

Native Nations & FSMA: *Working with Tribal Governments & Tribal Food Producers in a Culturally Appropriate Way*

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INDIGENOUS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE
NECAFS ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS



Agenda

About IFAI

**IFAI Food Safety
Trainings**

Context for working in Indian Country

**Needs Assessment
Survey**

Questions and Answers



Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative



Our Founding

- Establish in the Univ. of Arkansas School of Law in 2013 by:
 - Vice-Chancellor Stacy Leeds; and
 - Founding Director Janie Simms Hipp
- Moved with Vice-Chancellor Leeds to Office of Economic Development in July 2018

Our Mission

Enhance health and wellness in tribal communities by advancing healthy food systems, diversified economic development, and cultural food traditions in Indian Country.



Our Work in Indian Country

Putting Tribal Sovereignty in Food Sovereignty

We provide strategic legal analysis, policy research, and educational resources to empower Indian Country through food sovereignty, agriculture, and economic development.



Our Work in Indian Country: Food Safety Training

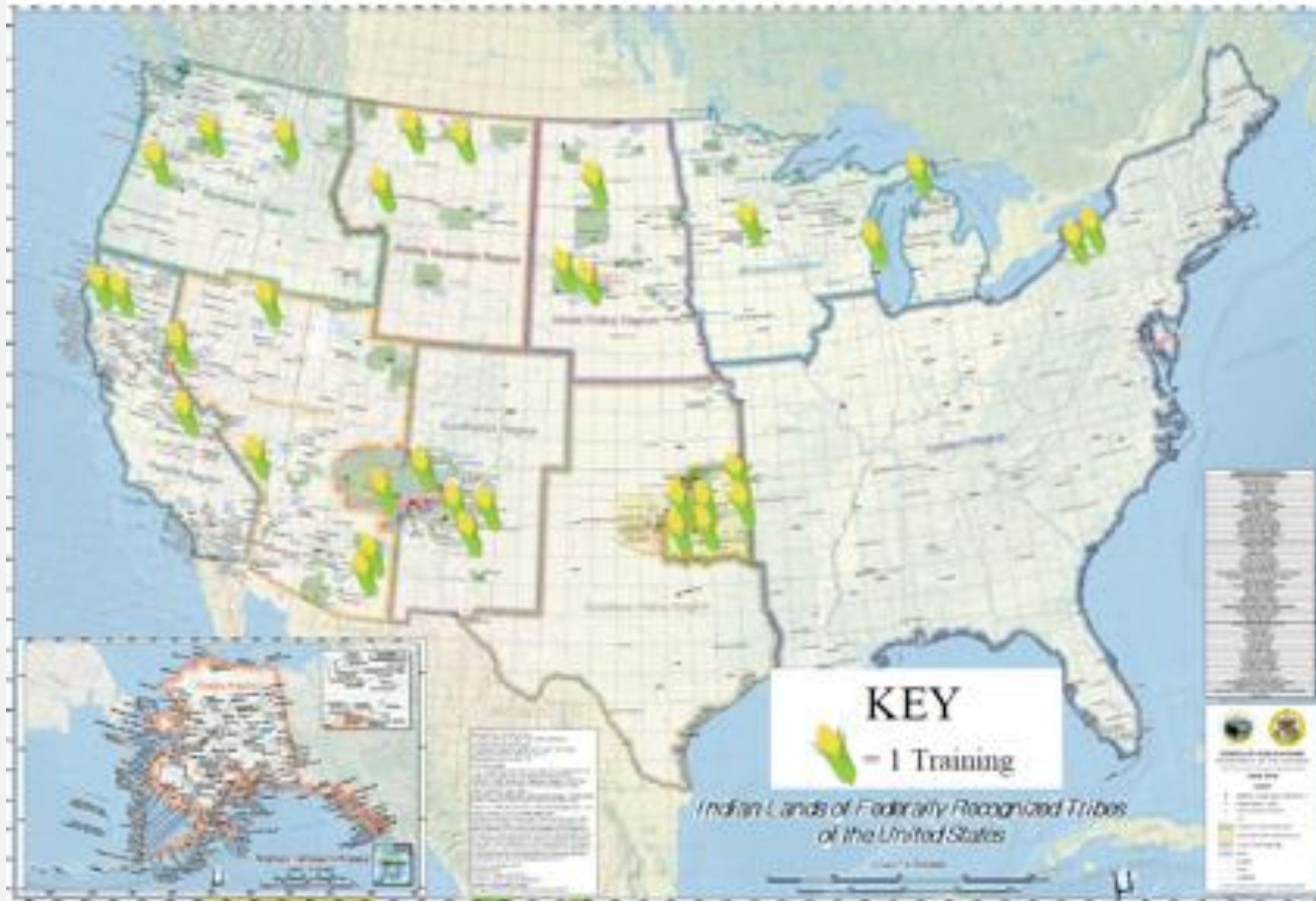
FSMA Food Safety Training and Outreach

- Native American Tribal Center for Food Safety Outreach, Education, Training and Technical Assistance
 - Designated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in September 2016
- Certified PSA Trainers on staff
 - Face-to-face certification trainings for Native producers and agribusinesses
 - Webinars for PSA module introductions and refreshers
 - Cooperation with wide array of partners, e.g. Intertribal Agriculture Council
- Modified Curriculum Development & Culturally Appropriate Training

www.nativefoodsafety.org



IFAI Hosted PSR Grower and Train-the-Trainer Trainings



Our Work in Indian Country: Alternative Curriculum Update

IFAI is modifying PSA certified modules to meet the cultural and legal complexities faced in Indian Country

Modules are reviewed by FDA for compliance

Modified training components are informed by our Alternative Curriculum Working Group of Tribal organizations and citizens.

IFAI will begin certified FSMA trainings using the modified curriculum in 2020!



Context Matters

Tribal citizens are a politically protected class

Tribes hold sovereignty over their jurisdictional area

- Generally, States don't have civil or criminal jurisdiction within Indian country unless...
 - Congress explicitly says so, OR
 - A federal court determination

Tribal communities maintain rich and diverse cultures

- Traditions, rituals, and cultural practices are to be respected
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge built by 100s of generations of sustainable activities

Traditional Ecological Knowledge includes food safety

- Colonization disrupted food systems and introduced new risks
- Example: "Navajo Food Taboos & Food Safety," by Dave Nezzie (Diné), J.D.; Food Safety News.
<https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2016/05/navajo-food-taboos-and-food-safety/>.

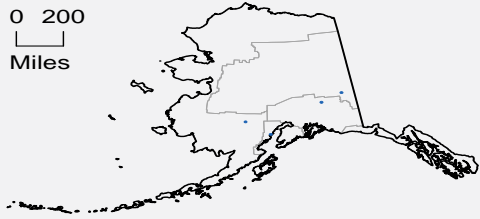
New Risks Should Still be Addressed through an Indigenous Framework

