

Community: in and outside the classroom

Airell DesLauriers*, Martin Zuidhof, Frank Robinson
NACTA 2013
Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

What is HIYT?



“More important than the curriculum is the question of the methods of teaching and the spirit in which the teaching is given” - **Bertrand Russell**

Why is classroom community important?

- Provides a safe learning environment
- Take ownership of own learning
- Sense of belonging during discussion
- Nurtures blossoming friendships and connections among shy or reserved off-campus students
- Provides a lifeline for students

Unintended outcomes from classroom community

- 10th year anniversary running and still many surprises
- Milestones (in 4 years I have been involved)
 - Student “following”
 - Wedding proposal
 - Poultry club formation
- Why poultry club?





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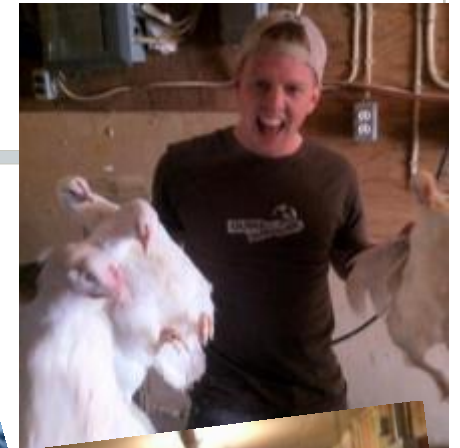
Poultry club activity

- Working groups
 - Farm Tours
 - Heritage hen egg collection & distribution
 - Public education
- Social Events & Networking Opportunities
 - Alberta Poultry AGM
 - Canadian Poultry Research Center Banquet



Club activity

- Fundraising
 - Chicken catching
 - Research dissections



Survey Objectives

- Determine the motivation for students to join and form a poultry club
 - “Why poultry?”
- Evaluate involvement in the poultry club and future career plans and admirations



Survey Methods and Procedures

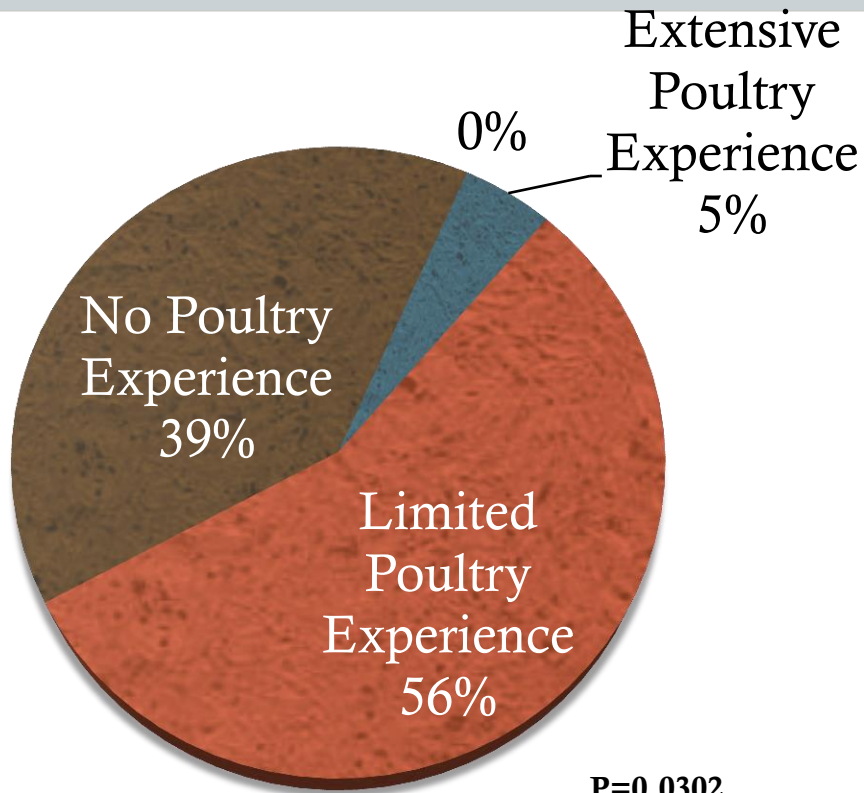
- Poultry Club member survey
 - Web based survey administered by Campus Labs
 - 7 Demographical questions
 - 10 Poultry Club activity and career questions
 - Distributed via email to all Poultry Club members (~50)
 - Voluntary participation
 - 66% Response rate



