

Livestock Education and Certification for Agricultural Law Enforcement (LECALE) Pilot to Production

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UF | IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



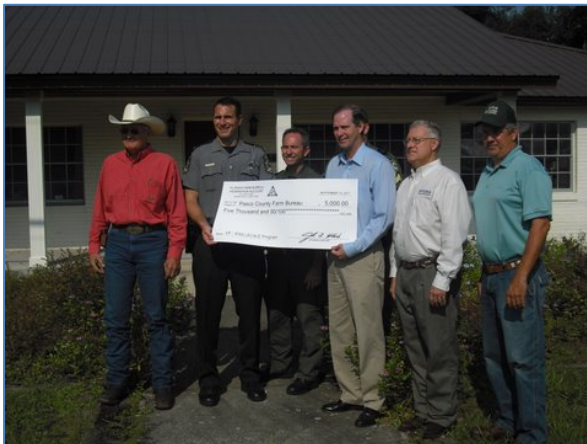
Why the LECAL Program – A Need Arises

- ❑ Continued need for on-going education
- ❑ Growing concern of livestock-agricultural issues
- ❑ Currently utilizing out-of-state resources
 - ▣ Increased cost, time
- ❑ In-state expertise
- ❑ In-state accreditation
- ❑ Deputies have requested service



Partners

- **UF/IFAS Extension**
 - ▣ **State and County Faculty**
- **Farm Bureau**
 - ▣ **State and County Associations**
- **County Sheriff Deputies**
 - ▣ **Multiple counties**
- **Florida Department of Agriculture**



Objective of LECAL Program

To provide law enforcement and animal response personnel with rigorous and relevant training curriculum that delivers:

- 1. Knowledge regarding generally accepted livestock production practices**
- 2. Skills to discern acceptable animal well-being**
- 3. Ability to apply acquired knowledge and skills in the field and during litigation proceedings**

The LECALE Program

- ❑ Florida-based
- ❑ For law enforcement officers and animal response personnel
- ❑ Multi-species, agriculture related education
- ❑ Classroom and field learning experiences
- ❑ Continuing education opportunity for law enforcement
- ❑ Certification provided



Methods: Pilot Program

- Backwards design method
- Pilot program delivered to veteran law enforcement officers in July 2014
- Survey and focus group data used to modify program



Program Format

- **Held at University of Florida - Gainesville Campus**
 - ▣ **Classroom, animal and field facilities**
- **Lectures, live demonstrations and hands-on activities, quizzes, homework assignments, review and discussion of case studies**
- **Instructors:**
 - ▣ **Extension specialists**
 - ▣ **County agents**
- **Final assessment**
 - ▣ **Hands-on skills assessment**
 - ▣ **Written examination**
- **Program evaluation**
- **Certification provided**



Topics Covered

- ❑ **Basic Animal Husbandry**
- ❑ **Identification**
- ❑ **Behavior and Handling**
- ❑ **Nutrition**
- ❑ **Pastures**
- ❑ **Disease and Biosecurity**
- ❑ **Euthanasia**
- ❑ **Body Condition Scoring**
- ❑ **Live Animal Evaluations**



LECALE Program Data

- Three classes offered to 52 individuals
 - ▣ March and December 2015, March 2016
- 36% increase in subject matter knowledge
- 94% certification rate
- Univariate procedure of SAS (v9.2)
 - Likert scale responses:
 - Knowledge of subject matter
 - Data reported as Means and SEMs



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- ❑ **Live Animal Evaluations**



Initial Class: March 2015

- **Four day program**
 - ▣ **Days 1-3 = curriculum**
 - ▣ **Day 4 = assessments**
- **26 participants**
- **41% increase in knowledge**
- **92% certification rate**
- **Challenges:**
 - ▣ **Pace of program**
 - ▣ **Nutrition topic**
 - ▣ **Need for additional live animal evaluation**



Second Course Offering (December 2015)

- **Five day program**
 - ▣ **Days 1-4 = curriculum**
 - ▣ **Day 5 = assessments**
- **13 participants**
- **Program modifications**
 - ▣ **Homework assignments**
 - ▣ **Field trips**
 - ▣ **“What the prosecutor needs”**
 - ▣ **Adaptations to nutrition topic**
 - ▣ **Trailer loading (equine)**
- **37% knowledge increase**
- **100% certification rate**

