

Gestation Stalls: Michigan Producers Views and Perceptions

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State-Wide Pork Industry Information Meetings
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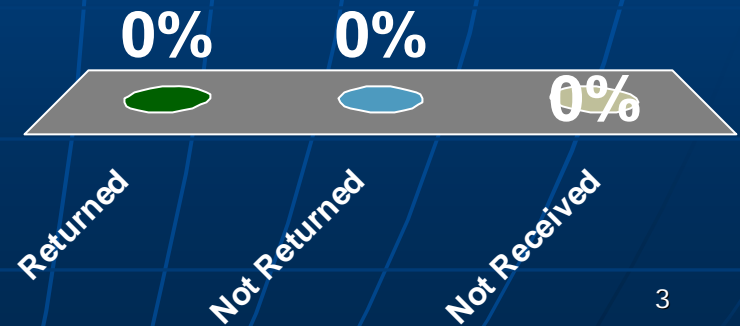
Survey of MI Swine Producers: Examine Perceptions on Possible Production Practice Changes

- Mailed 600 surveys in November/December
 - 2 weeks later sent postcard reminder
- 131 Respondents (21.83%):
 - Farrow-Finish: 55 (50.00%)
 - Farrow-Weanling: 5 (4.55%)
 - Farrow-Feeder: 5 (4.55%)
 - Weanling-Feeder: 5 (4.55%)
 - Feeder-Finish: 32 (29.09%)
 - Other (e.g., Wean-Fin): 8 (7.27%)

"Sow
herds"

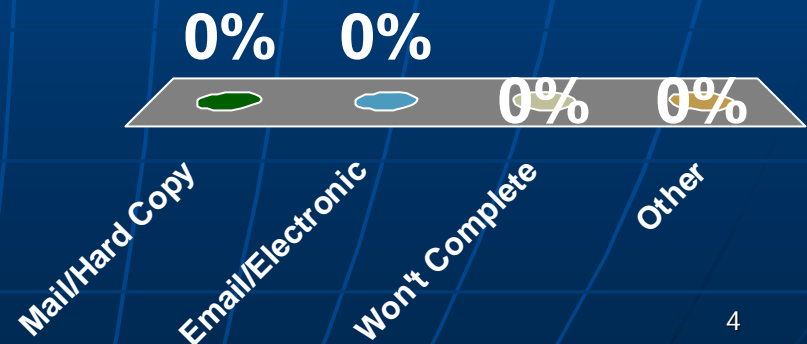
Regarding a survey conducted by MSU in Nov/Dec on gestation crate use/ban issues, which applied to you?

1. I received, completed, and returned the survey
2. I received but did NOT return a completed survey
3. I did NOT receive a survey



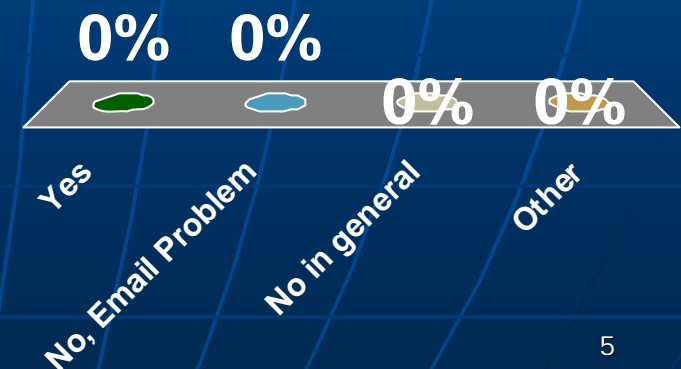
In the future how would you prefer to receive similar surveys?

1. By mail, hard copy
2. By email, electronic survey
3. "I won't complete research surveys"
4. Other



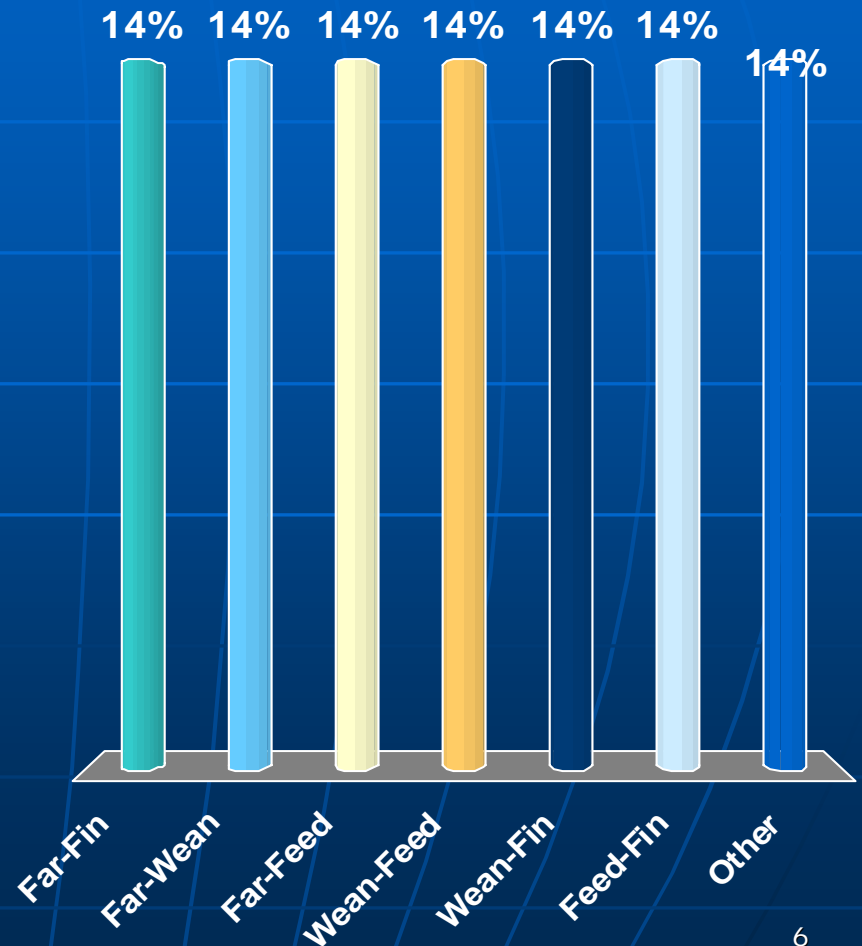
In the future if MSU emailed you surveys, would you complete them if tied to MSU Research & Extension activities?

