



*Department of*  
**FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION**  
*Clemson® University*

# **THE NEED FOR A CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FEMALE FOREST OWNERS**

Patrick Hiesl, Janet Steele, and Susan T. Guynn

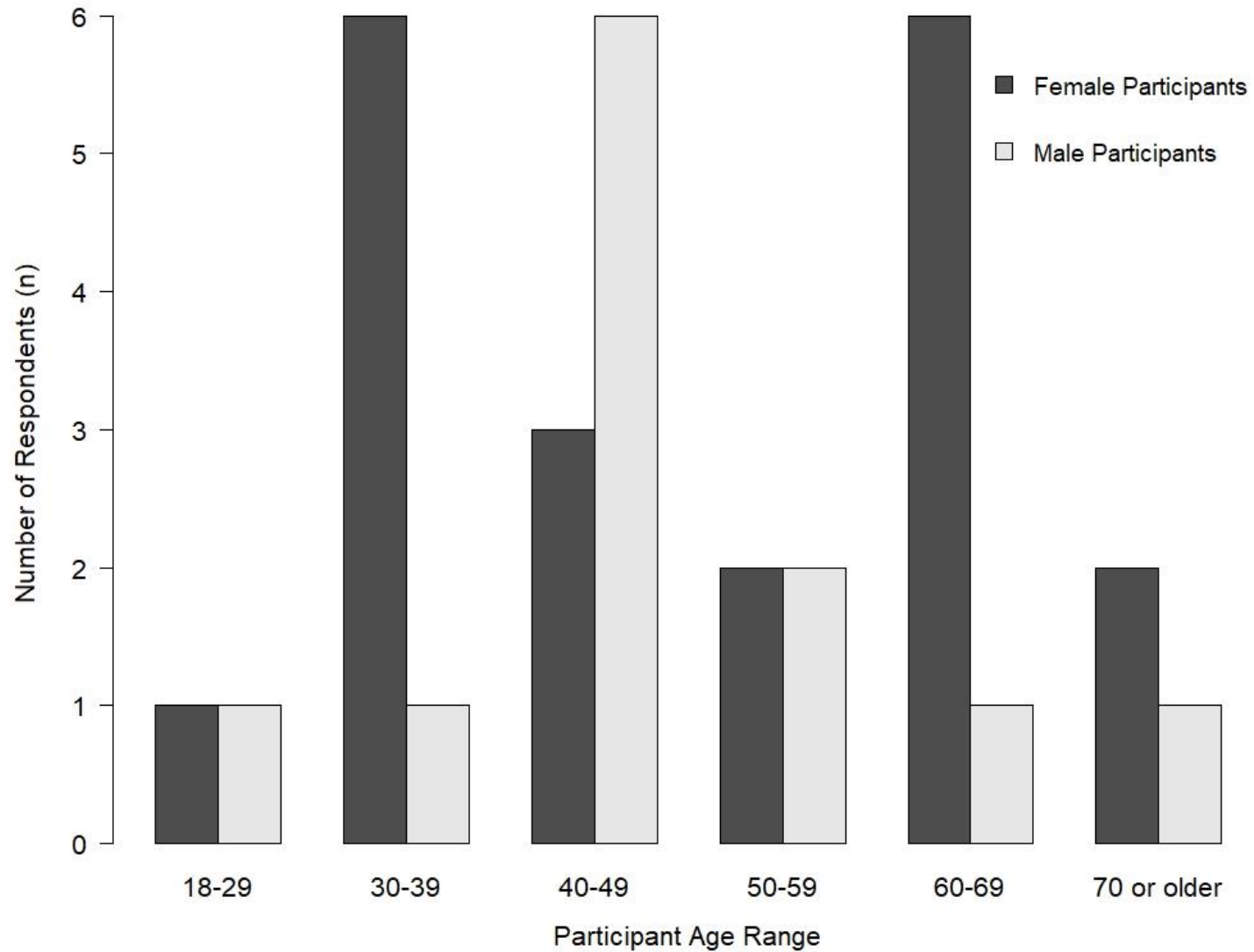
# Family Forest Owners



# Chainsaw Safety Training Program

## What?

- PPE, chainsaw safety features, maintenance, cutting techniques, focus on logs on the ground



