

Current and Imminent Data Collection Challenges Faced by Statistical Agencies

June 27, 2011

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Remarks

- What is the situation in the United States?
- What are some of the challenges and opportunities in working with farms with these attributes?
- What do our Field Offices report about engaging these key operations?
- Why this topic is important for an Agricultural Statistics Agency.

Causes and Characteristics of Complexity

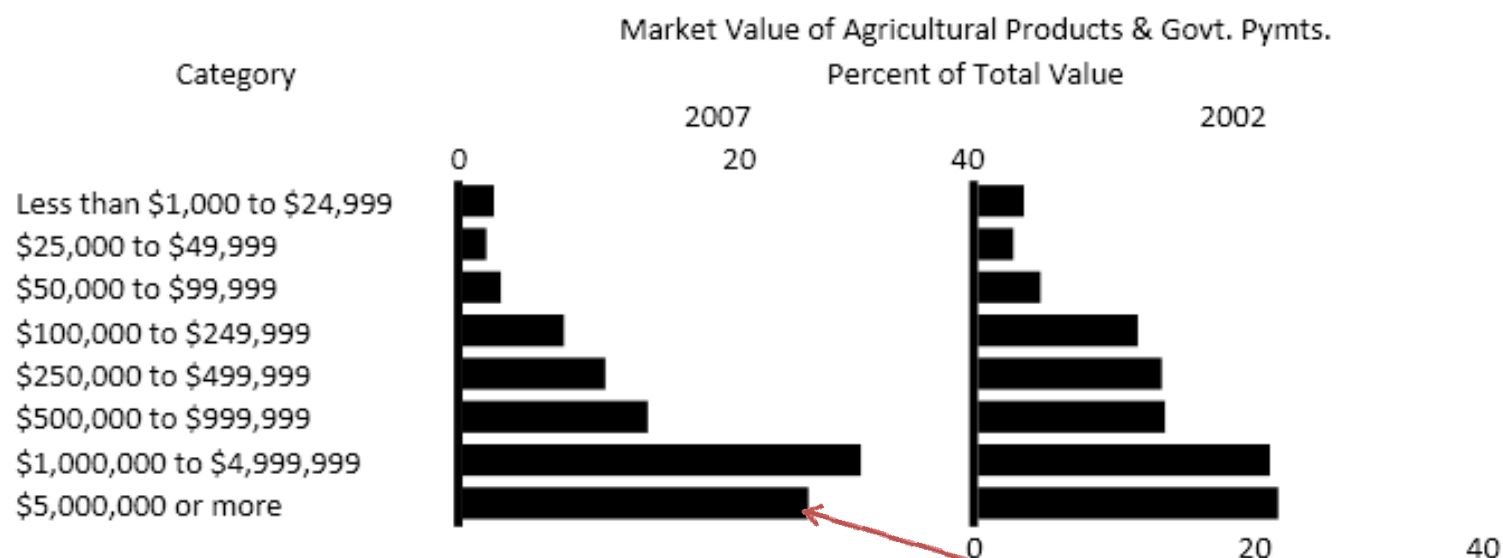
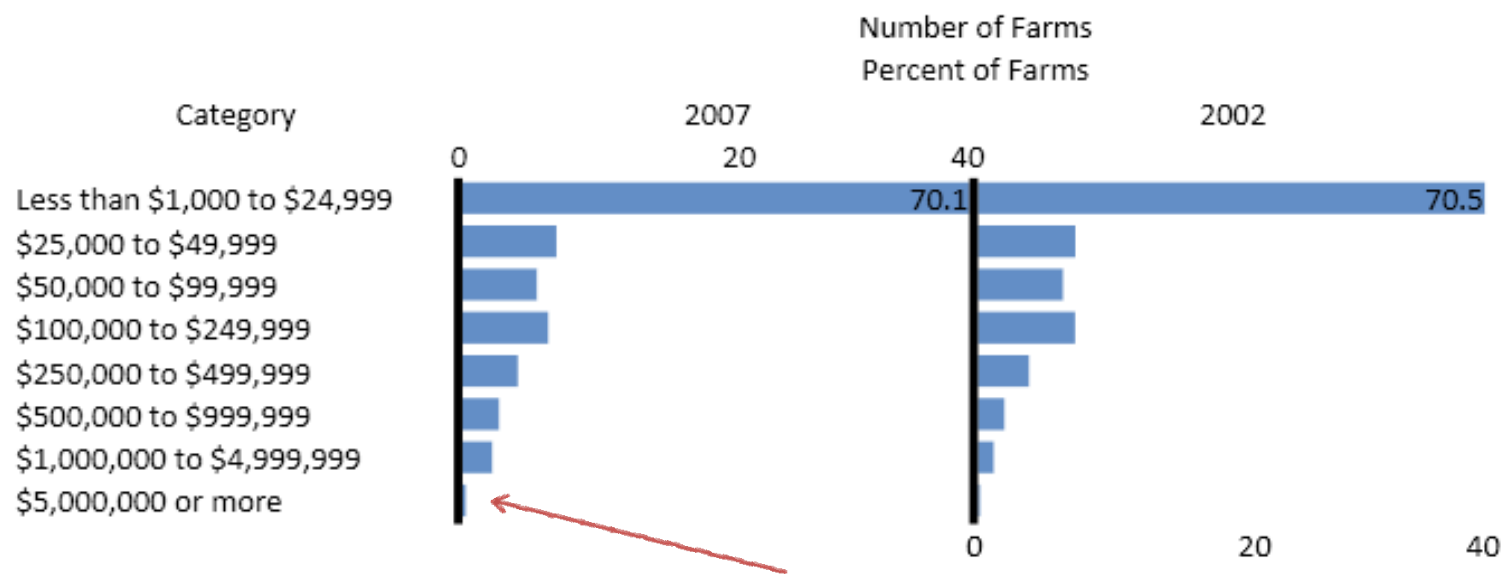
From “Complex Agricultural Establishments”