1. Yes
2. No, I don't have easy email access
3. No, I simply won't complete research surveys
4. Other



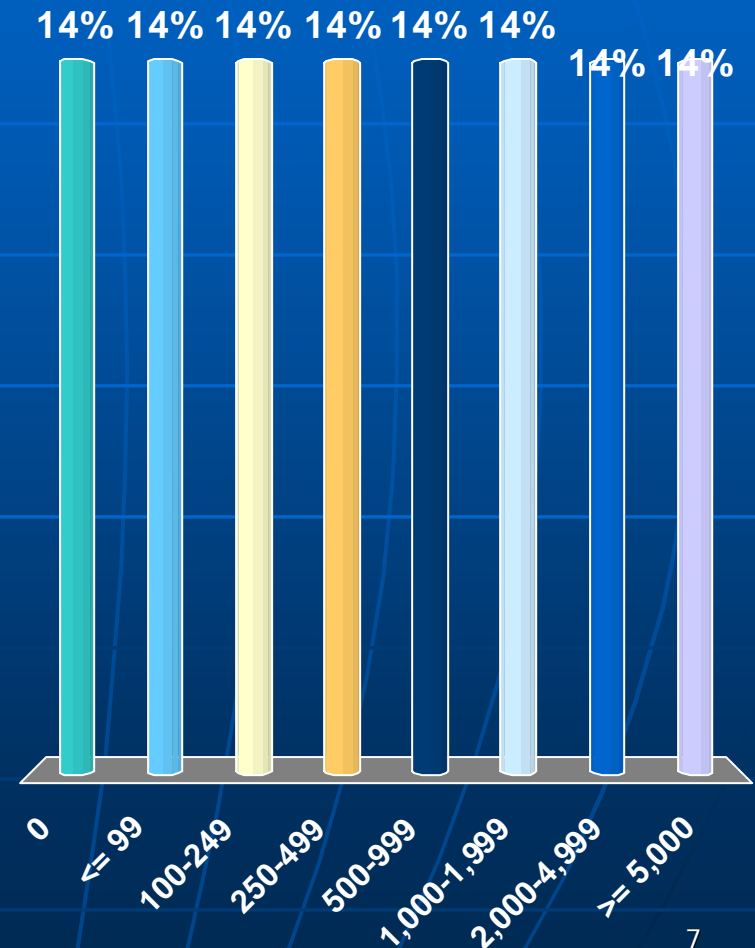
What production method best describes your swine operation?

1. Farrow-Finish
2. Farrow-Weanling
3. Farrow-Feeder
4. Weanling-Feeder
5. Weanling-Finish
6. Feeder-Finish
7. Other



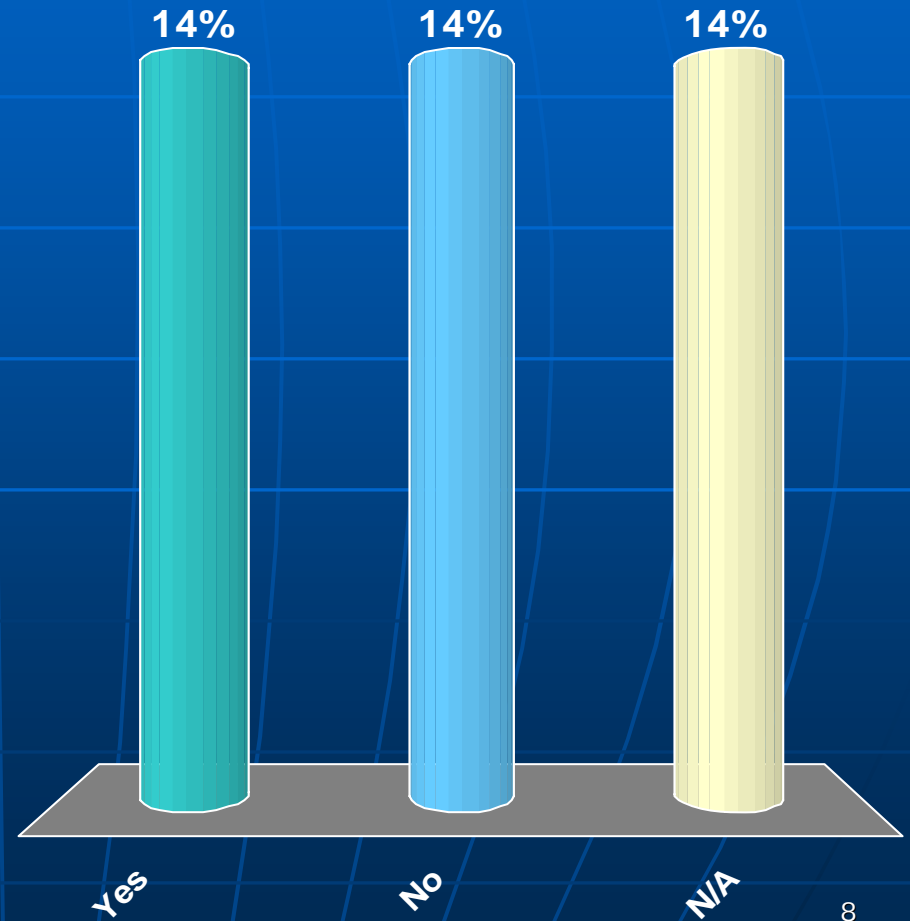
How many sows/gilts do you currently have in your operation?

