

Rowing Against the Tide: The Challenge of Getting Landowners to Manage Habitat for Their Favorite Wildlife Species, Bobwhites

A Summary of 3 Studies of Missouri Landowner Attitudes

Tom Dailey, Ron Reitz, Heather Scroggins, Tom Treiman and Nigel Hoilett

Quail VII, January 2012

Acknowledgements

- USDA NRCS/MSU Bobwhite Restoration Project
- Missouri State Council - Quail Unlimited
- USDA Missouri FSA and NRCS
- NE Missouri RC&D
- University of Missouri: College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources, Forage Research and Extension Center, Adair and Gentry County Extension Centers and Greenley Research Center
- Missouri Department of Conservation

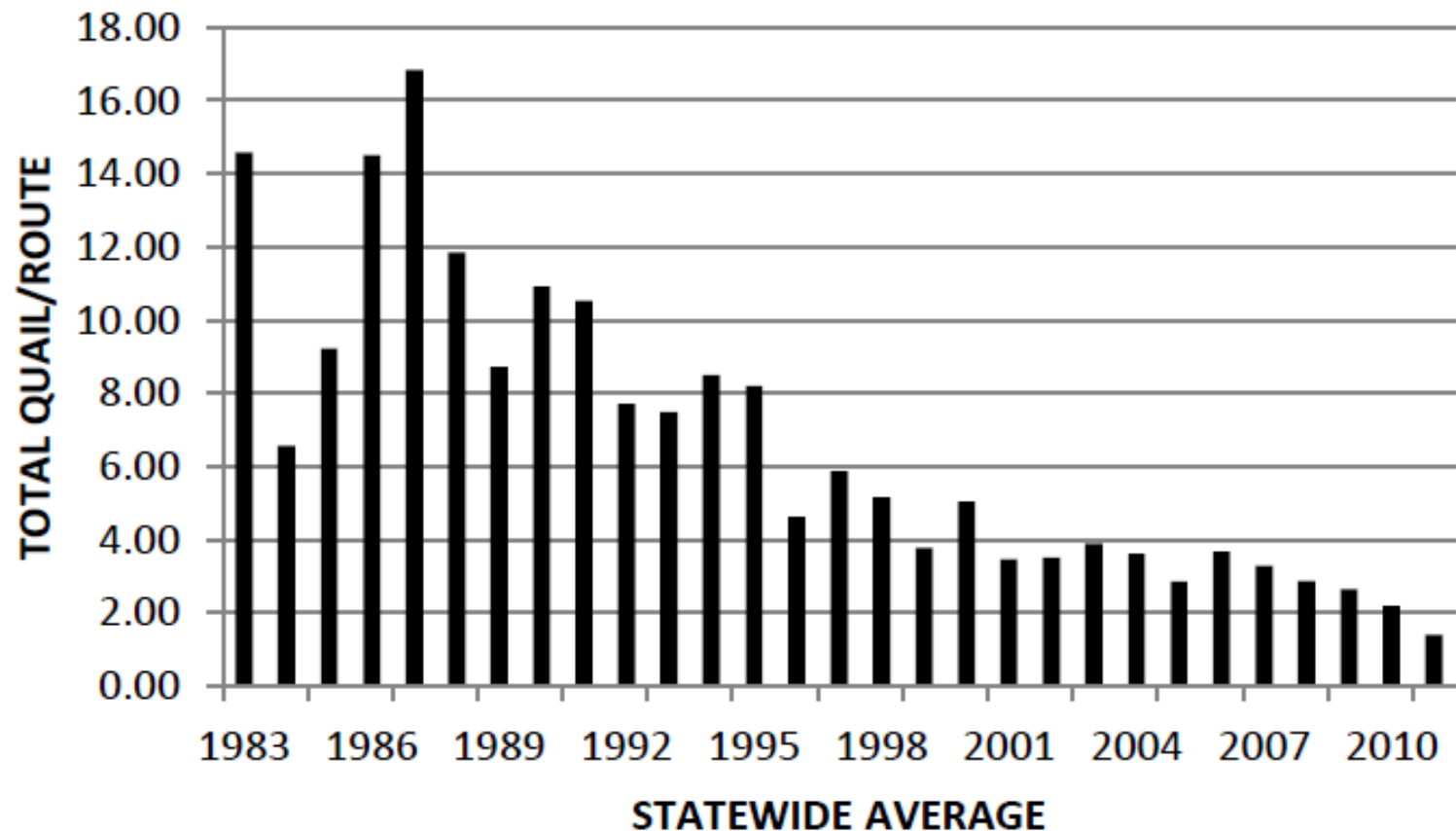




- MO quail problem & restoration efforts
- 3 Studies of landowner attitudes
- Affinity for quail, but not quail management
- Some solutions

Impact of Unmotivated Landowners

MO Statewide Quail Population Trend



“Working Lands”

- ✓ Income from land important
- ✓ Discretionary \$ limiting



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THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LANDOWNER

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January 4, 2012 by Land Report Editors Leave a Comment

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Reality



*You
want me
to do
what for
quail??*



***‘CULTURE EATS
STRATEGY EVERY
TIME.’***

Elson Floyd, Univ. Missouri
President



“Human values shape our efforts.”

Concept 10: Human values are diverse and dynamic and significantly shape conservation efforts.

- Conservation biology is part of a multifaceted and interdisciplinary social-ecological system...
- **Solutions to conservation problems require integrated and holistic management, and are multidisciplinary, taking into account social, political, and economic contexts...**

Lindenmayer & Hunter. 2010. Some Guiding Concepts for Conservation Biology. *Conservation Biology*.