- Many complexities are associated with the size of establishments.
- Some Suggested Attributes:
 - Production contracts
 - Marketing contracts
 - Vertical integration
 - Dispersed asset ownership, management, and returns,
 - Use of farmland (Land management companies),
 - Output sales discovery for open market sales (e.g. cooperatives)

The Situation in the United States with Regard to Collection of Agricultural Statistics from Complex Farming Operations



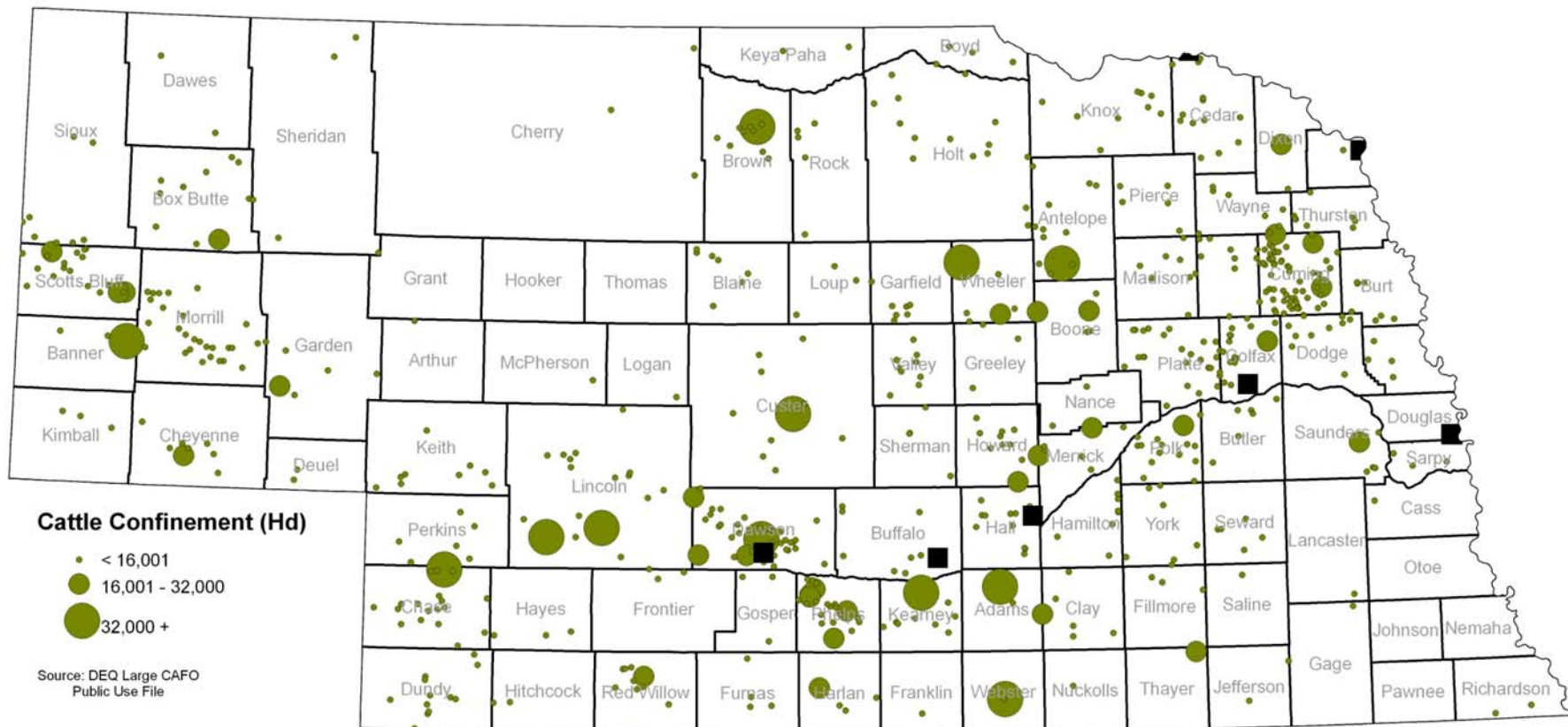
2007 & 2002 Census of Agriculture Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold and Government Payments 1/



1/ 2007 Market Total Market Value of Sales was 305 Billion from 2.205 million farms; 2002 Market Total Market Value of Sales was 207 Billion from 2.129 million farms.

