
Chapter 16

Third and Fourth Year Food Animal Student Career Selection Survey

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Introduction

The purpose of this survey is to understand, from those 3rd and 4th year veterinary students interested in food animal medicine careers, (1) the factors that influenced their career selection decisions, (2) strategies they believe would encourage more students to enter into food animal careers, and (3) their expectations of a career in food animal medicine. This is an important group to consider as they have committed themselves to a food animal career. Understanding the motivations of this group will allow strategies to be developed that may encourage other students to enter into FSVM related fields.

Methodology

Sample

The Deans at all 32 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States and Canada were contacted and asked to participate in the survey by supplying email contact information for their third and fourth year veterinary students. Tremendous support was received with 19 colleges providing email listings directly to us and another 13 colleges agreeing to send out the survey directly to their students. The survey was administered in April of 2005. Three waves of a pretested questionnaire were sent out in one week increments. The survey was sent to 1,657 valid email addresses with 713 students responding (270 with a food animal focus), resulting in a 43% response rate. The findings reported in this chapter are focused on the 270 food animal students. Responses were received from students at all 32 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States and Canada. The questionnaire was approved by the FSVMC and AAVMC.

Methodology (continued)

Cover letter / Survey / Constructs

Third and fourth year veterinary students were sent an email message from the research team that explained the purpose of the research, identified the sponsoring organizations, and invited them to participate in the study. A web URL was included in the email message that linked to the online survey. The survey was pretested and sent out in three waves separated by one week increments in order to increase response rates. A variety of questions were asked in this research instrument including planned occupational area, past experience with animals, multiple career decision influences, strategies for encouraging students to enter food animal careers, expectations of food animal careers, and level of career knowledge.

Non-response Bias

Statistical analyses were carried out for non-response bias. A wave analysis with the Student's t-test was used to look for differences between early and late returns. This provides some information about whether the data from completed questionnaires are biased by the likelihood of non-response. The wave analysis method assumes that subjects who respond less readily are more like non-respondents. Using the t-test for two sample proportions and a 95 per cent level of confidence, it was found that there were no significant differences between early and late returns for items in the questionnaire at the 0.05 level. Since the study did not involve sensitive issues, it was concluded that there was no compelling reason to believe that the response group systematically possessed different response tendencies from non-responders.

Overall Findings from Food Animal Student Career Selection Survey

- **While these 3rd and 4th year food animal focused students primarily come from rural backgrounds, many would like to live in suburban and larger cities following graduation. While, there is still a sizeable group who prefer to live in a small city or rural area, 75% of these students planning to spend at least one-third of their time working with food animals do not desire a career that will let them lead a rural lifestyle.**
- **While large percentages of these 3rd and 4th year food animal focused students report significant experience working with food animals prior to veterinary college (71%), having a good role model in food animal production (56%), having worked for a food animal veterinarian prior to veterinary college (48%), and having a food animal externship during veterinary college (67%), they still report a lack of knowledge about veterinary career opportunities in the food animal industry and a desire to learn more about industry careers. In addition, there is a sizeable portion that feel that their veterinary education has not adequately prepared them to work in a food animal practice. Further, many report being intimidated by the size of many food animals, but not concerned about injury or the physicality of the work.**

Overall Findings from Food Animal Student Career Selection Survey (continued)

- **These 3rd and 4th year food animal focused students are particularly interested in careers that will have great personal meaning to them and will allow them to contribute to their communities.**
- **They also seek careers that will allow them ample time to spend with their families. Although willing to work hard (41% expect to work 60 or more hours per week as a full time food animal veterinarian) they report a desire to avoid jobs that require on-call, night, and weekend hours. However, there is a high level of expectation that food animal veterinarians spend a lot of time on-call.**
- **These students have very positive attitudes toward food animal medicine. The vast majority believe that food animal veterinarians derive a great deal of job satisfaction from their careers, that food animal careers are stable, and that they can make a good annual salary in the profession.**

Overall Findings from Food Animal Student Career Selection Survey (continued)

In terms of tactics that might be employed by veterinary medical schools or professional associations to encourage more students to consider food animal careers, the top ten tactics as rated by 3rd and 4th year food animal focused students are:

- 1. Assistance in setting up a food animal practice.**
- 2. Add new faculty positions in food animal medicine.**
- 3. Provide job placement services for careers in public health.**
- 4. Making students select a curriculum track that provides detailed knowledge in particular areas of emphasis.**
- 5. Provide high school and undergraduate college students written information about different food animal careers.**
- 6. Payoff all student loans in exchange for working in a food animal veterinary medicine field for 3 years.**
- 7. Financial assistance in purchasing equipment to begin a food animal practice.**
- 8. Assigning students interested in food animal careers to a faculty mentor.**
- 9. A first semester program in veterinary medical school that lets students study and treat food animals.**
- 10. Establishment of mentoring / shadowing program that matches high school students with food animal veterinarians.**

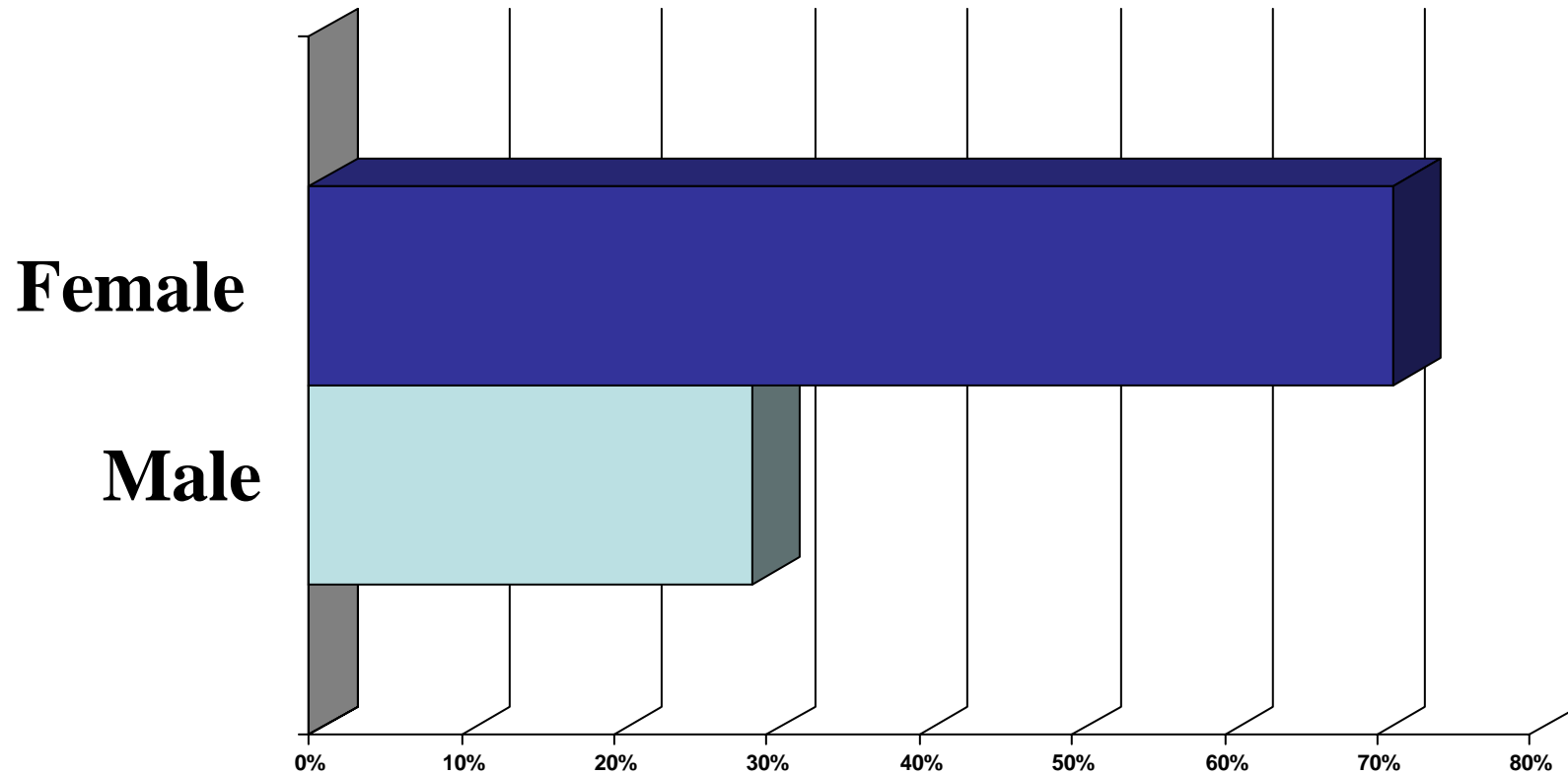
Respondent Demographic and Animal Experience Profile

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

- Respondents primarily came from rural areas, farms, and ranches (49%). In terms of an ideal place to live, suburban areas were the first choice accounting for 22% of all responses. Small cities and rural areas combined to account for another 29% of responses.
- 71% of the respondents were female with most falling in the 25 to 29 age range. Most respondents had never been married (64%) with 36% reporting being married or cohabitating. 98% are Caucasian.
- While most respondents report having significant food animal experiences prior to veterinary school, fewer than half had worked for a food animal veterinarian prior to entering veterinary school and most (72%) did not feel that they had a great deal of knowledge about veterinary career opportunities in the food animal industry. Interestingly, over 70% felt that the specific area of veterinary medicine that they are currently focusing on came about by chance.
- The majority of respondents expected a salary in the range of 40,000 to 59,000 in their first job, growing to a range of 60,000 to 79,000 after 5 years.

Respondent Gender

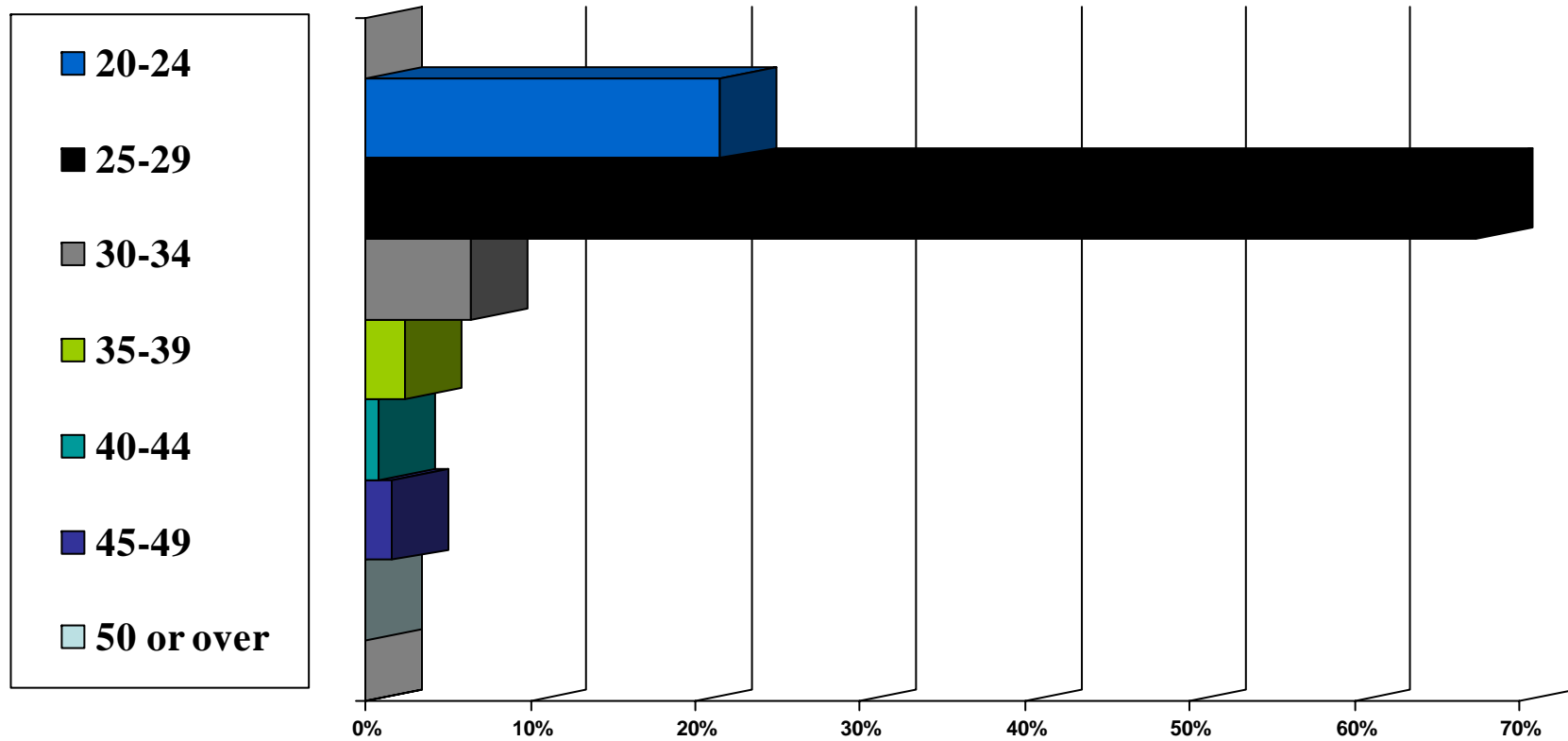
Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q103: What is your gender?

Respondent Age

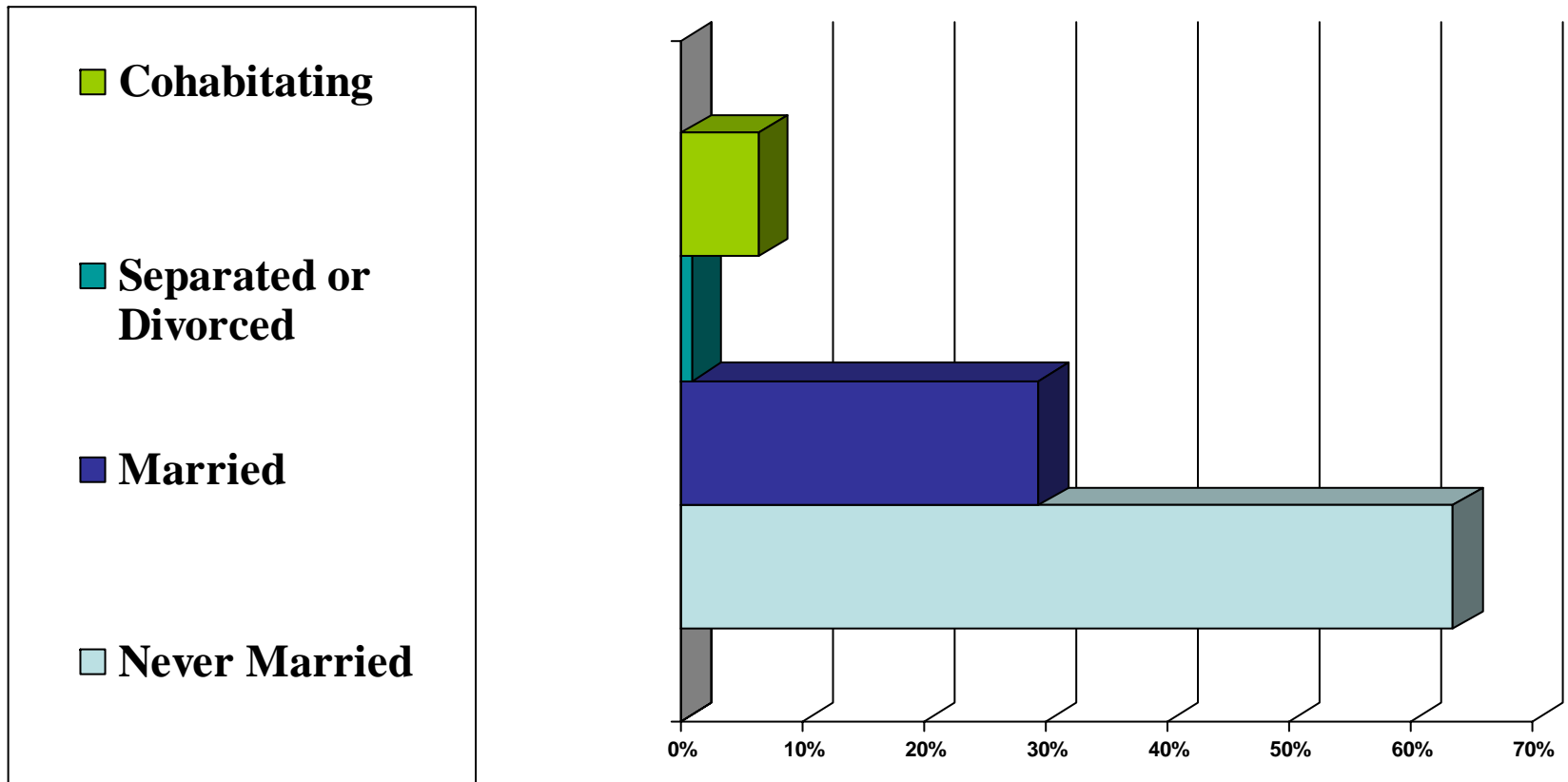
Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q102: What is your current age ?

Respondent Marital Status

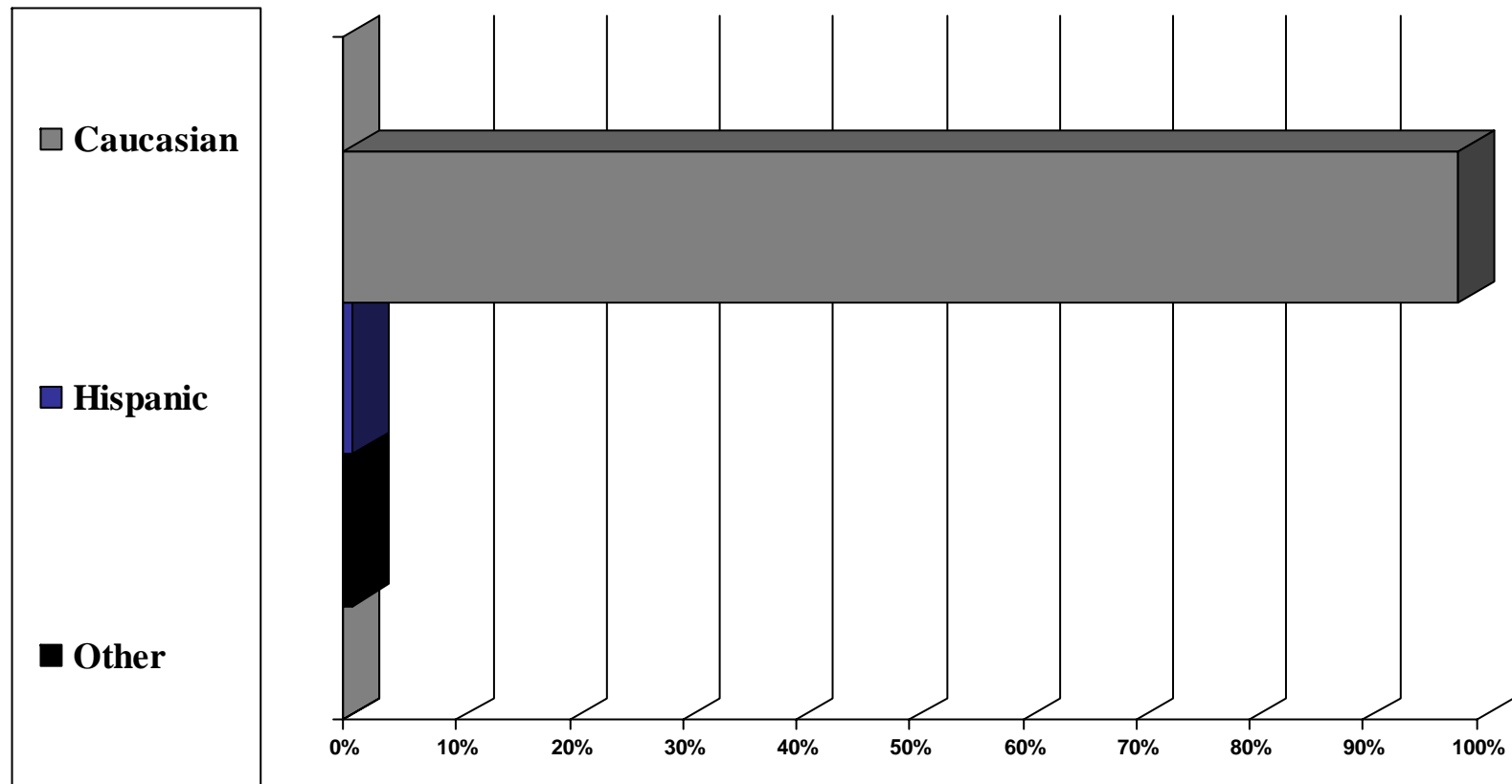
Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q104: What is your marital status?

Respondent Racial / Ethnic Background

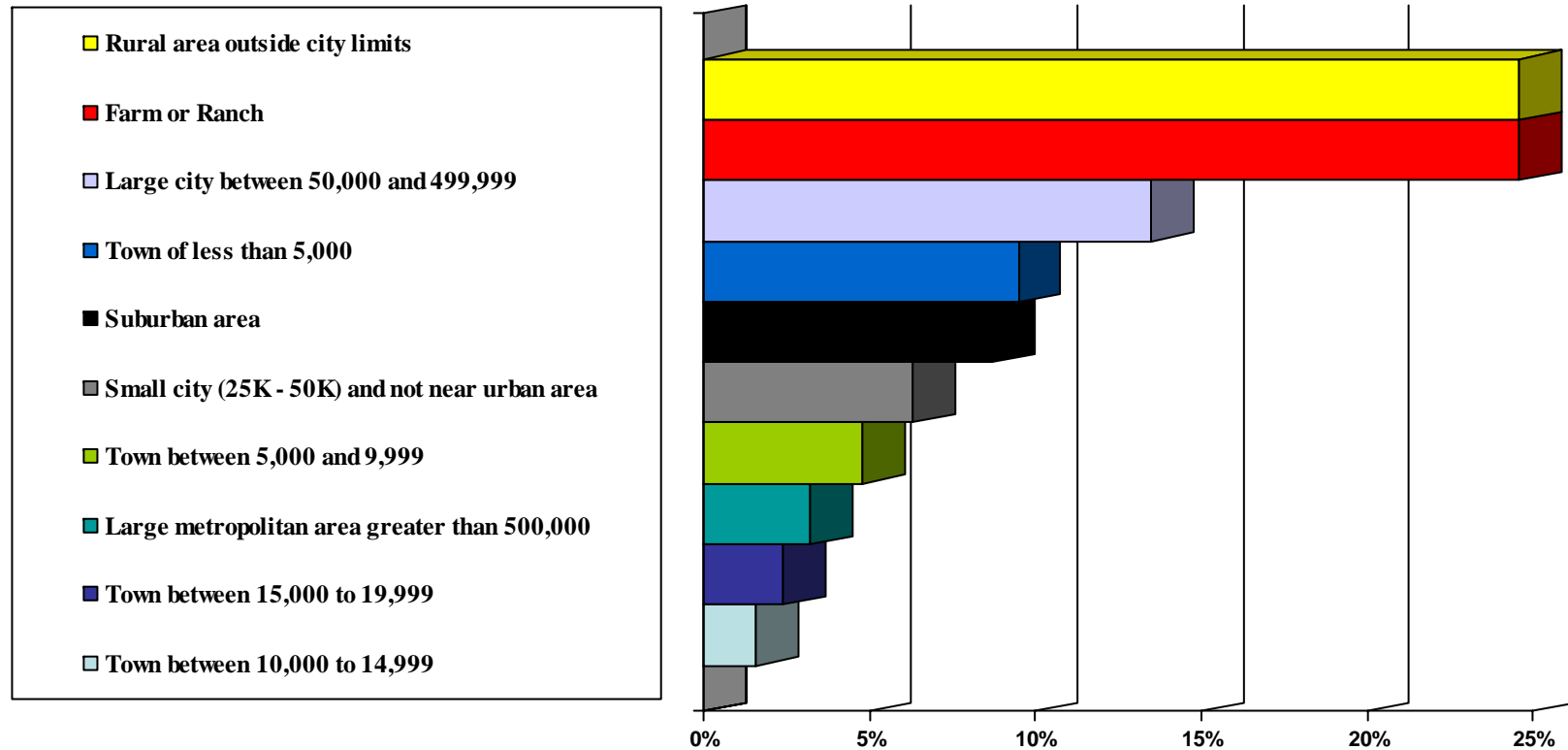
Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q105: Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic background?

Childhood Community Size

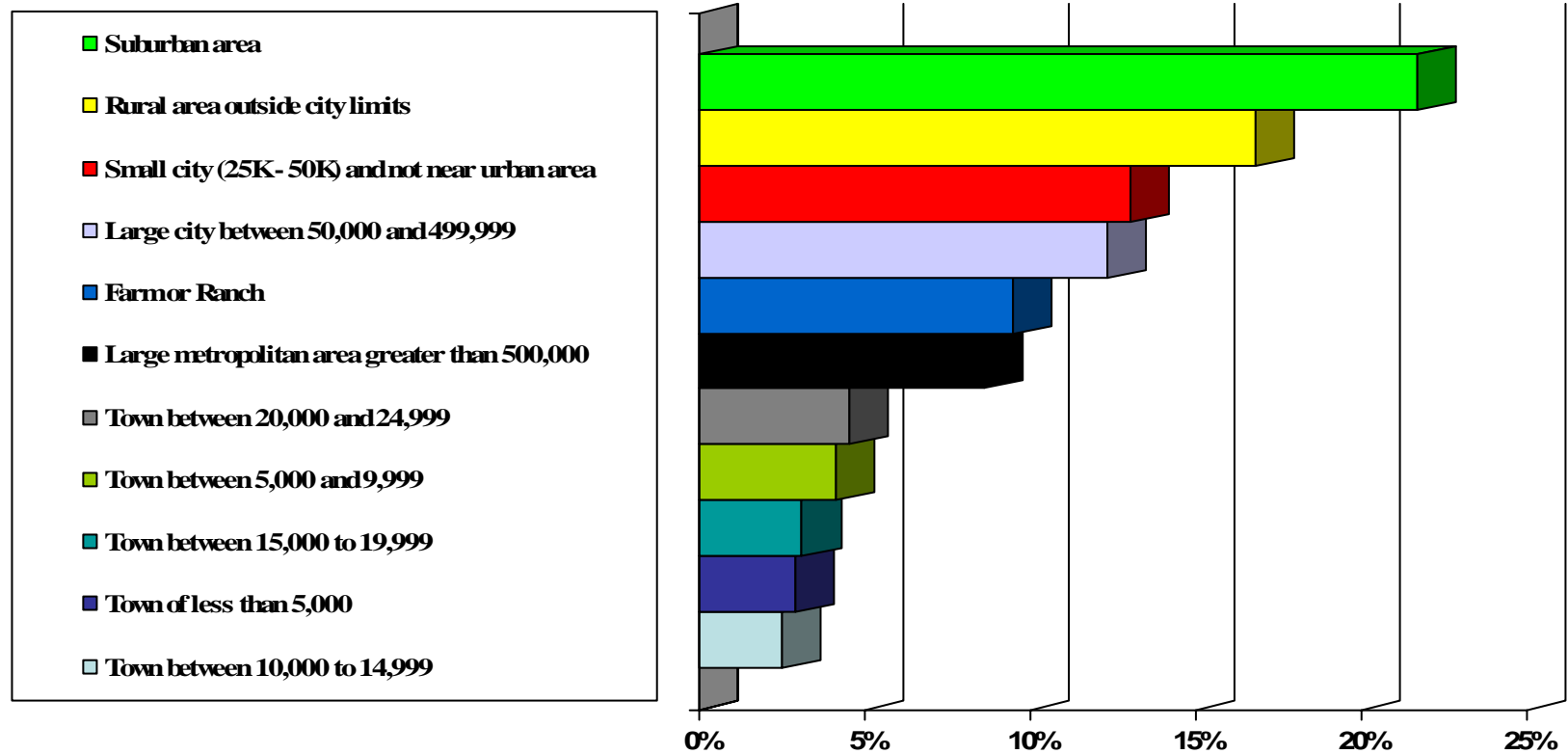
Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q95: What is the size of the community in which you spent the majority of your childhood?

Ideal Community Size to Live In

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

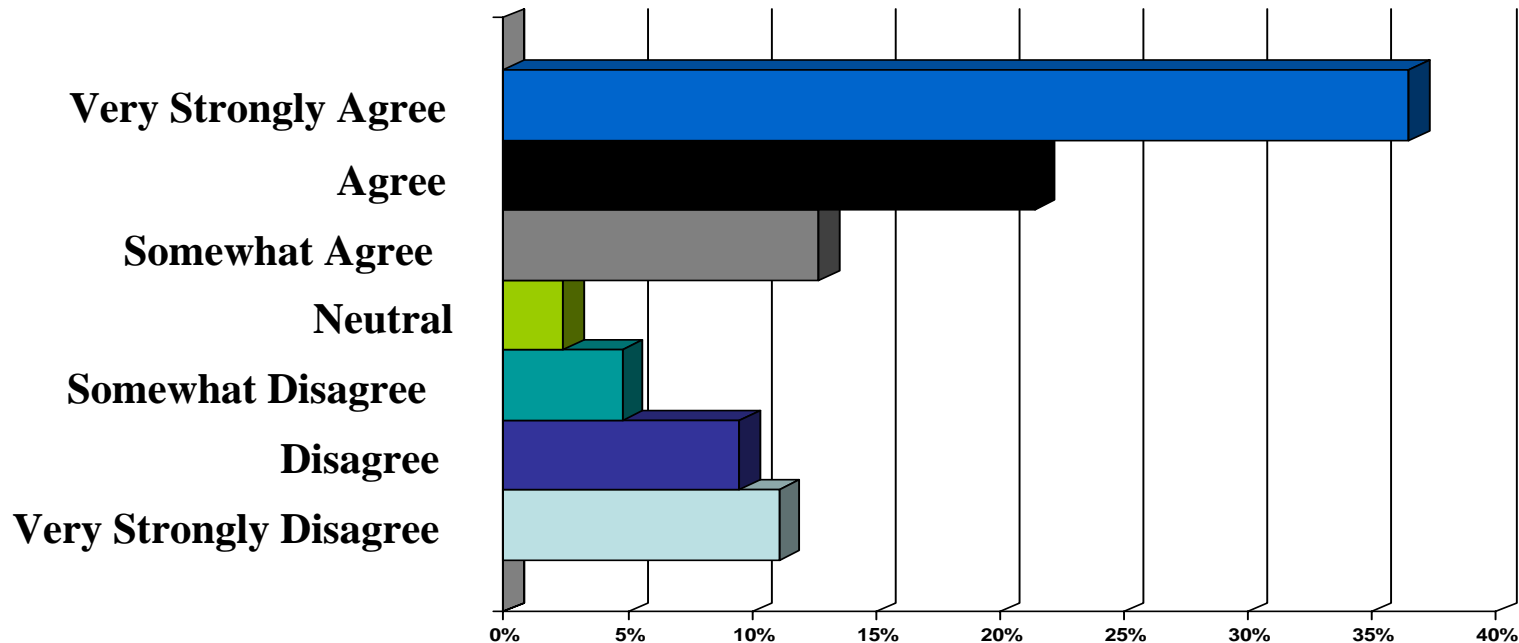


Q96: What is the size of the community where you would ideally like to live?

Food Animal Experiences Prior to Veterinary Medical School

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

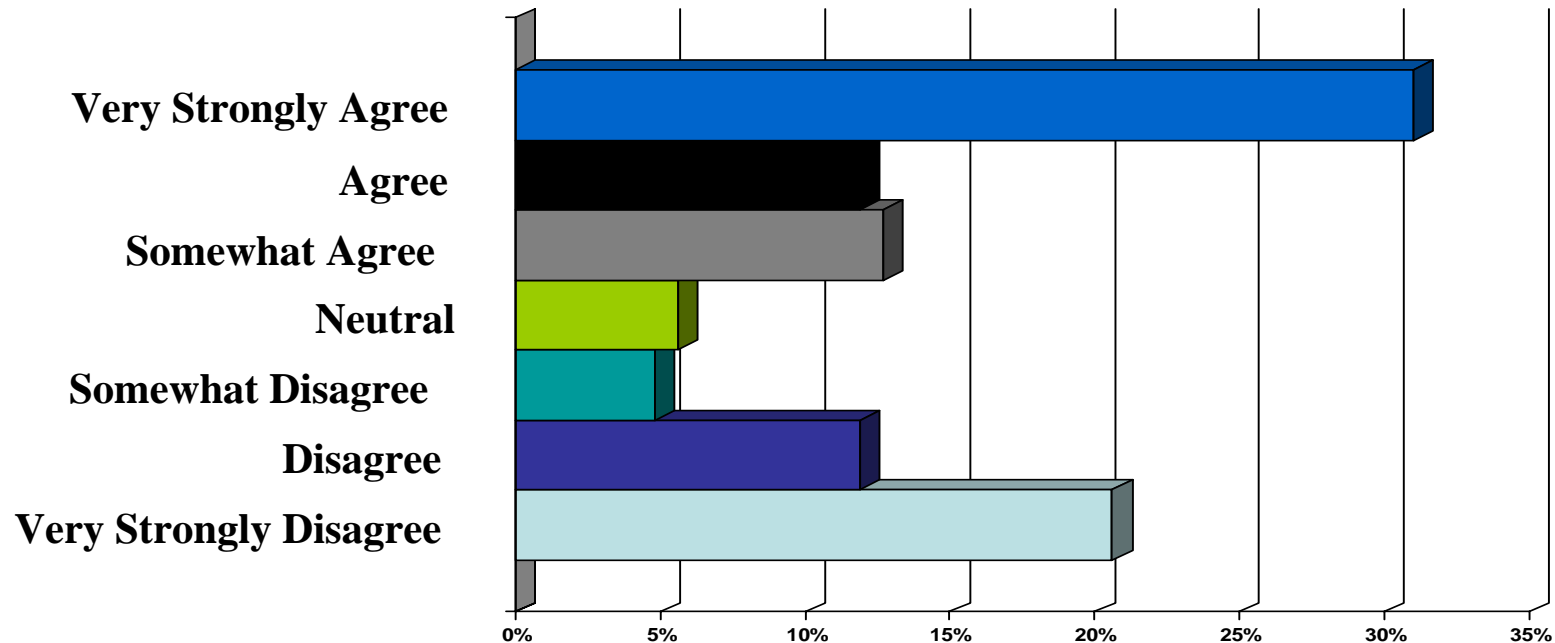
“I had significant experience with food animals before being admitted to veterinary school”



Food Animal Experiences Prior to Veterinary Medical School

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

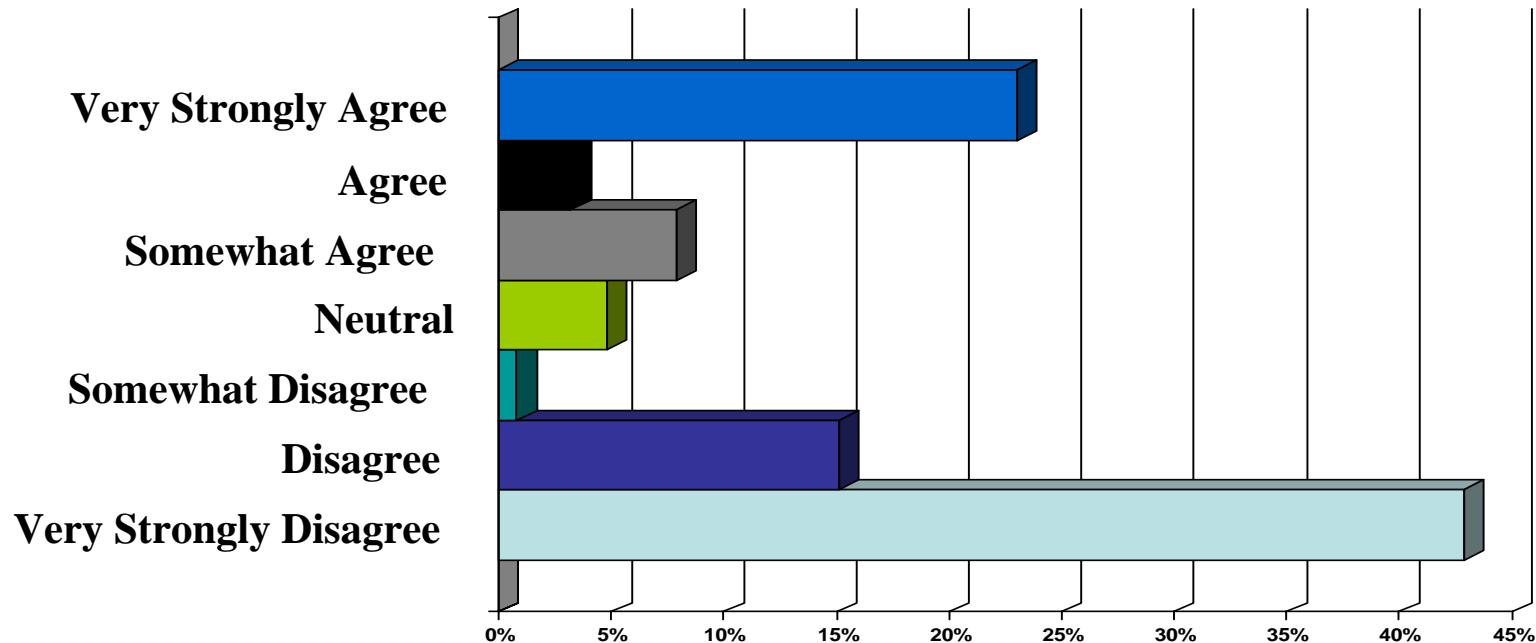
“I had a good role model who was involved in food animal production when I was growing up”