The Surveys



- 1,955 responses in CRP landowner/quail study--North
- 735 responses in all-landowner/quail study—NE/NW
- 367 responses in landowner/p chicken study--SW
- Response rate >40% in each survey

How important or ~~unimportant~~ is it to you to have the following on your land?

% Choosing *Somewhat Important* or *Very Important*

Songbirds and Small Game on Private Lands



A SURVEY BY:



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

Two studies of north MO landowners:

- *CRP contract holders*
- *All landowners*

Use of human dimensions information as a tool for selecting large-scale quail restoration areas in Missouri



<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/nbci/index.asp>



MDC Resource Science

Missouri Department of Conservation
Landowners and Grassland Wildlife Management Survey

Science Notes



Missouri Department of Conservation
Landowners and Grassland Wildlife Management Survey

By Nigel Hoilett [MDC's Prairie-Chicken Recovery Team].



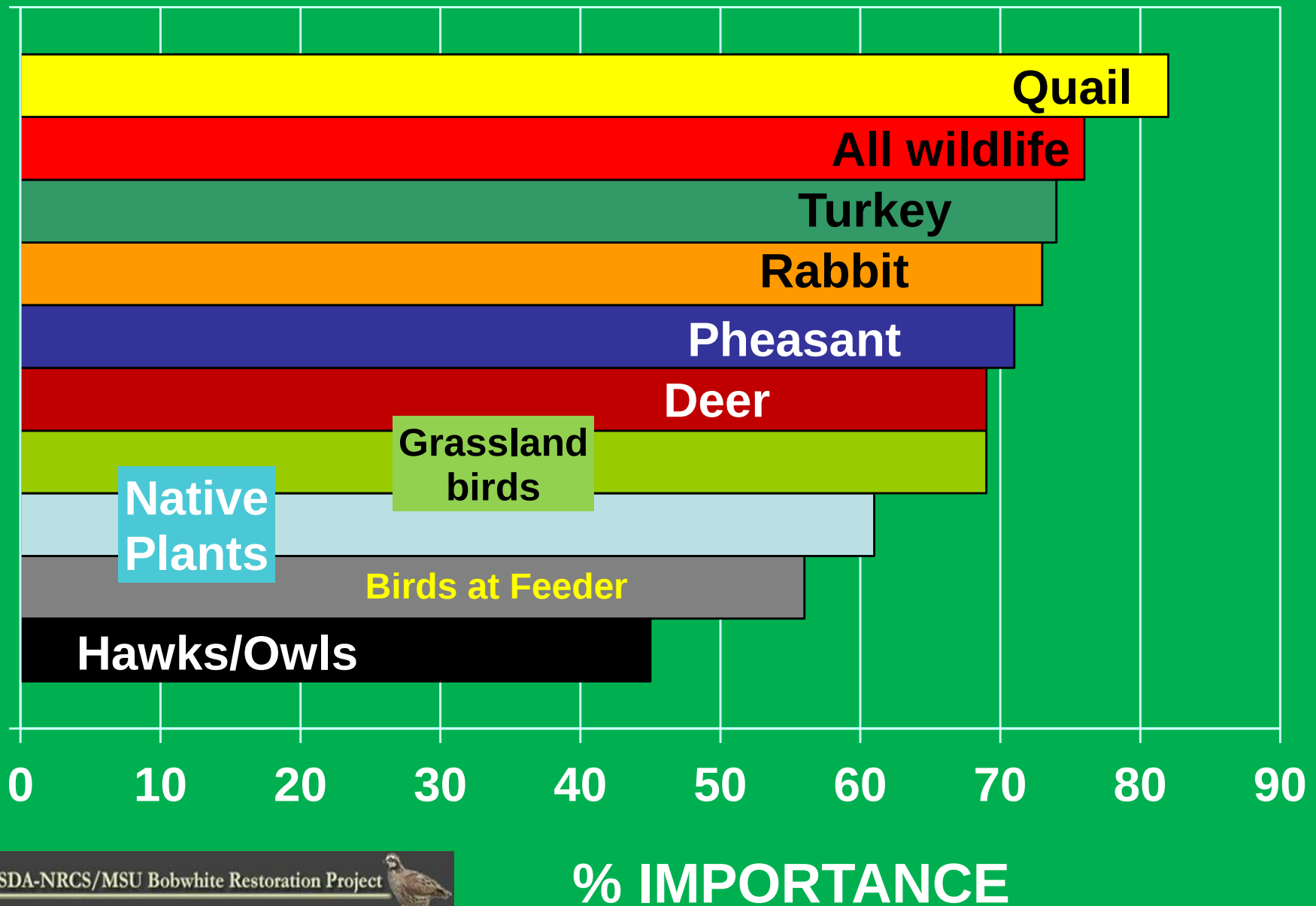
Objective: Evaluate landowner interest in participating in habitat recovery efforts for Greater Prairie-Chickens and other grassland wildlife.

The background of the slide features a stylized illustration. In the foreground, two figures wearing hats and carrying bags are walking along a path. One figure is pointing towards the right. A white picket fence runs across the middle ground. In the background, there are rolling hills and a small house with a chimney. The entire scene is rendered in a limited color palette of blues, greens, and yellows.

