

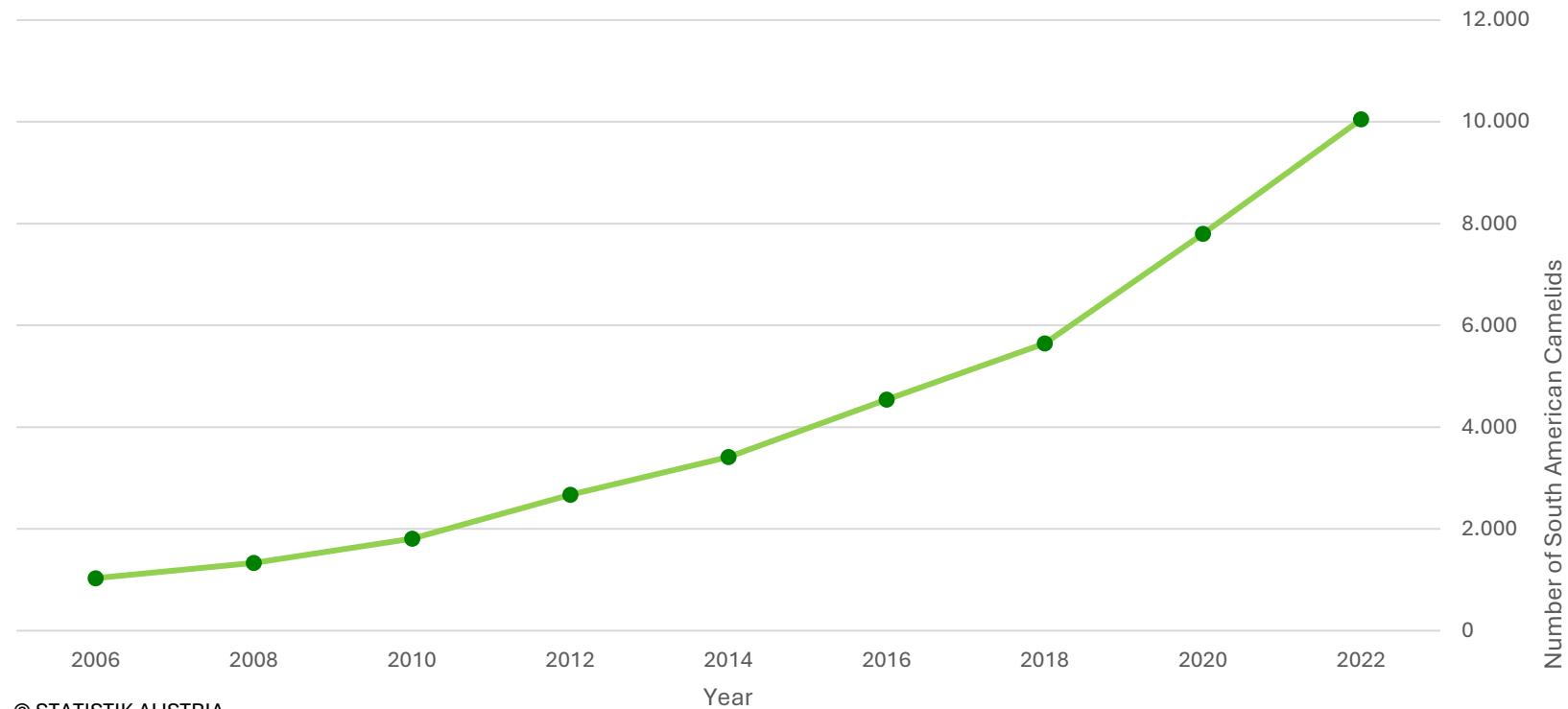
Alpacas in Austria: Survey on current situation on management and breeding

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Introduction

- Increasing interest in South American Camelids in Austria
- Three Alpaca breeders organisations are currently registered
- Little information on current situation about alpaca breeding

Registration of South American Camelids in Austria



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Aim of the study

Document the current management and breeding practices of the members of one Alpaca breeders organization in Austria.



