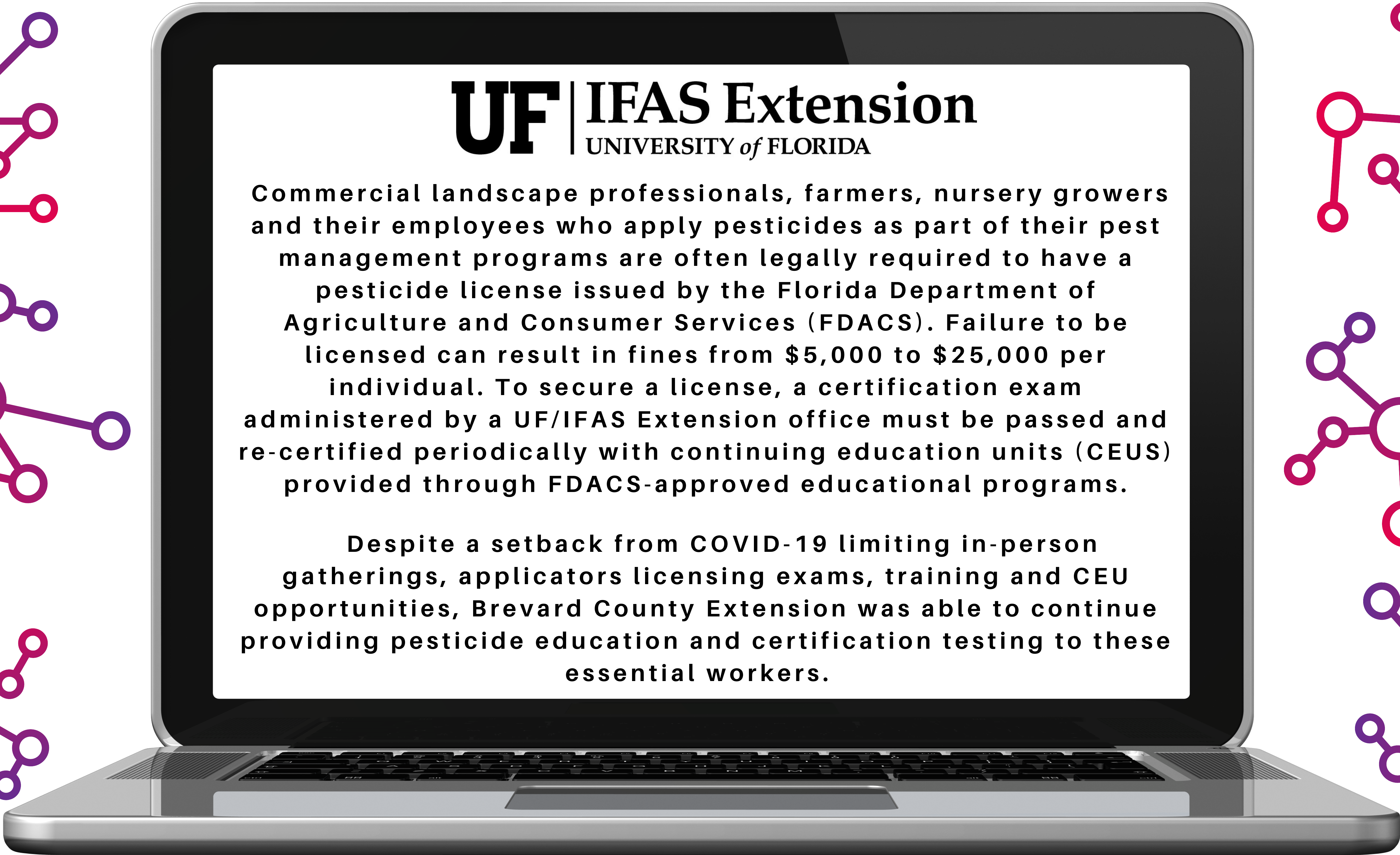


PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS: PIVOTING DURING A PANDEMIC

Bonnie Wells and Joe Walter, UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County