Nebraska Cattle

Concentrated Livestock Feeding Operations by Size

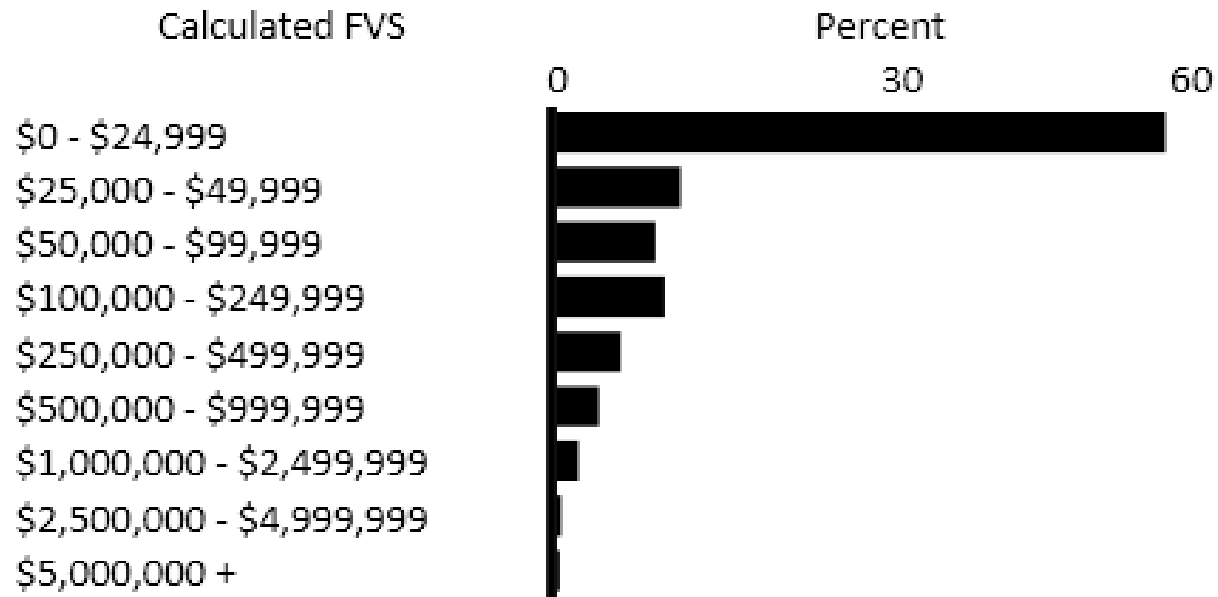


Source: DEQ Large CAFO
Public Use File

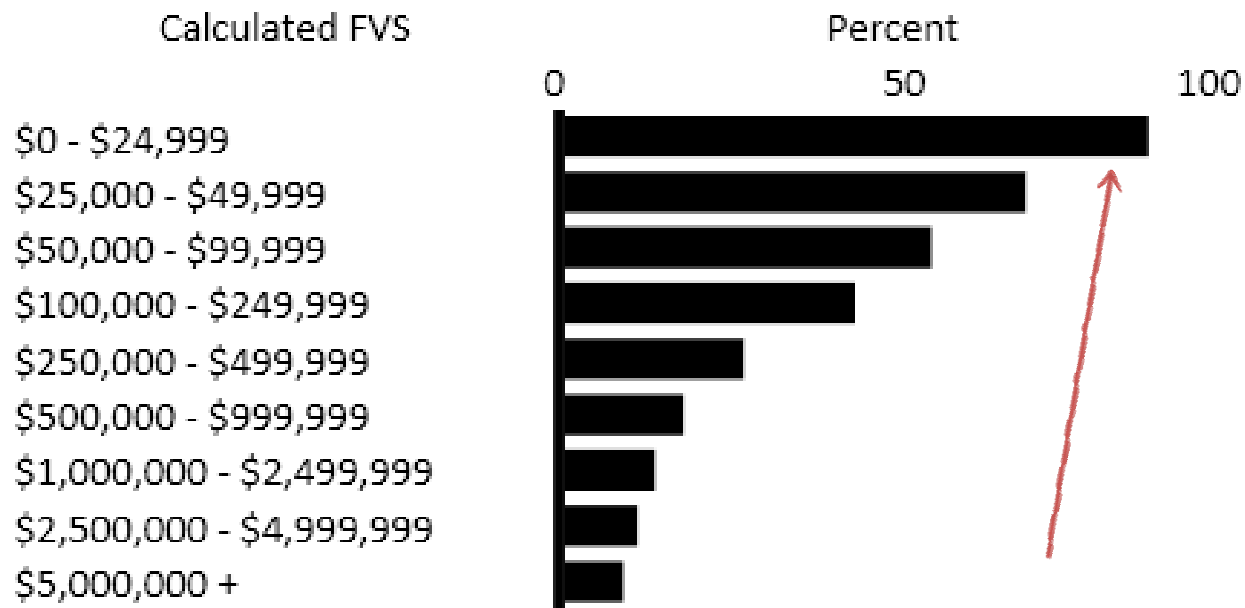
Source: USDAAPHIS



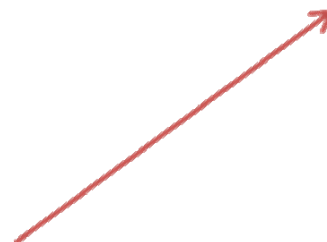
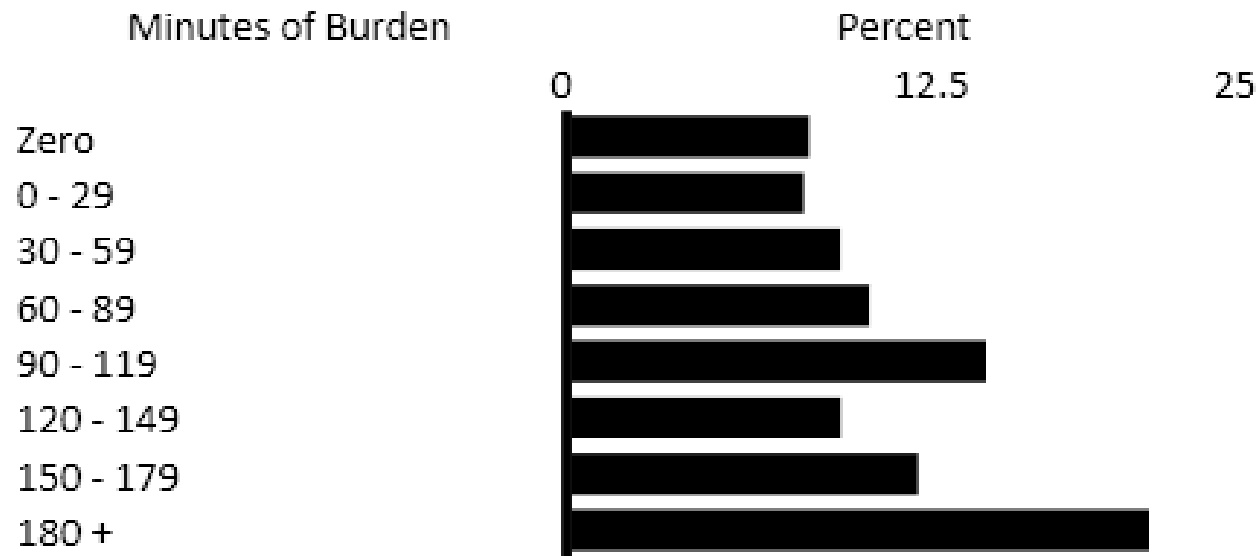
**Composition of Active NASS List Frame Records
By Calculated Farm Value of Sales
Spring 2011**



