

Alaska Farmer and Rancher Survey Results 2013

Introduction

The Fairbanks Economic Development Corps (FEDC) and local farmers in the Fairbanks region conducted a survey in 2013 to find out what Fairbanks area farmers want, what they need, what their current struggles are for their farms, and if they would be interested in the creation of the Fairbanks Growers Co-op. 21 Farmers responded to this survey and the results intrigued Division of Agriculture staff in Palmer. The Division of Agriculture (DOA), in coordination with Alaska Farmland Trust, conducted a similar survey in late 2013 with Matanuska-Susitna area farmers. The goal of this survey was to find out what Mat-Su area farmers want, what they need, and what their current struggles are for their farms. 39 Farmers responded to the survey and gave extra insight into their industries. Division of Agriculture then sent out the same survey for the Mat-Su area to all remaining areas in Alaska. In some cases the questions were worded slightly different and you will see the different wording listed. Following is a comparison of all survey results by region.

Regions

Interior: 23 respondents

South Central: 39 respondents

South West: 4 respondents

South East: 4 respondents

Kenai Peninsula: 10 respondents

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1. Are you currently farming/ranching or are you an aspiring farmer/rancher? (DOA & FEDC Survey)

- Interior
 - **Current Farmer: 95.7 % (22 people)**
 - Aspiring Farmer: 4.3 % (1 person)

 - South Central
 - **Current Farmer: 89.7% (35 people)**
 - Aspiring Farmer: 10.3% (4 people)

 - South West
 - **Current Farmer: 100% (4 people)**
 - Aspiring Farmer: 0% (0 people)
- South East
 - **Current Farmer: 100% (4 people)**
 - Aspiring Farmer: 0% (0 people)

 - Kenai Peninsula
 - **Current Farmer: 100% (10 people)**
 - Aspiring Farmer: 0% (0 people)

2. Would you be interested in having support with distributing your products? If so, how? (DOA Survey)
Would you be interested in having support with marketing and/or distributing your products through a farmers coop? (FEDC Survey)

- Interior
- **Yes: 73.9% (17 people)**
- No: 21.7% (5 people)
- Not Yet: 4.3% (1 person)
- South Central
- Yes: 46.2% (18 people)
- **No: 53.8% (21 people)**
- South West
- **Yes: 75% (3 people)**
- No: 25% (1 person)
- South East
- **Yes: 75% (3 people)**
- No: 25% (1 person)
- Kenai Peninsula
- **Yes: 60% (6 people)**
- No: 40% (4 people)

3. If you had a guaranteed market would you be interested in increasing your production? Why? (DOA Survey)

If you had a guaranteed market would you be interested in increasing your production? (FEDC Survey)

- Interior
- **Yes: 78.3% (18 people)**
- No: 8.7% (2 people)
- Skipped Question: 13% (3 people)
- South Central
- **Yes: 76.9% (30 people)**
- No: 23.1% (9 people)
- South West
- **Yes: 100% (4 people)**
- No: 0% (0 people)
- South East
- **Yes: 100% (4 people)**
- No: 0% (0 people)
- Kenai Peninsula
- **Yes: 90% (9 people)**
- No: 10% (1 person)

4. Do you have the capacity to increase production? (DOA Survey)

Do you have the capacity to grow more vegetables than you are currently producing? (FEDC Survey)

- Interior
- **Yes: 78.3 % (18 people)**
- No: 17.4% (4 people)
- Skipped Question: 4.3 % (1 person)
- South Central
- **Yes: 74.4% (29 people)**
- No: 25.6% (10 people)
- South West
- **Yes: 100% (4 people)**
- No: 0% (0 people)
- South East
- **Yes: 75% (3 people)**
- No: 25% (1 person)
- Kenai Peninsula
- **Yes: 90% (9 people)**
- No: 10% (1 person)

5. Are you interested in entering new markets? (DOA & FEDC Survey)

- Interior
- **Yes: 87% (20 people)**
- No: 8.7% (2 people)
- Skipped Question: 4.3% (1 person)

- South Central
- **Yes: 64.1% (25 people)**
- No: 35.9% (14 people)

- South West
- **Yes: 100% (4 people)**
- No: 0% (0 people)

- South East
- **Yes: 100% (4 people)**
- No: 0% (0 people)

- Kenai Peninsula
- **Yes: 70 % (7 people)**
- No: 30% (3 people)

6. Are you willing to come to an informational meeting about prospective ideas? (DOA Survey)
Are you willing to come to an informational meeting about a prospective co-op? (FEDC Survey)

