



ATCP 50 – Soil and Water Resource Mgmt Program

Land and Water Resources Bureau

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

April 27, 2022

SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (SWRM)

SWRM is the core of ATCP 50, authorized under s. 92.14, Wis.Stats

- Subchapter II: Soil and Water Conservation on Farms
- Subchapter III: County Soil and Water Program
- Subchapter IV: Grants to Counties
- Subchapter V: Cost-sharing Grants to Landowners
- Subchapter VIII: Standards for Cost-Share Practices



SWRM ANNUAL APPROPRIATION (2022)

PURPOSE	APPROPRIATION
COUNTY STAFFING	\$11,030,000
GPR (20.115)(7)(c)	\$3,715,800
SEG (20.115)(7)(qe)	\$7,314,200
COST-SHARE/AIDS	\$8,164,774
BOND (20.866)(2)(we) – engineered practices	\$3,739,774
SEG (20.115)(7)(qf) – NM, cropping practices, producer-led, training and support services, no county staff	\$4,425,000
TOTAL	\$19,194,774



TODAY

Talking and listening to you about a variety of things related to cost-sharing:

- Thresholds for recording, bidding, and engineering approval
- Cost-sharing rates for cropping practices
- Cost-sharing limits (years) for cropping practices
- Bona fide offers of cost-sharing
- Cost-shareable conservation practices
- Anything else?

