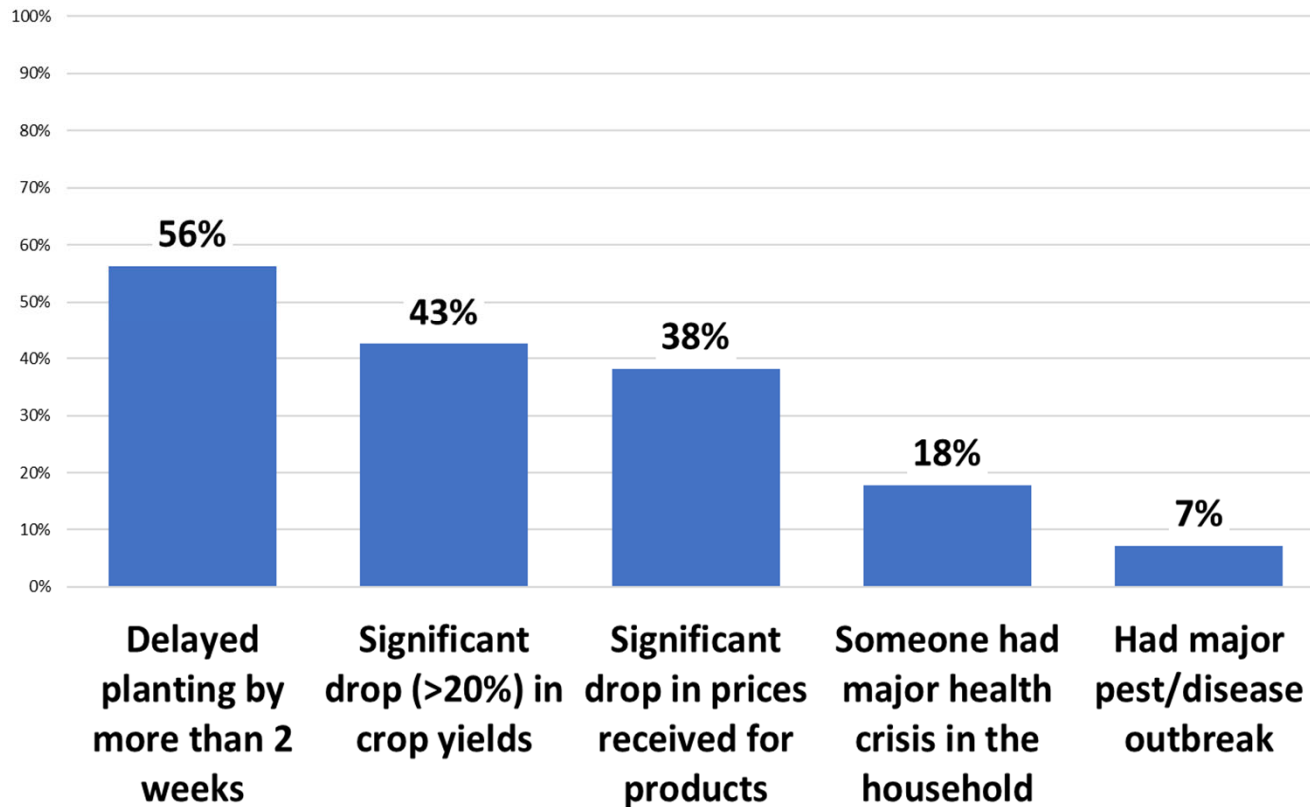
Top stressors

-Weather

-Poor farm economy

-Health care costs
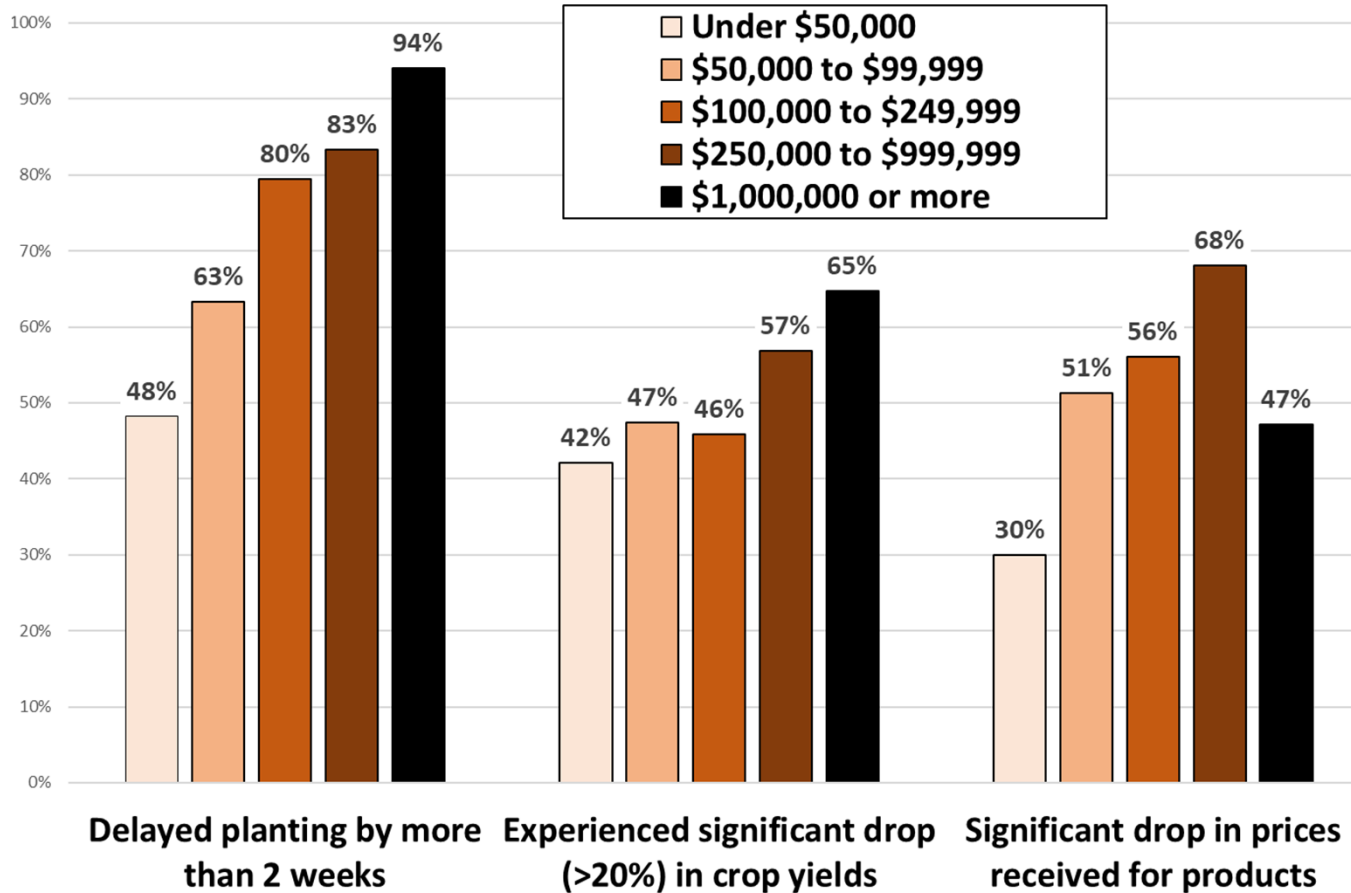
Sources of Major Stress By Farm Type

Sources of stress differ by farm type

Percent of Farms Experiencing Different Shocks in 2019

Many Ohio farms delayed planting, had low yields, and depressed prices

Percent of Farms Who Experienced Shocks by Farm Sales Class

Legend:
- Under $50,000
- $50,000 to $99,999
- $100,000 to $249,999
- $250,000 to $999,999
- $1,000,000 or more

Delayed planting by more than 2 weeks: 48%, 63%, 80%, 83%, 94%

Experienced significant drop (>20%) in crop yields: 42%, 47%, 46%, 57%, 65%

Significant drop in prices received for products: 30%, 51%, 56%, 68%, 47%

Large farms experienced more shocks

2023 Ohio Farm Poll Panel Survey

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- **Motivation** – document impacts of COVID and other recent events on 2020 OFP respondents
- **Value** of Panel data
  - Track exit & viability
  - Link conditions at time 1 with outcomes at time 2
  - Update estimates of Ohio Farm Sector status / views / behaviors
    - *Caveat – some sampling bias (no new entrants; attrition)*

2023 Ohio Farm Poll Panel Survey

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Sampling: Resurvey of all 2020 OFP respondents (Spring 2023)