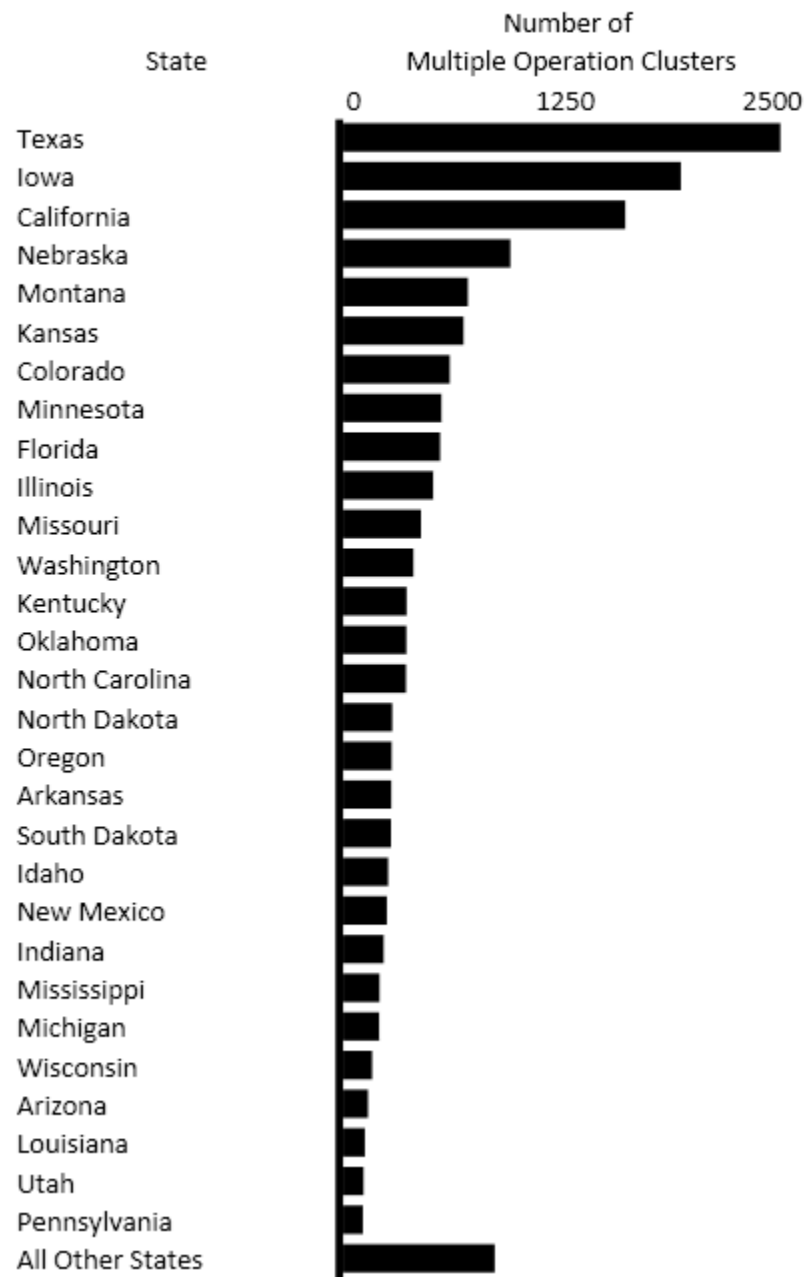
Proportion of Active NASS List Frame Records With Zero Calculated Response Burden Spring 2011



Proportion of Calculated \$5,000,000+ Operations by Minutes of "Burden" Spring 2011



Number of Multiple Operation Clusters by State



An Illustration



“We offer three levels of consulting swine services. At each level our consulting veterinarians can help you make important choices about animal health, animal comfort, and ways to make your operation profitable.

Swine Production and Health Supervision

Veterinarians **work as consultants** to proactively avert herd health problems and encourage financial success through...

Health programs, production record-keeping, monthly assessments, and marketing education.

