

Conservation Practice Adoption Motivations, 2021

Cropland and Confined Livestock Practices

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), in cooperation with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), conducted the Conservation Practice Adoption Motivations Survey (CPAMS) to ascertain farmers' and ranchers' conservation practices adoption behaviors and adoption motivations on cropland, grazing land, forest land and concentrated livestock feeding operations.

The survey includes two phases. The first phase included cropland and confined livestock. The second phase will include forestland on farms and farm and ranch grazing land and rangeland, which will be released in 2024.

Fig. 1 Cropland Conservation Practice (average percent of cropland)

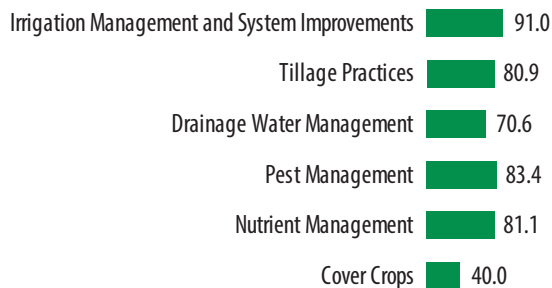
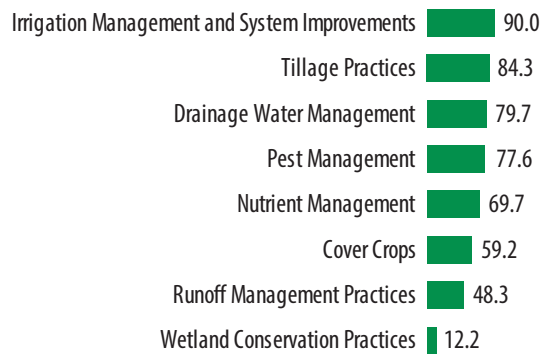


Fig. 2 Cropland Conservation Practice (percent of respondents utilizing)



Of the respondents who reported using specific cropping conservation practices, irrigation management and system improvements was the most utilized practice (90%). It was also applied to the largest portion of cropland (91%).

Cropland Conservation Practices

Of the respondents who reported using specific conservation practices on their farm/ranch, the top two most widely used cropping conservation practices were irrigation management and system improvements (90.0%) and tillage practices (84.3%), respectively. (Fig. 2)

The two most motivational factors in the decision to utilize irrigation management and system improvements were availability of technical assistance (84.8%) and anticipated benefits greater than costs (84.2%). Confidence in following the plan successfully (75.2%) and anticipated saving time or effort (70.3%) were the two most motivational factors in using tillage practices. (Fig. 3)

Fig. 3. Top Motivations by Conservation Practice, Cropland (percent of respondents utilizing)

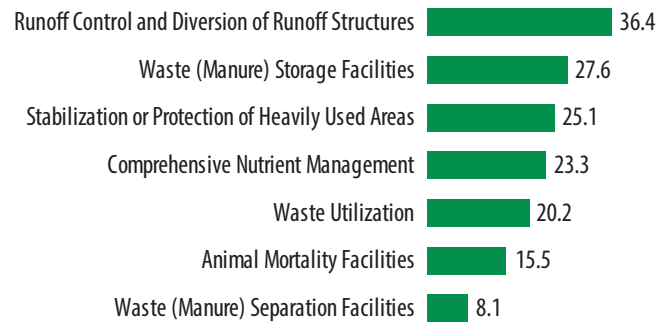


Confined Livestock Conservation Practices

Of the respondents who reported using specific conservation practices on confined livestock operations, the top two most widely used confined livestock conservation practices were runoff control and diversion of runoff structures (36.4%) and waste (manure) storage facilities (27.6%), respectively. (Fig. 4)

The two most motivational factors in the decision to utilize runoff control and diversion of runoff structures were anticipated benefits greater than cost (63.2%) and anticipated off-farm environmental benefits (57.1%). More storage required for expansion of operation (38.3%) and anticipated off-farm environmental benefits (38.0%) were the two most motivational factors for using waste (manure) storage facilities. (Fig. 5)