**Instrument:** Mail survey (modified Tailored Design Method)

1,112

789 responded
75% response rate
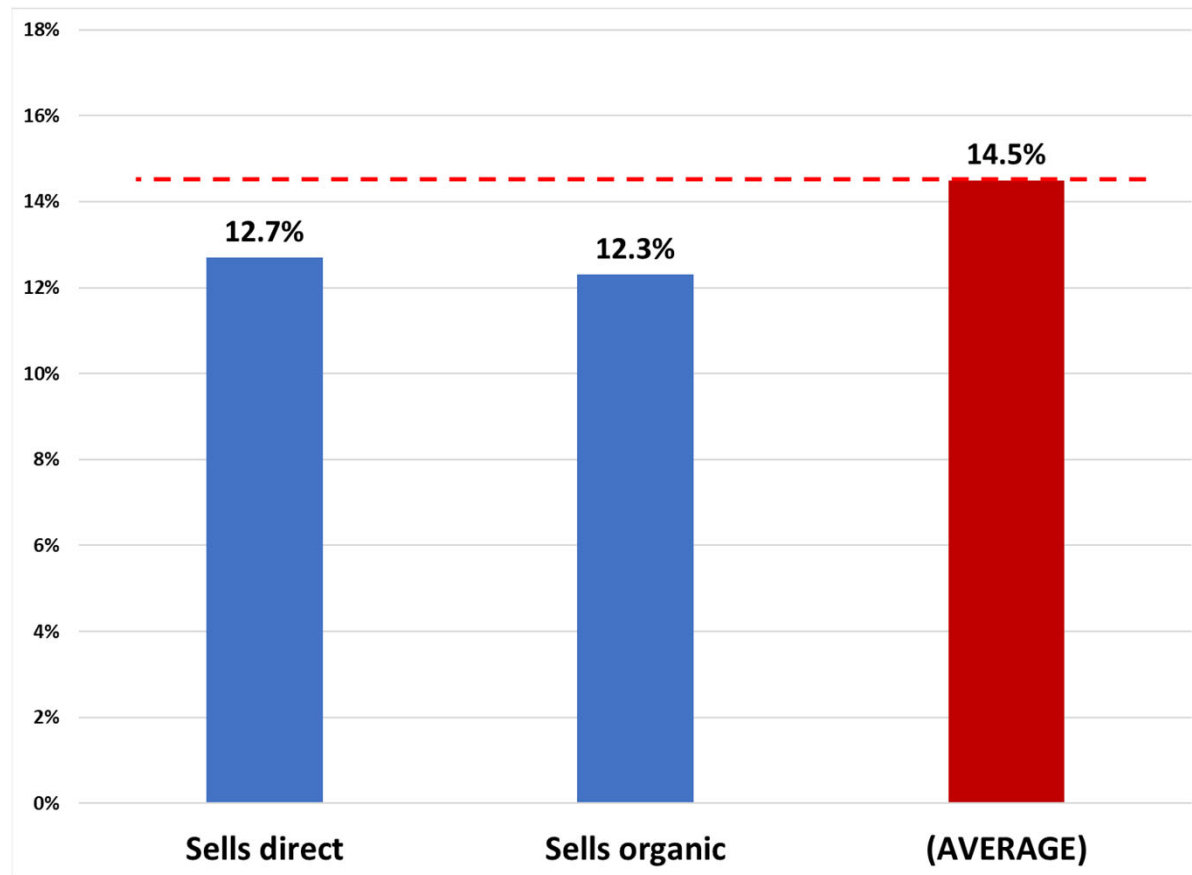**(64% filled out survey)**

	N	% original sample	% of farms with known status
Original sample frame	**1,112**		
responded - still farming	**706**	63%	85%
responded - no longer farming	**88**	8%	10.6%
Not deliverable/no longer at address	**38**	3%	4.6%
Presumed exited	**(126)**		**(15.2%)**
not responded	**263**	25%	