- Start with respect for the knowledge already present

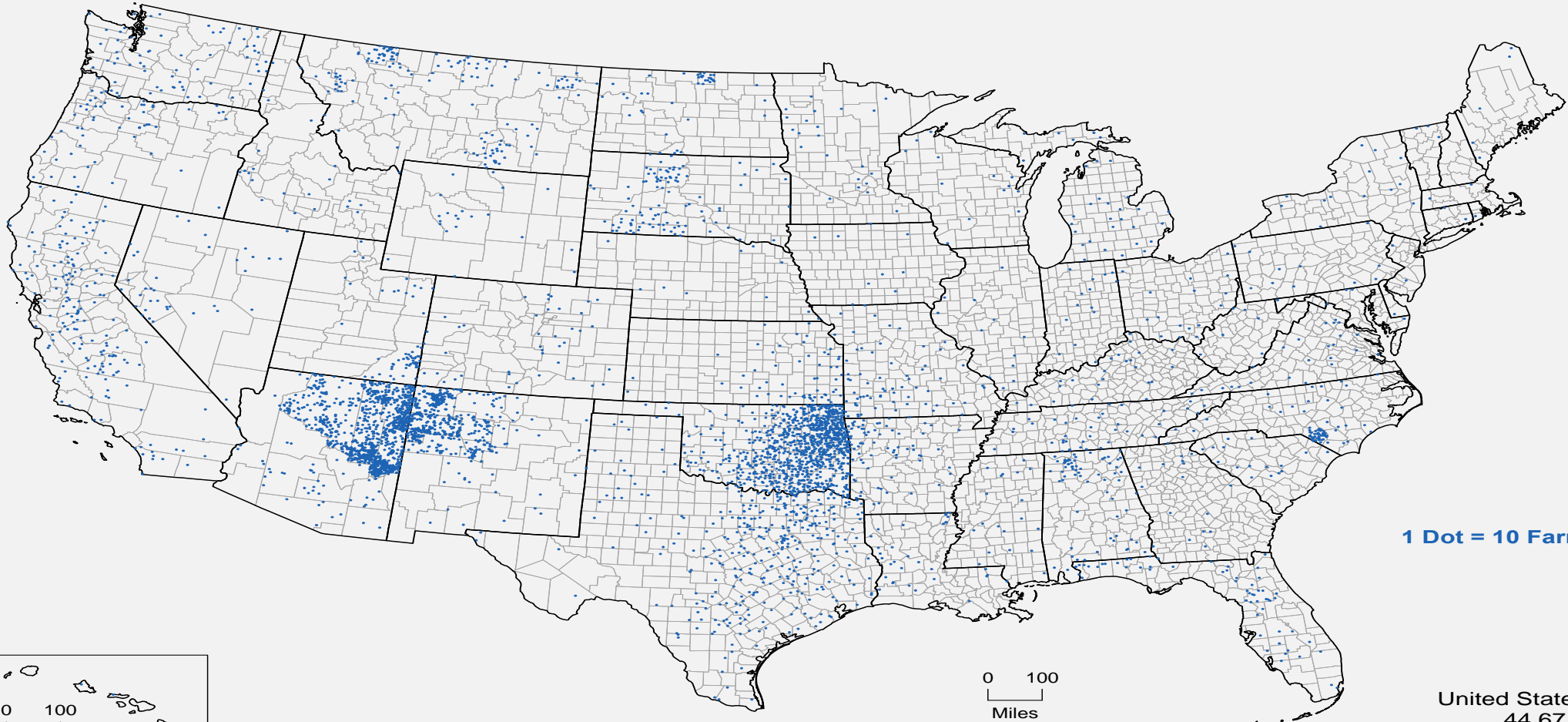
Many Native producers already sell to commercial markets requiring FSMA compliance



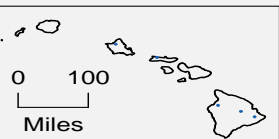
0 200
Miles



Number of Farms with American Indian or Alaska Native Operators: 2012



1 Dot = 10 Farms



12-M127
U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

United States Total
44,671



INDIAN COUNTRY **FARM-TO-TABLE**

DATA

2017 Census of Agriculture Update

American Indian/Alaska Native
(AI/AN) farms make up 3% of all
farms in the United States.



Number of Farms Counted with an AI/AN Producer

Number of Farms with AI/AN Operator

56,092



2012

60,083



2017

7% increase

in number of farms counted with an AI/AN producer from 2012 to 2017



↑ 24%



Fruit and tree nut farming increased 24% from 1853 farms counted in 2012 to 2302 farms counted in 2017.

↑ 20.2%



Beef cattle ranching and farming increased by 20.02% from 20617 ranches counted in 2012 to 24744 ranches counted in 2017.

↑ 34.03%



Sheep and goat farming increased by 34.03% from 6817 operations counted in 2012 to 9137 counted in 2017.

↑ 20%



Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture farming increased by 20% from 650 counted in 2012 to 779 counted in 2017.



Market value of agricultural products sold by AI/AN producers increased 9.12% from \$3.24 billion in 2012 to \$3.5 billion in 2017.

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold by AI/AN Producers



Market value of livestock, poultry, and related products increased 15% from 2012 to 2017.



Market value of crops, including greenhouses and nurseries, increased 1.8% from 2012 to 2017.

