

Survey about the use of allopathic treatments and sources of information for organic livestock farms in France

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Introduction

The organic livestock sector in the European Union has been experiencing a fast growth in recent years, and it is legislated by the Regulation (EU)2018/848 of May 30th 2018. The use of synthetic vitamins, anti-infective and immune-stimulators, and conventional bedding is restricted. However, there are no official reports published about the use of allopathic treatments and conventional bedding materials in organic livestock in Europe.



The **aim of this survey** was to gather information about the use of allopathic treatments and conventional bedding materials in organic livestock in Europe. The **aim of the present work** was to present the preliminary results obtained in **France**.

Material & Methods

Self-administered online questionnaire:

- 36 questions in 6 sections
- Developed in English and translated to French following Brislin's model
- Available from October 2018 to February 2019

Dissemination of the link:

- Direct e-mail to 1,065 farmers up to 3 times
- Through 3 farmers' associations (BioBourgogne, GAB 65 and the Chambre d'Agriculture de Loire-Atlantique)

Responses back and analysis:

- 155 responses received
- 135 adequate for the analysis (Fig. 1)

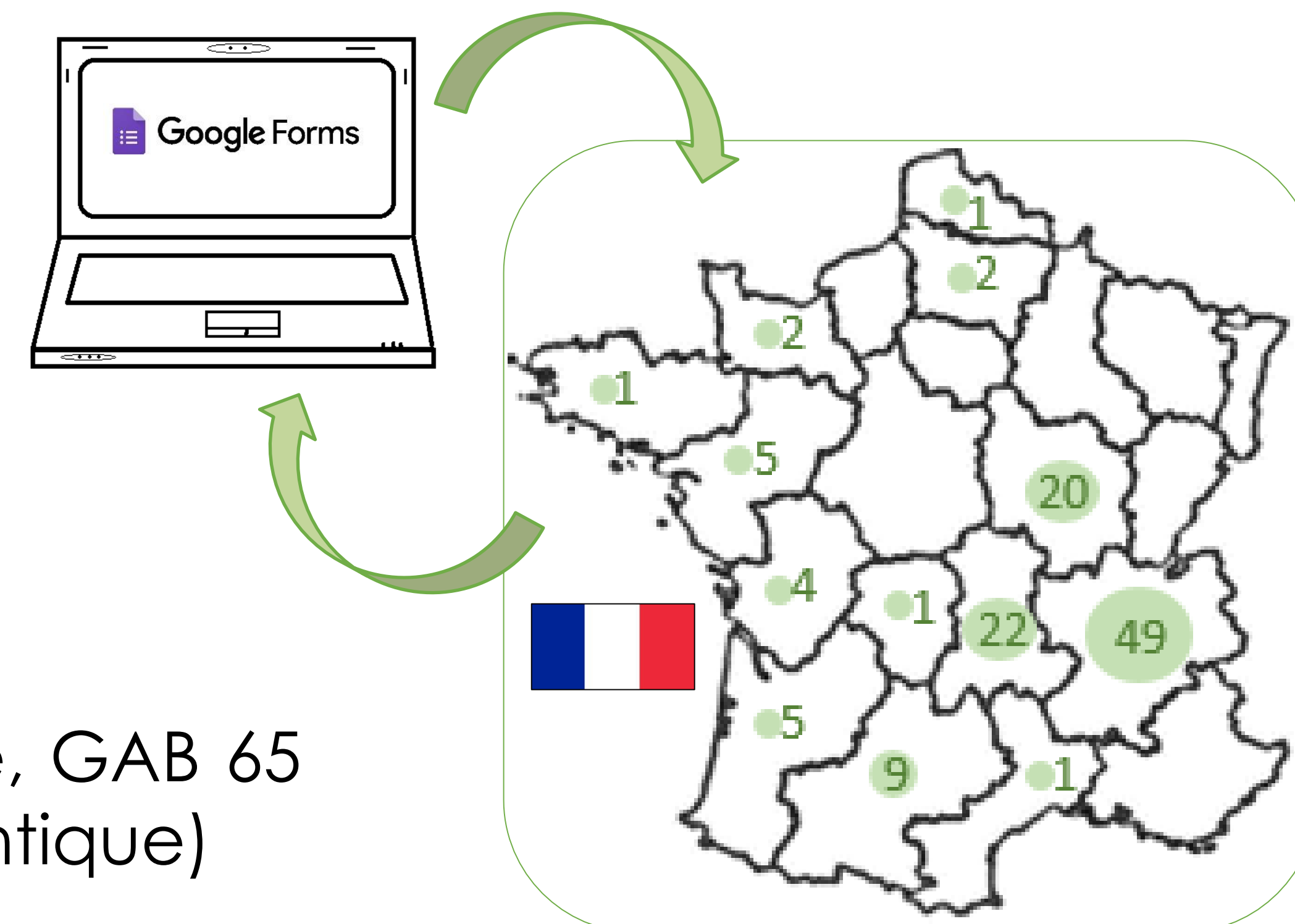


Fig. 1. Responses by region in France

Results

General description of the sample:

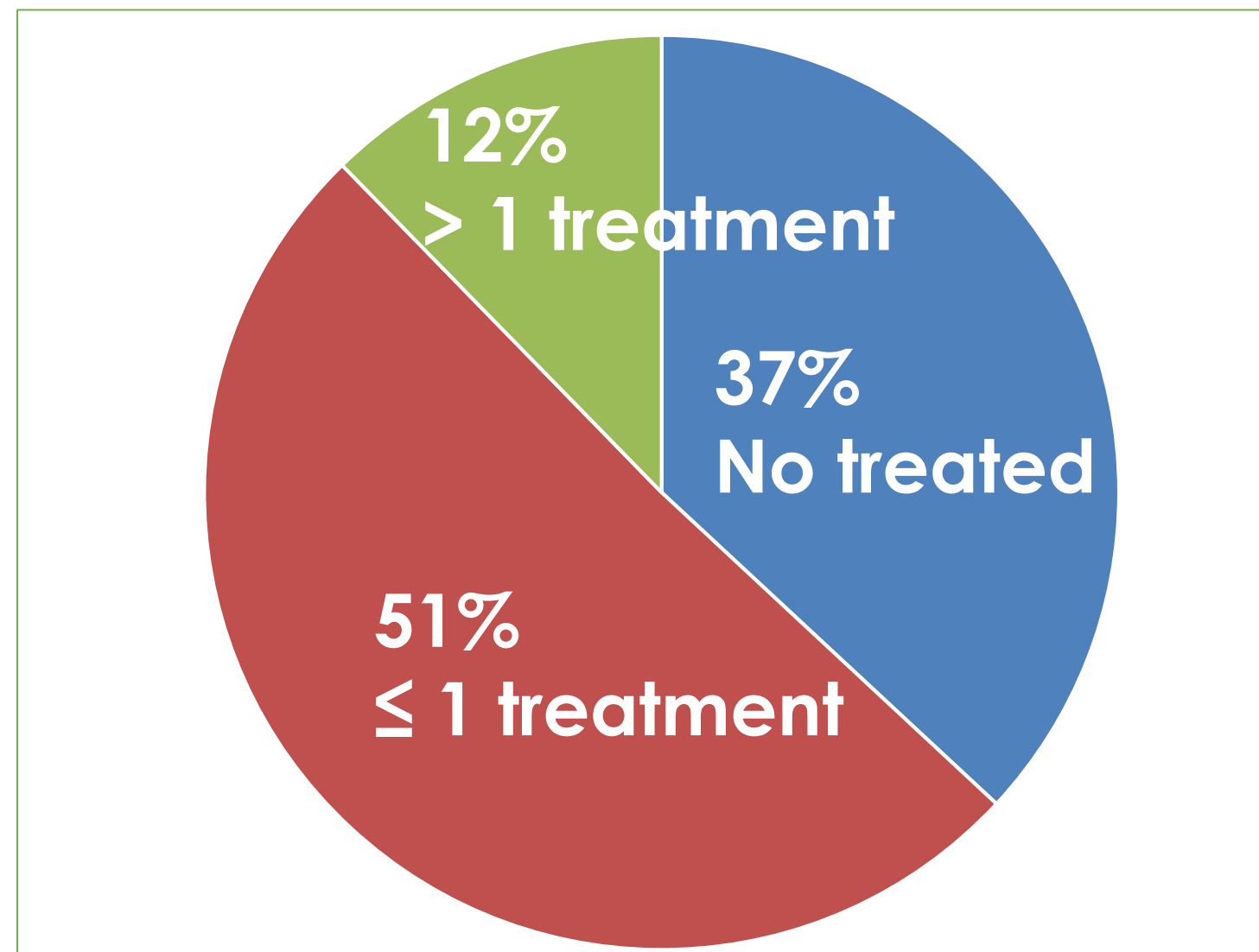
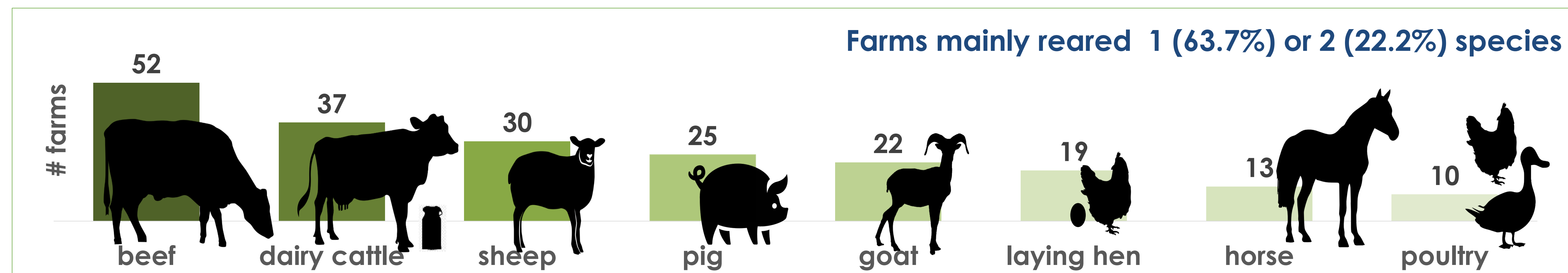