## Participant Demographics

### *Ethnicity*

30 – non-Hispanic/non-Latino

1 – Hispanic/Latino

1 – no answer

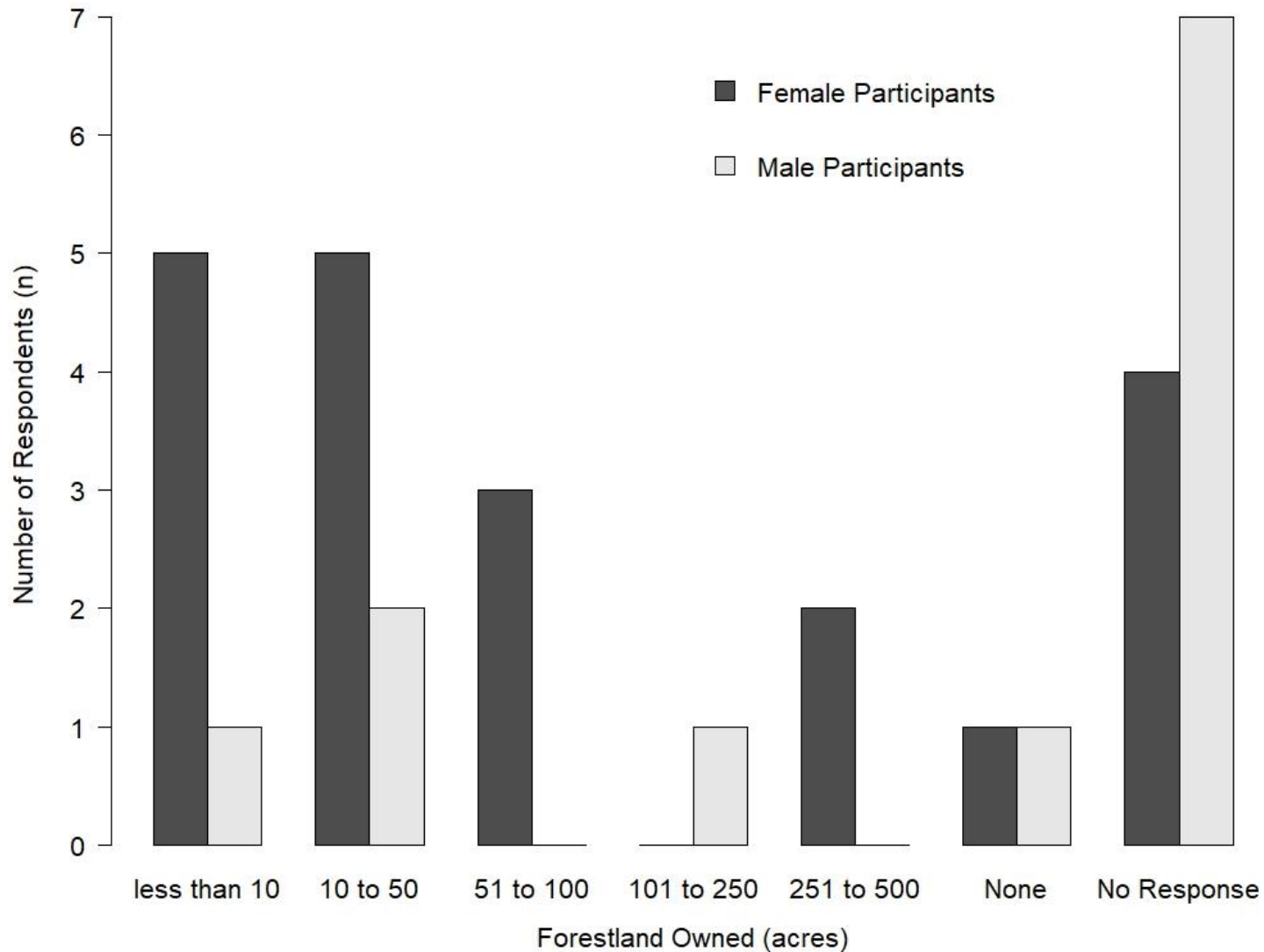
### *Race*

29 – white