Food Animal Experiences Prior to Veterinary Medical School

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

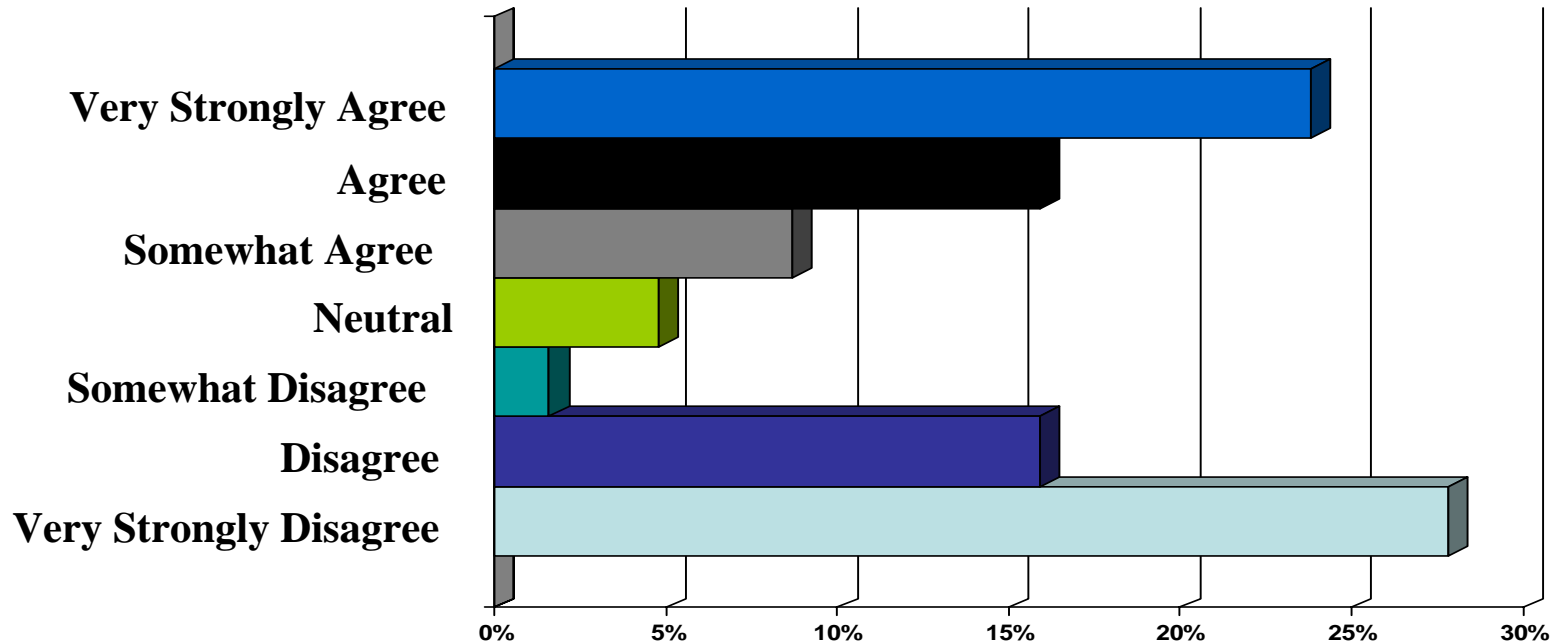
“I was actively involved with food animals in 4H when I was young”



Food Animal Experiences Prior to Veterinary Medical School

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

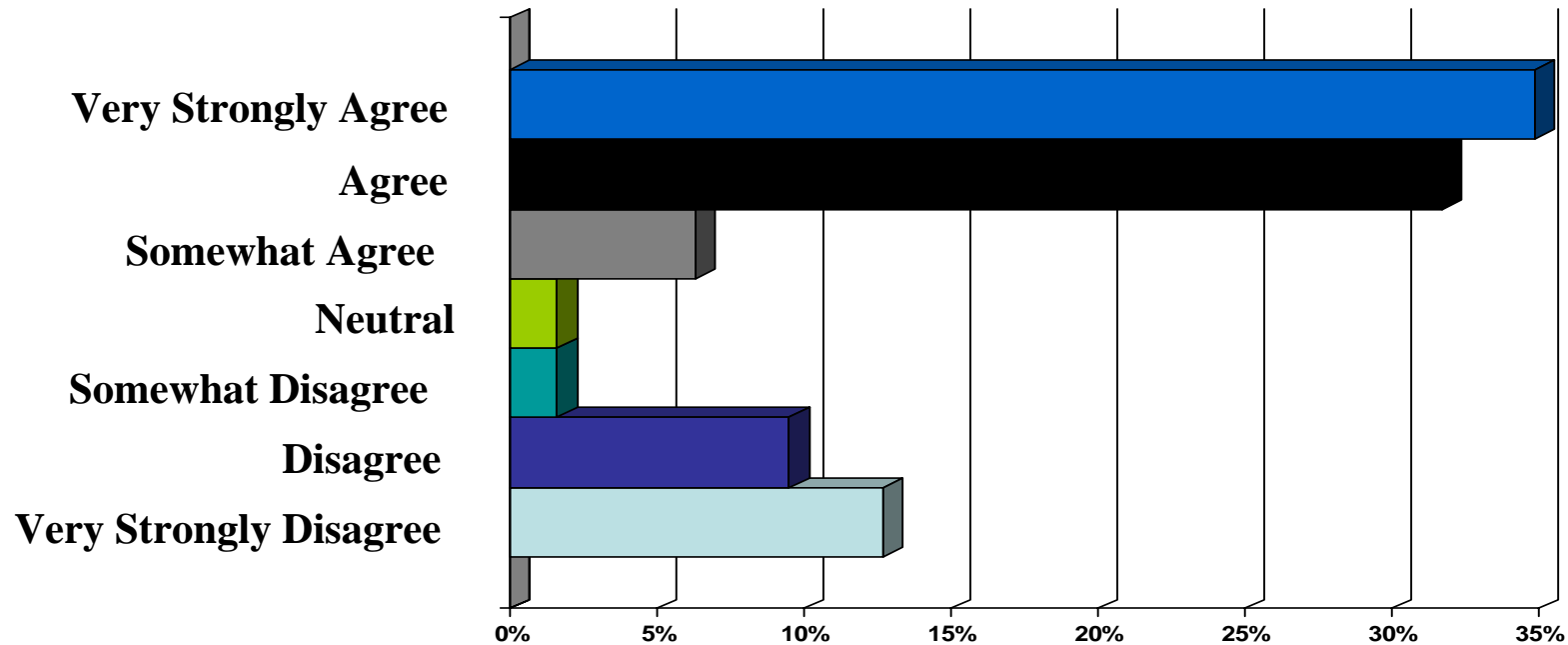
“I worked for a food animal veterinarian before I was admitted to veterinary school”



Food Animal Experiences Prior to Veterinary Medical School

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

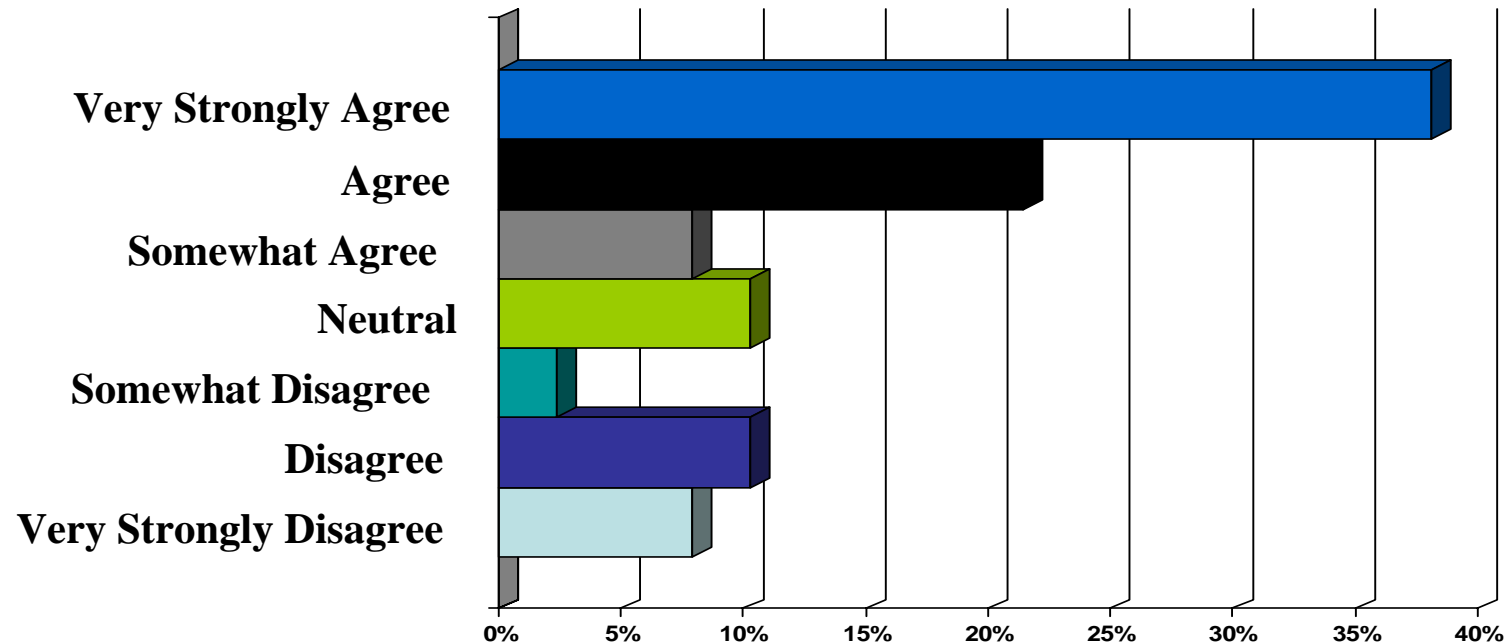
“I worked for a companion animal veterinarian before I was admitted to veterinary school”



Food Animal Experiences Prior to Veterinary Medical School

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

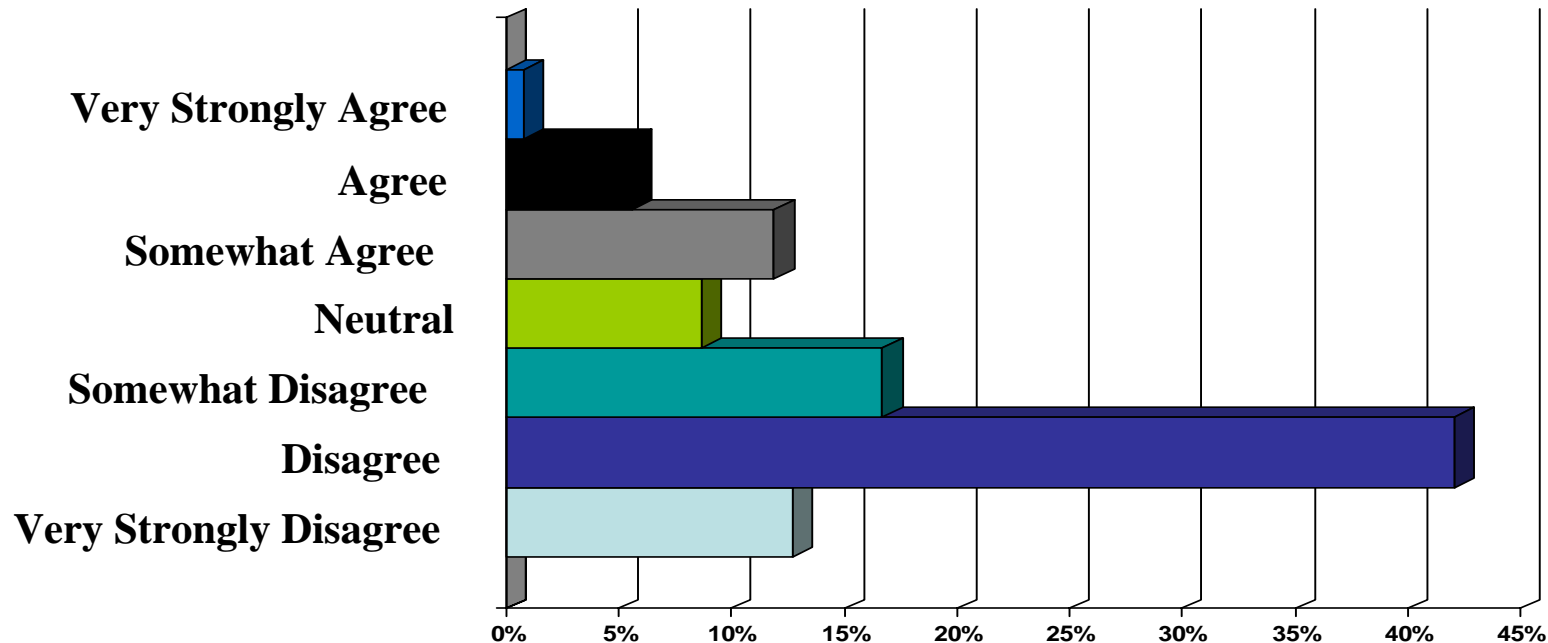
“I had an externship that focused on food animal medicine while in veterinary medical school”



Food Animal Experiences Prior to Veterinary Medical School

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

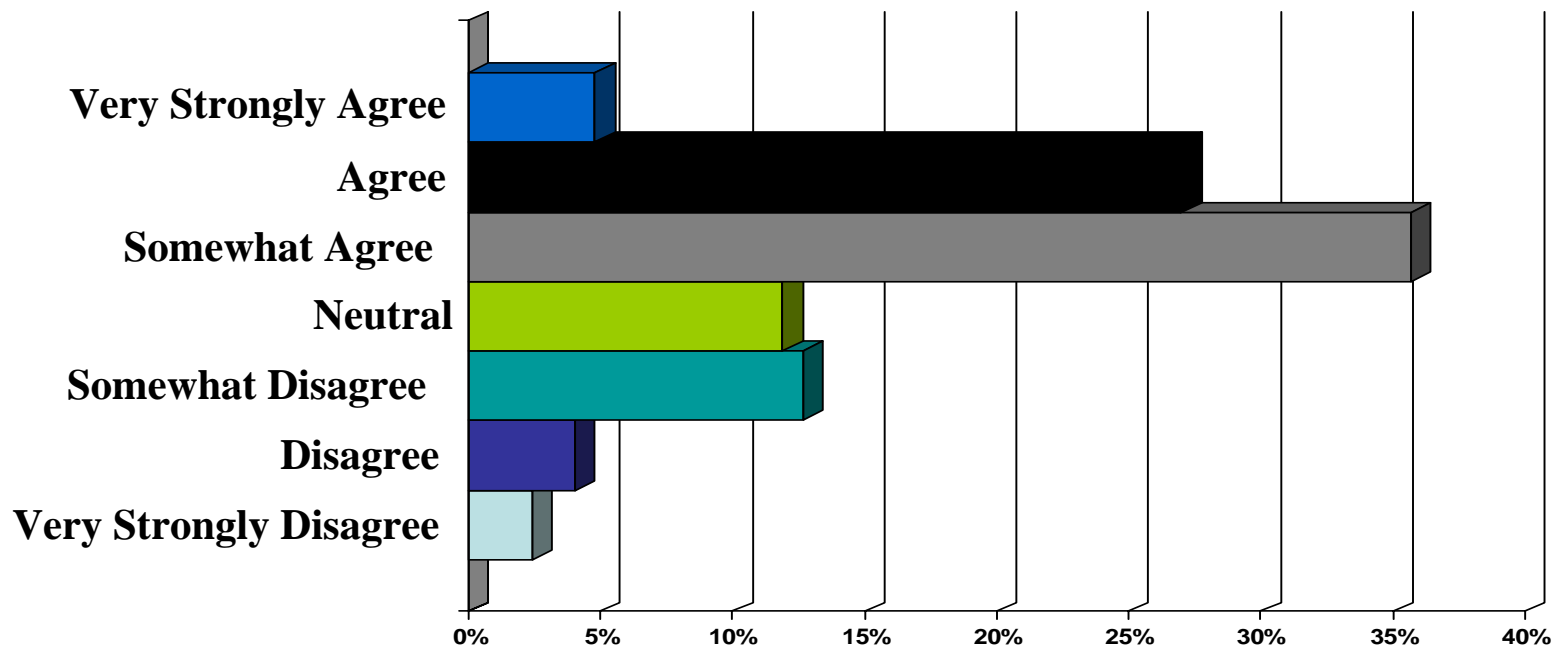
“I have a great deal of knowledge about veterinary career opportunities in the food animal industry”



Food Animal Career Choice

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

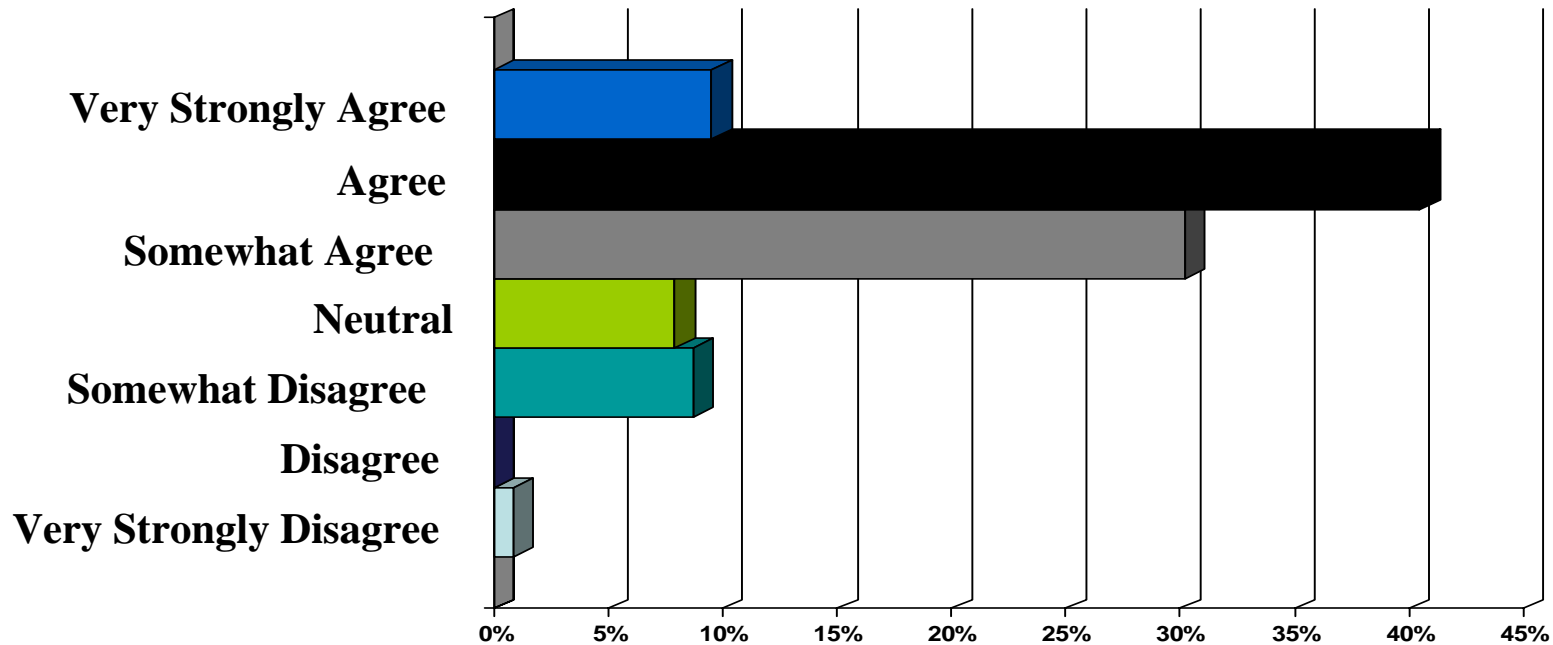
“I wish that I had more opportunities to learn about careers in food animal medicine”



Food Animal Career Choice

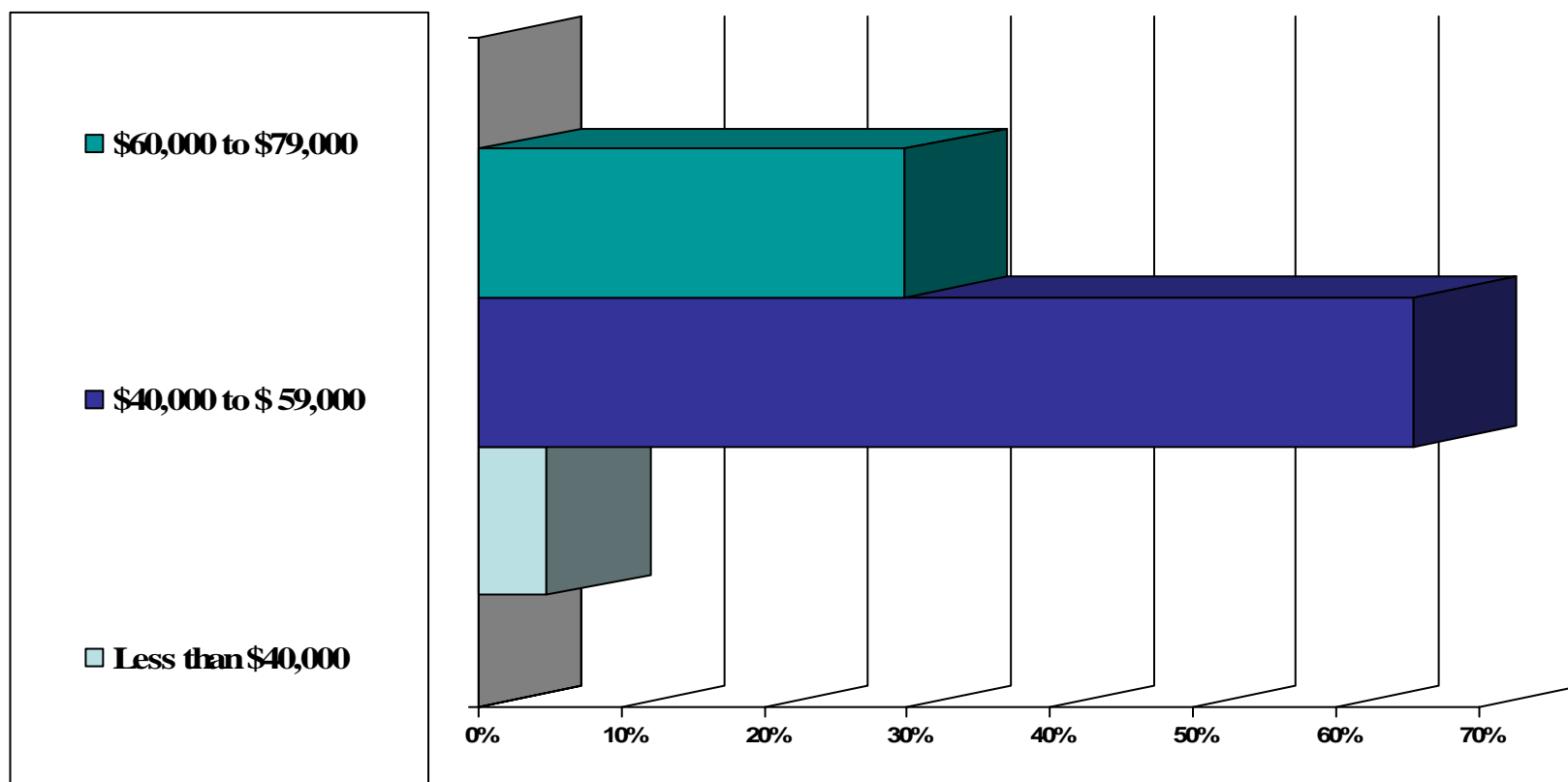
Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“My interest in the specific area of veterinary medicine that I am focusing on now came about by chance”



Expected Starting Salary of a Food Animal Veterinarian

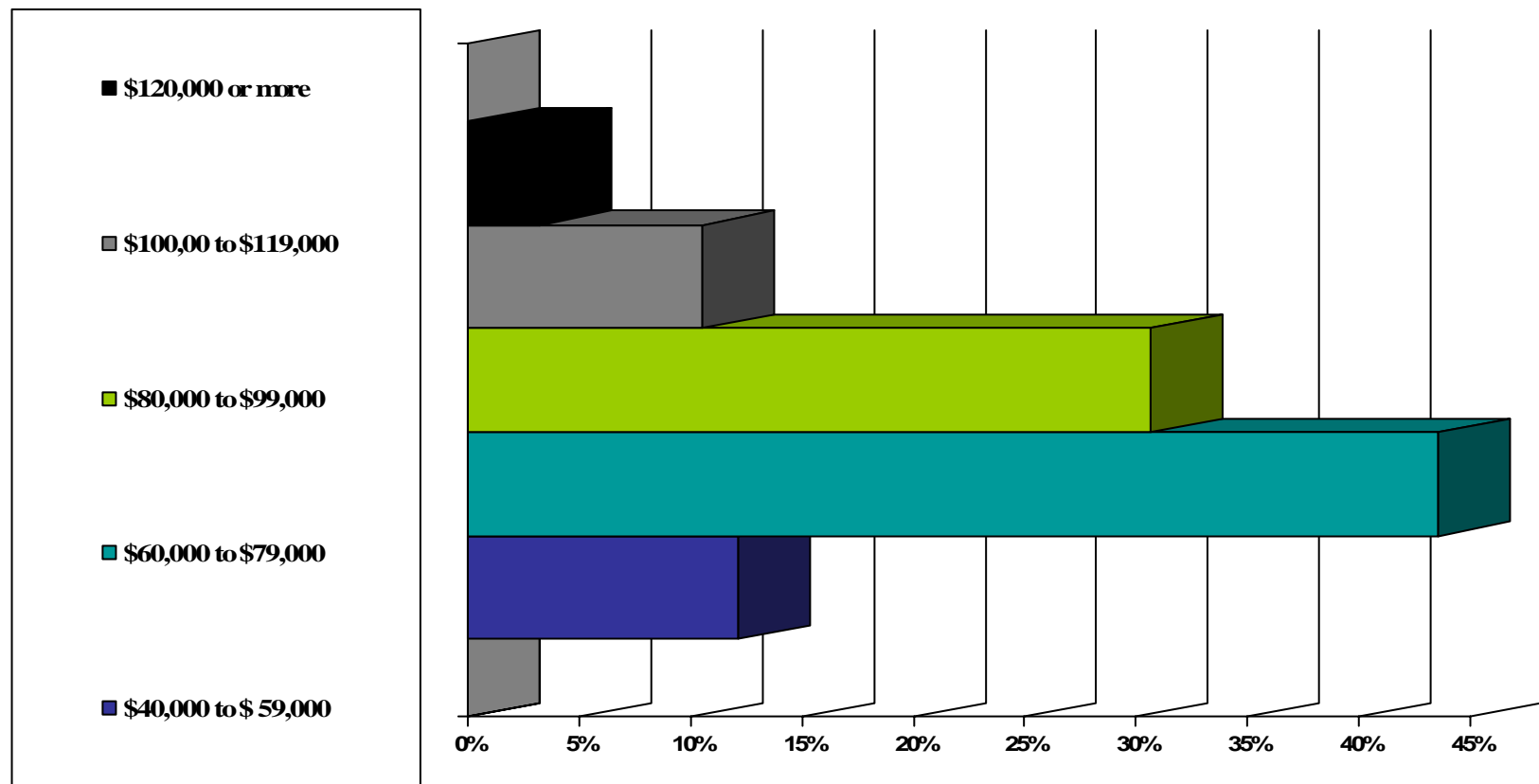
Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q76. The expected starting salary for a full time food animal veterinarian

Expected Salary of a Food Animal Veterinarian Five Years out of School

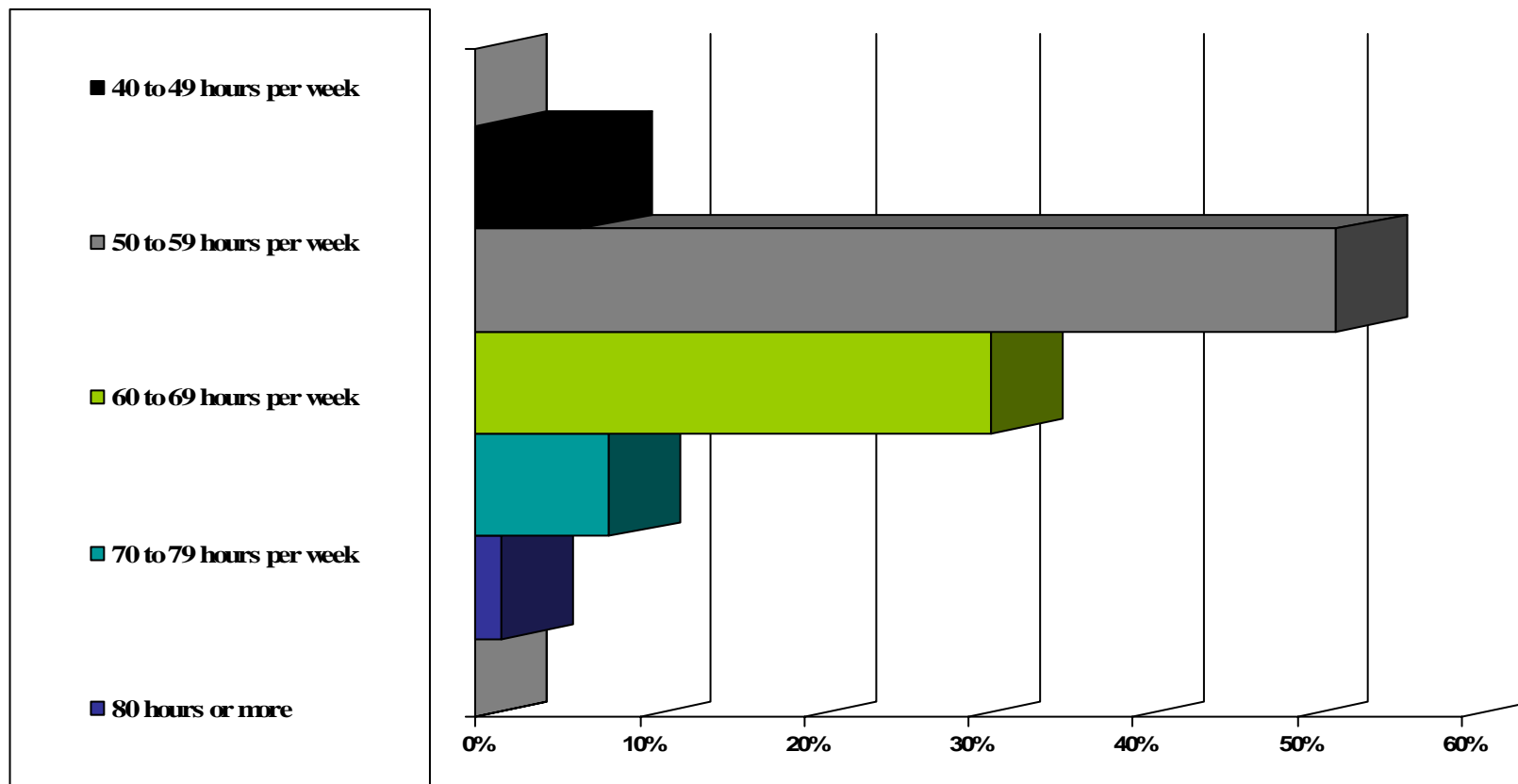
Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q77. The expected salary for a full time food animal veterinarian 5 years out of school

Expected Number of Hours Worked per Week for a Full-time Food Animal Veterinarian

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q78. The expected average number of hours worked per week for a full time food animal veterinarian

Career Decision Factors Summary

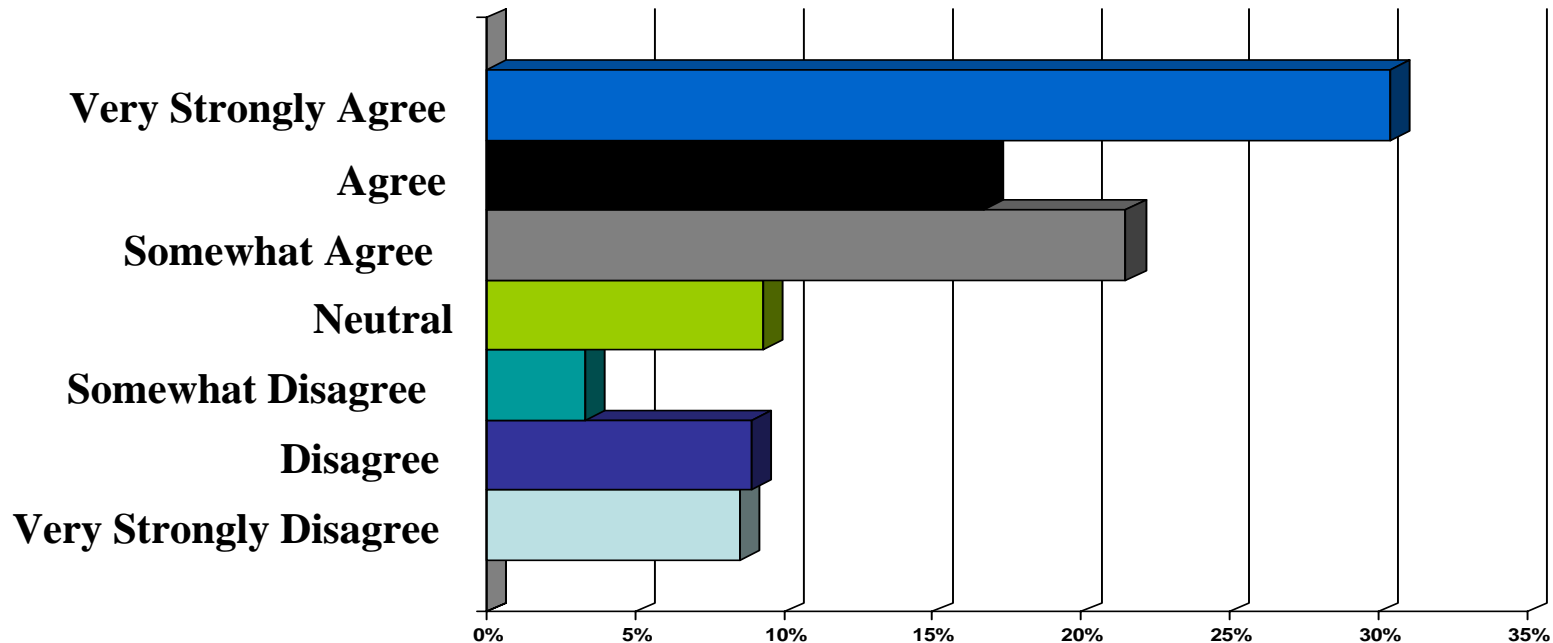
The following career factors received a high level of agreement among respondents:

- They seek a meaningful job that will allow them to be a community leader and to work in group practices.
- They desire a veterinary occupation that minimizes their on-call, night, and weekend hours so that they can spend more time with family.
- They believe that a food animal medicine career will offer them a stable career with a good annual salary and will allow them to fully utilize their medical knowledge.
- They report being intimidated by the size of many food animals, but not concerned about being injured by the animals nor worried about the physical nature of the work.
- Counter to some other findings, these respondents are generally in favor of treating all sick animals no matter what the cost and most do not desire a career that will let them live a rural lifestyle.