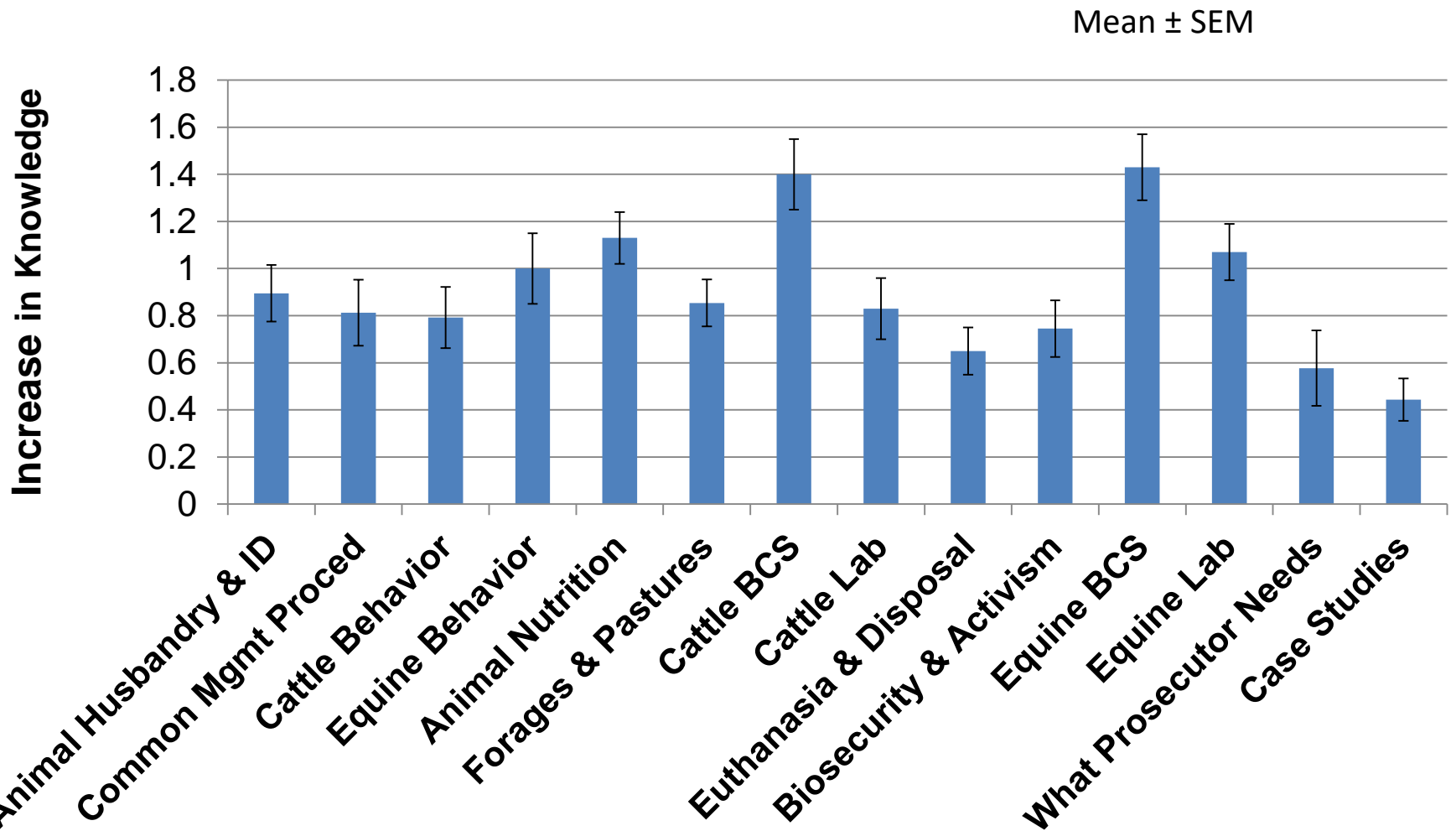


Third Course Offering (March 2016)

- **Five day program**
 - ▣ **Days 1-4 = curriculum**
 - ▣ **Day 5 = assessments**
- **13 participants**
- **Program modifications**
 - ▣ **Adaptations to what the prosecutor needs**
- **29% knowledge increase**
- **92% certification rate**

