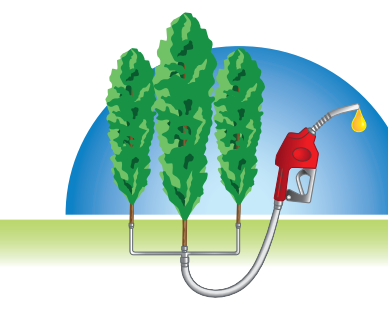
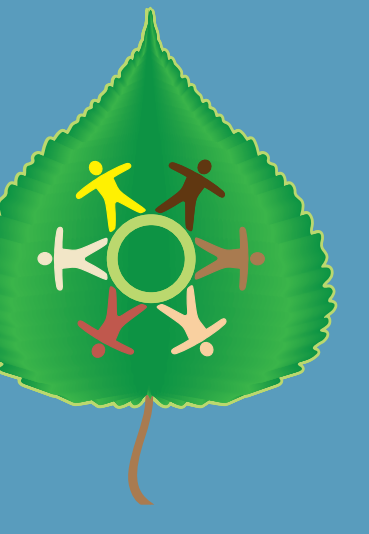


Assessing Farm Landowner's Interests and Concerns Regarding Bioenergy Crops in the Pacific Northwest

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Advanced **Hardwood Biofuels** Northwest



Bioenergy crops in the PNW

In the Pacific Northwest (PNW), farm landowners are being introduced to bioenergy cropping systems to support the development of local and renewable biofuel industries. To assess landowner's interest and concerns about bioenergy crops we initiated a survey to evaluate farm landowner's willingness to produce bioenergy crops, including hybrid poplar trees.



Farm landowners in Washington State

Survey Goals:

- ❖ Learn more about farm landowner's familiarity with bioenergy crops
- ❖ Understand farmer's interest in growing bioenergy crops
- ❖ Understand landowner's familiarity with hybrid poplar as a bioenergy crop

Landowner Survey Methods

- ❖ An initial survey was mailed to Washington State farm landowners in the spring of 2014
- ❖ 450 farm landowners were randomly selected to receive the survey
- ❖ 72 surveys were completed and returned
- ❖ The survey will be expanded upon in Fall 2014 to landowners in Oregon