- Interior
- **Yes: 91.3% (21 people)**
- No: 8.7% (2 people)

- South Central
- **Yes: 74.4% (29 people)**
- No: 20.5% (8 people)
- Skipped Question: 5.13% (2 people)

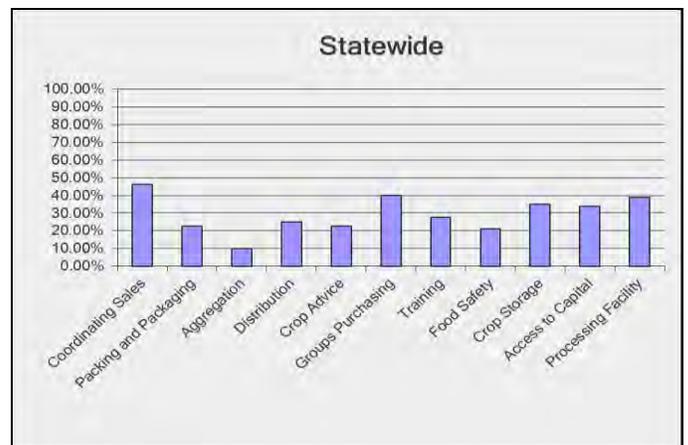
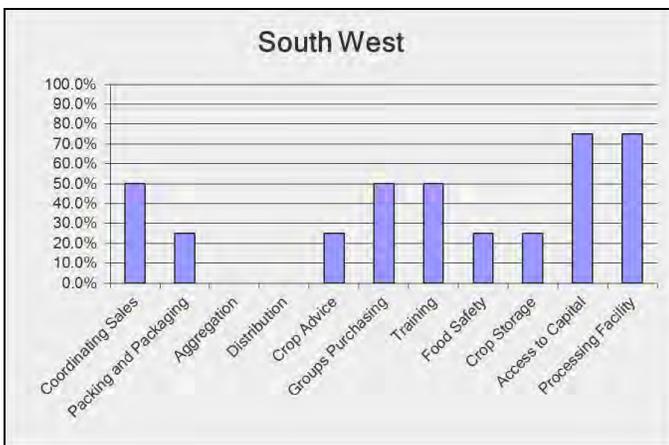
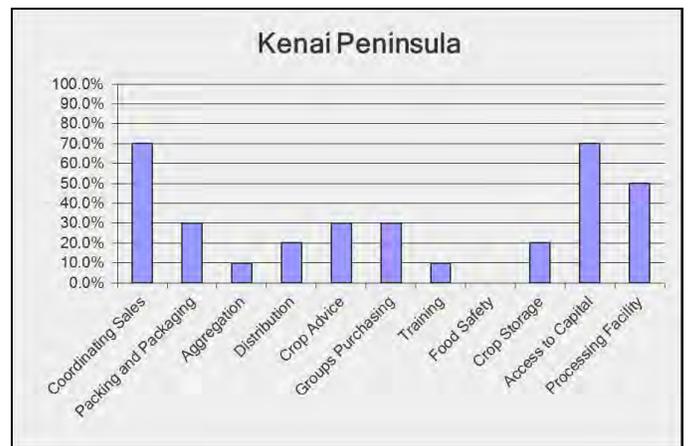
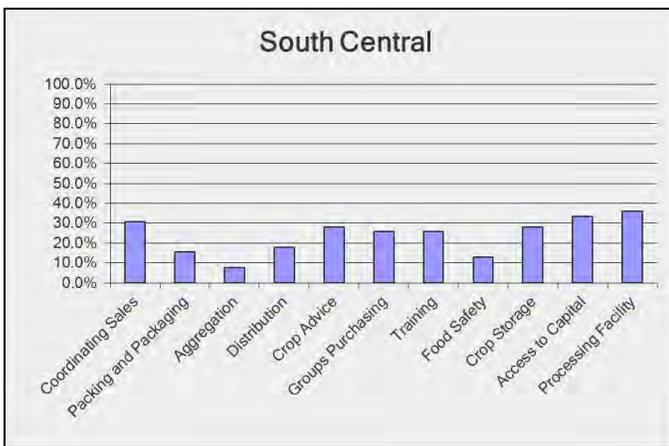
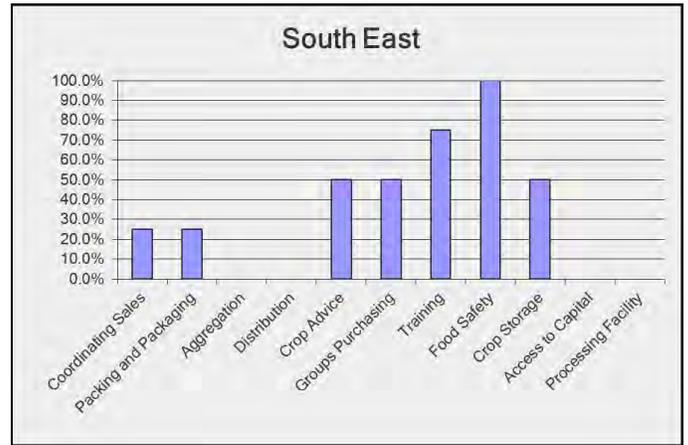
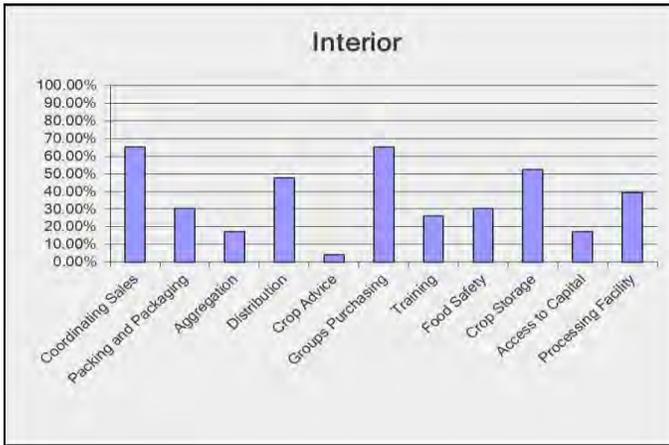
- South West
- **Yes: 100% (4 people)**
- No: 0% (0 people)