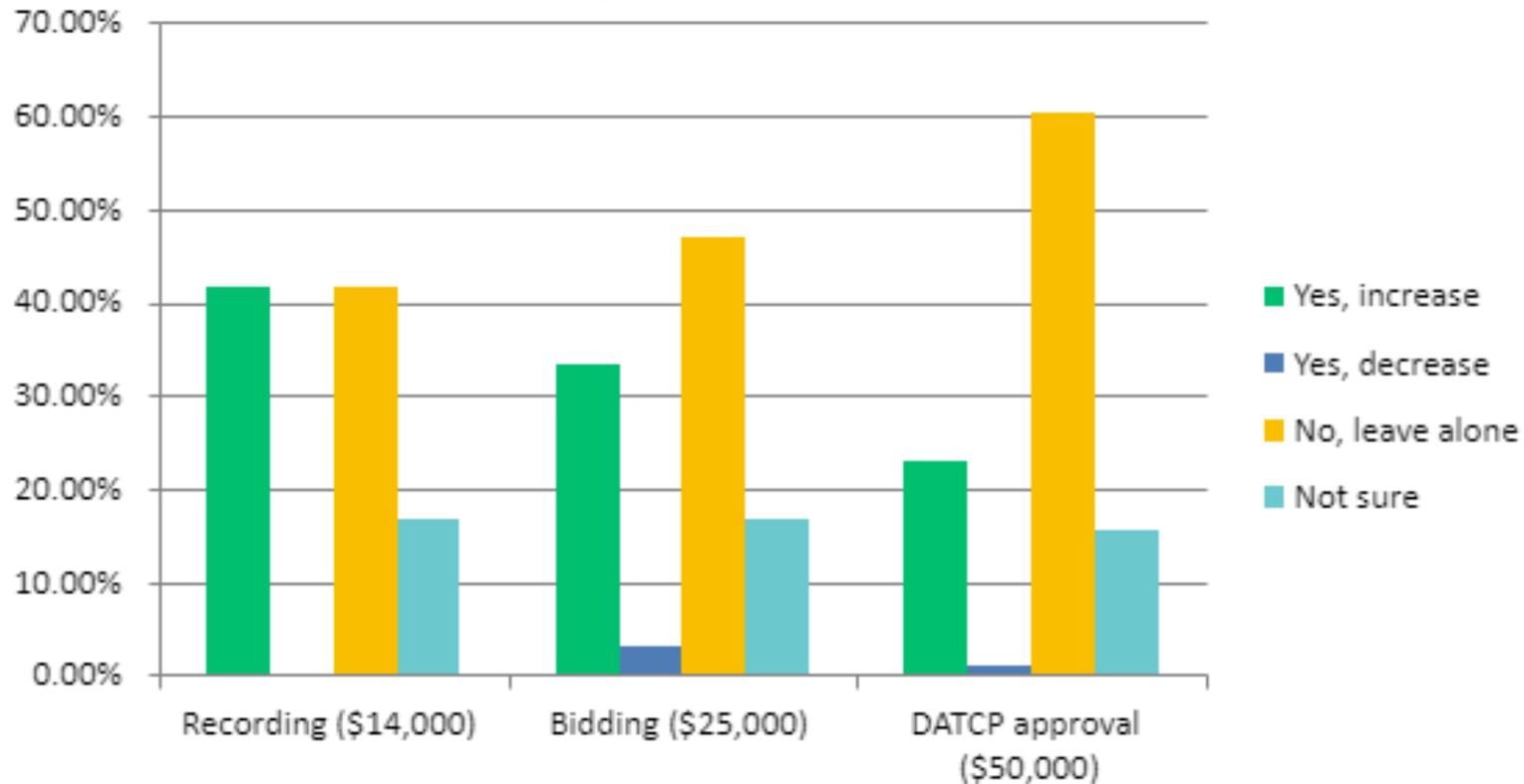


DISCUSSION

SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Thresholds



THRESHOLDS: SURVEY QUESTION 1

ATCP 50 SETS THRESHOLDS FOR
VARIOUS LEVELS OF REQUIRED
ACTIVITIES: RECORDING
CONTRACTS OVER \$14,000; BIDDING
FOR CONTRACTS OVER \$25,000;
DEPARTMENT APPROVAL FOR
CONTRACTS OVER \$50,000. SHOULD
THESE THRESHOLDS BE REVISED?