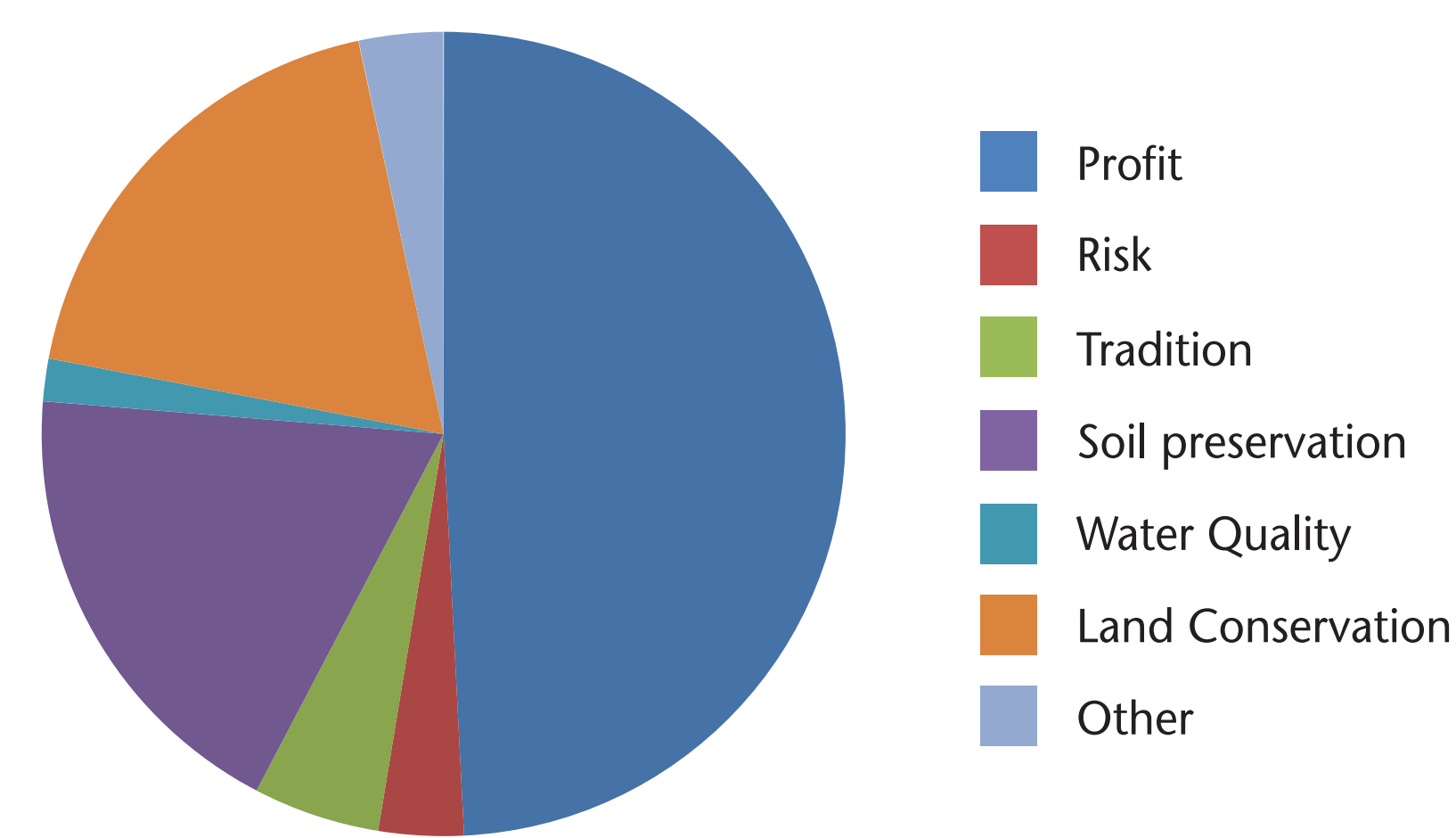
Key Findings

- ❖ 49% of landowners identified profit as the most important factor in making cropping decisions.
- ❖ Only 7 landowners indicated they had grown a bioenergy crop within the last 3 years
- ❖ 49% of landowners responded that they are not interested in growing bioenergy crops
- ❖ 68% of landowners indicated that they are not likely to grow a bioenergy crop within the next 3 years



Farmland along the Snohomish River in Washington State.

Which is the most important to your cropping decisions?



Learn more about AHB at hardwoodbiofuels.org

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Hybrid poplar is a promising feedstock for biofuels and bioproducts in the Pacific Northwest.

Farmer Feedback

- "Poplar trees froze out on my farm; out of 300 only one survived."
- "Only unwillingness would be my ignorance and bad economics."
- "Where I have seen poplar grown good farmland is/was ruined."
- "My wife thinks we should feed a starving world by producing crops for consumption and get our energy from existing petroleum reserves and other potential means. I do not disagree."