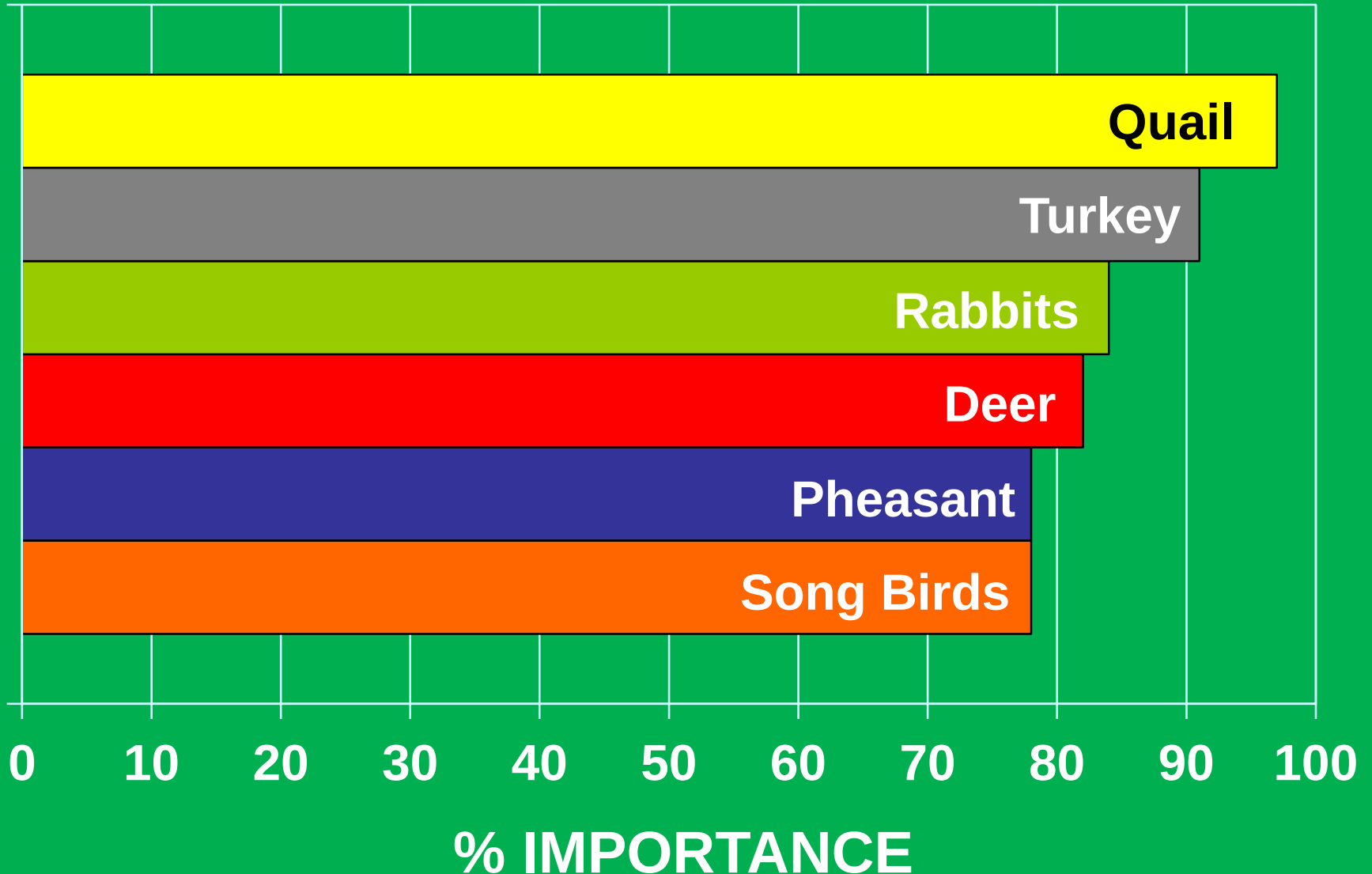
What do landowners think about restoring habitat to benefit wildlife?

- How important is it to have quail & other species on their land?
- Are landowners willing to use wildlife-friendly practices?
- What affects their willingness to use wildlife-friendly practices?
- Are they willing to be part of a co-op?
- What do they want in a co-op?
- What are the reasons for not being in a co-op?