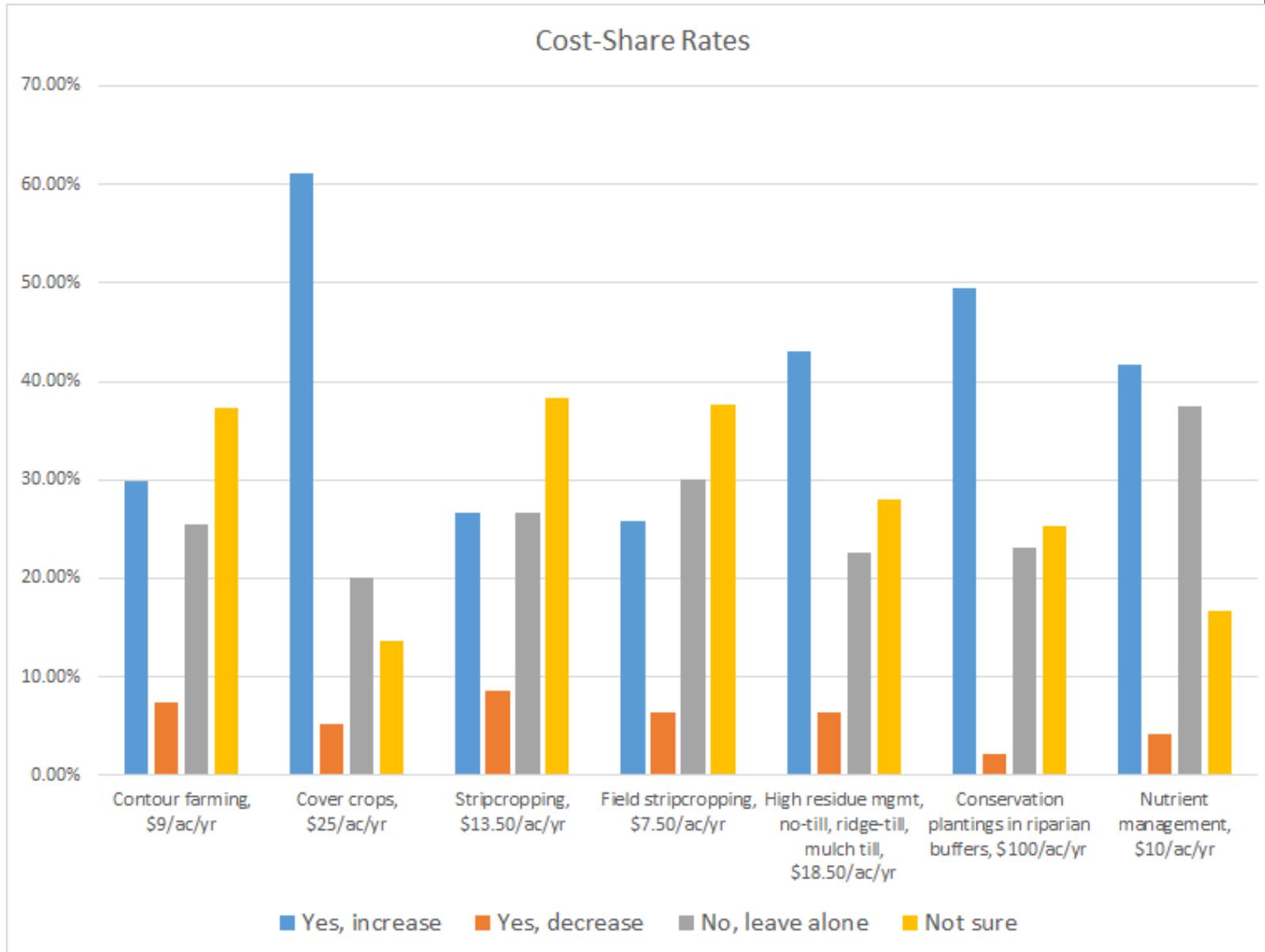
THRESHOLDS

Some comments:

- County policy makes the DATCP bidding requirements unnecessary
- Several reported that their county records all agreements.
- Increasing costs should impact some thresholds
- Recording acts as reminder to landowners of long-term O&M requirements

Comments in the chat would be welcome.





CROP PRACTICE RATES: SURVEY QUESTION 2

SHOULD THE CROPPING PRACTICE COST-SHARE RATES BE ADJUSTED (\$ 50.42(2), WIS.ADMIN. CODE)?

CROP PRACTICE RATES

Some comments:

- Rates should be closer to NRCS
- Perpetuity, ugh.
- Most of these should not be cost-shared at all but should be considered proven practices.
- DATCP should review and set rates annually



CROP PRACTICE RATE COMPARISONS

Practice	DATCP / ATCP 50	DNR / NRI 54.03	NRCS / EQIP	Other
Cover Crops	\$25/acre/year. No limit to years.	\$70/acre; no more than 4 years	Varies based on size and specifics of practice	Dane County: \$150/ac/yr w/ 15 year contract Fond du Lac: \$20/ac for rye \$25/ac for mix
High Residue Mgmt	\$18.50/acre/year. No limit on years.	\$18.50/acre; no more than 4 years	Varies based on specifics of practice	Fond du Lac: \$20/ac up to 50 ac
Strip Cropping	\$13.50/acre/year. No limit on years.	\$13.50/ac	\$17.19-\$33.72/acre. Varies based on specifics of practice	



CROP PRACTICE RATES

Remaining Questions:

