

New England livestock stakeholders' perspectives on emergency animal disease preparedness

Julia M. Smith¹ and Michael Moser²

¹Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, University of Vermont, ²Center for Rural Studies, University of Vermont

Objective

As part of an effort to review the New England Secure Milk Supply Plan, this project sought veterinary and producer perspectives in relation to foreign animal disease response planning and preparedness. Nationally, Secure Milk Supply guidance describes biosecurity performance standards for dairy producers, haulers, and milk receiving plants in the event of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak.

Project Overview

Secure Food Supply New England is the umbrella for projects exploring and stimulating preparedness for a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak anywhere in the United States, with the goal of mitigating the consequences to the New England milkshed.

Methods and Survey Responses

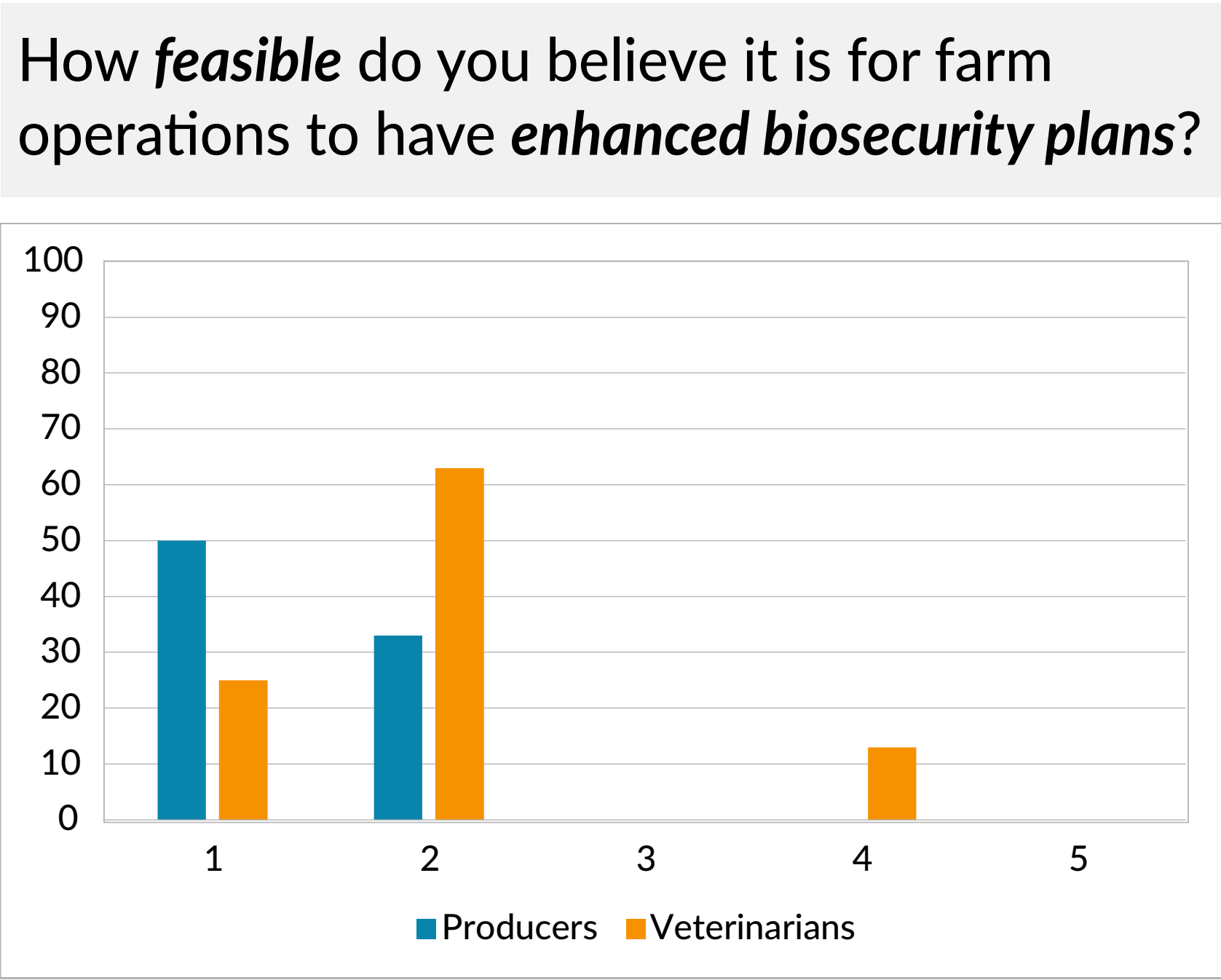
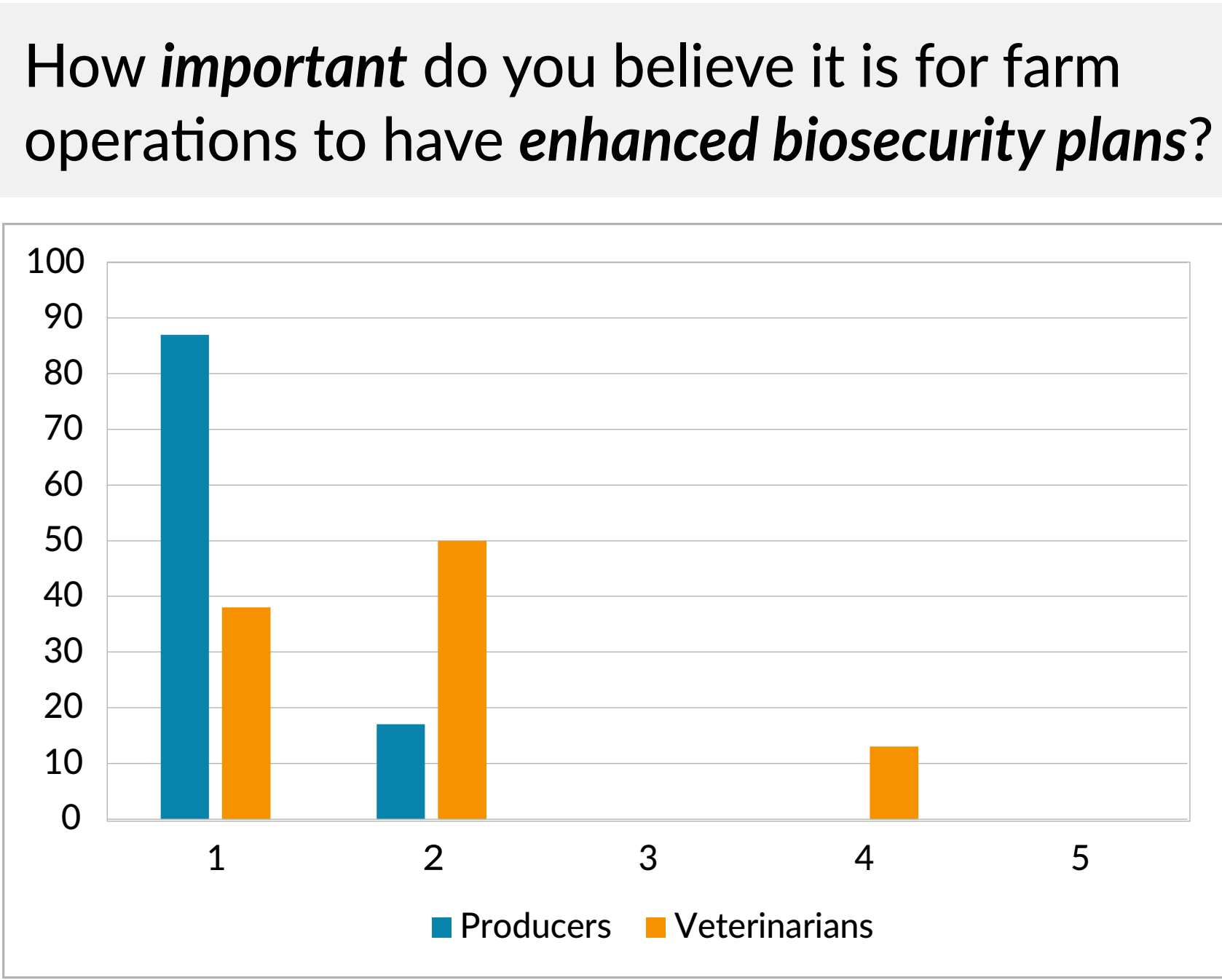
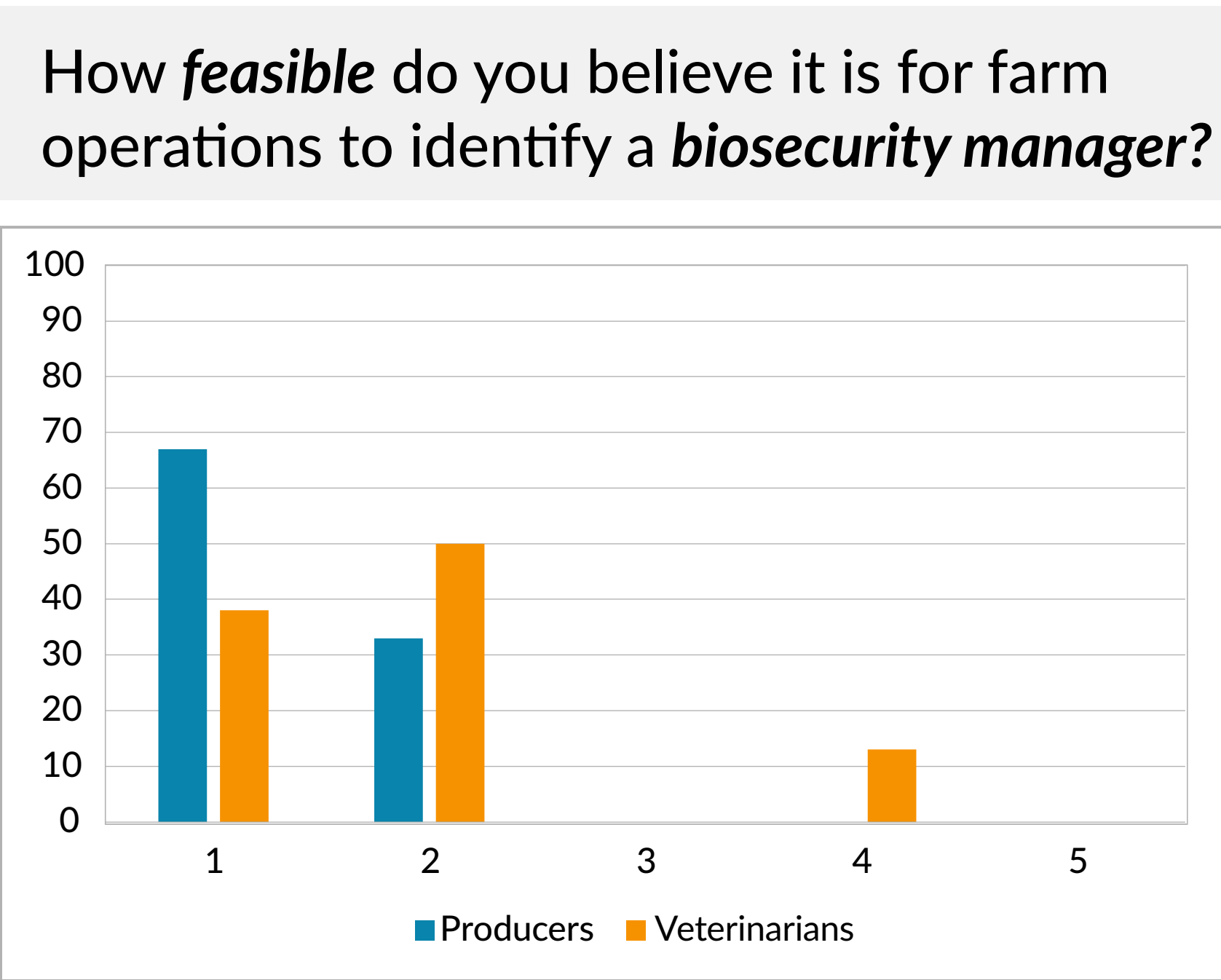
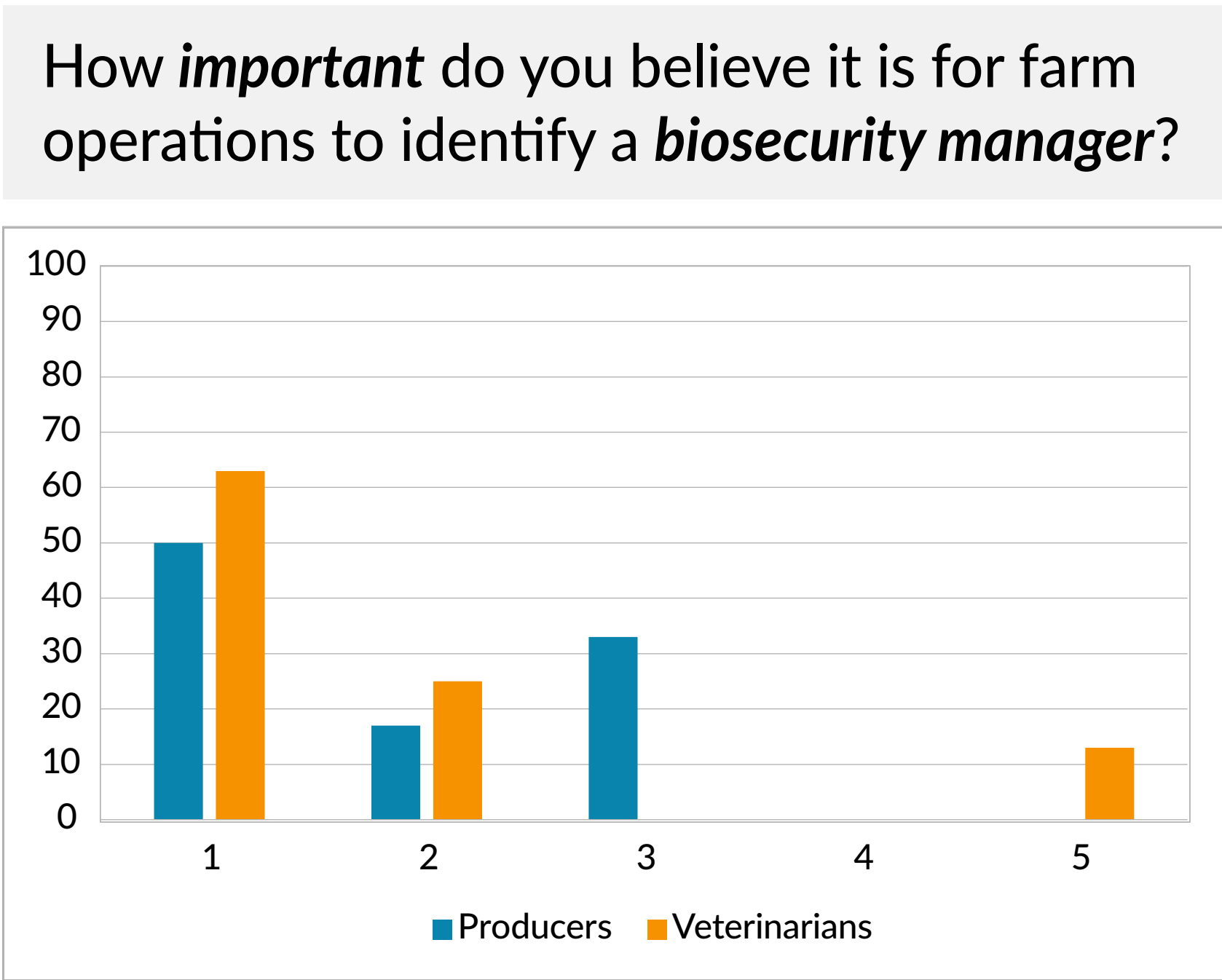
Veterinarian & Producer Interviews