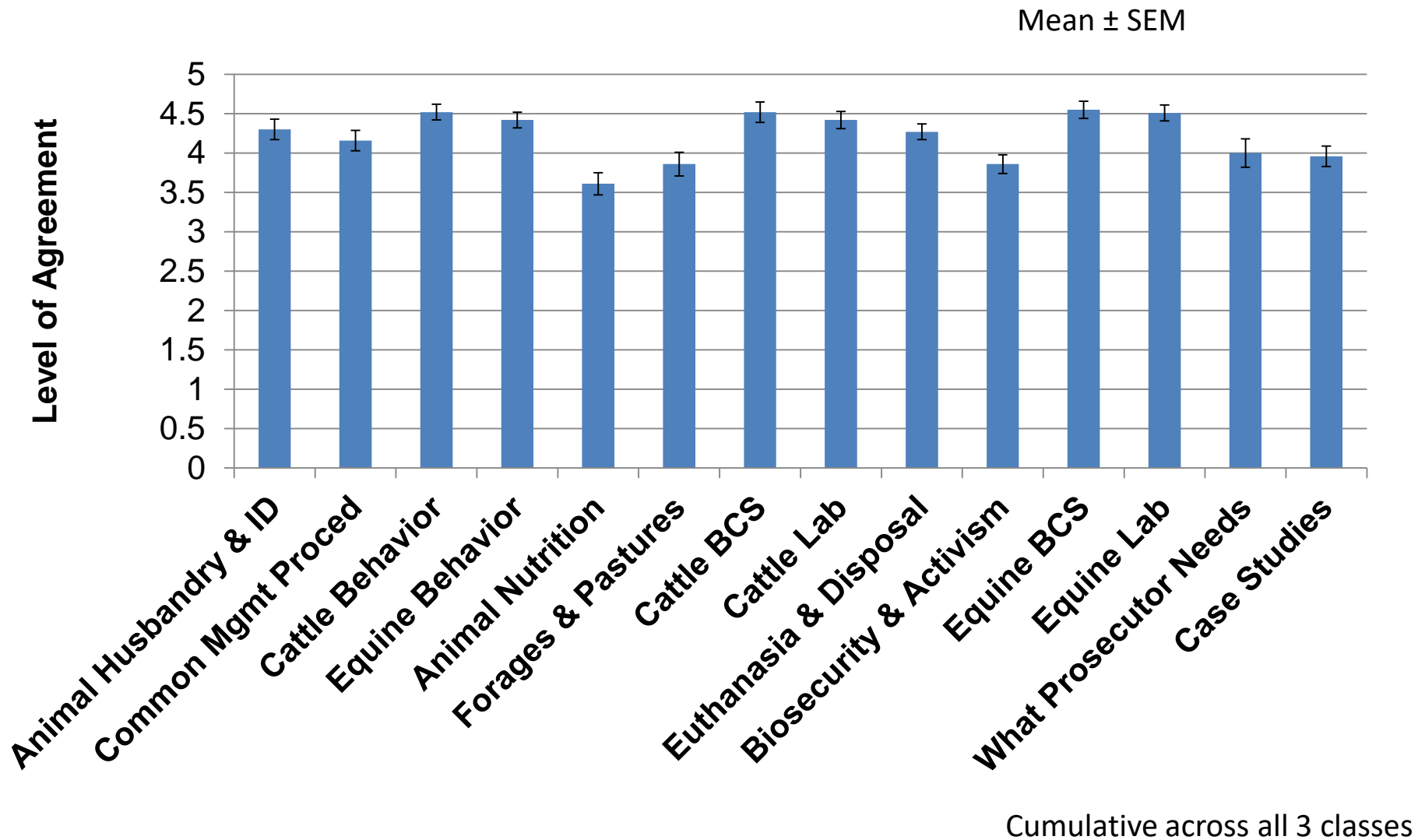


Increase in Knowledge by Topic

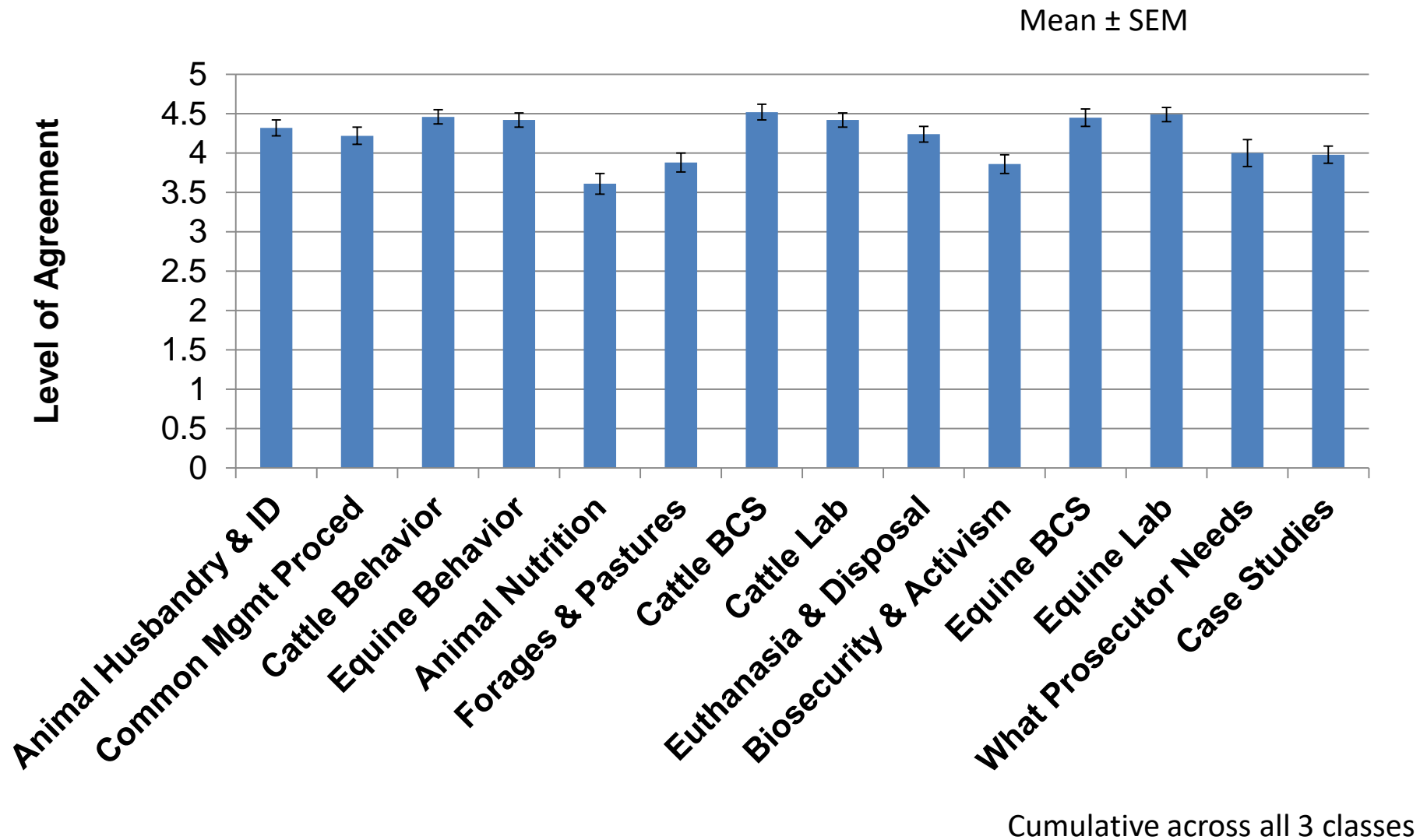