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Methods

- **Online questionnaire was sent to 245 members of one Alpaca breeding association.**
- **128 persons filled out the questionnaire, and 101 completed all questions.**
- **Topics covered:**
 - **Herd management**
 - **Reproduction and breeding**
 - **Specific questions related to the breeding association**
 - **Use of alpacas**
- **Expert interviews were carried out to get background information.**

General information

- Farms are found across all provinces of Austria.
- 92% are part-time farmers, 8% are full time farmers.
- On average 16 alpacas are kept
- 89% keep only Huacaya alpaca
10% keep both types
1% only Suri alpaca

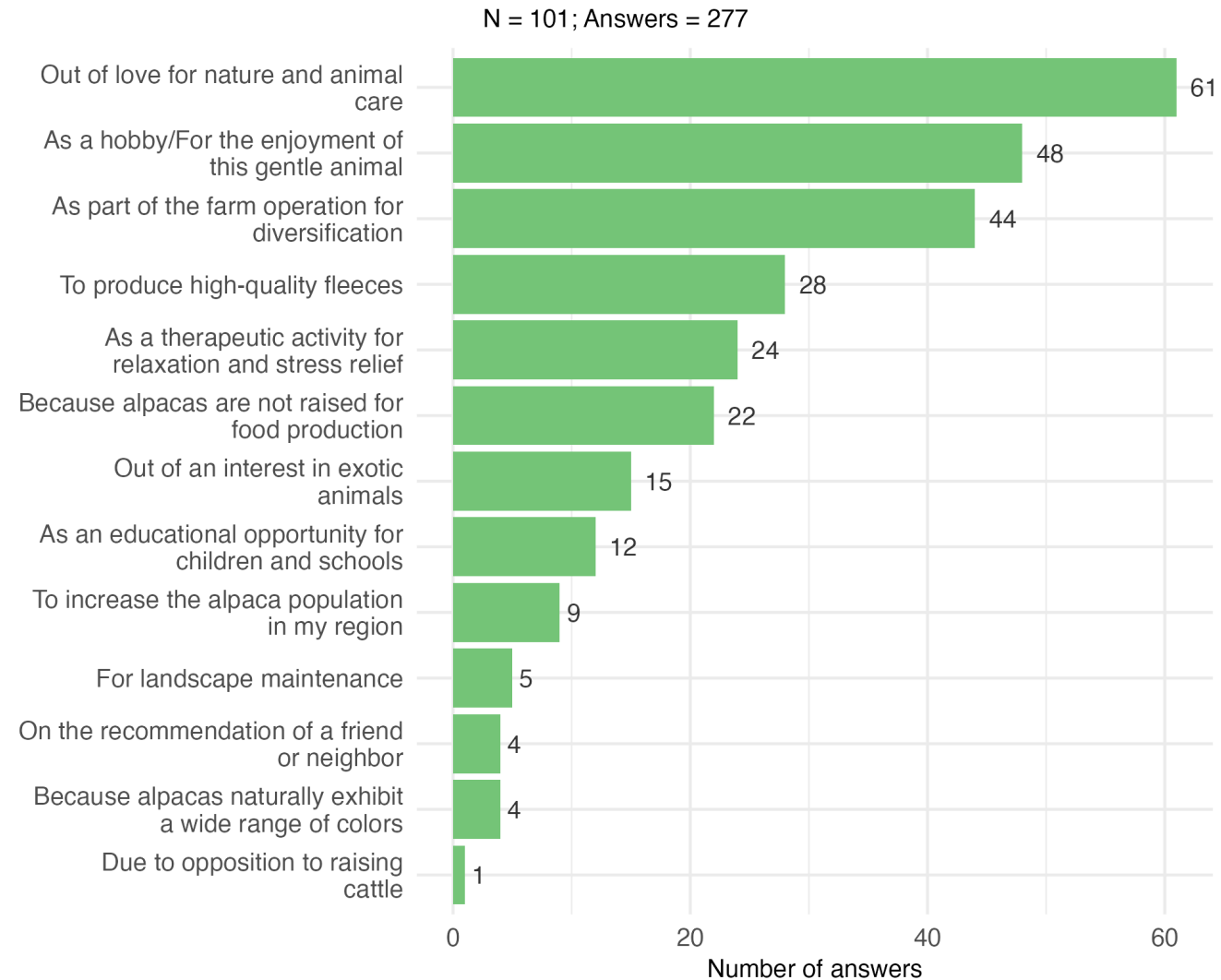


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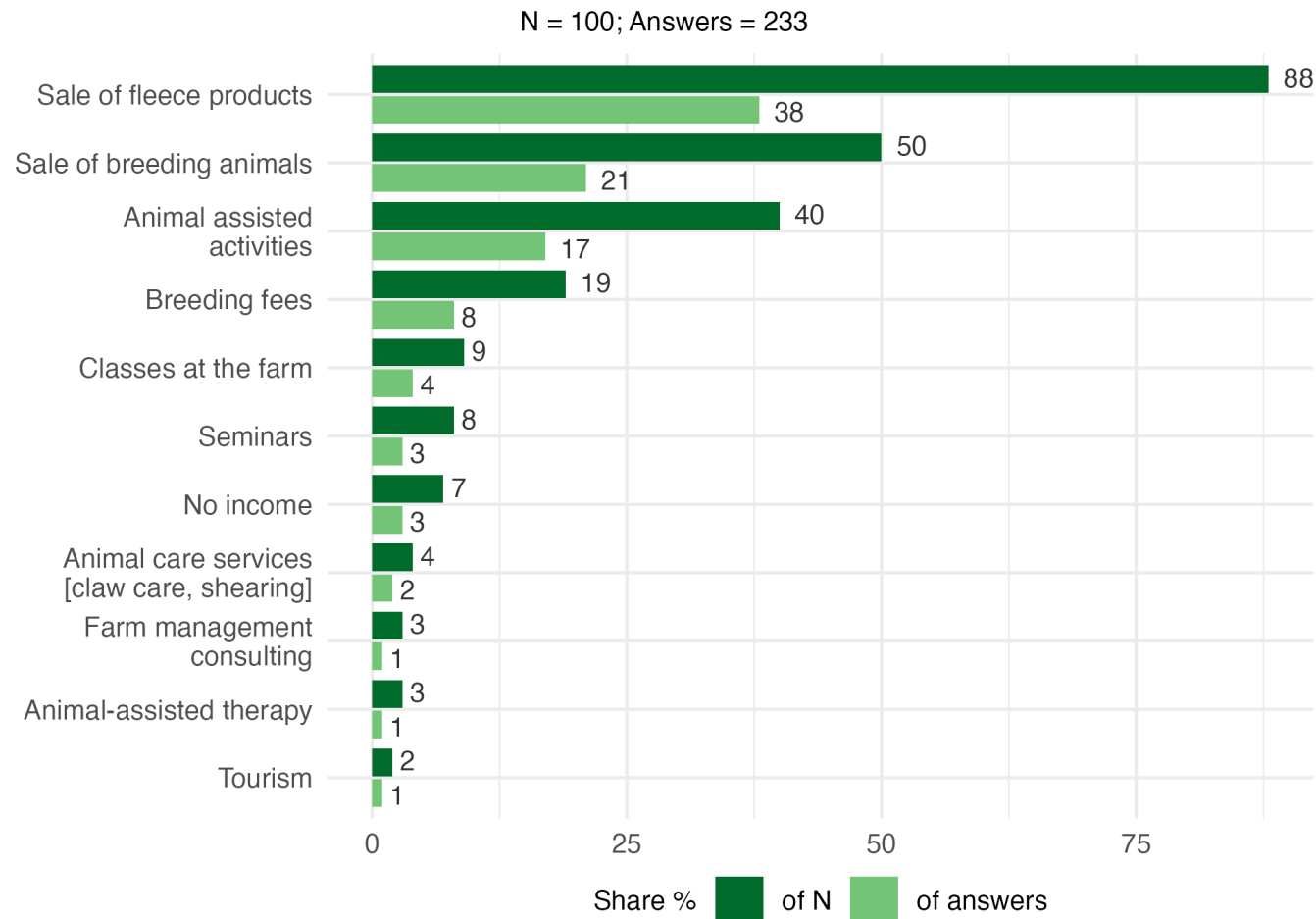