1. 0, No Sows
2. 1-99
3. 100 - 249
4. 250 - 499
5. 500 - 999
6. 1,000 - 1,999
7. 2,000 - 4,999
8. $\geq 5,000$



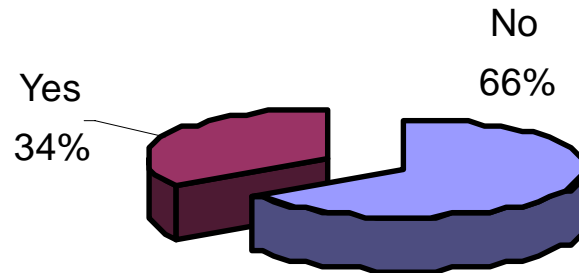
Do you currently use gestation crates in your operation?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not applicable,
I do NOT have
sows/gilts



Do you currently use gestation crates in your operation? Nov/Dec Results

Currently Use Individual Crates as Primary Housing During Sow/Gilt Gestation (Q24, n=65)



ME of Experience

(5 yr units):

Prob (GC Use) -4.5%

ME of Breed Herd Size

(100 sow/gilt units):

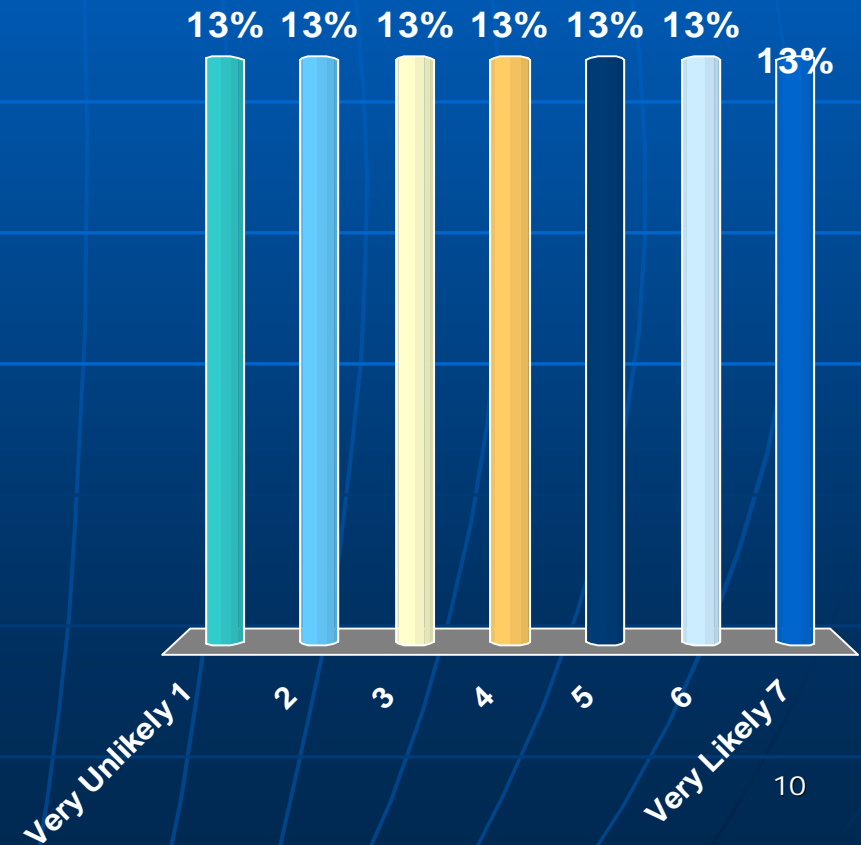
Prob (GC Use) +2.5%

Comments reveal:

- notable variety in size of group pens
- Several use crates on x% and not on 1-x%