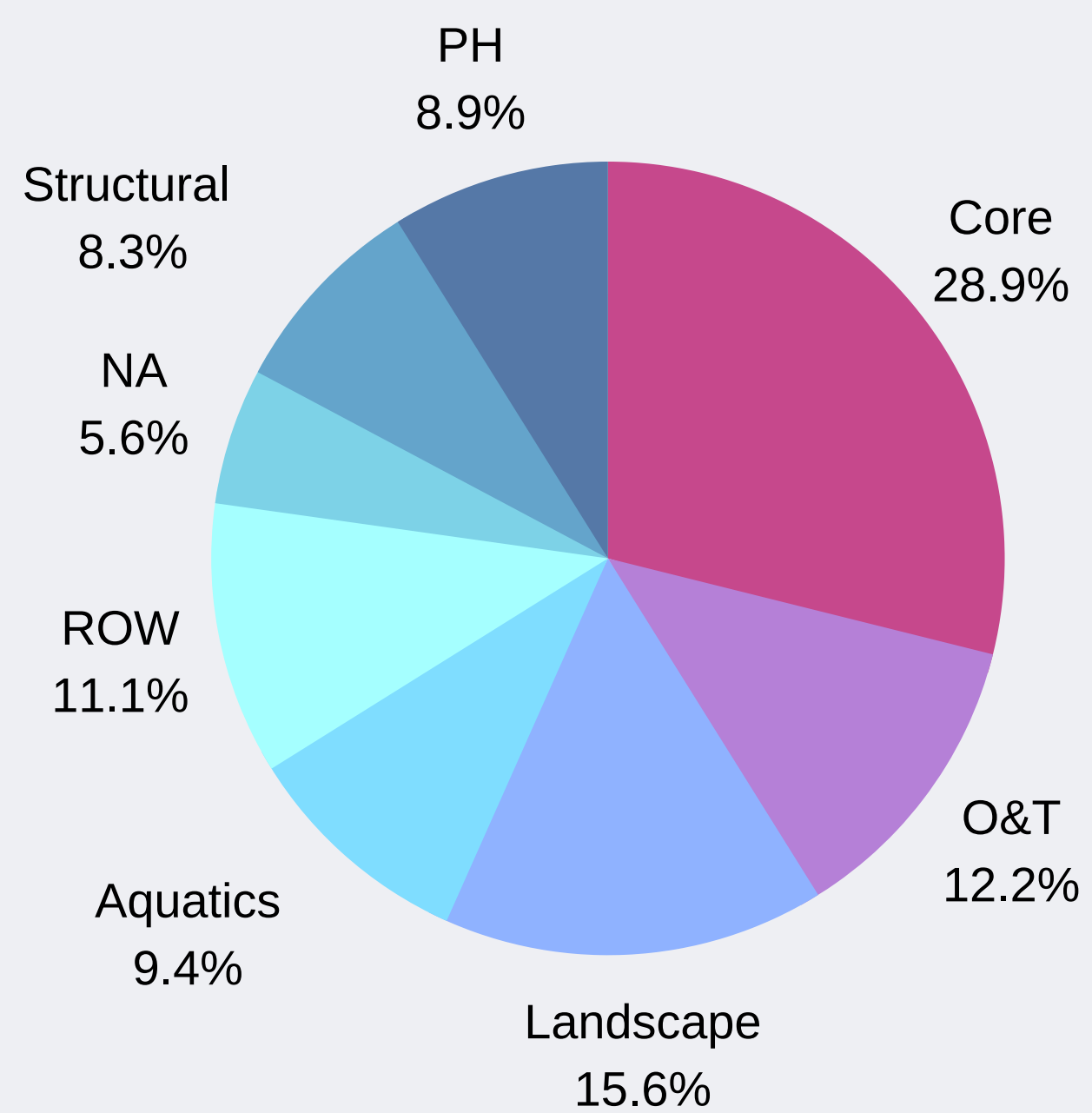
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 @BrevardPlantDr



Exam Administration

Chart 1. License Categories Tested*



*General Standards Core (Core), Ornamental and Turf Pest Control (O&T), Landscape (LCLM/LLO), Aquatics Pest Control, Right of Way (ROW), Natural Areas Weed Management (NA), Structural Pest Control, Public Health (PH)

- Proctored 178, web-based exams during the pandemic
- Followed CDC Guidelines
- Enhanced equipment sanitation

