

Butte Community Farm 2025 Public Survey Results

The Butte Community Farm (BCF) is a non-profit community farm in Butte, Montana dedicated to improving access to local food and expanding community wide knowledge about the local food system.

Our goal is to grow and donate at least half of our produce to partners like the homeless shelter and food bank, sell remaining produce to support operation costs and provide opportunities for the public to learn about the local food system through workshops, tours, and events.

Our mission

Planting seeds to cultivate an abundant food future in Southwest Montana.

Our vision

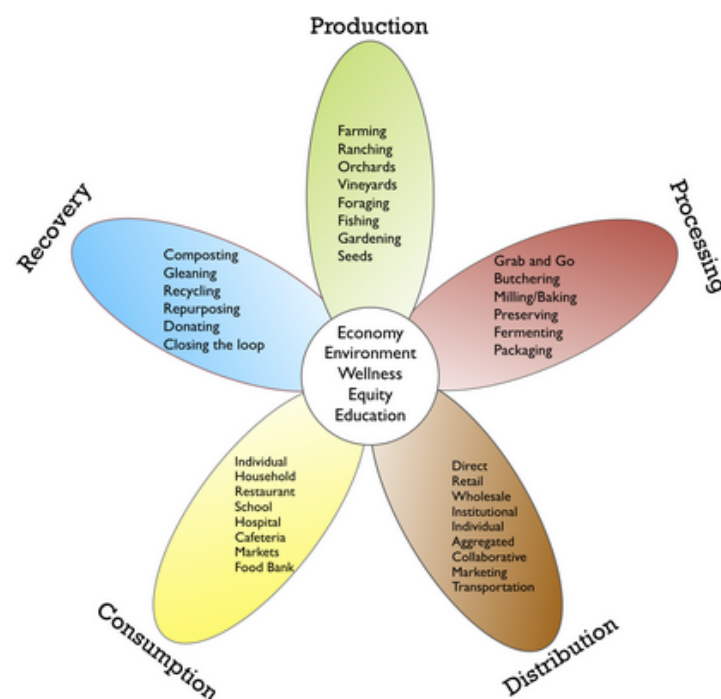
We envision a resilient future for southwest Montana where communities share knowledge, care for the land and have access to local food. We will realize this future through education, community collaboration, and growing the local food economy.

What is the local food system?

The local food system describes the people, environment, processes and policies that come together to feed people.

These areas can be broken into 5 major areas - **food production** (growing), **food processing** (harvesting, packaging,), **food distribution** (marketing, selling), **consumption** (eating), and **waste recovery** (how we handle what we can't use - think composting!).

Everyone is involved in our food system in some way and a thriving local food system supports a thriving community.



Butte Community Farm 2025 Public Survey Results

The Butte Community Farm team conducted a public survey to learn about our community's access to the local food system and interest in potential farm programs. The survey was available online from August 2025 - January 2026. The Butte Community Farm board members promoted the survey through posters and pop up tabling events at various locations throughout Butte, including the summer and winter farmers markets, local stores, restaurants and the food bank. Headwaters RC&D - our region's local Food and Ag Development Center - produced a promotional video for the survey that was shared through social media and email channels.

Thanks to the generous support of Headwaters RC&D, the Butte Community Farm team was able to give anyone who completed the survey at an outreach event a \$5 gift card to one of several local businesses.

The Butte Community Farm will use survey results to guide our program planning.



The poster features a circular logo on the left with the text "406 REASONS TO EAT LOCAL" around the perimeter. Inside the circle are icons of a corn cob, a cow, and a fork. To the right of the logo, the text "Want to Eat Local More Often?" is displayed in a large, bold, white font. Below this, the title "Take the Butte Community Farm Survey" is written in a similar bold, white font. A paragraph of smaller white text at the bottom explains the survey's purpose and goals. At the very bottom, there are two logos: "headwaters" on the left and "headwaters Food and Agriculture Development Center" on the right, both featuring a colorful triangle icon.

Want to Eat Local More Often?

Take the Butte Community Farm Survey

The Butte Community Farm is a grassroots effort led by a group of community members who want to improve access to local food and expand community wide knowledge about where our food comes from. Our goal is to launch a non profit community farm in Butte, Montana. We are in the planning process, and responses from this survey will be used to help us understand the region wide interest in potential programs offered at a community farm. Thank you for your time and thoughtful responses!

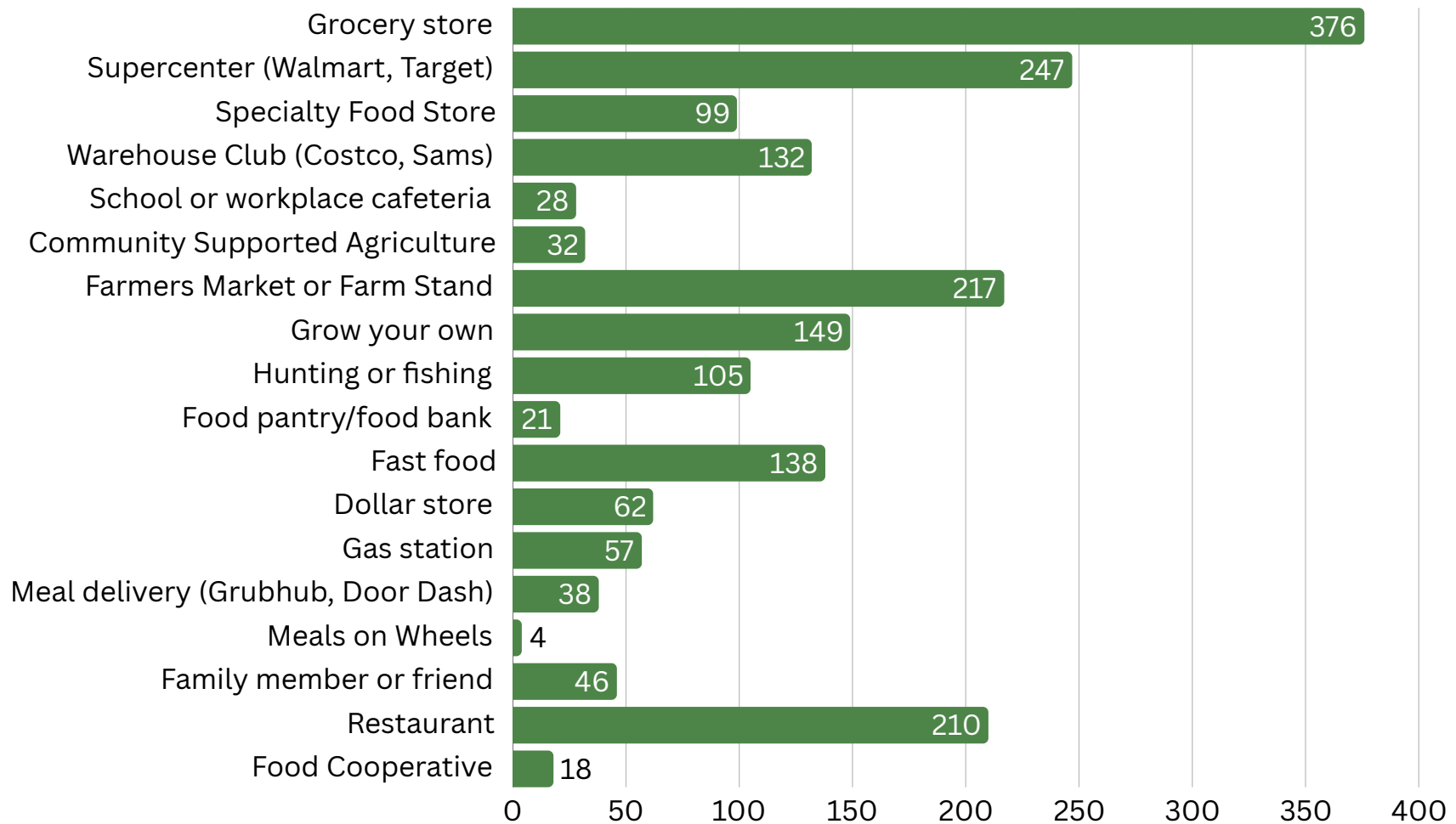
 **headwaters**

 **headwaters**
Food and Agriculture Development Center

Survey Results

We wanted to understand how the community is accessing and interacting with the local food system.