Exit Rates by Farm Characteristics
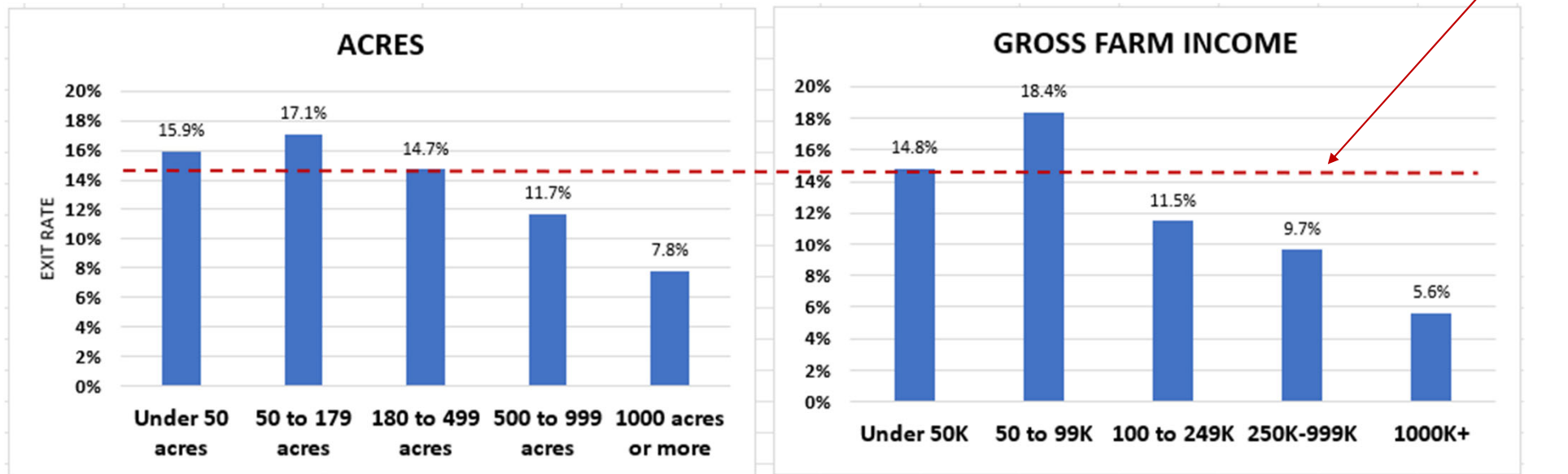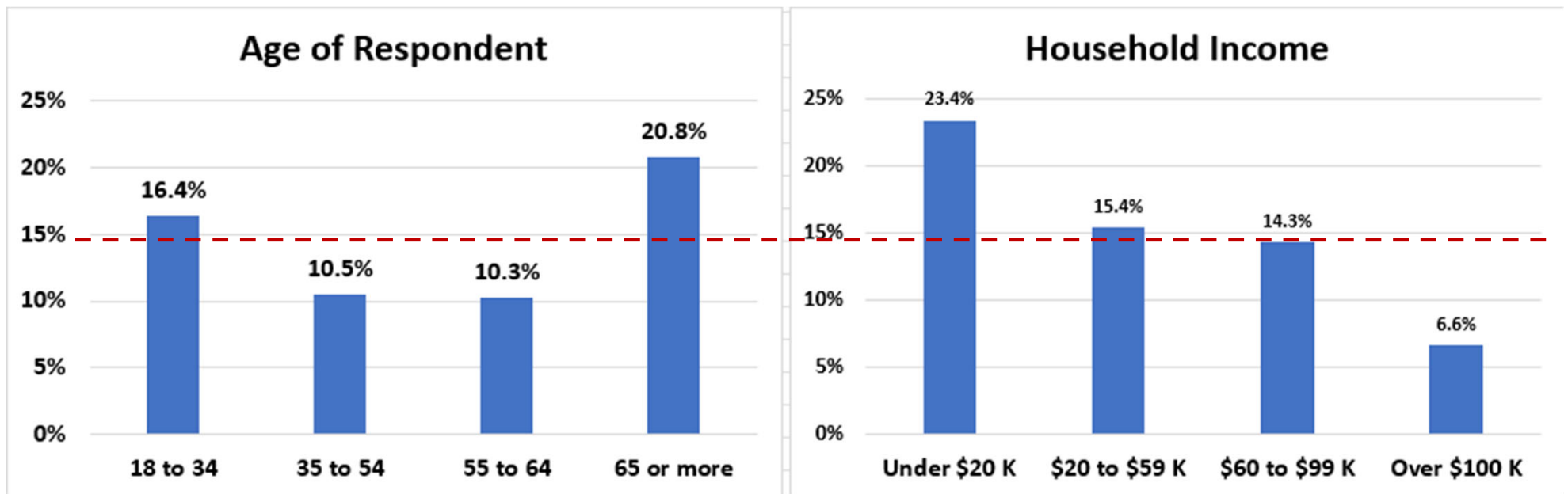
Exit By Marketing Approach