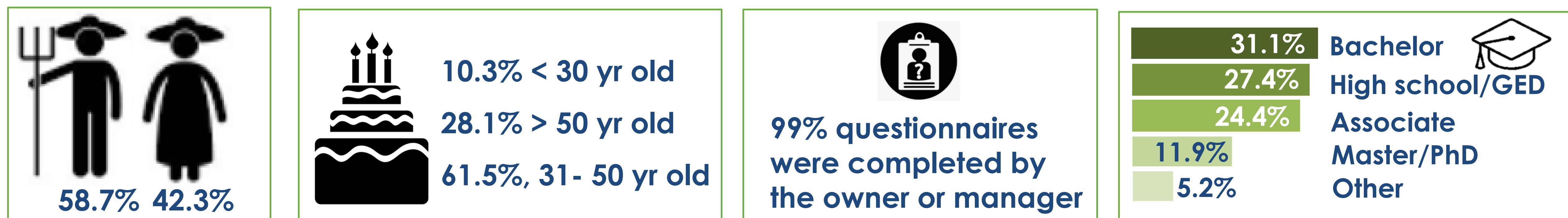
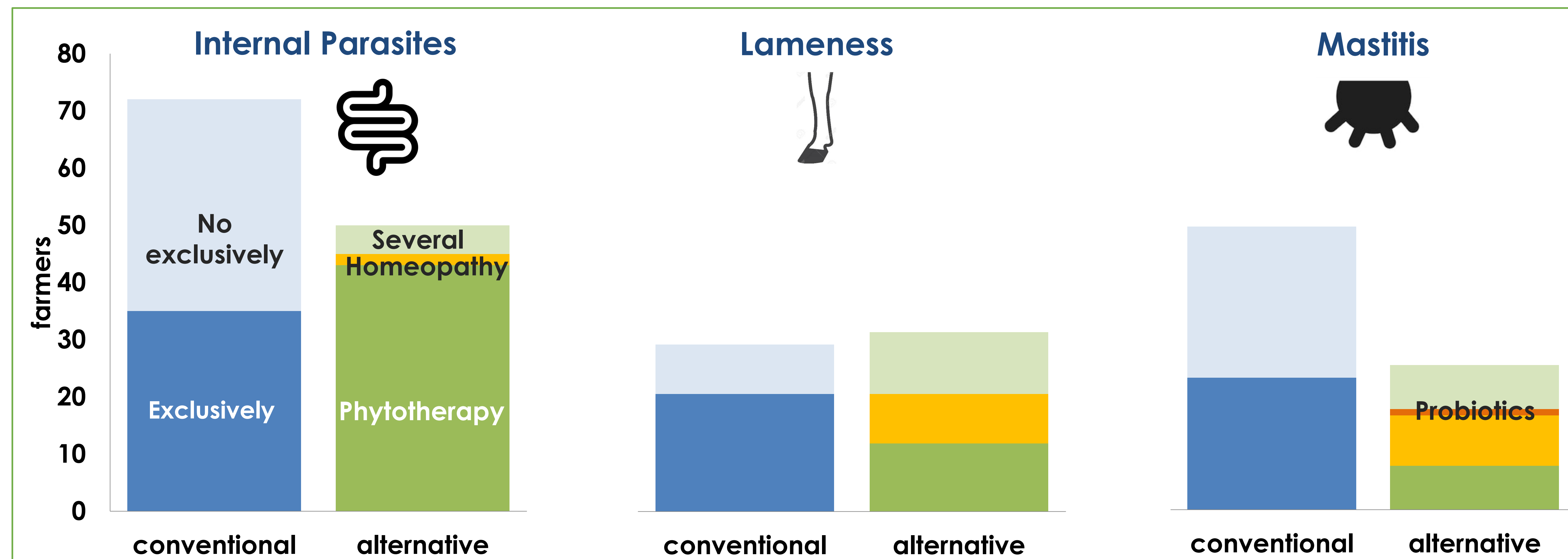