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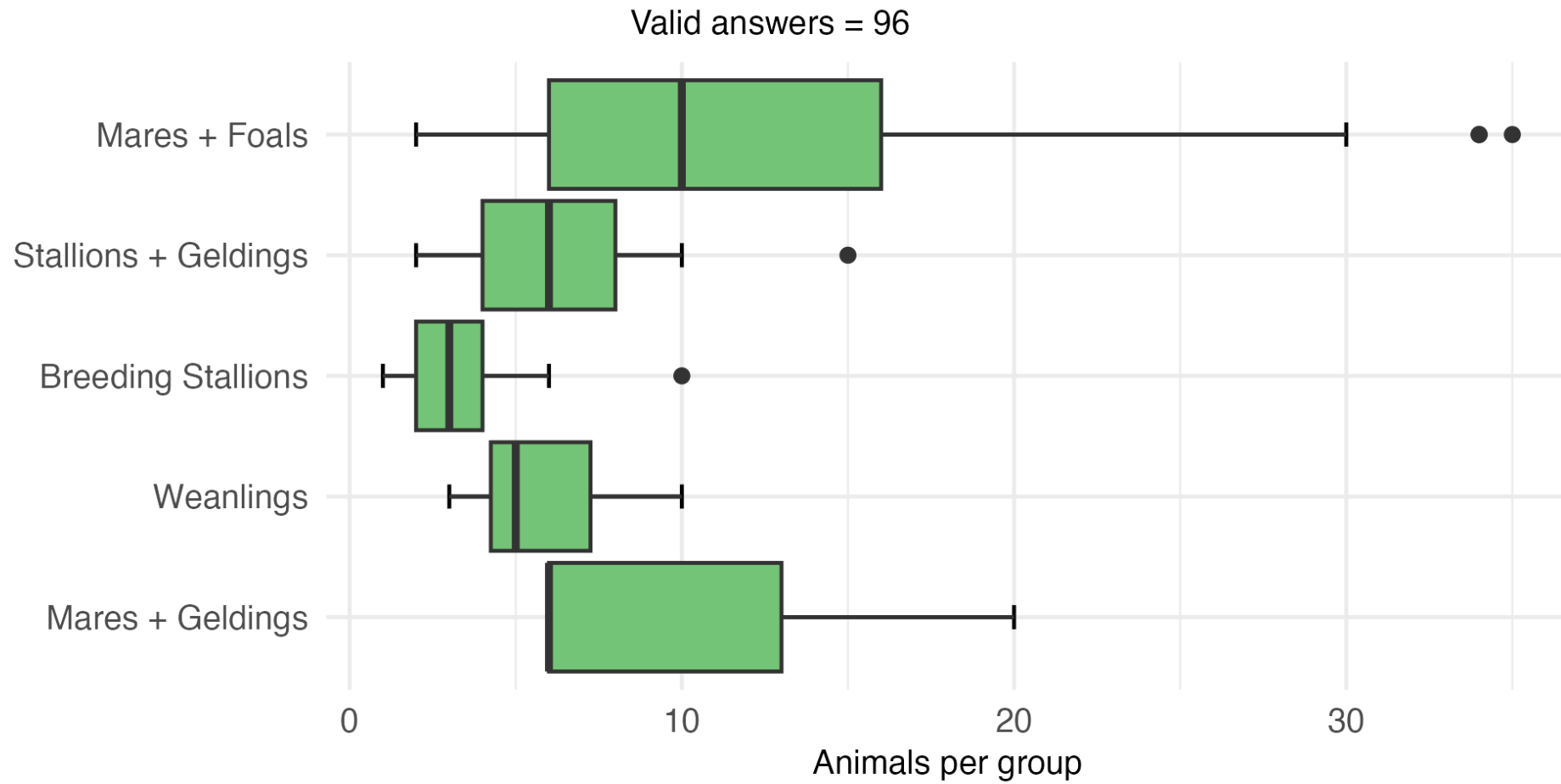
Motivation to start alpaca farming