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I am extremely worried about repaying my loans for veterinary medical school”

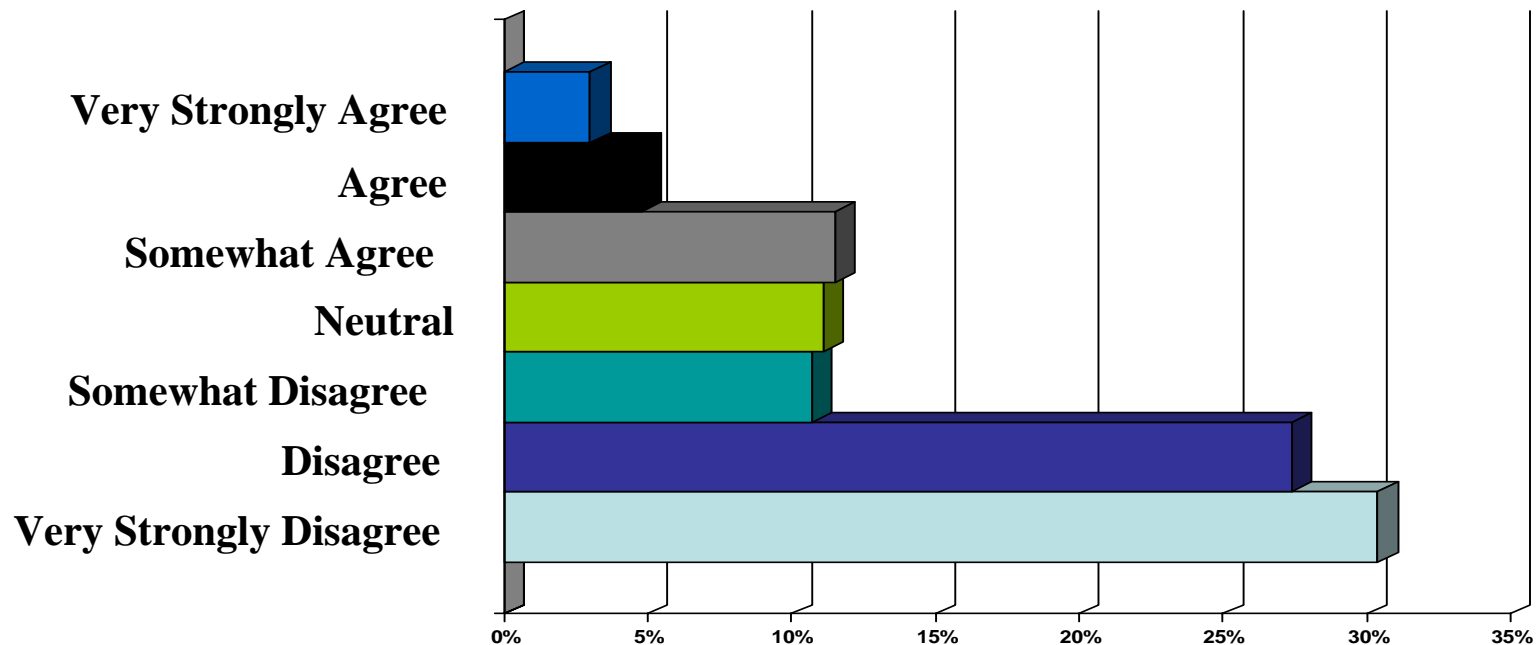


Mean = 4.93, Standard deviation = 2.04

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I selected an occupational area in veterinary medicine because
I can pay my veterinary school debt off faster”

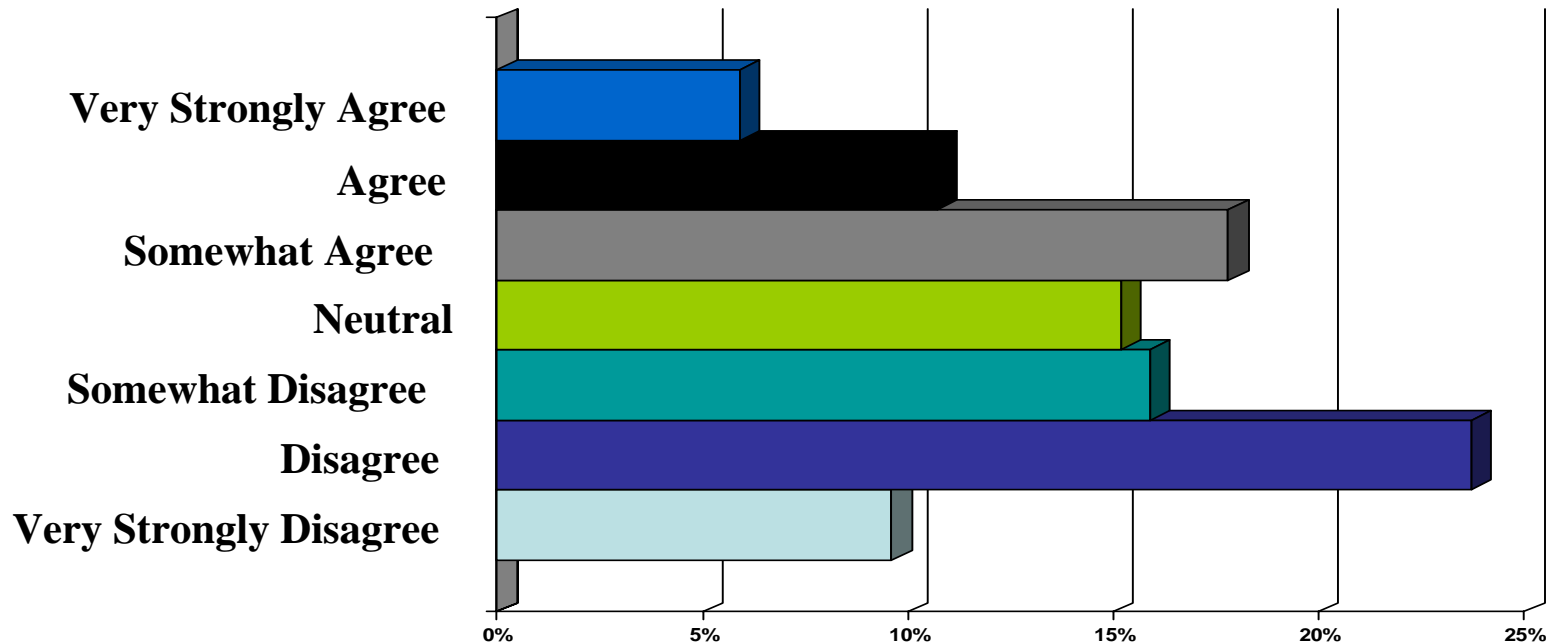


Mean = 2.69, Standard deviation = 1.73

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“The lifestyle I want to lead requires that I make much more than the average veterinarian”

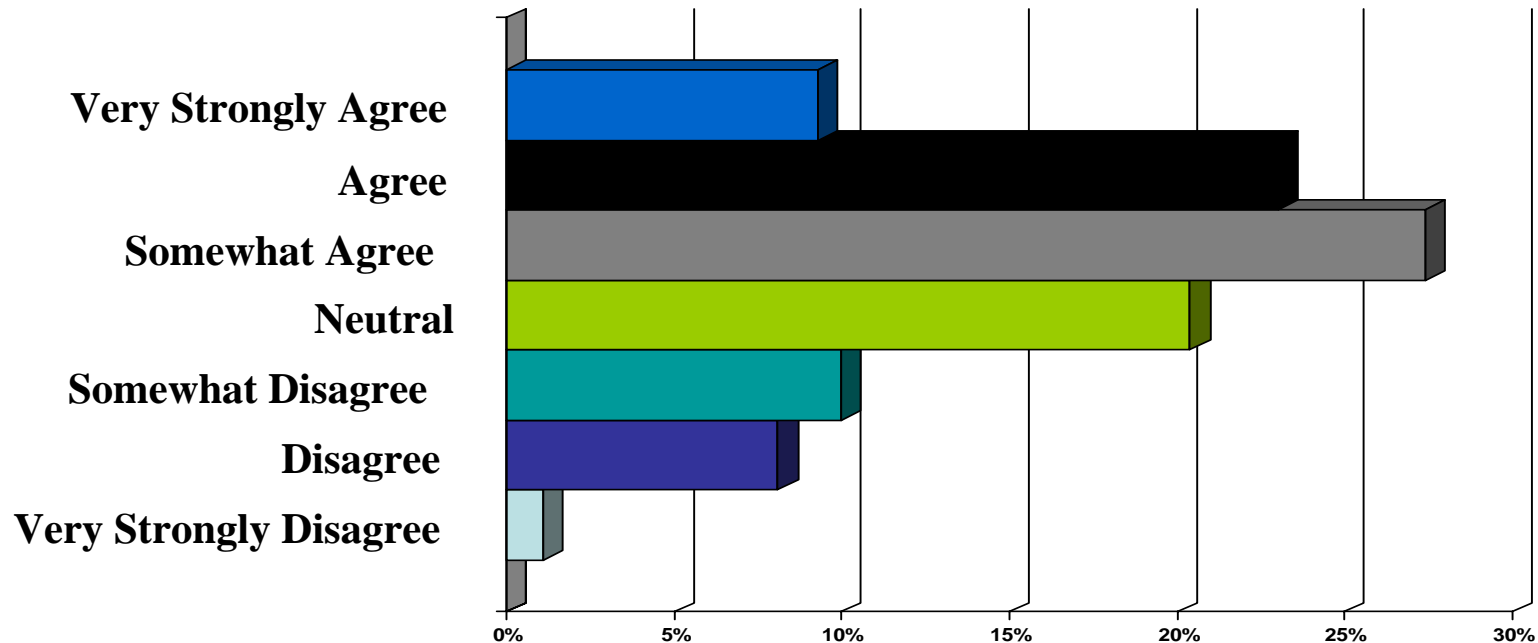


Mean = 3.60, Standard deviation = 1.77

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I put much less emphasis on material things than most people I know”

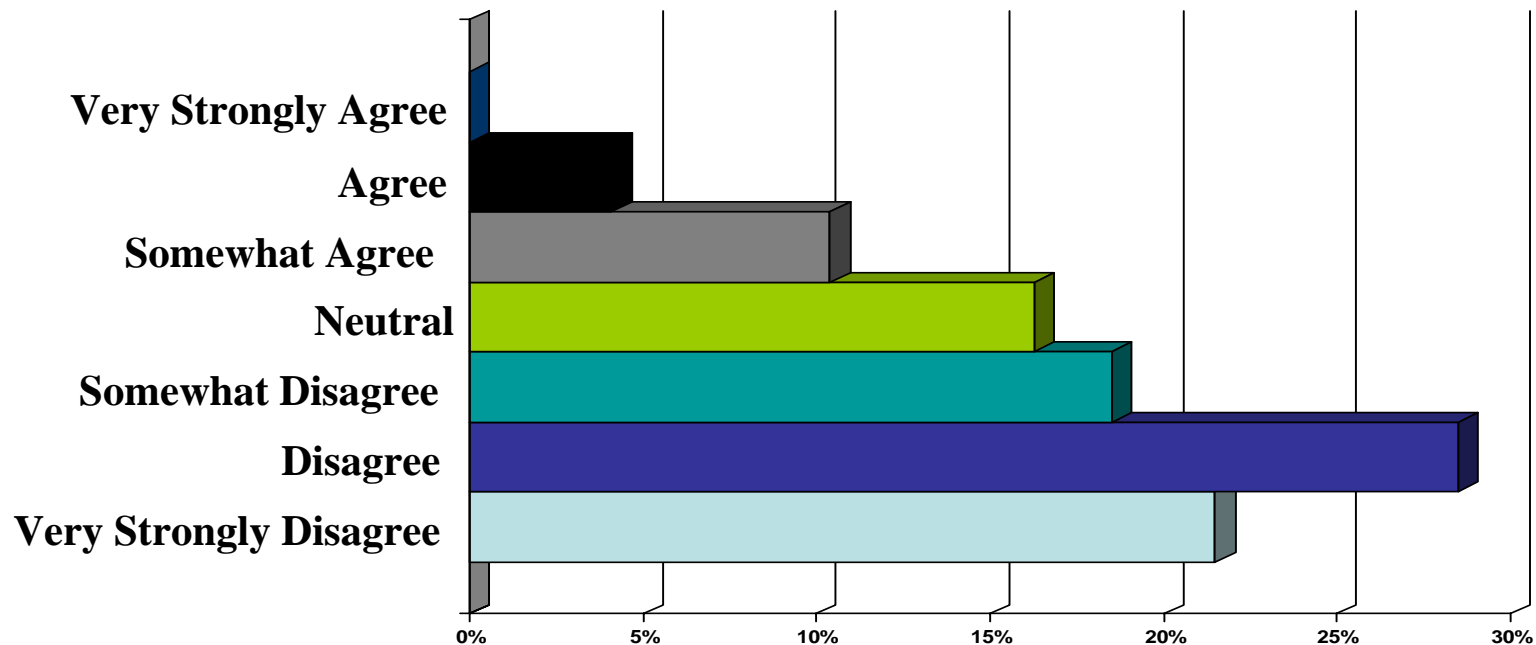


Mean = 4.69, Standard deviation = 1.49

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Veterinarians who have a lot of money are happier than veterinarians who have only a little money”

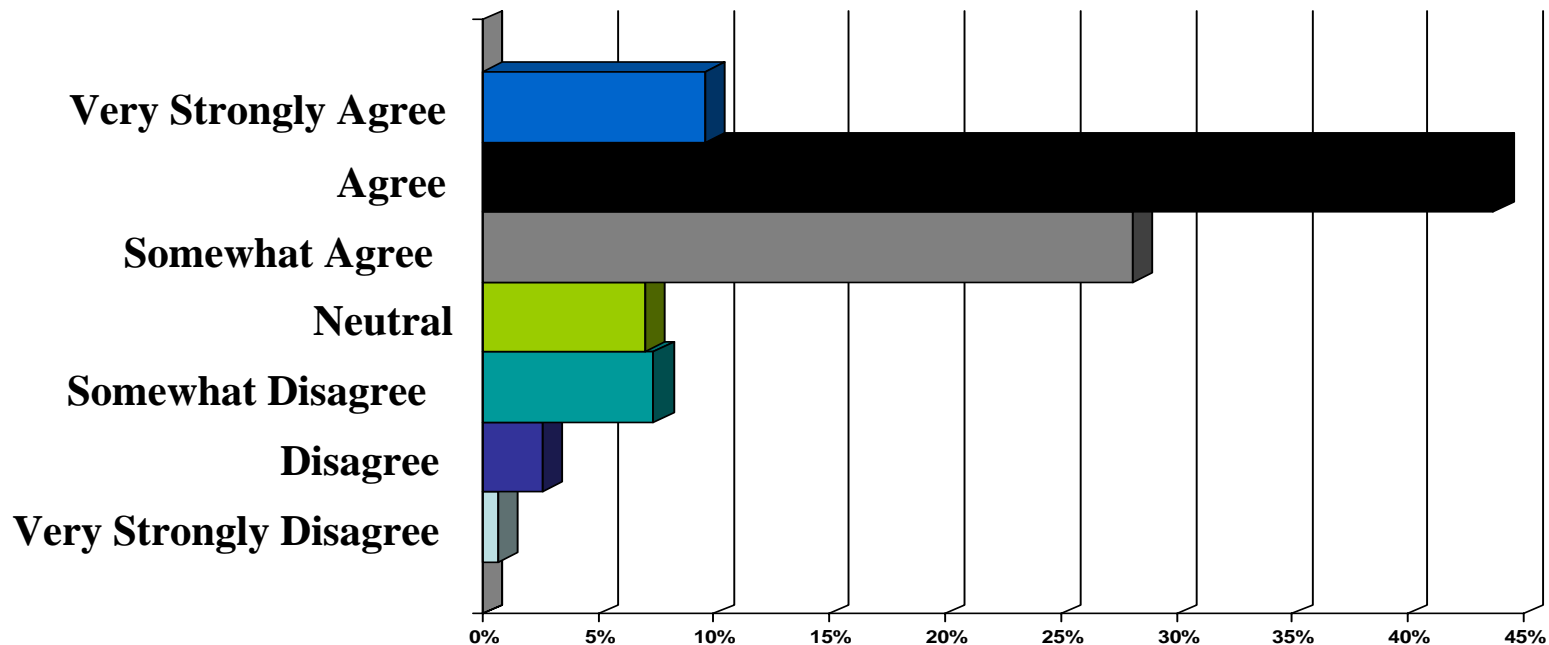


Mean = 2.76, Standard deviation = 1.45

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I think that I will receive a good annual salary from my occupational area in veterinary medicine”

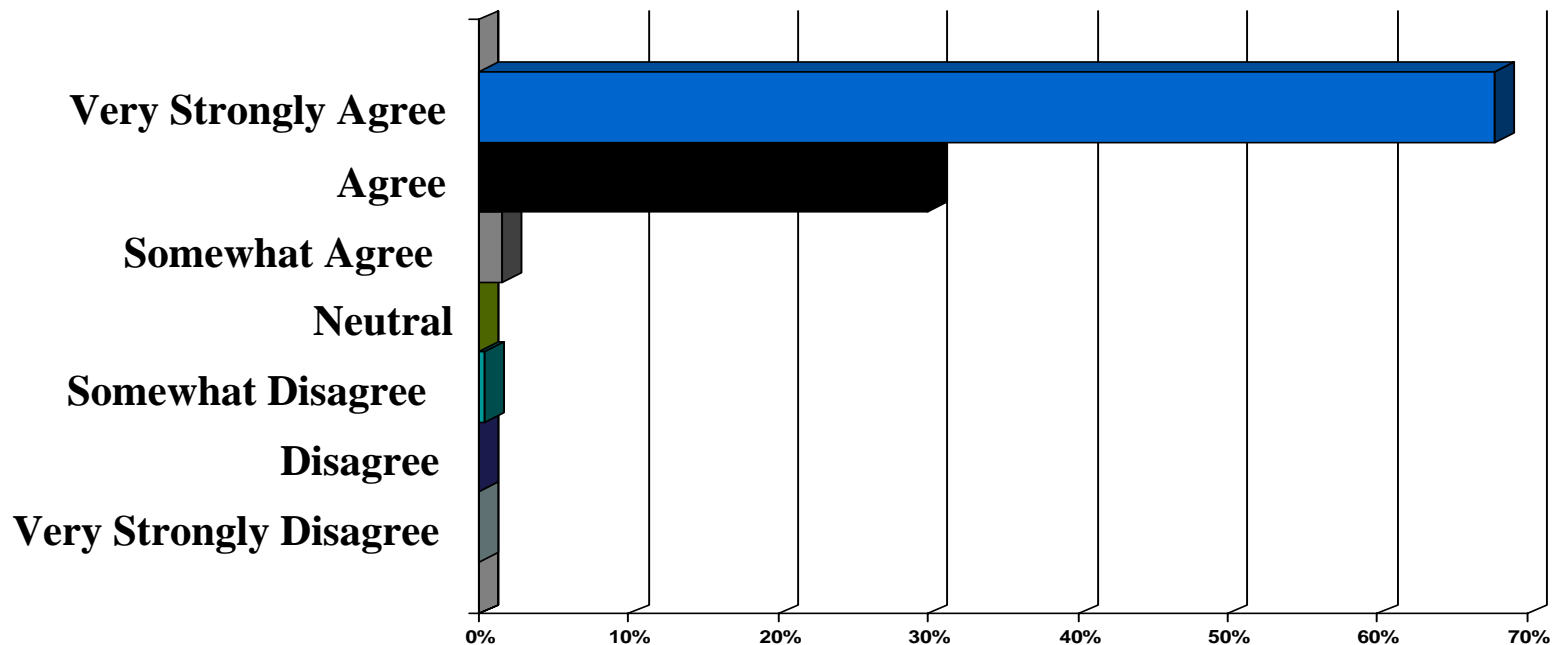


Mean = 5.27, Standard deviation = 1.29

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“It is vital to me that my veterinary job be personally meaningful”

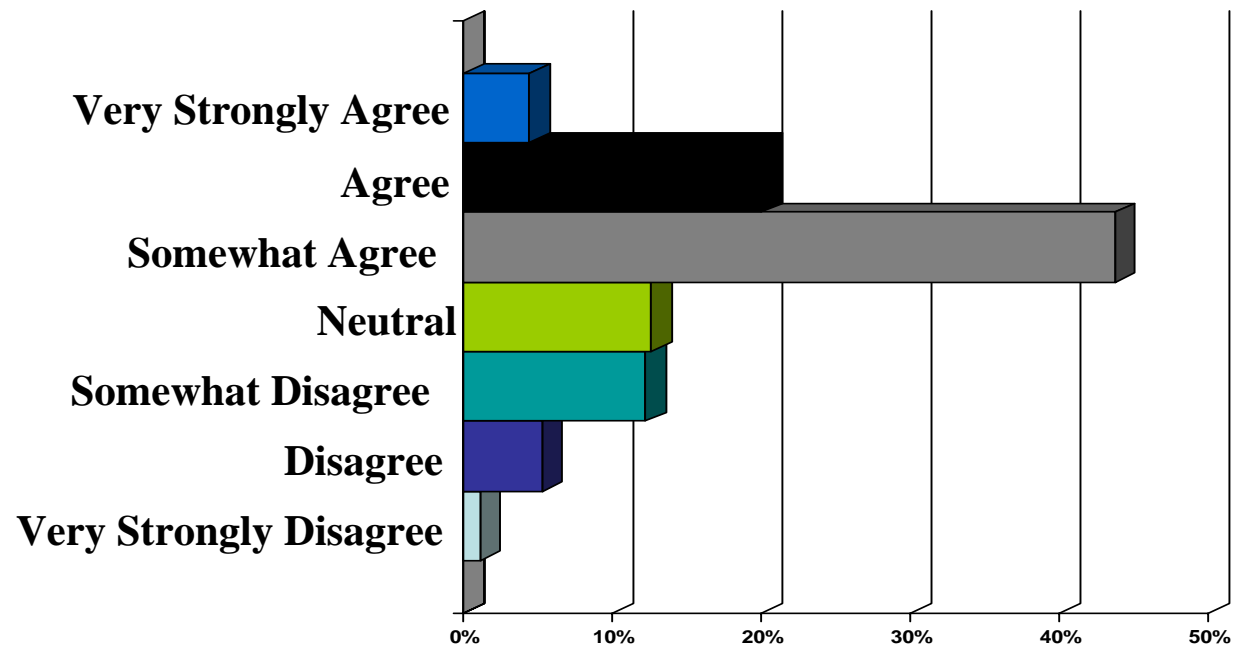


Mean = 6.63, Standard deviation = 0.68

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“The major satisfactions in my life will come from my veterinary job”

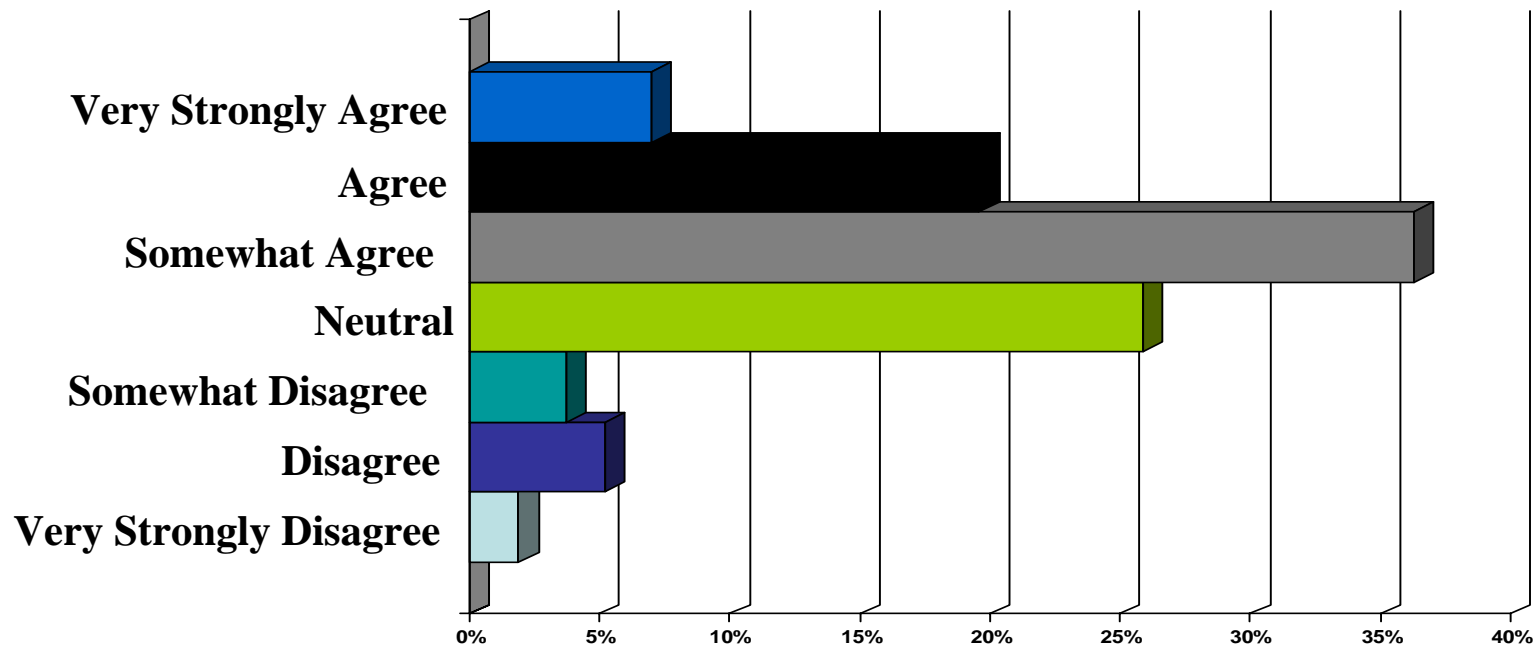


Mean = 4.68, Standard deviation = 1.31

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I want recognition from my colleagues for contributions to my occupational area in veterinary medicine”

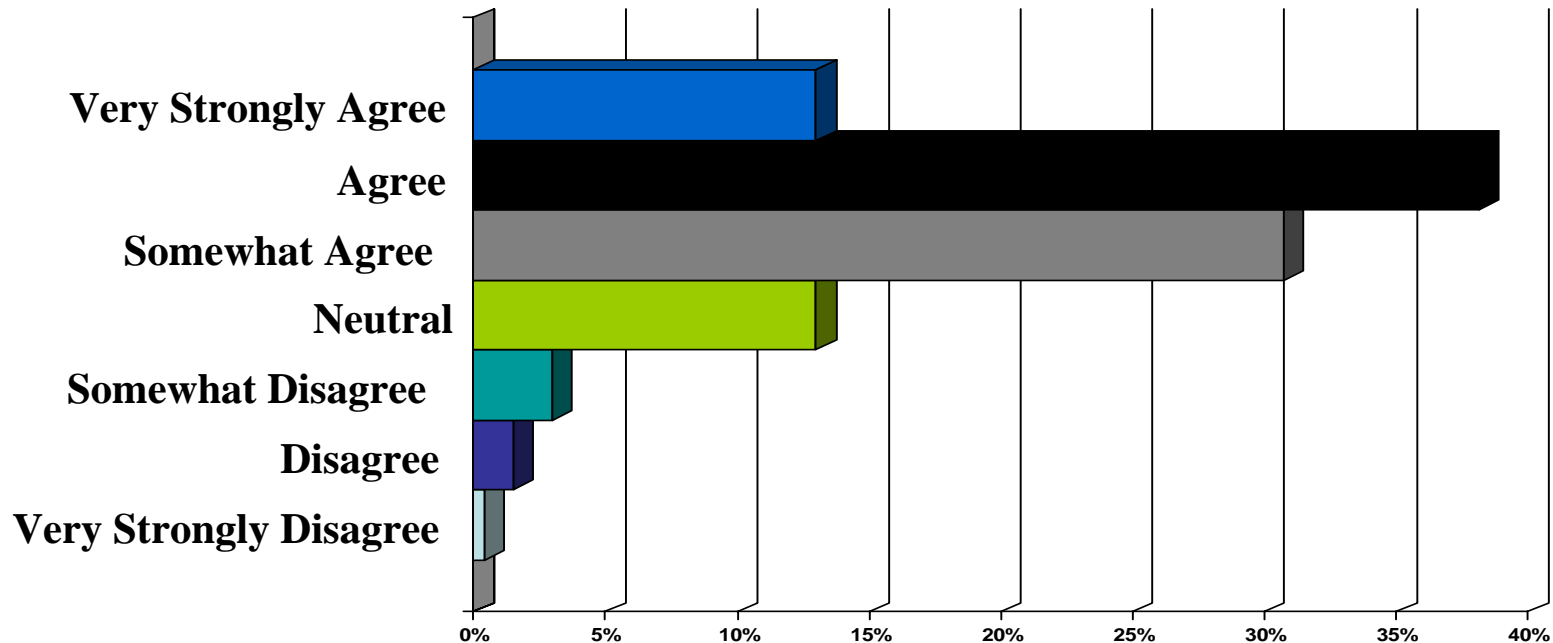


Mean = 4.76, Standard deviation = 1.29

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I want to use my veterinary career to be a community leader”

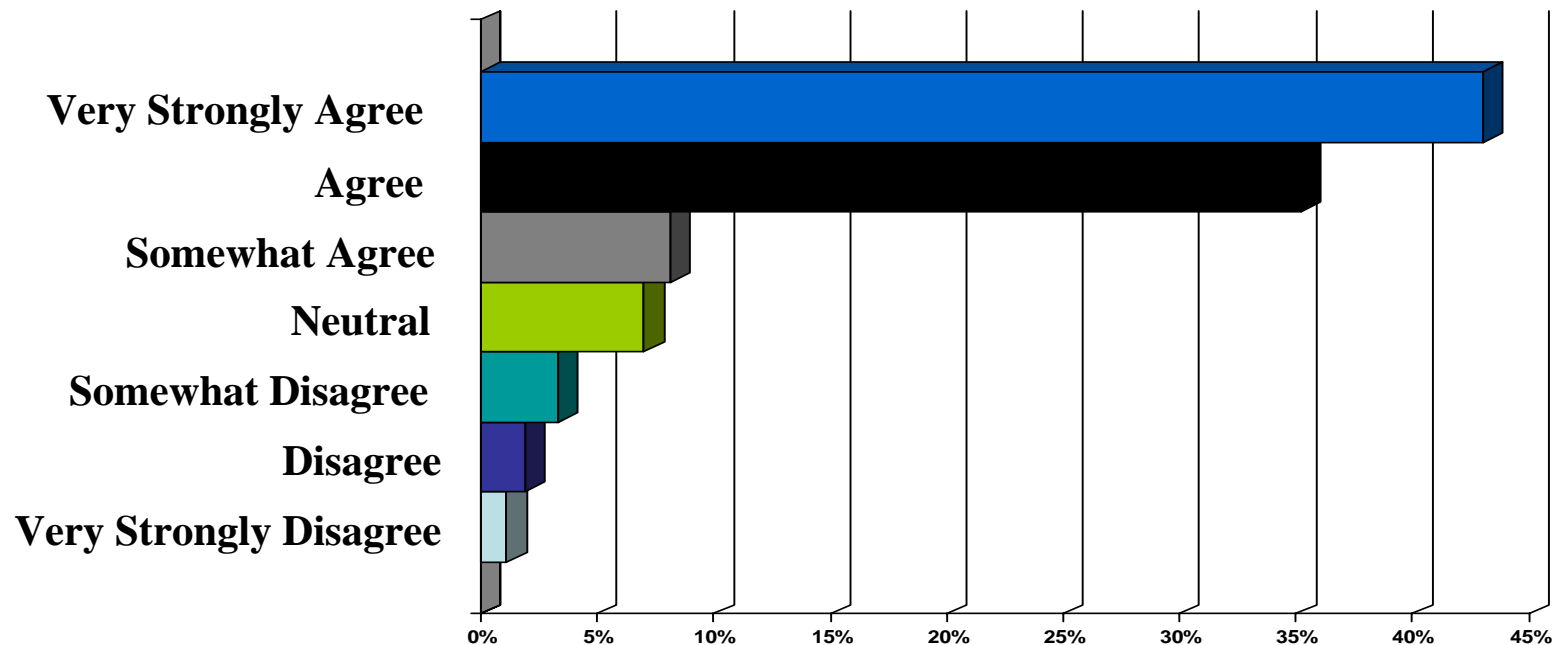


Mean = 5.37, Standard deviation = 1.14

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“A career in food animal medicine is as intellectually challenging as companion animal medicine”

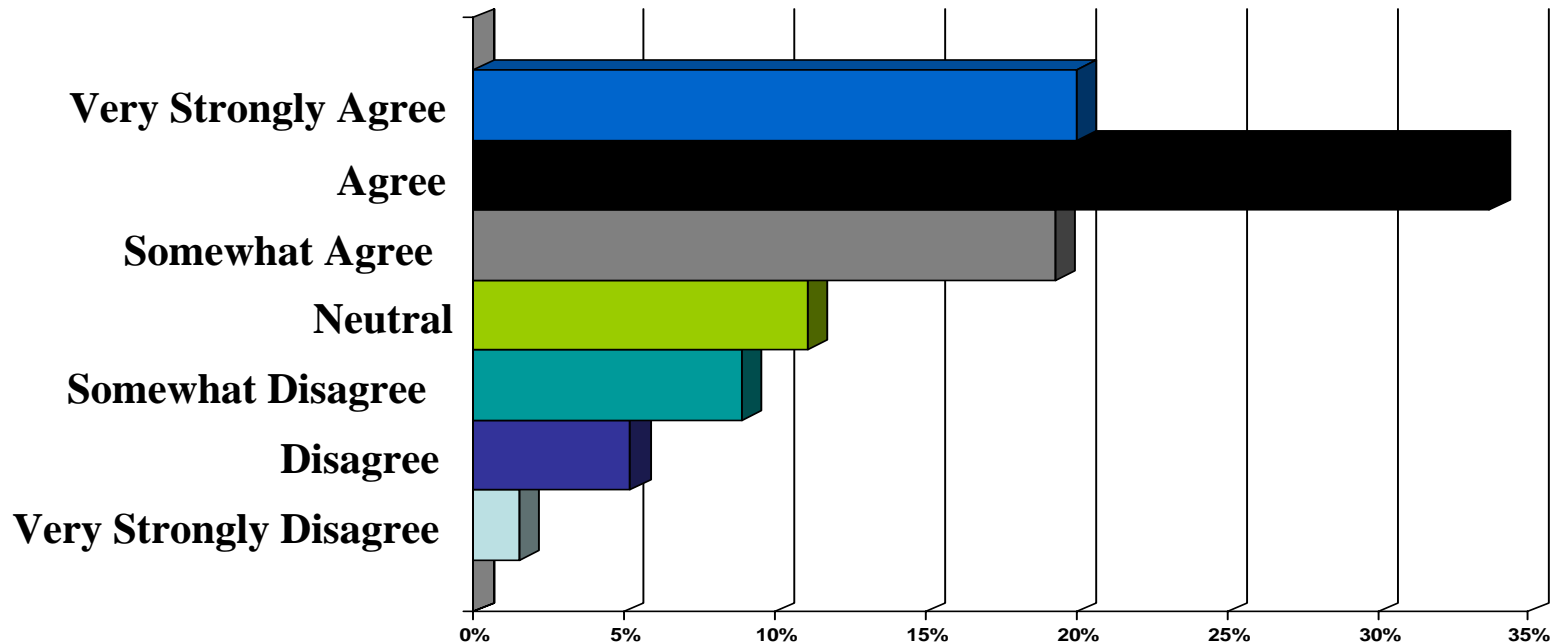


Mean = 5.96, Standard deviation = 1.34

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinary medicine would allow me to fully utilize my medical knowledge”

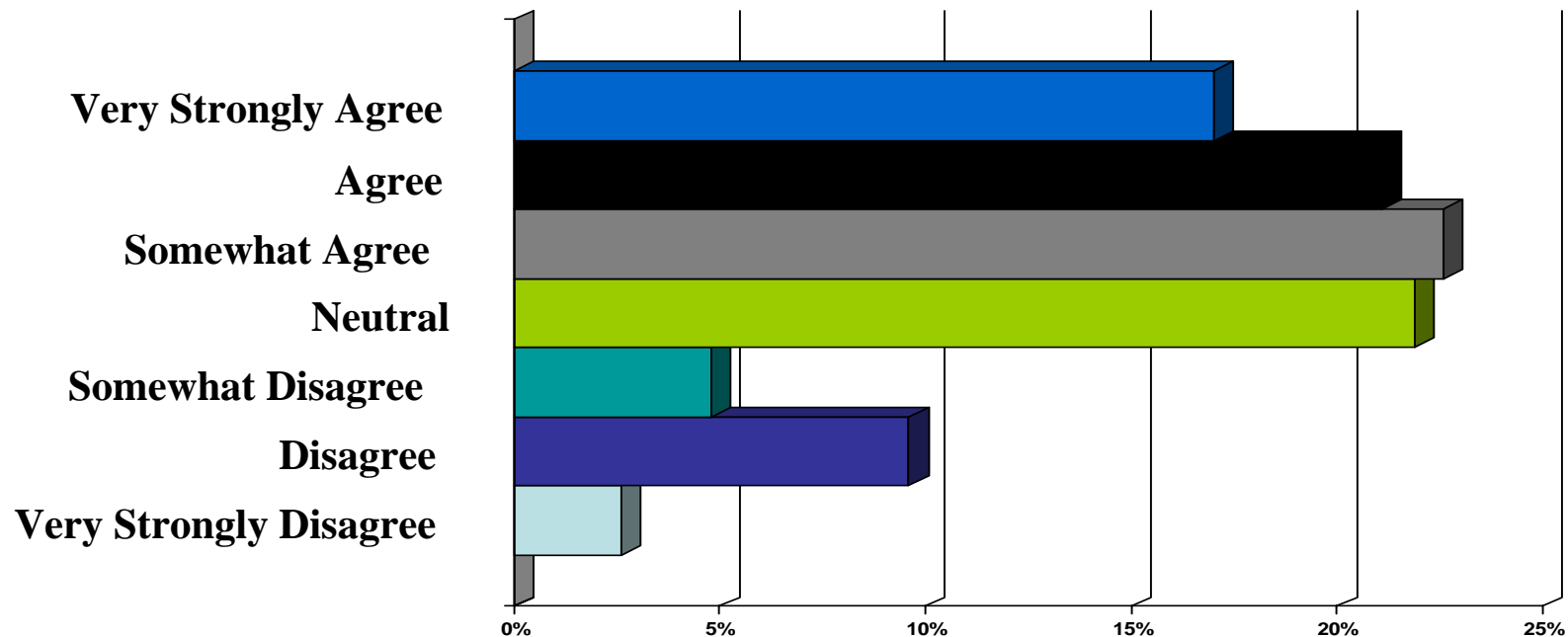


Mean = 5.21, Standard deviation = 1.54

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I desire a job that allows me to help protect the nation's food supply”

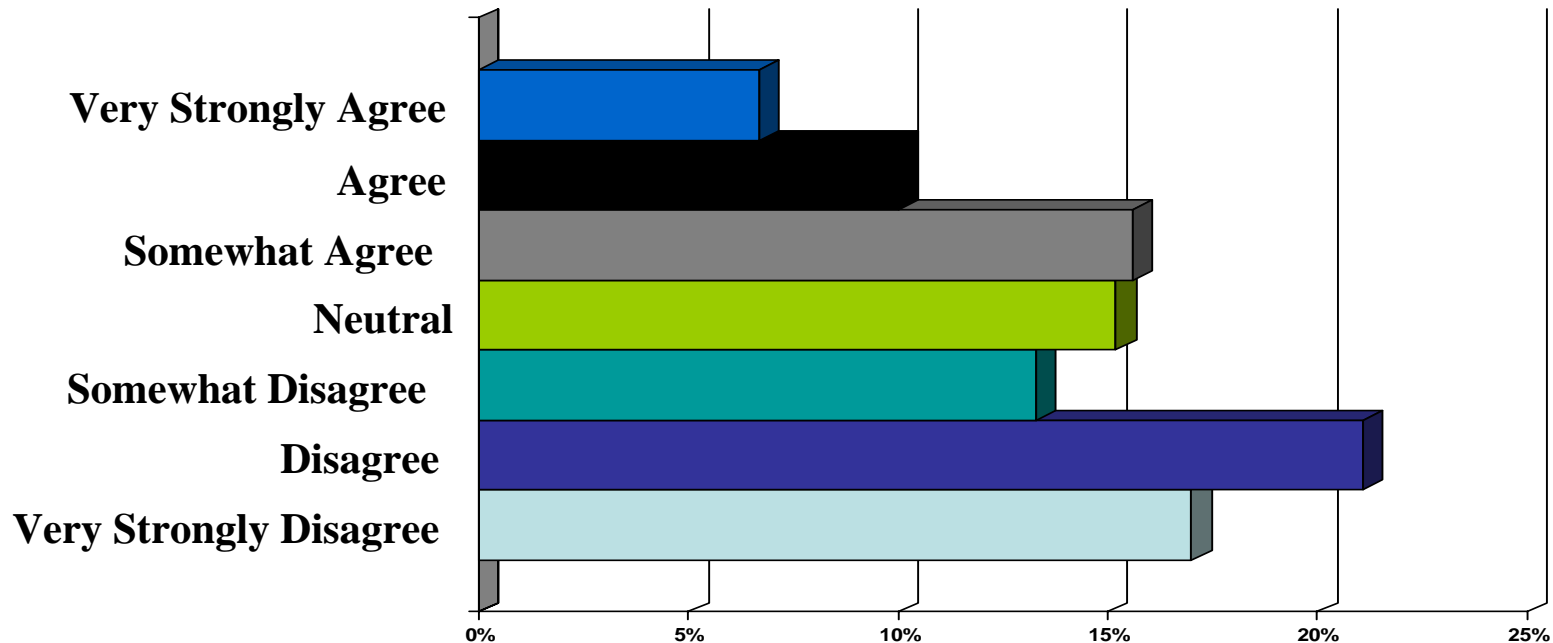


Mean = 4.83, Standard deviation = 1.63

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“My selection of an occupational area in veterinary medicine will be heavily influenced by my significant other's job”