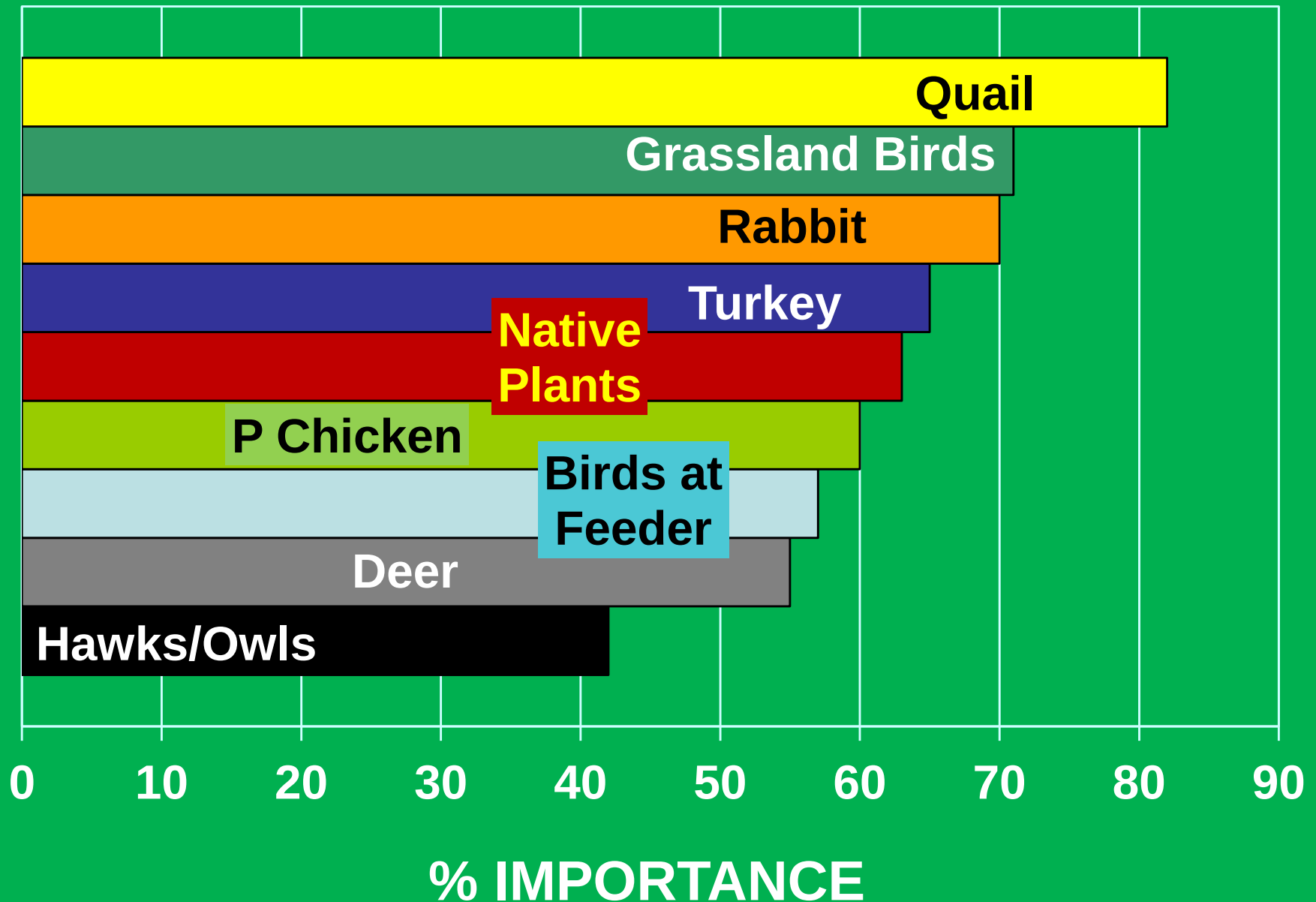
Northern Missouri All-Landowners



Northeast Missouri CRP Landowners



West-Central Missouri P Chicken Landowners





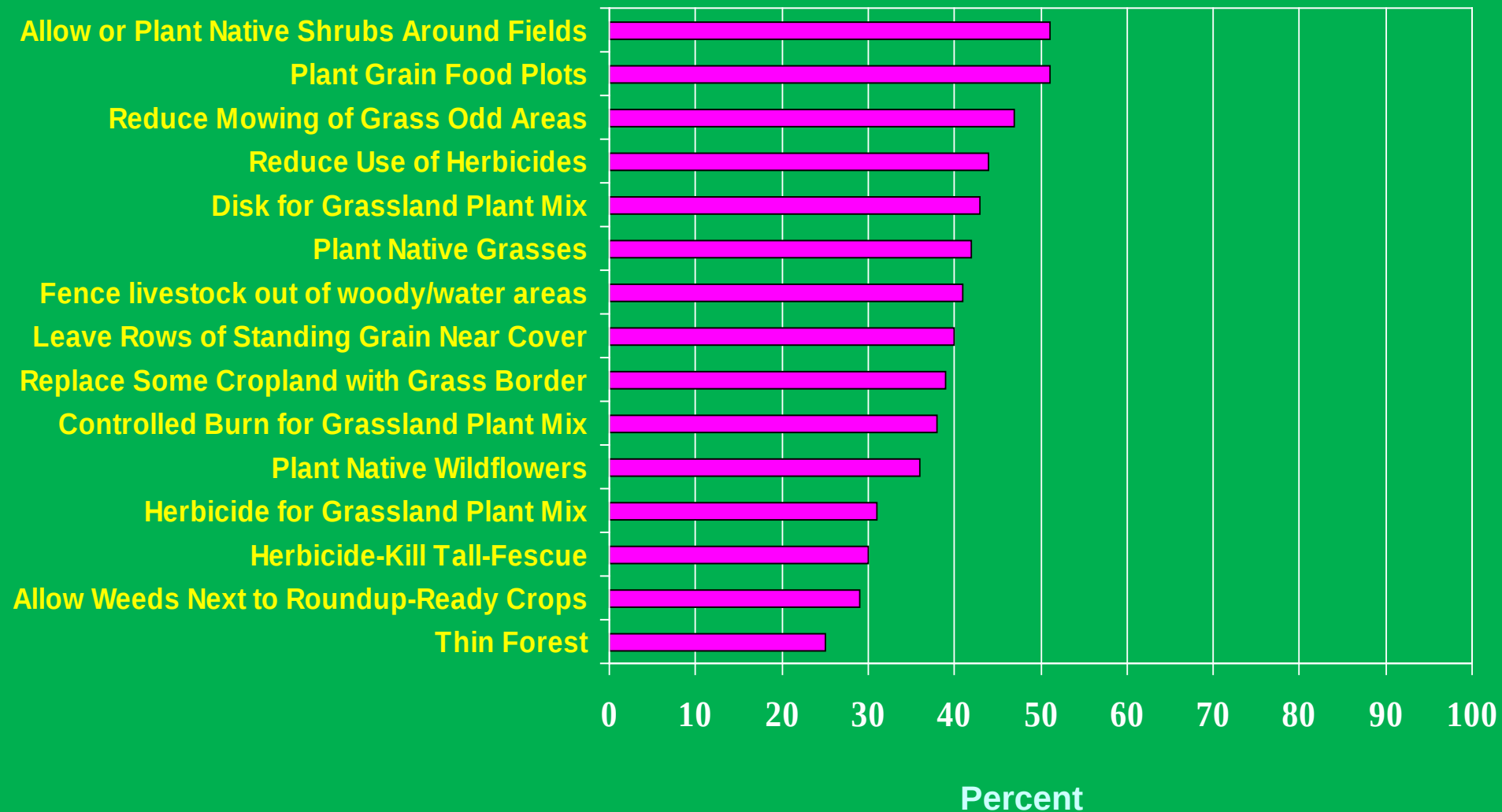


Are you willing to use quail-friendly practices?



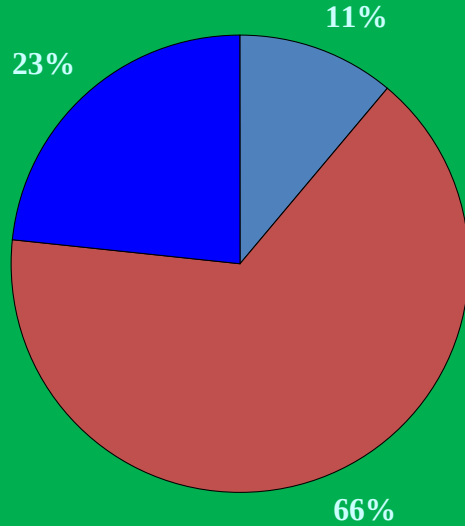
The practices listed below are known to benefit quail. How likely or unlikely is it that you would use each of these practices on you land to benefit quail?