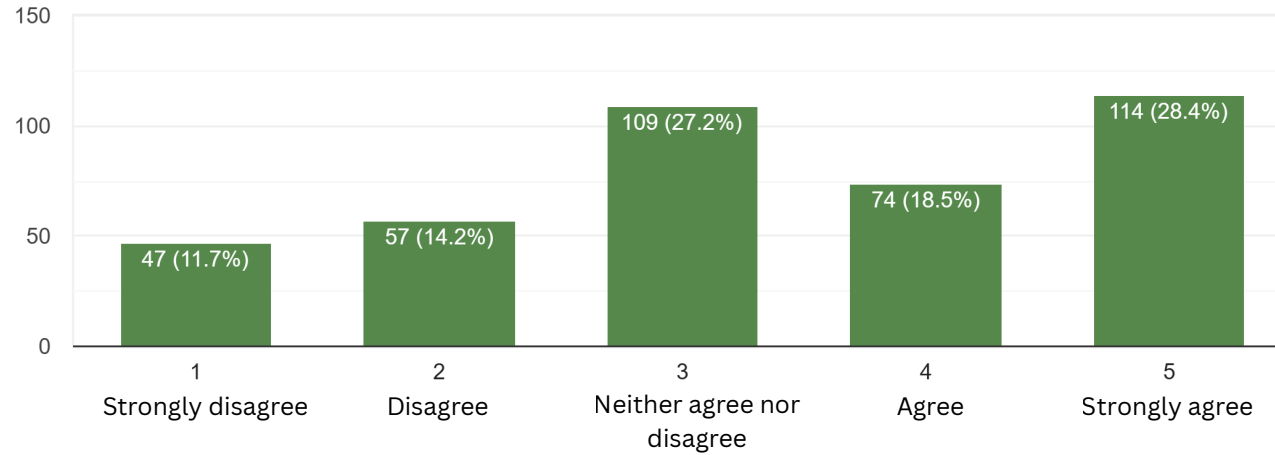
First we asked where and how community members purchase food.



We wanted know more about purchasing local food specifically.

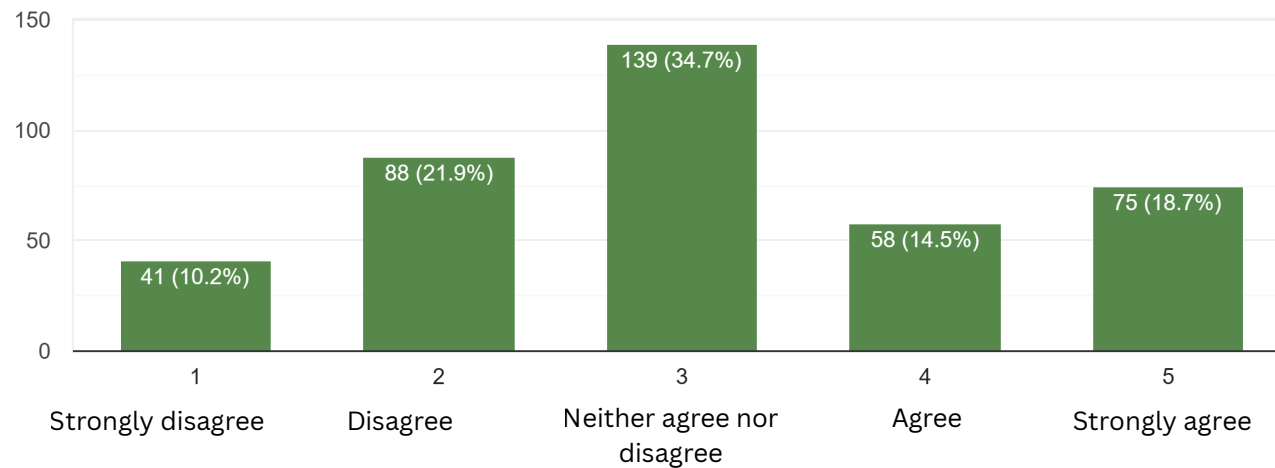
I know where to purchase local food in my area

