

Flour Mill Community Farm Survey Analysis 2020

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Intake/Participant Survey

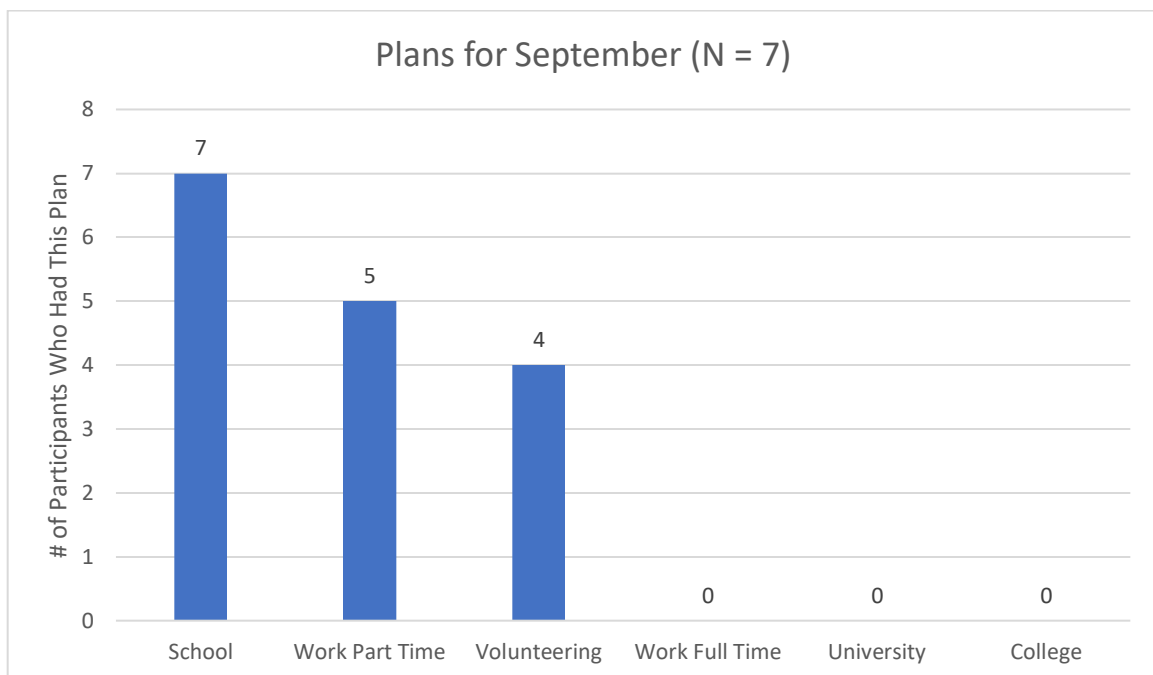
Demographics

Nine people participated in the Flour Mill Community Farm in 2020. Seven completed the initial participation survey, and nine completed the exit survey (two started late and did not complete the initial survey). The nine participants ranged in age from 16 to 18, with the average age being 16.67 (SD = 0.71). Of the seven participants who provided their gender, 57.1% identified as a male, 28.6% identified as female, and 14.3% identified as non-binary.

Only five people responded to question about the highest level of education they had completed, Grade 10 (N=2), Grade 11 (N=2), and and grade 12 (N=1).

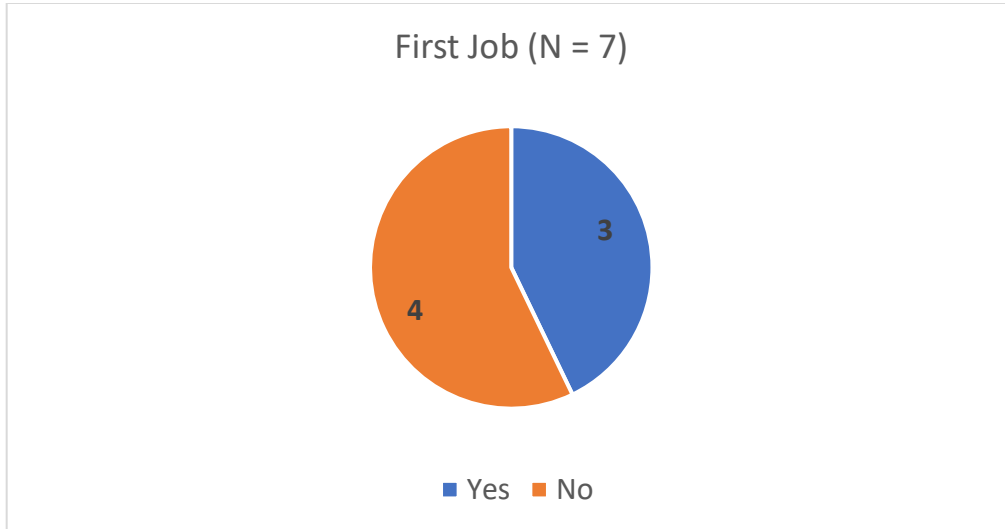
Which best describes your plans in September:

When asked what their plans for September were, seven people said they planned on attending school, five said they were going to work part time, and four said they were going to volunteer. No one planned on going to university or college (likely as a result of their age), and no one planned to work full time.