Percent “Somewhat Likely” or “Very Likely” to Implement Practice

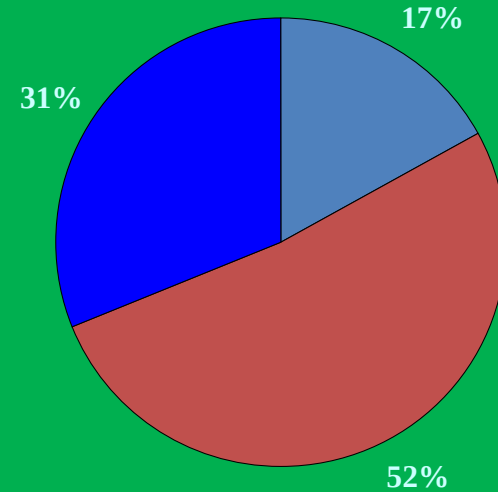


12. Would you be interested in joining a quail co-op?

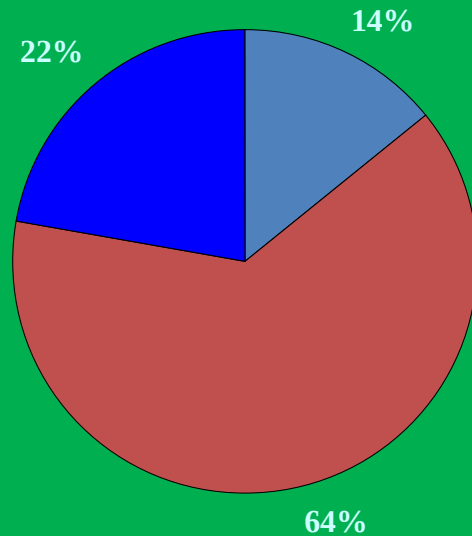
Full-time farmers



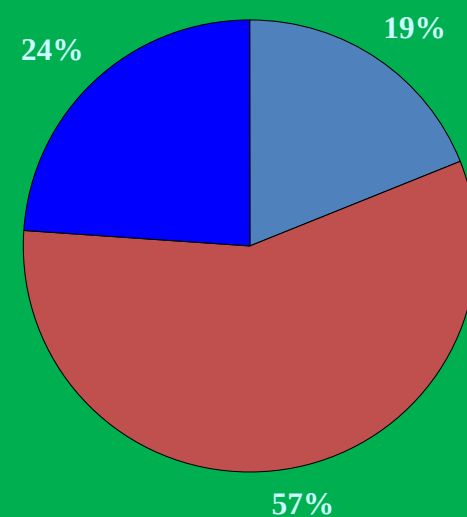
Part-time farmers

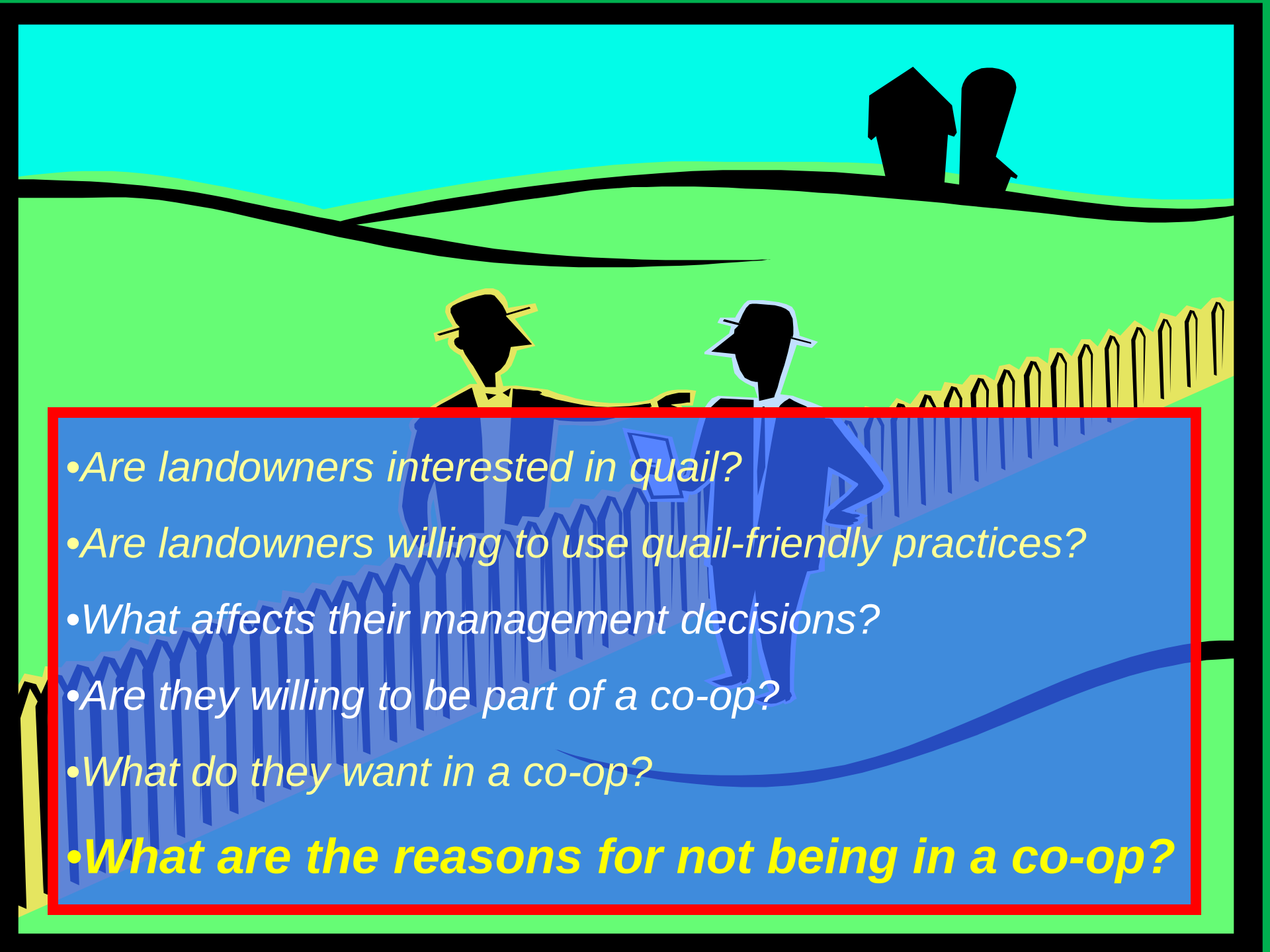


Non-farming farmland owners



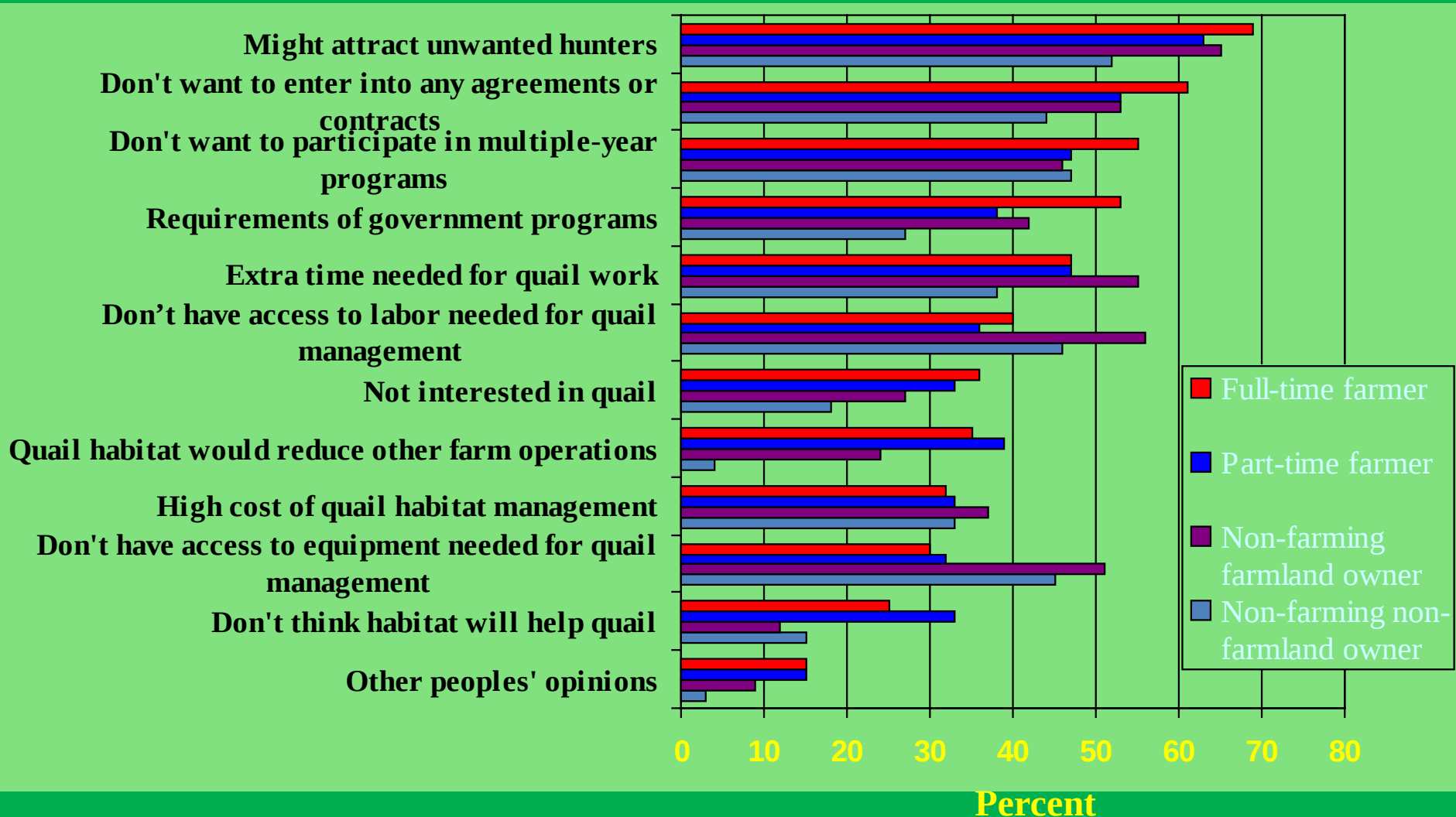
Non-farming non-farmland owners



- 
- *Are landowners interested in quail?*
 - *Are landowners willing to use quail-friendly practices?*
 - *What affects their management decisions?*
 - *Are they willing to be part of a co-op?*