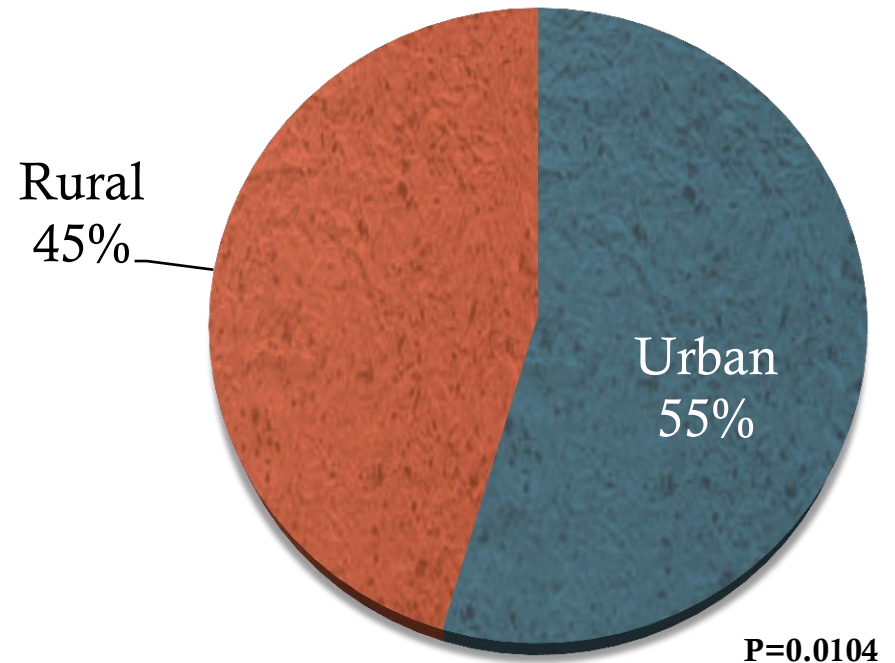
Survey Methods and Procedures

- Majority in animal related degrees
 - Over 95% of members are HIYT Alumni
 - Animal Health
 - Companion and Performance Animals
 - Food Animals
 - Food Safety and Quality
 - Animal Science