Swine Production Management

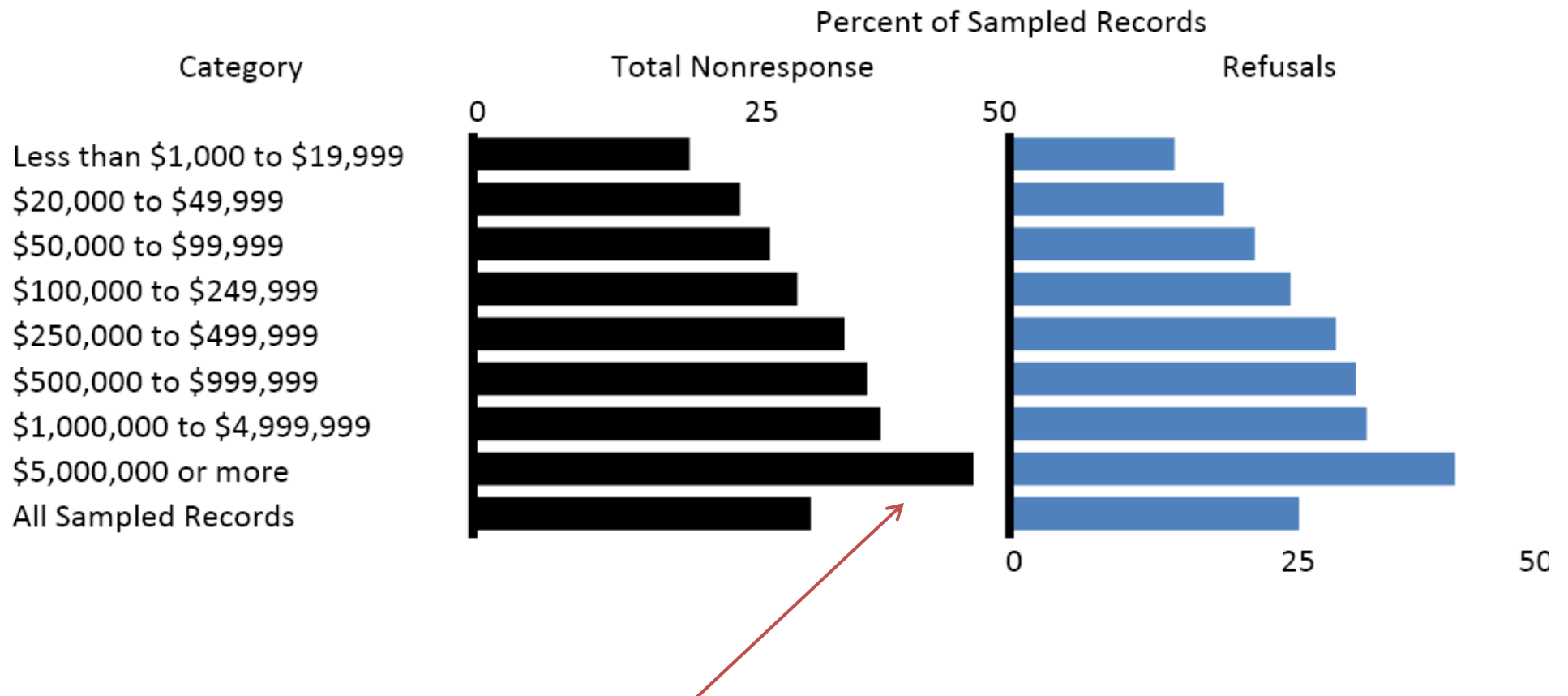
We will **oversee production activities** including...

Health programs, production record-keeping, monthly assessments, marketing education, nutrition programs, barn employees, (through our EMP SERV, LLC division), along with trucking and logistics.

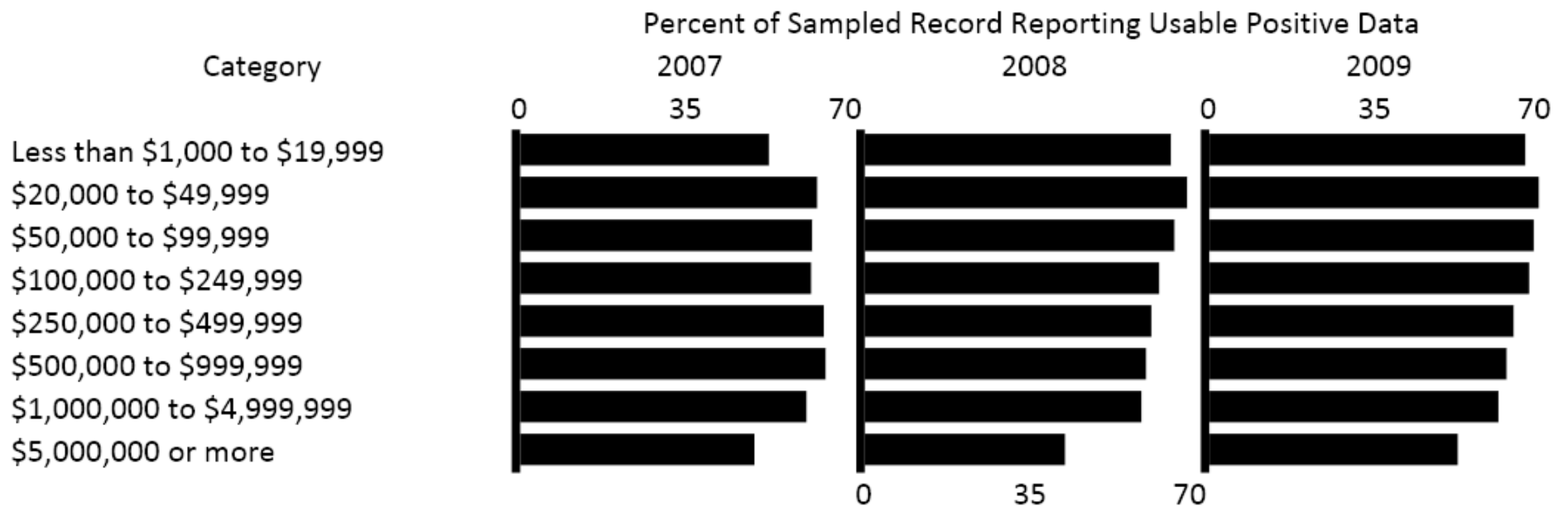
Full Service Swine Management Our professional team will **supervise all aspects of an operation** for a busy crop farmer or investor, including...