 - *What do they want in a co-op?*
 - ***What are the reasons for not being in a co-op?***

16. If you answered no or maybe to question #12, please tell us why you **might not want to consider joining a quail co-op**. How important or unimportant was each of the following in making your decision?

Percent Responding “Somewhat Important” and “Very Important”



Some Attitude Highlights

Although bobwhites are popular, getting landowners to do restoration & management of habitat is very challenging:

- Landowners do not necessarily like:
 - the habitats (e. g., brush, weeds, unmowed grass, wildflowers and native grass), or
 - the recommended management (e. g., prescribed fire)
 - to create habitat that attracts outside hunters
- Some landowners don't have the expertise, equipment, money, or time
- Many dislike contracts, 'red tape' and complicated programs



- MO quail problem & restoration efforts
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- Affinity for quail, but not quail management
- **Some solutions**





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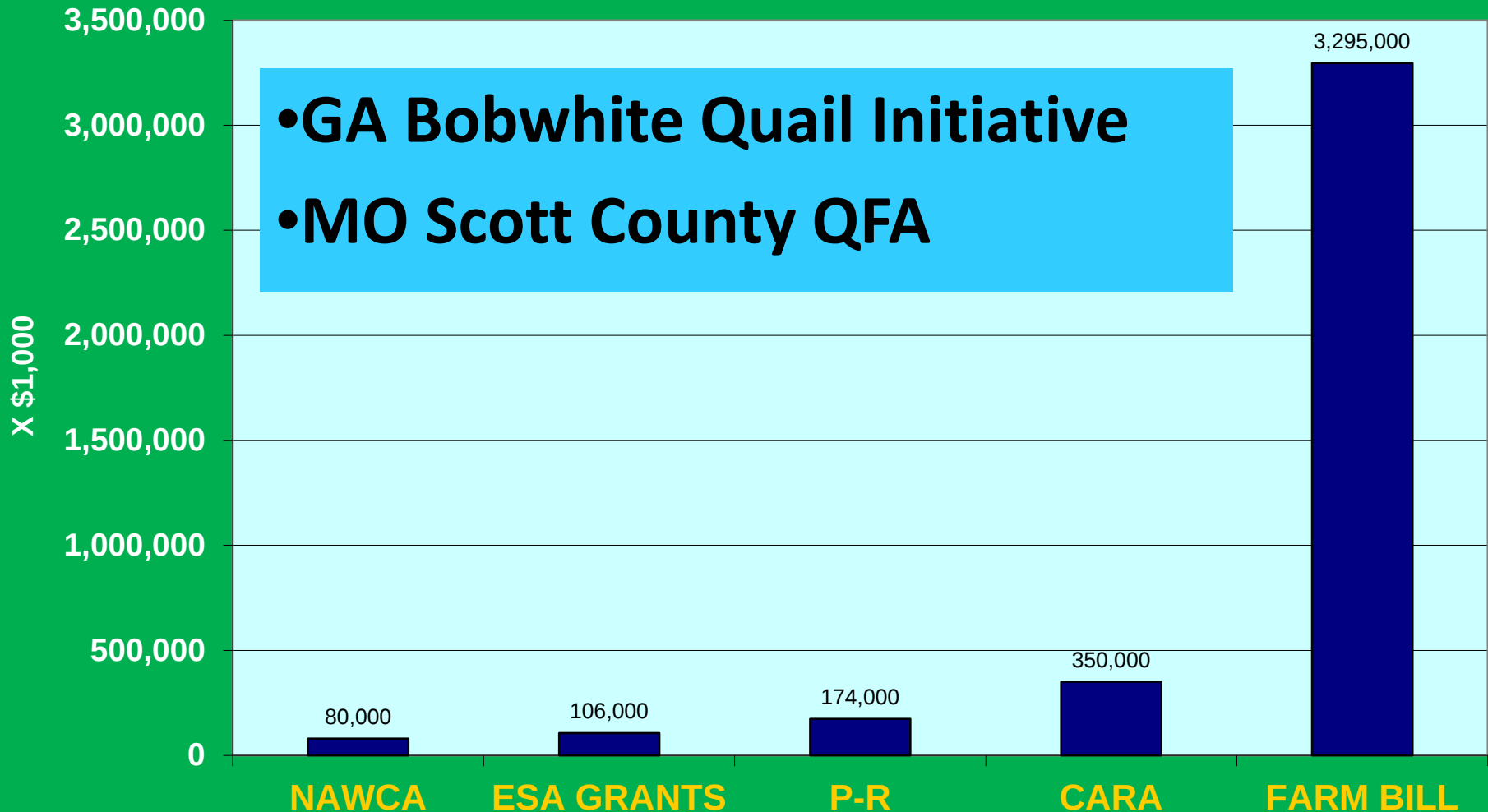
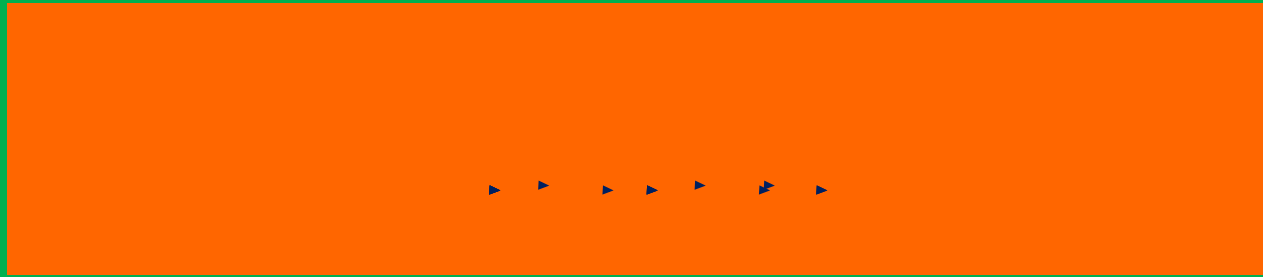
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KNOX COUNTY QUAIL FOCUS AREA