1 – Asian

1 – more than one race

1 – no answer



## Forest Ownership

### *Ownership Length*

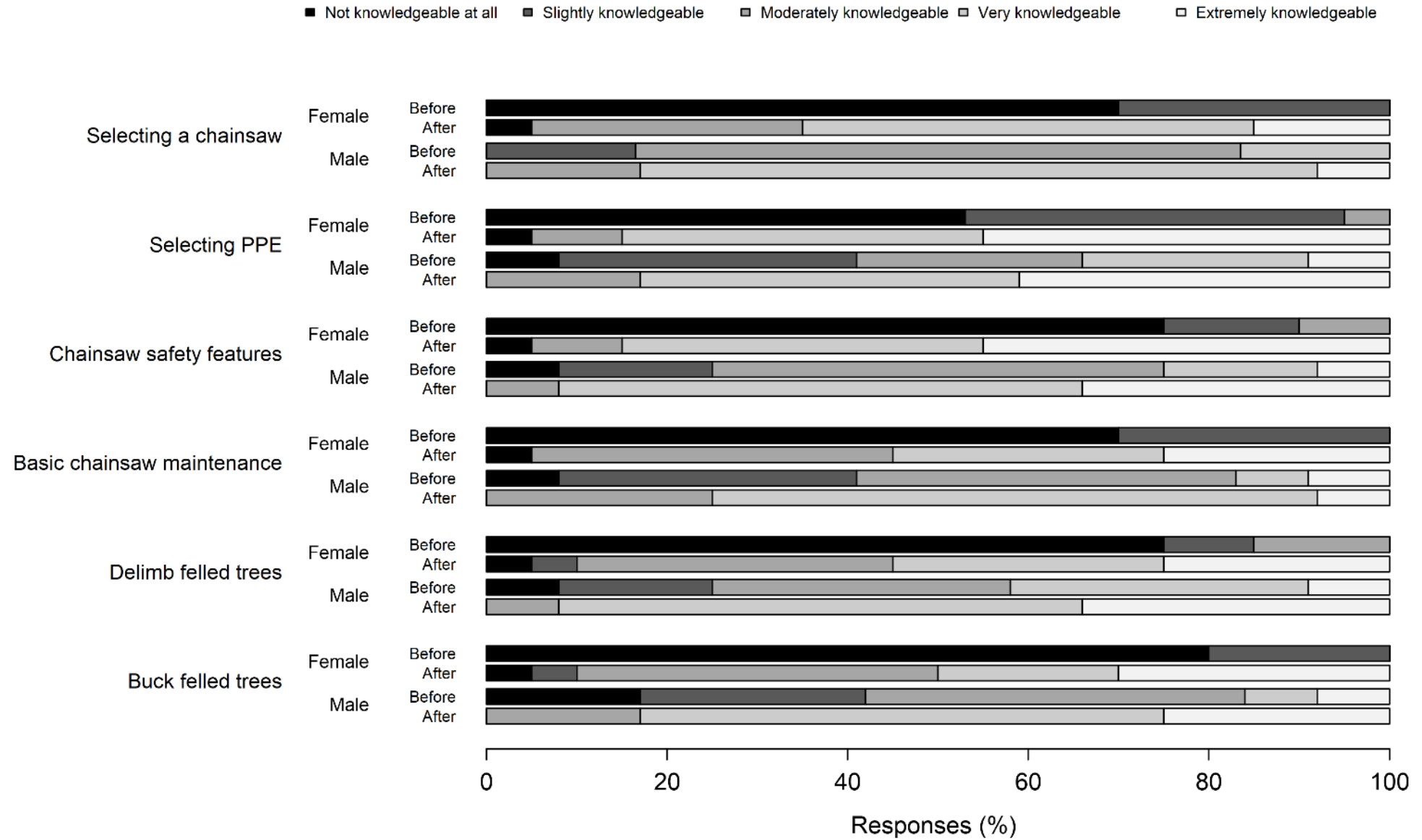
Average – 10 years ( $\pm 8.8$  years)