- South East
- **Yes: 100% (4 people)**
- No: 0% (0 people)

- Kenai Peninsula
- **Yes: 90% (9 people)**
- No: 0% (0 people)
- Skipped Question: 10% (1 person)

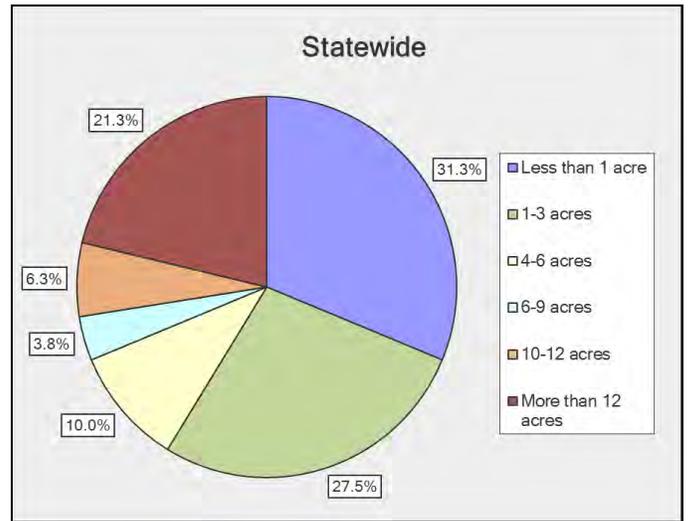
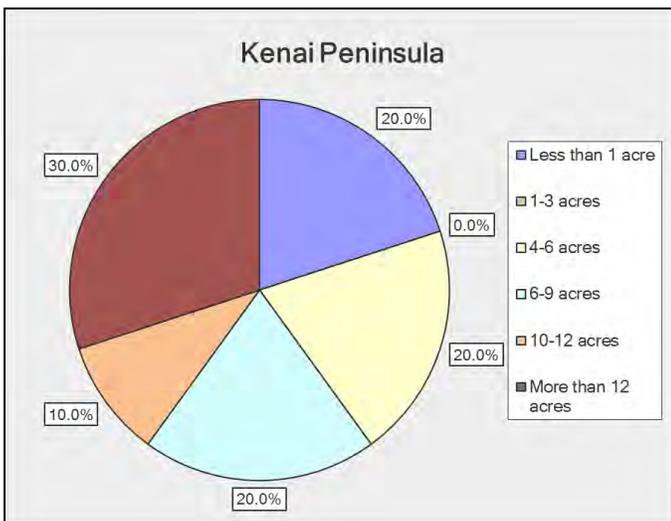
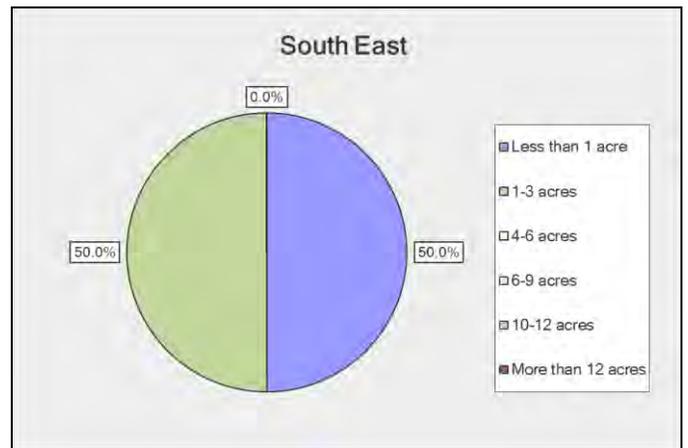
