

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 % of cropland*)



*among survey respondents who reported using a conservation practice

Fig. 2 Cropland Conservation Practice (% of survey respondents utilizing)



Among respondents who reported using specific cropping conservation practices, 86.5% used tillage practices. Among respondents who reported using a specific cropping conservation practice, tillage practices were applied to 83.4% of cropland.

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 tillage practices (86.5%) and irrigation management and system improvements (86.4%), respectively. (Fig. 2)

The two most motivational factors in the decision to utilize tillage practices were confidence in following plan successfully (77.0%) and anticipated saving time or effort (72.8%). Anticipated benefits greater than cost (81.1%) and confidence in following the plan successfully (80.7%) were the two most motivational factors in using irrigation management and system improvements (Fig. 3)

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

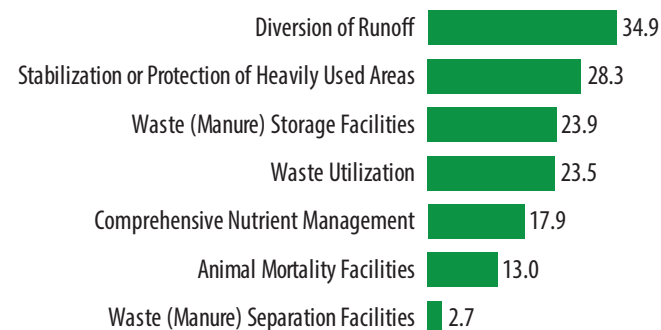


Confined Livestock Conservation Practices

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 (34.9%) and stabilization or protection of heavily used areas (28.3%), 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 (69.9%) and anticipated saving time or effort (59.6%). Reduction of repetitive maintenance activities (83.7%) and reduction of animal health problems (74.0%) were the two most motivational factors for using stabilization or protection of heavily used areas. (Fig. 5)

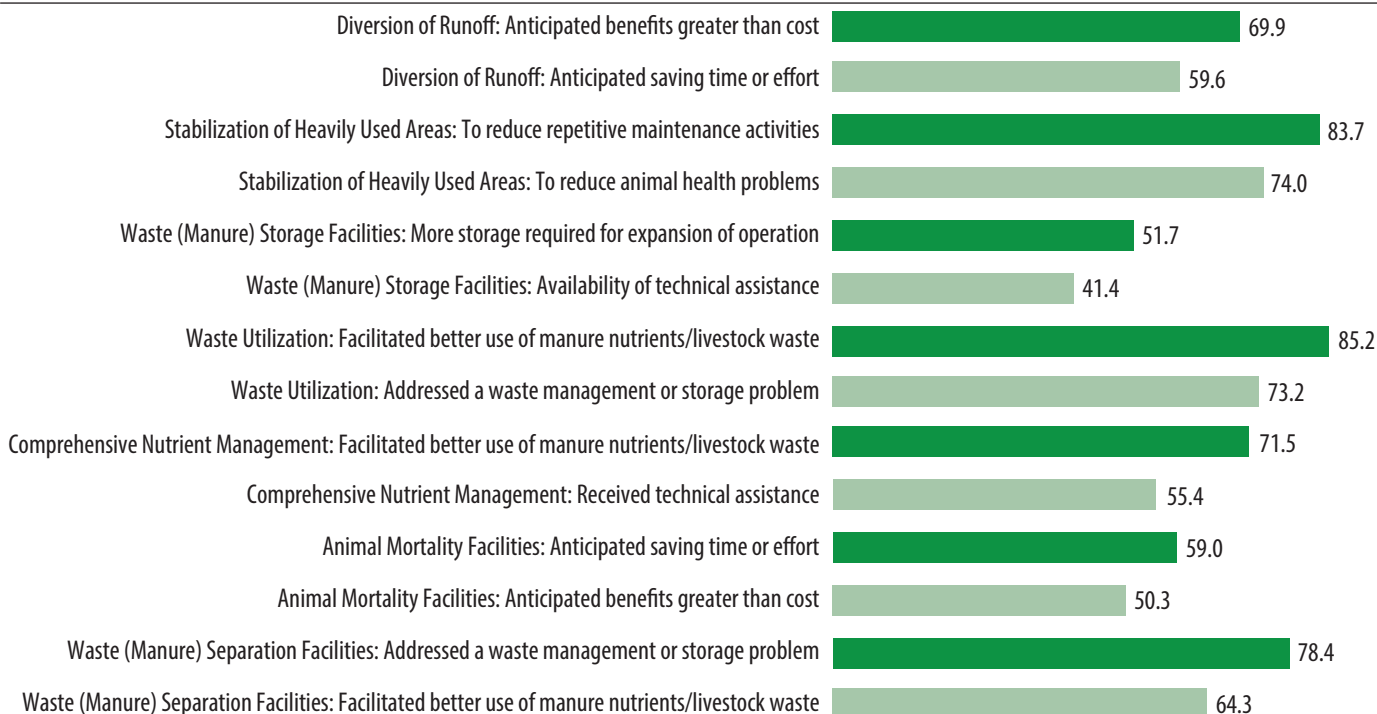
Fig. 4. Confined Livestock Conservation Practice
(% of survey respondents utilizing)



85.2%

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 (% of survey 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. The response rates for the Cropland and Confined Livestock versions were 33.5% and 40.3%, respectively.