Health programs, production record-keeping, monthly assessments, marketing education, nutrition programs, barn employees, (through our EMP SERV, LLC division), along with trucking and logistics, complete financial oversight, and marketing.”

2009 Agricultural Resource Management Survey Nonresponse Rates by List Sample Frame Calculated Value of Sales



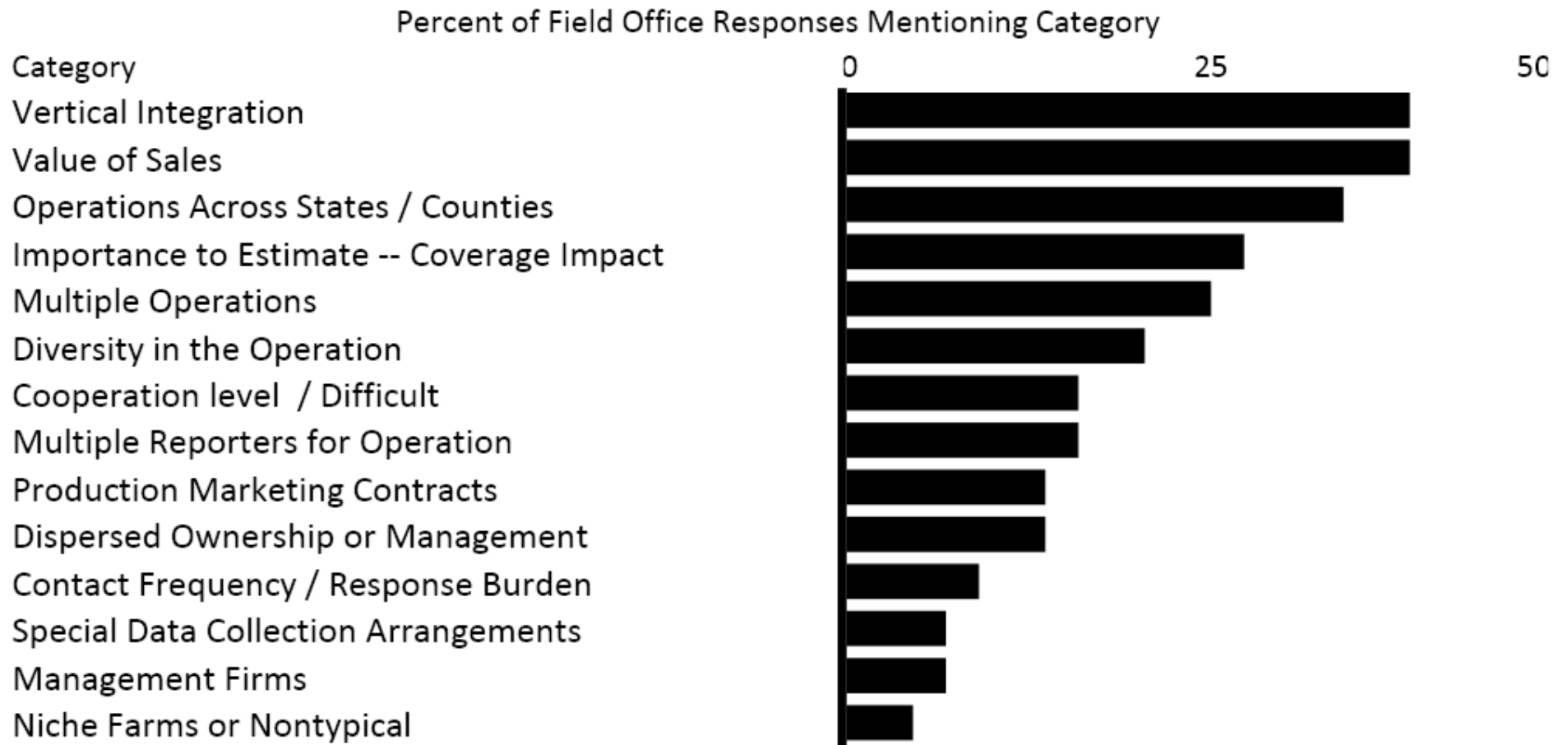
2007 - 2009 Agricultural Resource Management Survey Usable Positive Rates by List Sample Frame Calculated Value of Sales