Needs Assessment Survey

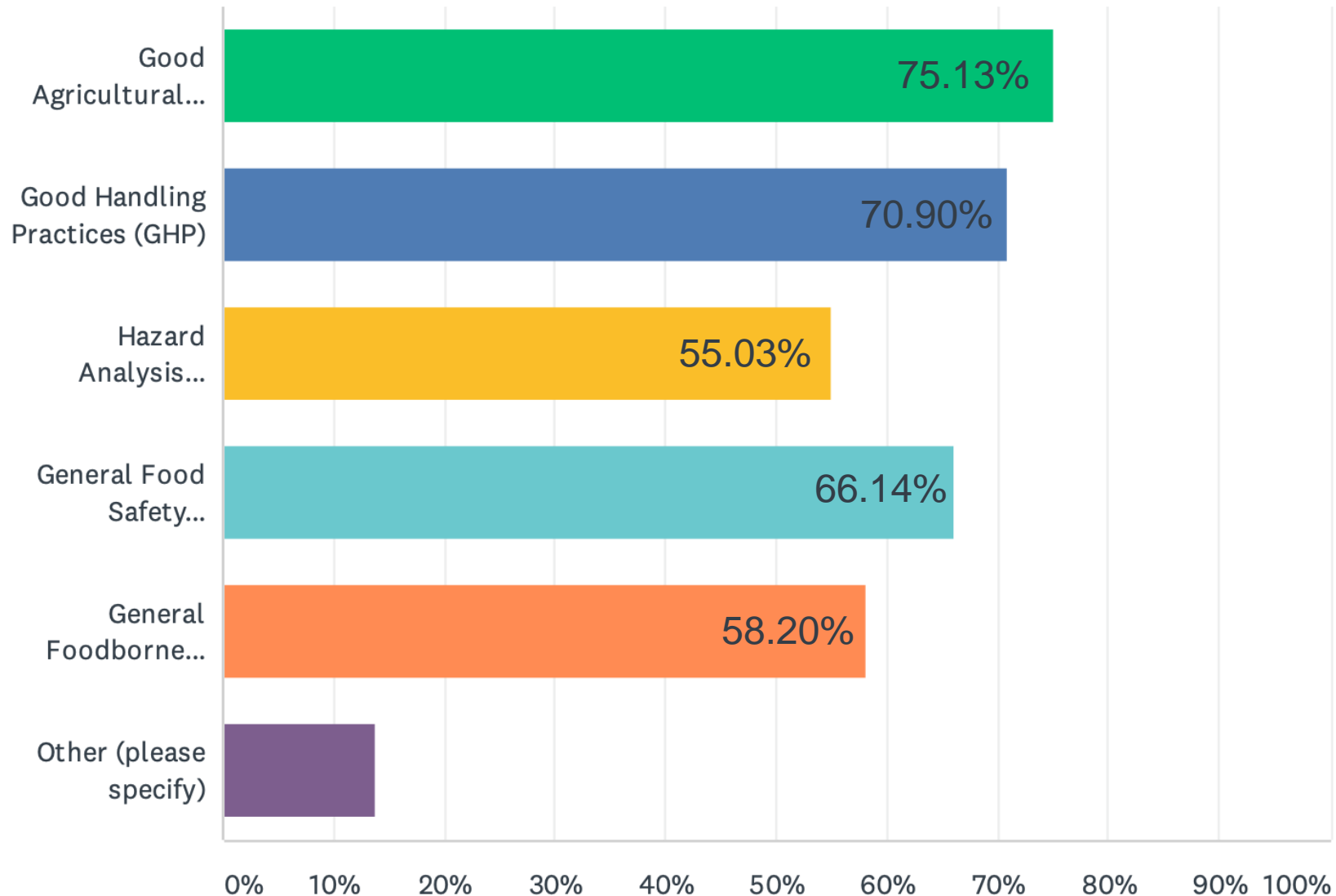
Surveying began with the designation of the Native American Tribal Center for Food Safety Outreach, Education, Training and Technical Assistance

Surveys are available in paper copy at conferences and engagements, as well as on our website