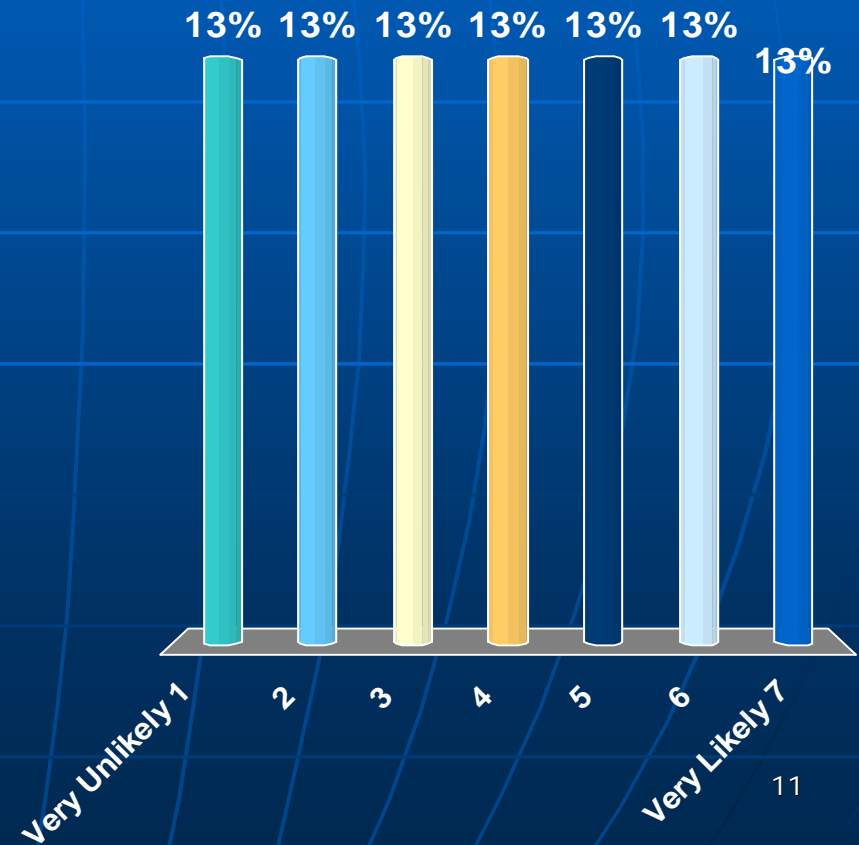
How likely do you think it is that legislation will pass in MI within the next 3 years that bans the use of gestation crates?

1. Very Unlikely: 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. Very Likely: 7



How likely do you think it is that legislation will pass nationally within the next 3 years that bans the use of gestation crates?

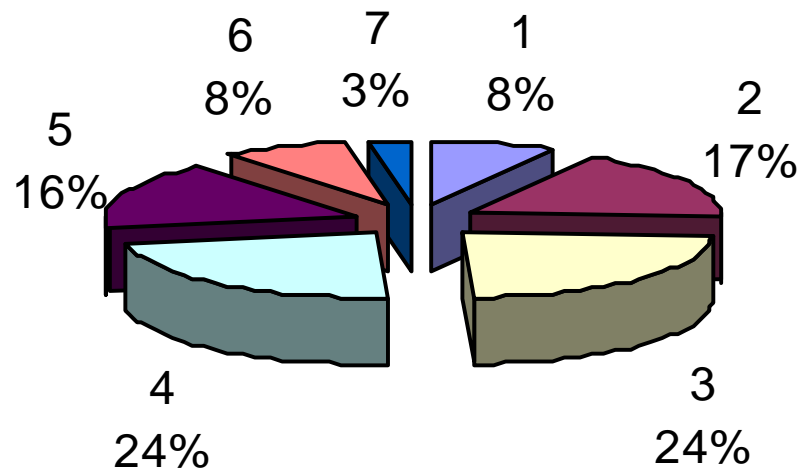
1. Very Unlikely: 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. Very Likely: 7



Nov/Dec Survey Results:

Likelihood of MI Ban (Q1, n=110)

Very Unlikely 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 Very Likely

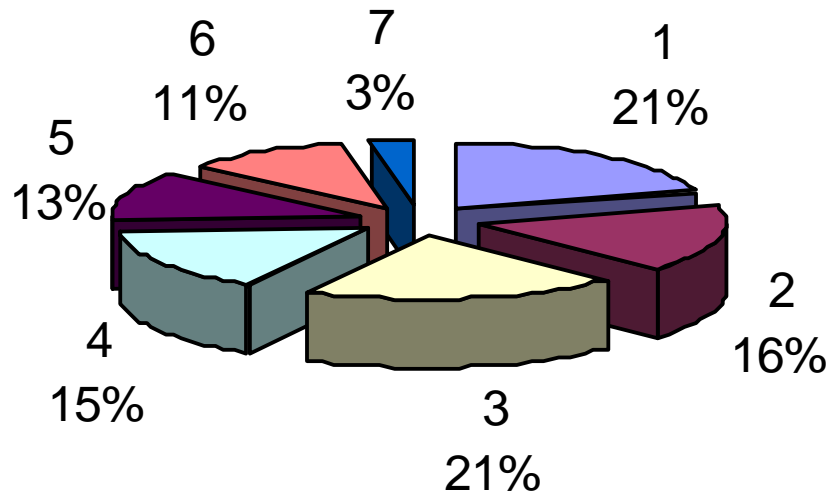


49%	1-3	(unlikely)
24%	4	(mid point)
27%	5-7	(likely)

Nov/Dec Survey Results:

Likelihood of US Ban (Q1, n=110)

Very Unlikely 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 Very Likely

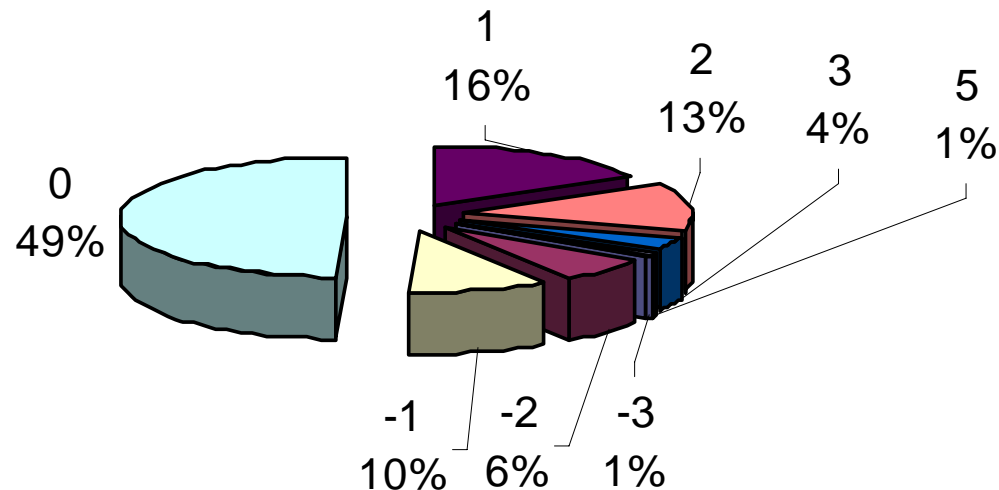


58%	1-3	(unlikely)
15%	4	(mid point)
26%	5-7	(likely)