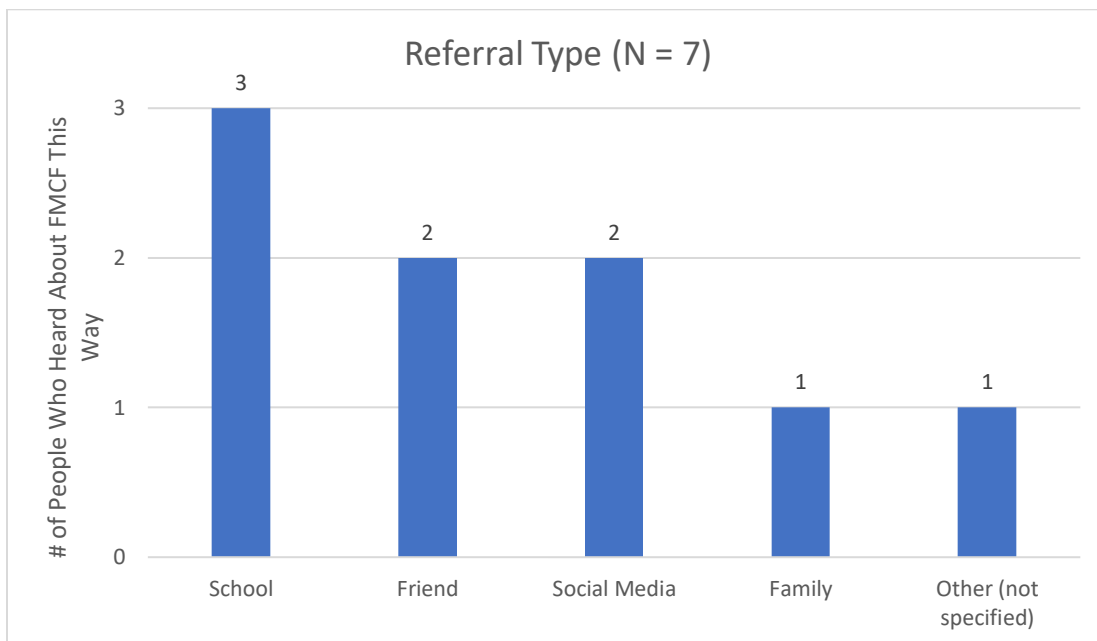
Is this your first job?

When asked if this was their first job, three people responded yes, and four people responded no. Previous jobs included retail, fast food, paper route, babysitting, sitting on an advisory councils, communication technology, athletics such as coaching, and financial services.



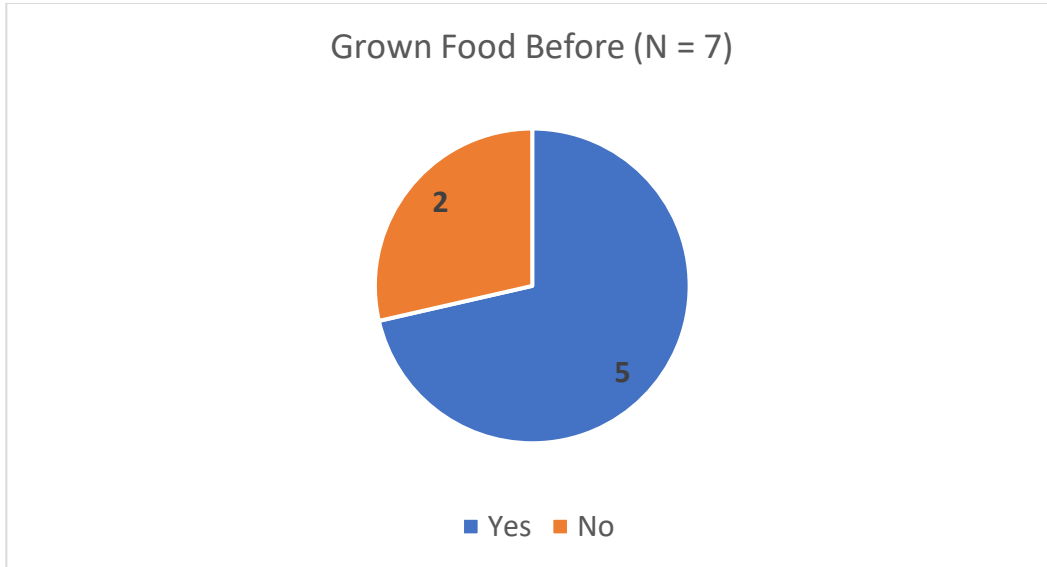
How did you hear about FMCF?