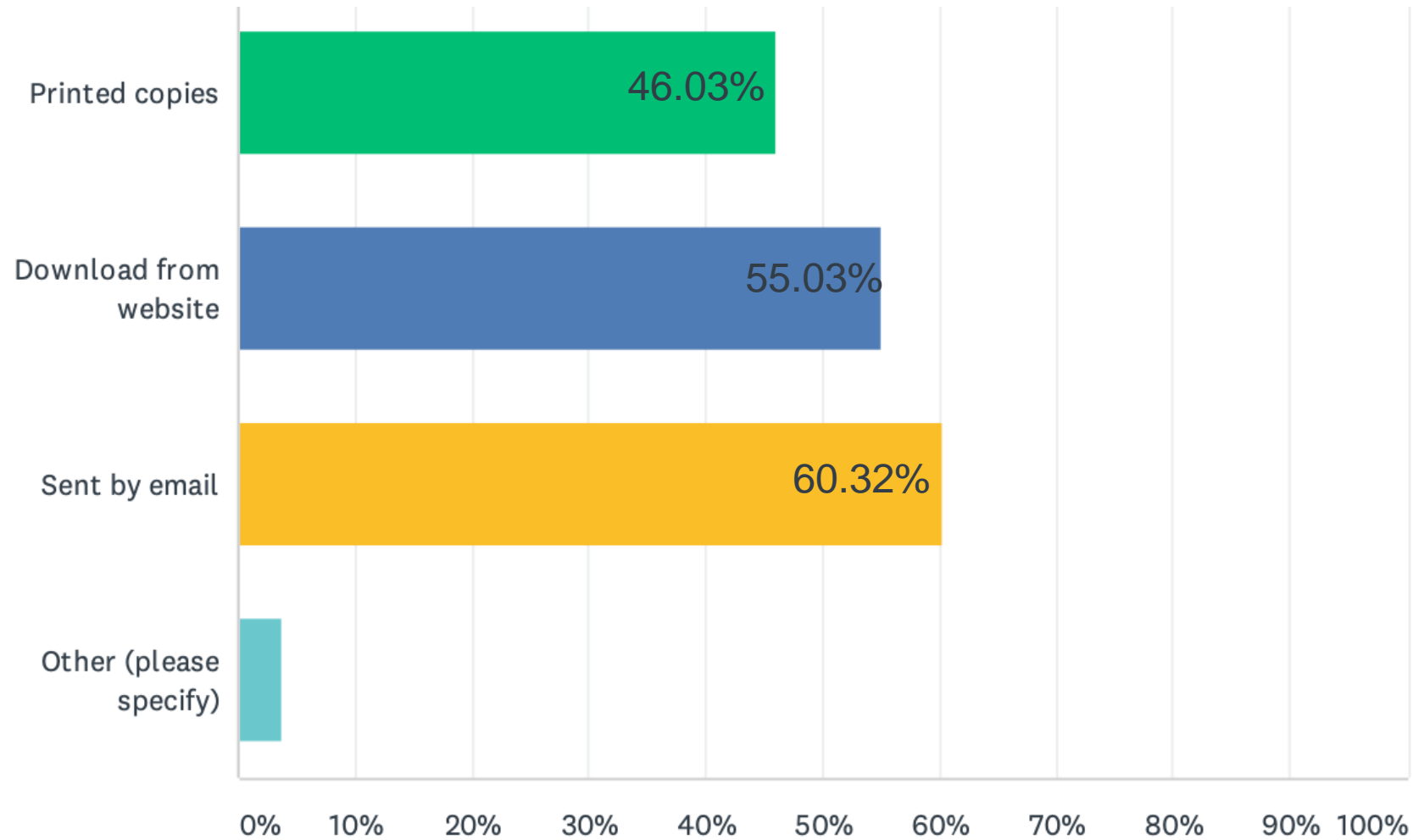
Most respondents submitted online

The following slides are a snapshot of most recent survey findings to Native communities on food safety needs and interest in trainings.