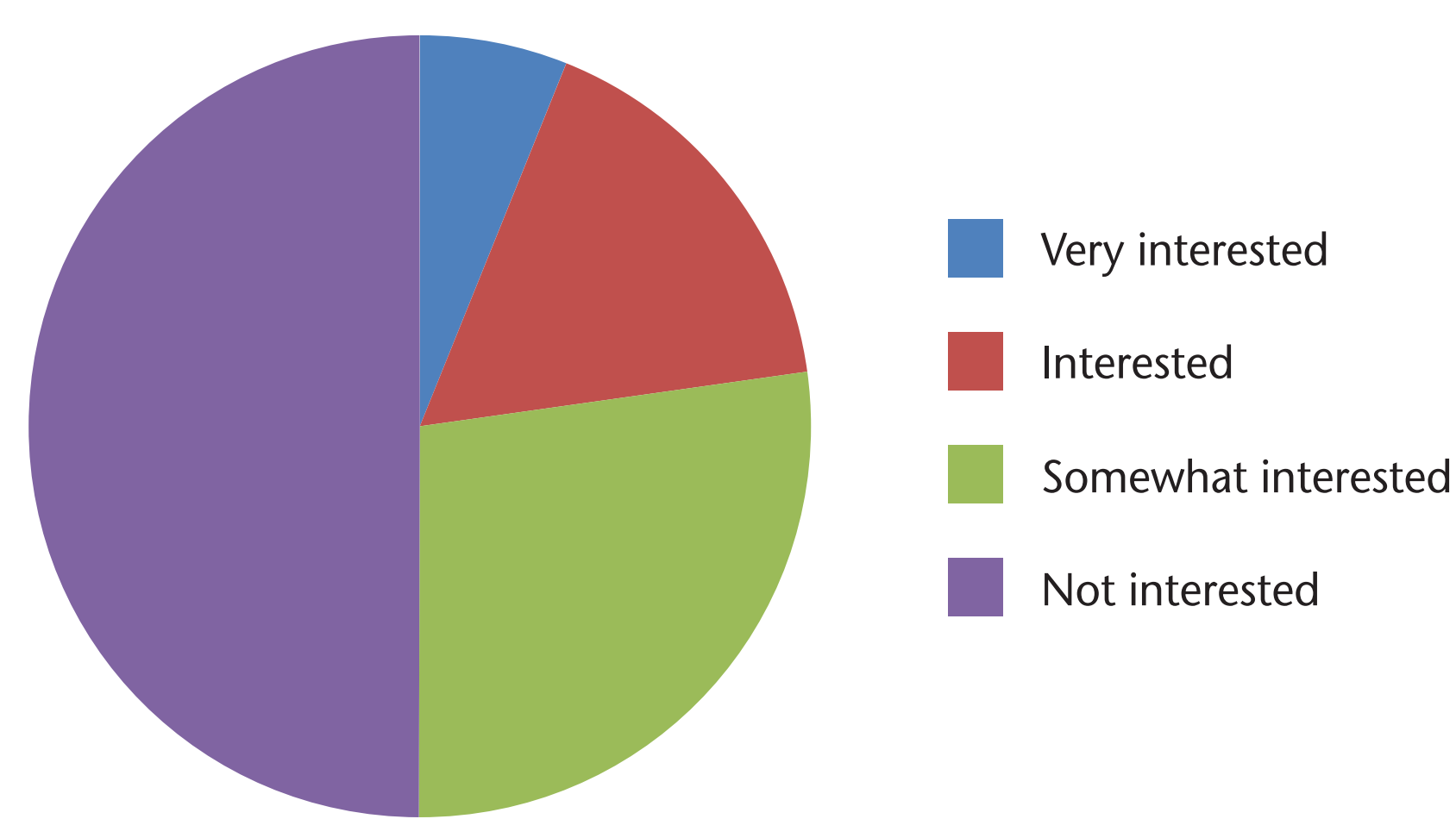
Looking Forward

- ❖ Extension can use results in conducting effective outreach to farm landowners
- ❖ Extension can provide researched-based information to landowners to assist them as they make decisions regarding bioenergy crops
- ❖ As Extension works to increase landowner's familiarity, misconceptions can be addressed and minimized making adoption of bioenergy crops, such as hybrid poplar more likely



Winter canola flowering

How interested are you in growing a bioenergy crop?