Poultry Background

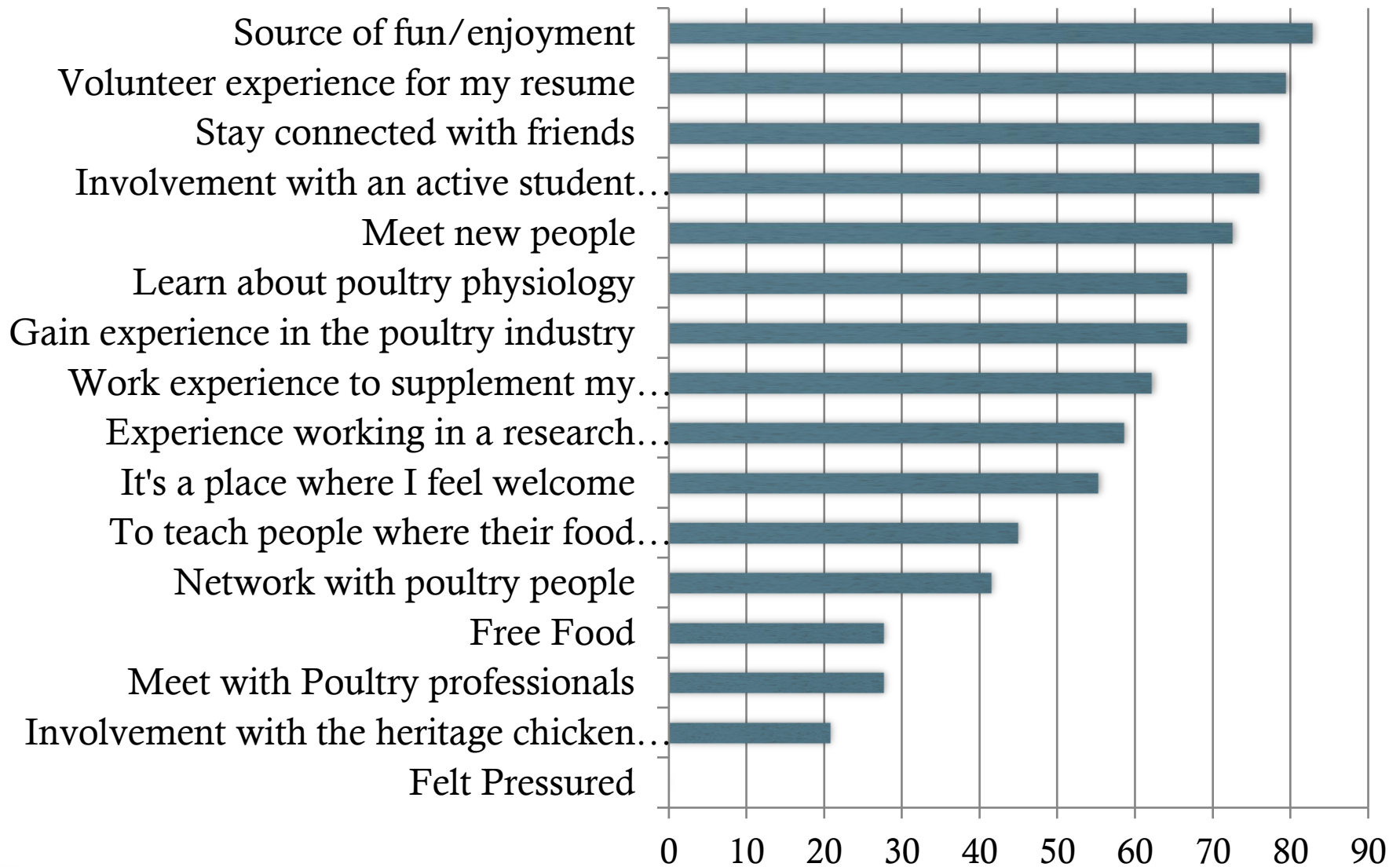


Which of the following best describes your experience with poultry prior to joining the Poultry Club?

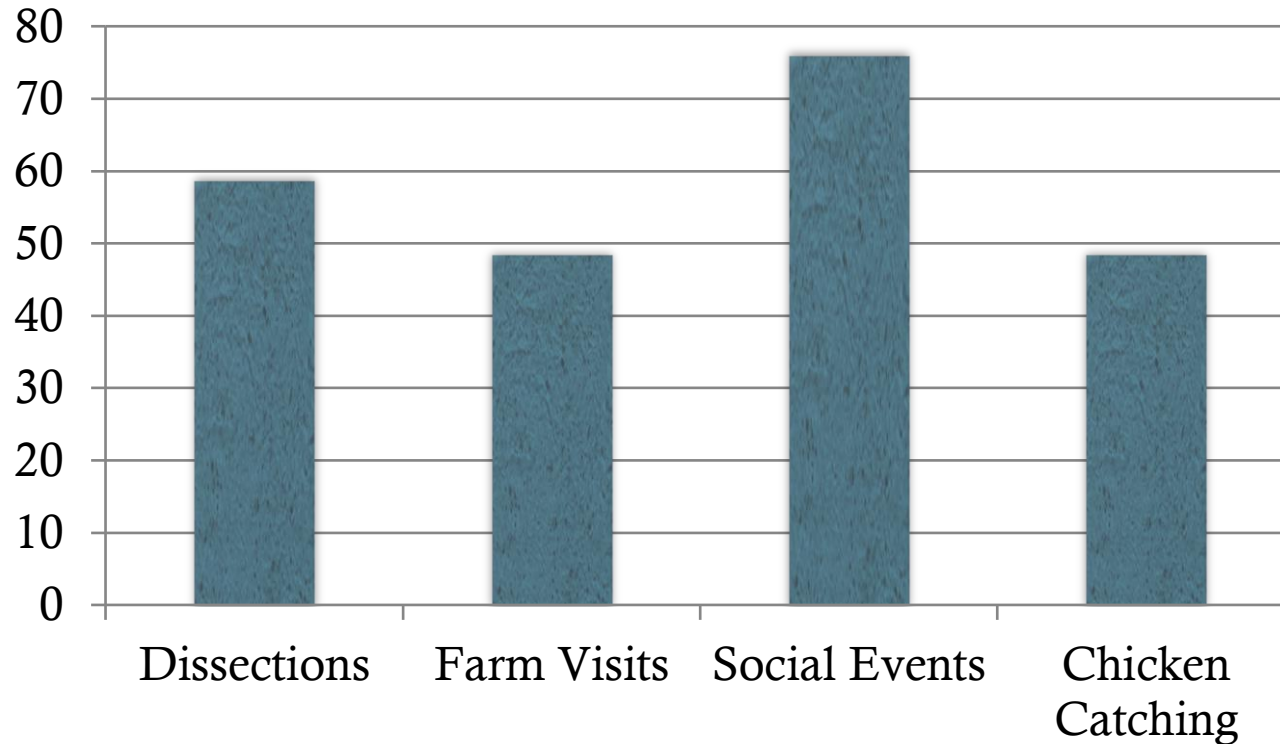


Which of the following best describes your primary Home residence?

Why did you join the poultry club?