Fig. 2. Number of treatments applied per animal treated last year in the farm.

Most farmers did not treat the animals last year or applied ≤ 1 treatment per animal (Fig. 2). The top 3 recurrent health problems reported by the farmers were: internal parasites (80 farmers), lameness (46 farmers), and mastitis (45 farmers).

The selection between allopathic and alternative treatments depended on the health problem (Fig. 3). Farmers obtain information for the use of alternative treatments mainly from other farmers or veterinarians (Fig. 4).

Fig. 3. Treatment used by the farmers on the top 3 health diseases.



Bedding:

Straw is still the most used bedding material (91.1%);. Other bedding material used were: waste hay (19.5%), and woody shavings (8.1%) and sawdust (6.7%).

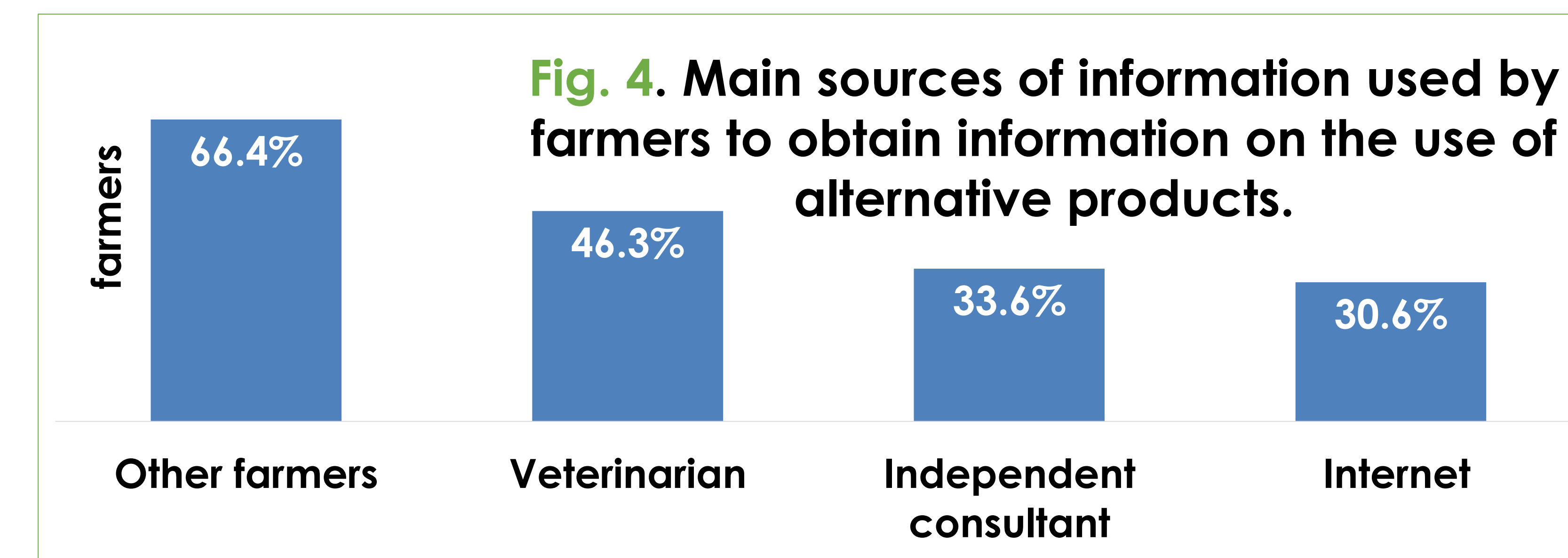


Fig. 4. Main sources of information used by farmers to obtain information on the use of alternative products.

Conclusions

This preliminary analysis suggested the need for further research on alternatives to the use of allopathic treatments and straw for bedding in organic livestock, and that farmers are the key factor for the dissemination/implementation of the results.

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