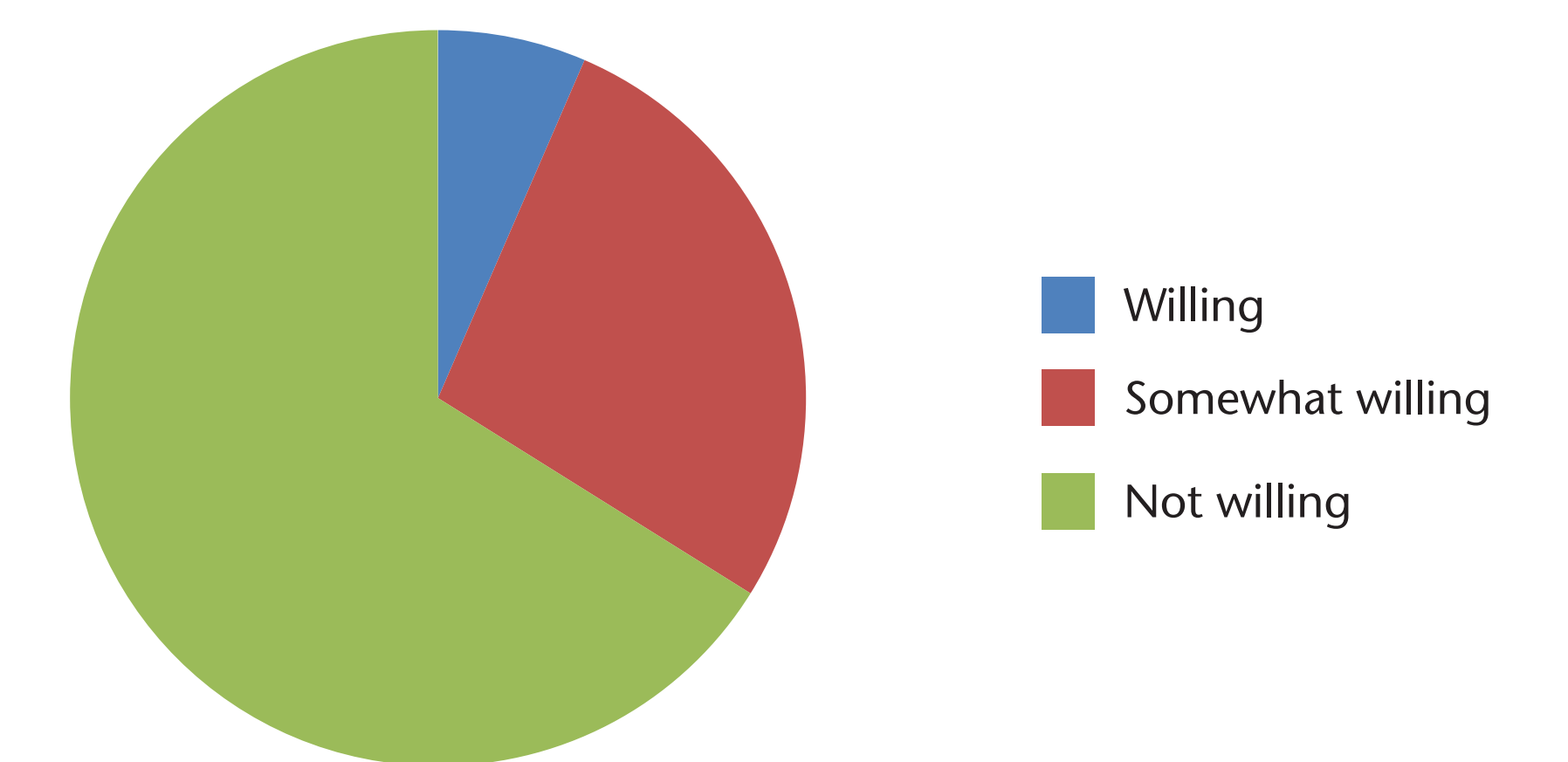


Landowners can rely on Extension personnel when making decisions regarding bioenergy crops in the PNW.