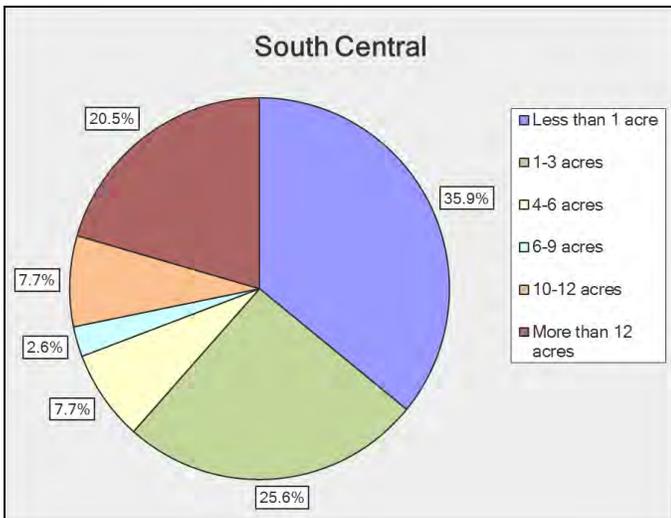
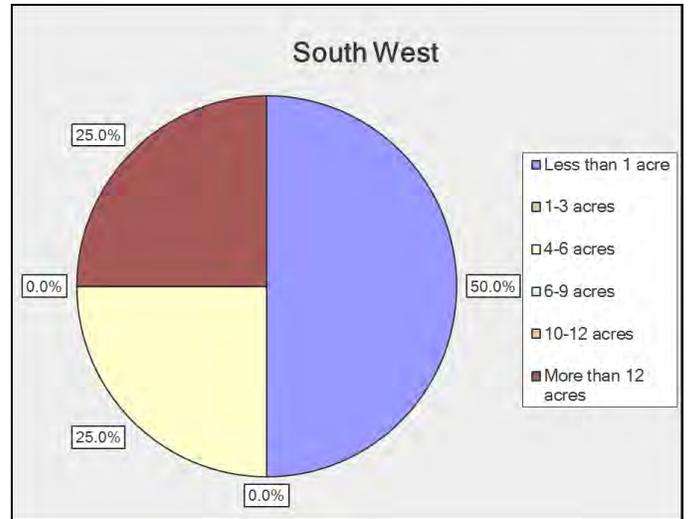
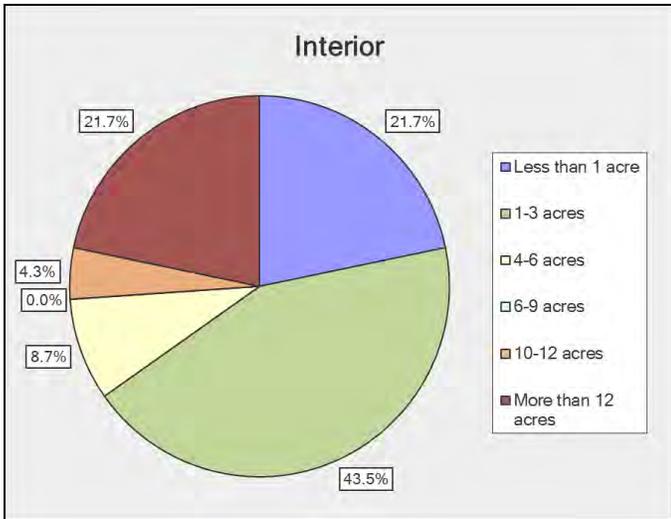
7. What services would you like to see more of? (DOA Survey)

What services would you be most interested in a farmer's cooperative providing to your farm operation? (FEDC Survey)