Participants were asked how they heard about FMCF. Referral sources included school, friends, social media, and family.



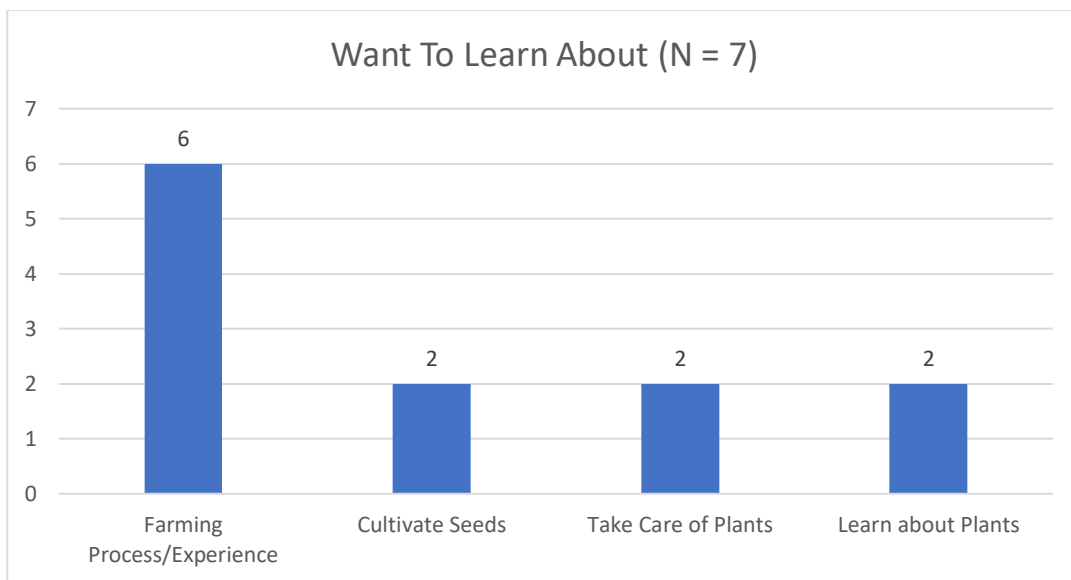
Have you ever grown food before?

When asked if they had grown food before, five people said yes. Three people had gardens at home. One person took a class in school, and one person just mentioned types of vegetables and herbs they had grown before.



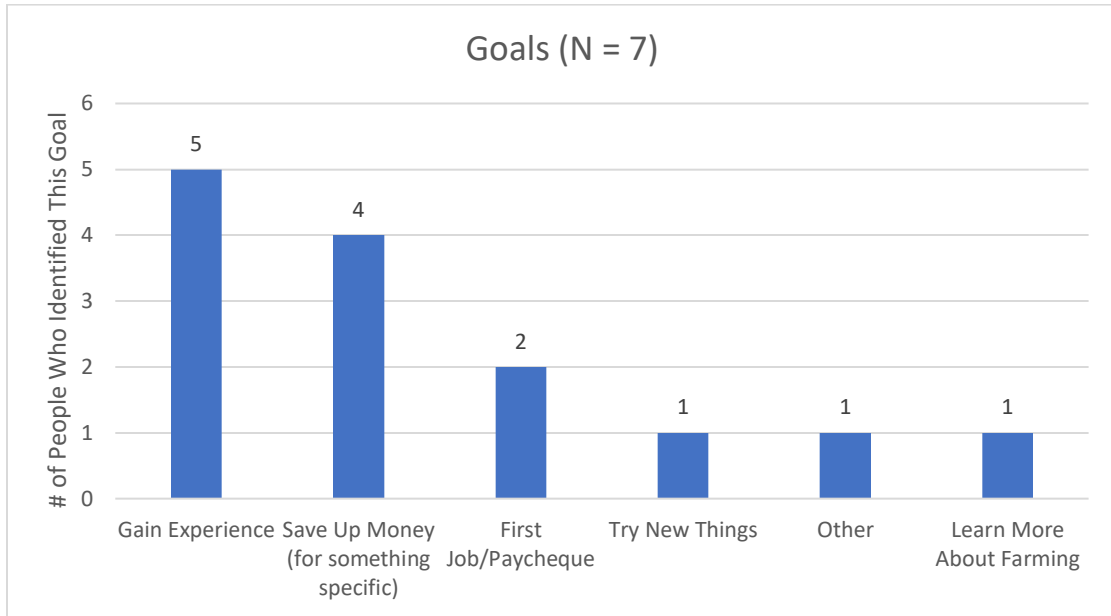
Name two things you wanted to learn about farming and/or food this summer?