A Landowner Cooperative



John Pinkowski
Private Land Conservationist
Missouri Department of Conservation

QFA

- My supervisor said something profound when we were discussing this whole Quail Focus Area Concept.
- He said “We are getting pretty good at knowing how to produce the proper habitat for a given management species. What we need to learn more about now is how to get that habitat on the ground on a large enough scale to make a difference.”
- My presentation will focus on how a small group of landowners teamed with the department to try to accomplish that landscape level of management for quail.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

J. Pinkowski

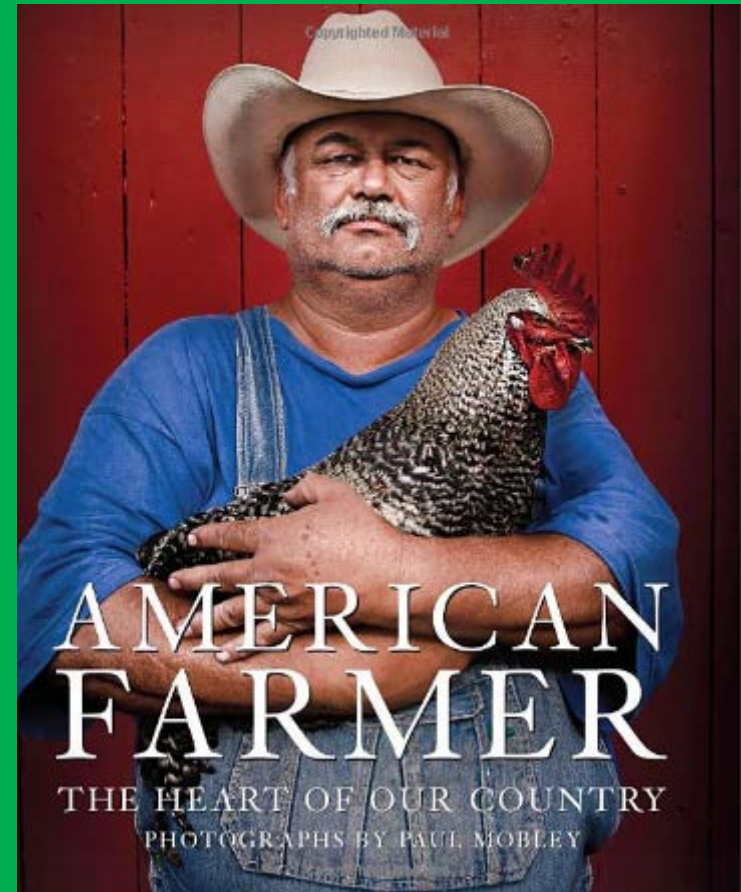
1. Landowner leadership within a simple organizational structure
 - Stakeholders in leadership
2. Detailed planning
3. Focus on education
 - Landowners are the salespeople
4. Building a group identity
5. Measurable results

CONCLUSION

J. Pinkowski

- Quail focus areas can be an effective tool for increasing or maintaining bird numbers
- To be successful, landowners must take ownership of the organization
- It takes the right mix of landowners to make a Quail Focus Area work
- It is all about establishing relationships

Working Lands



**UNDERSTANDING AND WORKING WITHIN RURAL CULTURE
IS THE KEY TO SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**