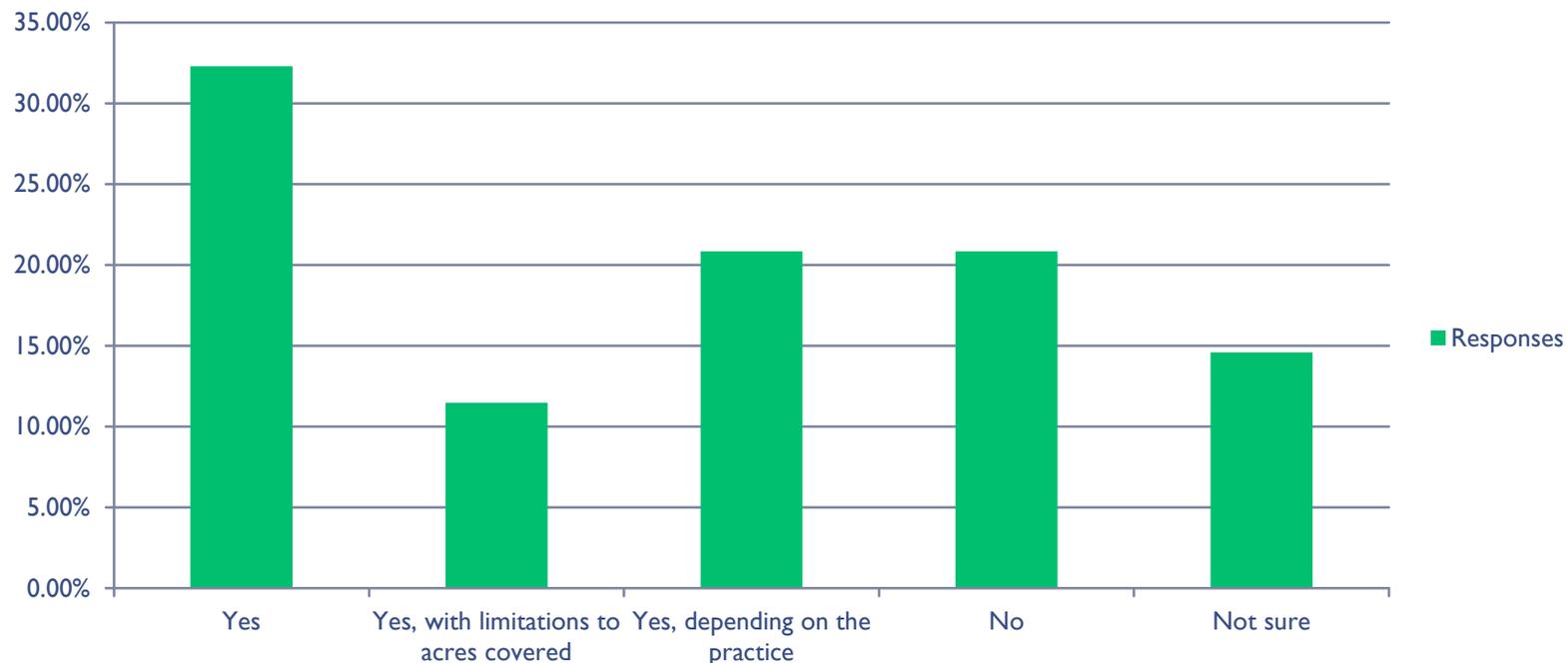
- What should SWRM crop practice rates be raised to?
- What methods or methods can be used to justify these increases?

Comments in the chat on any of these questions are welcome.



CROPPING PRACTICES TIMELINE: SURVEY QUESTION 3

Currently, there is no stated limit on the number of years cost-sharing can be provided for cropping practices, (s. 50.08(5)(b), Wis. Admin. Code). Should the rule limit the number of years cropping practices can be cost-shared?



CROPPING PRACTICES TIMELINES

Some Comments

- Our county has never funded cropping practices
- The hope is that eventually these practices become the norm
- Cost-share funds should not be relied on year after year
- Perpetuity is not the answer, but sometimes it takes time to see the results
- I would say 4 years
- The money should be a carrot to get farmers to try these practices

Discussion in the meeting or comments in the chat with any ideas are welcome.



