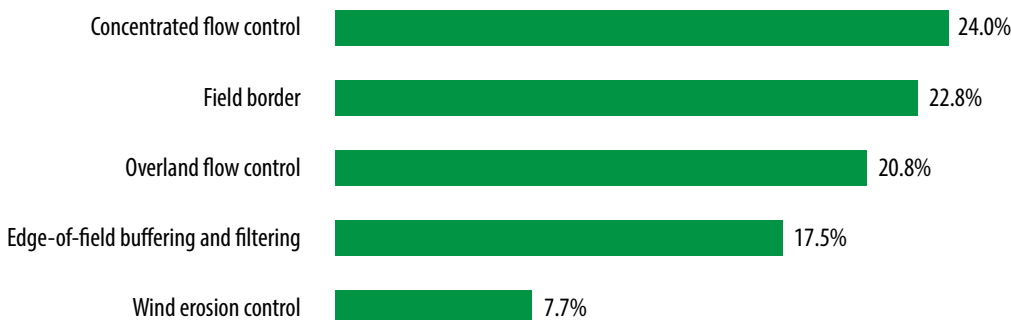


Conservation Effects Assessment Project, 2024

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), in cooperation with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), conducted the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) to ascertain farmers' and ranchers' conservation practices across the nation's working lands. The CEAP Survey is conducted to measure conservation efforts related to cropland, including idle periods of summer fallow management in rotation with cropland.

About 80.9% of survey respondents reported using conservation practices. Of those survey respondents, 32.1% reported having a written conservation plan. About 7.1% of survey respondents reported having a written conservation plan but did not report any conservation practices.

Structural Practice Groups, 2024 (% of survey respondents utilizing)



Of the 53.3% of survey respondents who reported using structural practices, the two most commonly used were grassed waterways (23.1%) and field borders (22.8%).

33.5%

The percentage of respondents who used precision technology to change seeding rate or crop variety within the field as a conservation practice. Eleven percent used cover crops, 32.3% used variable rate technology, and 15.7% applied manure.

Structural Practice Groups and Types of Practices

Five structural practice groups were established based on their primary conservation objective to facilitate evaluating change between the CEAP survey periods. The groups and practices counted within each group include:

Field Border

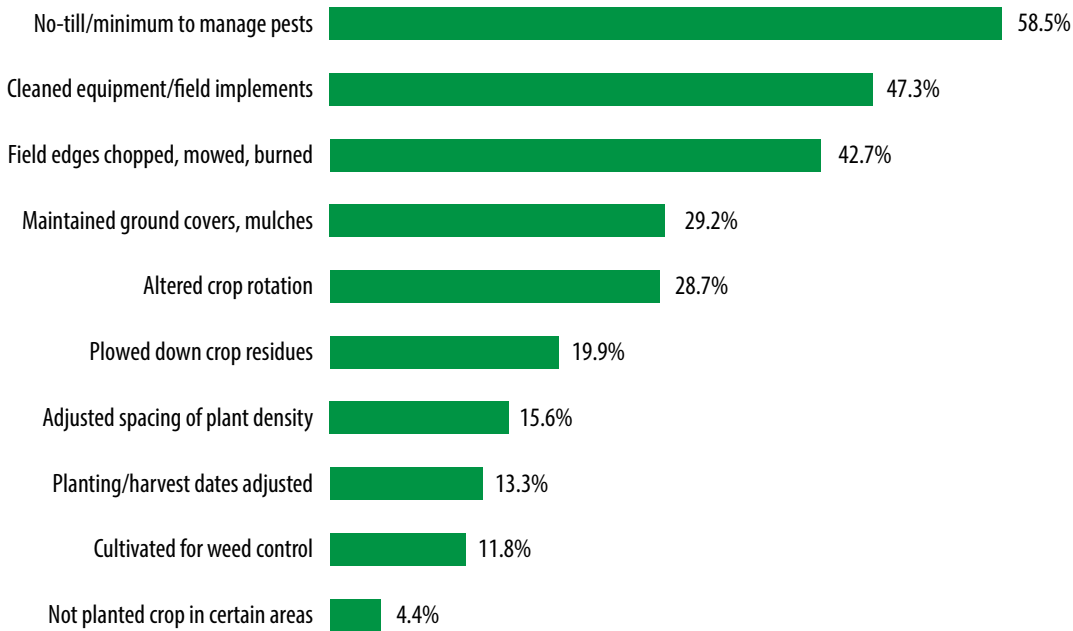
Edge-of-field buffering and filtering—Riparian (stream side) forest buffers, riparian (stream side) herbaceous buffers, filter strips, critical area planting

Wind erosion control—Windbreaks, herbaceous wind barriers, hedgerow plantings

Concentrated flow control—Grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures

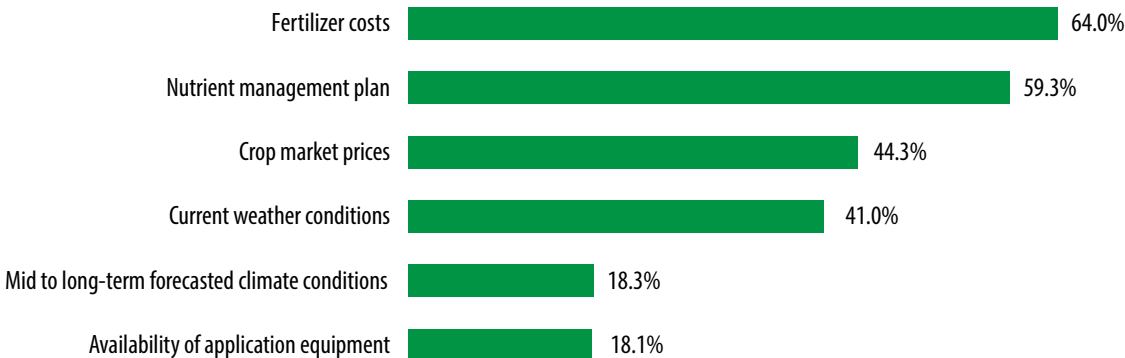
Overland flow control—Terraces, contour buffers (in-field), contour farming, strip cropping, vegetative barriers (in-field), alley cropping

Pest Management Practices, 2024 (% of survey respondents utilizing)



Of the 83.3% of survey respondents who reported using pest management practices, no-till or minimum tillage to manage pests were the most common practices reported. Of the survey respondents who reported using pest management practices, no-till or minimum tillage practices to manage pests were applied to 72.7% of the cropland surveyed.

Fertilizer Application Decision Factors, 2024 (% of survey respondents utilizing)



Of the 90.9% of survey respondents who reported using fertilizers, the two most common decision factors were fertilizer costs and nutrient management plans.

About the Survey

In 2024, approximately 6,425 producers across the nation received a survey. Data collection was conducted from November 2024 through February 2025.

Selected operators were interviewed to determine their tillage and irrigation practices, application of fertilizer, manure, and pesticides, and use of conservation practices. Results of the survey will provide data to guide the implementation of NRCS and other USDA programs in the future.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

www.nass.usda.gov