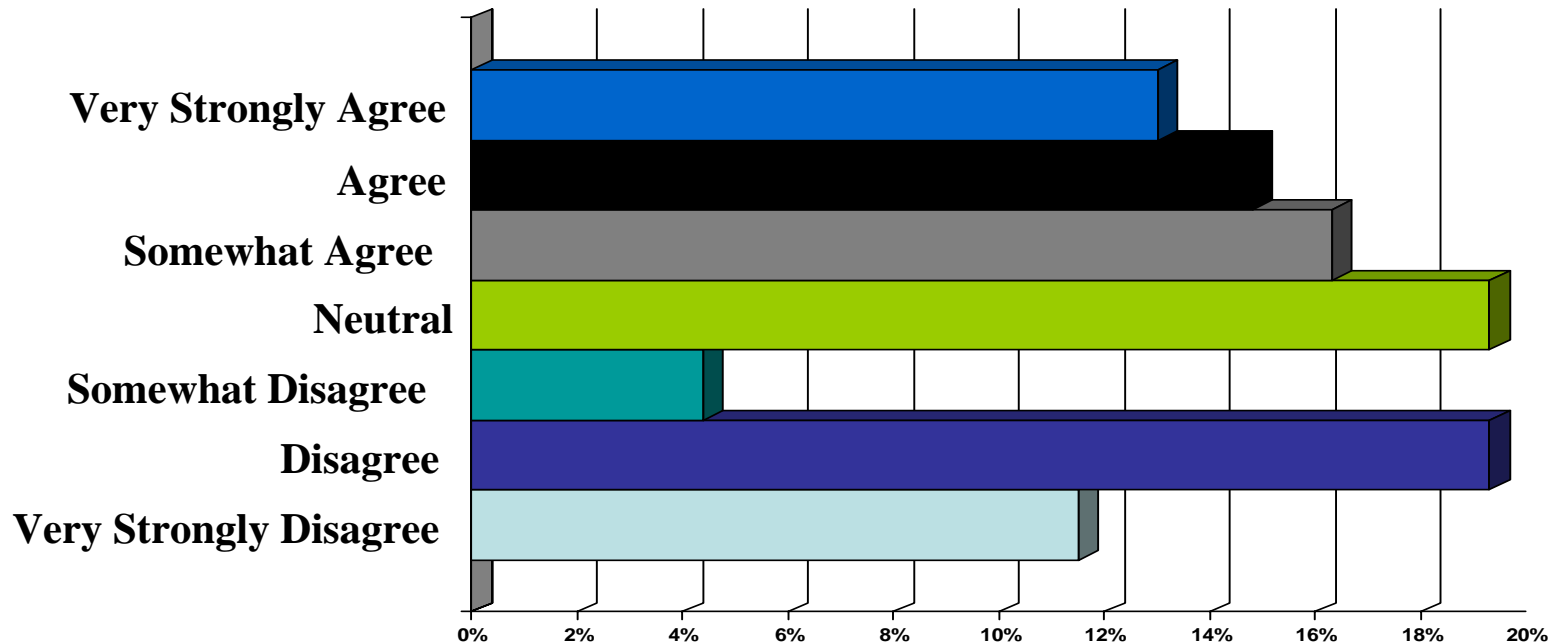


Mean = 3.44, Standard deviation = 1.88

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I am concerned about the ability of my significant other to find a job close to where I work”

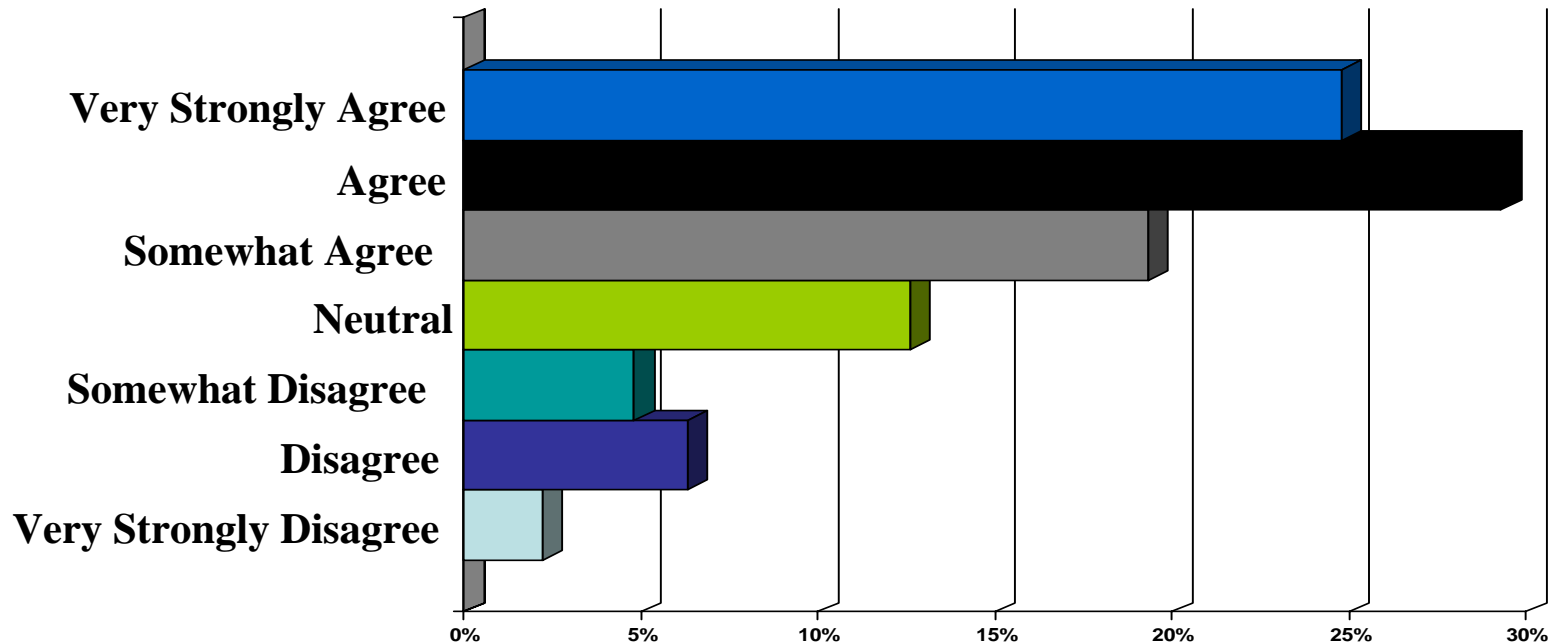


Mean = 4.01, Standard deviation = 2.00

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I require an occupational area in veterinary medicine that allows me time to raise a family”

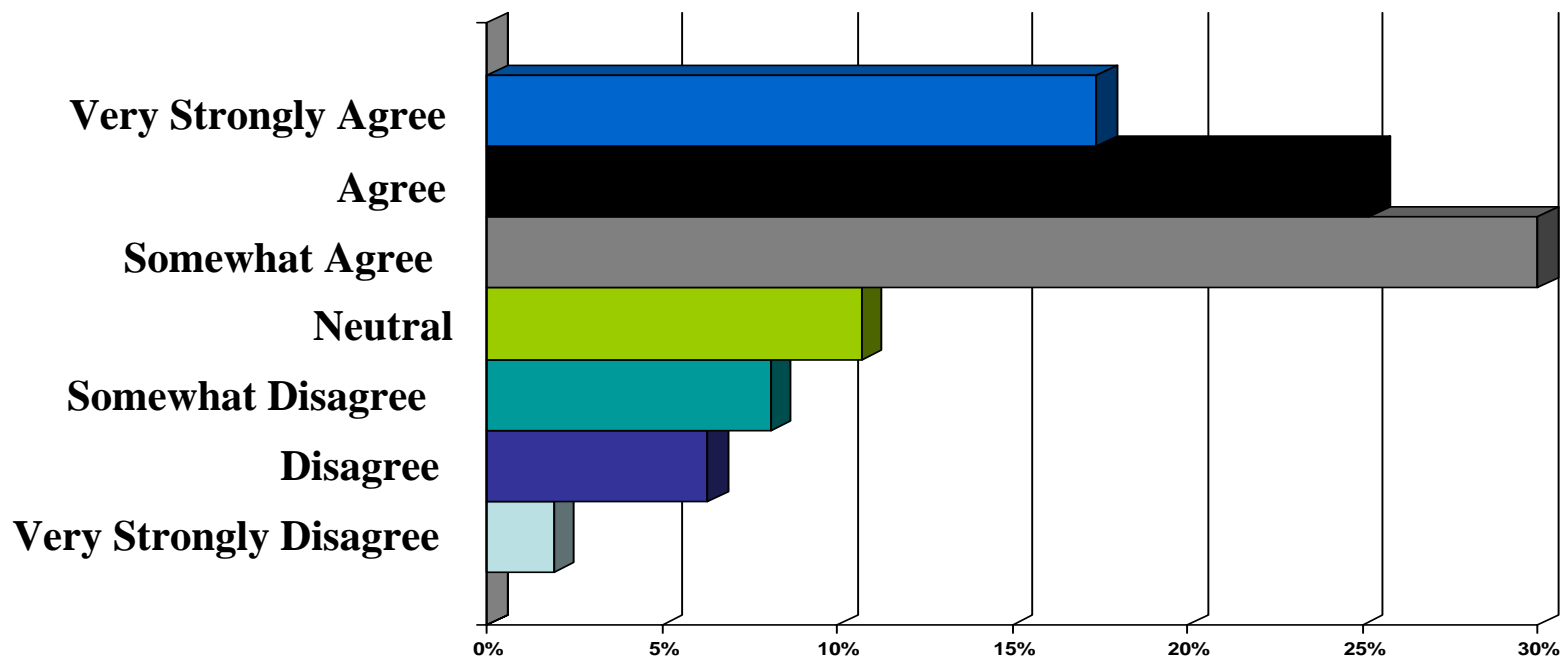


Mean = 5.25, Standard deviation = 1.63

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I worry that long hours doing veterinary work will interfere with my family life”

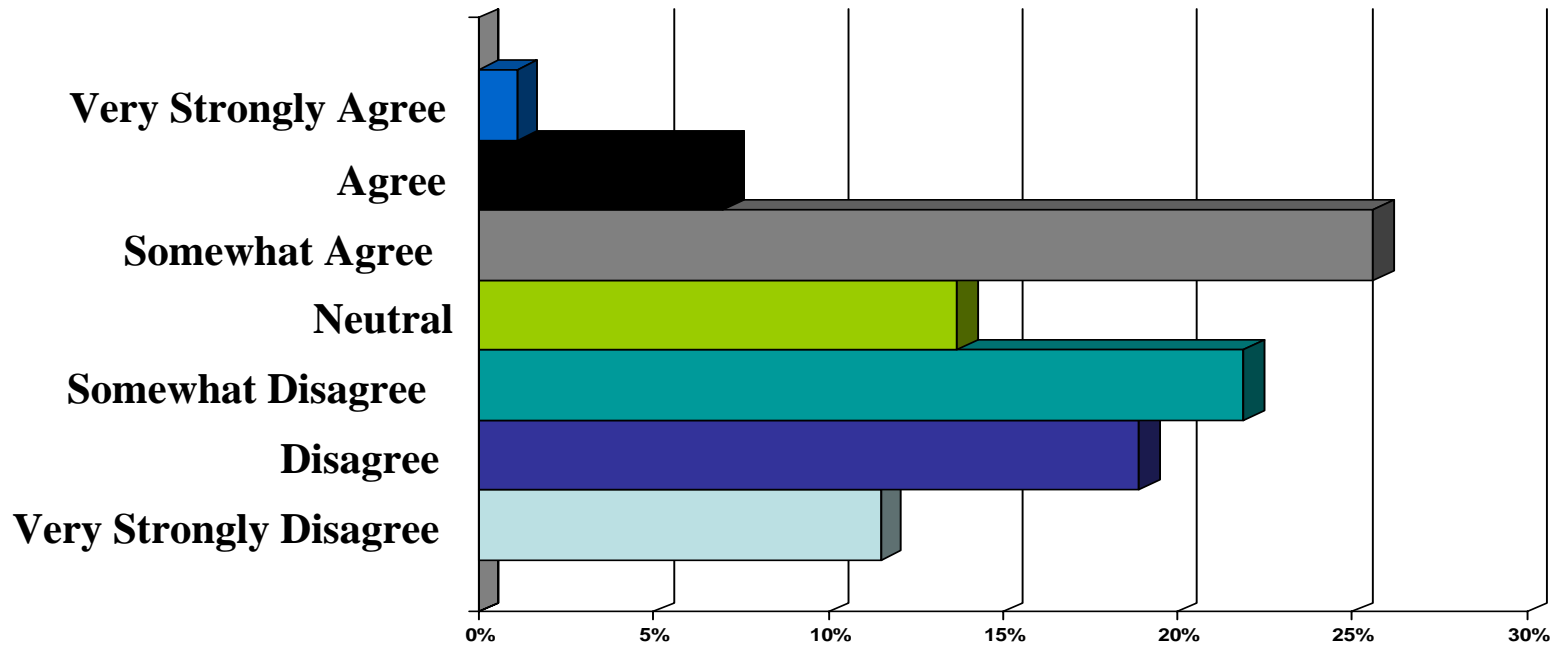


Mean = 5.05, Standard deviation = 1.53

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I am willing to miss important family activities to do emergency work at my veterinary job”

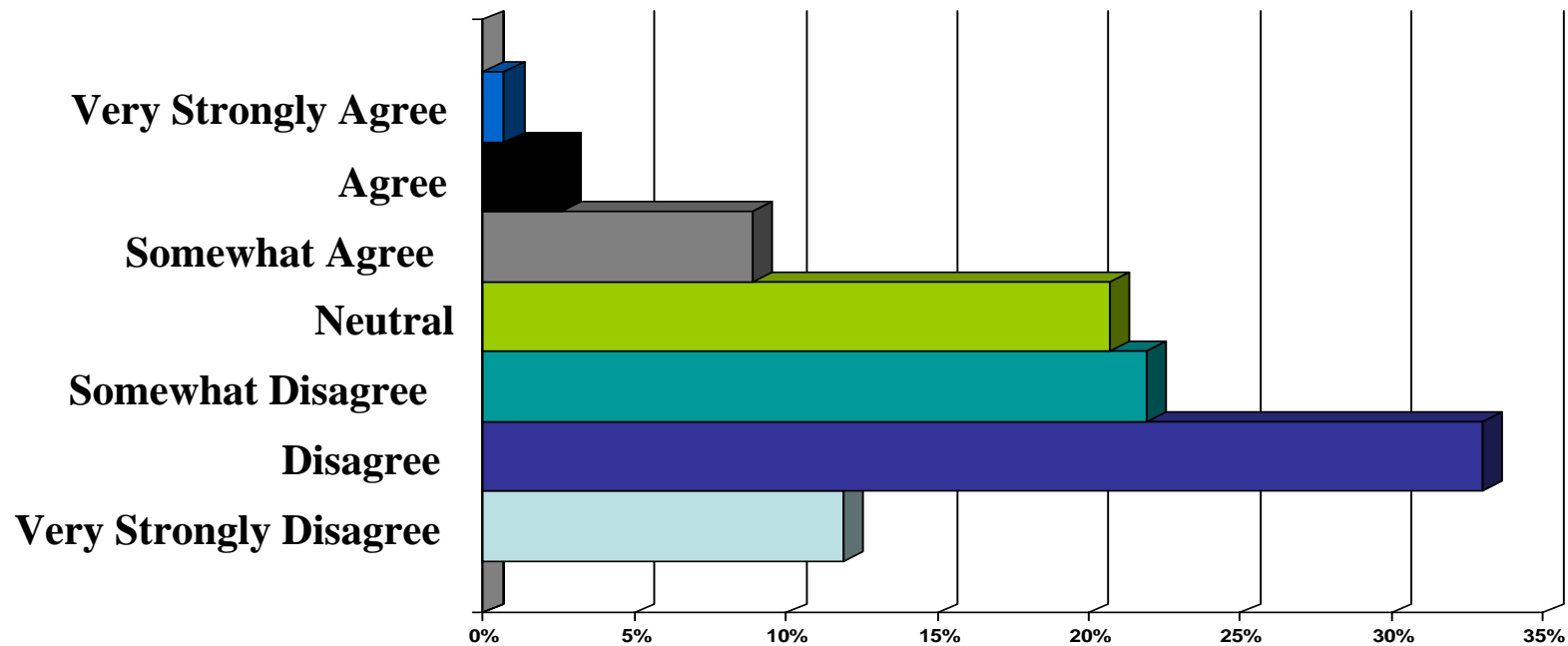


Mean = 3.47, Standard deviation = 1.56

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I am concerned that I will have to travel too much with my veterinary work”

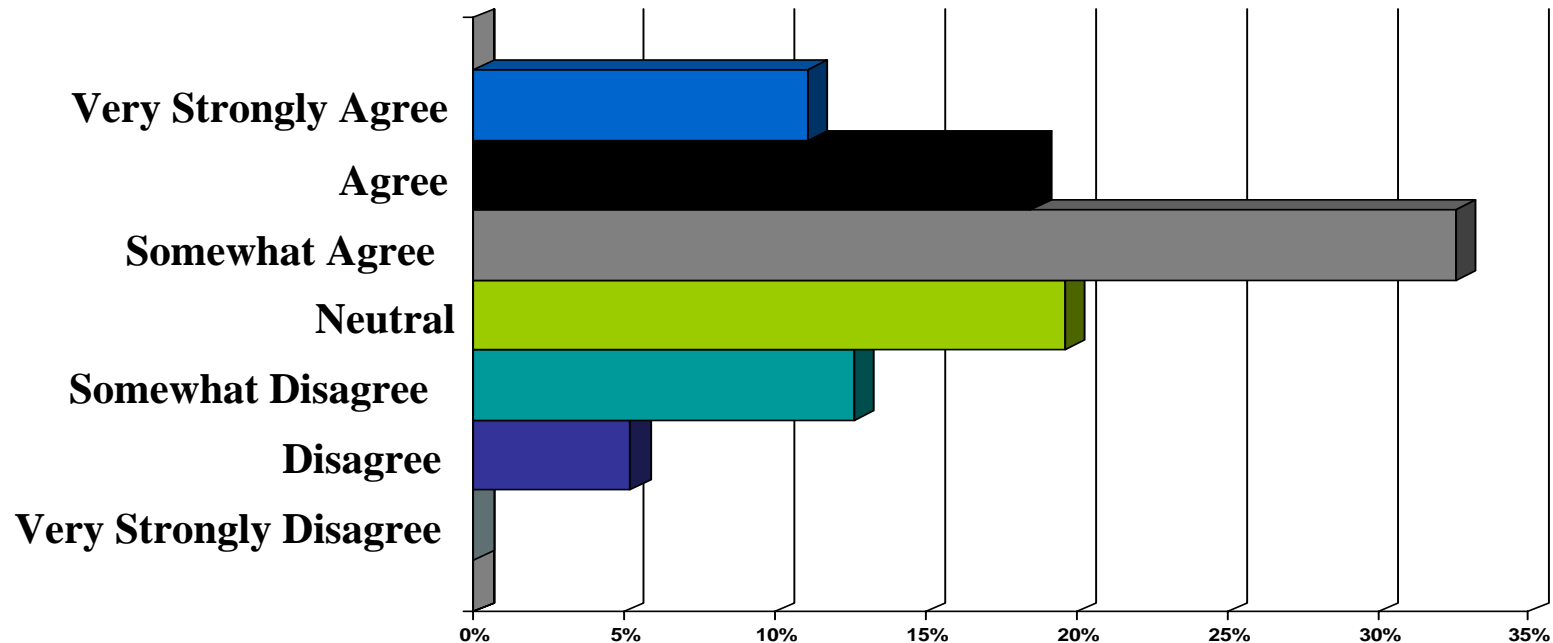


Mean = 2.91, Standard deviation = 1.32

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I want a veterinary career where I have abundant free time to pursue my hobbies”

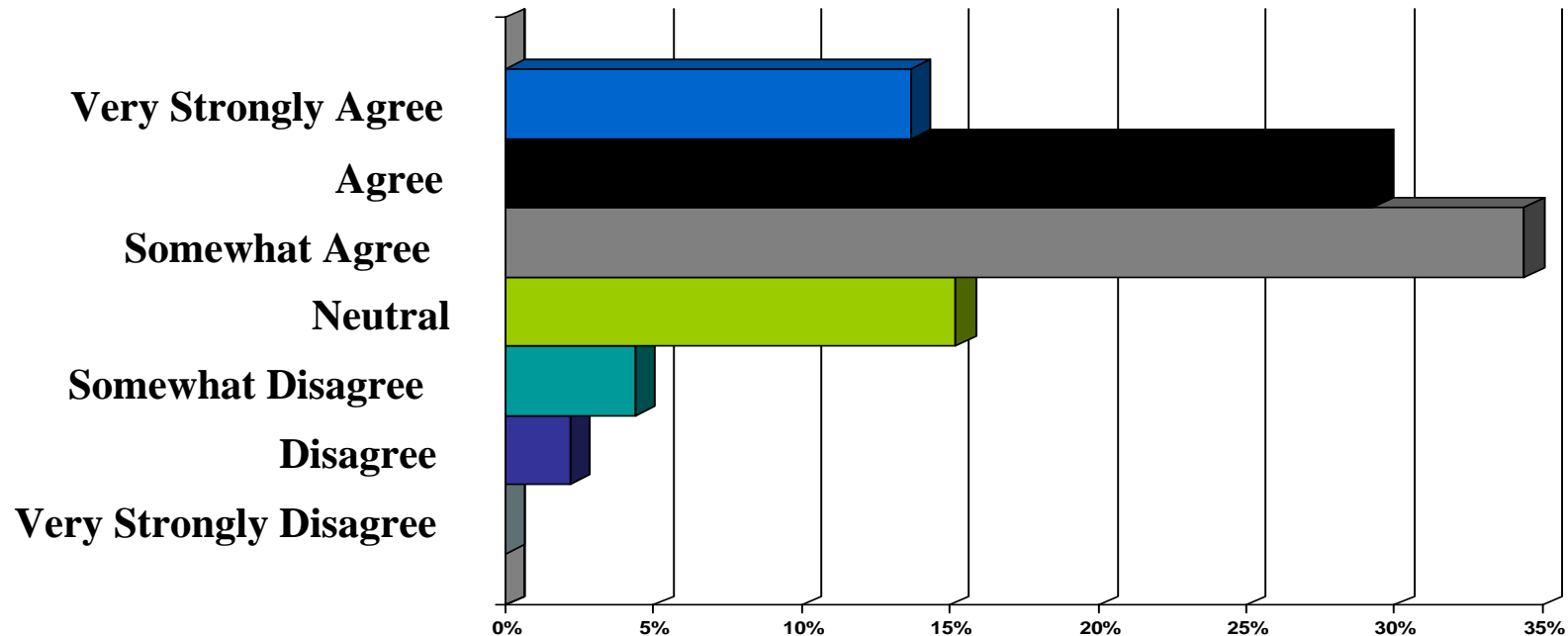


Mean = 4.79, Standard deviation = 1.36

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I do not want to be on call very often in my occupational area in veterinary medicine”

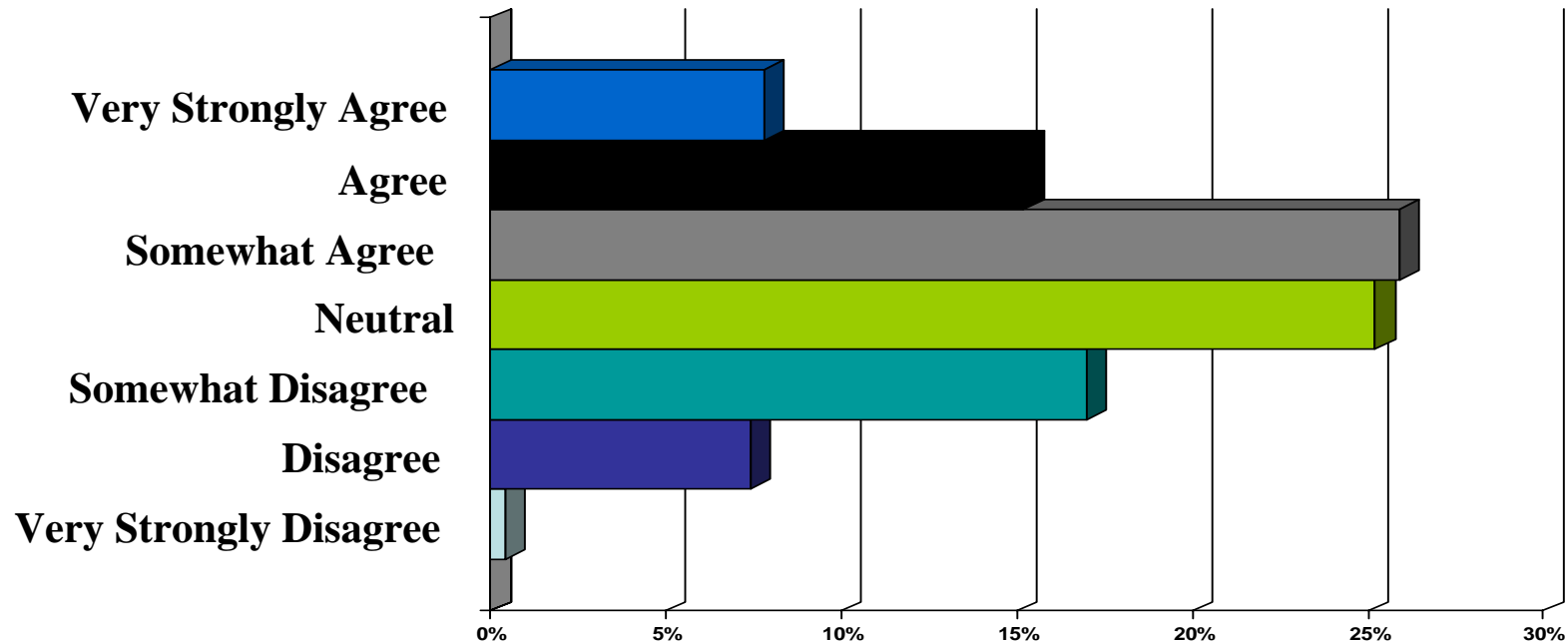


Mean = 5.22, Standard deviation = 1.23

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Frequent vacation time from my veterinary job is very important to me”

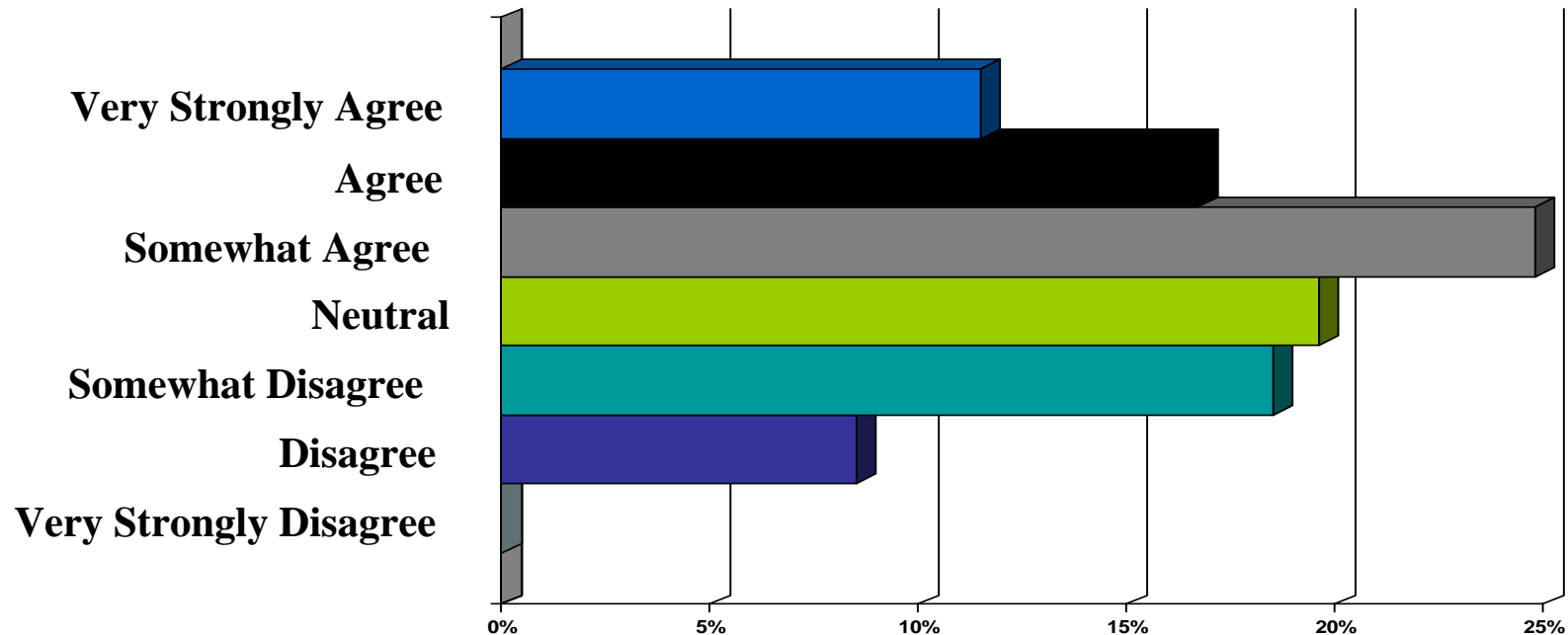


Mean = 4.42, Standard deviation = 1.44

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Rural areas do not have enough recreational or cultural amenities to satisfy me”

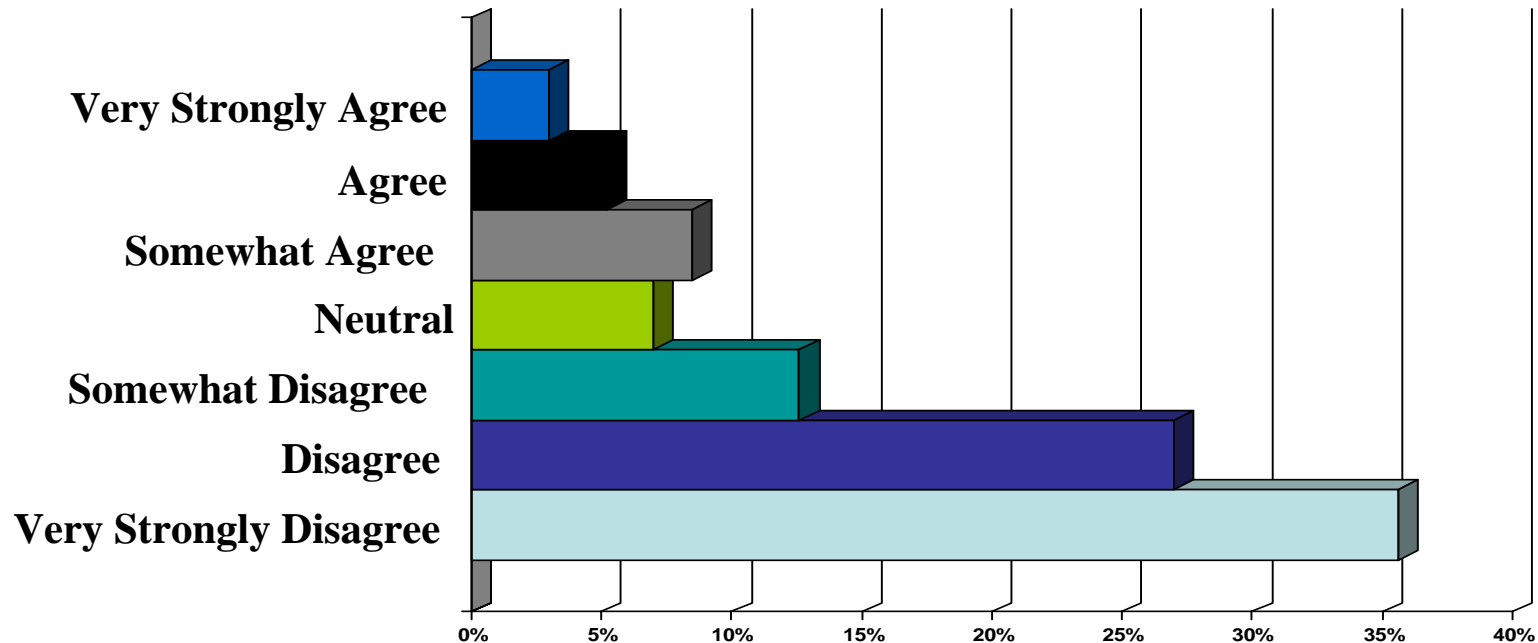


Mean = 4.56, Standard deviation = 1.49

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I want to practice the type of veterinary medicine that would let me live a rural lifestyle”

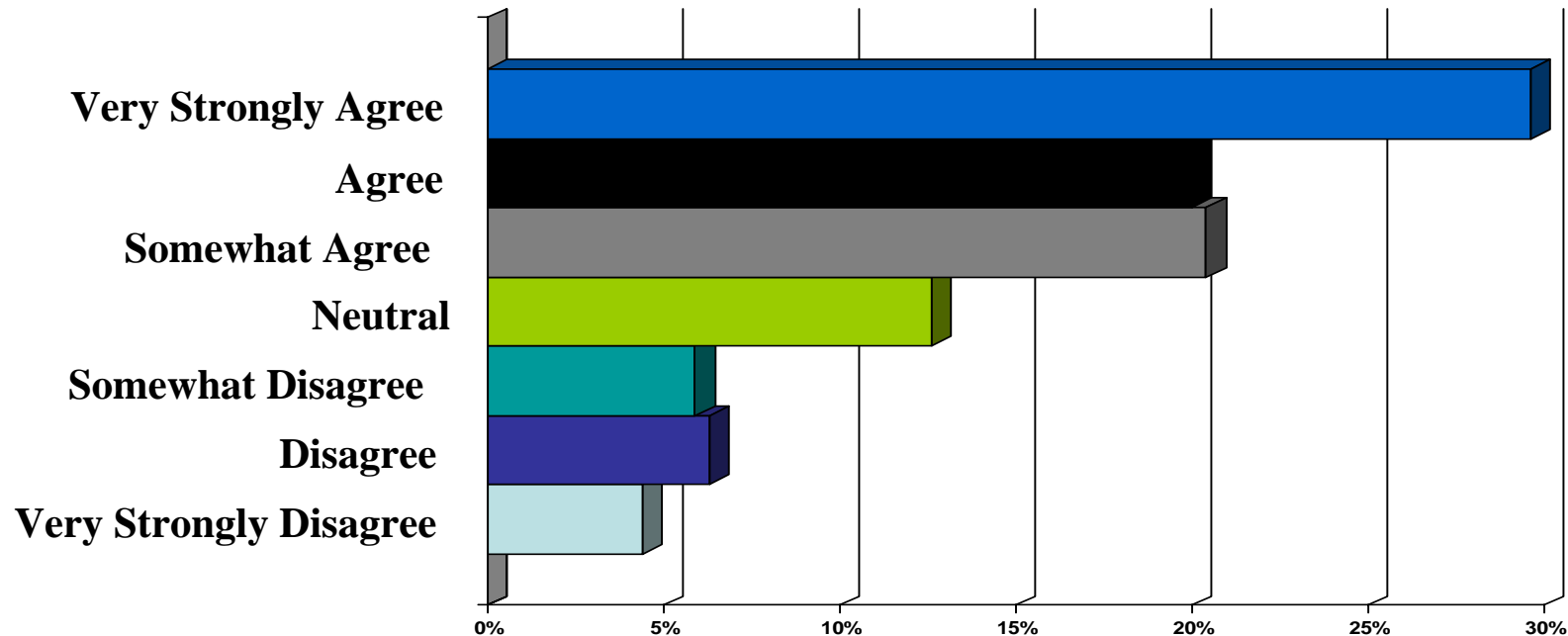


Mean = 2.50, Standard deviation = 1.70

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I would be upset if I had to regularly work nights or weekends in my veterinary career”

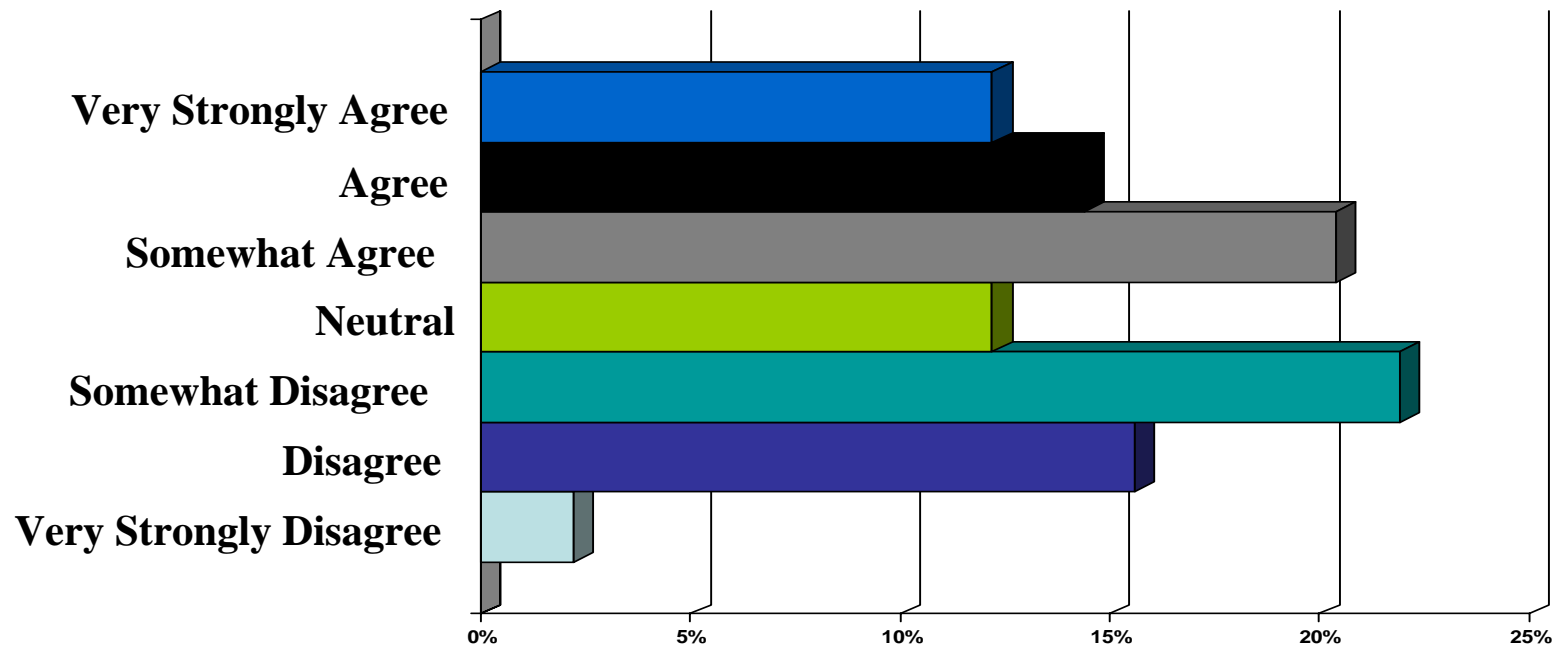


Mean = 5.14, Standard deviation = 1.79

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I worry a lot that there are few good jobs in food animal veterinary medicine”

