



The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

Papers downloaded from AgEcon Search may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.

No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.

Economic Assessment of Morel (*Morchella* spp.) Foraging Activities in Michigan, USA

Trey Malone¹, Scott M. Swinton¹, Aastha Pudasainee¹, and Gregory Bonito²

1. Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA
Trey Malone tmalone@msu.edu
Scott M. Swinton swintons@msu.edu
Aastha Pudasainee pudasain@msu.edu
2. Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA
Gregory Bonito bonito@msu.edu

Selected Poster prepared for presentation at the 2022 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA; July 31-August 2, 2022

Economic Assessment of Morel (*Morchella spp.*) Foraging Activities in Michigan, USA

Trey Malone, Scott M. Swinton, Aastha Pudasainee, Gregory Bonito
Presenter- Aastha Pudasainee

BACKGROUND:

Morel foraging is a popular outdoor activity in the Great Lakes region, with places such as Mesick, MI even hosting an annual Morel Mushroom Festival every May.


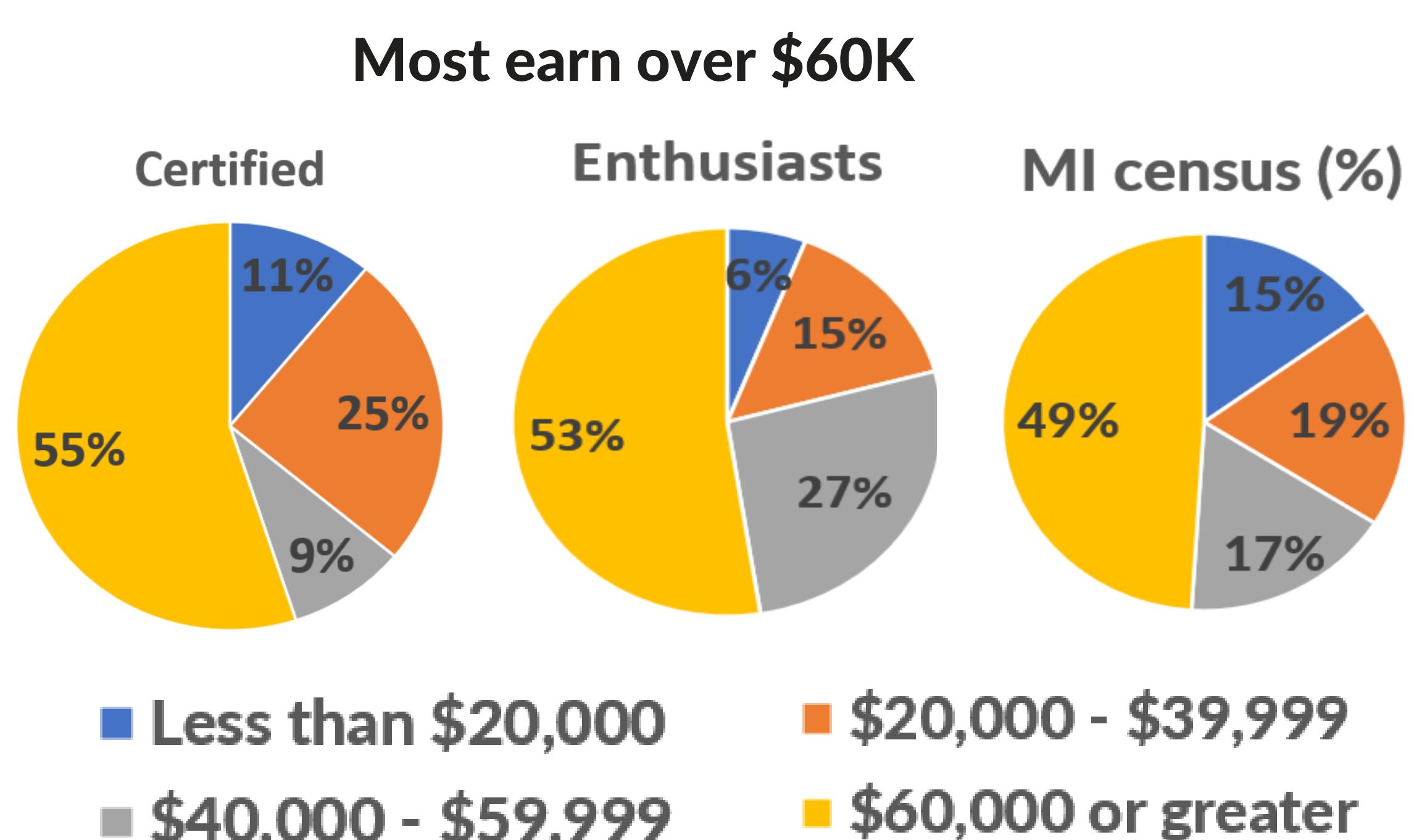
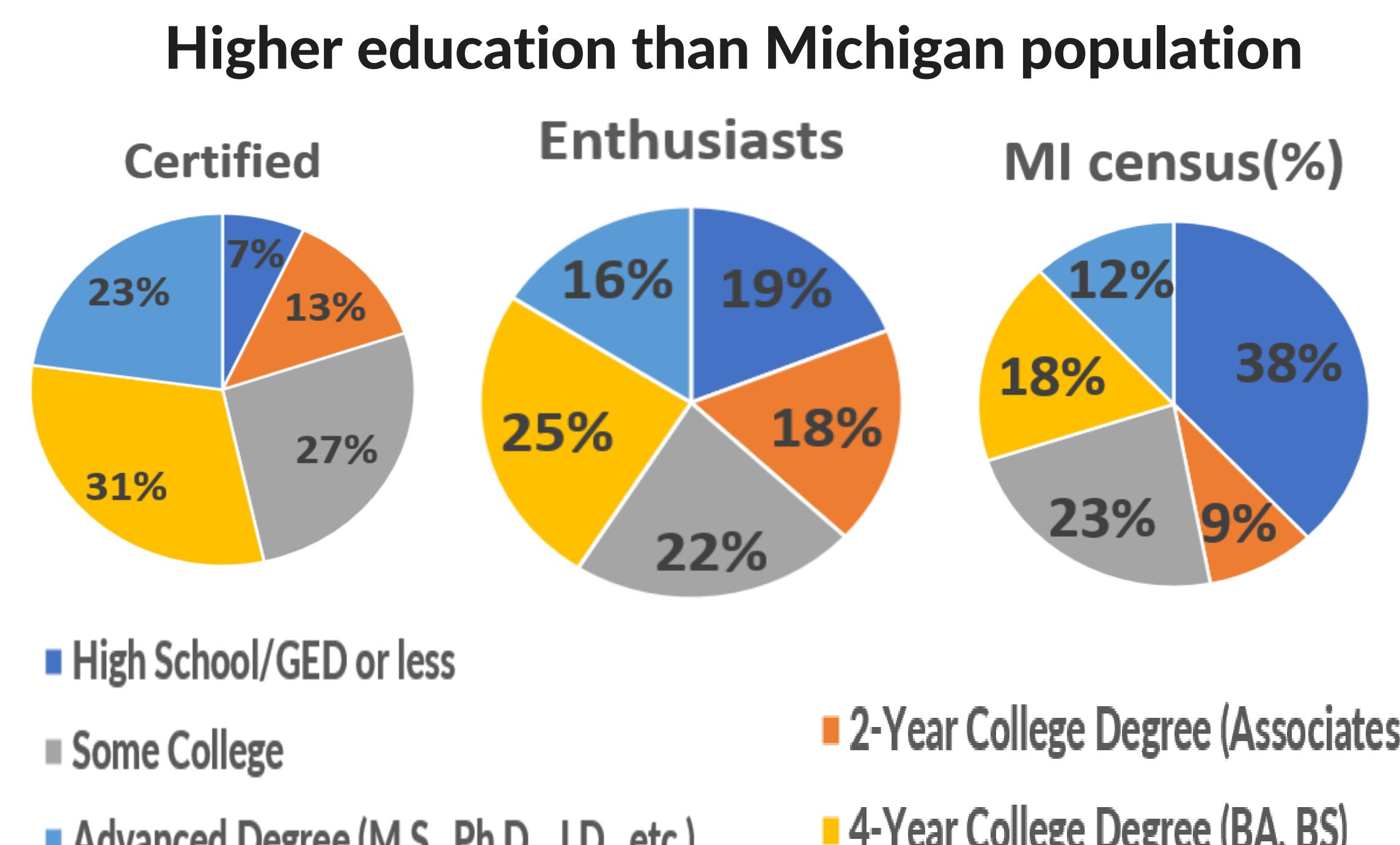
Morel foraging serves both as a form of recreation and a source of income in the Great Lakes region.