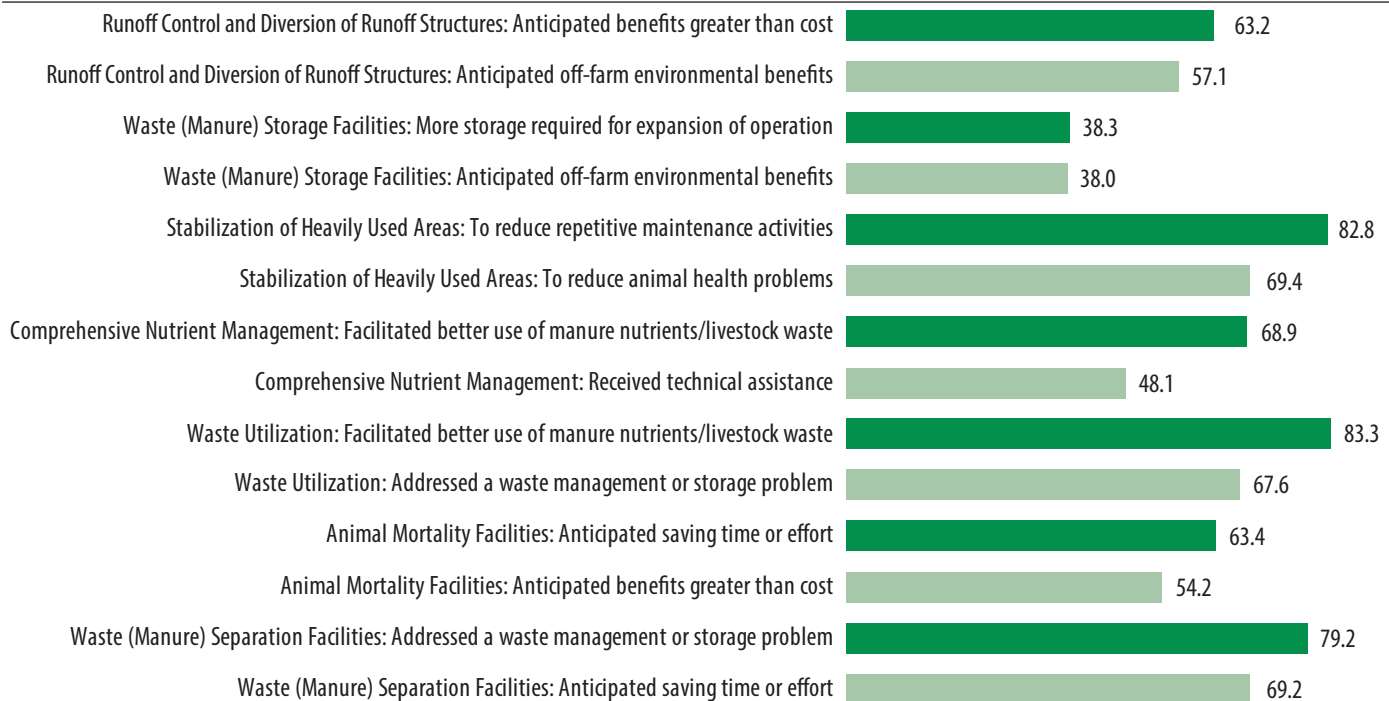
Fig. 4. Confined Livestock Conservation Practice
(percent of respondents utilizing)



83.3%

The proportion of respondents who reported using waste utilization because the practice facilitated better use of manure nutrients/livestock waste.

Fig. 5. Top Motivations by Conservation Practice, Confined Livestock (percent of respondents utilizing)



About the Survey

In 2022, approximately 34,000 producers across the nation received a survey for either the cropland or confined livestock version of CPAMS. Data collection was conducted from May through September 2022.

CPAMS is a joint project between NASS and NRCS aimed at better understanding conservation practice adoption and the role of technical and financial assistance. CPAMS collected data on conservation practices in the United States. The resulting state and regional level data will be used by NRCS to help promotion and education to customers.