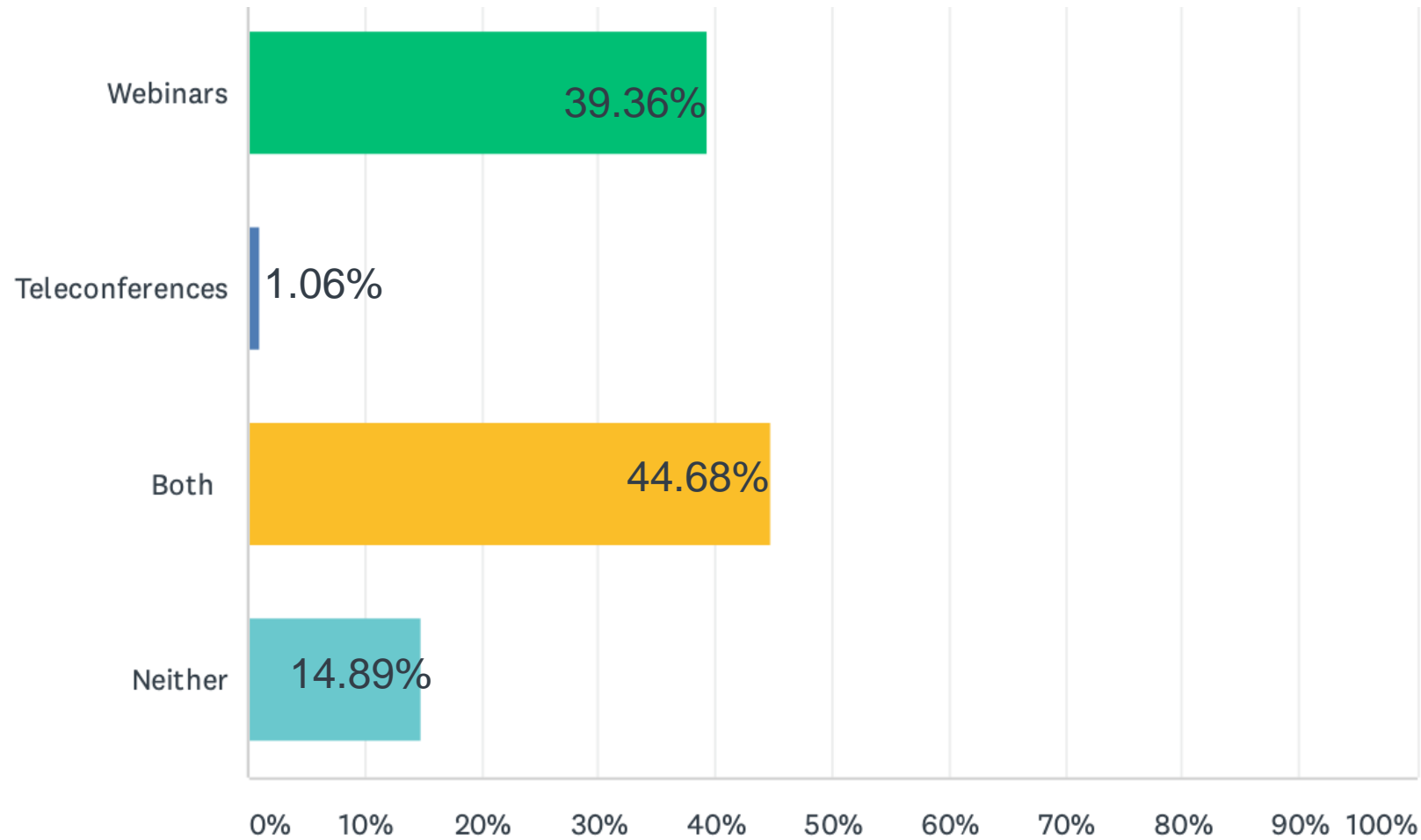
On which of the following do you need information?