Education

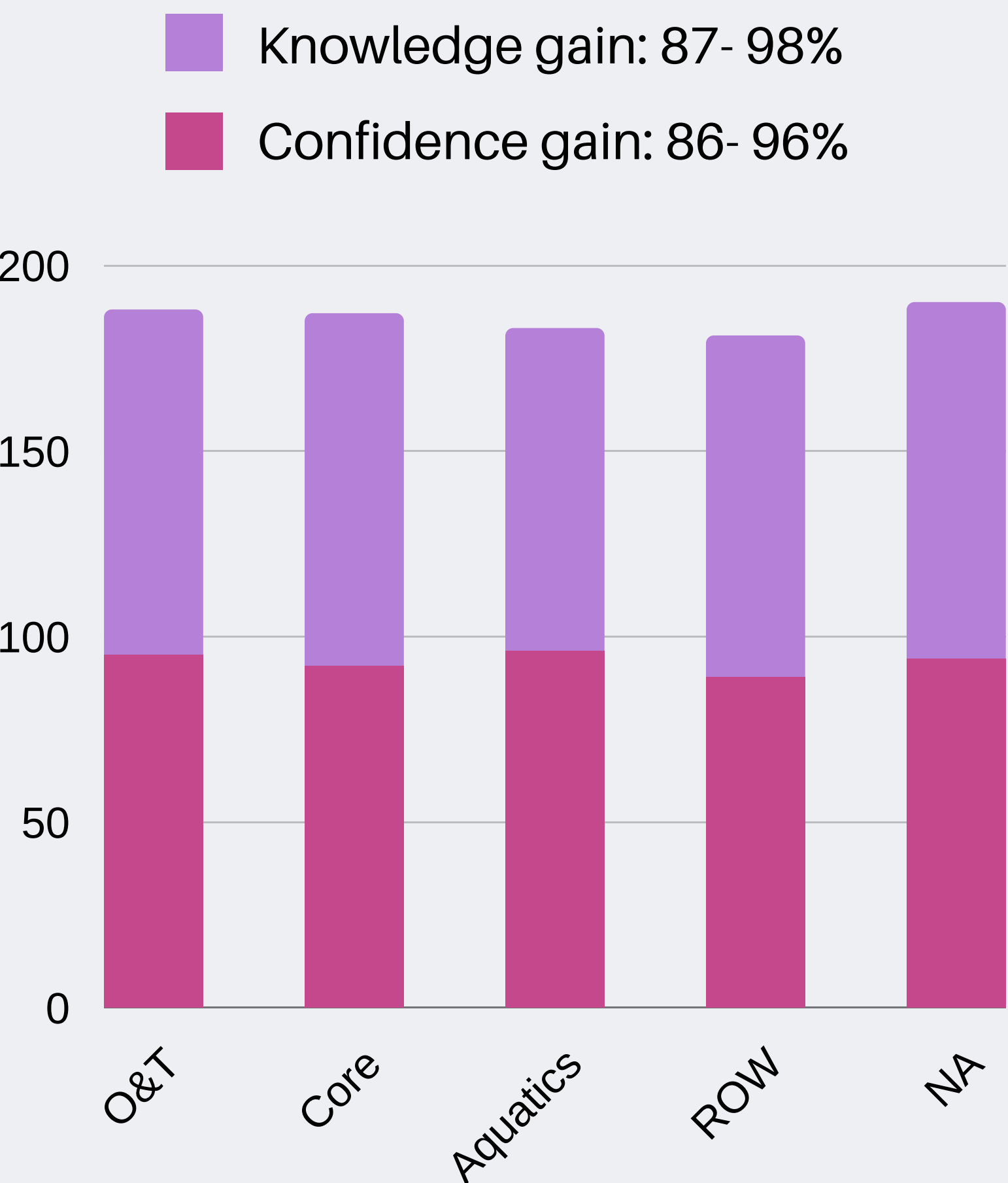
- Taught in-person and virtual classes across all license categories (21 total classes)
- Provided exam prep review courses via Zoom
- Created a *Virtual Lunch and Learn CEU Series* (Zoom)
- Reached 393 individuals
- Provided 56 CEUs



Outcomes

- Surveyed attendees via qualtrics using self-reflective 7-point Likert scale to measure knowledge and confidence gain

Chart 2. Knowledge and Confidence Gain from Test Prep Classes



Moving Forward



- Provide in-person/virtual *hybrid* classes
- Offer web-based certification exams weekly
- Continue making impacts:
 - 108 new certified applicators in Florida = \$540,000 to \$2.7 million saved from potential fines!
 - Certified applicators often get higher salaries!
 - Certified applicators increase safety and environmental stewardship!