Is MI Ban perceived as more likely than US Ban (in next 3 years)?

Likelihood of MI Ban - Likelihood of US Ban (Q1-Q2, n=110)

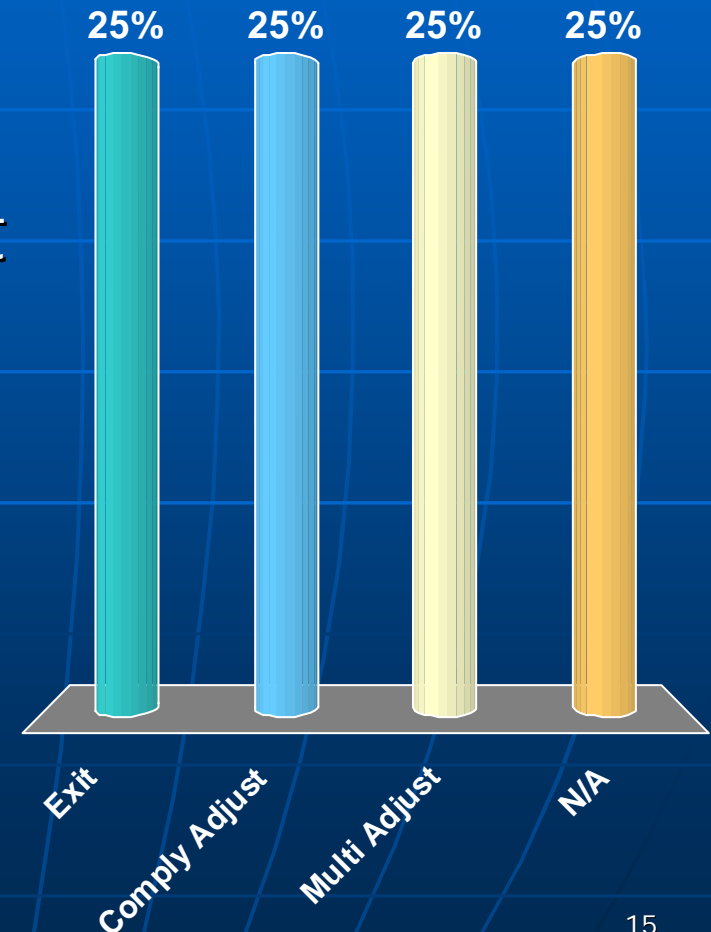
ME of Facility Age
(5 yr units):
Prob (MI > US)
+6.2%
Prob (MI = US)
-1.7%
Prob (MI < US)
-4.5%



49% 0	(Equally Likely)
17% -3 to -1	(US Ban More Likely)
34% 1 to 5	(MI Ban More Likely)

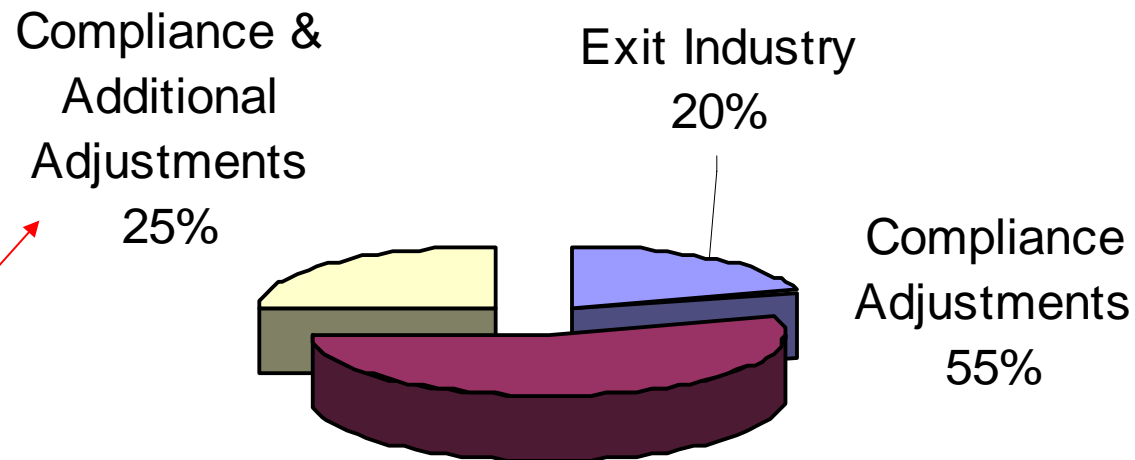
If a gestation crate ban was put in place, which of the following actions would you most likely take?