Cumulative across all 3 classes

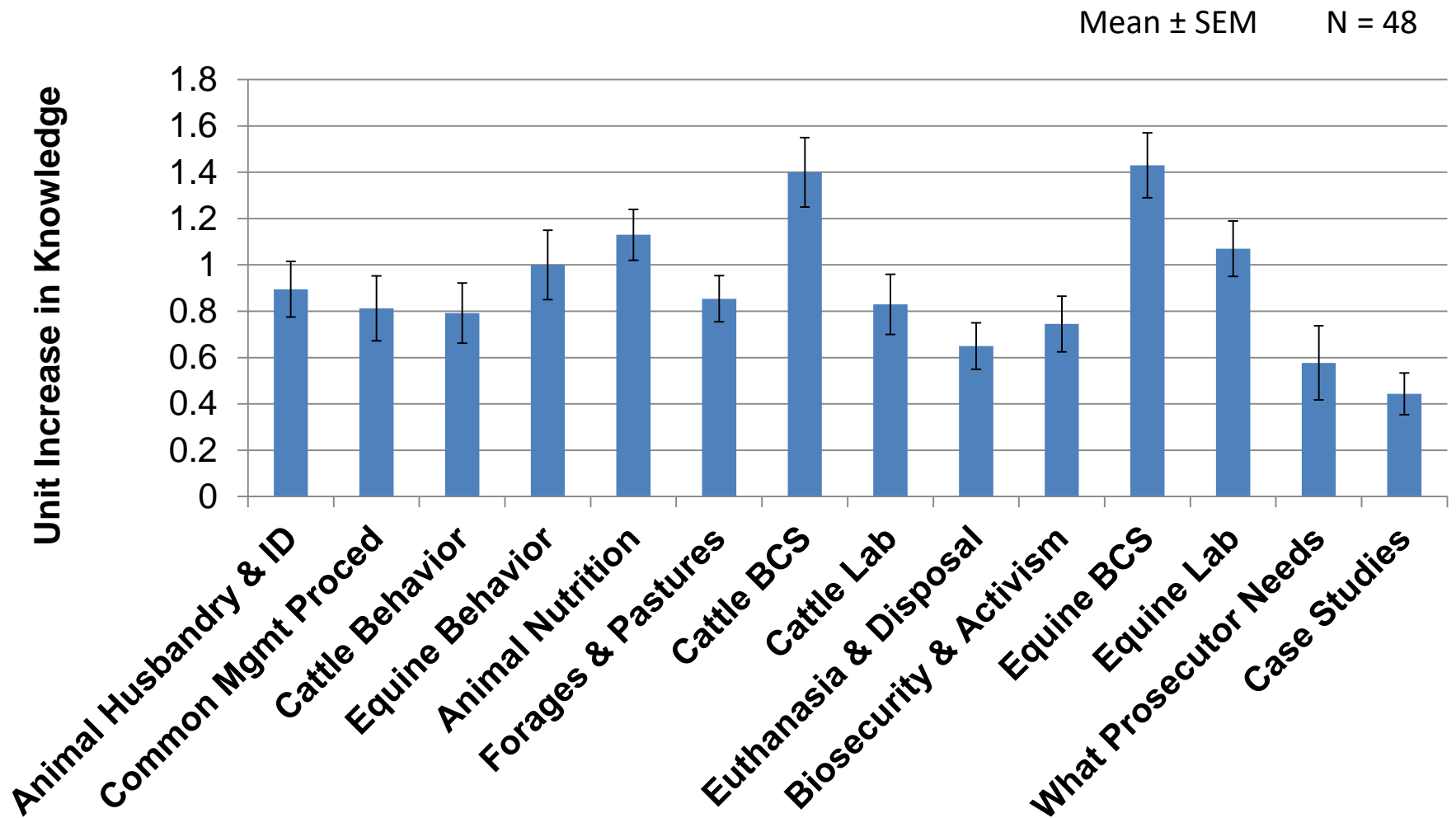
Degree to Which Topics Are Useful in Field