Perceptions of Field Office staff regarding complex farming operations

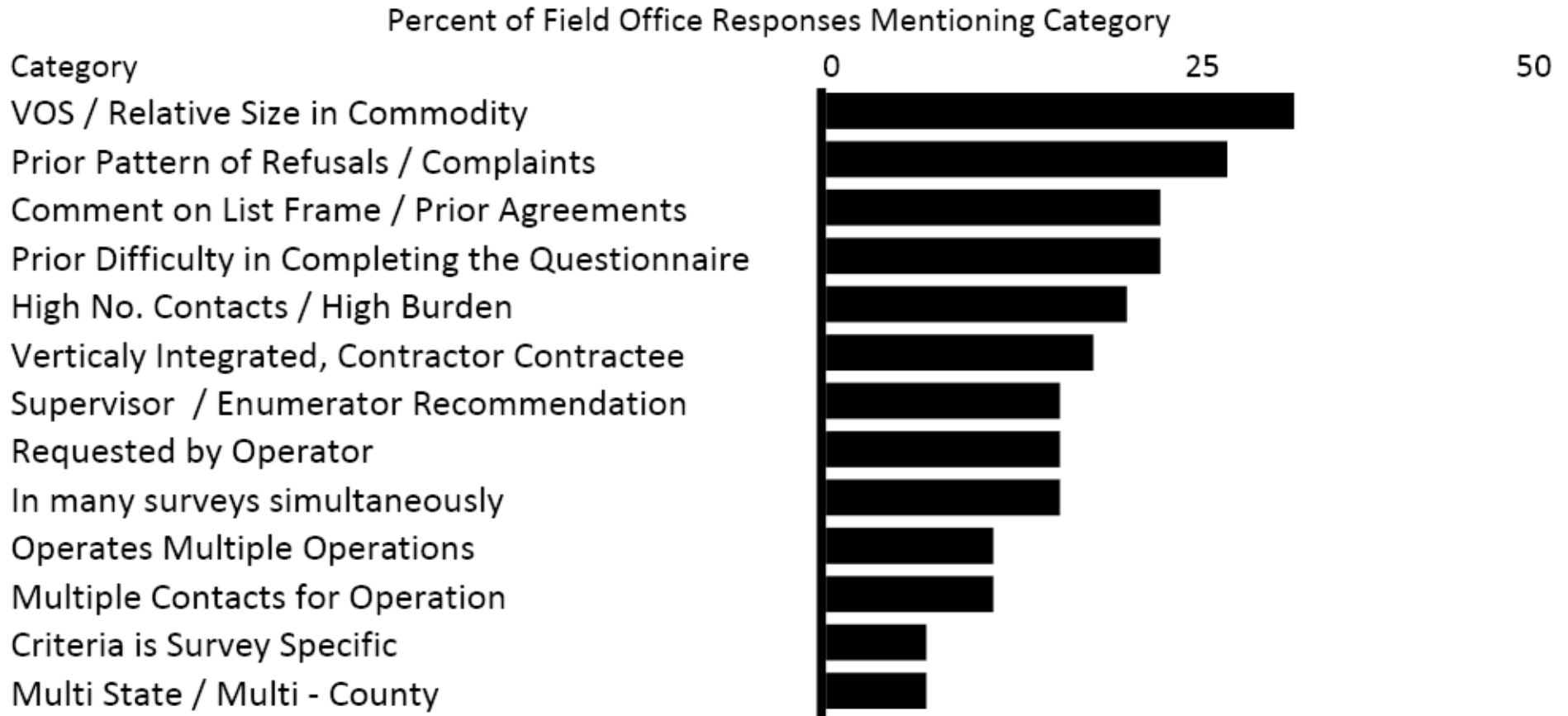


What criteria do you think are most important in determining if an operation is "Complex"?



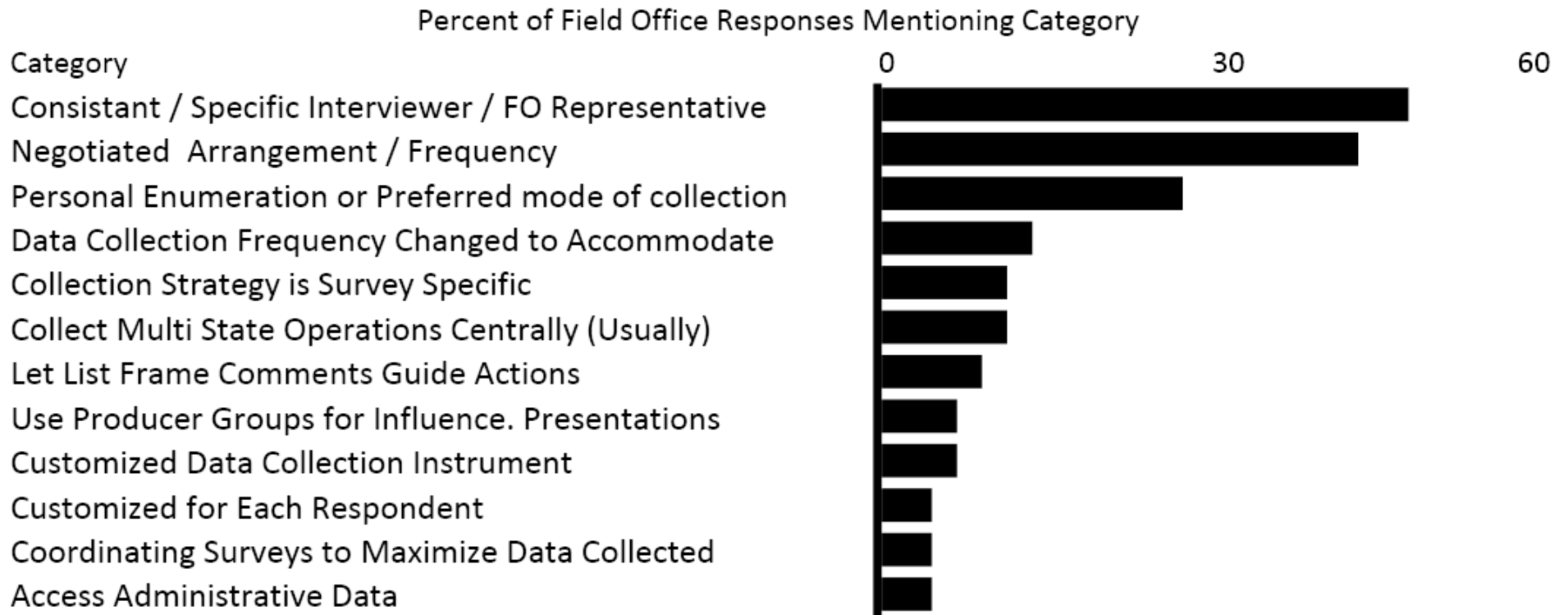
1/ All Forty-six field offices responded, forty-two provided a codeable response to the question. Open responses were coded into all categories mentioned.