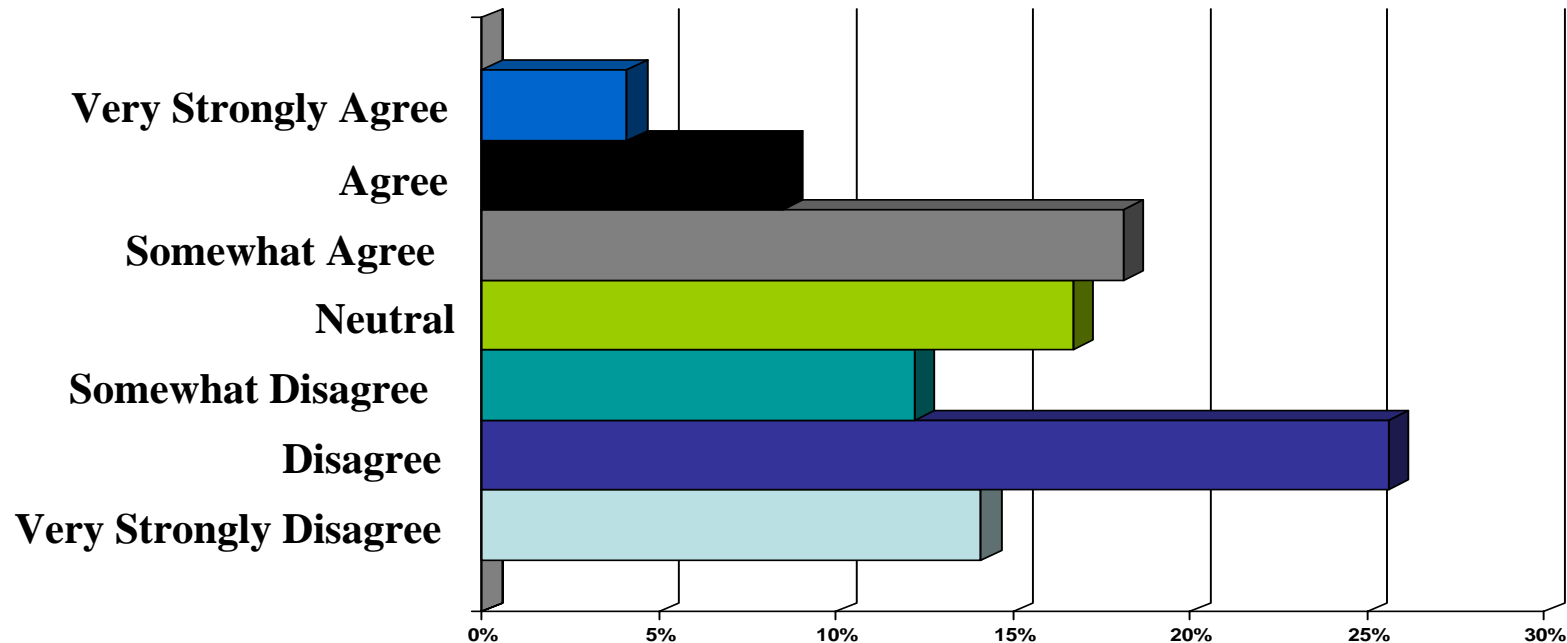


Mean = 4.22, Standard deviation = 1.75

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I feel very secure about the future demand for my chosen occupational area in veterinary medicine”

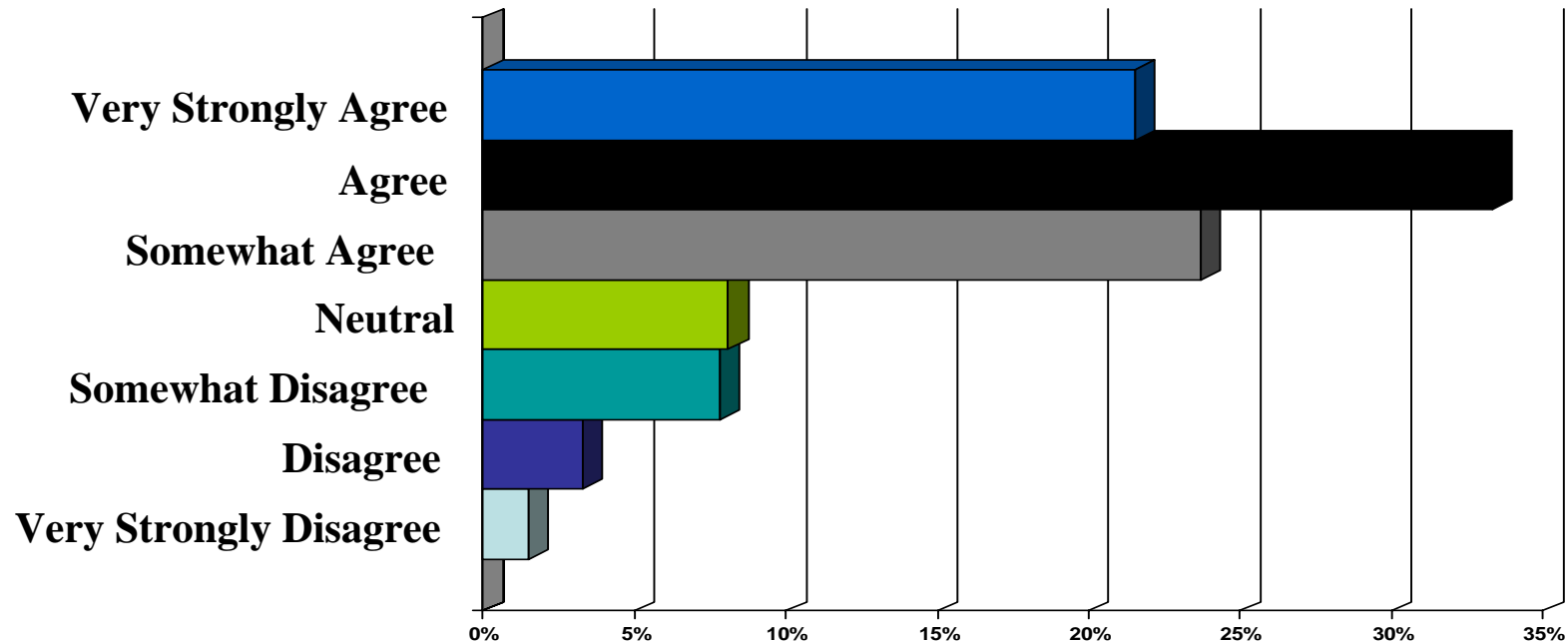


Mean = 3.39, Standard deviation = 1.75

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinary medicine offers a good stable career”

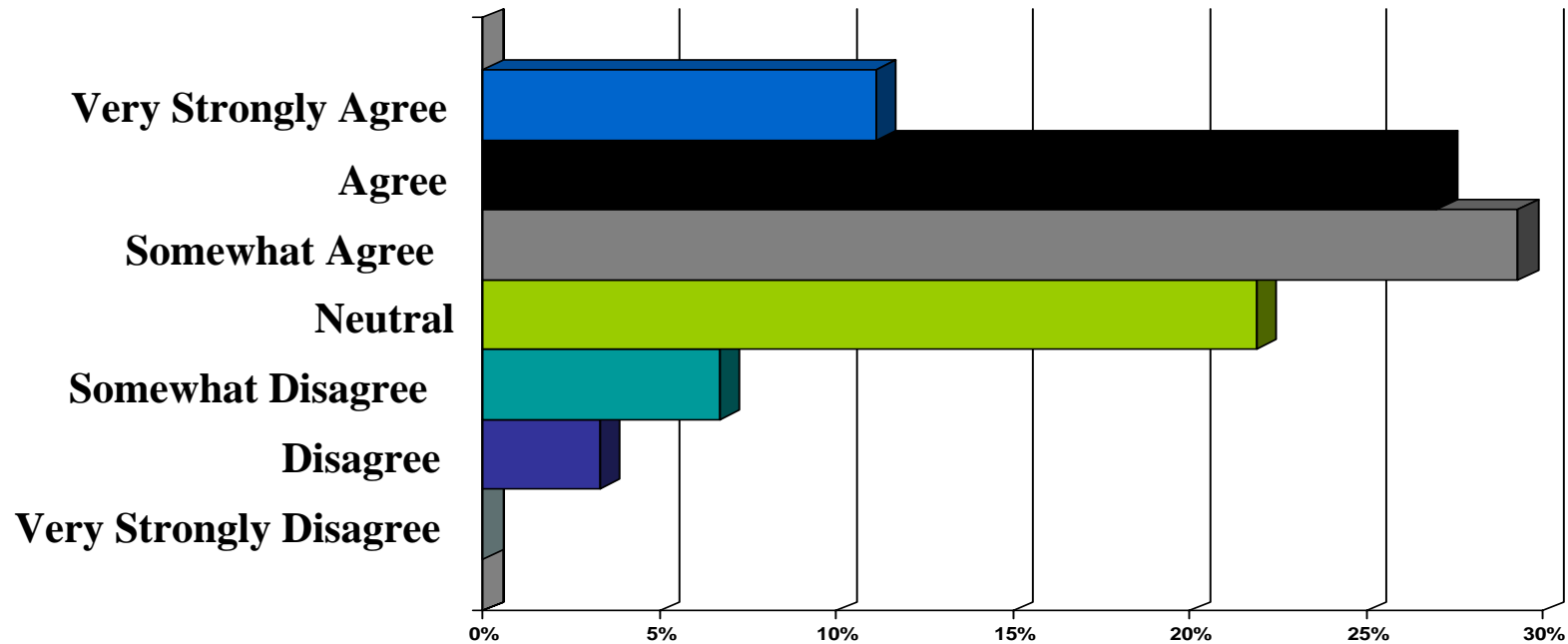


Mean = 5.33, Standard deviation = 1.49

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“It is very important to me to work in a veterinary medical group practice”

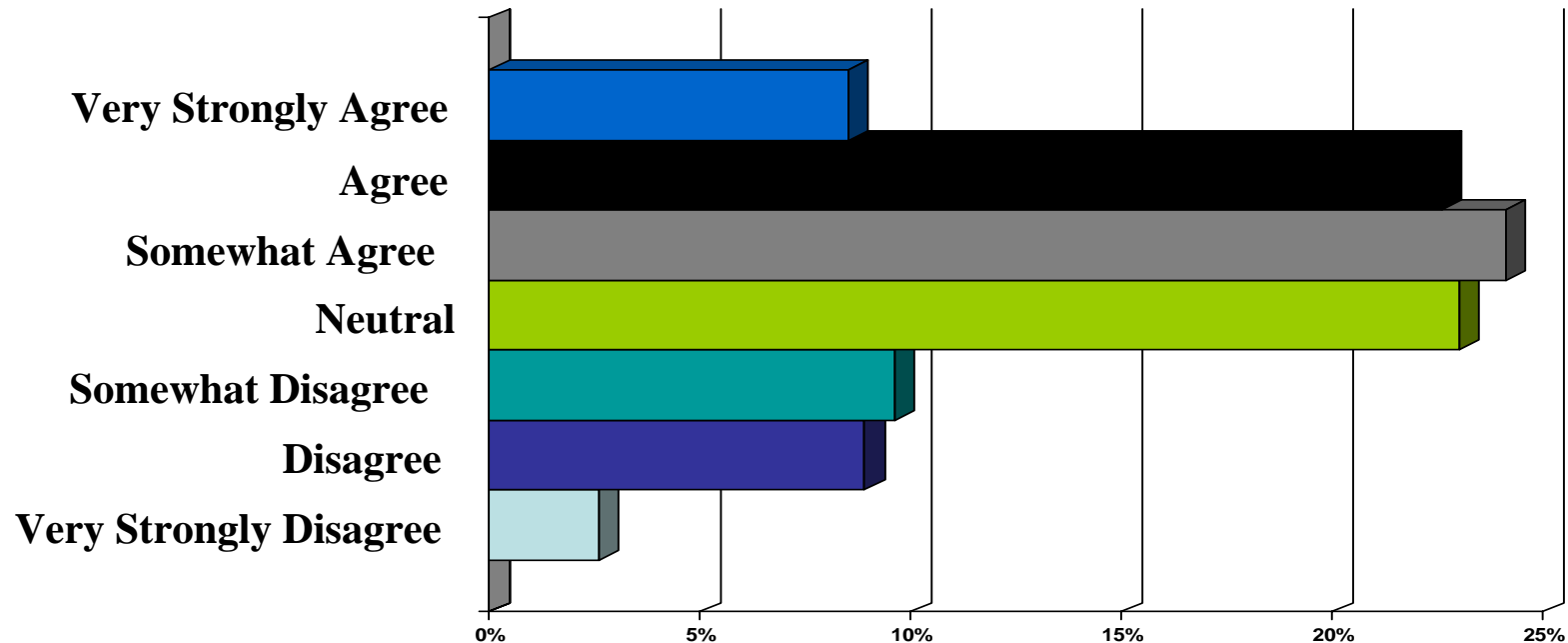


Mean = 5.00, Standard deviation = 1.30

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I value a strong mentorship/training program in my first veterinary job”

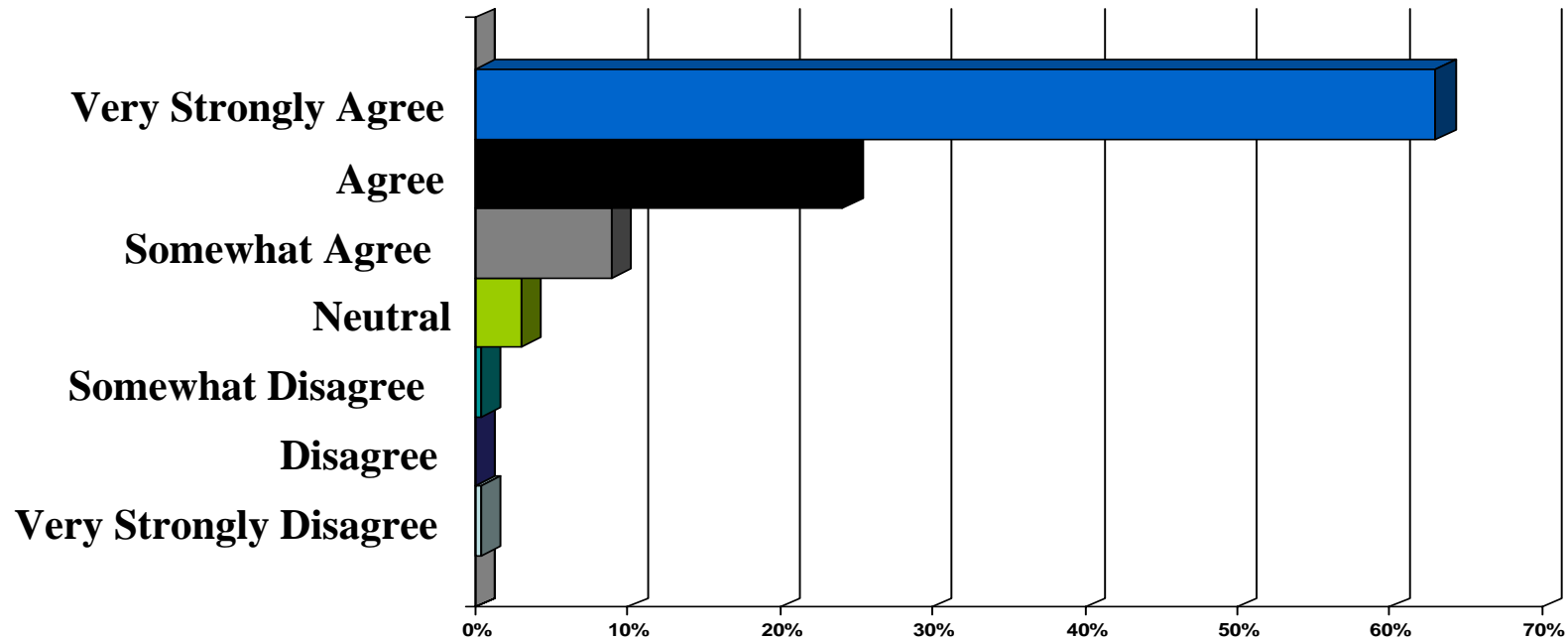


Mean = 4.57, Standard deviation = 1.55

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I am intimidated by the size of many food animals”

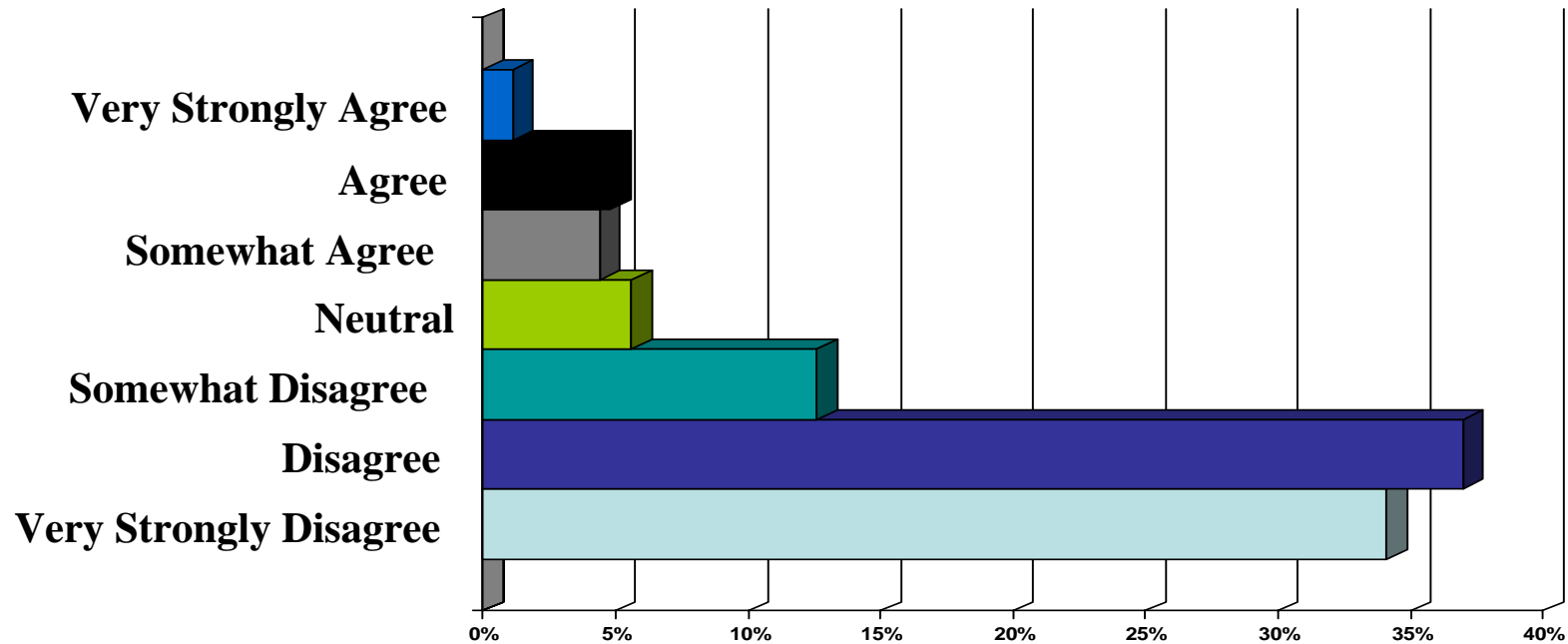


Mean = 6.43, Standard deviation = 0.96

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I dislike that amount of physical work required of food animal veterinarians”

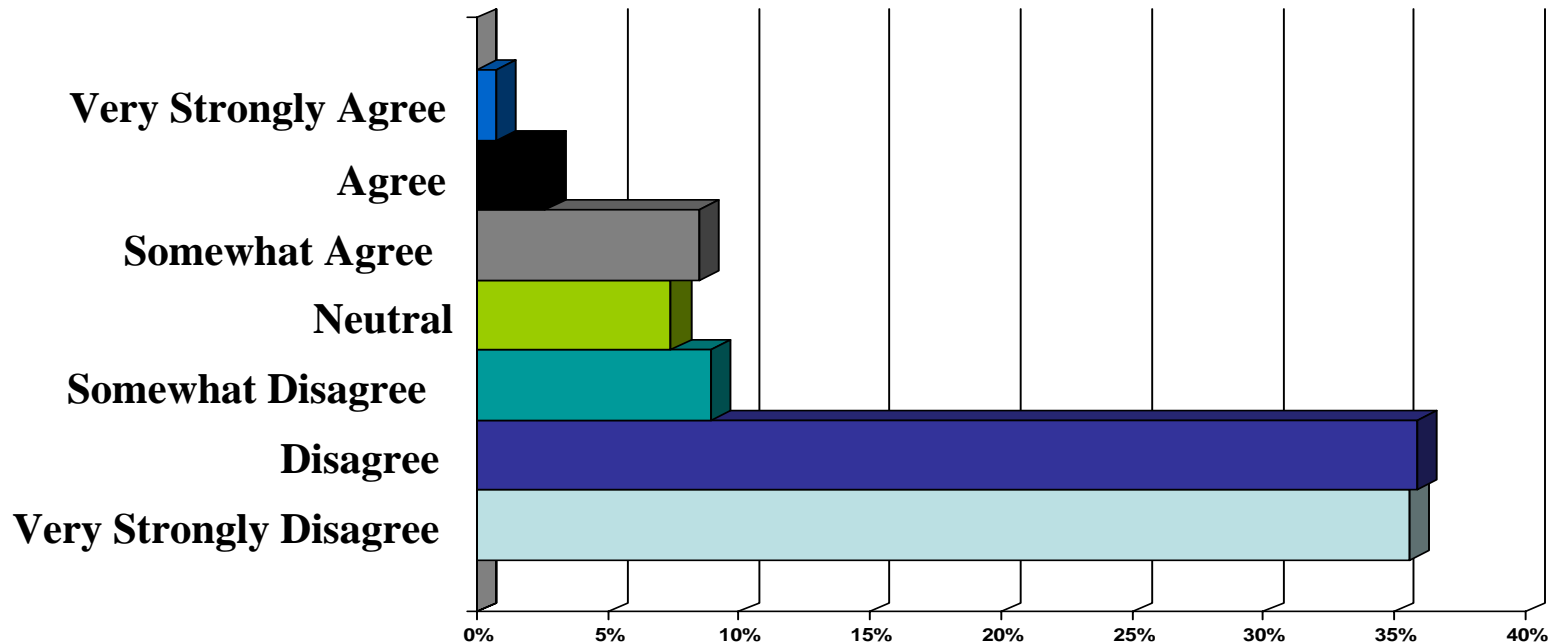


Mean = 2.27, Standard deviation = 1.44

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I worry that I might be injured if I work with food animals”

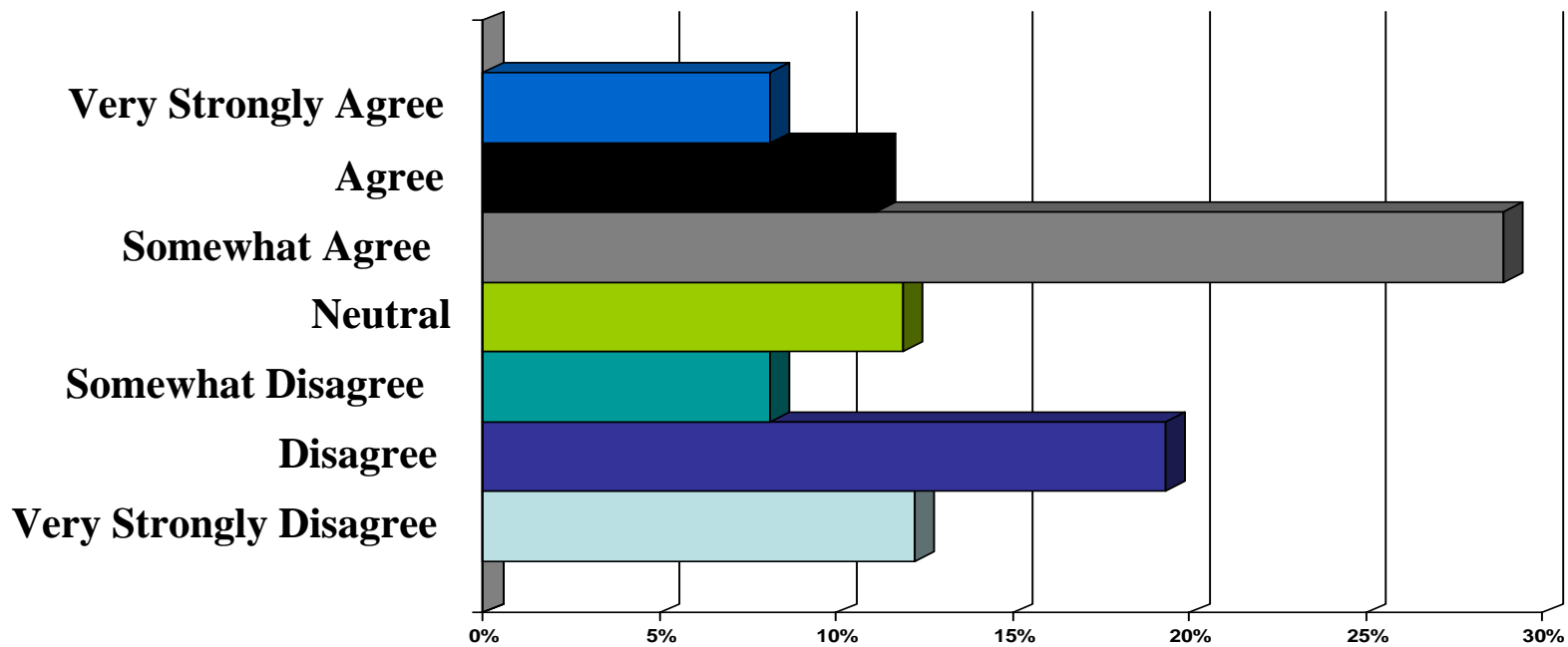


Mean = 2.27, Standard deviation = 1.43

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I worry that I will be physically unable to deal with large food animals when I am older”

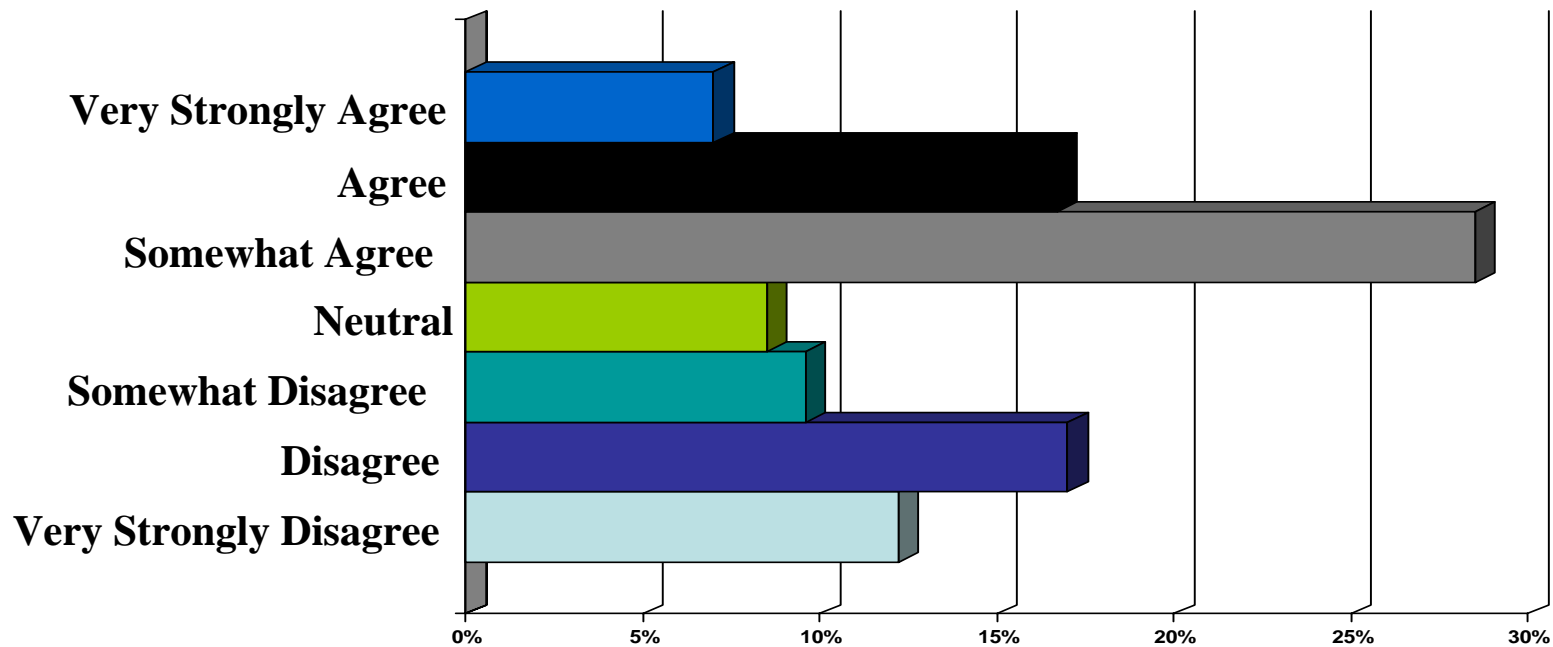


Mean = 3.91, Standard deviation = 1.87

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“The thought of caring for herds/flocks of food animals is very appealing to me”

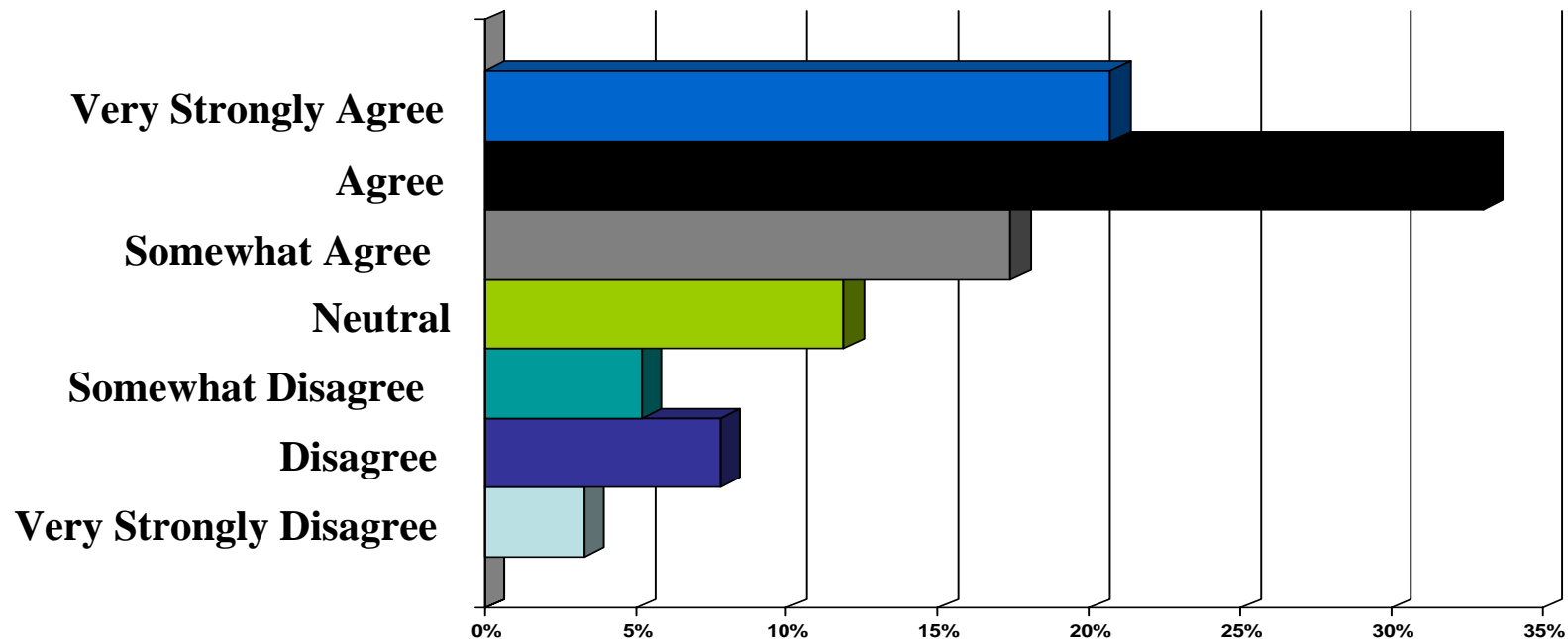


Mean = 4.01, Standard deviation = 1.88

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I believe we should treat all sick animals no matter what the cost”

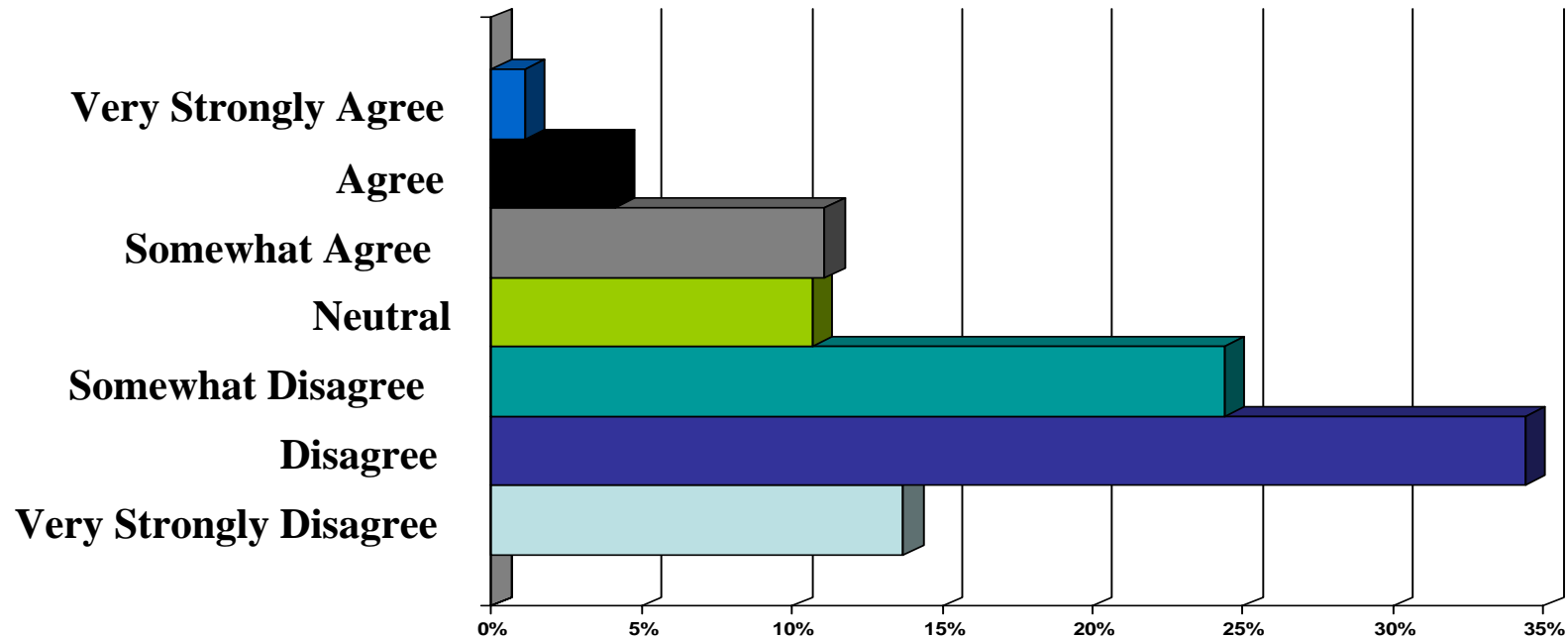


Mean = 5.12, Standard deviation = 1.70

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinary medicine is too concerned with making a profit”