1. Exit industry
2. Adjust to comply, otherwise continue current operations
3. Adjust to comply, AND make additional adjustments to current operations
4. N/A, a ban would not directly impact my operation



Actions revealed in Nov/Dec survey (limited here to “sow operations”)

Action Following Ban (Q6, n=64)



**Several comments suggest that
“pig flow adjustments” may be necessary**

Example comments on adjustments need to comply with g.c. ban:

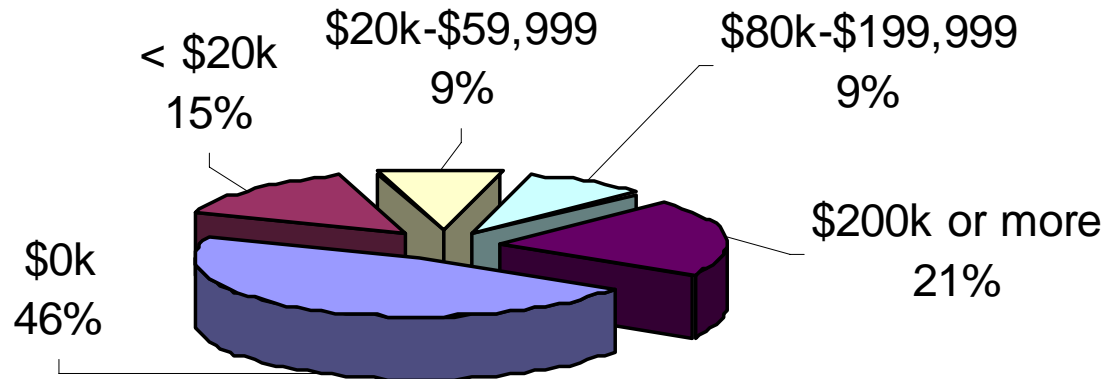
- "I would have to build twice as much gest to house my 800 sows."
- "We just spent over \$2 million to from group breeding and gestating to crates and our farrowing rate went up 15%! Each sow had over 50 sq. ft. areas and straw bedded."
- "Removal of gestation stalls. Construction of group pens. Reconfigure feed system. Construct additional building space. Initial cost would be \$350,000 - \$400,000. Foresee no additional long term cost in labor, feed. Would expect a decline in pigs born alive and number weaned."

Example comments on adjustments need to comply with g.c. ban:

- "None, I hope they ban them on a national basis. It won't hurt us small producer, but would raise hell with the mega farms."
- "Re-configured stall space and add building footage add more hired labor"
- "While I only farrow 8 to 10 sows per year. I would have some fairly large issues with banning of crates. I would still be able to farrow, but it would be much less convenient."
- "None if gestation only. Exit if farrowing/nursing is banned."

What would a ban “cost your operation in one-time adjustment costs” to comply?

One-Time Adjustment Costs to Comply with Ban (Q4, n=68)



ME of Breed Herd Size

(100 sow/gilt units):

Prob (AC=0) -3.9%

Prob (AC=\$1-\$60k) +1.3%

Prob (AC=\$80k-\$200k) +0.9%

Prob (AC>\$200k) +1.6%

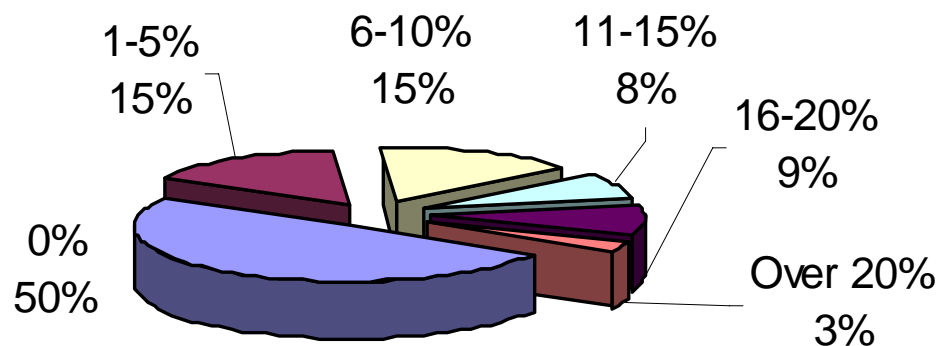
Weighted average

using “mid-points” is

\$60,588 (assumes 10k and 210k for <20k and >200k categories)

How much would a ban increase your operation in on-going annual production costs to comply?

On-going Annual Production Costs Increase Association with Ban Compliance (Q5, n=66)



ME of Breed Herd Size

(100 sow/gilt units):