Exit by Farmer/HH Characteristics

Experience of Shock over Last 2 Years

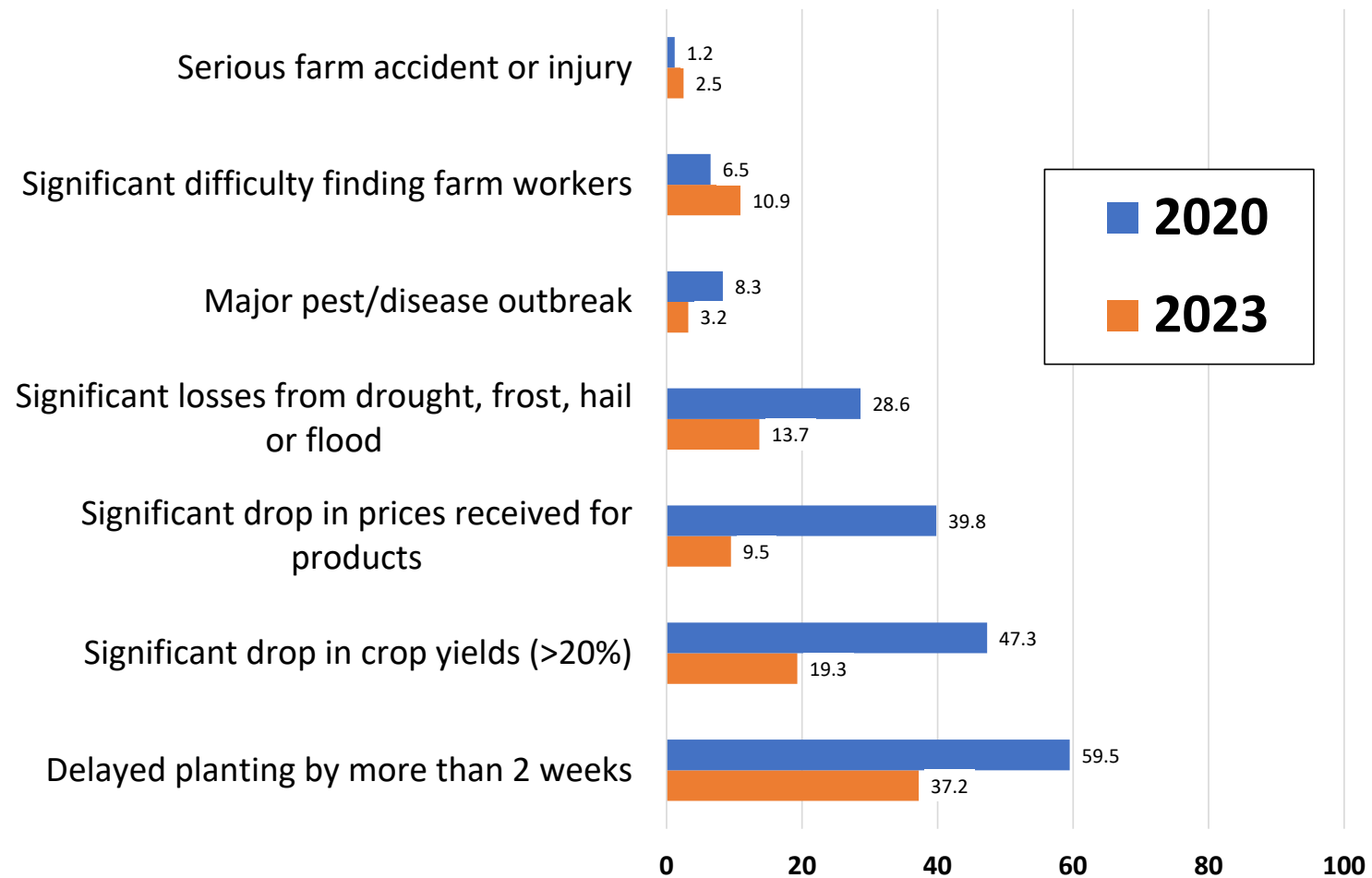| Category	Value
Delayed planting due to rain	13.2%
Yield drop by >20%	14.4%
Significant losses due to drought, frost, hail,…	12.2%
Major pest/disease outbreak	16.4%
Significant drop in prices received	13.9%
(AVERAGE)	14.5%
Someone retired	24.4%
Someone got separated or divorced	27.8%
Someone had a major health crisis	18.2%
Death of family member or friend	17.5%
Serious farm accident	16.7%

FARM SHOCK

HOUSEHOLD SHOCK

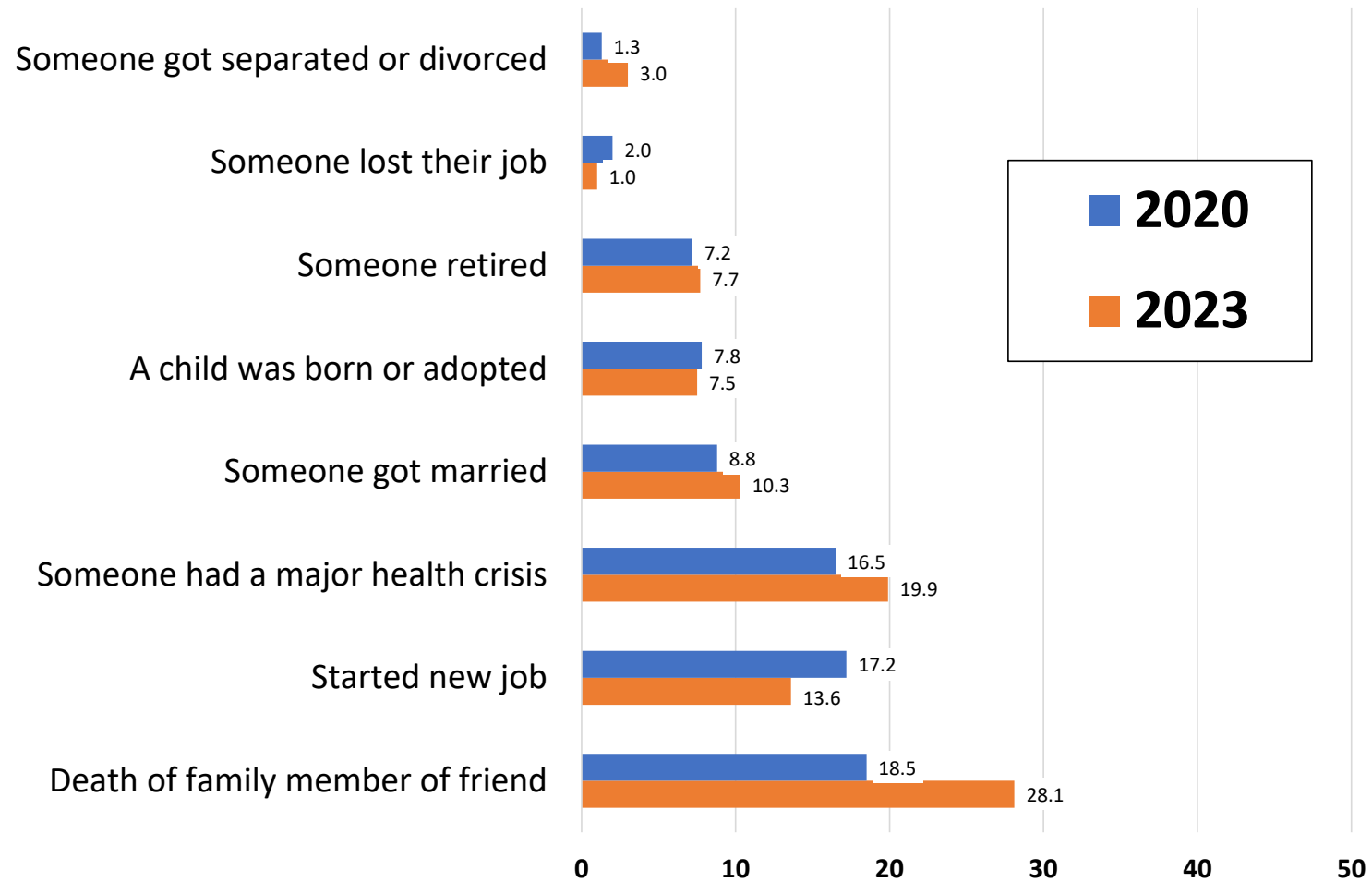# Comparing Responses
in 2020 & 2023
(Panel Statewide Random Subset)

