
10-2014

The Campus Farm Movement: A Survey of Campus Agriculture in North America

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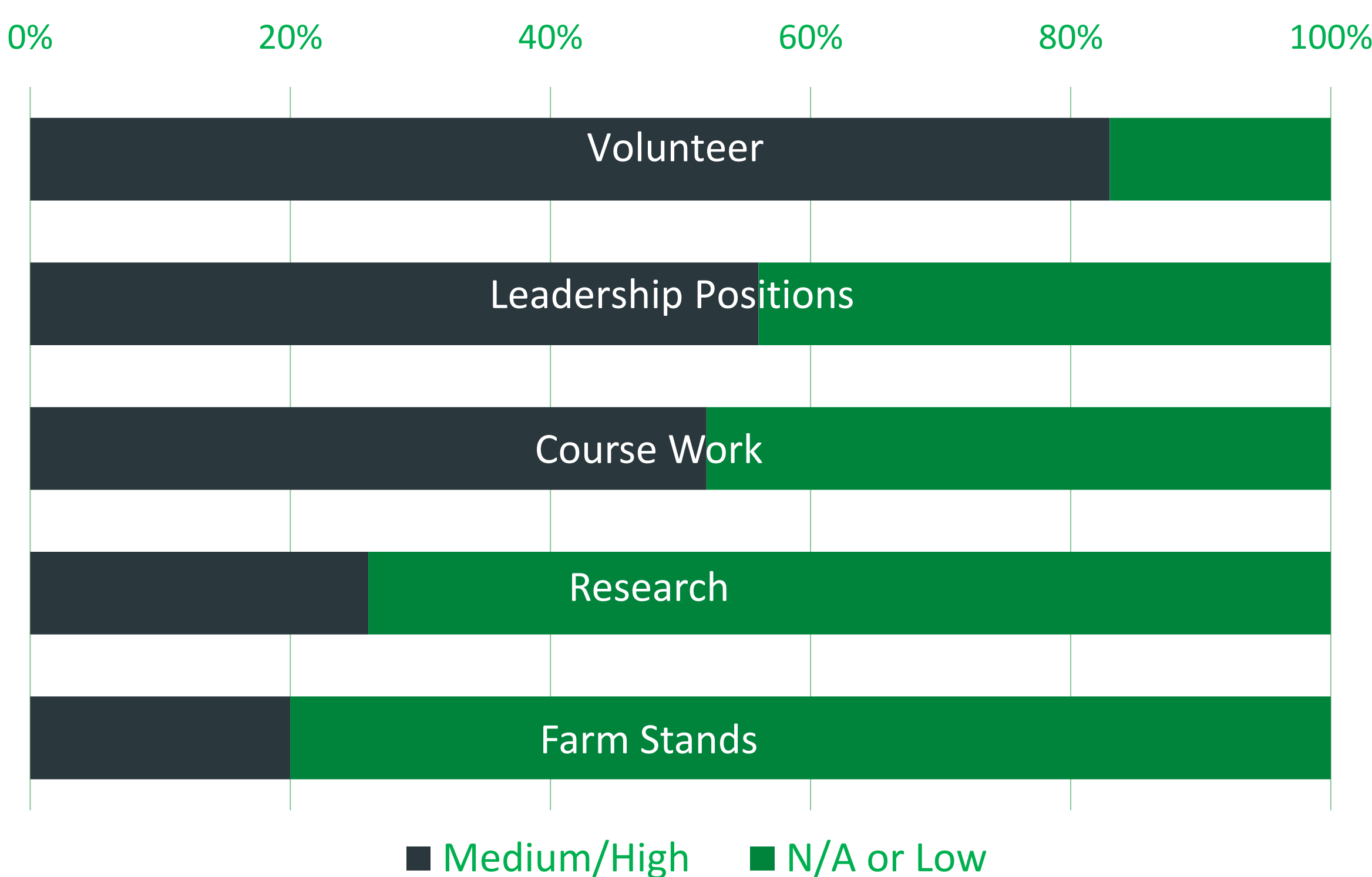
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The Campus Farm Movement: A Survey of Campus Agriculture