Degree to Which Better Prepared to Respond



Increase in Knowledge by Topic



Cumulative across all 3 classes

Objective of Post-Course Survey

- ❑ To evaluate the post-course application of the LECALC curriculum



Methods

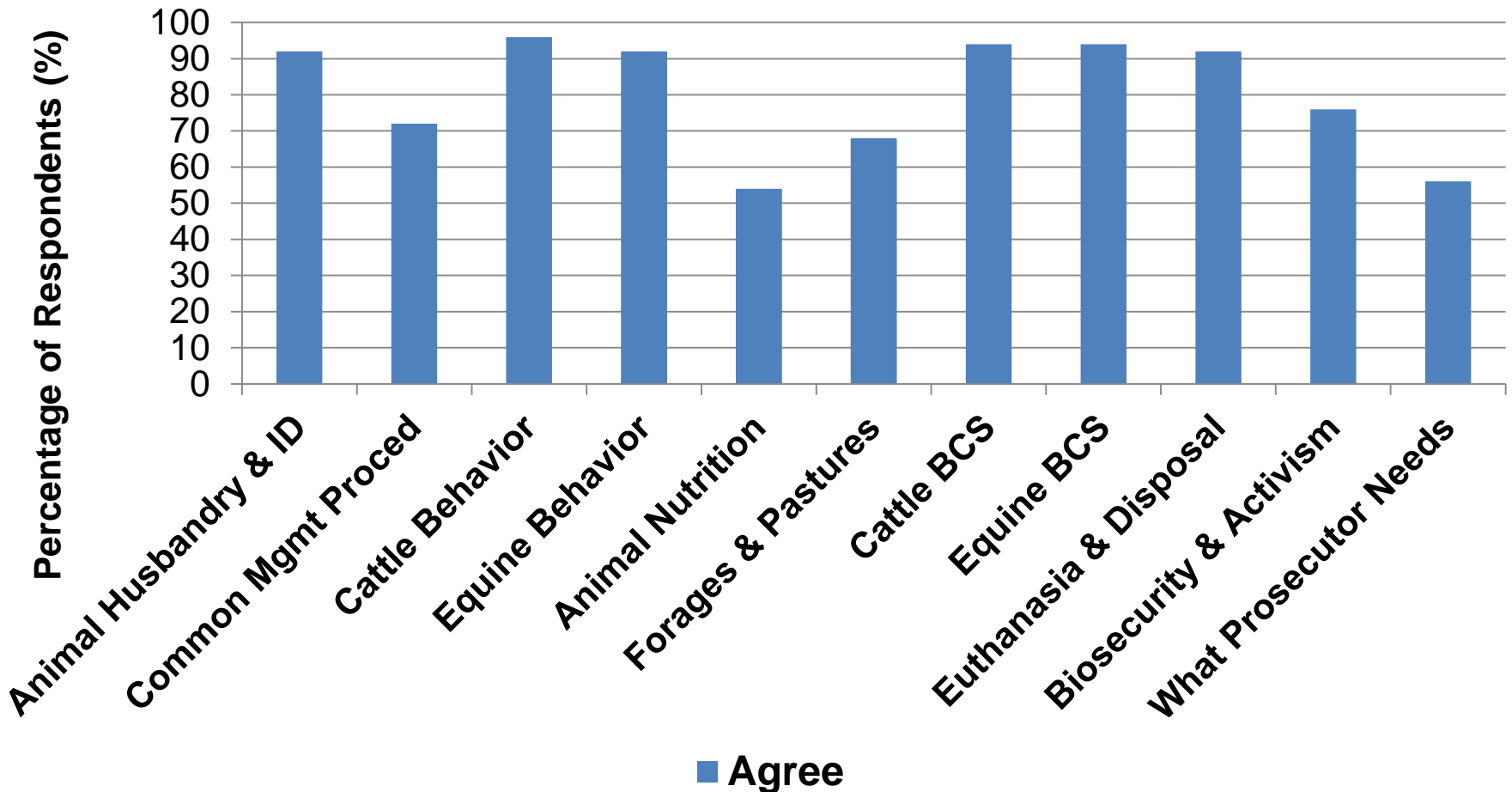
- **Online survey instrument developed in Qualtrics™**
 - ▣ **Multiple response, Likert Scale, and open ended questions**
- **Survey link distributed via email to LECALe attendees (n=50)**
 - ▣ **June 2016**
- **Multiple contact strategy (Dillman et al., 2009)**

Results

- **Responses received from 25 attendees**
 - 50% response rate
 - Representation from all 3 courses (n=12, 5, 8)
- **Time between completion of the course and administration of the survey**
 - March 2015 course = 15 months
 - December 2015 course = 6 months
 - March 2016 course = 3 months
- **Case load since attending the course**
 - 88% of attendees responded to at least 1 equine incident
 - 75% of attendees responded to at least 1 cattle incident
 - Range = 1 to 75 and 1 to 25 calls, respectively