Participants were asked to list two things they hoped to learn about farming or food. Six people wanted to learn or gain experience in the farming process. This included learning about harvesting, what it takes to produce food we eat, and generally how to grow food. Two people wanted to specifically learn more about cultivating seeds. Two people wanted to learn about taking care of plants including proper watering techniques, and two people wanted to learn more about plants in general such as different rates of growth and how they are pollinated.



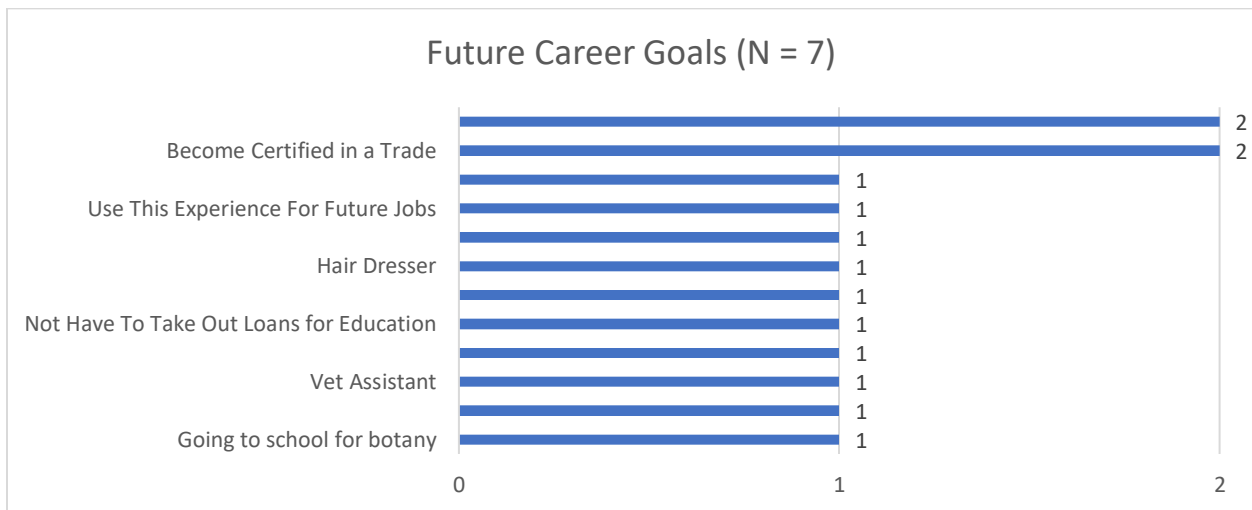
What are your goal(s) this summer? Please identify at least two.

Participants were asked what their goals for the summer were. Five people said they wanted to gain experience, four people were saving up for something specific (such as post-secondary education, or an apartment), two people wanted to have their first job or first pay cheque, one person wanted to try new things, one person wanted to learn more about farming, and one person said other which was a goal in their personal life.



What are your future career plans? Please List at least two.

Participants were asked about their future career plans. They gave a variety of answers including generally wanting to get a post-secondary education, the specific occupations they wanted, and one person mentioned not wanting to have to take out loans to get an education.