401 responses



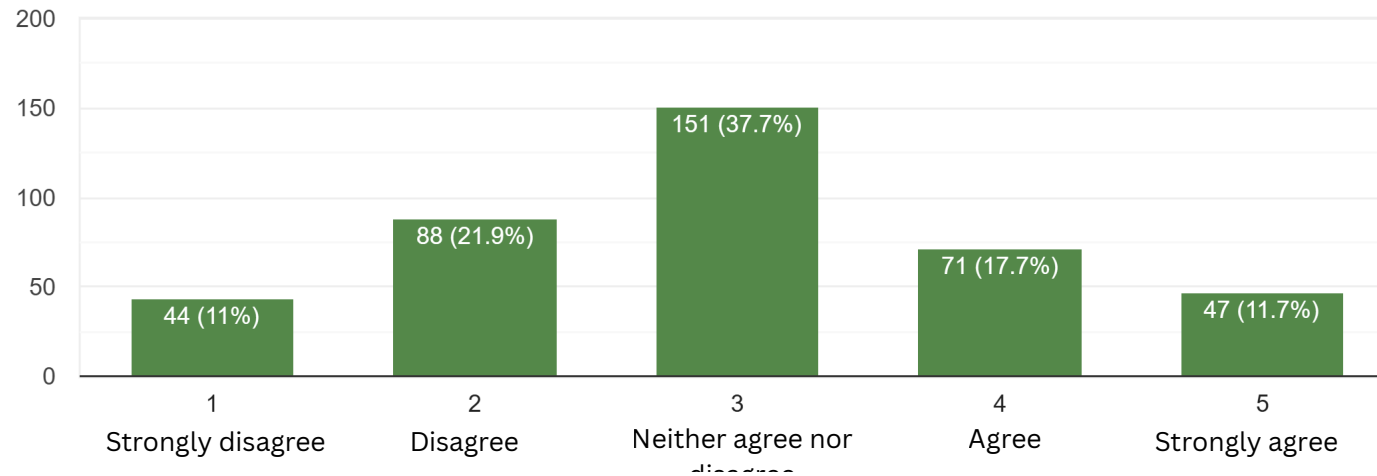
Local food is accessible for me

401 responses



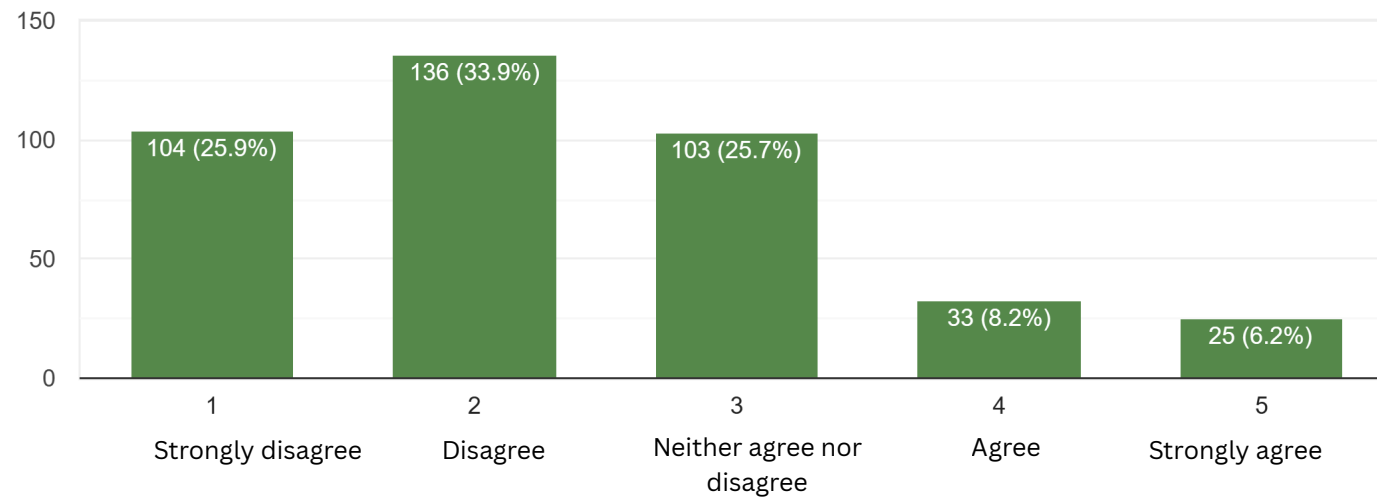
Local food is affordable for me

401 responses



I have a variety of options to buy local food

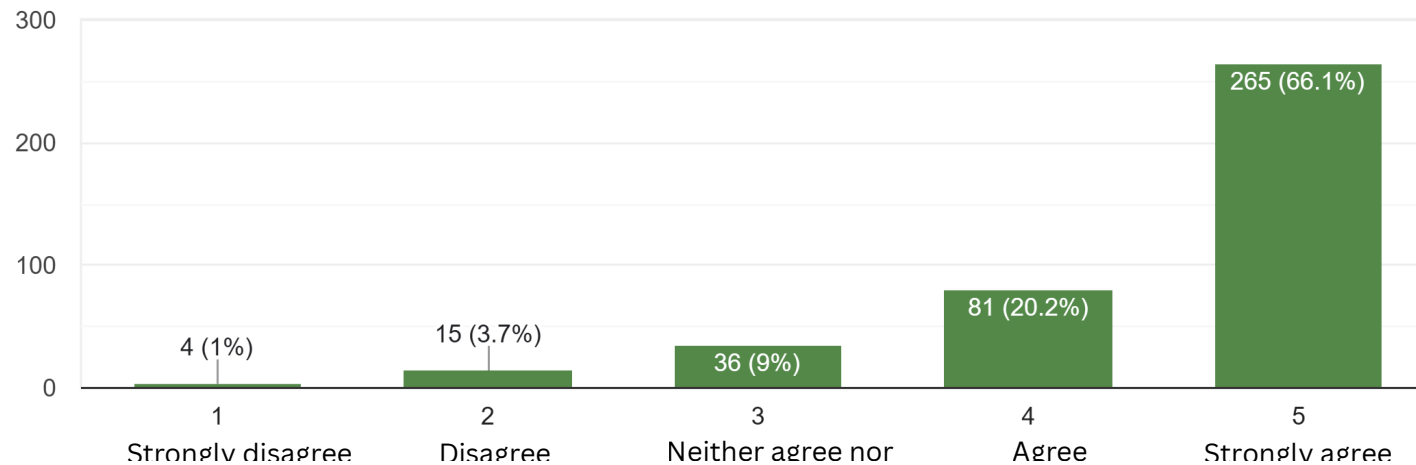
401 responses



We wanted to understand our community's knowledge of food processing and preservation. These techniques help extend the benefits of fresh grown food beyond Butte's short growing season.

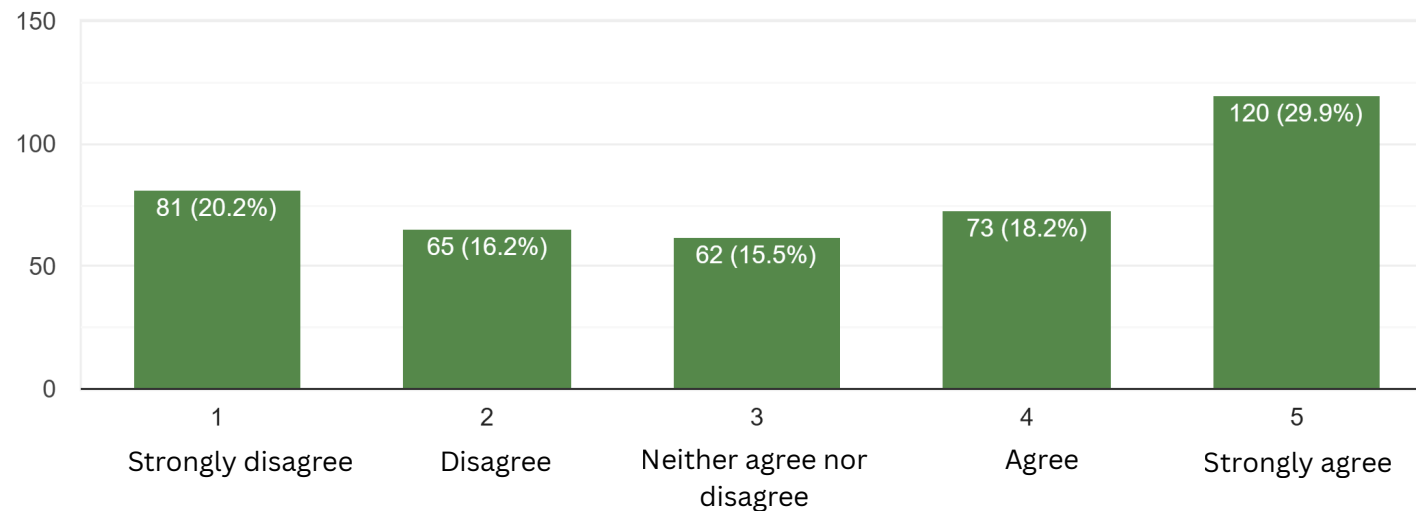
I know how to cook with fresh foods

401 responses



I know methods of preserving fresh foods (canning, dehydrating, pickling etc)

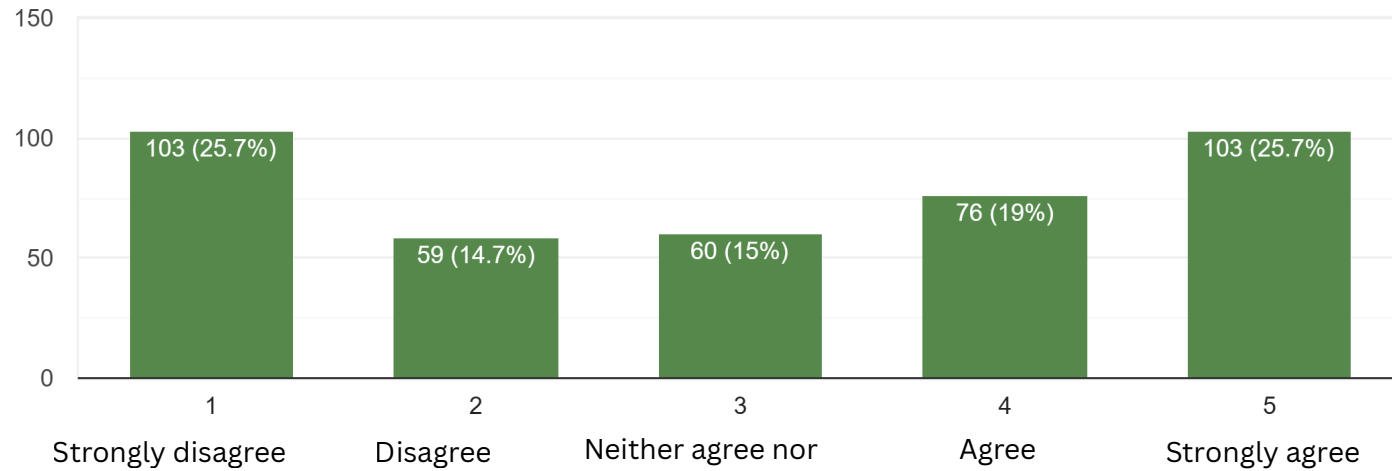
401 responses



We were curious about our community's ability to grow our own food.

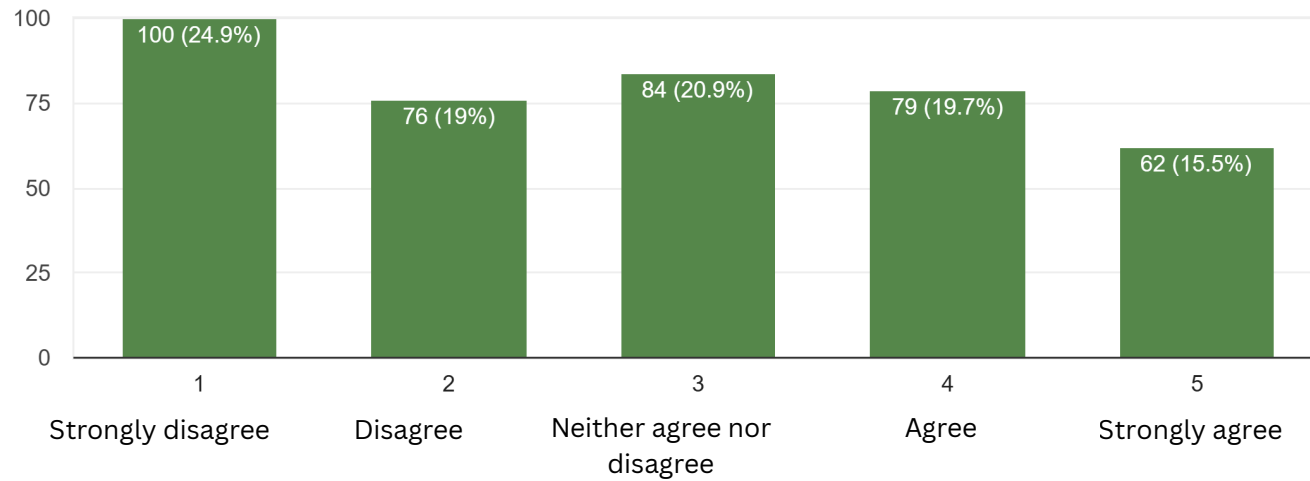
I currently garden and know how to grow food