Degree to Which Better Prepared to Respond



Cumulative across all 3 classes

N = 25, except for Animal Nutrition where N = 24

Application of Nutrition Information

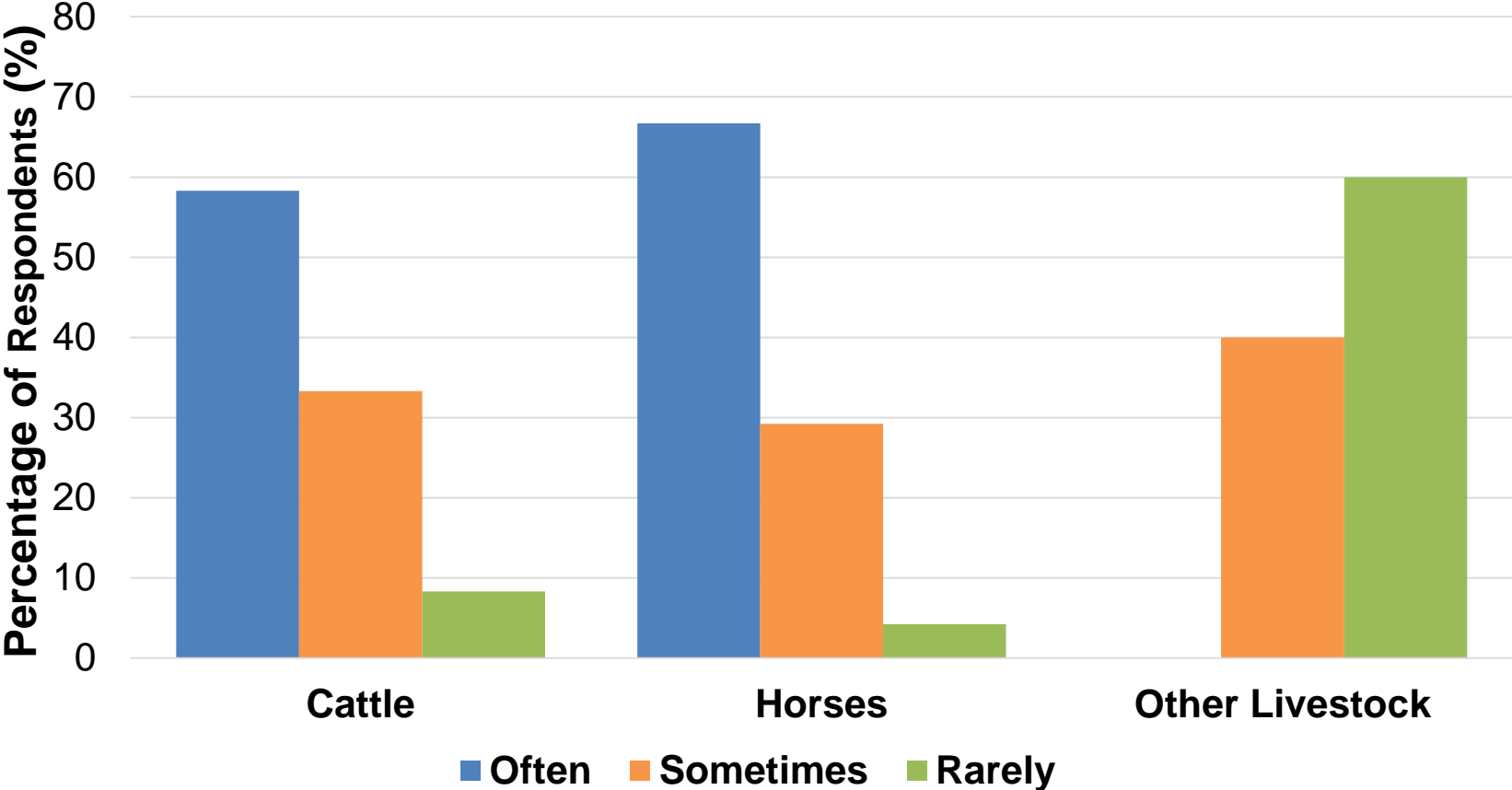
While monitoring a strangles quarantine, I also had to review the horses' nutrition/diet to help insure recovery from their depleted condition.

I came in contact with an owner who owned 5 head of cattle with BCS 3. I recommended resources for nutritional information. 30 days later, there was a marked improvement with the cattle.

I have utilized this area of study in the field by professionally being able to council citizens on the proper feeding habits and nutritional requirements of their animals.

Reference to Course Materials

How often do you refer to information provided in the course?