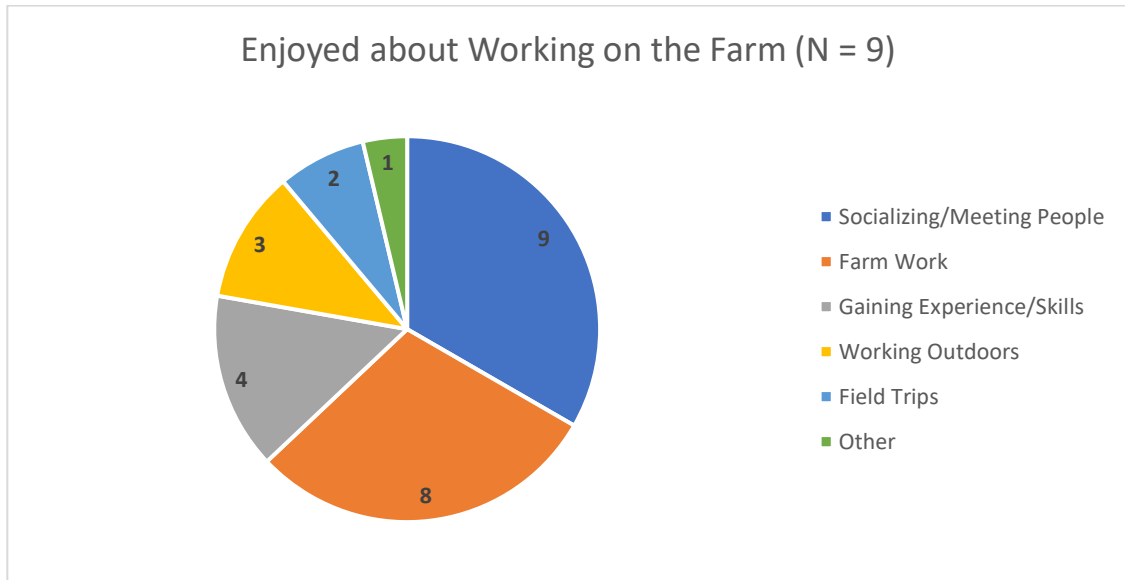
What other options did you have for employment?

Of the seven people who did the intake participant survey, five said they had no other options for employment. Two mentioned other options they had including lawn cutting, babysitting, and shift work at grocery stores or restaurants.

Exit Survey

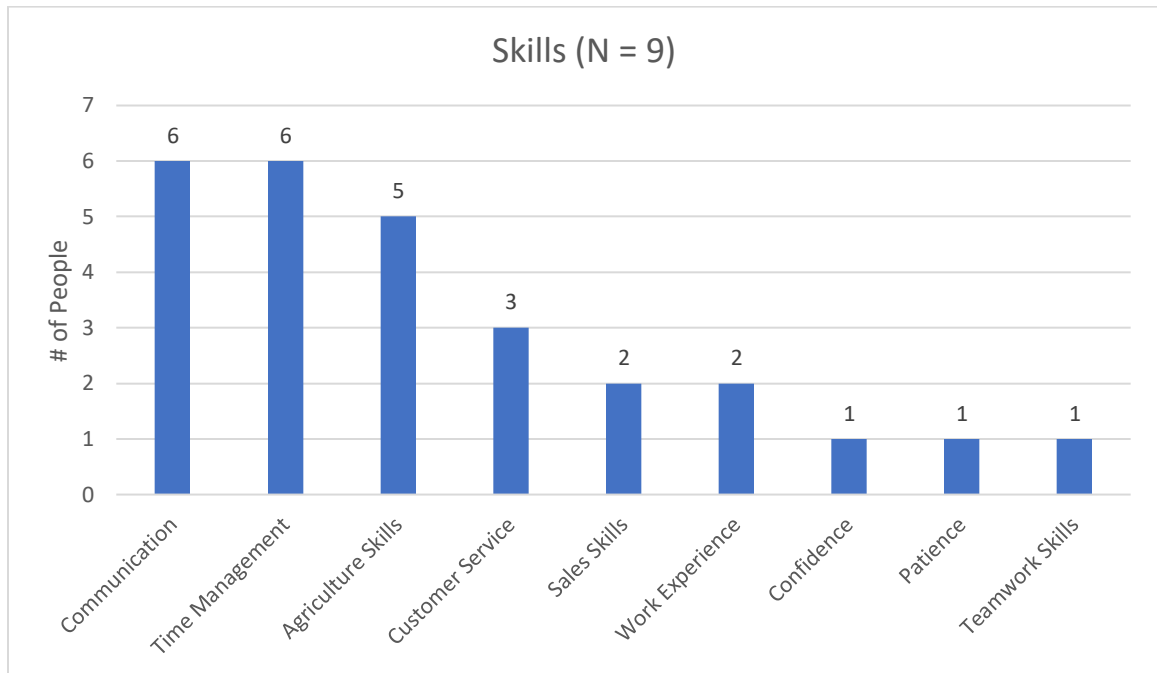
Nine people completed the exit survey. The seven who did the intake/participant survey, and the two additional people who started later in the program.

What did you enjoy most about working on the farm? Please list three things



When asked what they enjoyed the most about the farm, nine people said they enjoyed socializing and meeting and interacting with people, this included the opportunity to interact with people during the pandemic and how nice everyone was. Eight people mentioned the farm work specifically including enjoying planting, weeding, harvesting, learning about plants, painting posts for the garden, and learning how the food we eat grows. Four people enjoyed gaining work experience and skills, three people enjoyed the fact they were able to work outside, two people enjoyed the field trips, and one person said it was a good starter job for the summer.