Prob (OGC=0%) -2.5%

Prob (OGC=1-5%) +0.3%

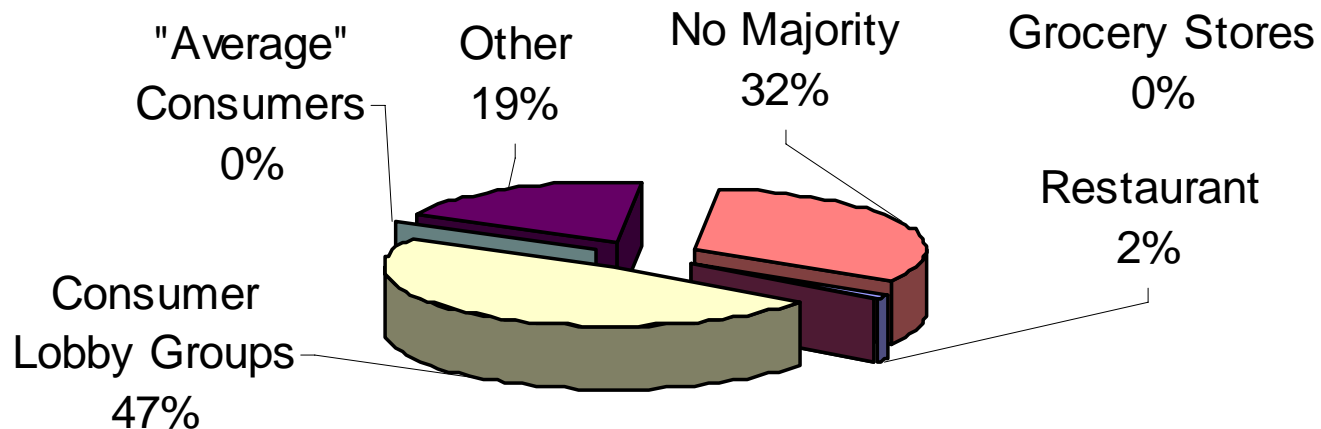
Prob (OGC=6-10%) +0.5%

Prob (OGC>10%) +1.7%

Weighted average using "mid-points" is 5.05% (assumes 25% for >20% category)

Portion of MI Producers who perceive each source as the majority source of increasing pressure on the swine industry to adjust its use of g.c.?

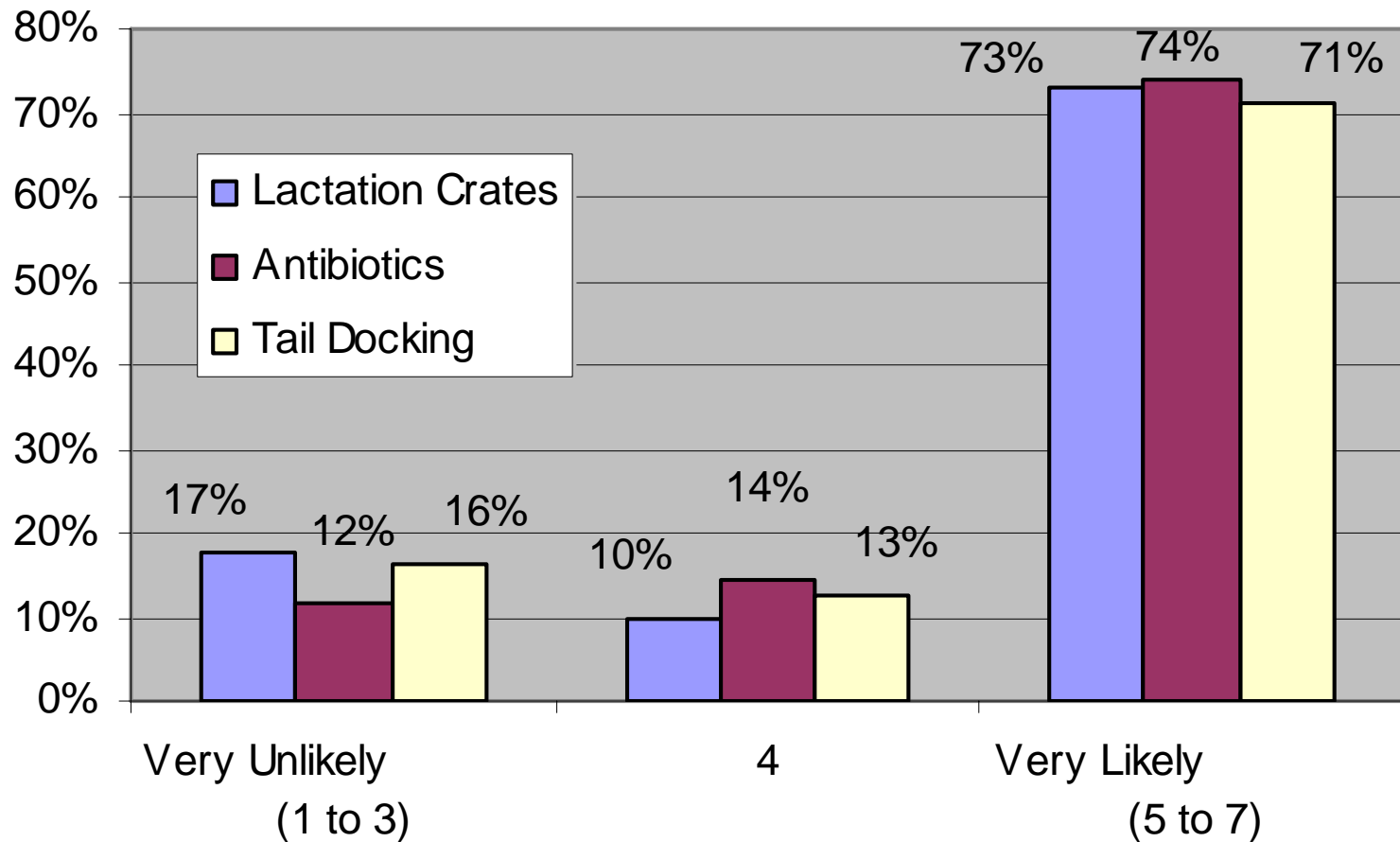
Majority Source of Increase Pressure on G.C. Use (Q11, n=113)



"Other" frequently included explanations regarding "Animal Rights Groups," "PETA," "Animal Welfare Activists"