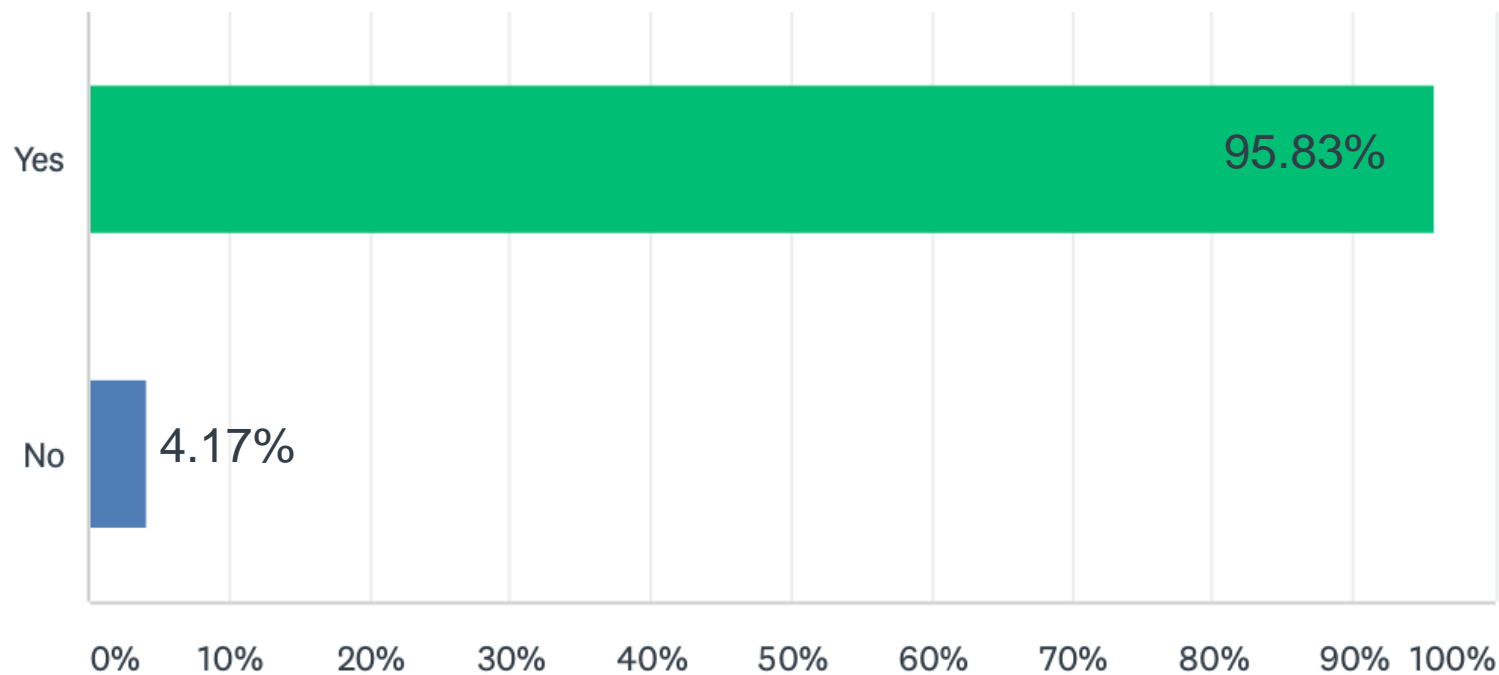
How would you prefer to receive educational materials and information?