Identify three skills you learned this summer

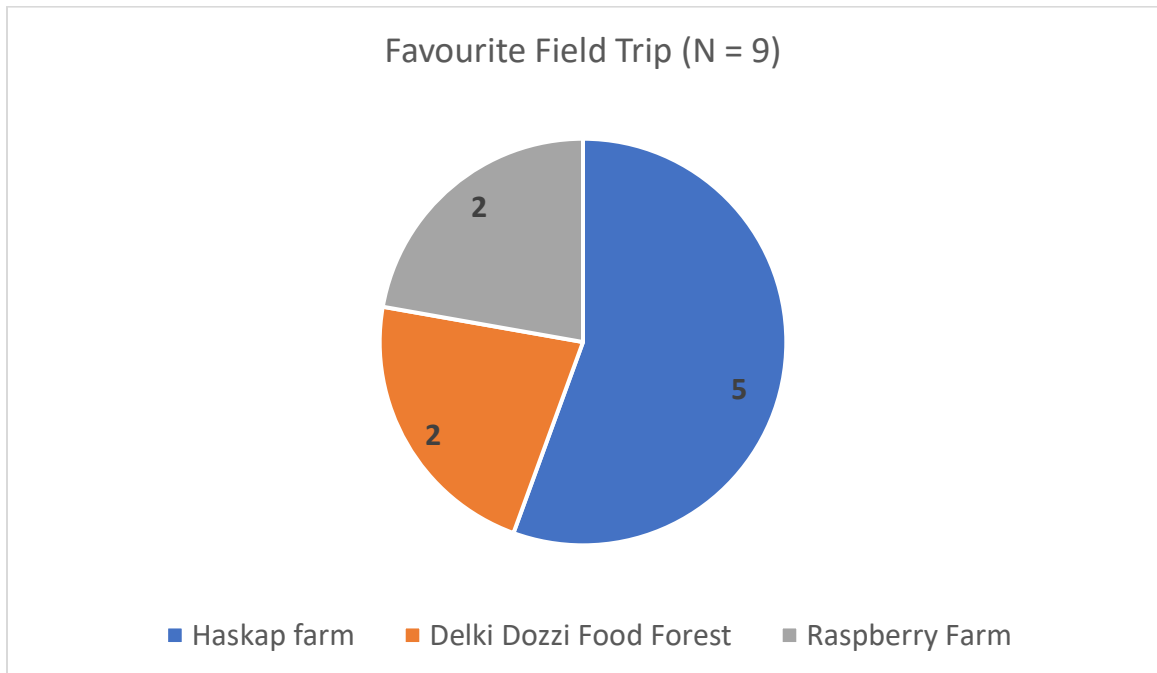


The nine participants were asked to identify three skills they learned this summer. Six mentioned communication including gaining communication skills in general, building listening skills, improving public speaking, and better able to socialize. Six people mentioned they gained time management skills including how to be more efficient. Five people mentioned agricultural skills including specific things such as how to prep beds, plant, prune, and harvest. Three people specifically said their customer service skills and ability to interact with the public improved. Two people said they gained sales skills such as money management and how to sell. Two said they gained work experience, one person said they gained confidence, one person said they learned how to be more patient, and one person mentioned improving their teamwork skills.

Do you think these skills will help with your future career plans?