What are the criteria you use to decide to have special handling or special engagement of a specific operation?



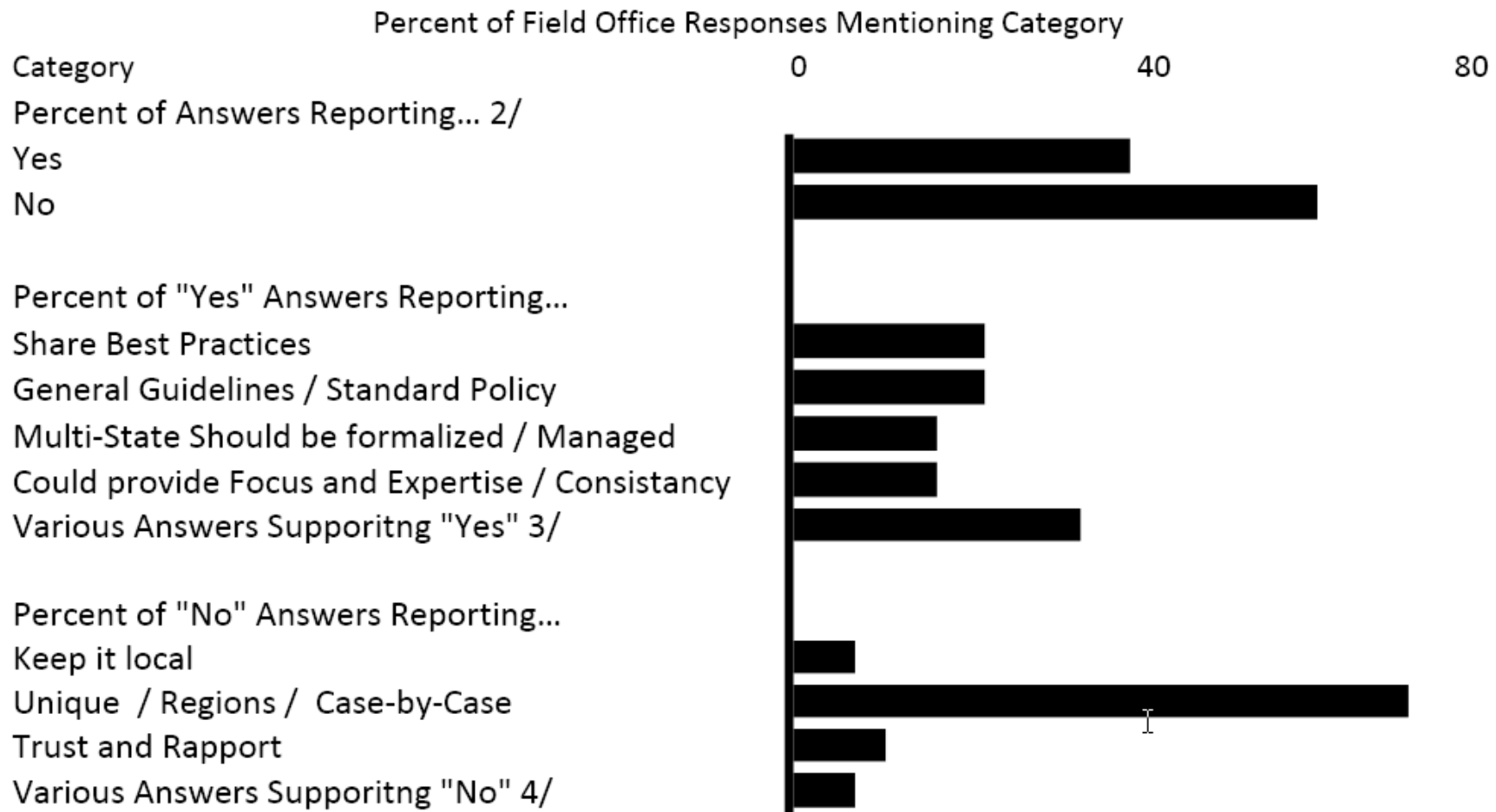
1/ All Forty-six field offices responded, forty-three provided a codeable response to the question. Open responses were coded into all categories mentioned.

Please describe your data collections strategies for these operations



1/ All Forty-six field offices responded, forty-four provided a codeable response to the question. Open responses were coded into all categories mentioned.

Do you feel there is a need for a more comprehensive or coordinated approach across the US to data collection and engagement of these operations? 1/



1/ All Forty-six field offices responded, forty-one provided a codeable response to the question. Open responses were coded into all categories mentioned.

2/ Some responses included statements supporting local control and a coordinated approach. Reasons supporting each position were coded.

Why is this Topic Important to an Agricultural Statistics Agency?

- Complex agricultural operations
 - ...do not always “fit”
 - ...may have different costs and errors
 - ...small part of the population, large portion of many estimates
 - ...many vying for attention of firm
 - ...key consumers of statistical information.
 - ...expect special handling
 - ...have many touch points
 - ...are key influencers
 - ...complexity may be situational or constant
 - ...need specific engagement strategies

Your Questions