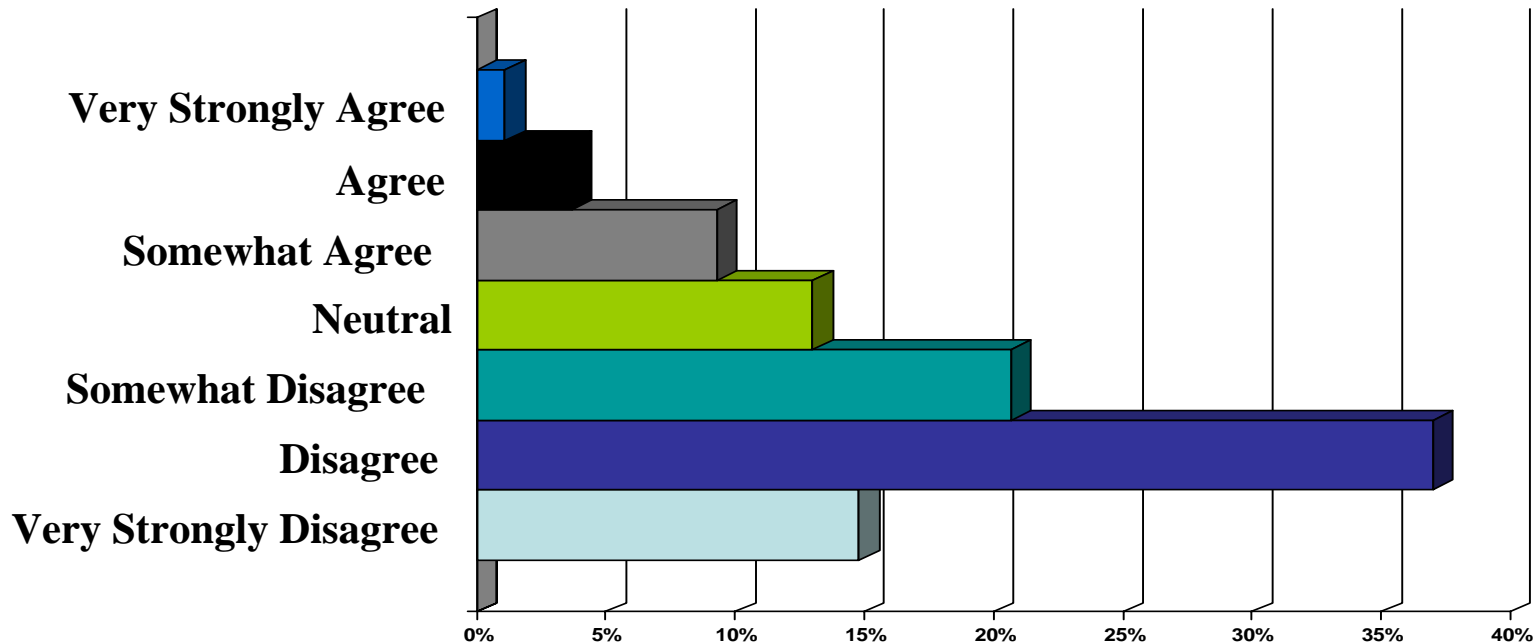


Mean = 2.87, Standard deviation = 1.42

Career Decision Factors

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

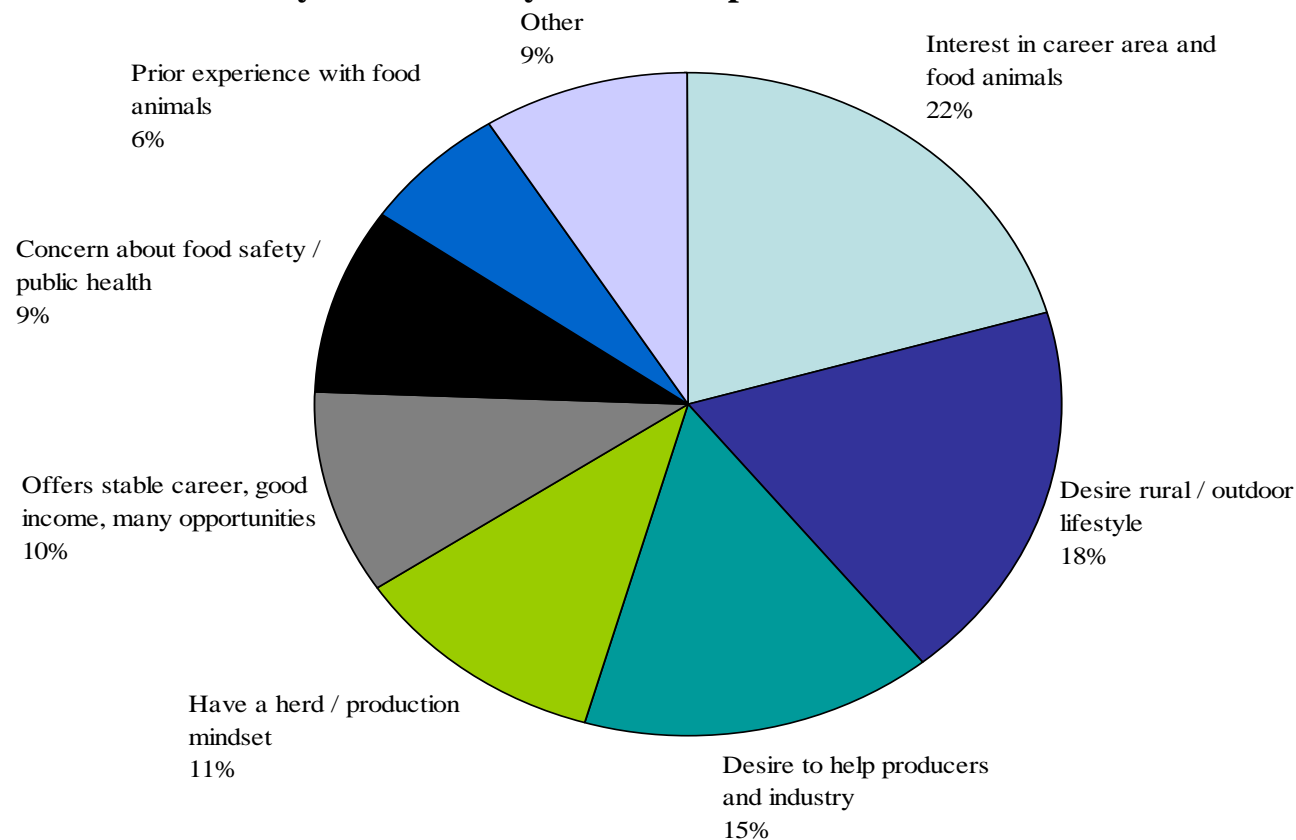
“I believe that livestock producers value the services of food animal veterinarians”



Mean = 2.79, Standard deviation = 1.40

Primary Reasons for Choosing a Career in Food Animal Medicine

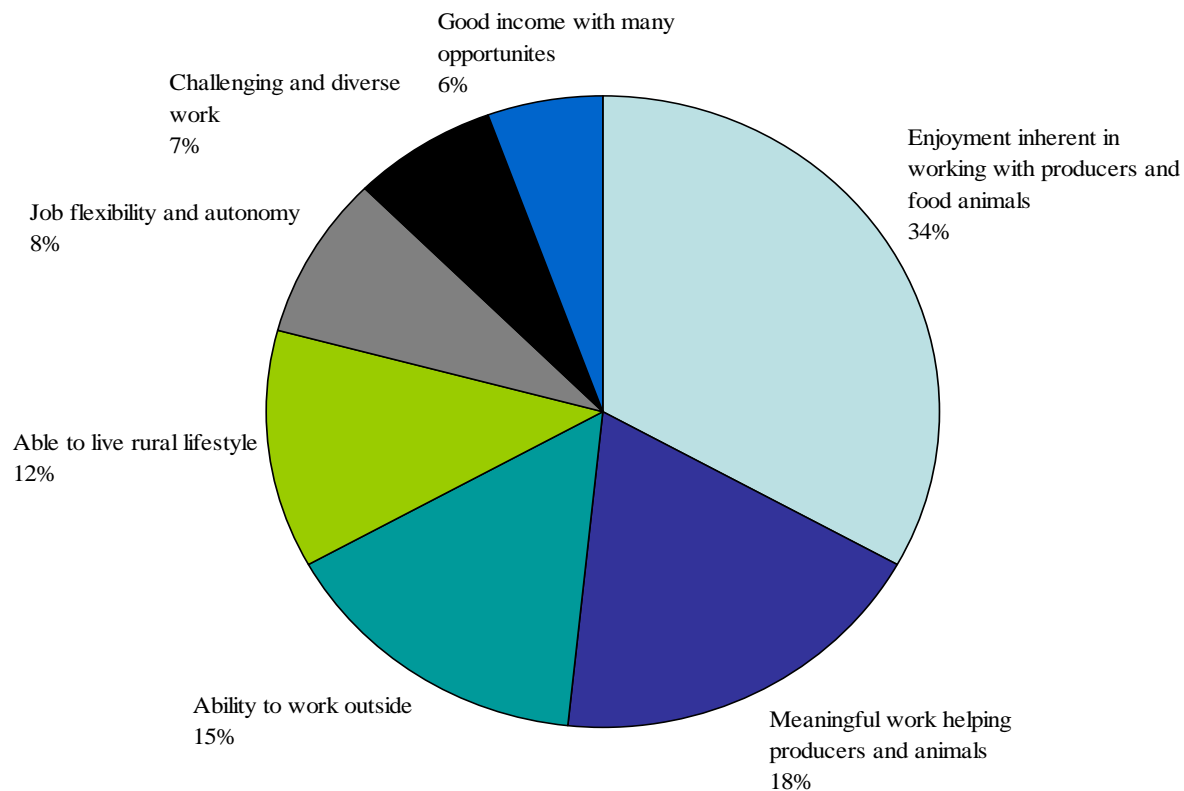
Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q48: What are two main reasons that would be critically important for someone to choose a career in food animal veterinary medicine? (open ended responses)

Biggest Benefits of a Career in Food Animal Medicine

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus



Q94: What are the two biggest benefits you see of working as a food animal veterinarian? (open ended responses)

Summary of Strategies for Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

- **Top tactics for encouraging students to enter food animal careers deal with either assistance in starting a career / finding a position or providing students more detailed knowledge of the area.**
- **Number one tactic is to provide assistance in setting up a food animal practice.**
- **Other top rated tactics for encouraging more students to enter food animal medical careers include adding new faculty positions in food animal medicine, providing job placement services for careers in public health, making students select a curriculum track that provides detailed knowledge in particular areas of food animal emphasis, and providing high school and undergraduate college students written information about different food animal careers.**

Effectiveness of Potential Strategies for Encouraging Students to Enter into Food Animal Veterinary Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

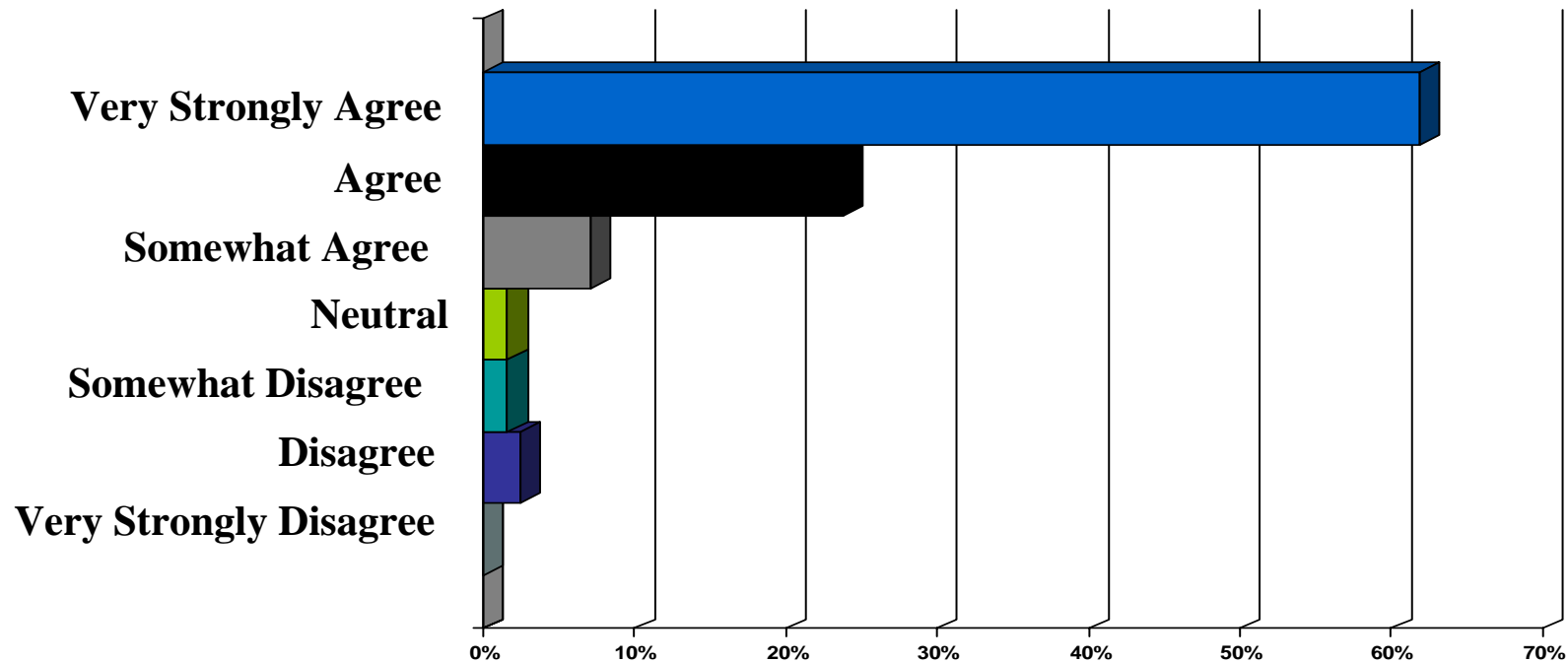
Strategy	Mean
1. Assistance in setting up a food animal practice	6.3
2. Add new faculty positions in food animal medicine	5.9
3. Provide job placement services for careers in public health	5.7
4. Making students select a curriculum track that provides detailed knowledge in particular areas of emphasis	5.5
5. Provide high school and undergraduate college students written information about different food animal careers	5.5
6. Payoff all student loans in exchange for working in a food animal veterinary medicine field for 3 years	5.4
7. Financial assistance in purchasing equipment to begin a food animal practice	5.4
8. Assigning students interested in food animal careers to a faculty mentor	5.3
9. Establishment of mentoring / shadowing program that matches high school students with food animal veterinarians	5.2
10. A first semester program in veterinary medical school that lets students study and treat food animals	5.1
11. Produce a television show to compete with "Emergency Vets" called "Farm Vets"	4.9
12. Create a compact disc that features the life and career of food animal veterinarians	4.9
13. Reserve class slots for academically qualified applicants who express a commitment to food animal veterinary medicine	4.6
14. Early admission decisions targeted toward academically qualified applicants who express a commitment to food animal veterinary medicine	4.5
15. Orientation session prior to the start of first year classes that highlights career options in various veterinary medicine fields	4.4
16. Providing substantial scholarships to those interested in food animal veterinary medicine	4.3
17. Offer paid 8-week summer externships in food animal medicine	4.1

Q54-Q70: "How effective would each of the following activities be in encouraging more students to enter into food animal veterinary careers?"
(1 = Very ineffective to 7 = very effective).

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Assistance in setting up a food animal practice”

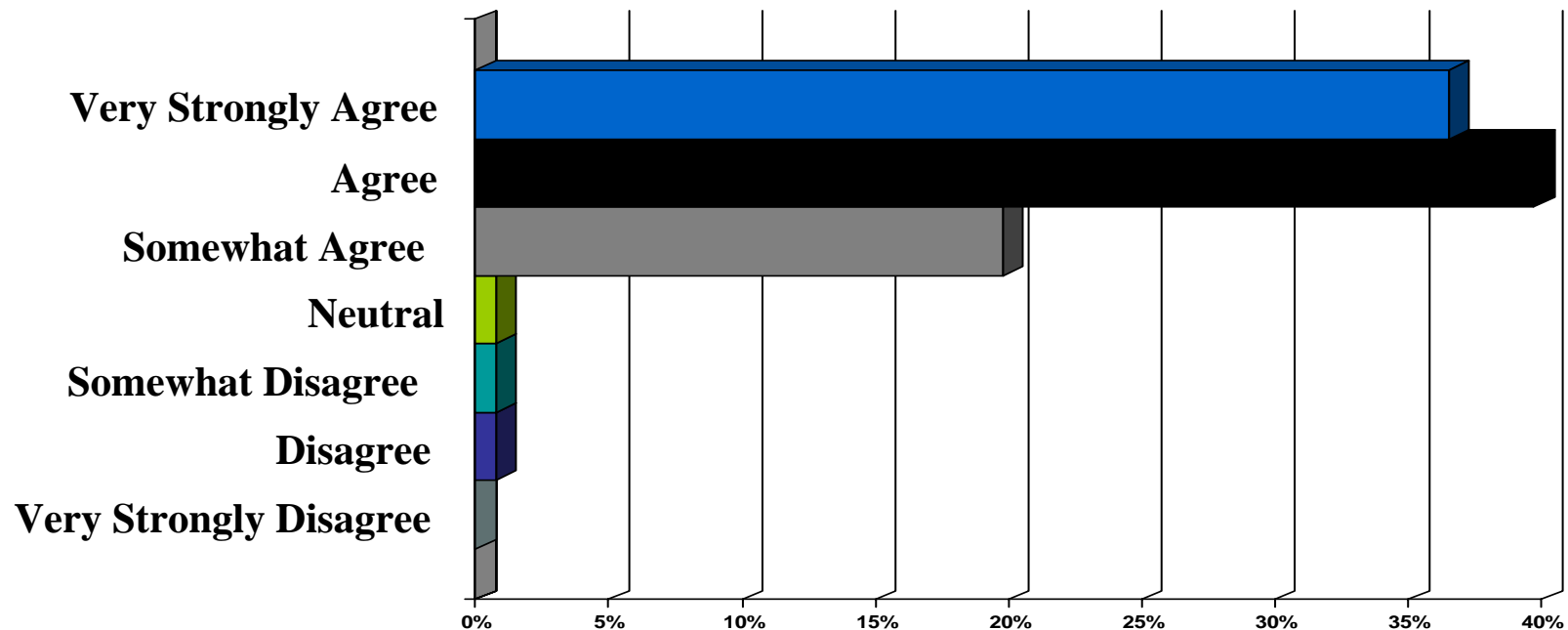


Mean = 6.25, Standard deviation = 1.29

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Add new faculty positions in food animal medicine”

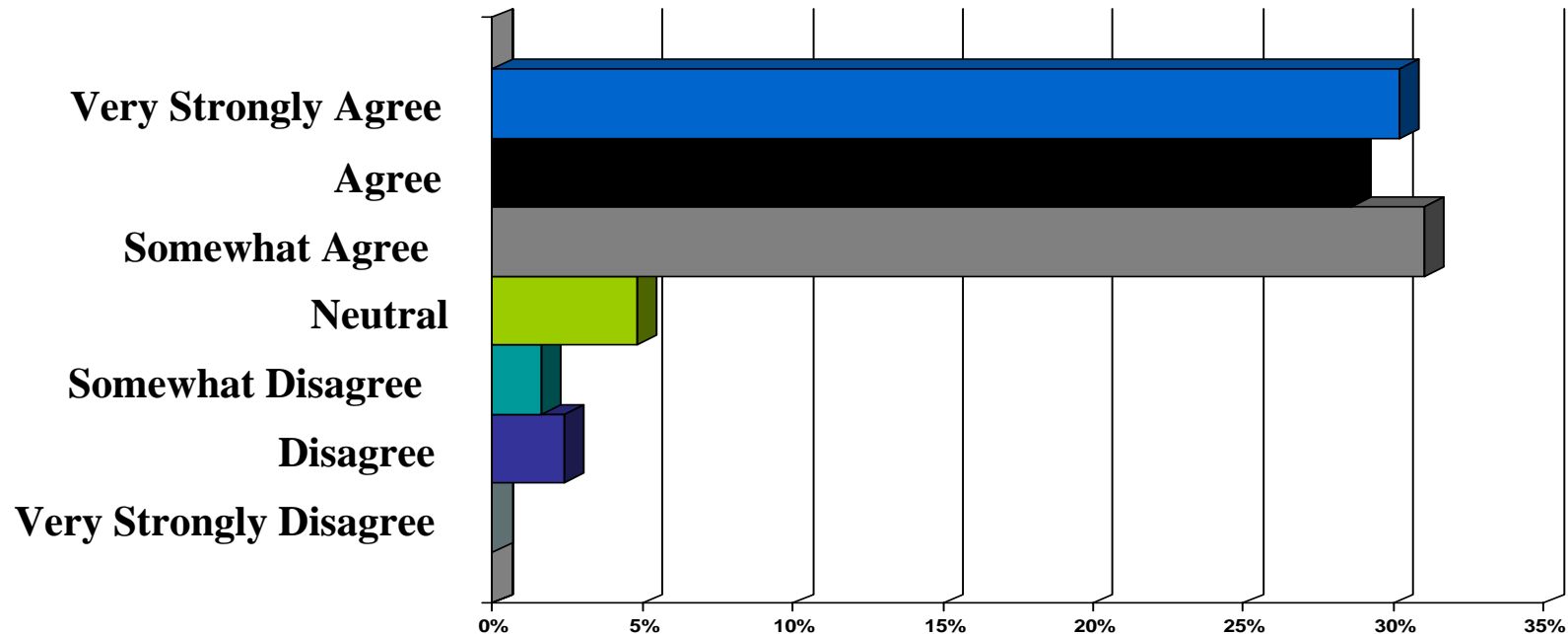


Mean = 5.91, Standard deviation = 1.12

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Provide job placement services for careers in public health”

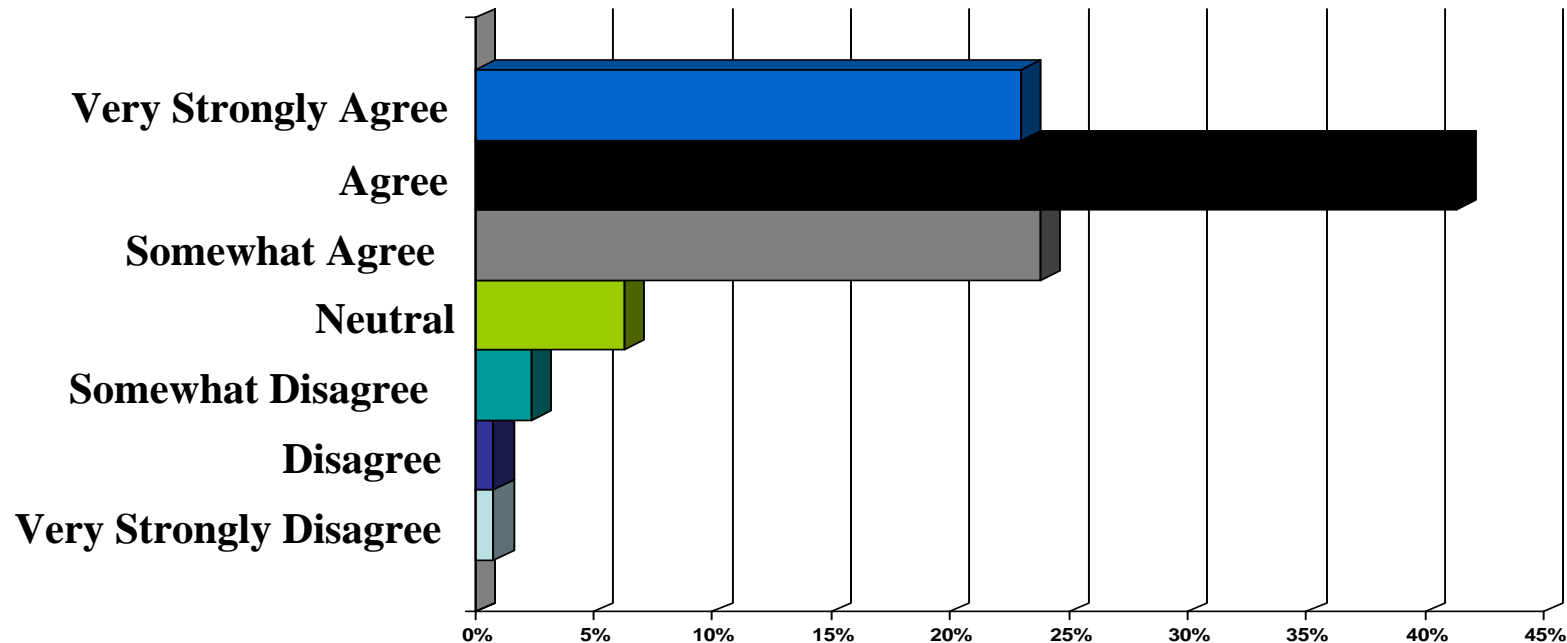


Mean = 5.68, Standard deviation = 1.24

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Making students select a curriculum track that provides detailed knowledge in particular areas of emphasis”

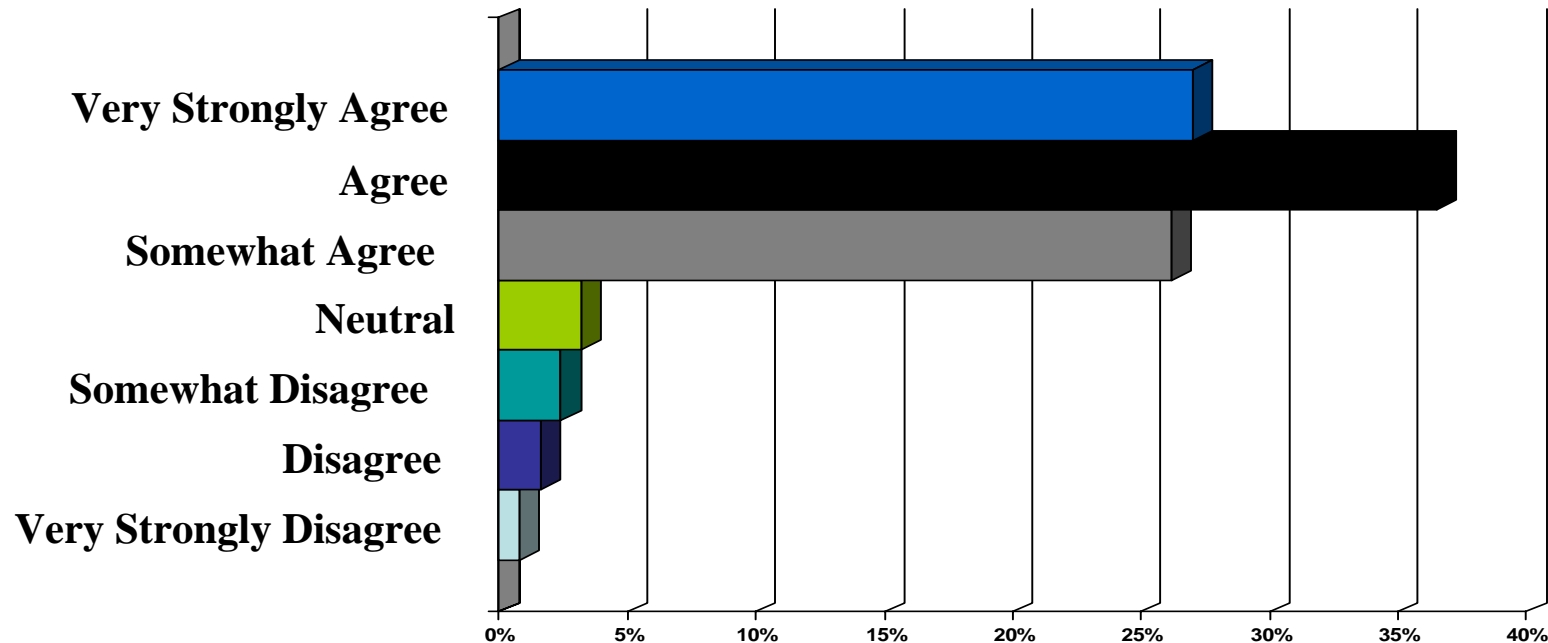


Mean = 5.48, Standard deviation = 1.30

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Provide high school and undergraduate college students written information about different food animal careers ”

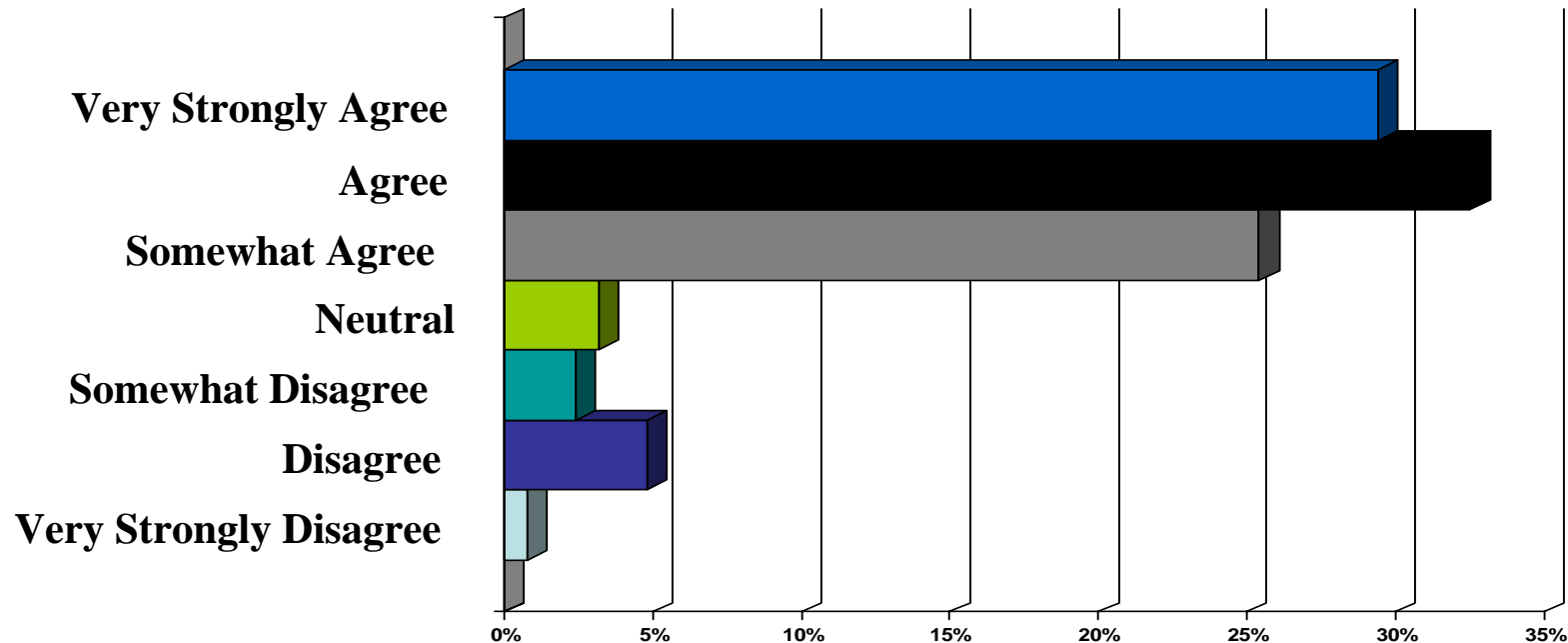


Mean = 5.52, Standard deviation = 1.35

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Payoff all student loans in exchange for working in a food animal veterinary medicine field for 3 years”

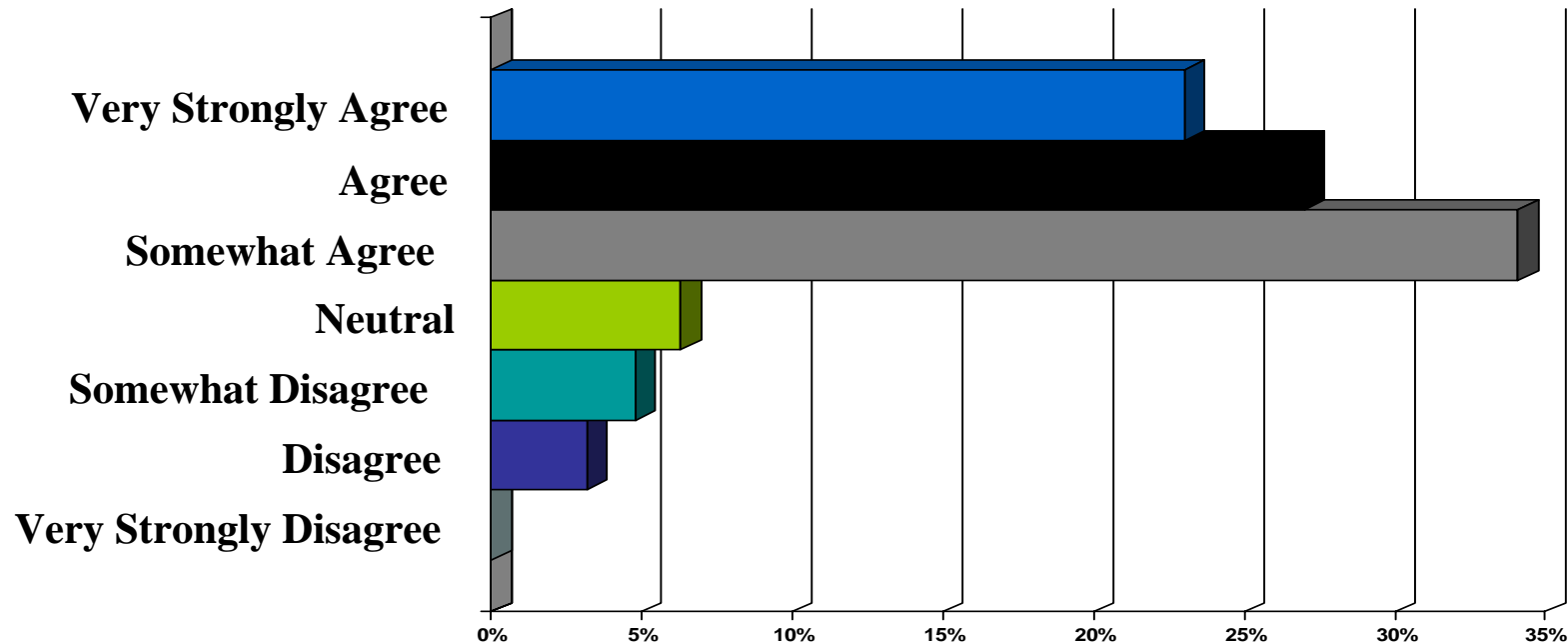


Mean = 5.44, Standard deviation = 1.46

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Financial assistance in purchasing equipment to begin a food animal practice”

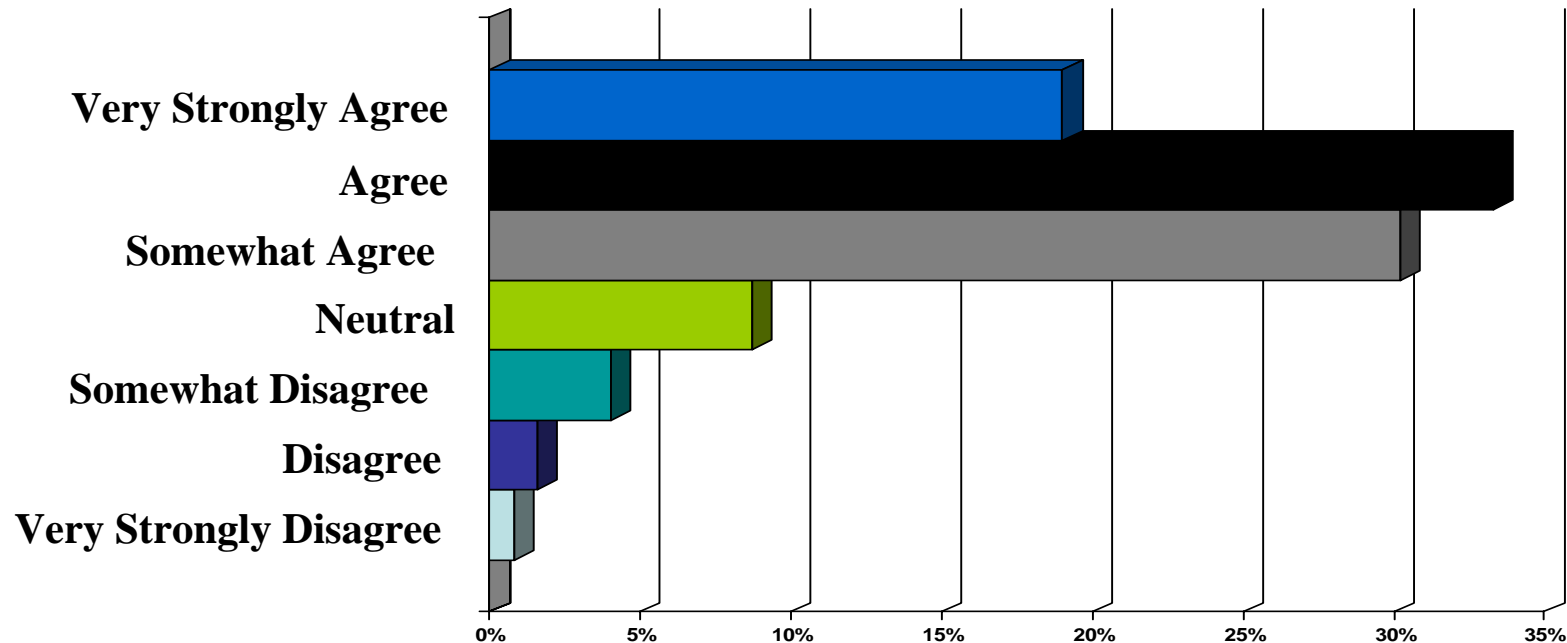


Mean = 5.40, Standard deviation = 1.30

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Assigning students interested in food animal careers to a faculty mentor”

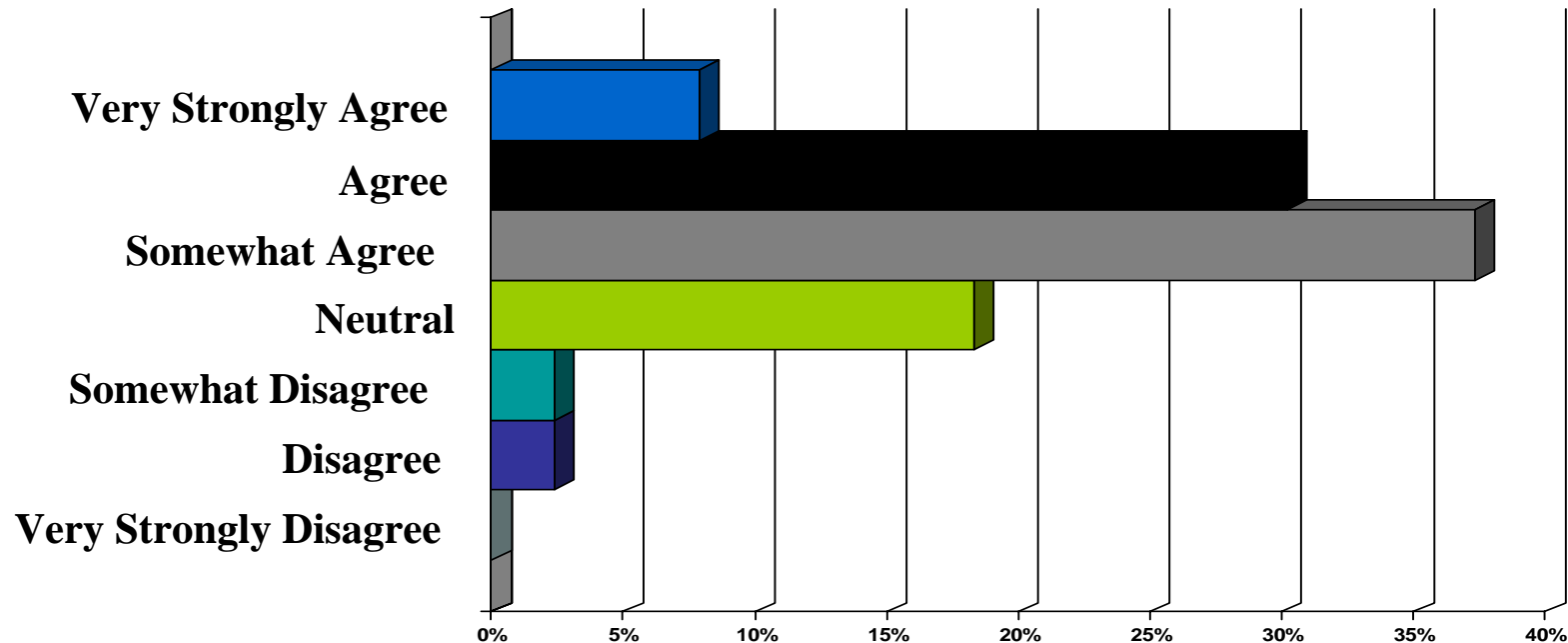


Mean = 5.33, Standard deviation = 1.30

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Establishment of mentoring / shadowing program that matches high school students with food animal veterinarians”