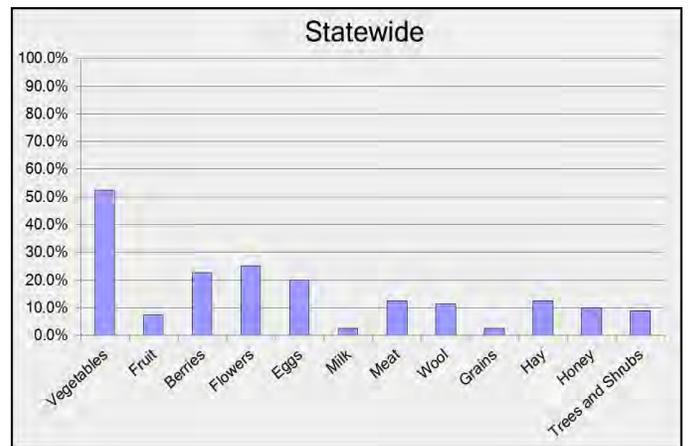
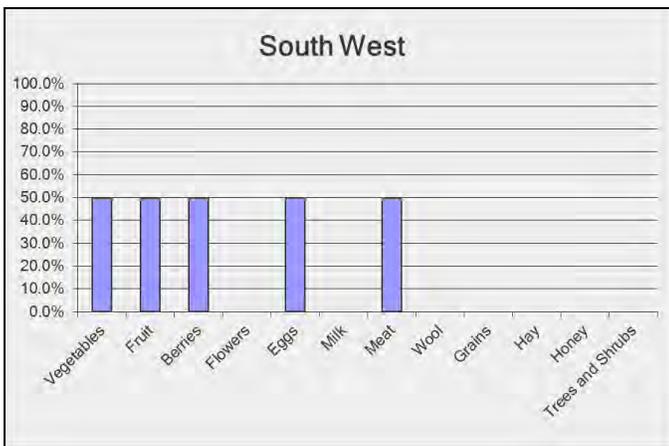
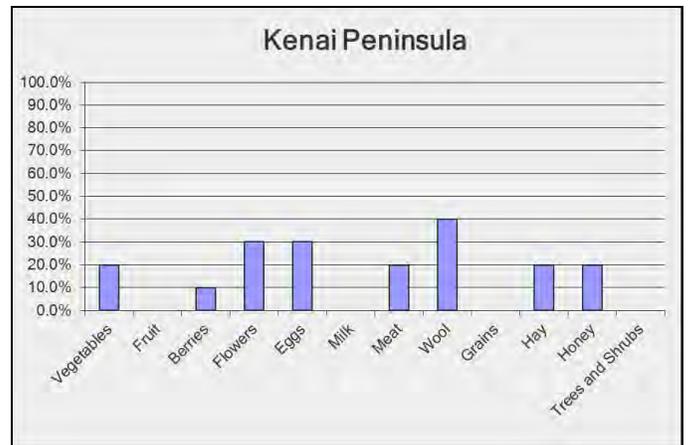
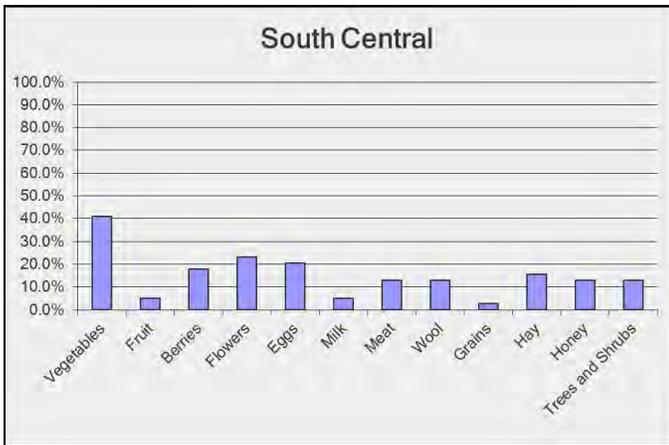
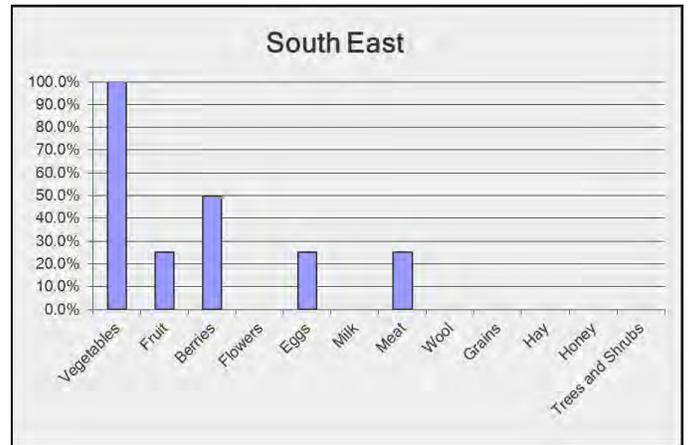
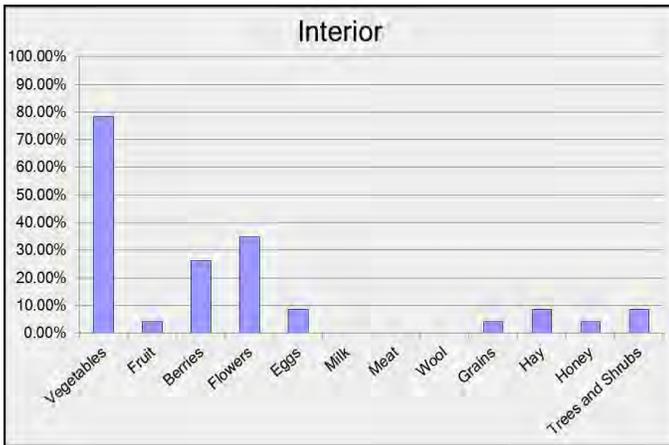
Interior and South Central regions also had respondents mention help finding labor in the other Category.