Percent Reporting Farm Shocks (last 2-3 years)

Legend: 2020, 2023

- Serious farm accident or injury: 2020 = 1.2, 2023 = 2.5
- Significant difficulty finding farm workers: 2020 = 6.5, 2023 = 10.9
- Major pest/disease outbreak: 2020 = 8.3, 2023 = 3.2
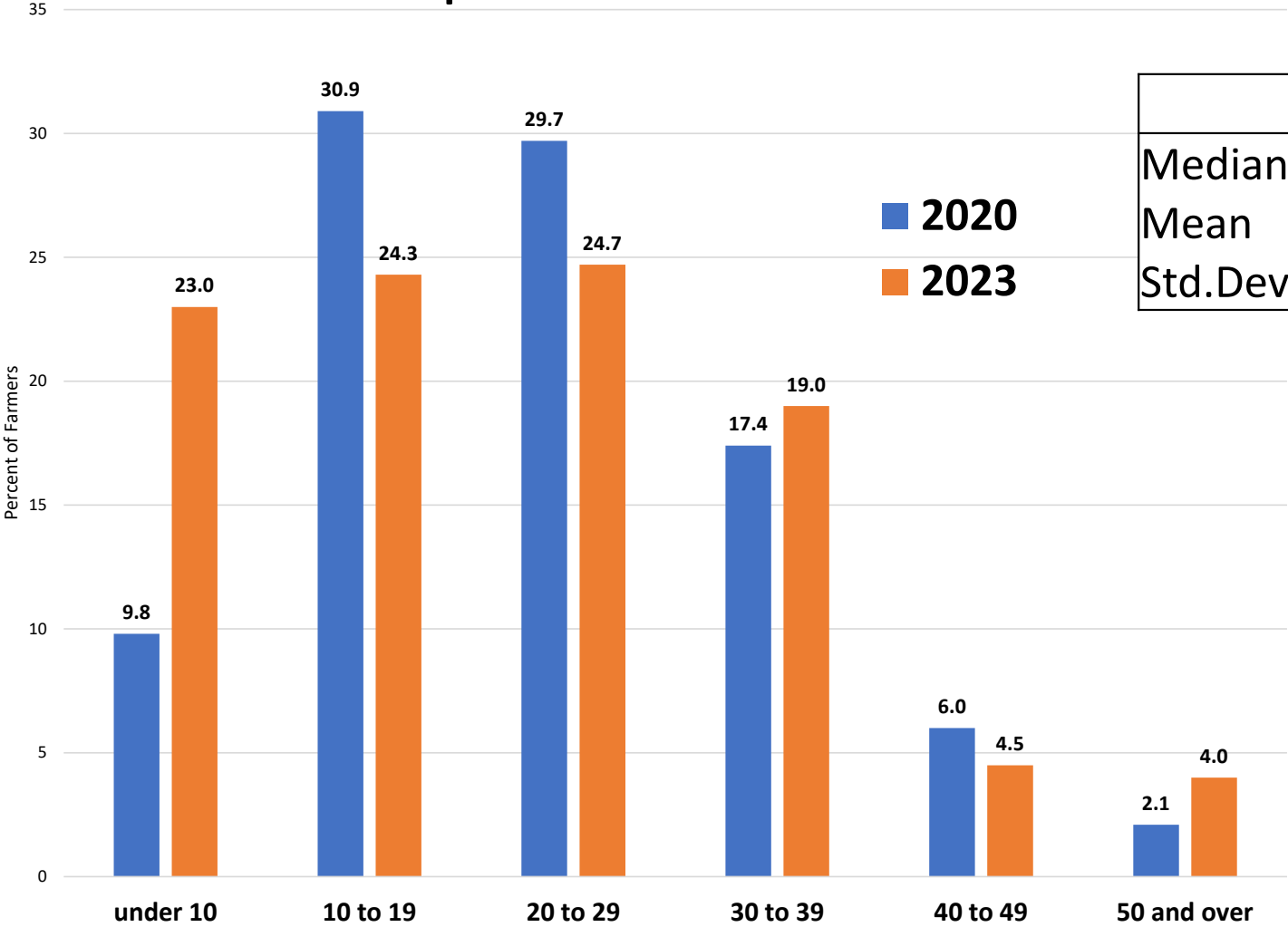- Significant losses from drought, frost, hail or flood: 2020 = 28.6, 2023 = 13.7
- Significant drop in prices received for products: 2020 = 39.8, 2023 = 9.5
- Significant drop in crop yields (>20%): 2020 = 47.3, 2023 = 19.3
- Delayed planting by more than 2 weeks: 2020 = 59.5, 2023 = 37.2