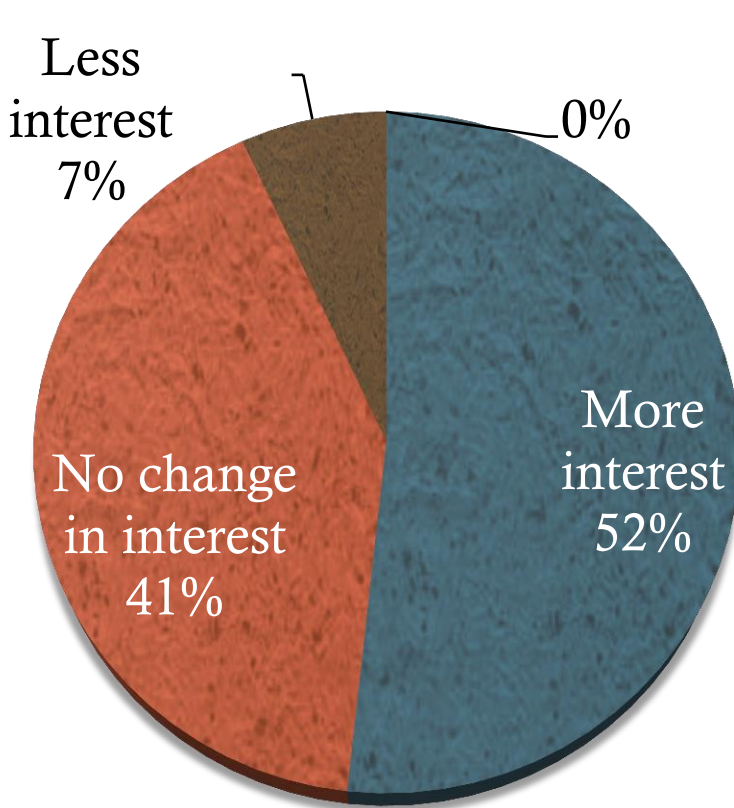
Poultry club activities



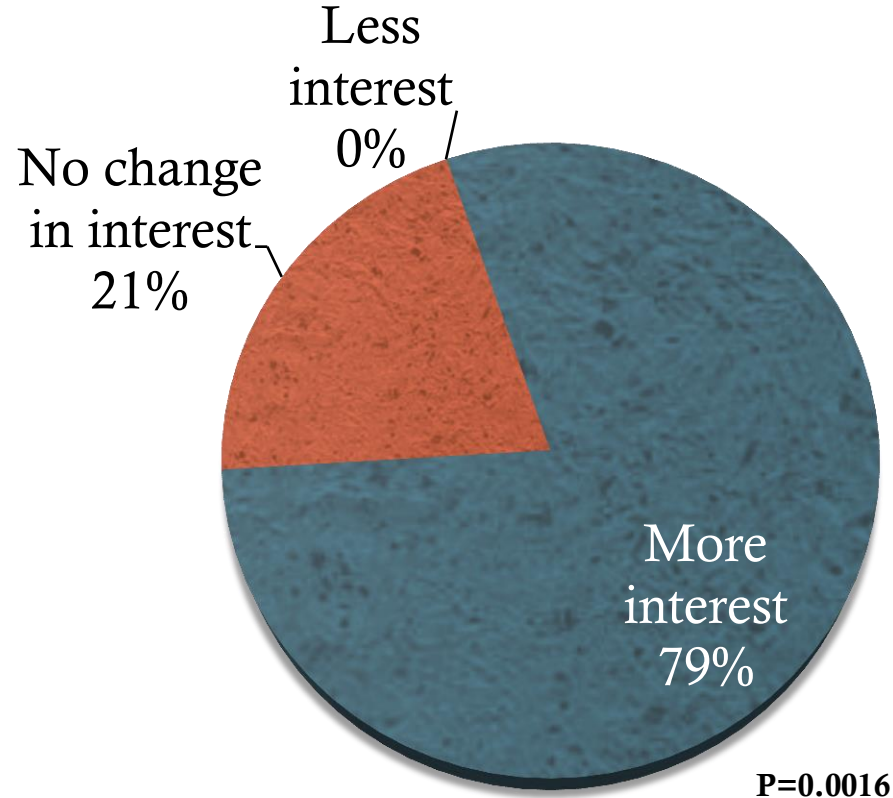
In which of the following poultry club activities have you taken part?

Future Career Paths

How has your involvement in the poultry club impacted your career plans...



Interest in pursuing employment in a poultry related area



Interest in agriculture advocacy (contributing to a positive message about agriculture)

What is it really doing?

- Many joined for social reasons however learning opportunities have had a large impact on student career aspirations
- Students are getting engaged taking learning into their own hands
- Increased involvement with industry partners
- Increasing interaction and synergies between the Poultry industry and undergraduate students

So what can we do?

- Positive first year experiences can shape the rest of a student's academic engagement and career
- Provide safe environments conducive to learning
- Set the students free to accommodate opportunities to take charge in their own learning

“Because the only stupid question is the one you didn't ask” - **Unknown**

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