BONA FIDE OFFER OF COST-SHARING

Chapter 281.16 (3)(e):

- Farmers not required to comply with performance standards unless cost-sharing is available
- Cost-sharing must be at least 70 percent of the cost of compliance as defined in the rules
- ATCP 50 defines the costs of compliance which must be included in a bona fide offer of cost-sharing



BONA FIDE OFFER OF COST-SHARING

Cost of compliance = At least 70% of the landowner's cost to install and maintain each required conservation practice

- Engineering services
- Actual construction costs and materials
- Labor, equipment, & supplies provided by the landowner
- Mowing costs, provided by the landowner, if needed to maintain the practice.
- Costs to take or keep land out of agricultural production, if more than 1/2 acre

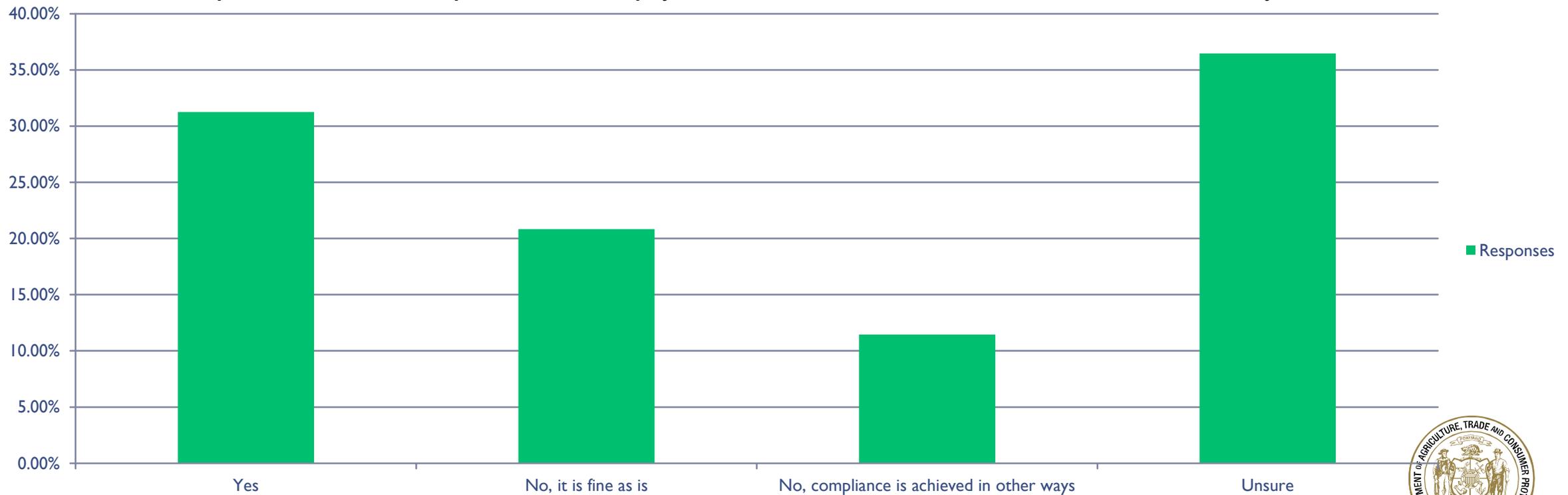
Exemptions to the cost-sharing requirement:

- Cost-sharing was already provided for an engineered practice for 10 years
- Cost-sharing was already provided for a cropping practice for 4 years.



BONA FIDE OFFER OF COST-SHARE

A “bona fide offer of cost share” (s. 50.08, Wis. Admin Code) is an available, but unused, tool within ATCP 50 to assist with achieving performance standard compliance. Would updates to this requirement help you to be better able to use this tool within y



BONA FIDE OFFER OF COST-SHARE

Some Comments:

- Staff will make the offer and if someone refuses, just move to the next person
- Standards should be enforced through NR 151
- We would need more staff to do this; staff maxed out by voluntary compliance & FP
- Too many nuances with enforcement to do this
- Can't make a bona fide offer of cost-sharing without adequate funding from the state
- We have used this

What changes to this section, if any, that would make this process more usable?