401 responses



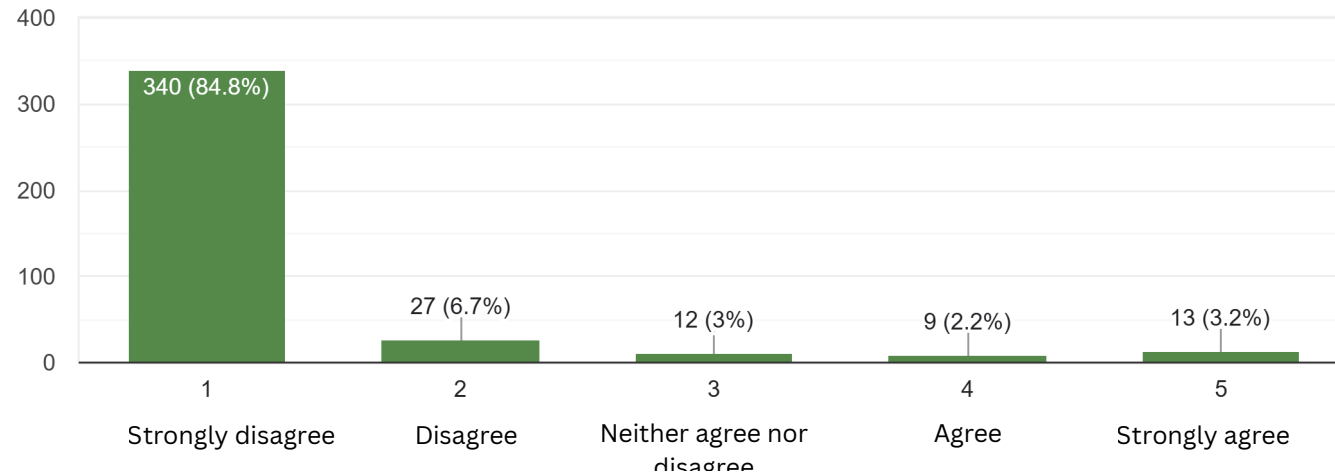
I know what crops grow well in this area

401 responses



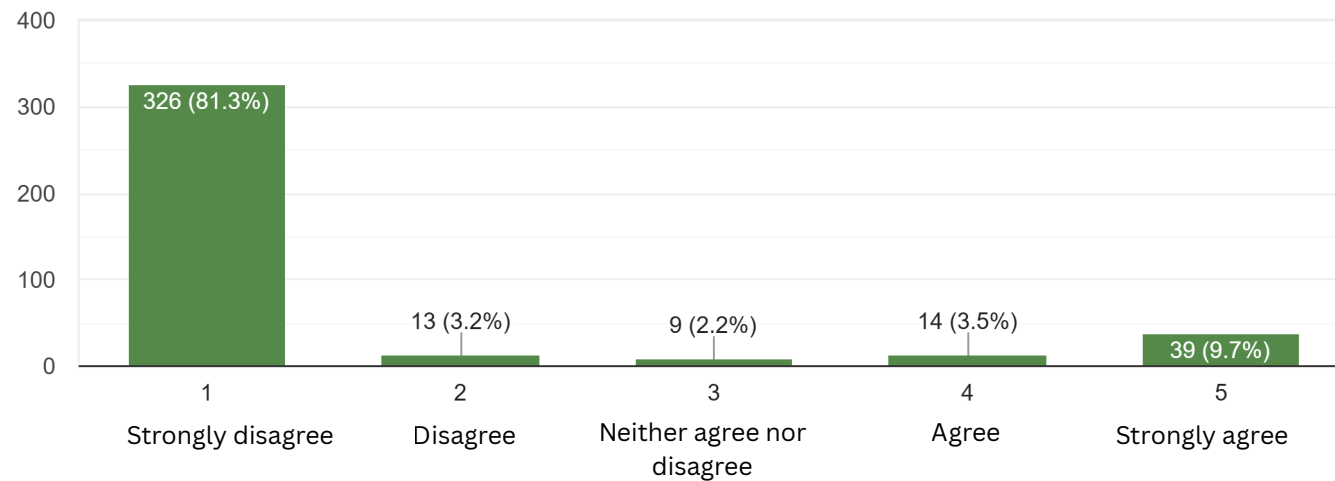
I participate in a community garden

401 responses



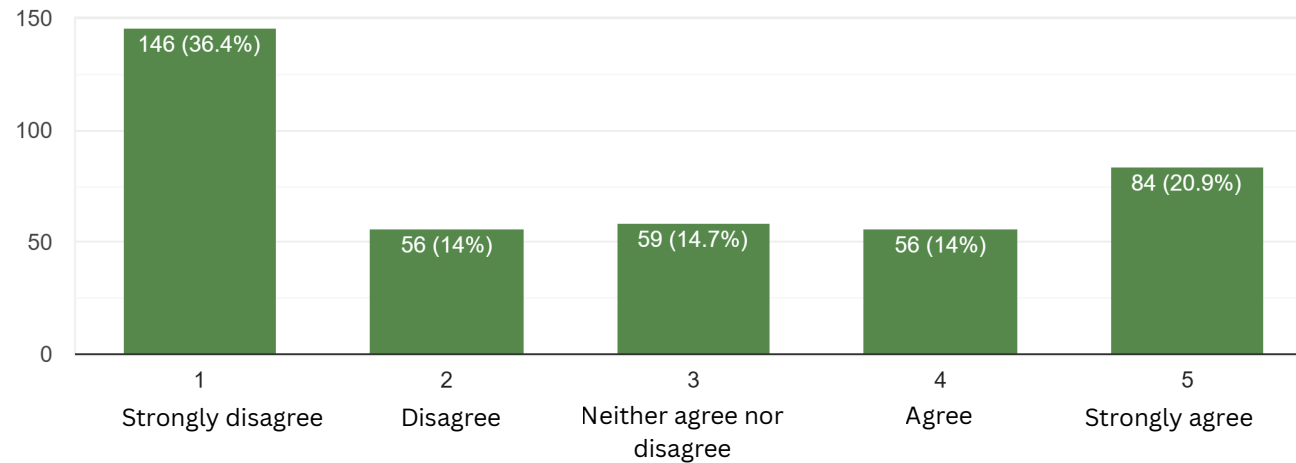
I raise animals in my yard (e.g., chickens, bees)

401 responses



I know where some of the community gardens in Butte are

401 responses



Comments from the survey

"Especially interested in access to local foods year-round, including winter months if possible"

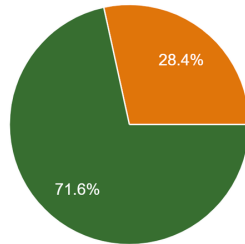
"Support the success of local growers without competing"

"Please focus on crops that thrive in our extremely limited season and help local gardeners do the same"

The Butte Community Farm has the opportunity to support our local food system through our programs. We wanted to know more about what kind of food system programs the public would be interested in.

Select Yes or No

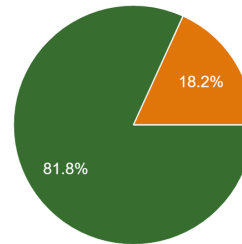
Cooking
401 responses



Select Yes or No

Gardening:
401 responses

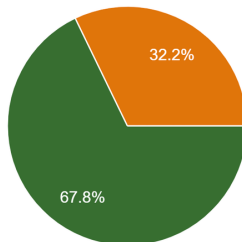
Ye
No



Yes
No

Select Yes or No

I want to learn more about...
Composting
401 responses



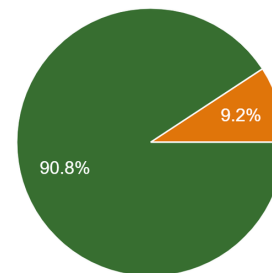
Select Yes or No

I want to learn more about...