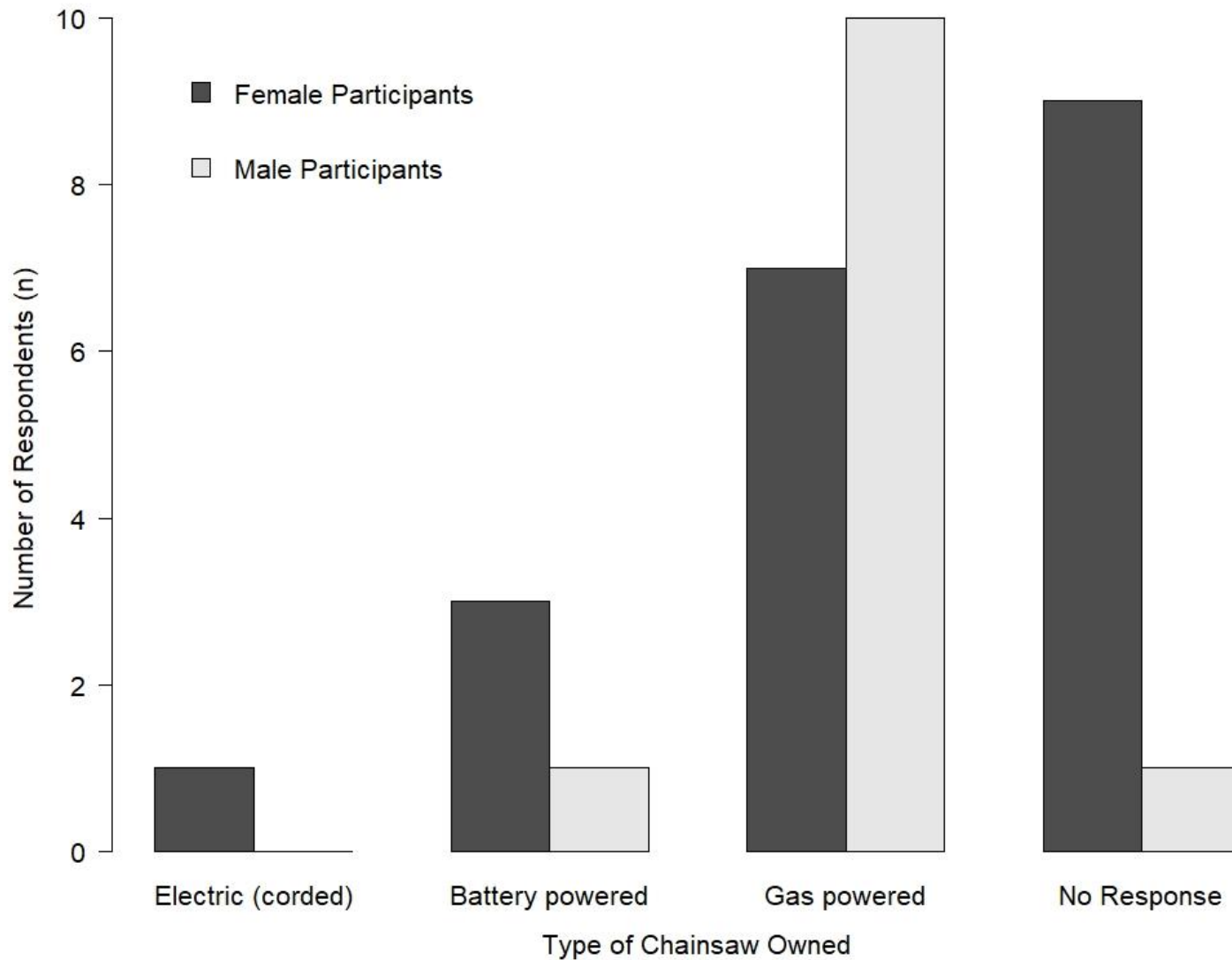
Median 8 – years

Min. – 1 years

Max. – 30 years

No difference male/female ( $p=0.880$ )





## Chainsaw Ownership

*Purchasing Chainsaw within 12 months*

### Male Participants

- *No plans (n=11).*
- *No answer (n=1)*

### Female Participants

- *Planning to purchase (n=8)*
- *Maybe purchase (n=7)*
- *No plans (n=4)*
- *No answer (n=1)*

# Training Environment



90% of female participants like female-only workshop setting

80% reported to likely attend another female-only workshop

Suggested future topics:

- Tree felling
- Chainsaw sharpening/maintenance



# Observations

## *Additional Workshops*

- *14 participants (8 female/6 male)*
- *Similar age range*
- *3 African American participants*

## *Felling Workshops (< 15 cm DBH)*

- *16 participants*
- *Most took previous workshops*



# Observations

## *Battery-Powered Chainsaws*

- *Great interest*
- *Checking oil level*
- *Chainsaw chaps*

## *Confidence Level*

- Male participants grew up using chainsaws
- Female participants rarely used chainsaws: “dad/brothers use chainsaw”, “husband uses chainsaw”
- Need to build confidence (beginning users)



# Chainsaw Training Program for Female Forest Owners?

- Increasing number of female forest owners
- Different experience levels compared to male participants
- Eager to learn and to do it right
- Opportunity to offer training programs as part of Extension/Forest Operations
- Limited beginner training programs available