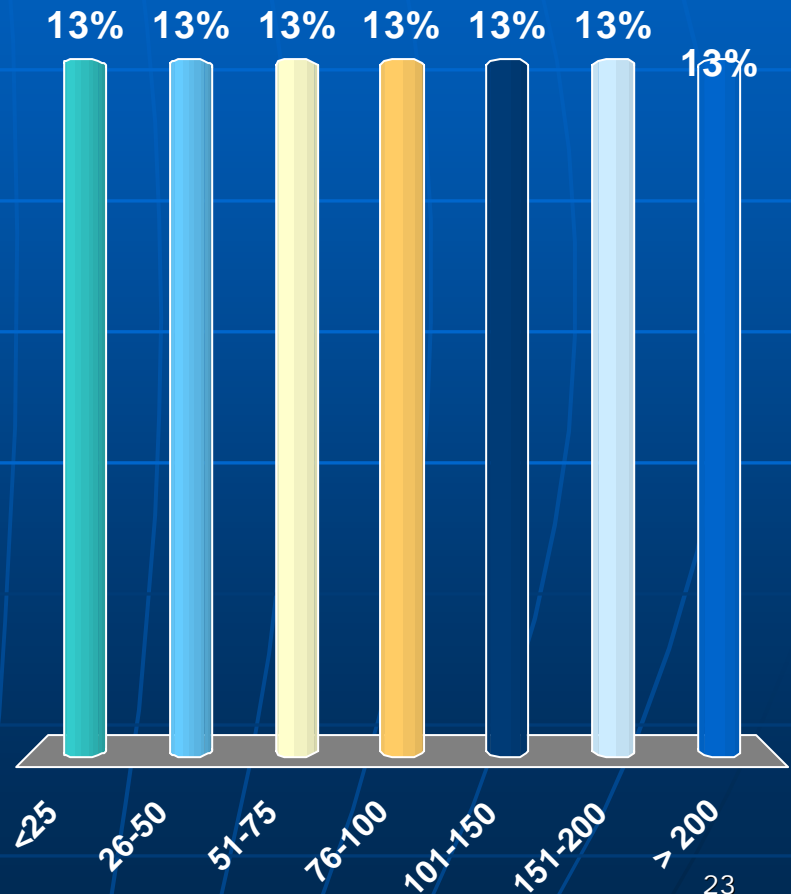
Perceptions of g.c. ban supporters also supporting other bans (“slippery slope”)

Very Unlikely 1 – 2- 3- 4- 5- 6 – 7 Very Likely



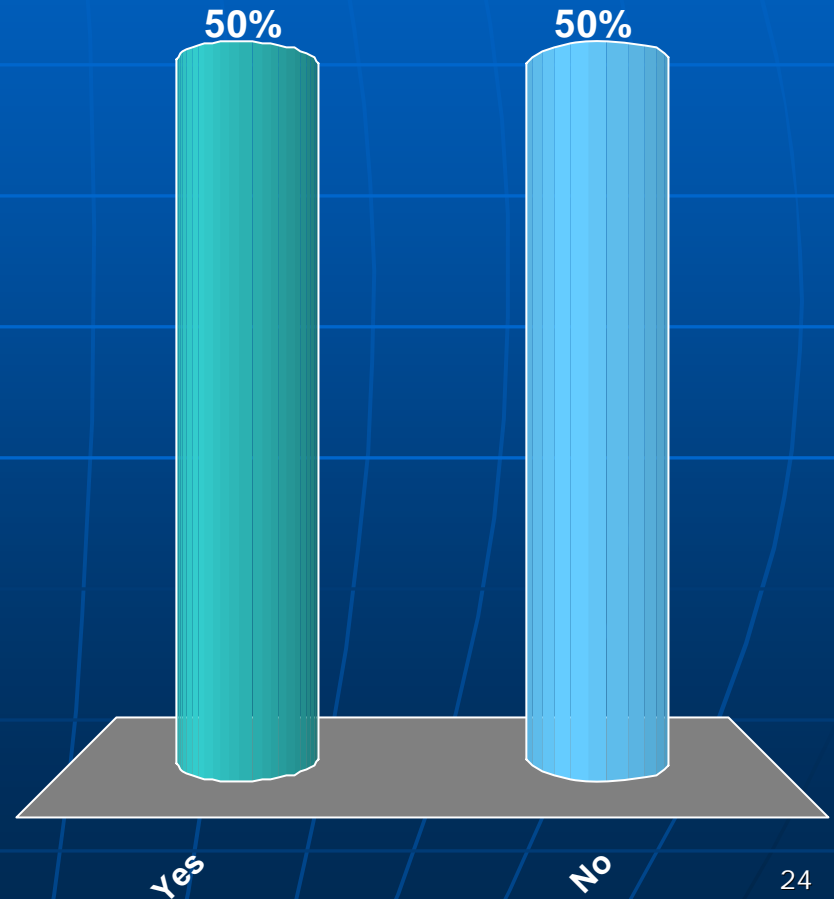
How far did you travel to attend this meeting?

1. < 25 miles
2. 26 – 50 miles
3. 51 – 75 miles
4. 76 – 100 miles
5. 101 – 150 miles
6. 151 – 200 miles
7. > 200 miles



Are you the only representative (co-workers, employees, etc.) from your operation using a “clicker?”

1. Yes
2. No



Overall, how useful was this presentation to you and your operation?

1. Entirely Useless
2. Useless
3. Somewhat Useless
4. Somewhat Useful
5. Useful
6. Extremely Useful

What value do you place on this presentation in terms of improvements in your operation?

1. \$0
2. \$1-\$100
3. \$101-\$500
4. \$501-\$1,000
5. \$1,001-\$5,000
6. \$5,001-\$10,000
7. \$10,001 or higher

Tonsor's website (includes this presentation):
<http://www.msu.edu/user/gtonsor/>