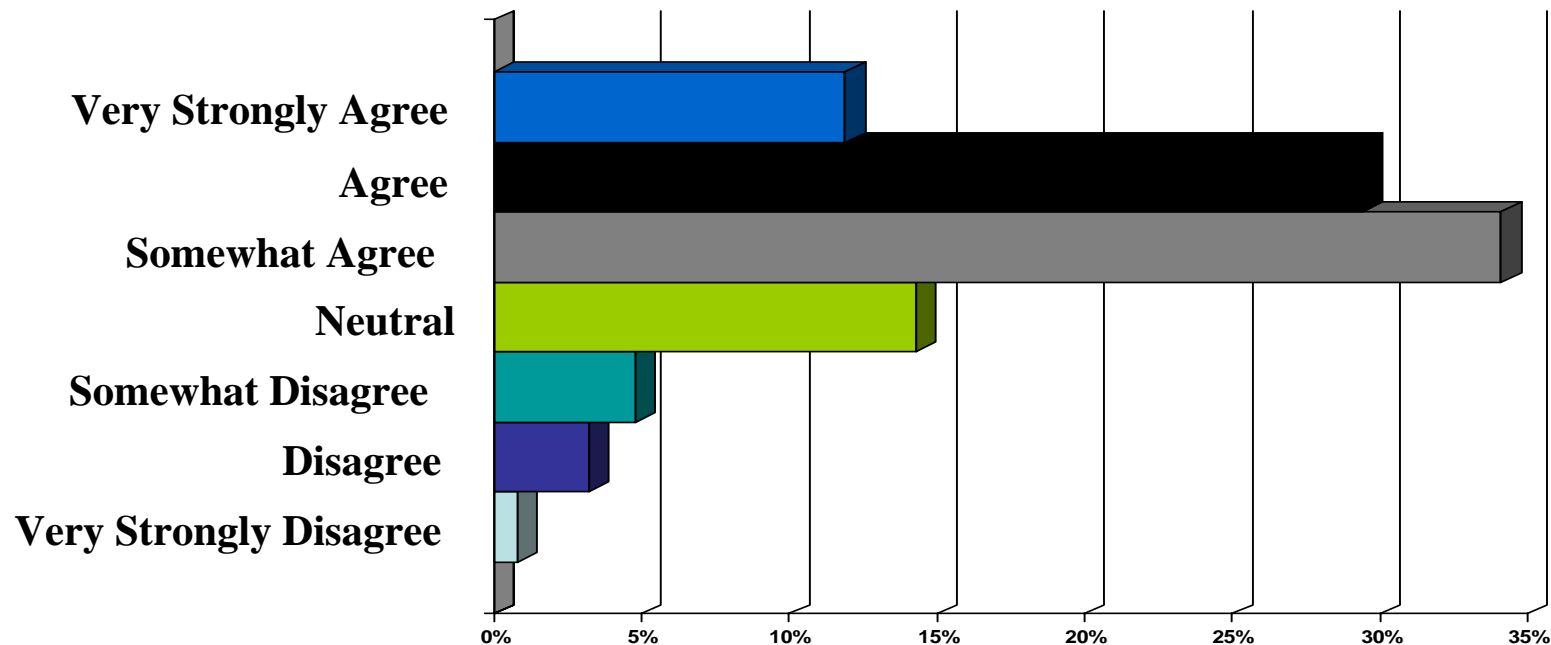


Mean = 5.18, Standard deviation = 1.15

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“A first semester program in veterinary medical school that lets students study and treat food animals”

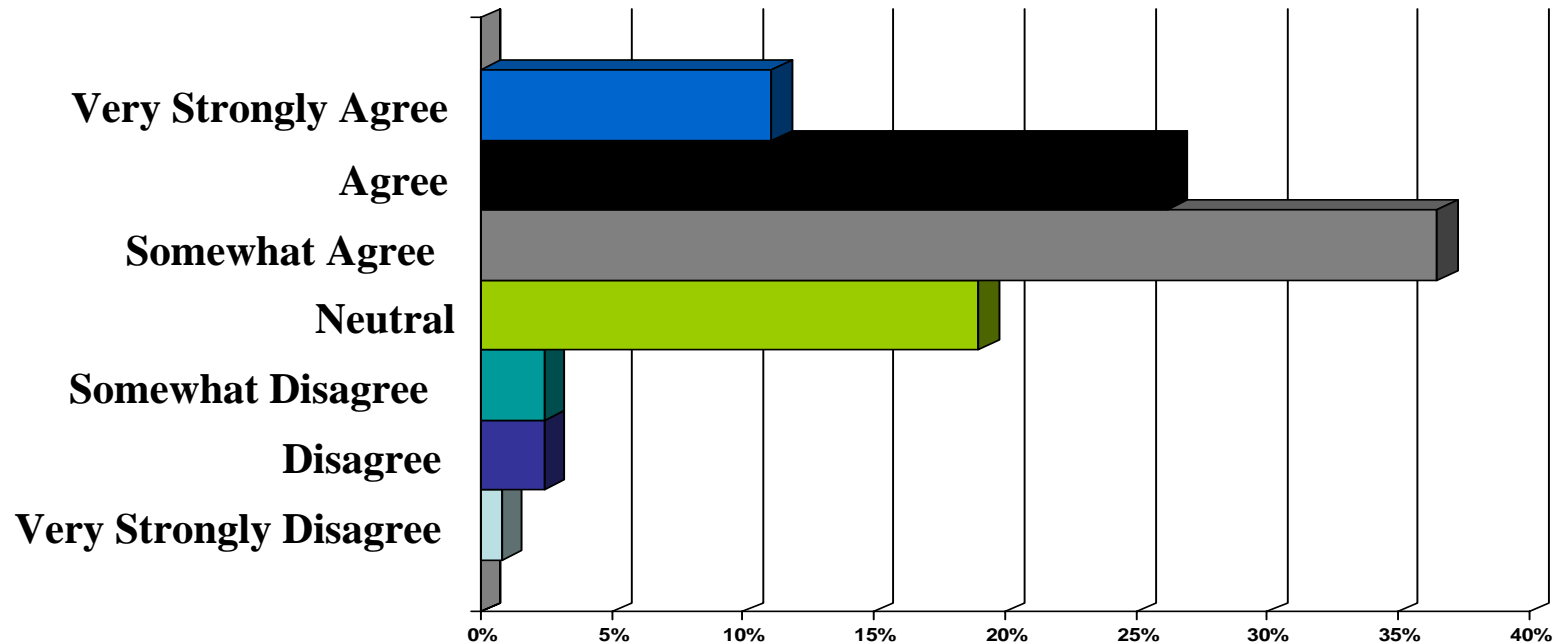


Mean = 5.14, Standard deviation = 1.36

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Produce a television show to compete with Emergency Vets called Farm Vets”

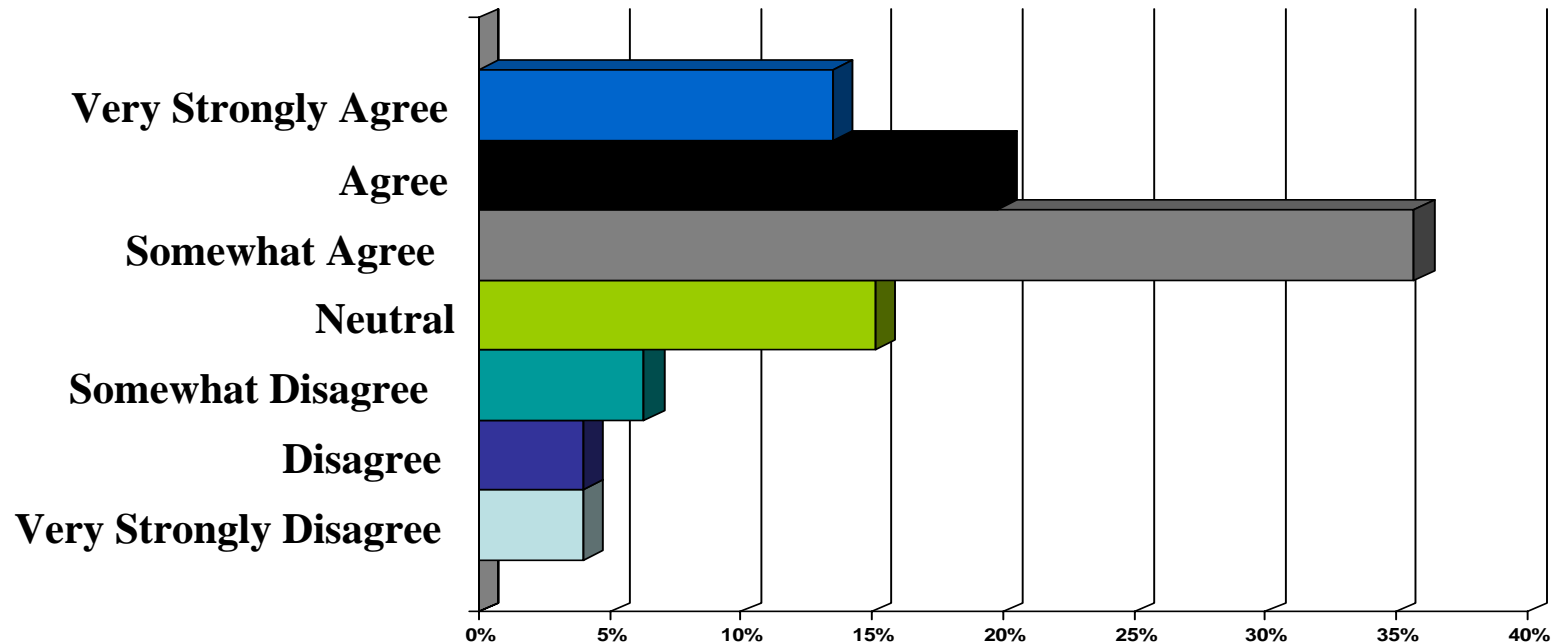


Mean = 4.89, Standard deviation = 1.37

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Create a compact disc that features the life and career of food animal veterinarians”

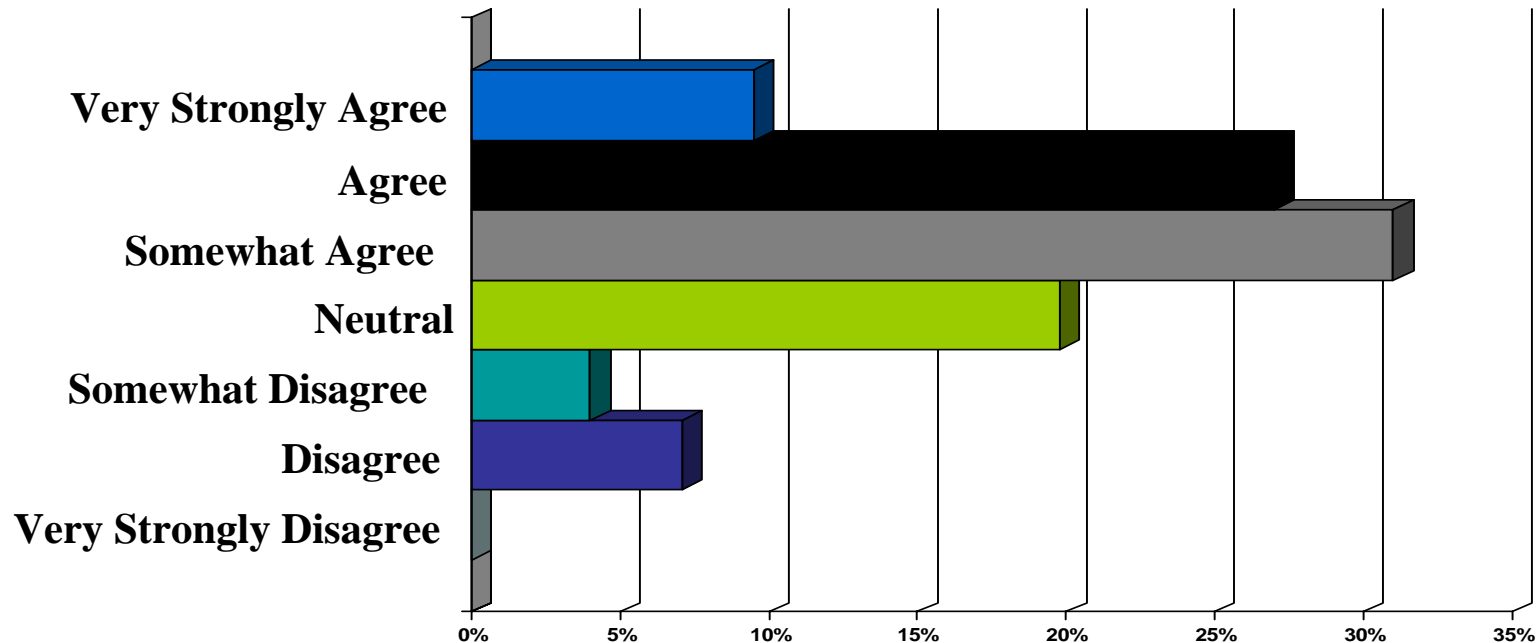


Mean = 4.93, Standard deviation = 1.54

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Reserve class slots for academically qualified applicants who express a commitment to food animal veterinary medicine”

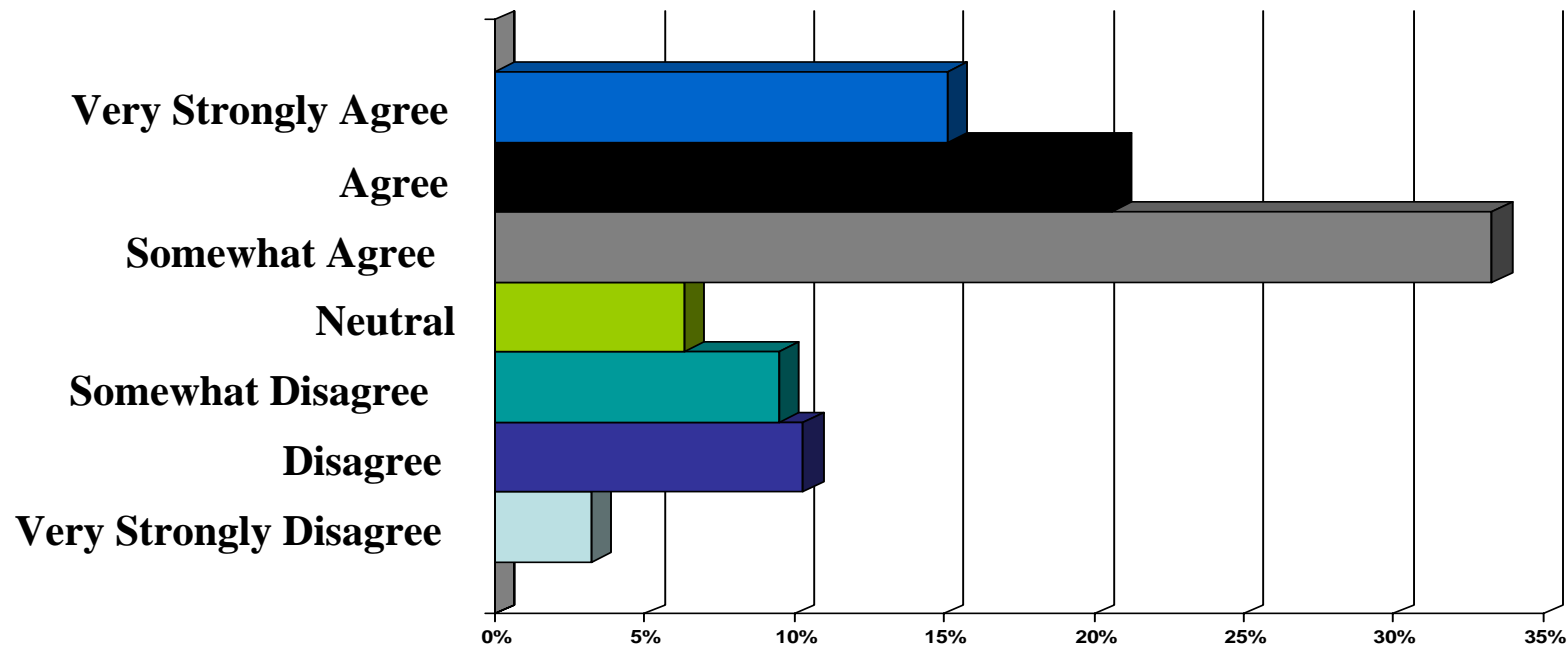


Mean = 4.56, Standard deviation = 1.54

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Early admission decisions targeted toward academically qualified applicants who express a commitment to food animal veterinary medicine”

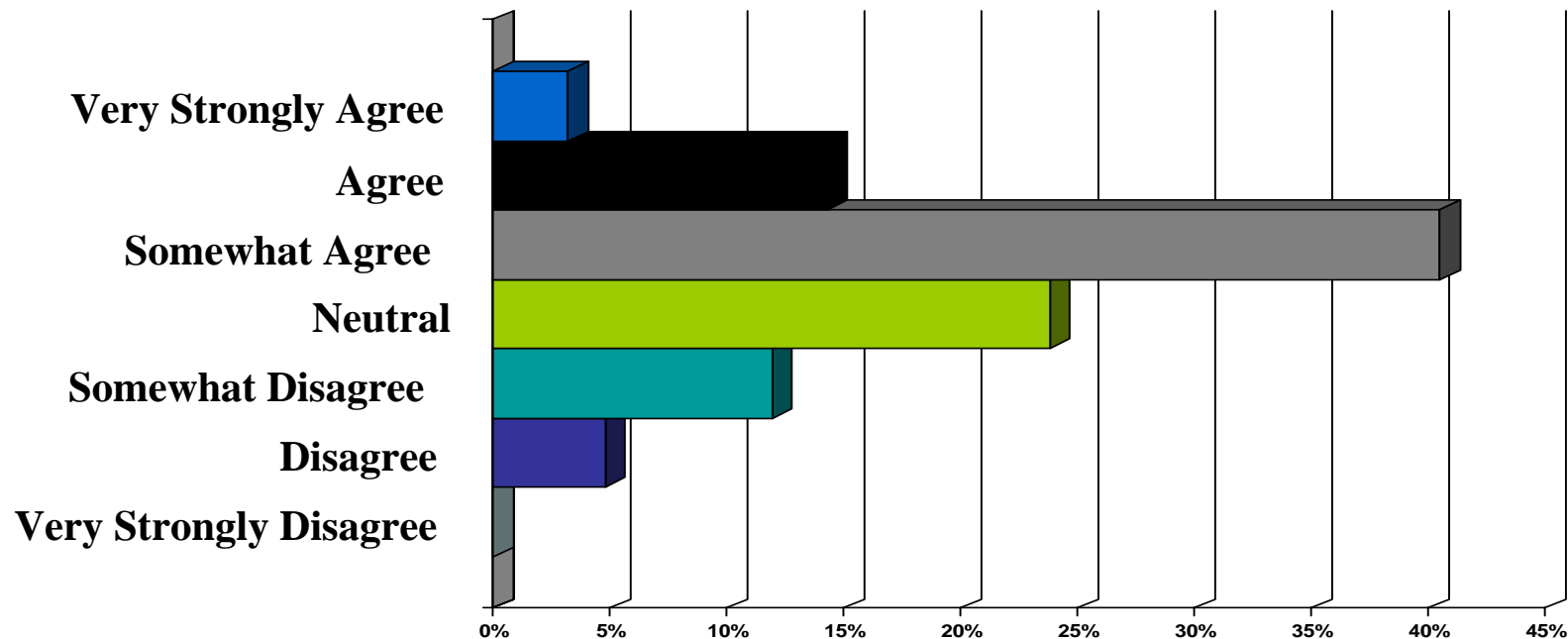


Mean = 4.53, Standard deviation = 1.67

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Orientation session prior to the start of first year classes that highlights career options in various veterinary medicine fields”

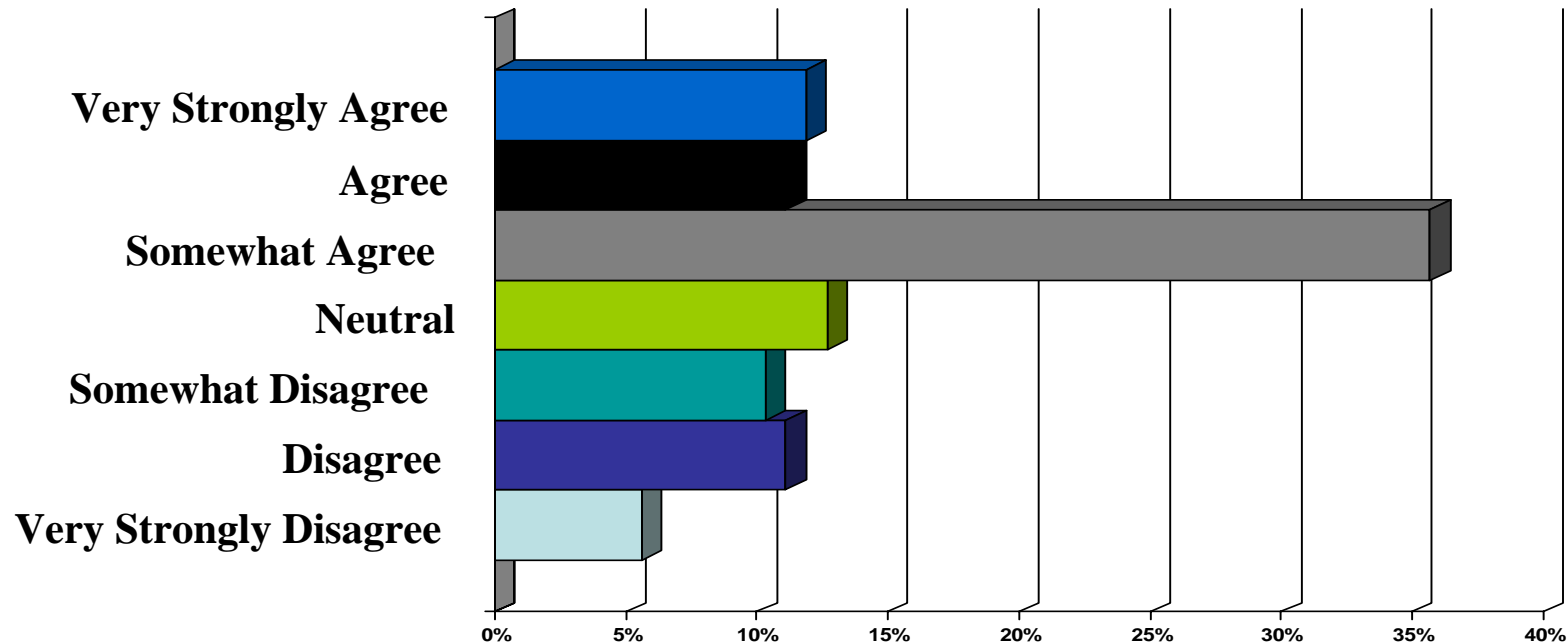


Mean = 4.39, Standard deviation = 1.34

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Providing substantial scholarships to those interested in food animal veterinary medicine”

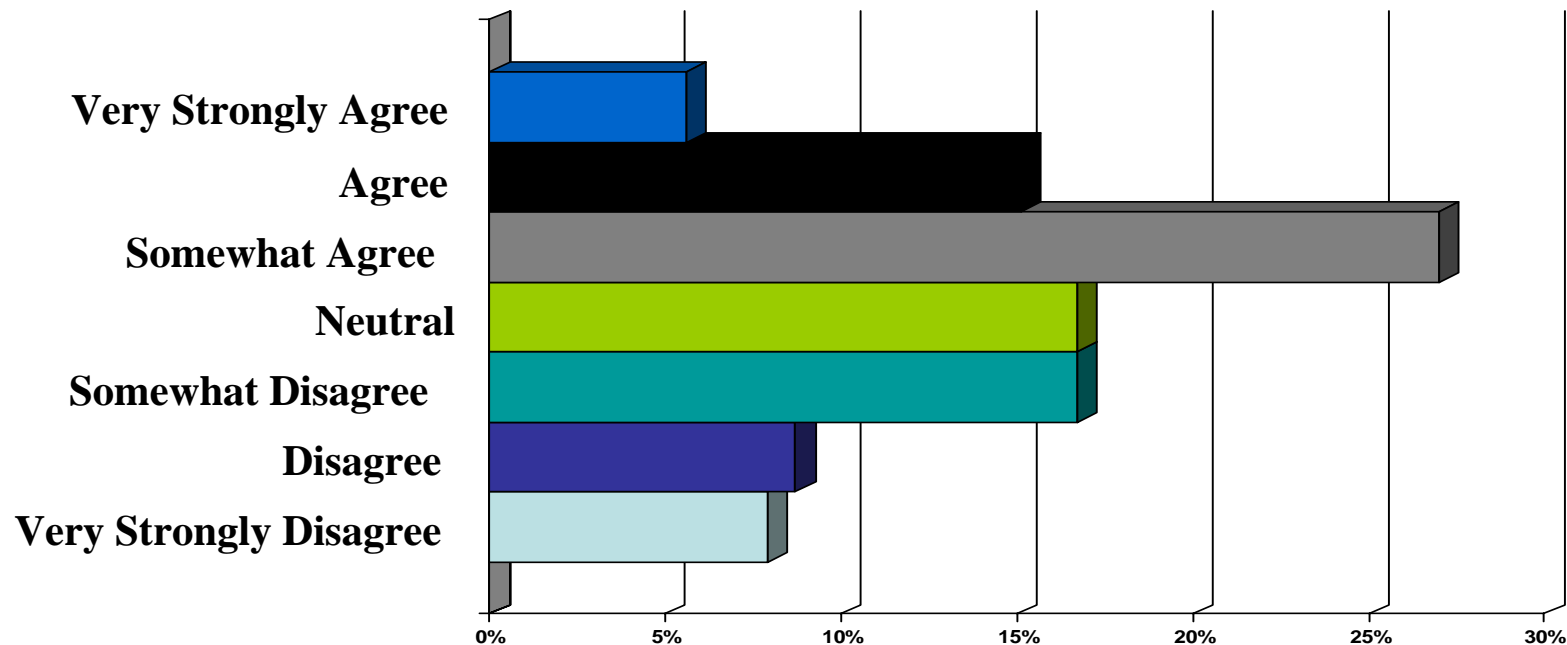


Mean = 4.28, Standard deviation = 1.64

Encouraging Food Animal Careers

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Offer paid 8-week summer externships in food animal medicine”



Mean = 4.10, Standard deviation = 1.72

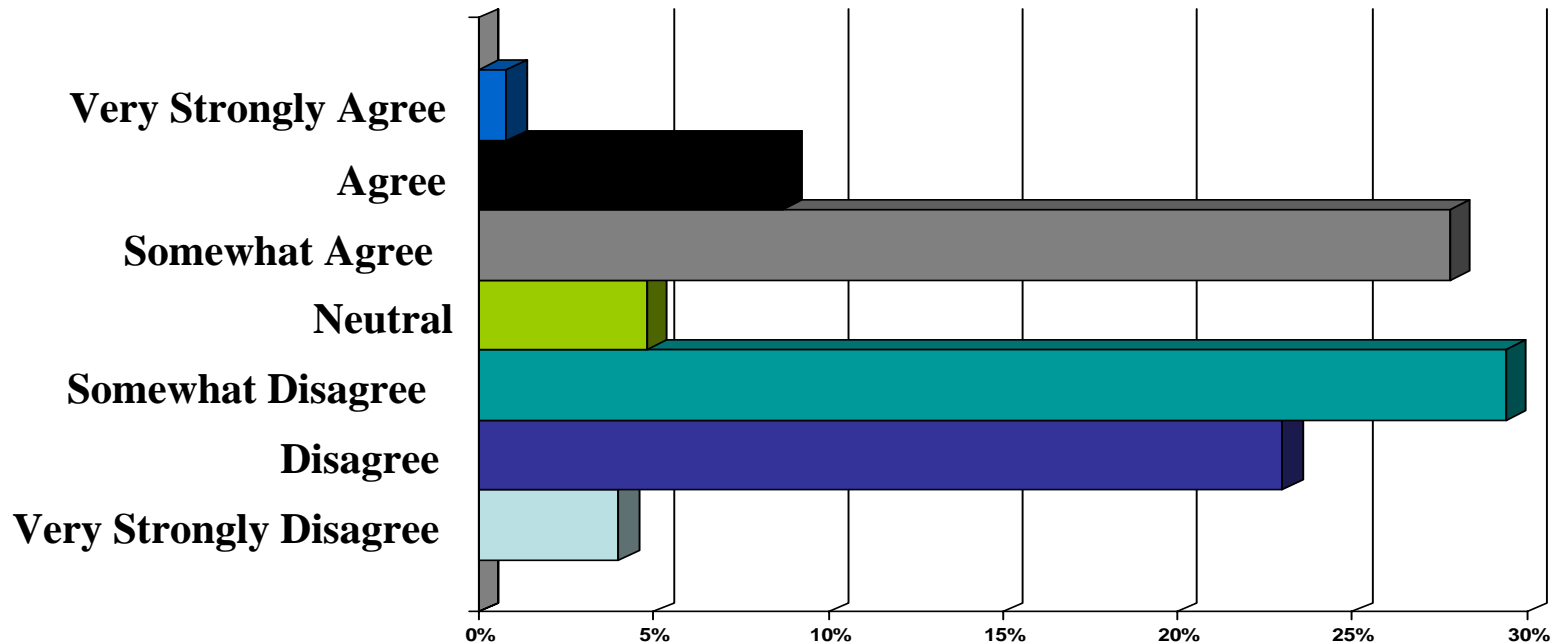
Summary of Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

- **Responses to the career expectation questions exhibit a relatively low level of agreement among respondents. That is, there are wide ranging opinions about these career expectations among respondents. This may be due to respondents having different career areas within food animal medicine in mind when they responded to the items. This suggests that there are careers within the food animal medicine area that are typical of all of these expectations, but also many that are not. As such, students selecting food animal careers may be able to select occupations that emphasize the factors that are important to them while minimizing other less desirable factors.**
- **Despite the variation in response to these career expectation questions, there are three expectations of food animal careers that were largely agreed on by respondents:**
 - **Food animal veterinarians spend a lot of time on-call**
 - **Food animal veterinarians get to interact with many people**
 - **Food animal veterinarians have a great deal of job satisfaction in their careers**

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinarians have a great deal of flexibility regarding when they perform their work”

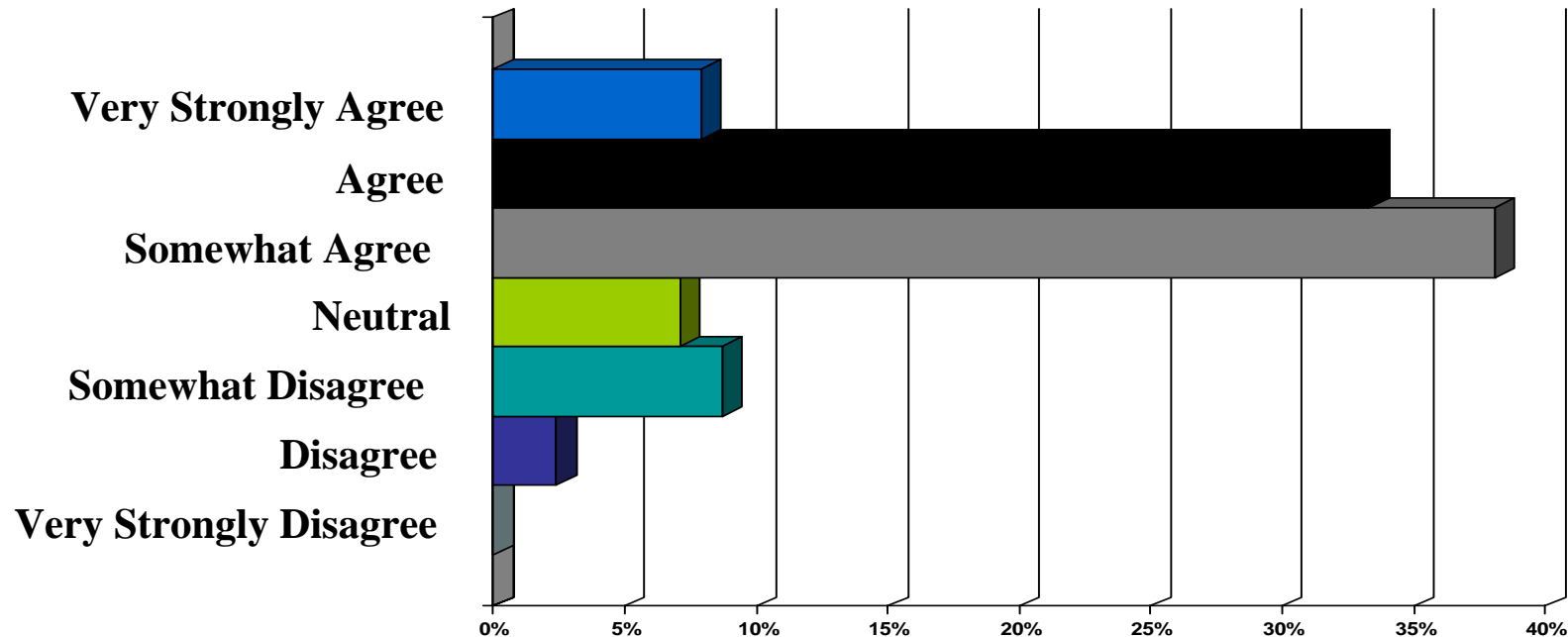


Mean = 3.60, Standard deviation = 1.47

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinarians spend a lot of time on-call”

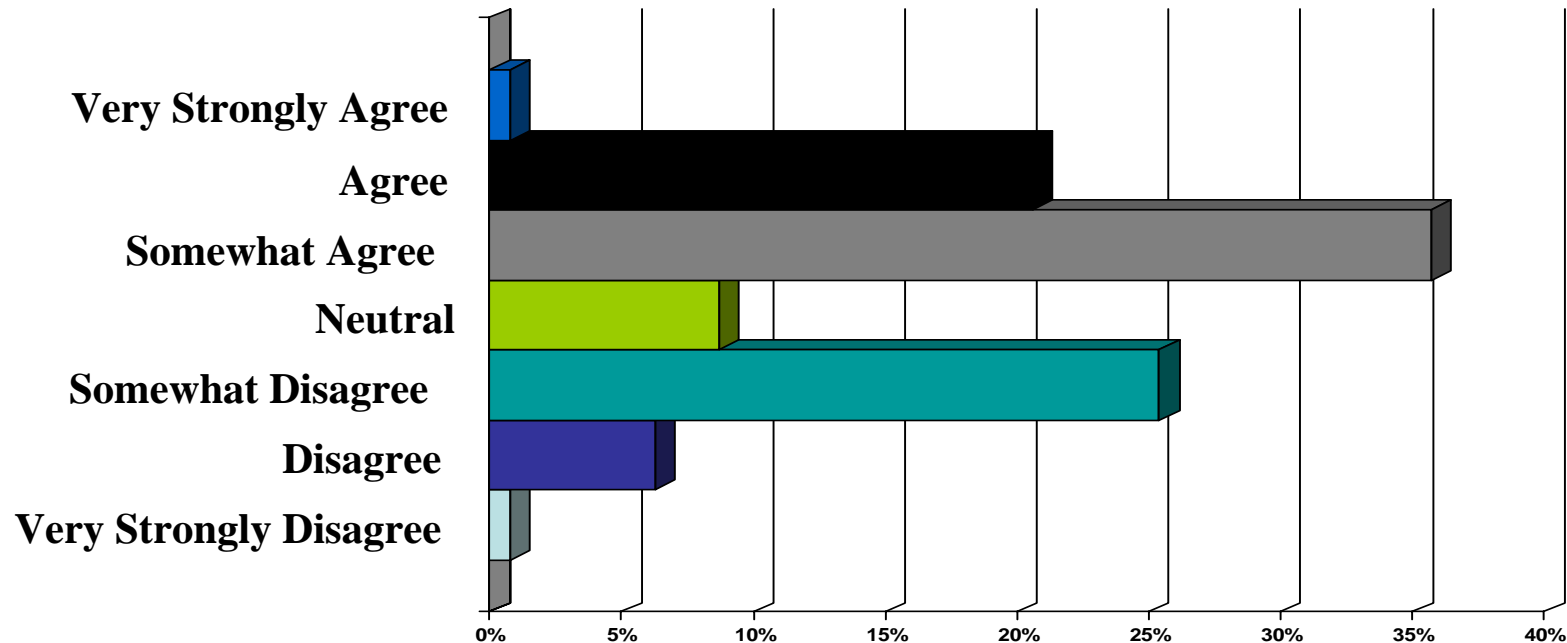


Mean = 5.14, Standard deviation = 1.23

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animals veterinarians need to live in rural areas”