Buying Local Food

401 responses

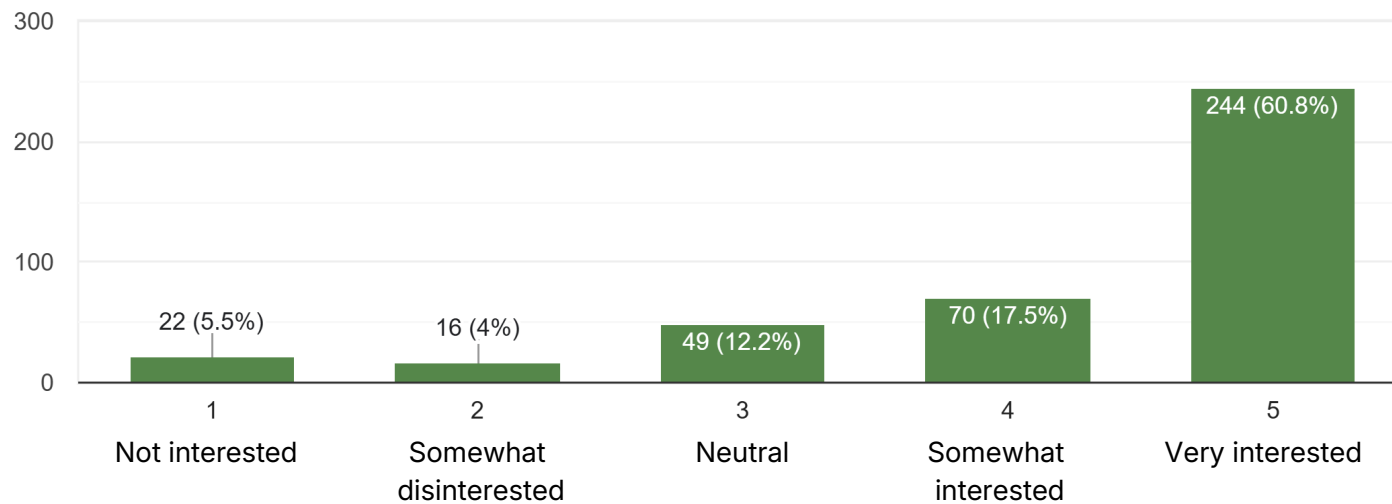
Yes
No



Yes
No

Adult workshops/education: Backyard gardening and animal husbandry, composting & food waste, soil science, water wise gardening, cooking with local foods, preserving and processing food

401 responses



Comments from the survey

"Workshops on growing in the Butte climate would be beneficial for many residents to help have greater success growing produce and flowers"

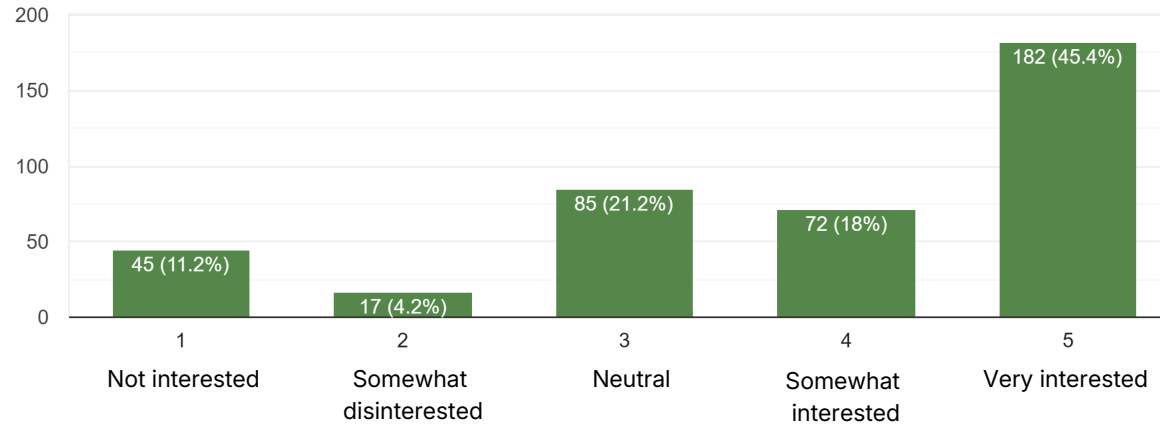
"Would love more resources for informing residents about the safety of their soil and how to remediate"

"Would love to know more about Butte gardening specifically to make our home garden more fruitful"

We wanted to gauge interest in the BCF partnering with more community organizations in the future

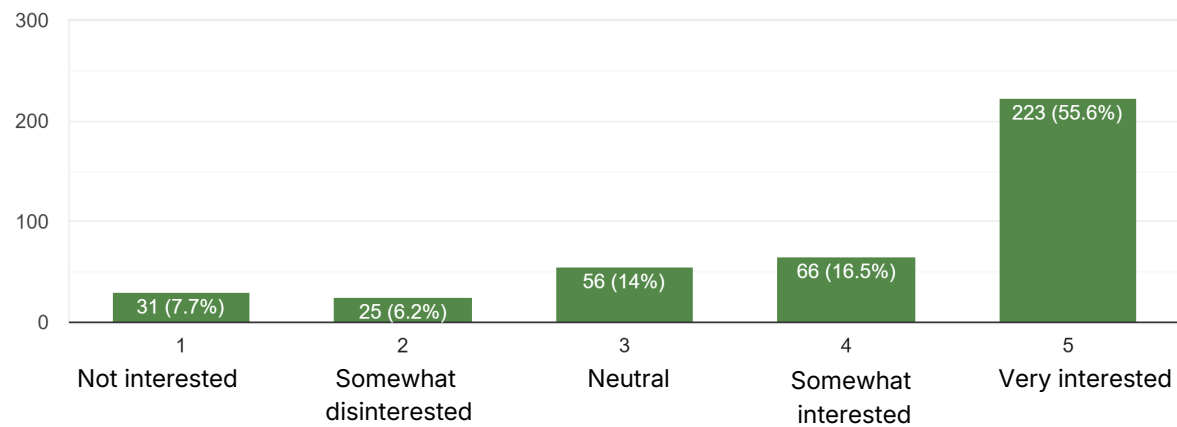
Farm to School programs; providing food for summer backpack programs, school field trips, farmer to school education partnerships etc.

401 responses



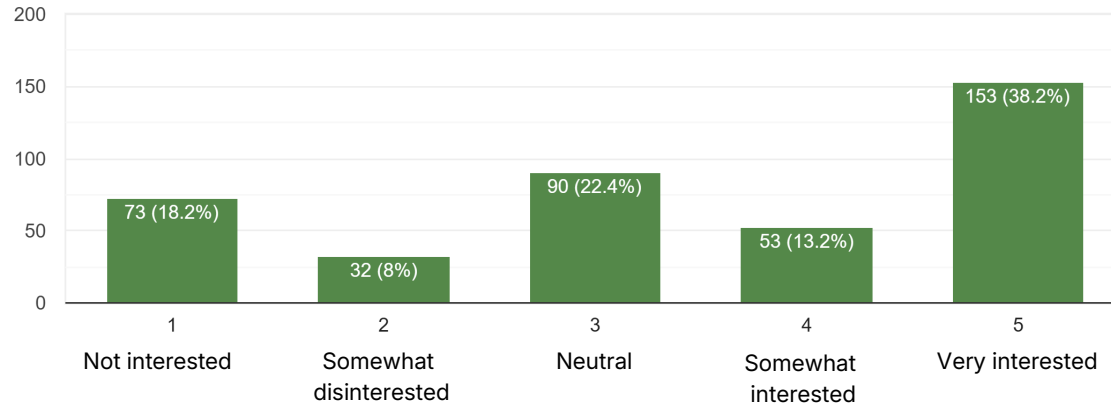
Prescription Produce: food as medicine

401 responses



Summer youth programs: summer camps, internships

401 responses



Comments from the survey

"I want to eat more vegetables, and I want my kids to find some they like. But that gets put on the backburner. Something to get the kids excited would be really nice"

"I would consider food education and food availability to be some of the most important factors driving well-being of a community"

