

Using the Climate Change Trust Scale to Analyze Public Trust in Farmers

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INTRODUCTION

- Climate change increases the frequency and severity of natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, heat waves, and droughts.
- Farmers are working towards more environmentally friendly farming practices, including using vertical farming, changing fertilizers, and reducing food waste by using unsold crops for composting or animal feed.
- The present study examined how much people trust what farmers say about climate change and how much people believe that farmers address climate change problems.

METHOD

Participants

- Data were collected from 500 United States MTurk workers using Cloud Research. We filtered out 15 climate change deniers.
- We were left with 485 participants:
 - 203 identify as female, 278 as male, and 3 as nonbinary.
 - Ages ranged from 19 to 76 ($M = 39.63$, $SD = 11.81$).
 - 402 identify as Caucasian/White, 41 as African American/Black, 25 as Asian, 4 as Native American, 1 as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and 12 as other.

Measures

- “How much do you trust what farmers say about climate change?”
- “How much do you believe farmers will do to address problems caused by climate change?”
- For both: 1 = none at all and 5 = a great deal.

RESULTS

- What farmers say about climate change:
 - $M = 2.80$, $SD = 1.09$. See Figure 2.
- Can farmers address climate change
 - $M = 2.64$, $SD = 1.18$. See Figure 1.
- For both items, most people had moderate or low levels of trust in farmers.

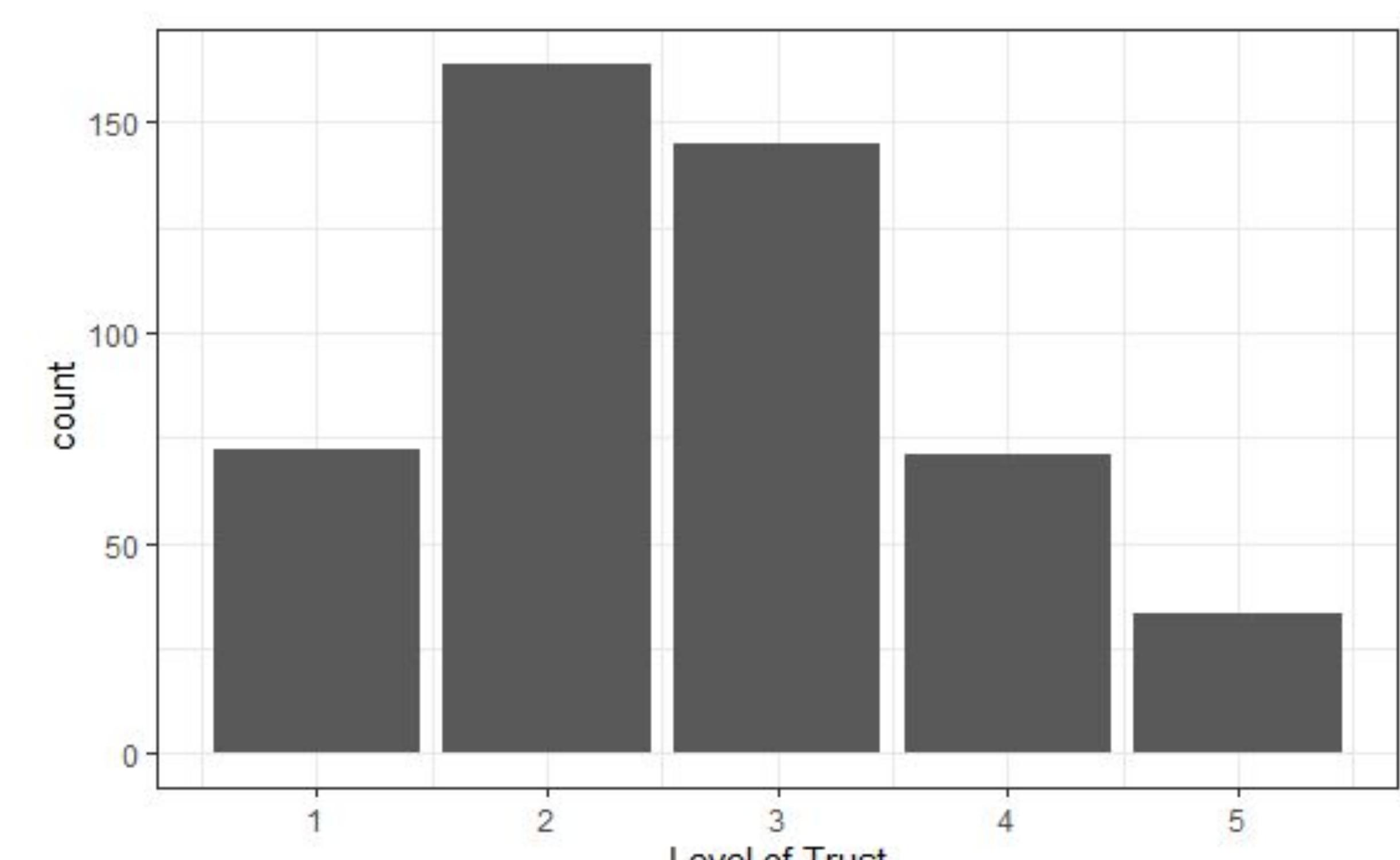
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DISCUSSION

- Perhaps trust is low because people do not know what farmers are doing to combat climate change.
- Farmers and pro-environmental spokespersons can spread the word on the innovative methods farmers are using to reduce climate change and adapt to its challenges.
- This may encourage trust in farmers and hope for the future, and it may encourage others to take what actions they can.