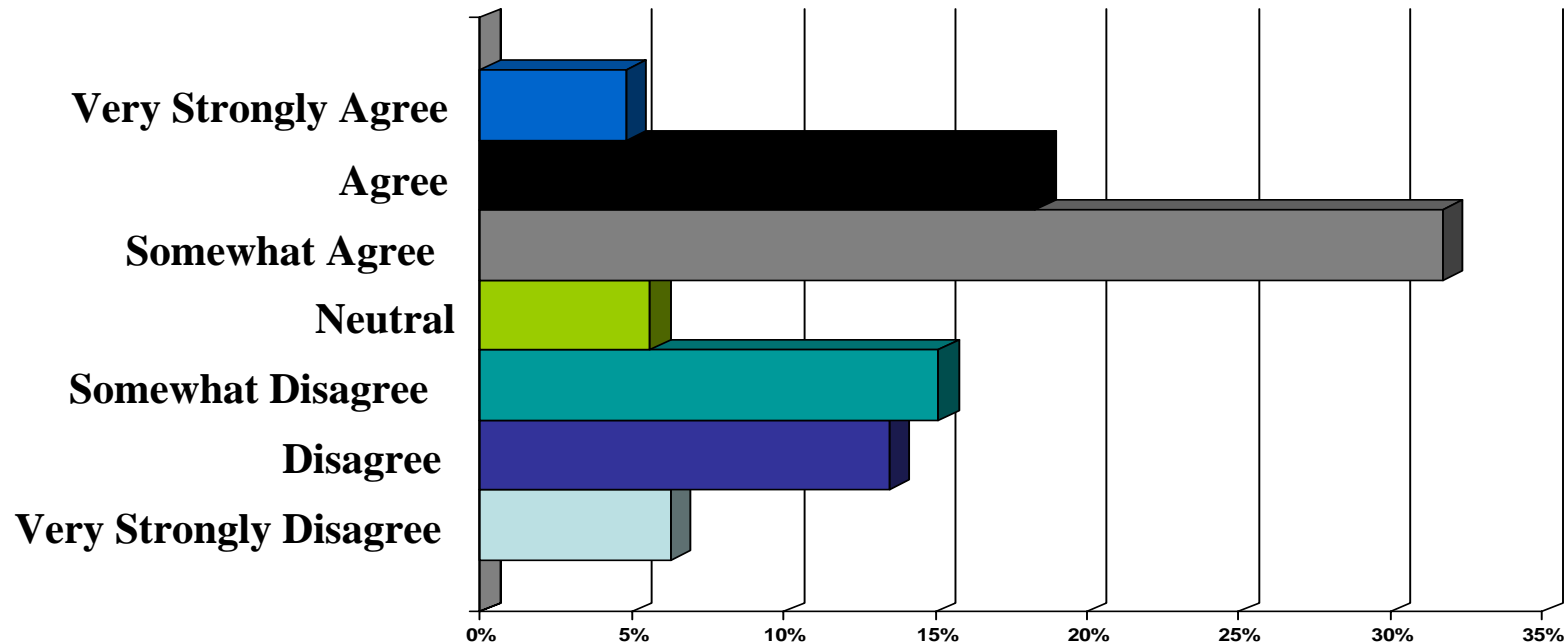


Mean = 4.40, Standard deviation = 1.31

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“The nature of food animal veterinary medicine is dirty”

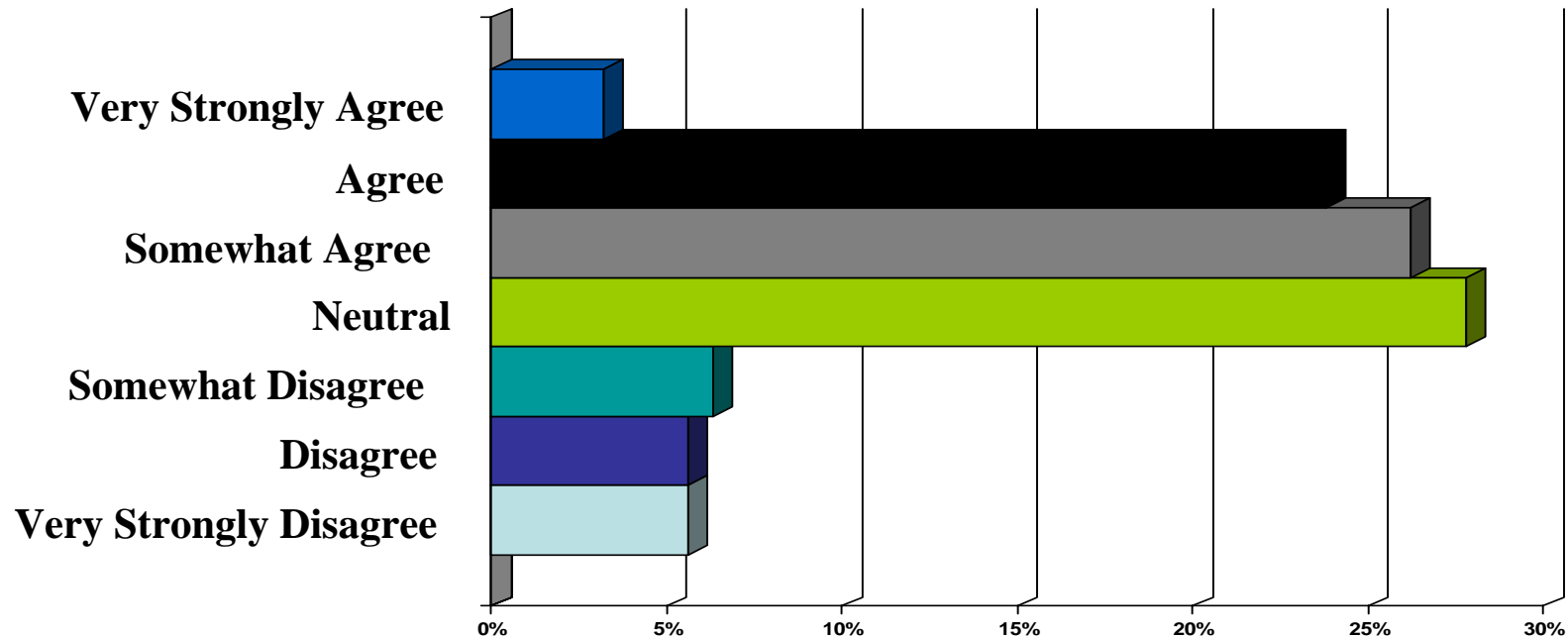


Mean = 4.09, Standard deviation = 1.82

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinarians have a lot of autonomy”

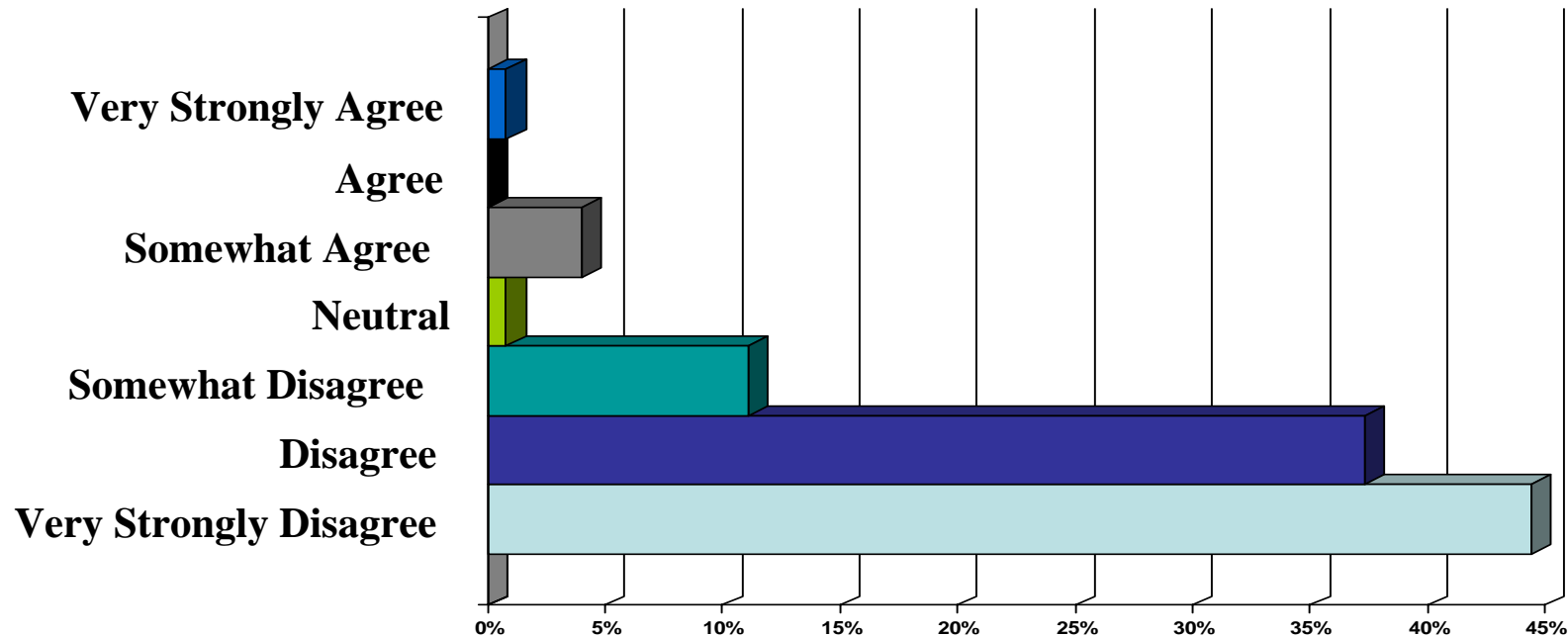


Mean = 4.50, Standard deviation = 1.45

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinarians do not interact with many people”

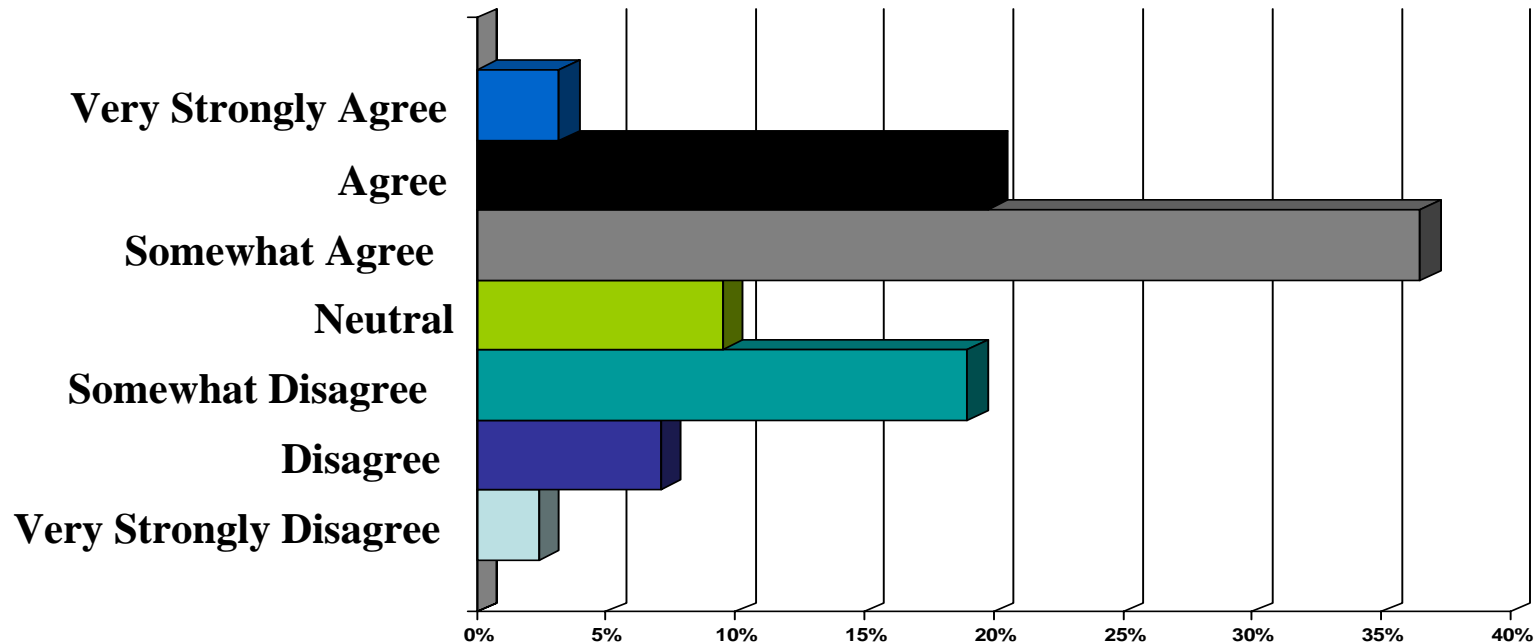


Mean = 1.84, Standard deviation = 1.07

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinarians must travel for work a great deal”

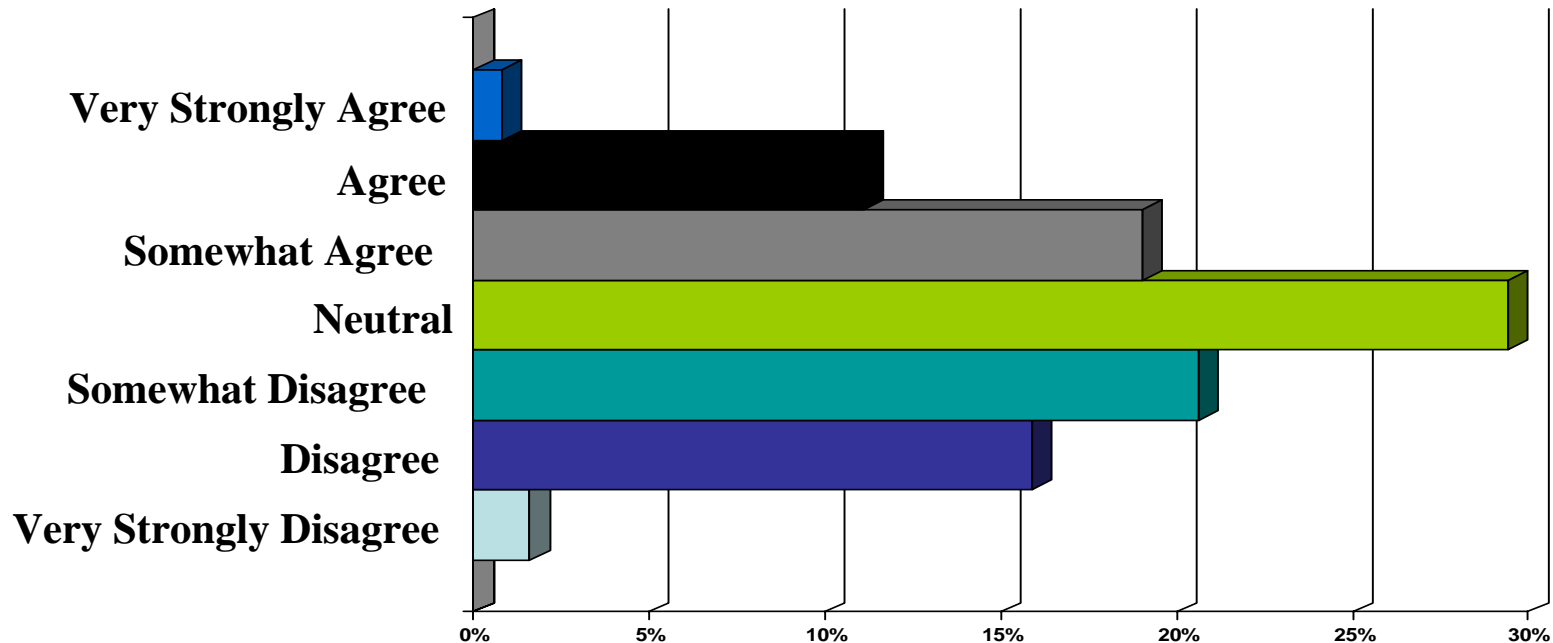


Mean = 4.43, Standard deviation = 1.46

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinarians can easily switch between employers”

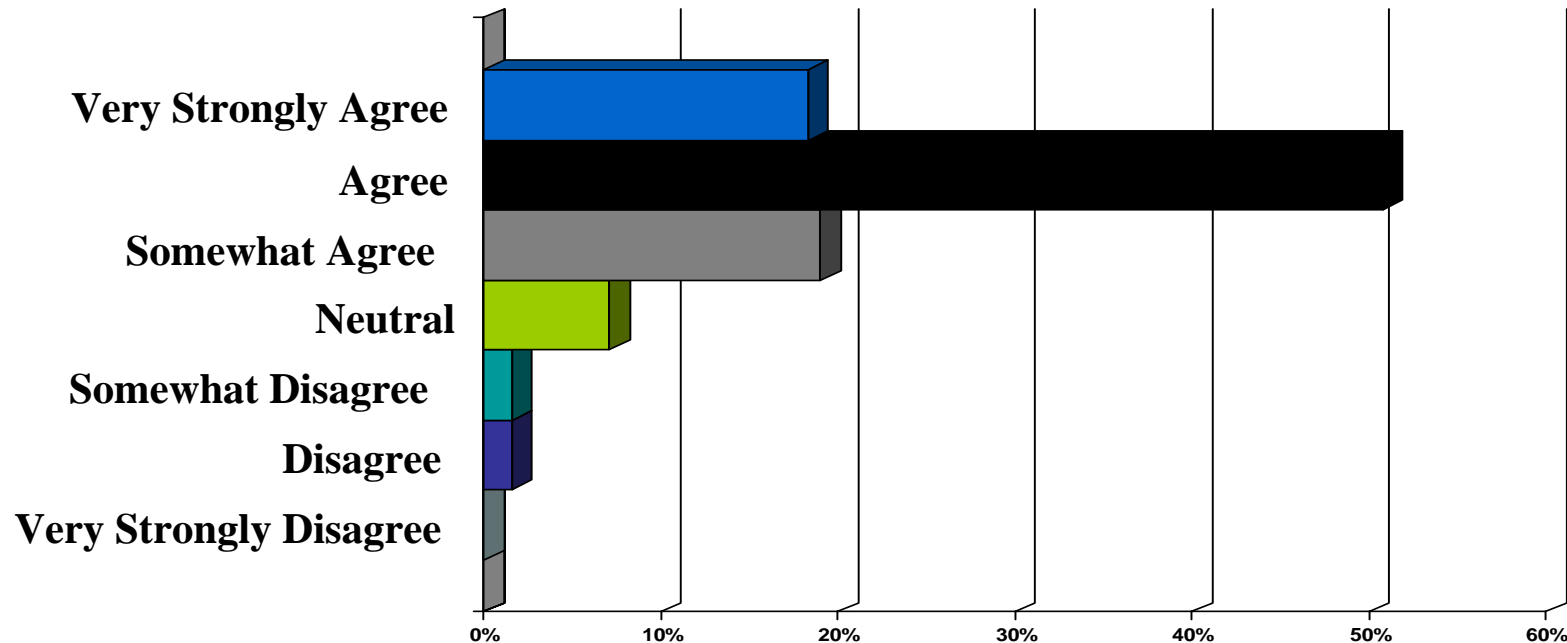


Mean = 3.86, Standard deviation = 1.31

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal veterinarians have a great deal of job satisfaction in their careers”

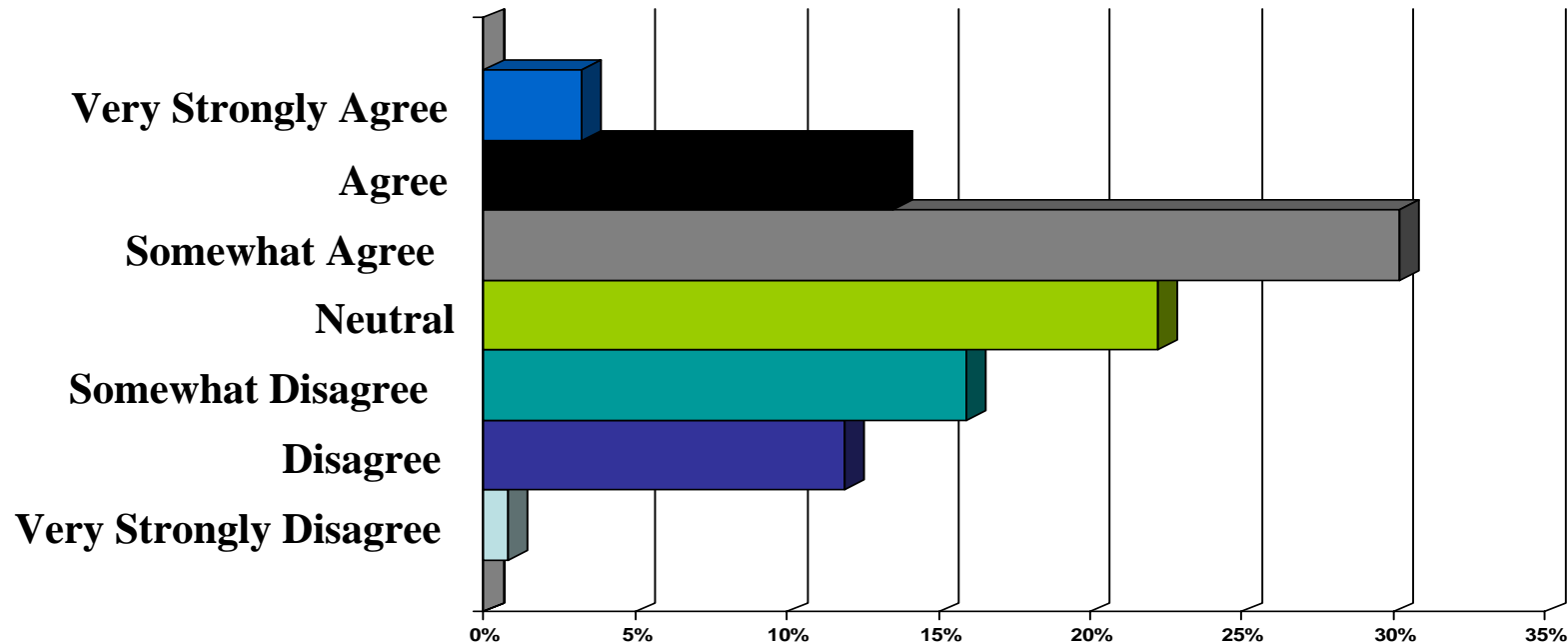


Mean = 5.73, Standard deviation = 1.00

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Most food animal veterinarians stay in that field their entire career”

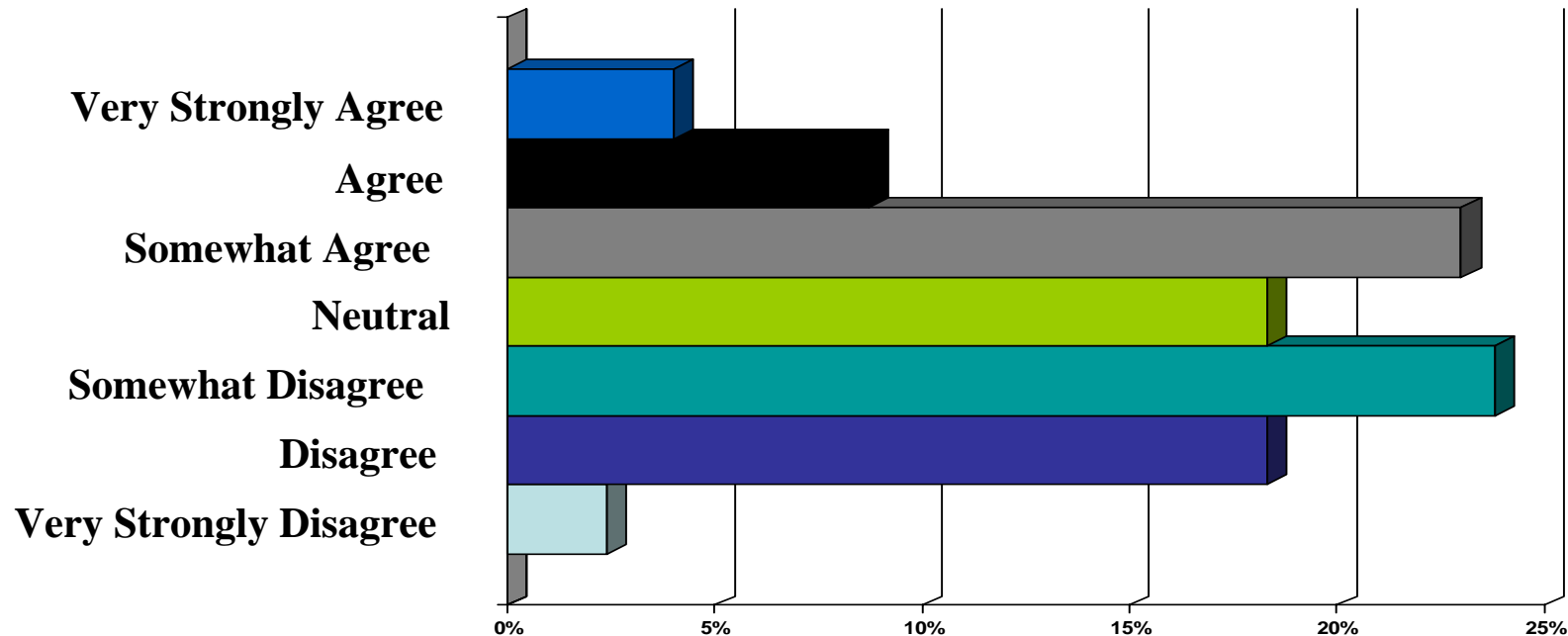


Mean = 4.22, Standard deviation = 1.40

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

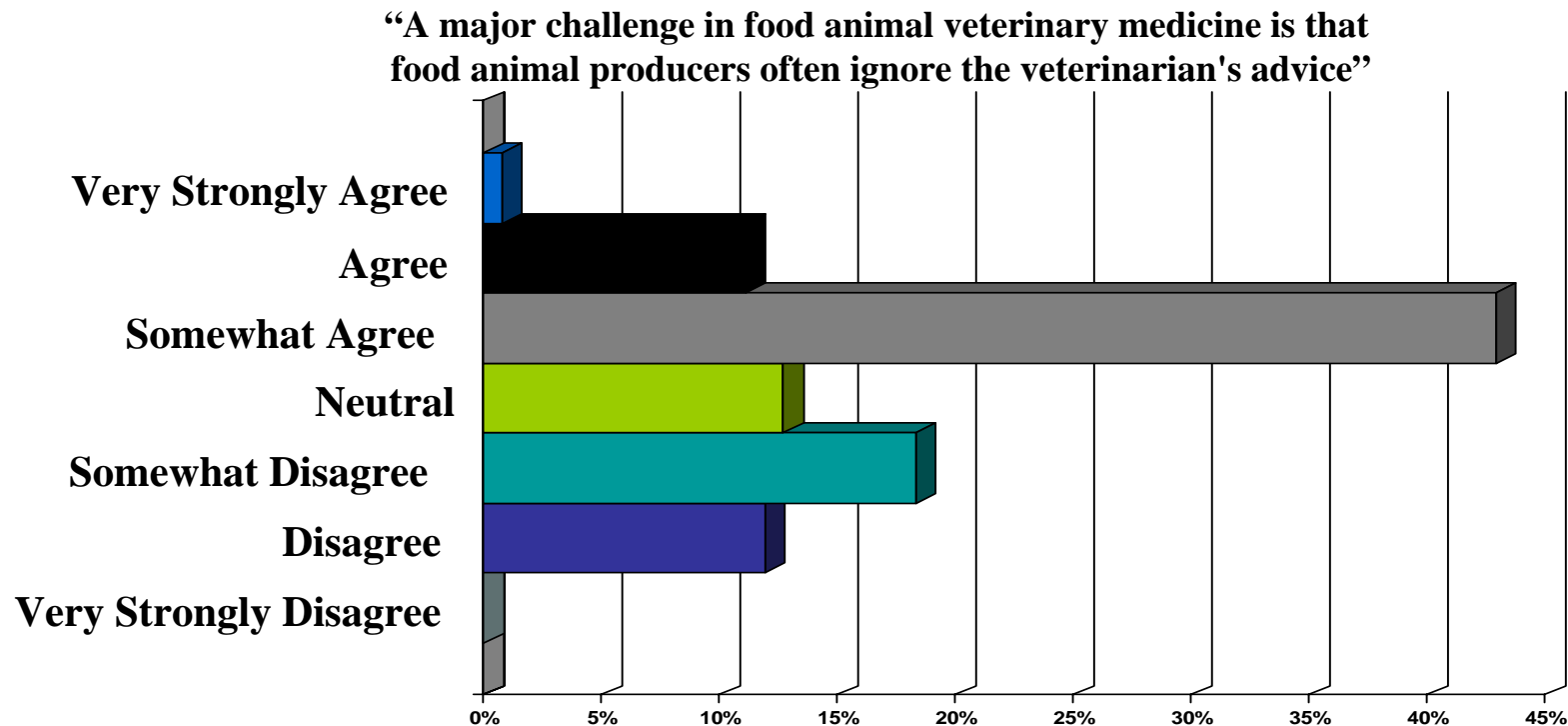
“Consolidation among food animal producers will make it more difficult to be a food animal veterinarian”



Mean = 3.85, Standard deviation = 1.47

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

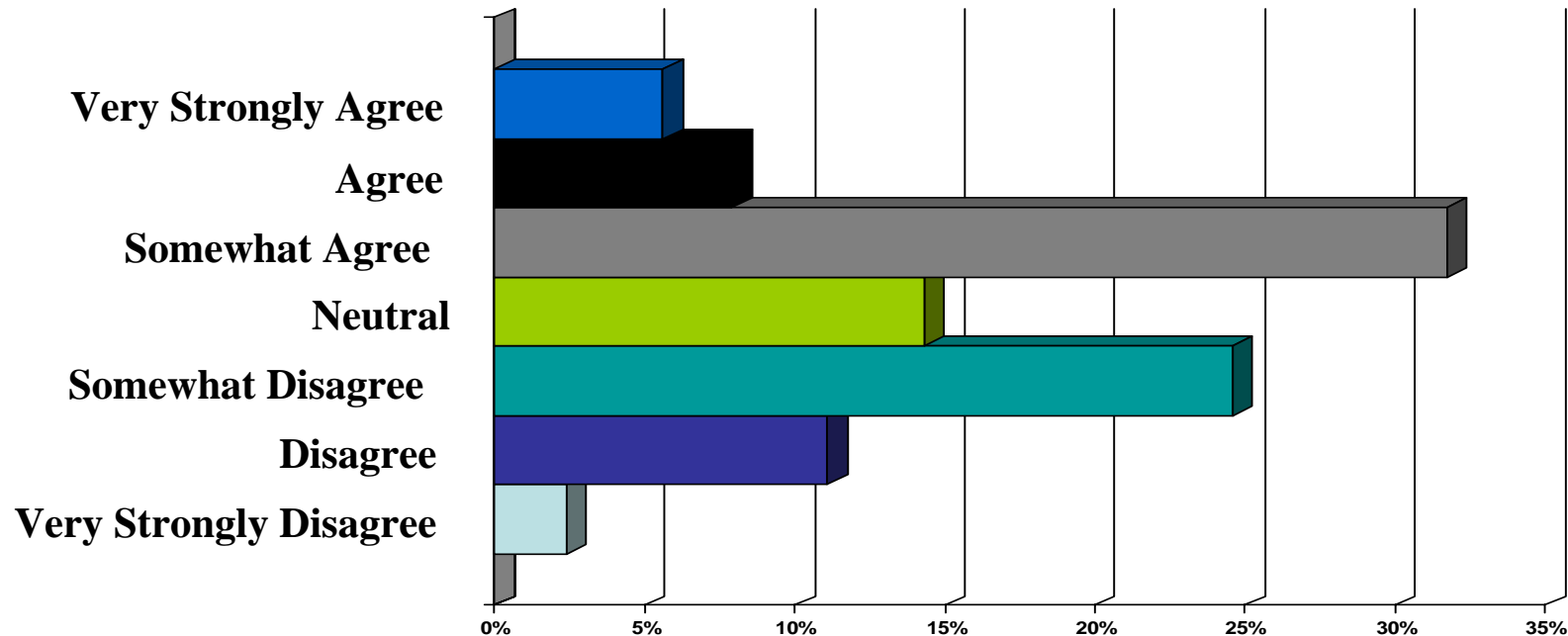


Mean = 4.23, Standard deviation = 1.31

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“Food animal producers are not very willing to pay for the types of services offered by veterinarians”

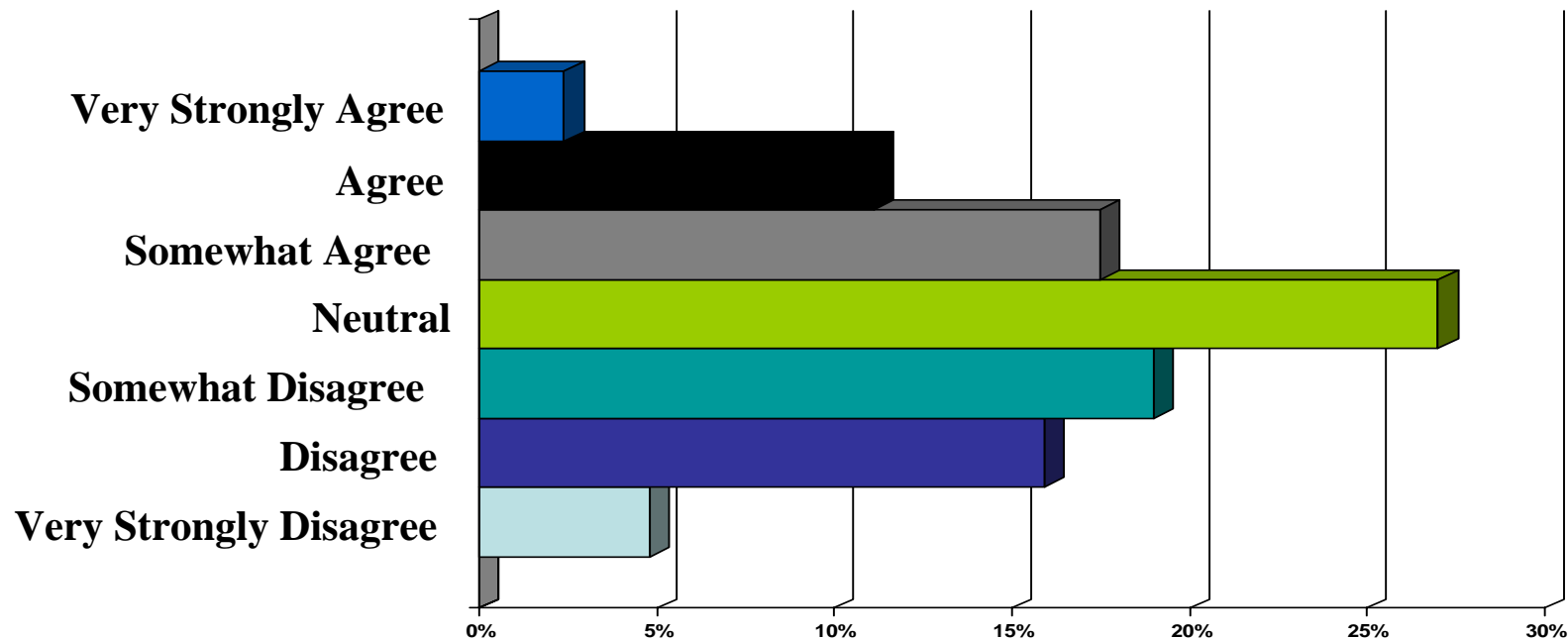


Mean = 4.07, Standard deviation = 1.49

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“I am concerned over my ability to buy into a food animal practice”

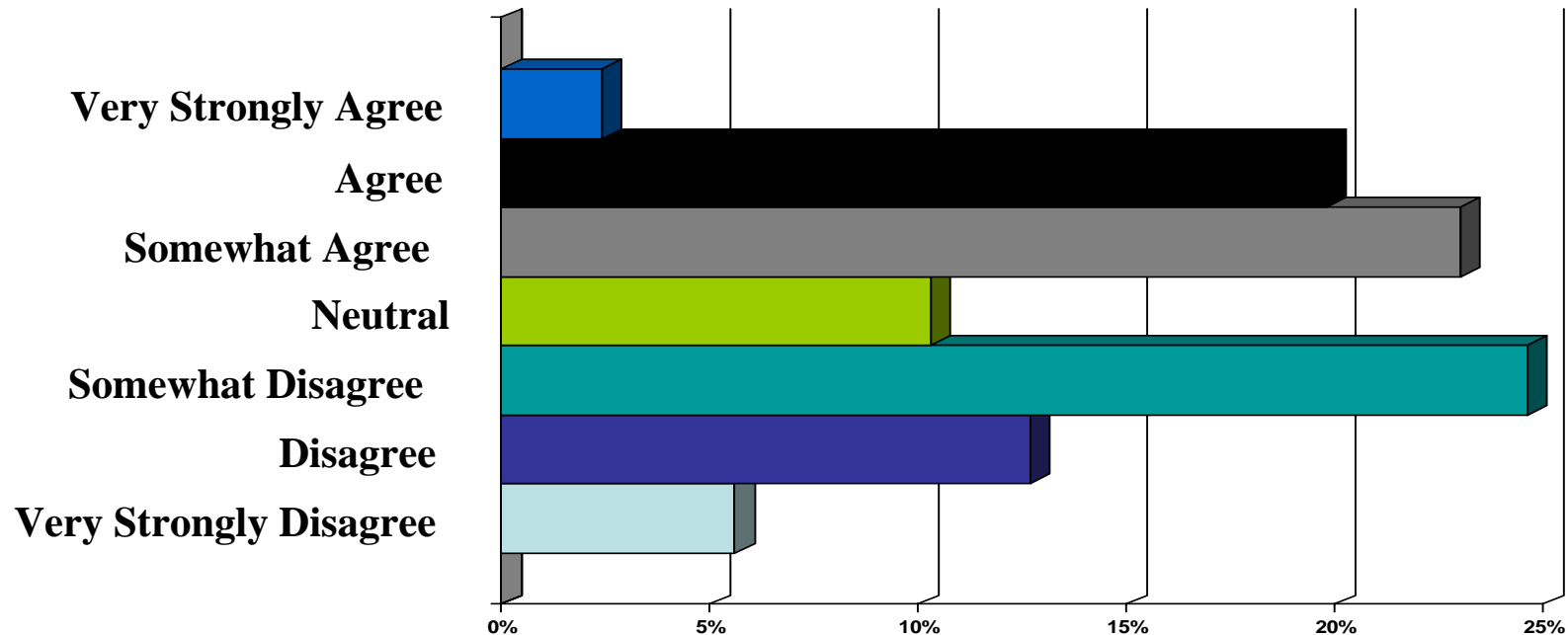


Mean = 3.78, Standard deviation = 1.49

Career Expectations for Food Animal Veterinarians

Among all third and fourth year veterinary student respondents with a food animal focus

“My veterinary education has adequately prepared me to work in a food animal practice”



Mean = 4.03, Standard deviation = 1.60