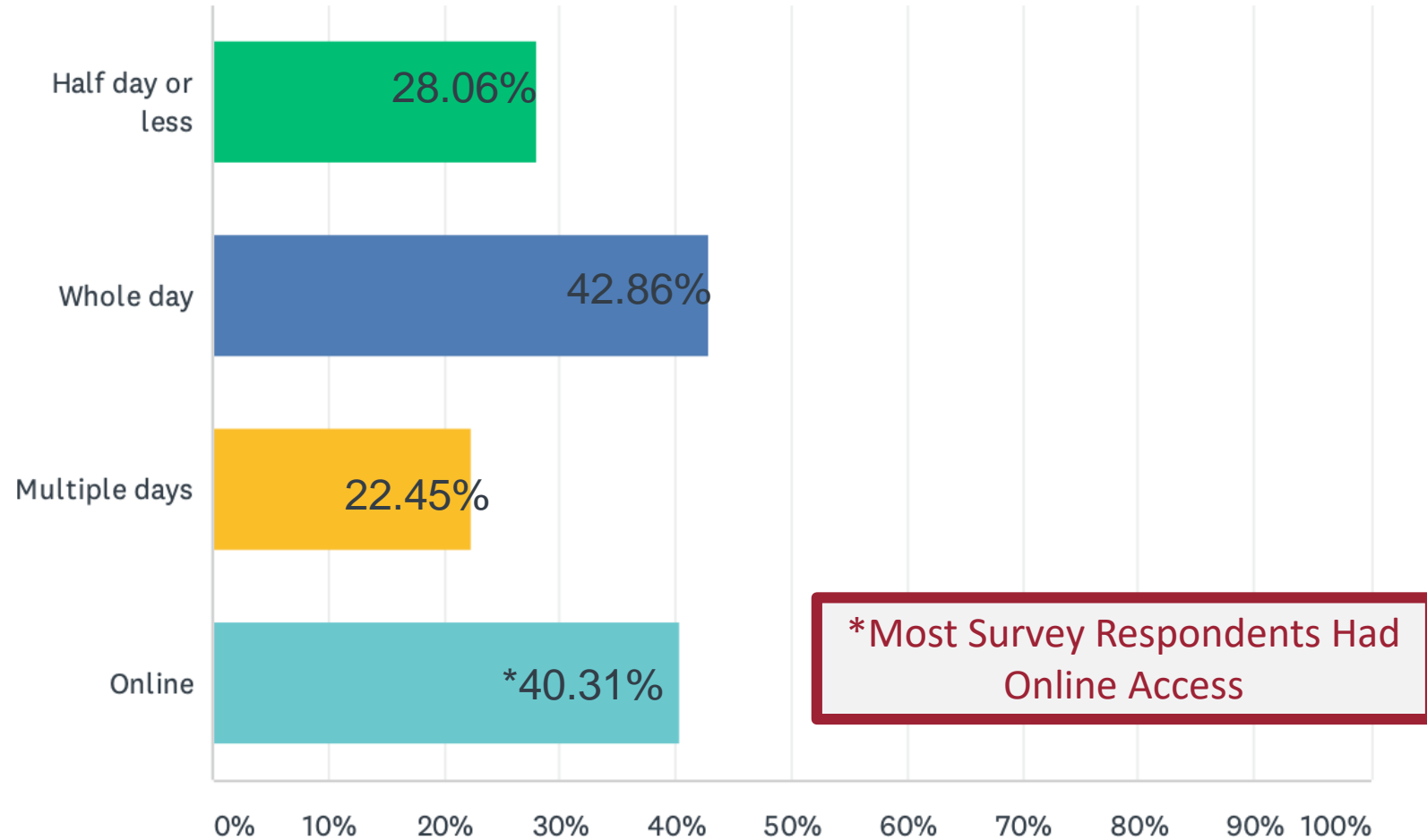
Would you prefer to participate in webinars and/or teleconferences as a means to receive educational materials and information?