To understand the economic role and potential of morel foraging, we conducted a survey in 2020 of both Michigan-certified mushroom hunters and morel enthusiasts.

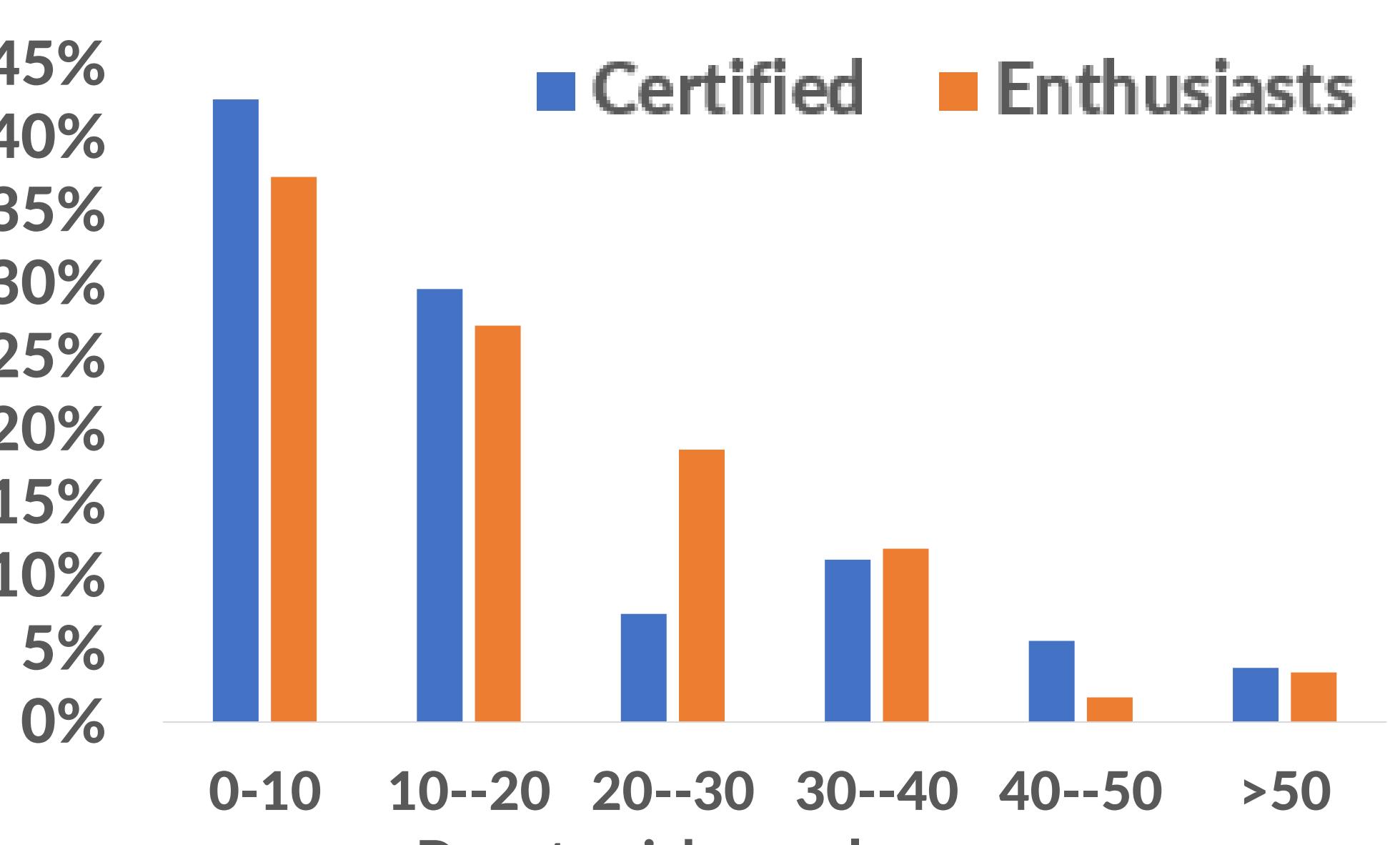
METHODS

1. The survey was conducted online in four major sections using the Qualtrics® platform
2. We surveyed 78 certified mushroom foragers and 85 snowball foraging enthusiasts.