Interviews were completed with 6 producers and 8 private veterinarians. The interviews were conducted via Teams and recorded for later transcription and analysis. Staff at the Center for Rural Studies, a third-party social science research center located at the University of Vermont, conducted interviews via Microsoft Teams.

Grouped Responses

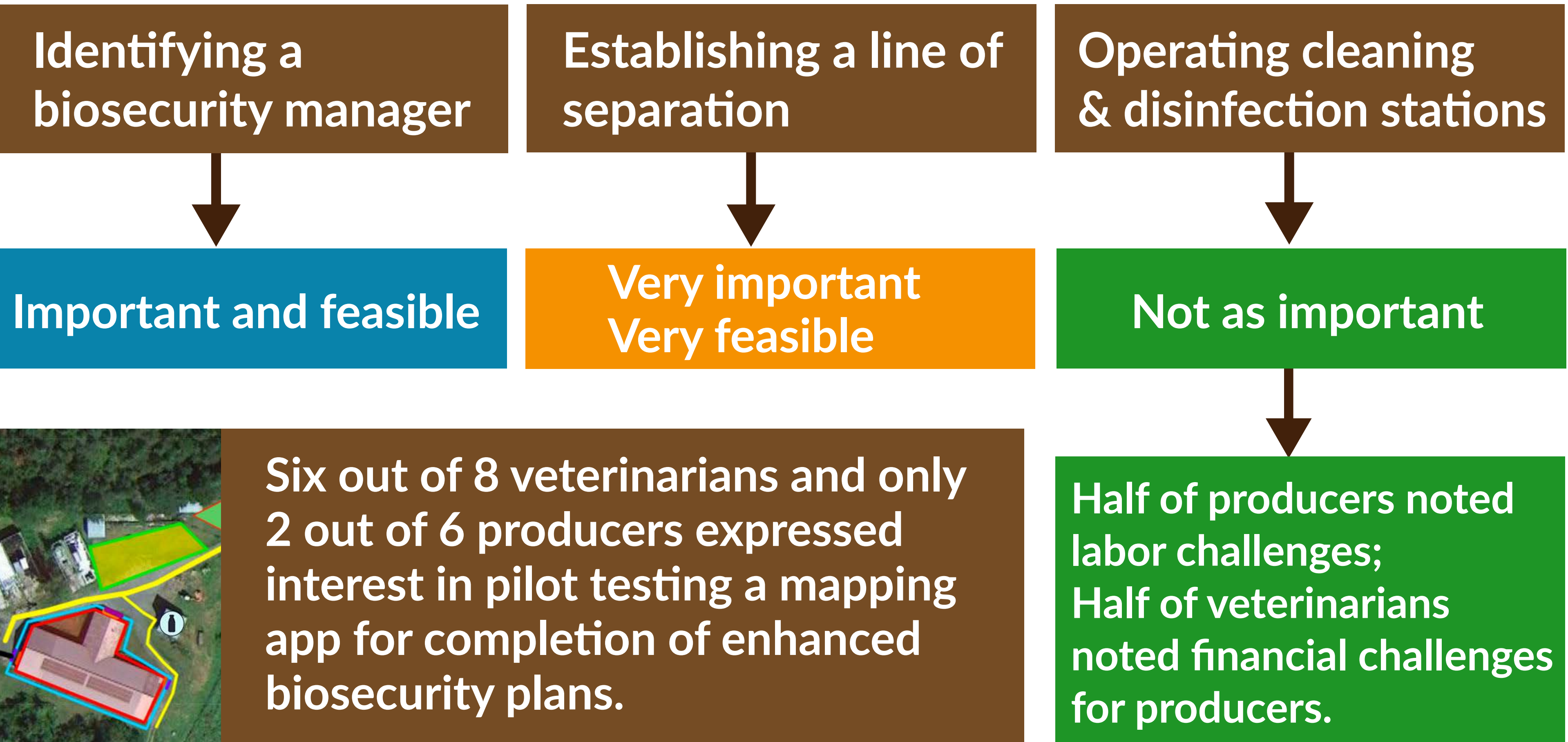
Open-ended responses were grouped according to similarly themed responses. When respondents mentioned more than a single theme, both themes were included (and counted) in the analysis. All research activities were approved by the University of Vermont Institutional Review Board under exemption category 2.

Figure 1. In the scale used for the responses to the questions:
1 = very (important or feasible), 2 = somewhat (important or feasible),
3 = somewhat (unimportant or infeasible), 4 = very (unimportant or infeasible),
5 = don't know.



Results

Stakeholder Perspectives on Enhanced Biosecurity Plans



Conclusions

Continuing education and outreach efforts in support of foreign animal disease preparedness can take into account the perspectives of veterinarians and producers.

In addition, by understanding stakeholders' perspectives on meeting expectations of Secure Food Supply plans, state animal health authorities can better prioritize steps to improve readiness.