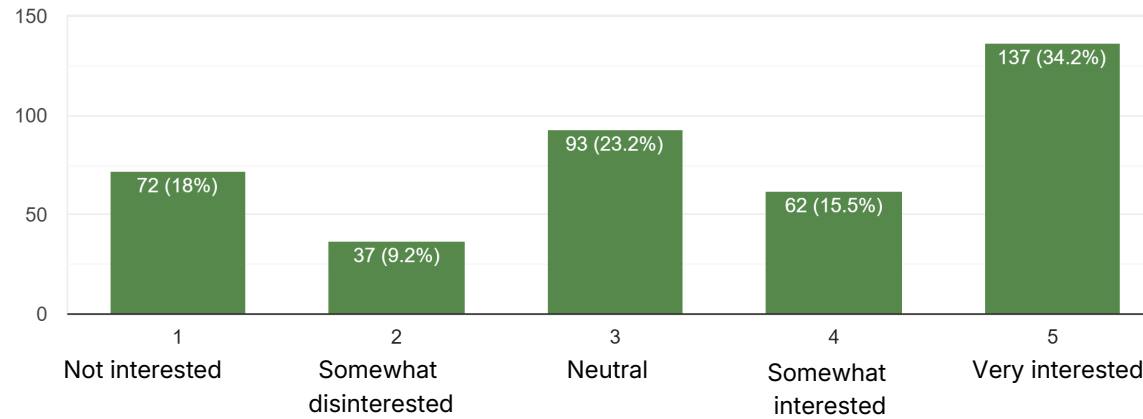
"The public school needs healthier meals for kids!"

The Butte Community Farm is 100% volunteer operated. As we expand, we will need the help of community volunteers to support our food growing operation.

We wanted to know what kind of groups were interested in volunteering on the farm.

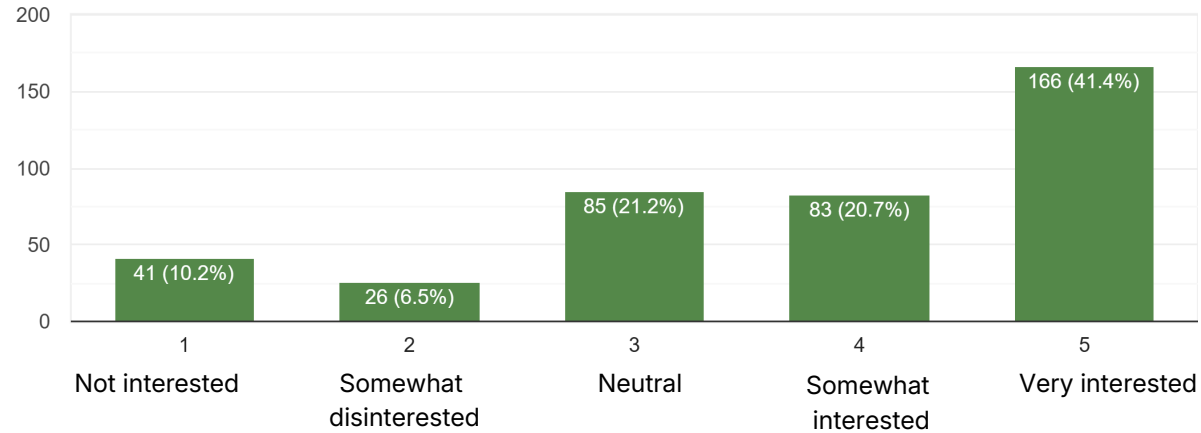
Volunteer opportunities for youth

401 responses



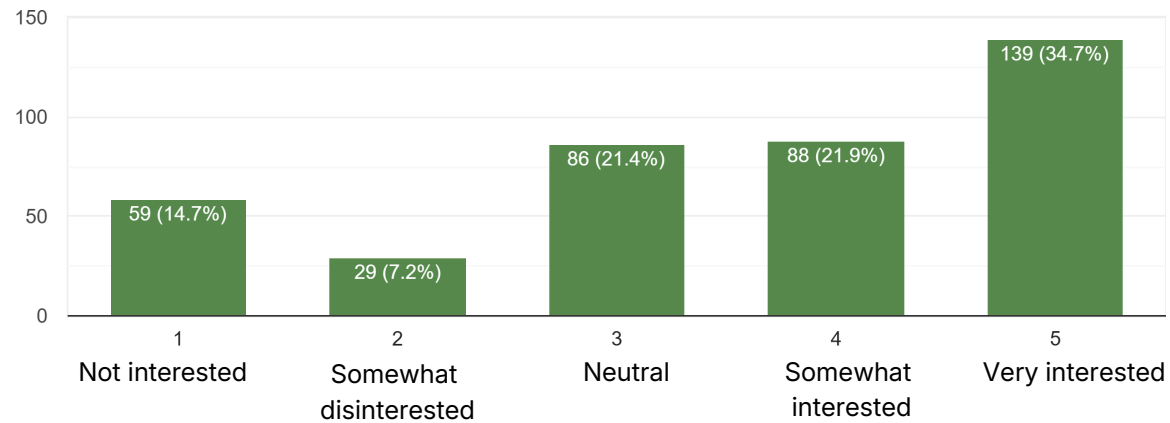
Volunteer opportunities for adult

401 responses



Volunteer opportunities for workplace or community groups

401 responses



Comments from the survey

"So excited for this farm to come to life!"

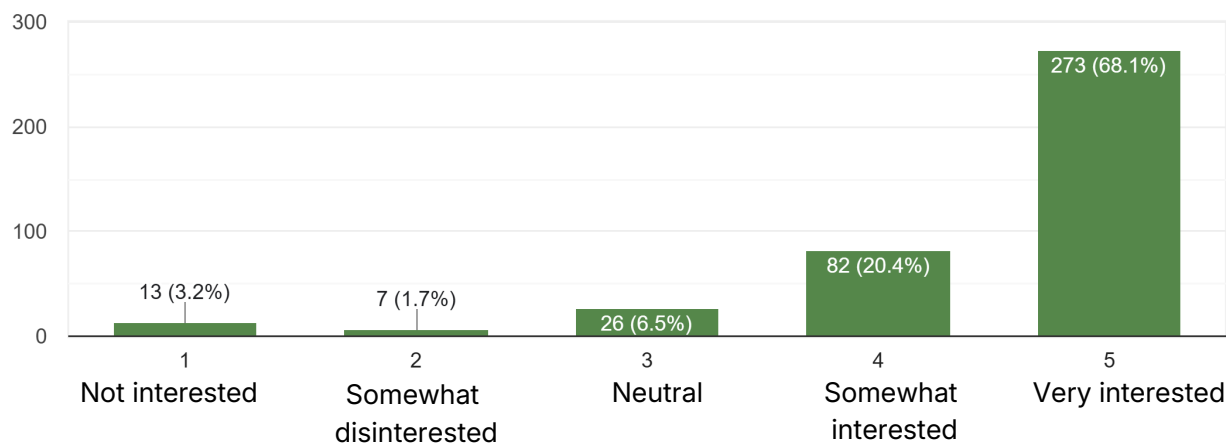
"This would be so incredible for our town!"

"I encourage gardening even in Butte where it is tough to garden"

We asked about interest in different paid programs and services that could support the farm operations.

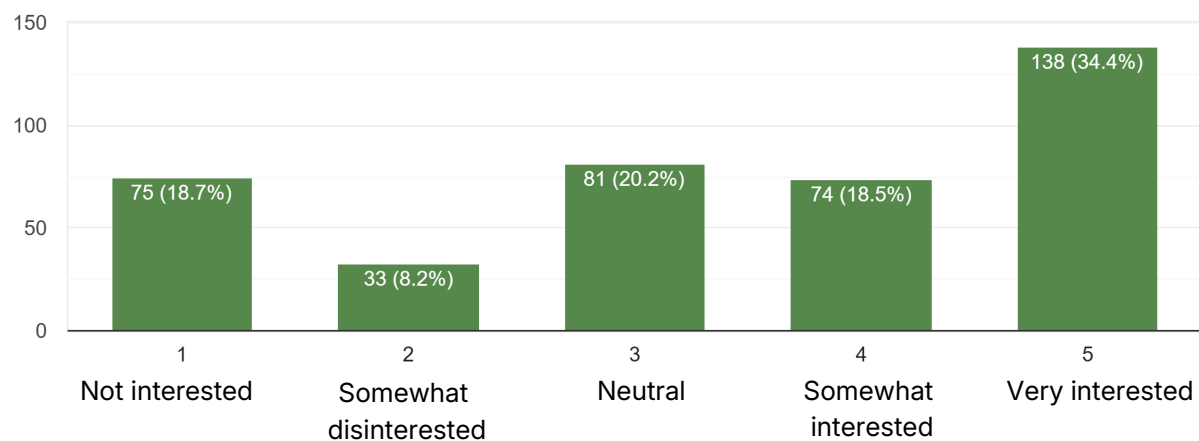
Farm stand: Purchase produce from the Butte Community Farm and regional products from Southwest Montana.