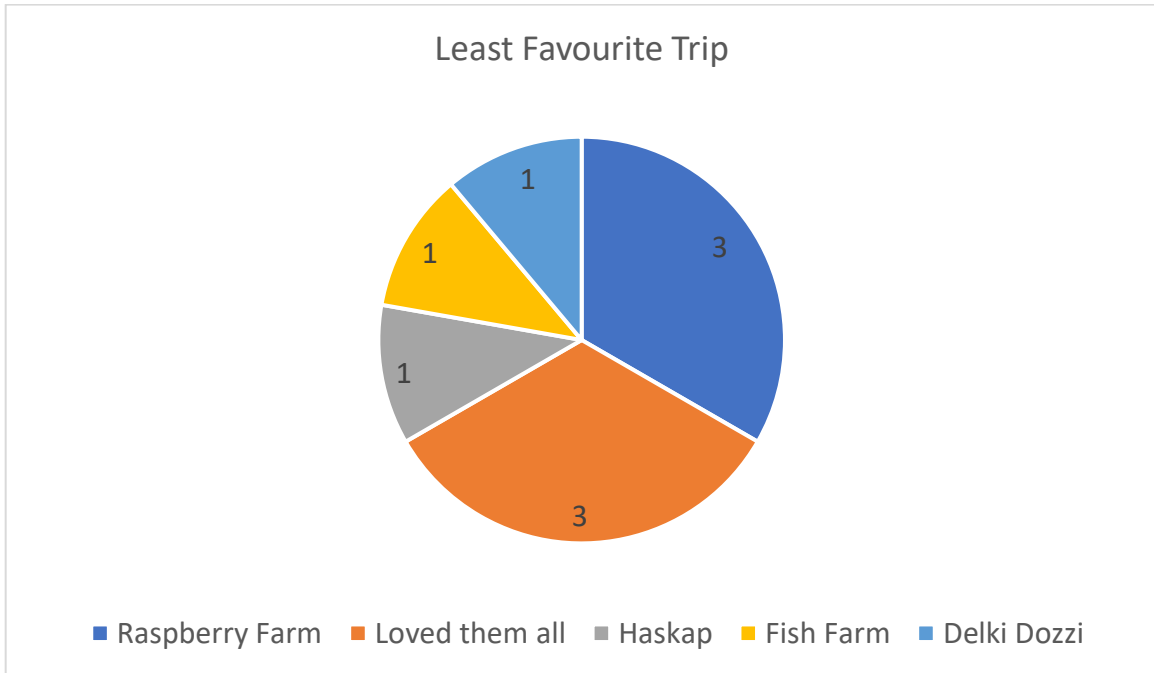
All nine people (100%) felt these skills would help them with their future plans.

What was your favourite field trip and why?



When asked about their favourite field trip, five people said the Haskap Farm. Reasons they gave were because they had never heard about them before and were able to try them and learn about their origins. Two people said the Delki Dozzi Food Forest was their favourite, because they learned about different species of plants including medicinal, and a lot of things they had never heard of before. Two people said the raspberry farm was their favourite because they were able to make extra money, and someone said they did a good job and were proud of themselves.

What was your least favourite field trip and why?



When asked what their least favourite trip was, three people said the raspberry farm with two people citing that they found it unorganized and one person saying they pick raspberries all the time. Three people said they enjoyed all the trips, one person didn't like the Haskap farm because they weren't allowed to bring any home, one person didn't like the fish farm because they felt it wasn't very visual unlike other trips, and one person said Delki Dozzi was their least favourite but only because they'd been there before.

If given the opportunity would you work on the farm again?

All nine participants (100%) said they would work on the farm again if given the opportunity.

Did you achieve the goals for the summer you described in the first survey? Please explain why/why not

All nine participants (100%) said they achieved their goals for the summer. Seven people mentioned gaining overall work experience and skills. Four said they gained specific knowledge and skills regarding farming, two said their goal of becoming more comfortable interacting with the public was achieved, and two mentioned they achieved their goal of gaining confidence. People also mentioned getting their first job, having fun, having something to occupy themselves, saving money, and becoming better with time management.



Is there anything you would change about the program?

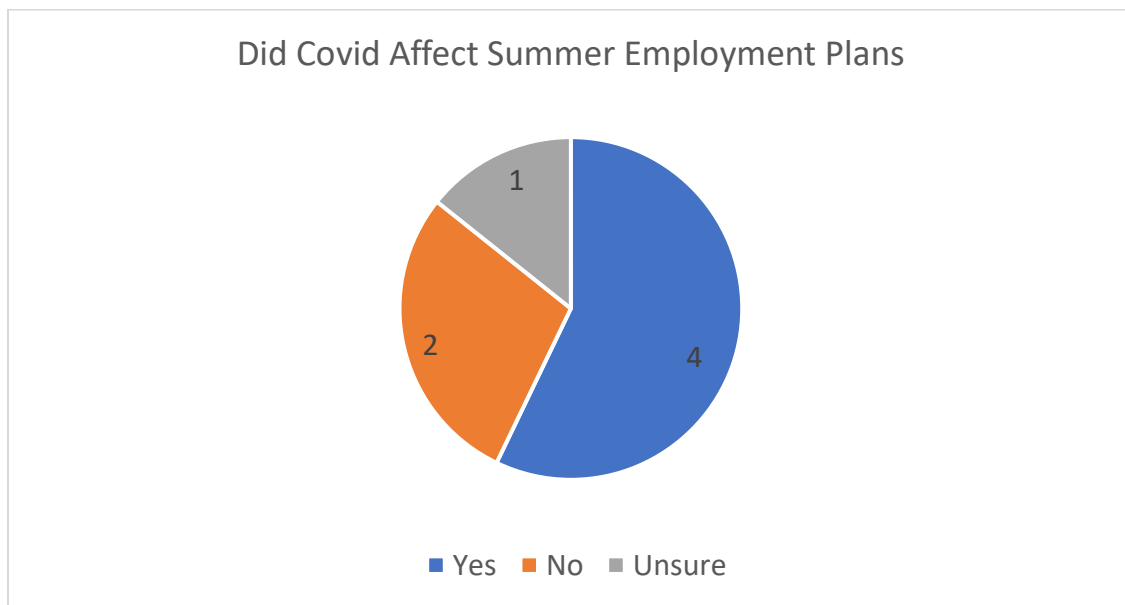
Eight people said there was nothing they would change about the program. One person said they would like to work more in teams, and it would be awesome to see them develop more in that aspect.