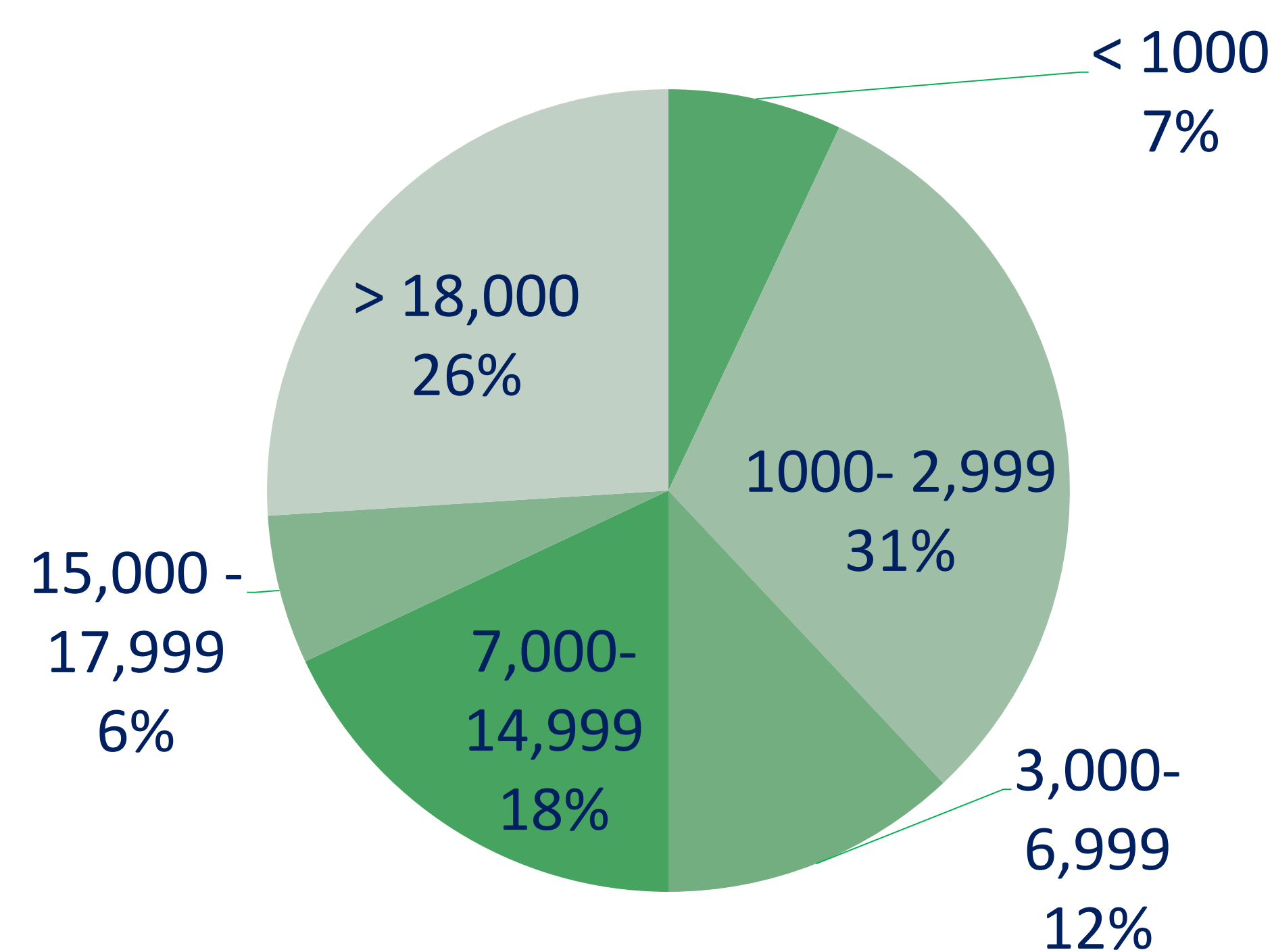
Intro/Abstract:

The 2009 campus Sustainability Report Card cited 29% of campuses had some sort of campus farm. As of 2014, AASHE lists 72 campuses under the "Campus Supported Agriculture and Farms" designation, and 147 campuses under the "Campus and Campus-Community Garden" designation. Using survey and interview research this presentation will look at the current trends of campus farm/garden projects across North America. What are the predominant models, and at what type of schools? What are the primary educational objectives of campus farm/gardens? Which campus offices and/or academic departments are most involved in agricultural programs? What discipline are students coming from, and how are they getting involved? These trends will help facilitate a conversation on the best practices as we look into the future of agriculture programming and training at Colleges and Universities. Orr dreamed of a more holistic education for future farmers, rooted in ethics, conservation, and civics; in short- the liberal arts tradition. Is his dream becoming a reality?