Figure 1

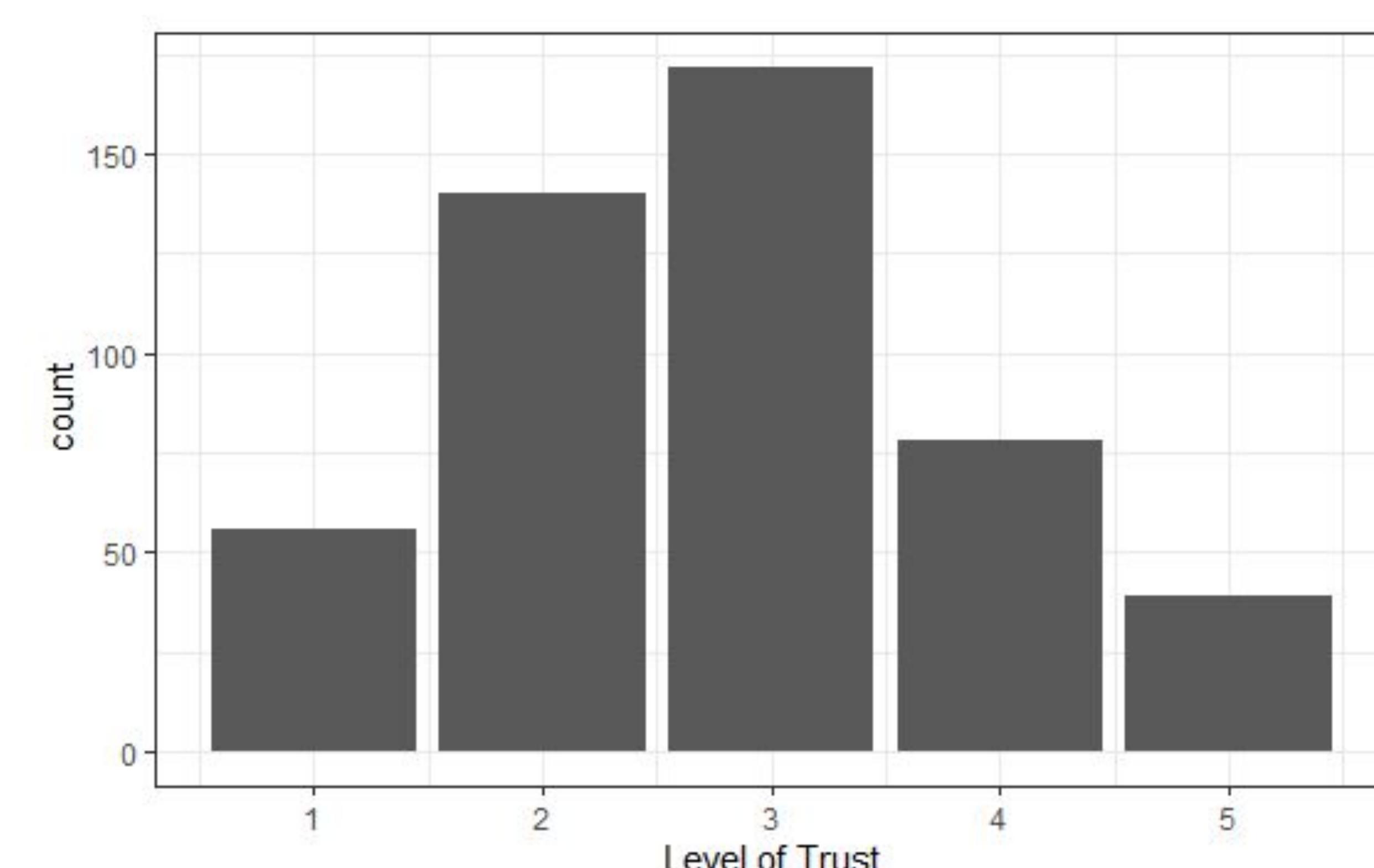
Trust in Farmers Addressing Climate Change



Note. 1 = None at all, 2 = A little, 3 = Moderate, 4 = A lot, 5 = A great deal.

Figure 2

Trust in What Farmers Say About Climate Change



Note. 1 = None at all, 2 = A little, 3 = Moderate, 4 = A lot, 5 = A great deal.