

# Limited Resources Survey: Summary of Specialty Crop Responses

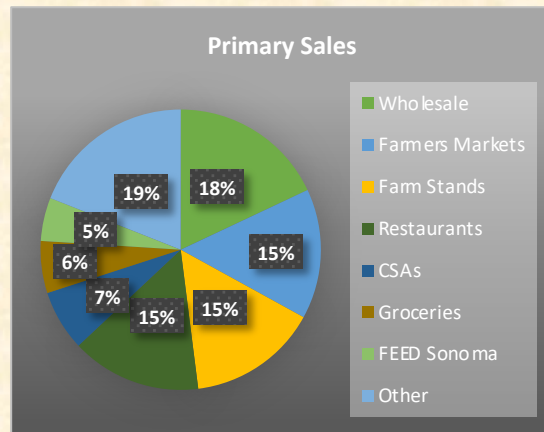
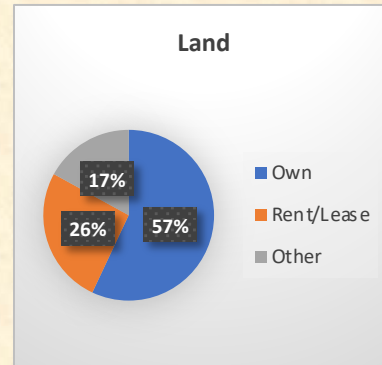
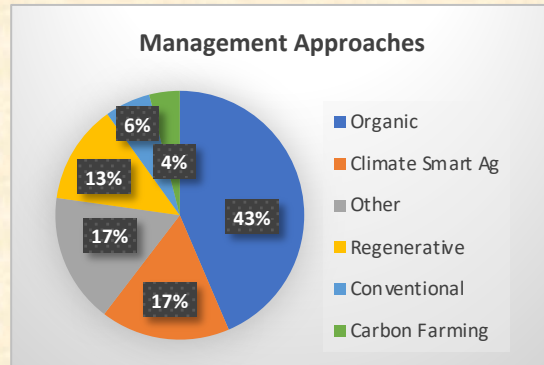
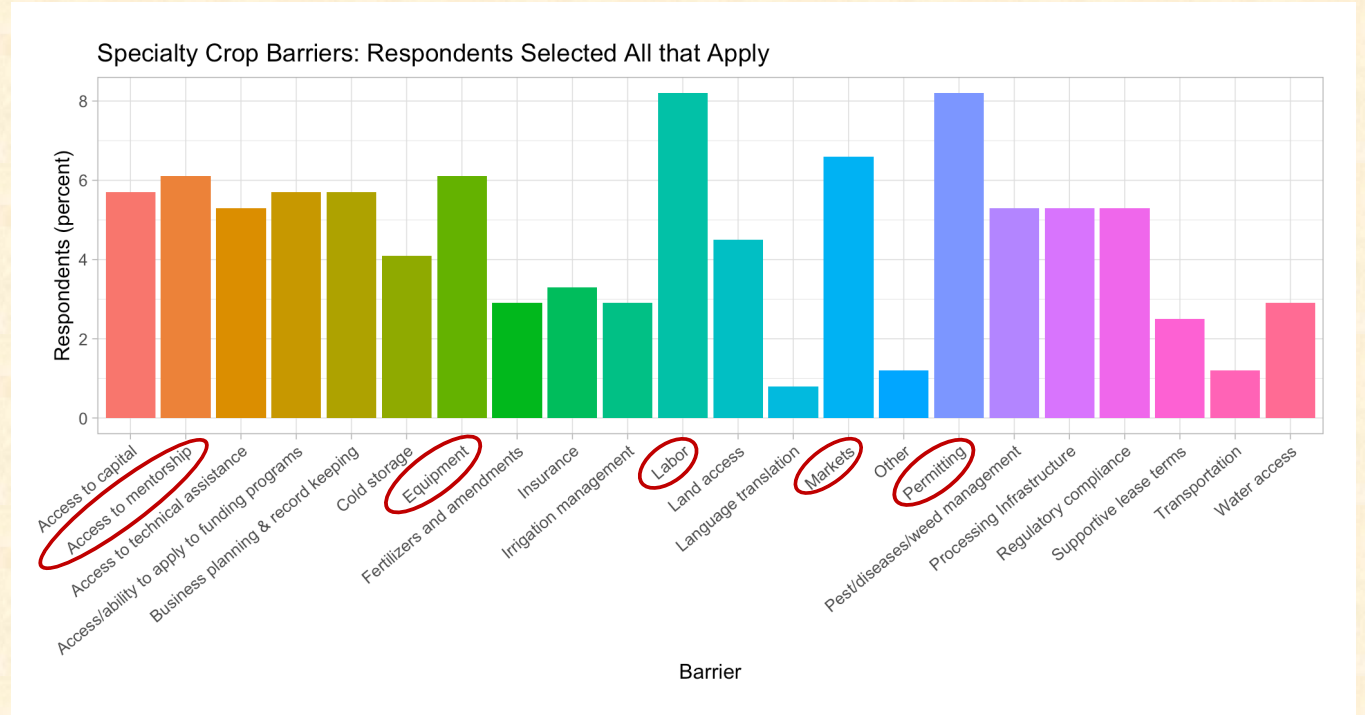
Key themes summarized by Ellie Andrews, 2023

Goal of the survey: assess the barriers to increasing the economic viability of small-scale specialty crop production.

Distribution: conducted in Qualtrics from 10/25/2022 - 2/14/2023, offered in both Spanish & English.

Crop types: diversified vegetables, orchard crops, berries, cut flowers, culinary herbs, etc. (excluding grapes)

Acreage: ~90% of respondents are growing on 0-20 acres



## In-field challenges:

- managing insect pests, plant diseases, weeds
- water access & quality, irrigation automation
- access to efficient small-scale farm tools & equipment, technical support
- access to affordable & reliable high-quality compost & mulch

## Resources needed:

- labor
- access to land & water
- viable markets
- storage space
- scale-appropriate equipment
- harvesting & processing methods & infrastructure
- business planning & mentorship
- technical assistance applying for funding & completing the organic certification process

## If more resources were available, how would you develop/expand?

- increase production capacity & crop diversity
- closed loop systems
- integrate livestock
- increase compost applications
- hire more employees
- partner with other growers
- offer on-farm educational opportunities
- agritourism

## Most helpful resources so far:

- land
- capital
- local businesses
- farmer networks
- reclaimed water
- compost
- education & experience
- supporting organization such as FarmLink, county farm services, community colleges, UCCE advisors