# Acknowledgements

## **Project Funding**

2021-2022: South Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee

2022-2023: Clemson Cooperative Extension Innovation Award

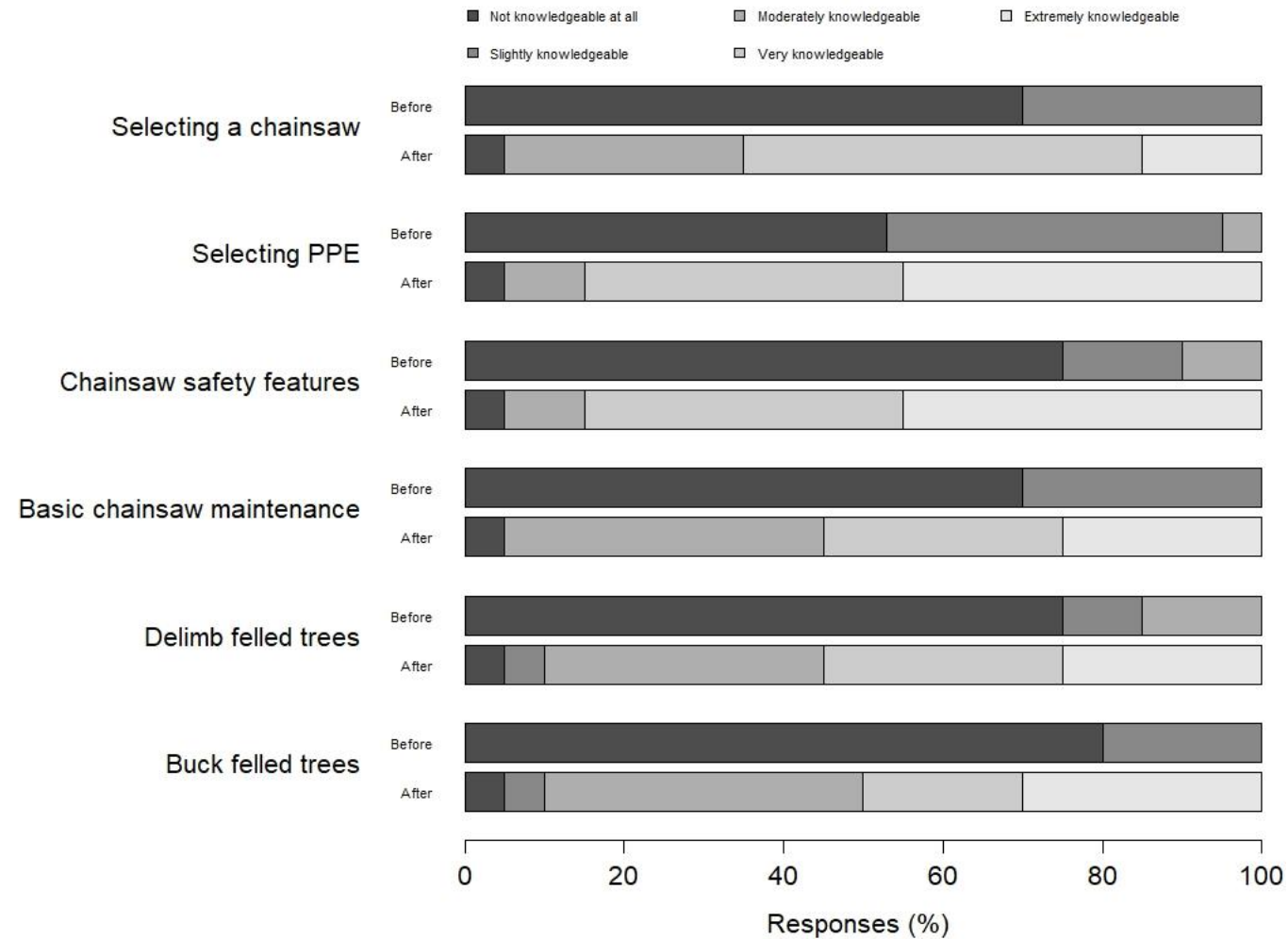
## **Research Article**

Hiesl, P., J. Steele, and S.T. Guynn. [accepted]. The Need for a Chainsaw Safety Training Program for Female Forest Landowners. *Journal of Extension*.

# Questions?



# Female Participants



# Male Participants