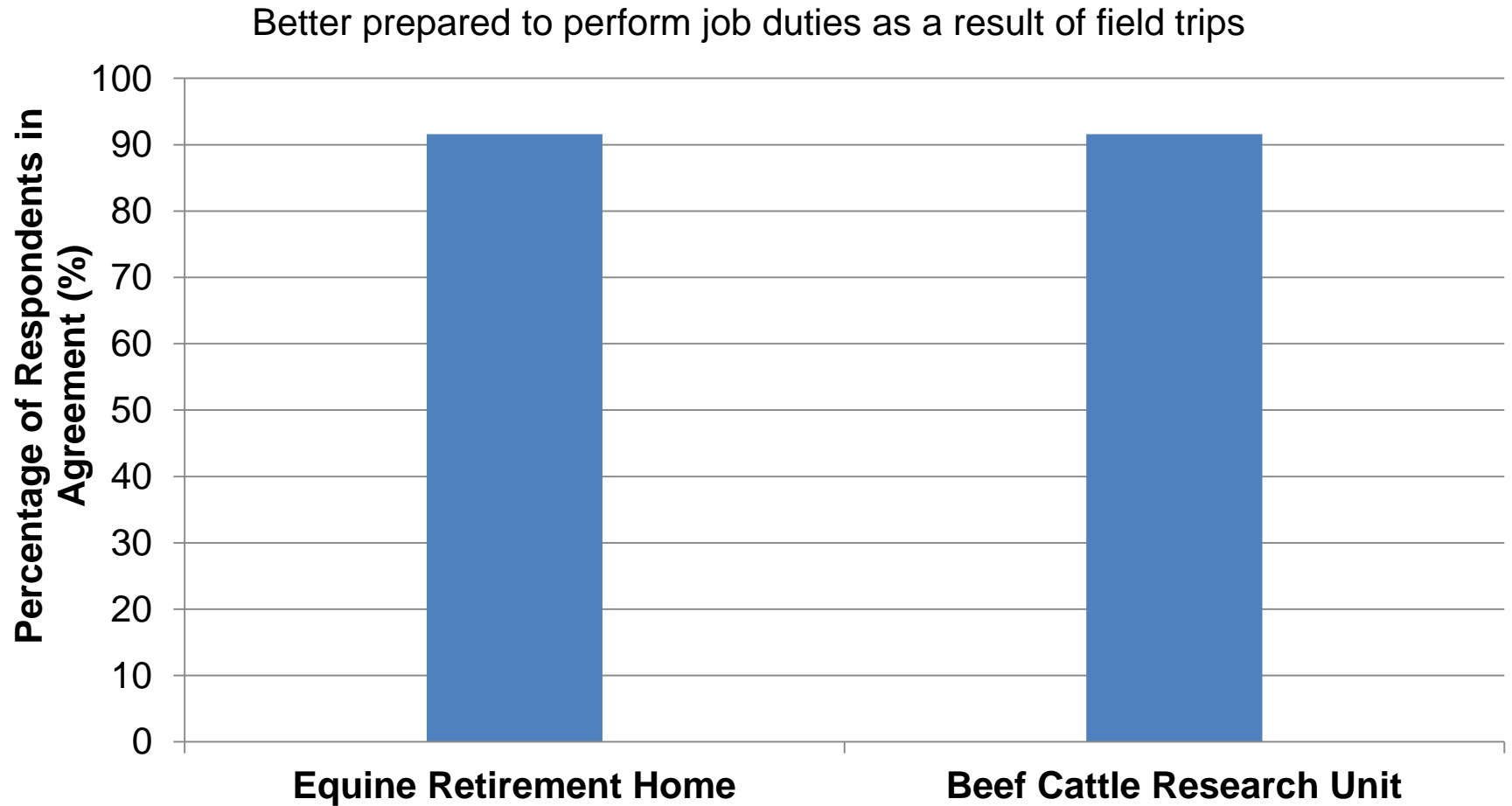


Cumulative across all 3 classes

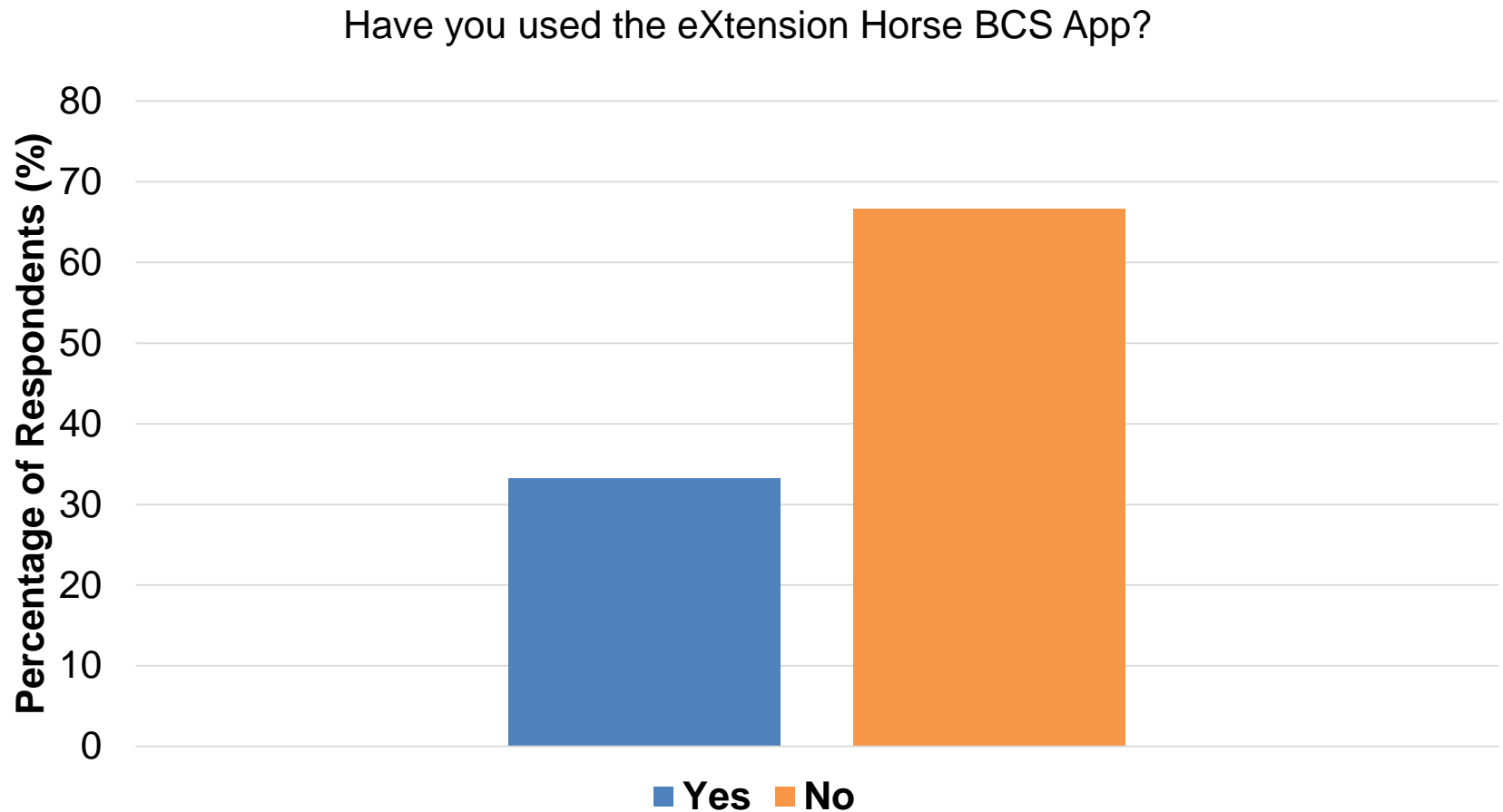
Cattle and Horses N=24, Other Livestock N=5