401 responses



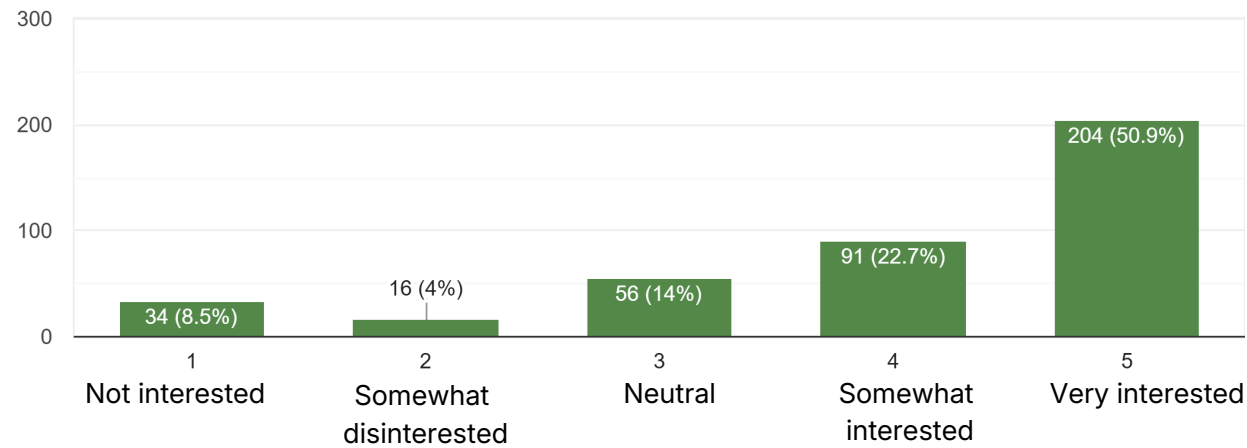
Paid community compost service

401 responses



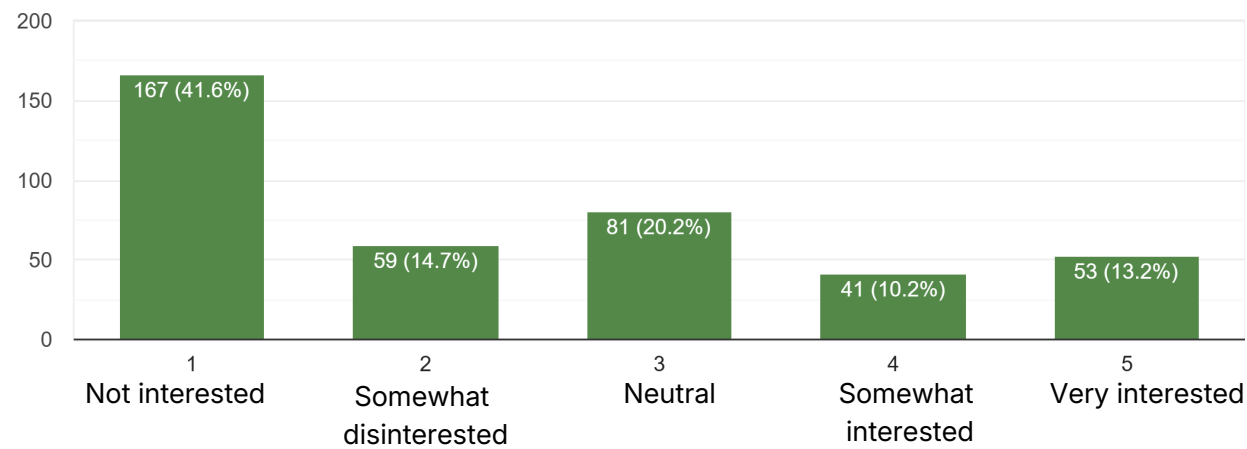
U-Pick: Pay a price per pound and pick your own produce from the Butte Community Farm

401 responses



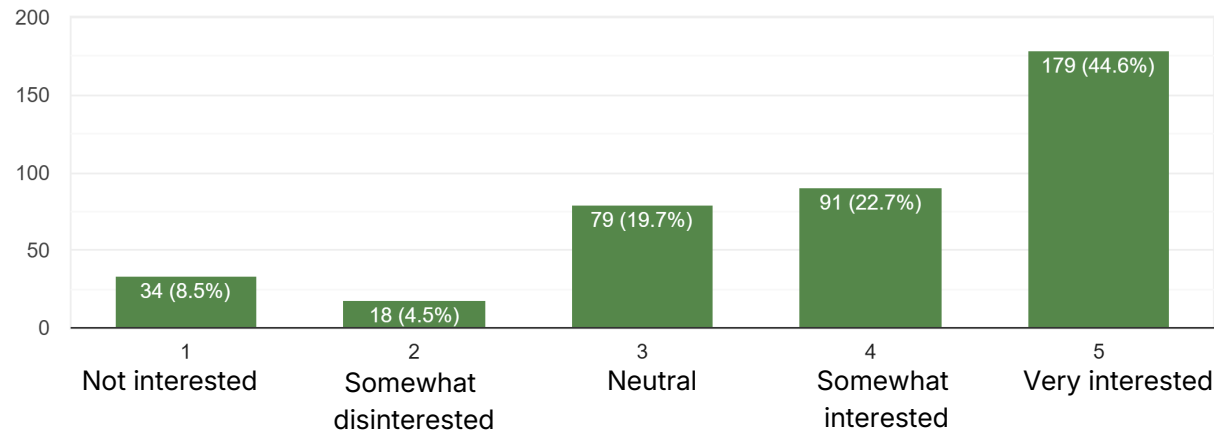
Rent a community garden plot for personal use

401 responses



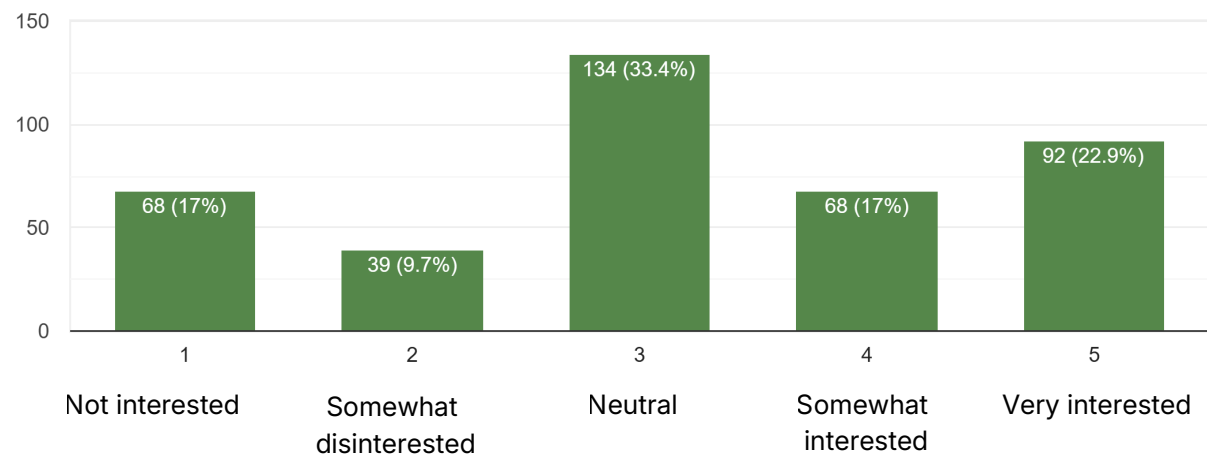
CSA subscription: Subscribe to a weekly box full of Butte Community Farm produce during the peak season.