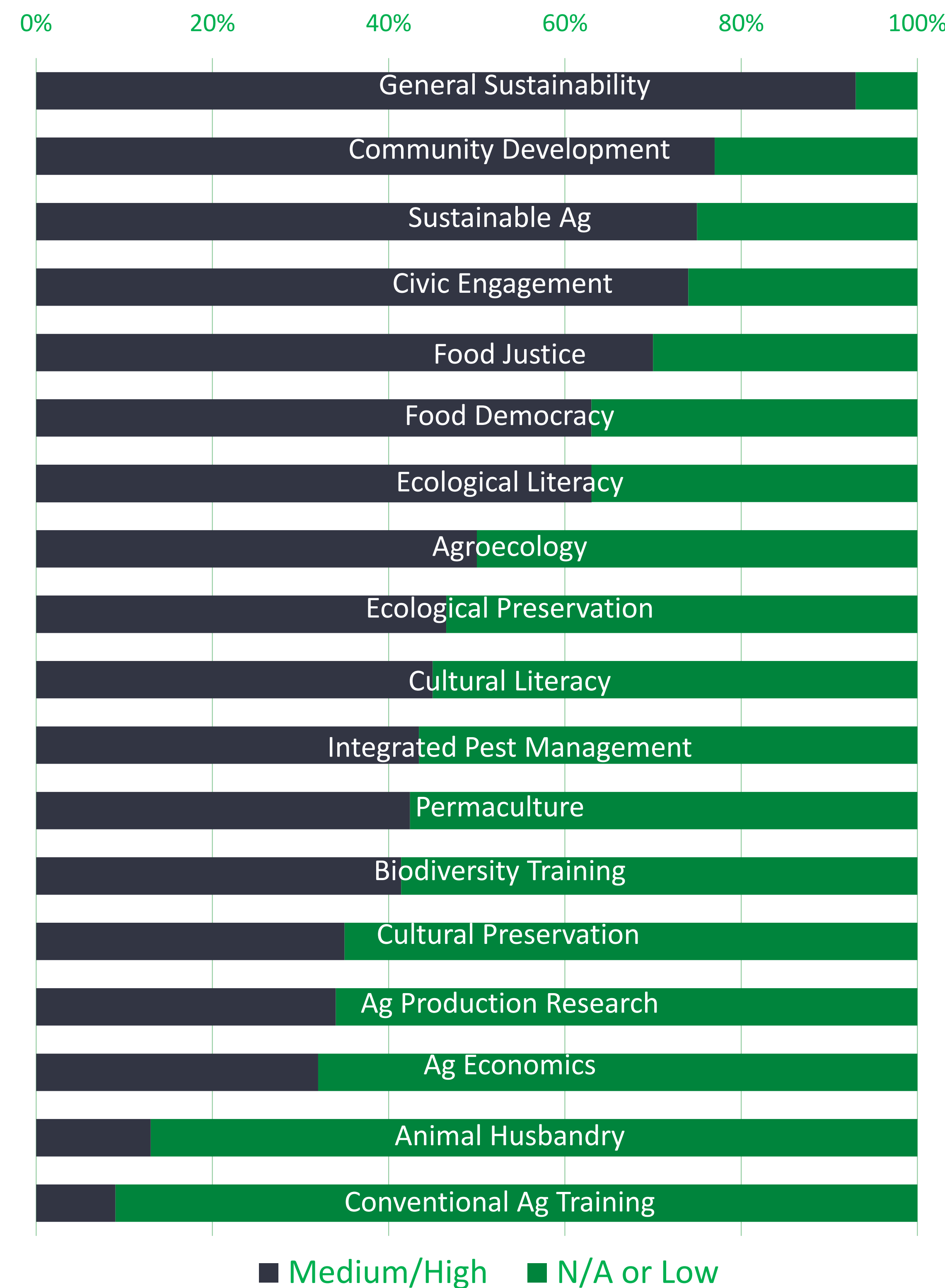
Student Engagement



Size of Schools



Priority of Educational Outcomes



Organizational Structures

	Founding	Current
Student Club/Organization	39%	33%
Admin Office	7%	9%
Academic Depart	18%	14%
Research Center	0%	1%
Sustainability Office	9%	16%
Campus Board/Committee	5%	3%
Other	22%	24%

"Other:"

- Dining Services
- Single Professor
- Guerrilla student effort
- Collaboration between a Staff Office and Academic Departments
- Outside Non-Profit

Interview Quotes:

"The number one value of having a food/farm/ag program at any college is to constantly generate the possibility of having students understand their place within a foodshed."

"[It's important to] Get students some kind of hands on experience with food production. Not so much that they will learn how to be a farmer themselves... it's more that they are getting that experience of where food comes from; that it actually grows in the earth."

"Students are craving doing something that really matters.... doing something so important as feeding their communities."

"There are all kinds of connections between agriculture and many of the major problems we're facing in today's society. Climate change, and public health, and environmental degradation, and all of that; in my view agriculture could be central to the solutions."

"We don't really have agricultural education. What we have is experiences that allow students to garden during their college years if they choose to join that club."

Founding Year

Year	%
Before 1990	5%
1990-2000	9%
2001-2009	43%
2010-2014	44%

median – 2007; Mode- 2010
earliest - 1894; a handful in the 60's and 70's

Current Size

Size	%
< 1 acre	42%
1-3 acres	34%
4-9 acres	11%
10+	14%

largest – 400; one each at 250, 60, & 50
Mode- 1

Conclusions:

- Grew out of student grassroots movements between 2001 and 2014,
- Eventually moved into institutional offices such as sustainability offices, but many stayed as student clubs/organizations. A decrease in academic departments came during this time as well.
- Primary goals emphasize general sustainability education and sustainable Ag education; and principles of civic engagement, and community development
- Programs emphasize community green space, gardens, or community food donations over CSA's, Farmers Markets, or partnerships with Dining Services (although, if they weren't already many programs had hopes of partnering with Dining Services)
- Farm/Garden engagement via classes or research is low at the institutions surveyed. Additionally, most survey respondents (> 70%) were either students or staff; indicating co-curricular or extra-curricular program structures as opposed to curricular.
- Evaluating educational outcomes is either a low priority or difficult due to the informal nature of many programs and the relatively young initiatives.

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