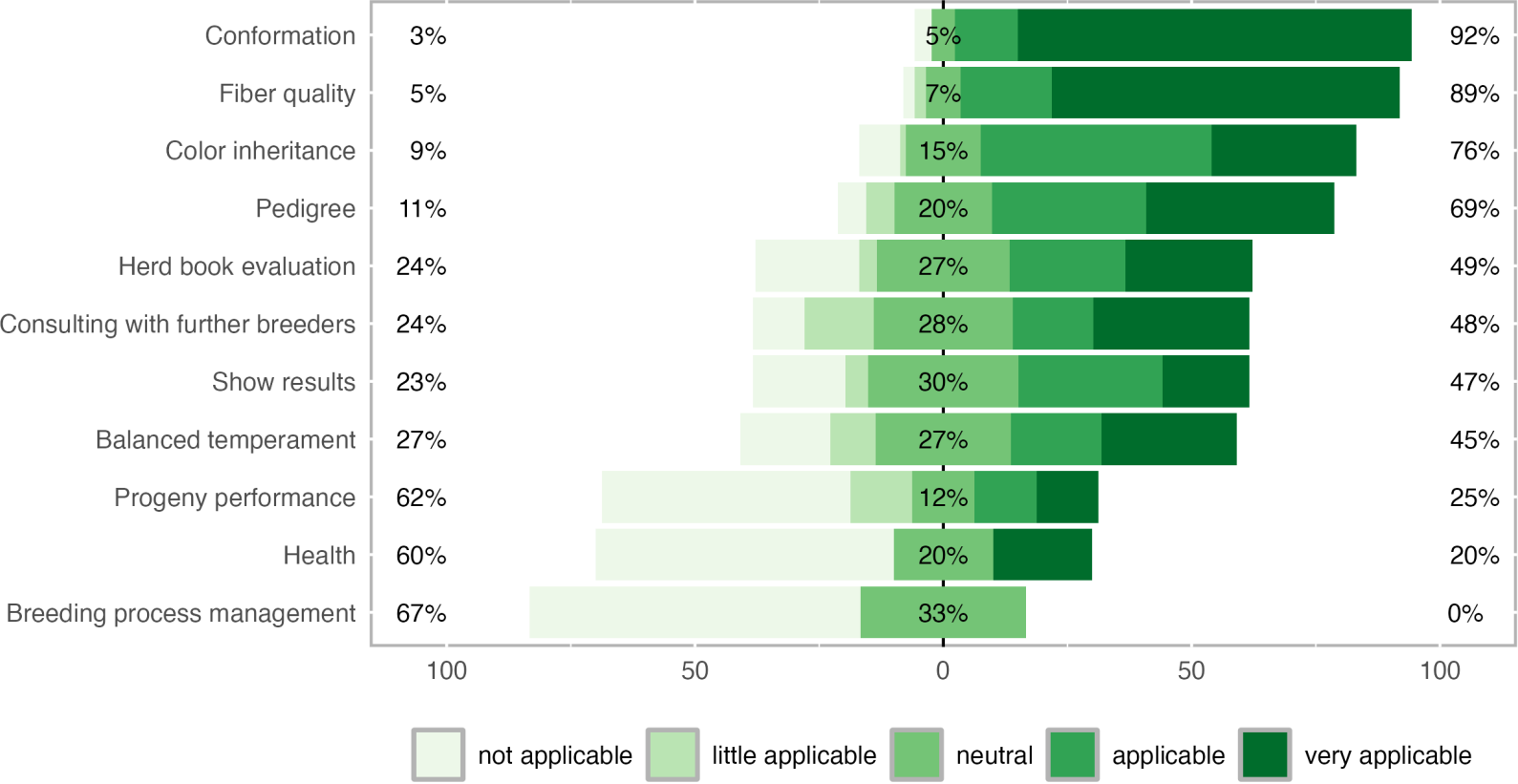
Income sources



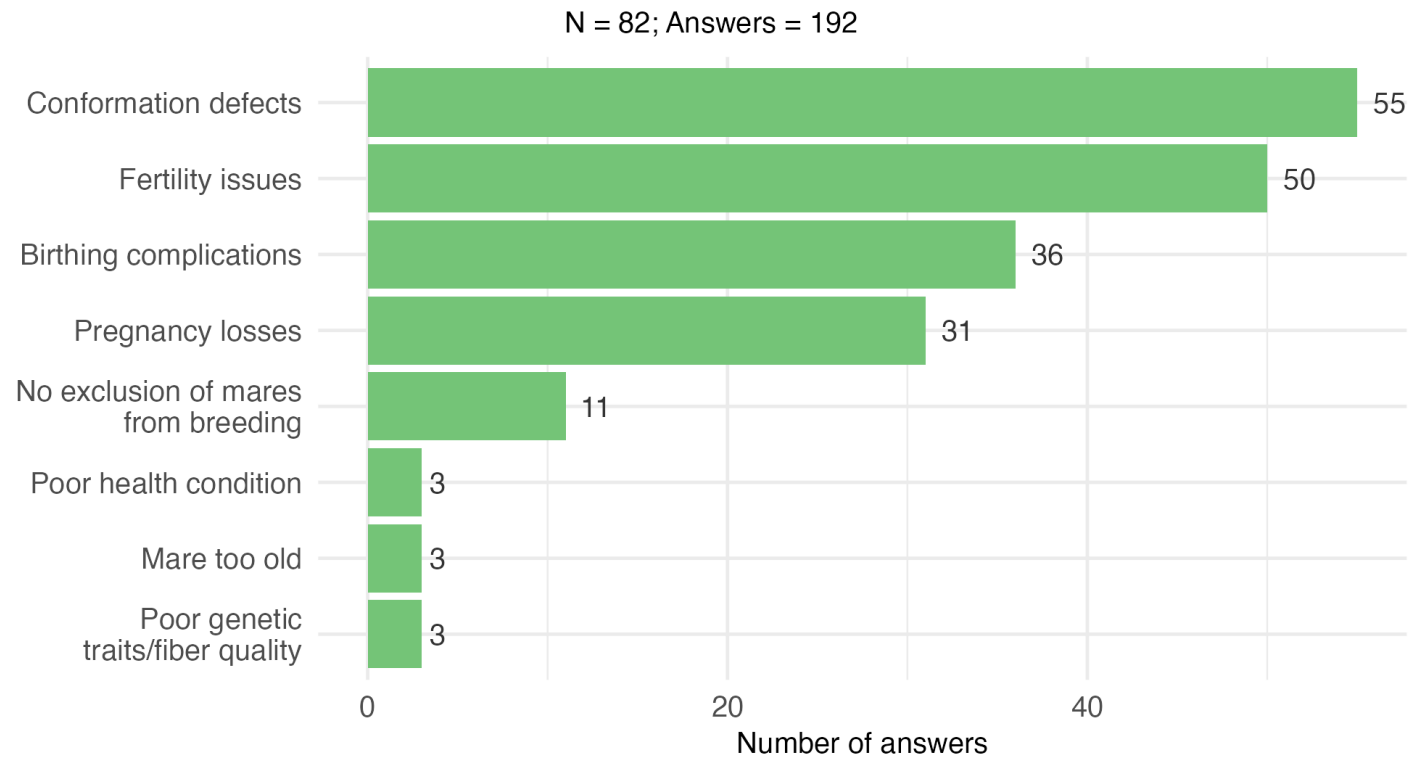
Herd sizes



Selection criteria for male alpacas



Exclusion criteria for female alpacas from breeding



Interest in breeding program

- **Participate in a breeding program (n = 101)**
 - **69% YES**
 - **31% NO**
- **Willingness for routine data recording**
 - **65% YES**
 - **35% NO**
- **Willingness to pay for data recording and analysis**
 - **34% YES**
 - **66% NO**

Conclusions

- **There are different motivations for starting an alpaca business, but income is not the main reason.**
- **Although fibre production is not an important income source, fibre quality is relevant for male selection.**
- **The majority of the participants are interested in establishing a breeding program and participating in data recording, but not for paying for the service.**

Thank you for your attention!

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