**8. How many acres do you use for production? (DOA Survey)
How many acres do you farm? (FEDC Survey)**

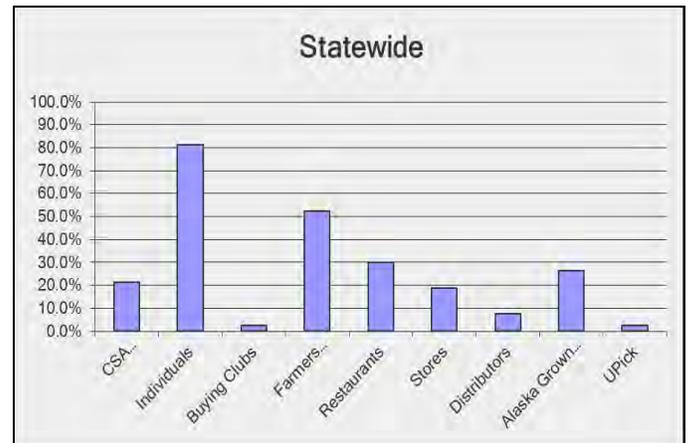
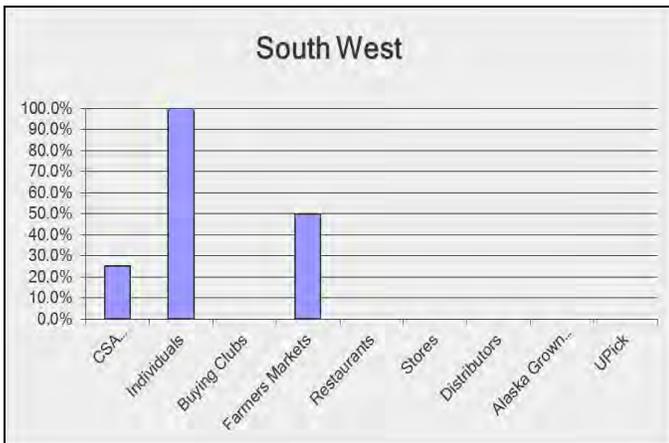
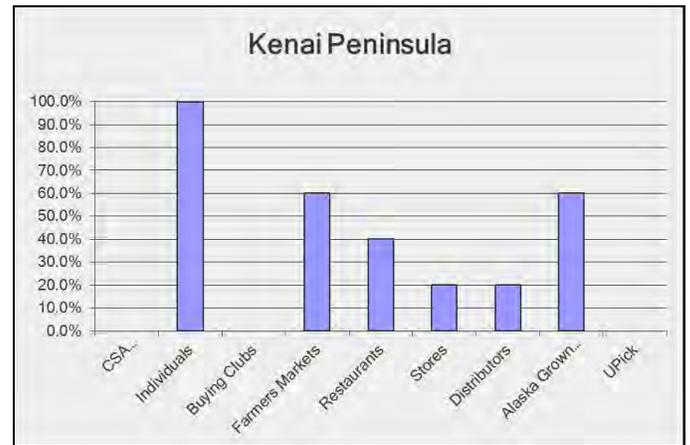
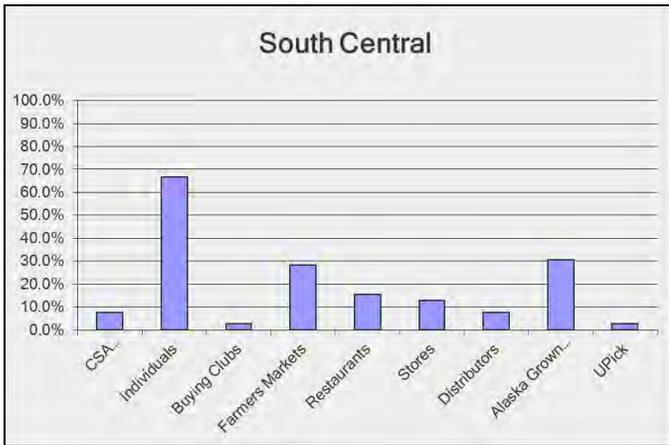
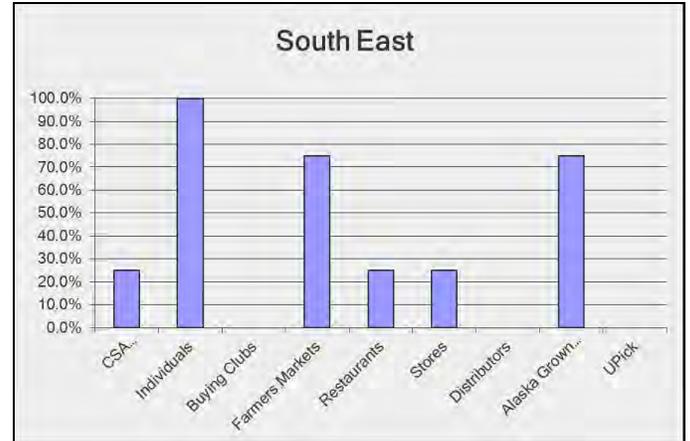
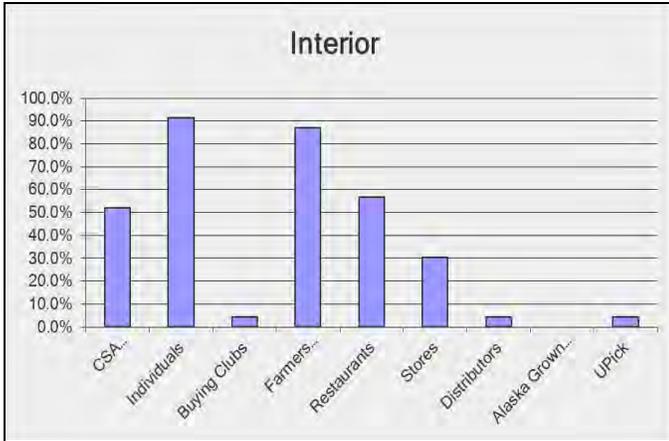