Percent Reporting Household Shocks

Household Shock	2020	2023
Someone got separated or divorced	1.3	3.0
Someone lost their job	2.0	1.0
Someone retired	7.2	7.7
A child was born or adopted	7.8	7.5
Someone got married	8.8	10.3
Someone had a major health crisis	16.5	19.9
Started new job	17.2	13.6
Death of family member of friend	18.5	28.1

Comprehensive Stress Scale
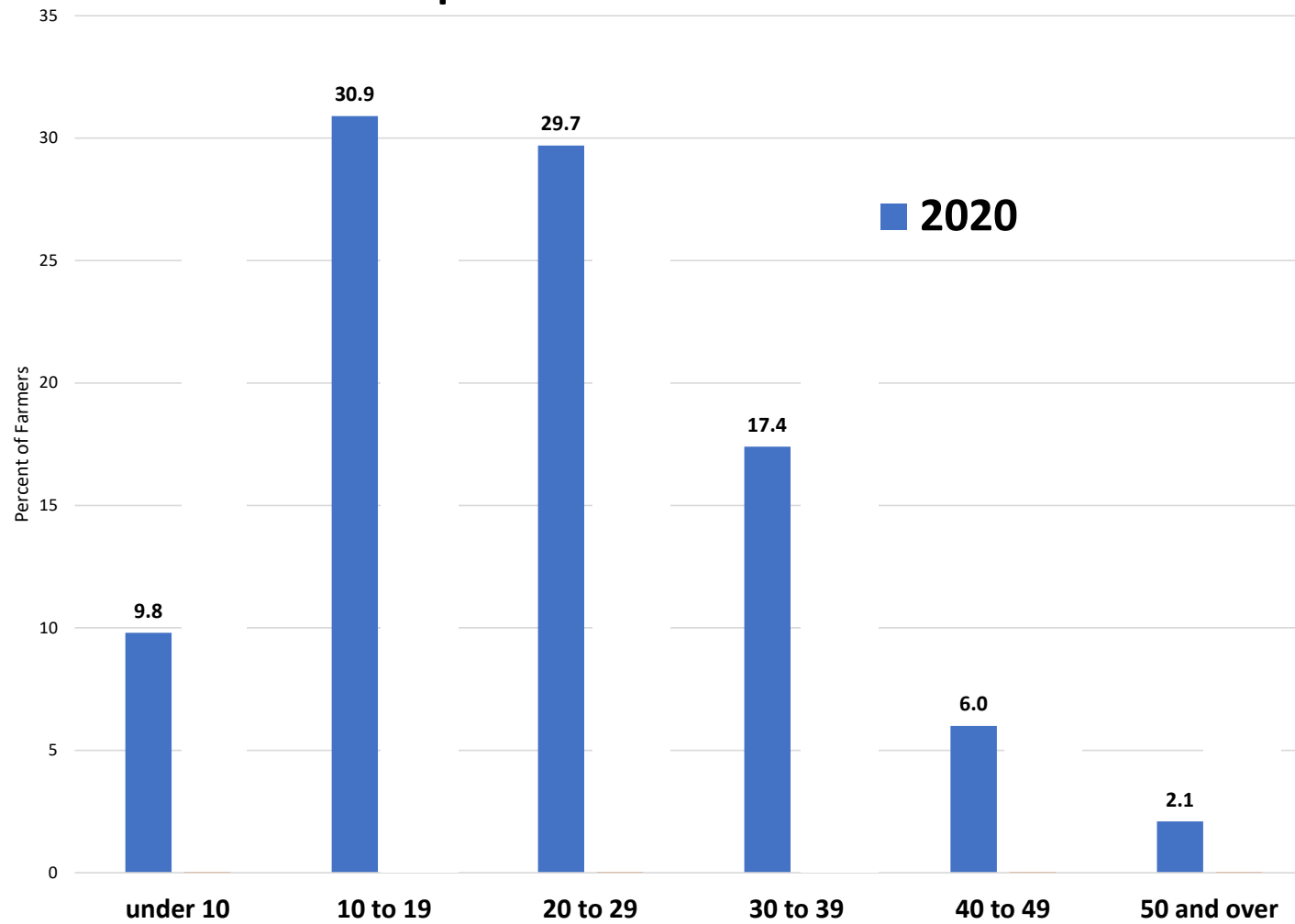
Comprehensive Stress Scale