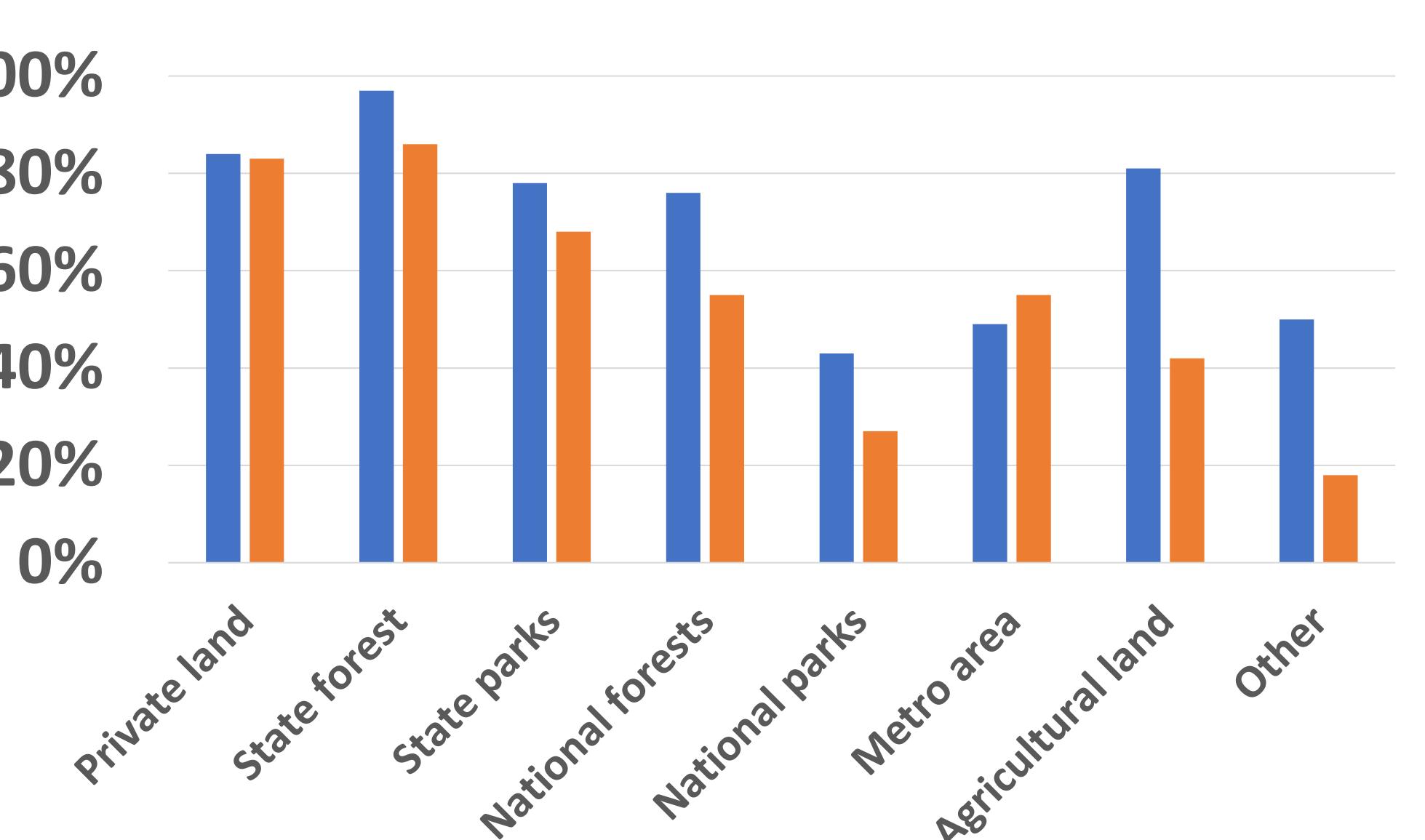
RESULTS



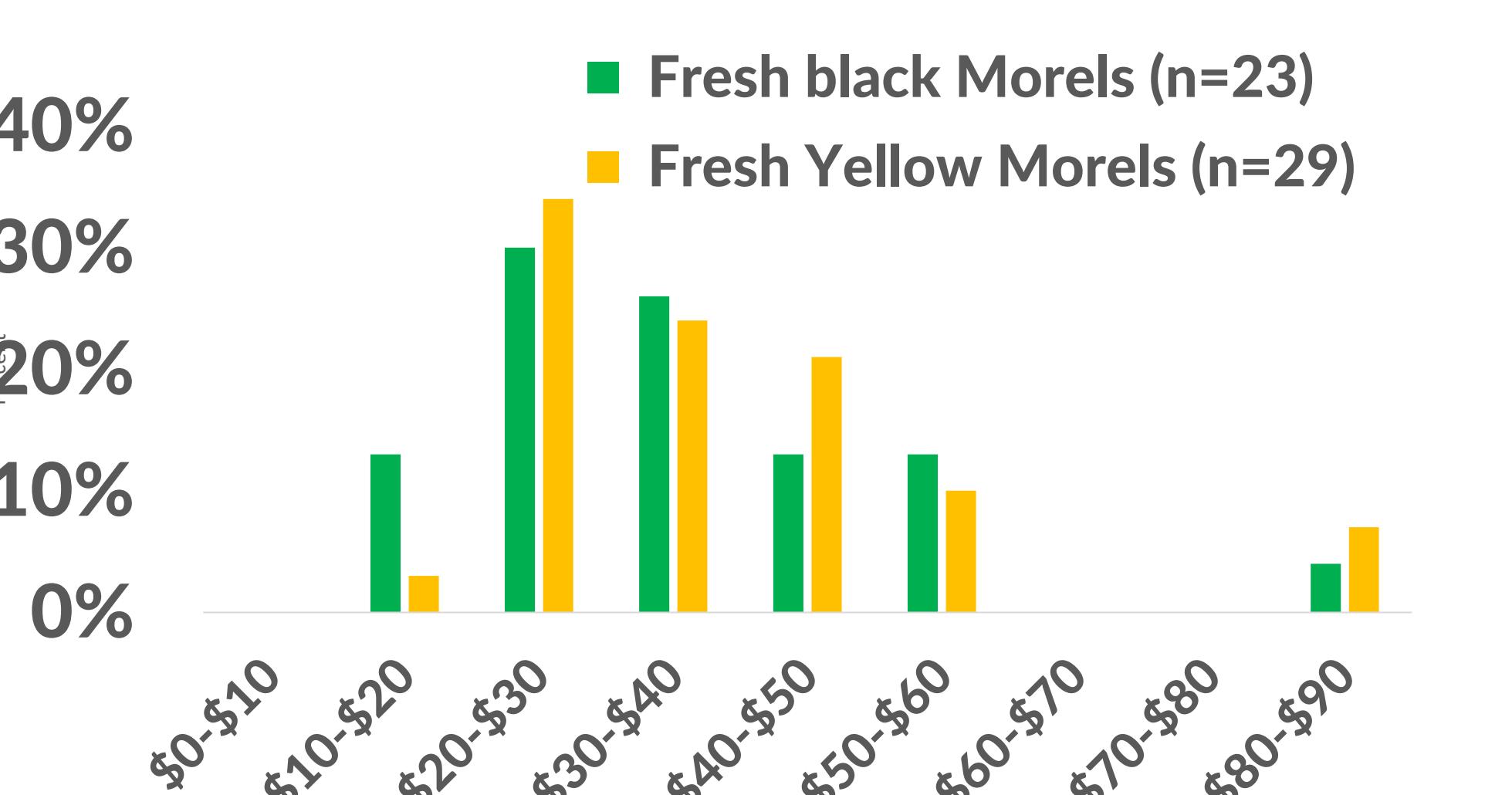
Most forage for 3 weeks or less



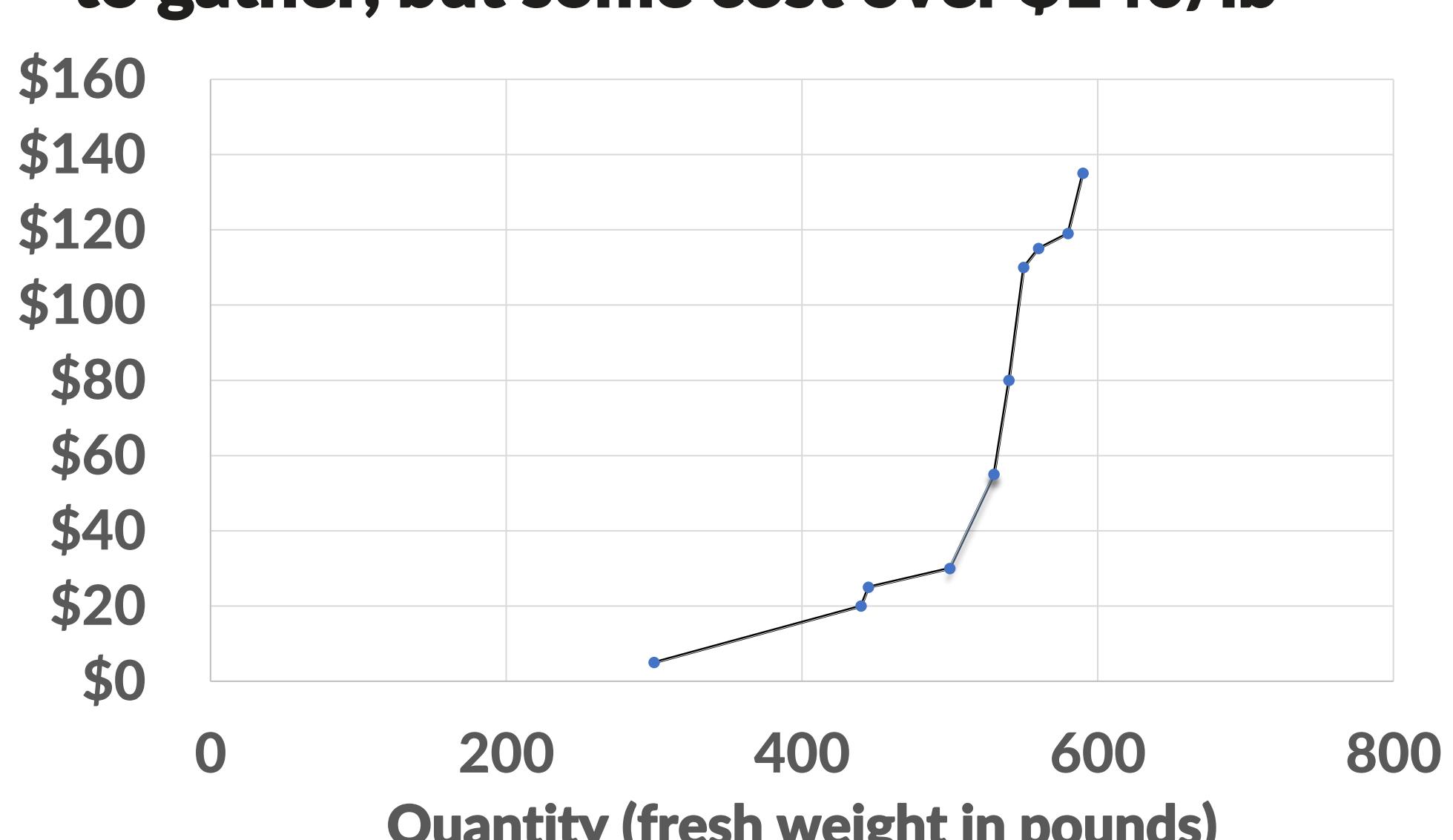
Morels are foraged on all types of land



Fresh morels sell for \$20-50 per pound



Commercial morels mostly cost under \$35/lb to gather, but some cost over \$140/lb



DISCUSSION

Morel foragers also collect other mushrooms such as Oyster (*Pleurotus*), Hen of the Woods (*Grifola*), and Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus*).

Given the high prices for wild-foraged morels, is there potential for the development of a market for artificially cultivated morels?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Funding-U.S. Department of Agriculture - NFIA, Award Number 10057040