Covid-19 Questions

Participants were asked Covid-19 specific questions in both the intake/participant survey, and in the exit survey.

Were your summer employment options limited by Covid-19

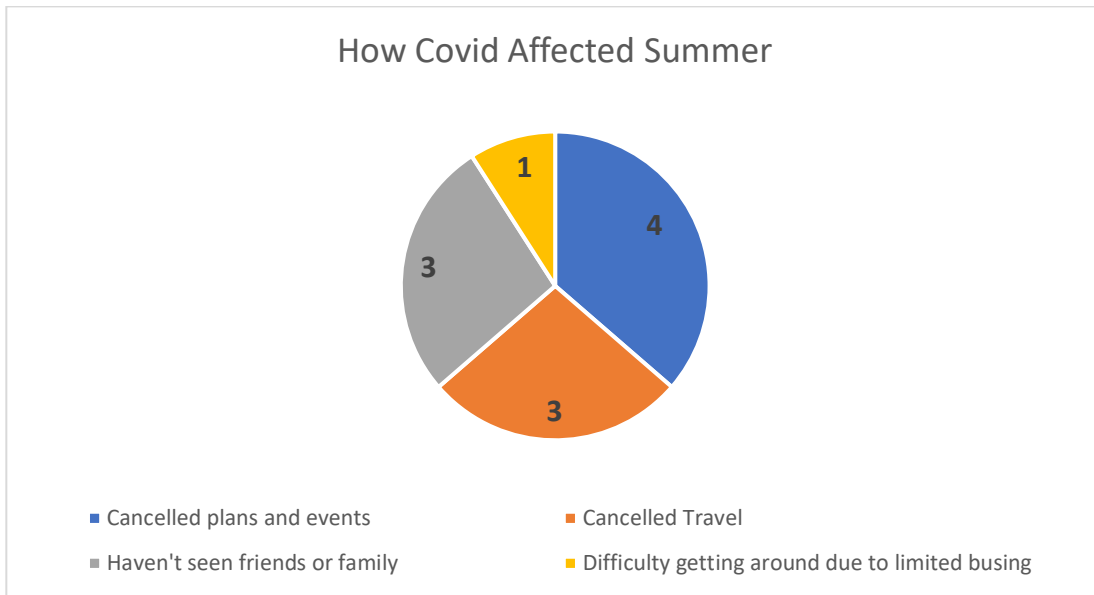
This question was asked in the intake/participant survey. Seven people answered this question. Two people said their summer employment plans were not affected. One person was unsure because they took the first job available to them, and four people said yes. One person was unable to do a national test that they would need for employment. One usually works as a sport referee but was unable to do that, and one was planning to apply to restaurants, but closures and uncertainty affected that. One person did not explain.



How has Covid affected your summer?

In both the intake/participant survey, and the exit survey participants were asked how Covid-19 affected their summer.

In the intake/participant survey four people mentioned they had to cancel plans, three people said they could not travel, three mentioned being unable to see family, and one person said it was difficult to get around due to limited busing.



In the exit survey, participants were again asked “How has Covid affected your summer?” and provided more specific answers.

- Harder for job opportunities
- Harder for social interactions
- Limited Access to people
- Limited lots of opportunities
- Haven't been able to see family
- Haven't been able to leave the house much
- Made everything more difficult
- Took away activities I had planned for the summer
- Affected my ability to hang out with my friends.
- Unable to hang out with friends
- Unable to travel outside of Canada
- Affected a lot of things (School, sports, friendship)
- Unable to Travel to Toronto
- Getting Paid on Time

Because of Covid are you worried about employment options for this coming year?

In the exit survey people were asked if they were worried about their employment options for the upcoming year. Five people said no or not really, and four people said yes. The four people who said yes mentioned concerns about businesses being shut down, businesses struggling, not wanting to get their family sick, and having to risk their own health. Of the five who said no, two offered clarification. One said they were not concerned because there were outdoor jobs, and one said they were not really concerned except that their work hours might not be consistent.