	2020	2023
Median	22	21
Mean	22.8	21.5
Std.Dev.	11.48	13.37

Percent of Farmers

	under 10	10 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 and over
2020	9.8	30.9	29.7	17.4	6.0	2.1
2023	23.0	24.3	24.7	19.0	4.5	4.0

K6 Psychological Distress Scale Scores
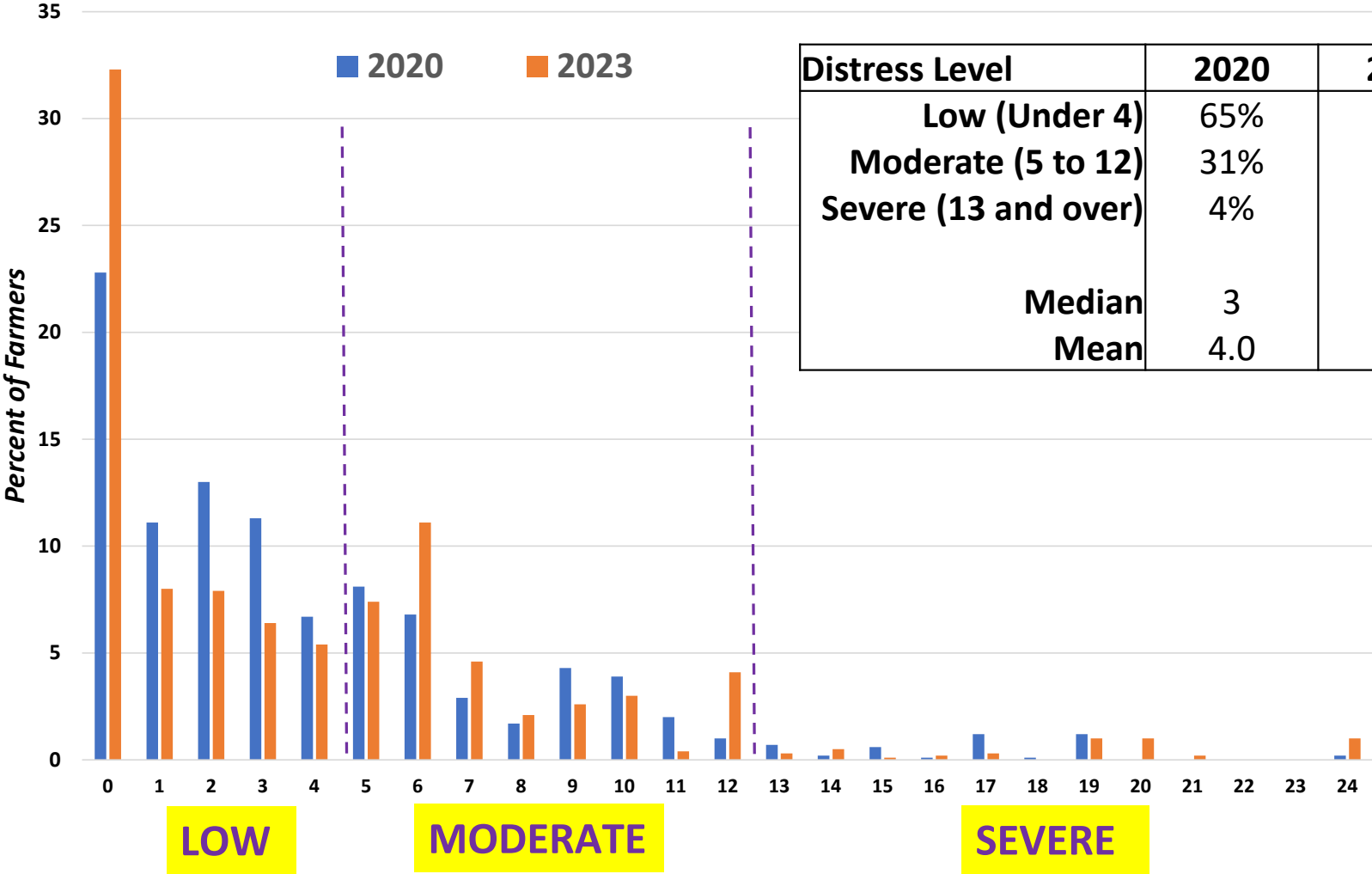
Thank you to the farmers who participated in the Ohio Farm Poll.