401 responses



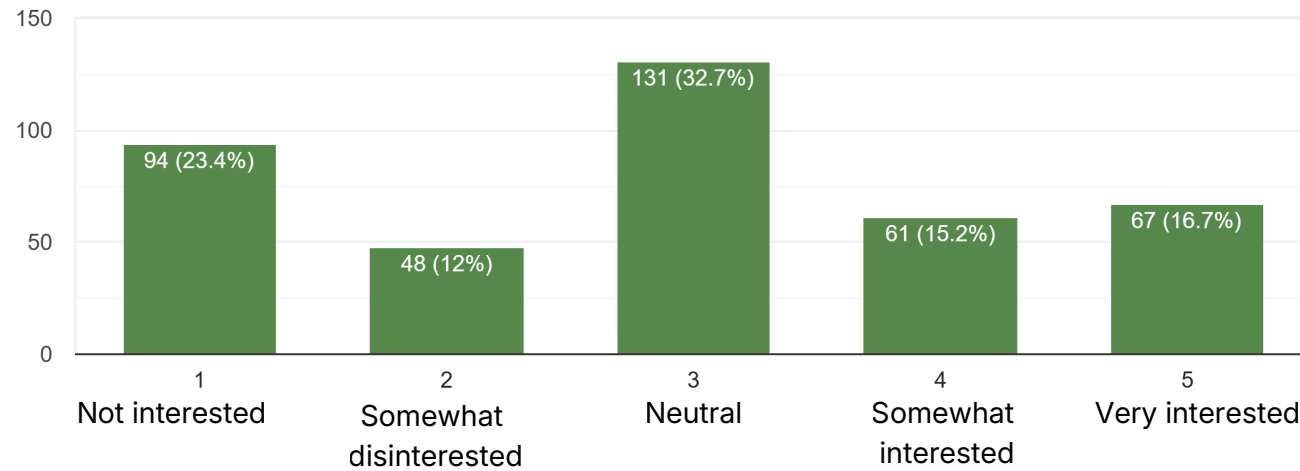
“Adopt a Row” program: “adopt” or fund a row at the Butte Community Farm on behalf of a community organization. All food produced on that row will be donated to the community organization.

401 responses



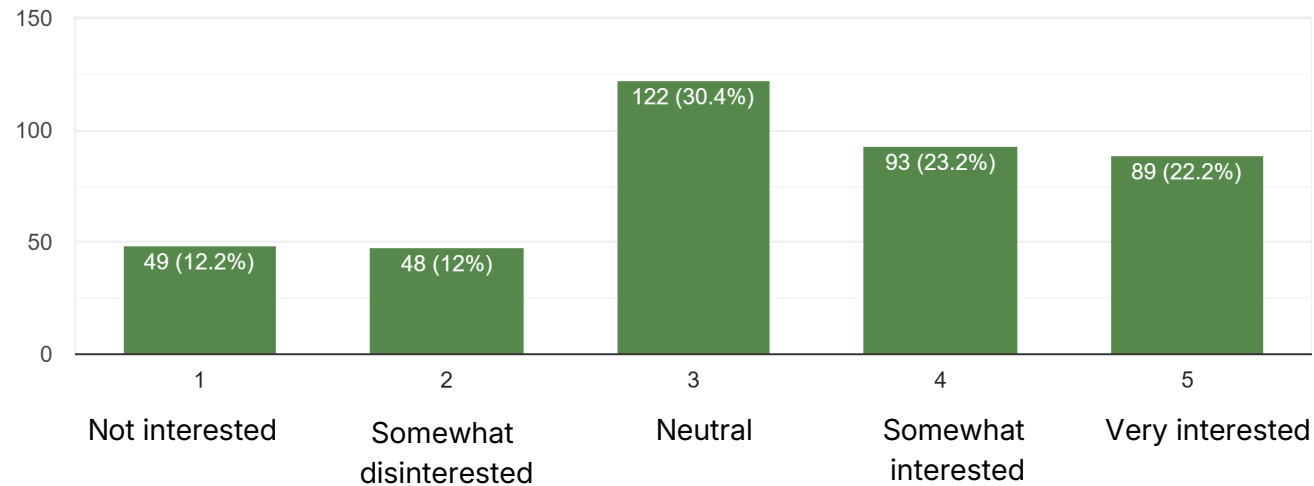
Sponsor a row, event, or workshop

401 responses



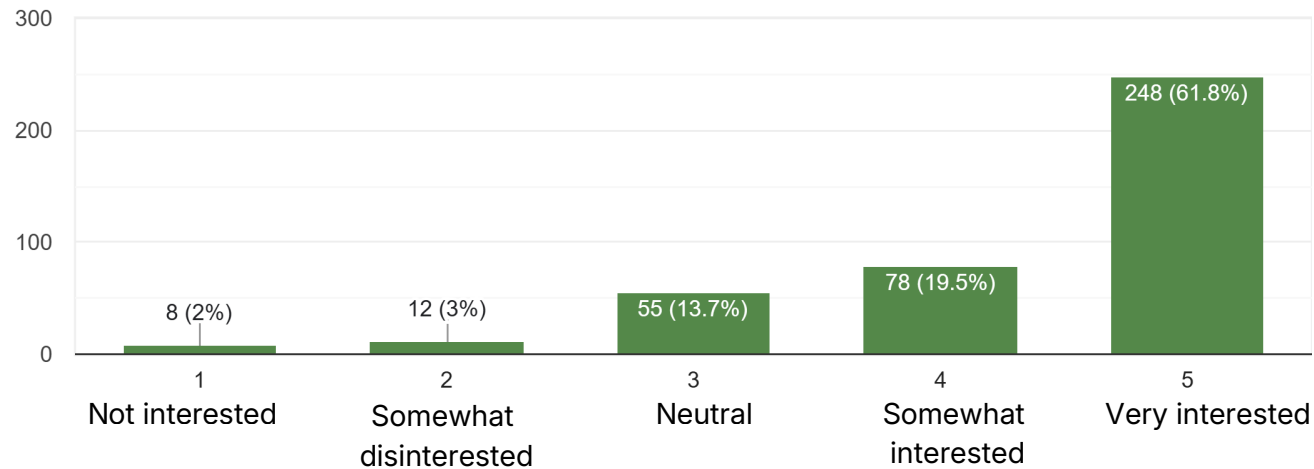
Donate to the Butte Community Farm to support production

401 responses



Please rank your likelihood to support the Butte Community Farm project

401 responses



Comments from the survey

"I love this! Butte needs more fresh food"

"This would be very enriching to our communitiy!"

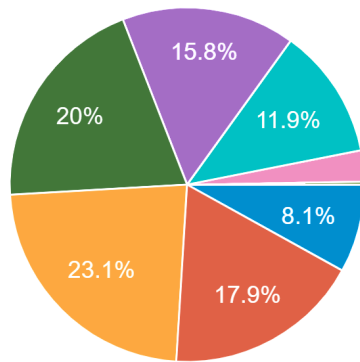
"This is very exciting. Thank you for doing this for our community!"

"Very interesting idea! Please keep it going. Butte needs more local food"

The following are demographic questions asked for the Butte Community Farm Survey. The survey received over 401 responses, approximately 1% of Butte's population. Demographic questions were optional, and had an average response rate of ~92%.

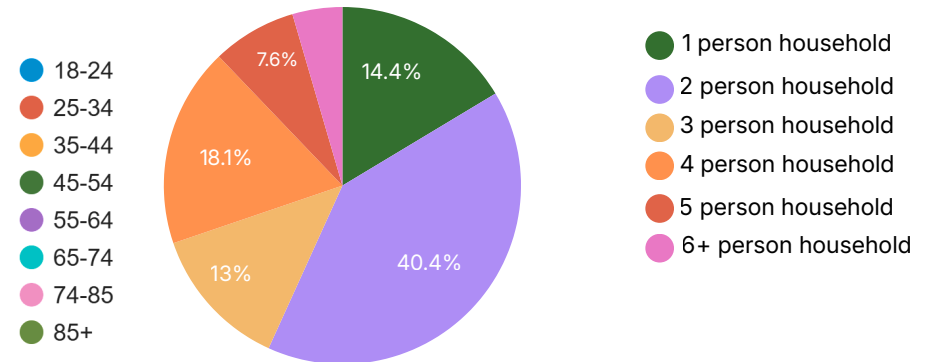
Age Range (optional)

385 responses



Number of people in your household (optional)

353 responses



Household Income Range (optional)

366 responses