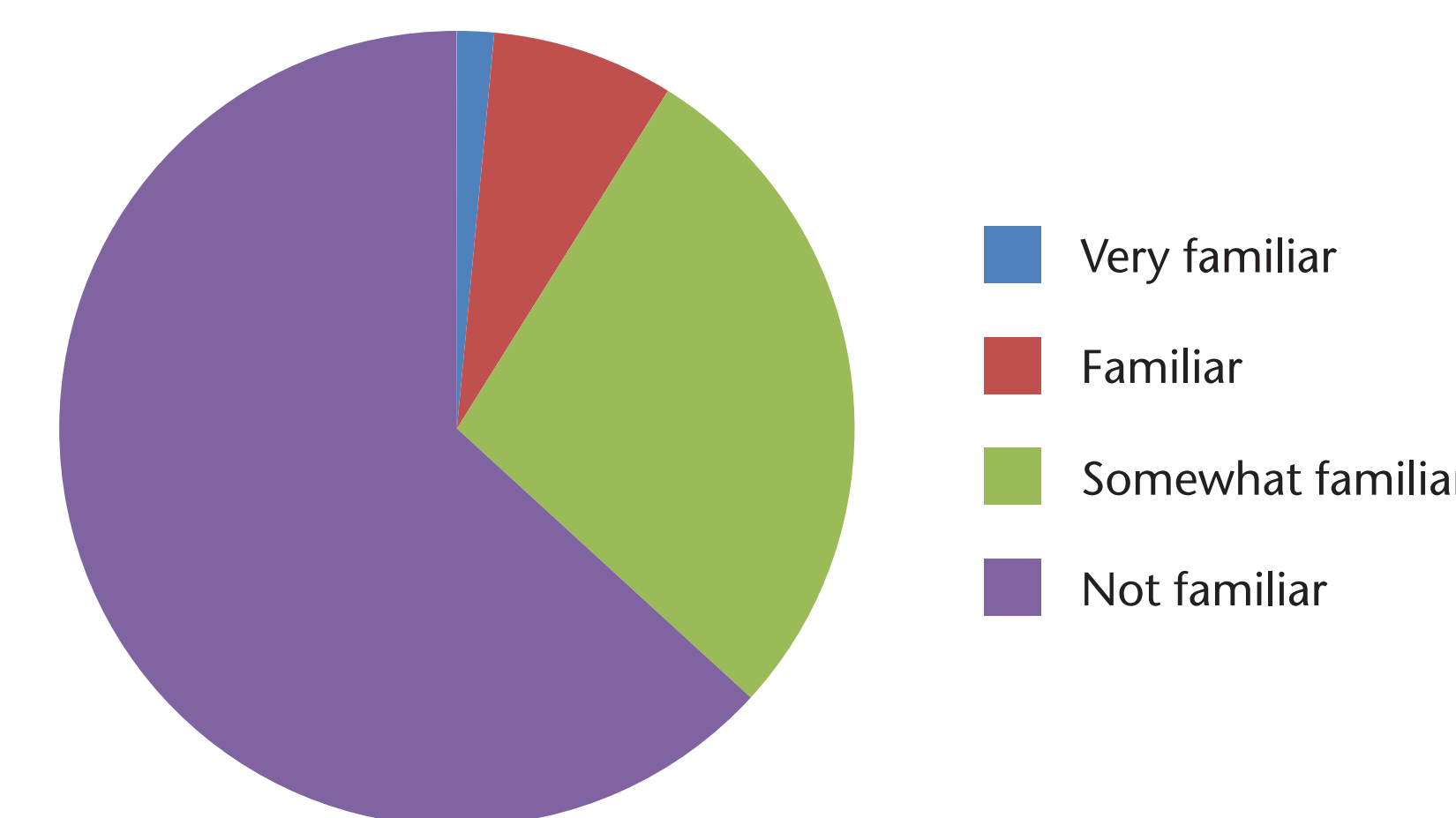
Farm Landowner Willingness to Grow Hybrid Poplar

- ❖ Only 4 of the surveyed landowners had grown hybrid poplar before
- ❖ 36% felt that converting their land back to another crop after growing hybrid poplar would be a major challenge
- ❖ 65% of landowners would prefer to grow oil seed crops instead of hybrid poplar

How willing are you to grow hybrid poplar trees as part of a perennial rotation of 2 to 3 years on your farmland?



How familiar are you with growing hybrid poplar as a bioenergy crop?



Hybrid poplars in their second growing season in Washington State.