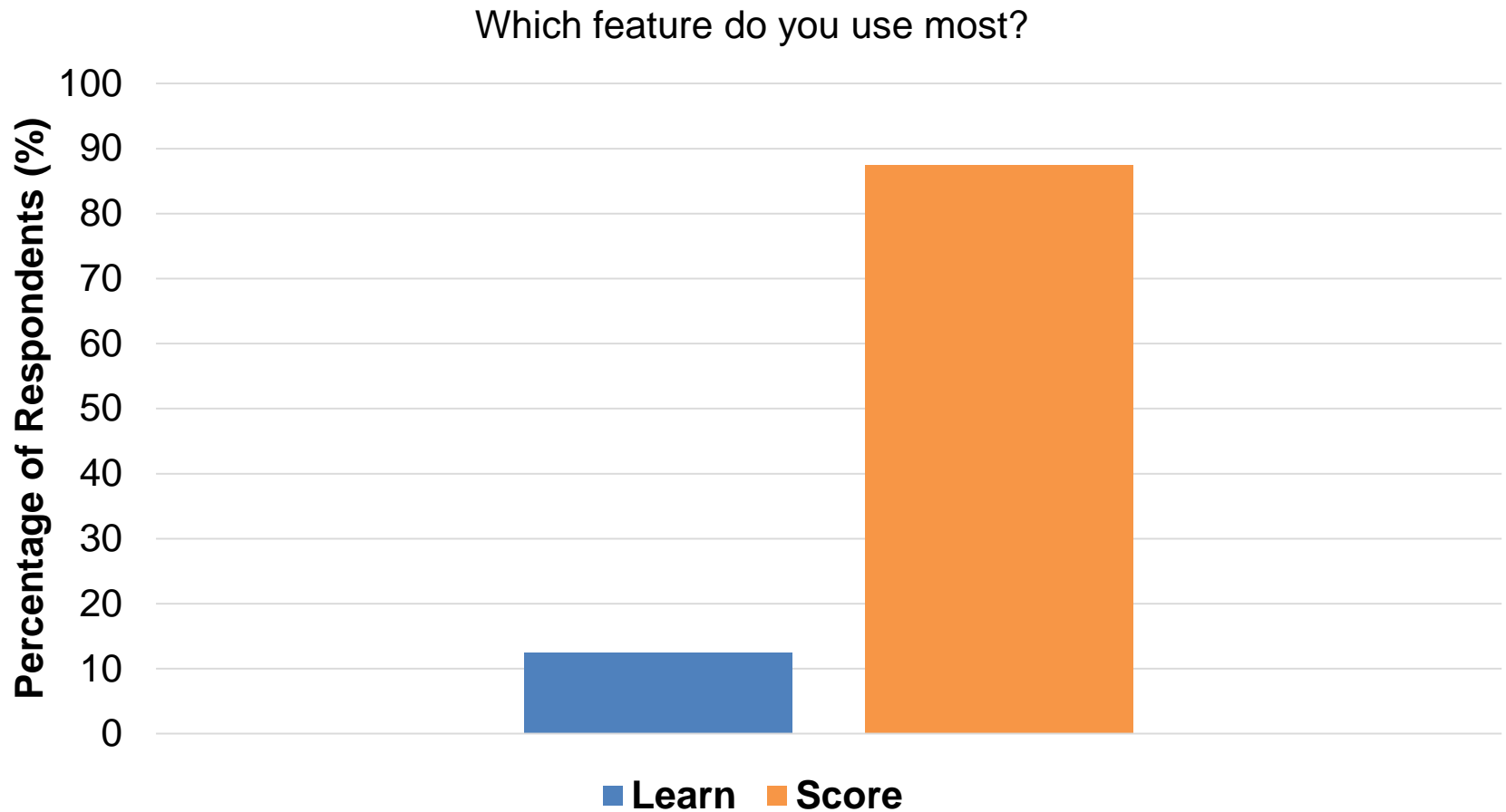
Impact of Field Trips



Use of the eXtension Horse BCS App



Use of Features in the Horse BCS App



Comments Regarding the Horse BCS App

I use the app during horse quarantines to record animal condition over an extended period of time.

I have long been able to “intuitively” assess an equine body condition, now I know what I have actually been looking at all this time!
Thank you!



WHAT IS BODY CONDITION SCORING?

Millions of people are aware that improving their physical condition is key to living a healthier life. This same reasoning can be applied to other areas of their lives and businesses as well. Horses represent a multi-billion dollar industry and the health and welfare (condition) of horses are very important to horse owners. The ability to accurately assess a horse's body condition, which is vital to its health and welfare, weighs heavily on the entire industry.

The old saying “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder” is very appropriate in any discussion about the body condition of horses. A beautiful horse in one owner's eye is a fat horse in another's. Hence the problem: What is an appropriate body condition for a horse, and what is acceptable to the industry? A Body Condition Scoring (BCS) system developed by Dr. Don Henneke provides a standard scoring system for the entire industry. This system can be applied across all breeds and can be used by anyone.



Learn

Score



Outcomes

- Law Enforcement Officers are utilizing the LECALÉ curriculum in the field
- The LECALÉ program improved the ability of participants to perform their job duties



Benefits to Attendees



- ❑ **Rigorous and Relevant**
- ❑ **Addresses Florida specific conditions**
- ❑ **Certification demonstrates an attainment of knowledge and subject matter credibility**
- ❑ **Cost and time effective**

What's Next?

- Revisions to curriculum
- Further program development
 - ▣ Potential to offer different levels of training (beginner and advanced)
 - ▣ Creation of additional resources and CE opportunities



Questions?

Registration:

- **\$350 for all participants regardless of affiliation. (Includes: refreshment breaks, lunches, course material, and certification fee). The class will be limited to the first 25 registrants.**
- **<https://www.eventbrite.com/edit?eid=33216078184#>**

or search 2017 LECALE (will self-populate with course)

Questions?

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