9. What products do you currently market? (DOA Survey)

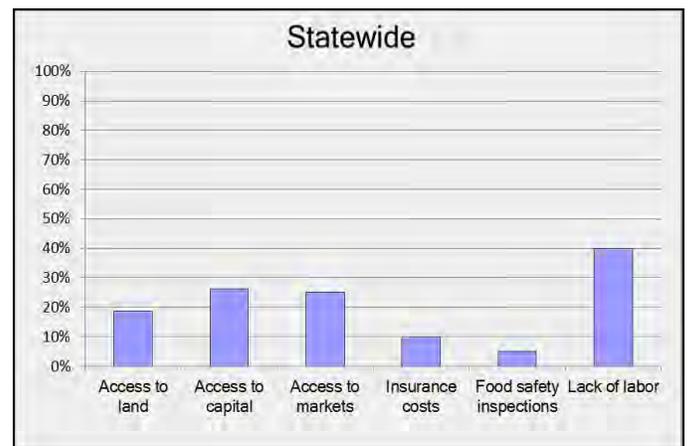
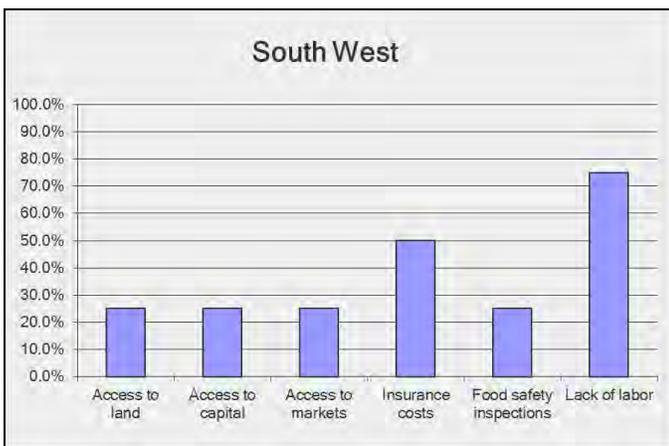
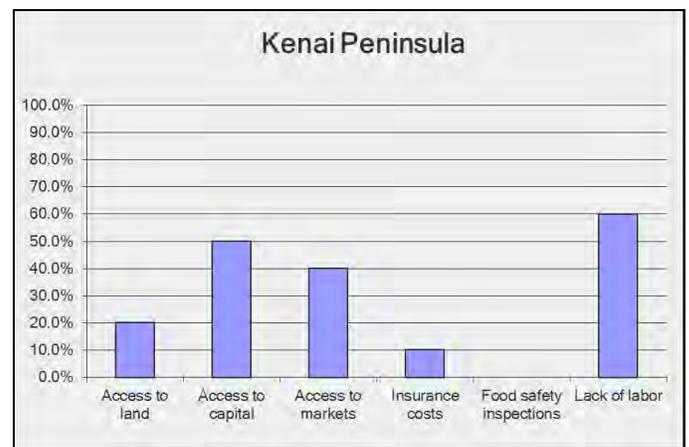
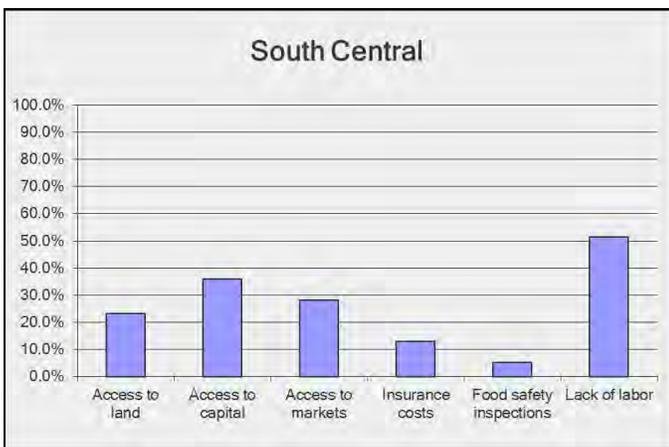
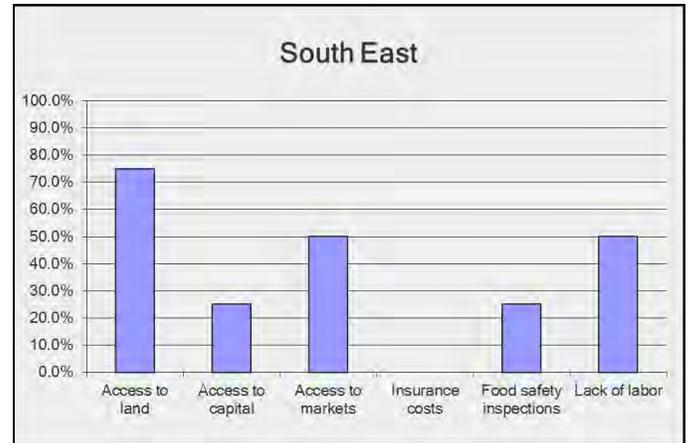
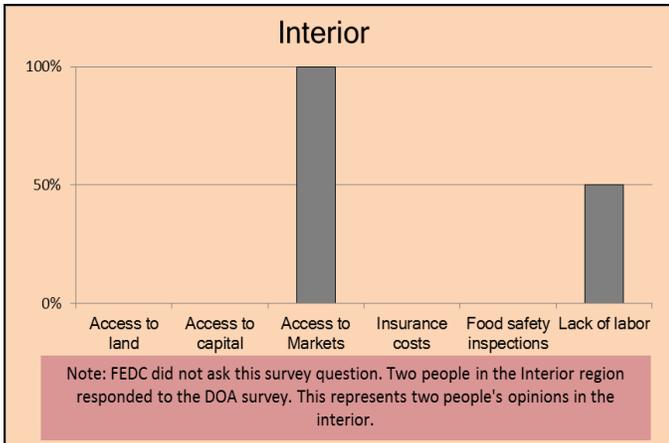
What kind of products would you be interested in marketing through a farmers coop? (FEDC Survey)



10. How are you currently marketing your products? (DOA & FEDC Survey)



11. What would you identify as the biggest barrier to expanding your farm/ranch operation? (DOA Survey)



Additional barriers identified:

- Lack of Commercial Kitchen
- Lack of Market
- No Efficient USDA Slaughter House
- Legal Barriers