Would you attend a class on food safety that is located within your region?



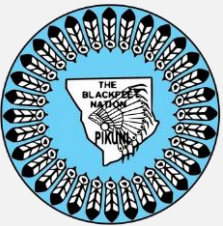
How long do you prefer food safety training to be held?



Thank You!

We couldn't do this work without...

Current Alternative Curriculum Working Group



Blackfeet Nation
ARMP



Columbia River
Inter-Tribal Fish
Commission



First Nations
Development
Institute



Intertribal
Agriculture
Council



University of
Arizona FRTEP

and citizens of...
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Federal Partners



U.S. FOOD & DRUG
ADMINISTRATION





UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Empowering Indian Country through economic development and greater food access

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Best Practices

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR DOING GOOD WORK IN INDIAN COUNTRY
& WORKING WITH NATIVE GROWERS

Acknowledge Unique Tribal or Regional Customs and Traditions

- Start off with appropriate language
- Every Tribe is different, but may carry similarities due to regionality, climate, and other environmental and migratory factors
 - Language and belief systems are not uniform nation-wide or regionally
 - No single “Native” religion
- Historic rivalries may be at play, even where forced to share a reservation
- Establishing community partnerships prior to training is key



A Note About Language

Knowing what words to use and not use can make all the difference in comfortably initiating and joining conversations and advancing an accurate, positive narrative.

For reference, we recommend the following:

- Native American Journalists Association, Reporter's Indigenous Terminology Guide (naja.com/reporter-s-indigenous-terminology-guide/)
- Native American Rights Fund, FAQs (narf.org/frequently-asked-questions/)

Terminology varies in different places across the country and can be a matter of personal preference. Refer to your local tribal government's website for specifics. As you get to know Native organizations and leaders, listen for what terminology they use and prefer. When in doubt, ask.

Following are a few specifics you'll see in this guide:

- There are many diverse Native American peoples, cultures and histories. We use the plural of each term intentionally.
- Different organizations use different terms to refer to the Indigenous peoples of the Americas. Common terms are *Native American*, *American Indian* and *Alaska Native (AI/AN)*, *Native peoples*, and *Indigenous peoples*.
- People are citizens, not members, of tribes. Preferred terms are *tribal citizen*, *tribal nation* and *Native nation*. If you are talking about a specific Native nation and its citizens, use the tribe's name rather than the general *Native American*. For example, say, "According to the tribal chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe," or "We spoke with Mary Smith, a citizen of the Navajo Nation." If you are unsure of how to refer to a tribal nation, check the tribe's website for the preferred terminology and full legal name.

"Changing the Narrative About Native Americans"
by IllumiNative as part of
their Reclaiming Native Truth
initiative.

*The full guidebook is
downloadable at:*
<https://illuminatives.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/MessageGuide-Allies-screen-spreads.pdf>.



Best Practices for Working with Tribal Nations

- Each Tribal Nation is different, so there's no one rule that works in every circumstance. Nevertheless, generally speaking:
 - Use the language that the Native peoples in the room use when referring to themselves, not what you think they should be called. (Native American, Indigenous, etc.)
 - Don't take photographs or record audio/video without permission.
 - Don't touch sacred items, artifacts, display objects, or people (especially hair) without permission.
 - Avoid pointing with your finger, which may be seen as disrespectful.
 - Be flexible with time— trainings will probably not start at 9am on the dot. Build in a little time for people to arrive, mingle, and settle in.
 - Limit your personal digital use— don't constantly check your phone, email, Apple Watch, etc.
 - Be yourself! Don't "Go Native."
 - When talking about your work afterwards, remember that language matters there, too, and is key to maintaining good relationships long-term with Native stakeholders.