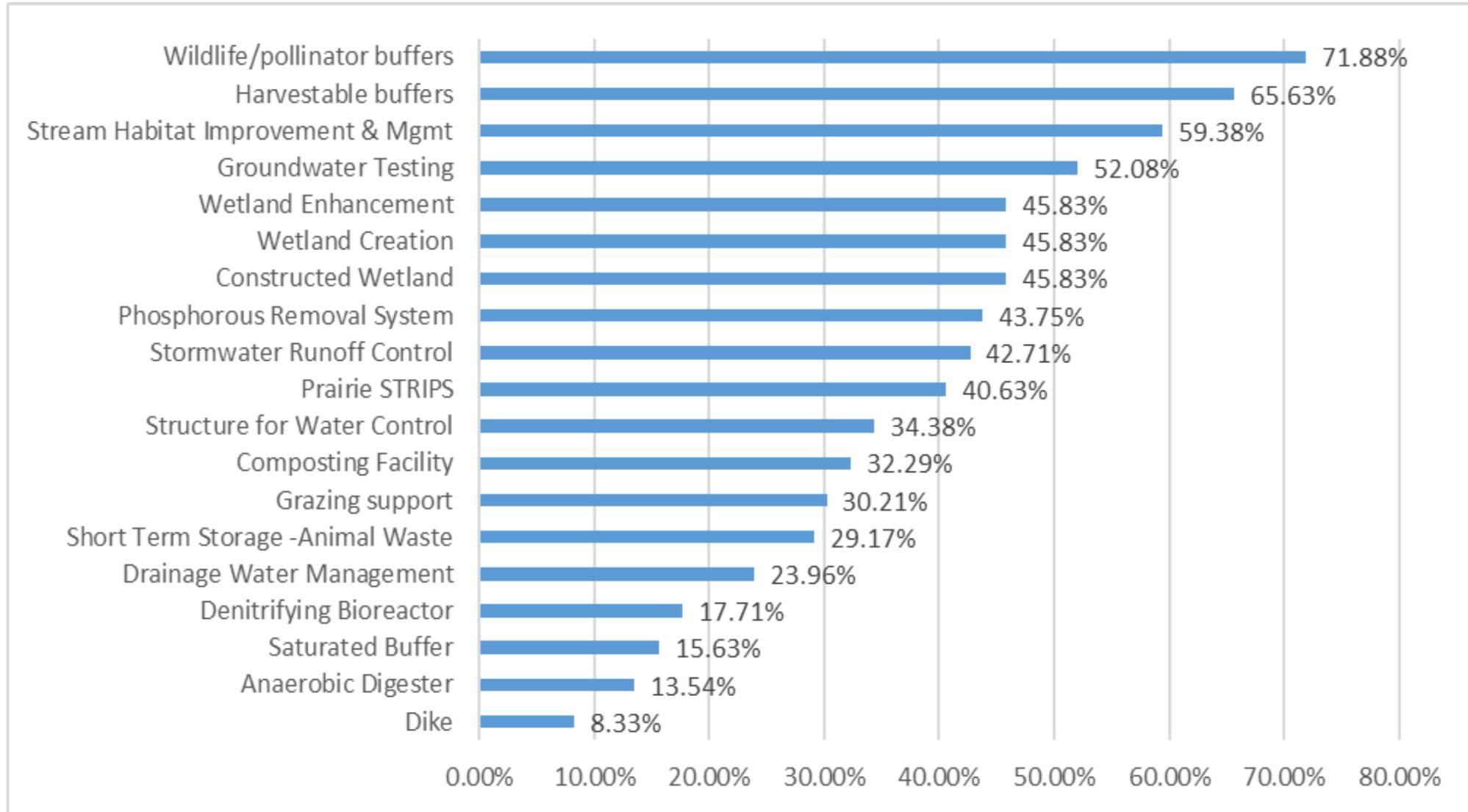


ADDITION OF COST-SHARE PRACTICES

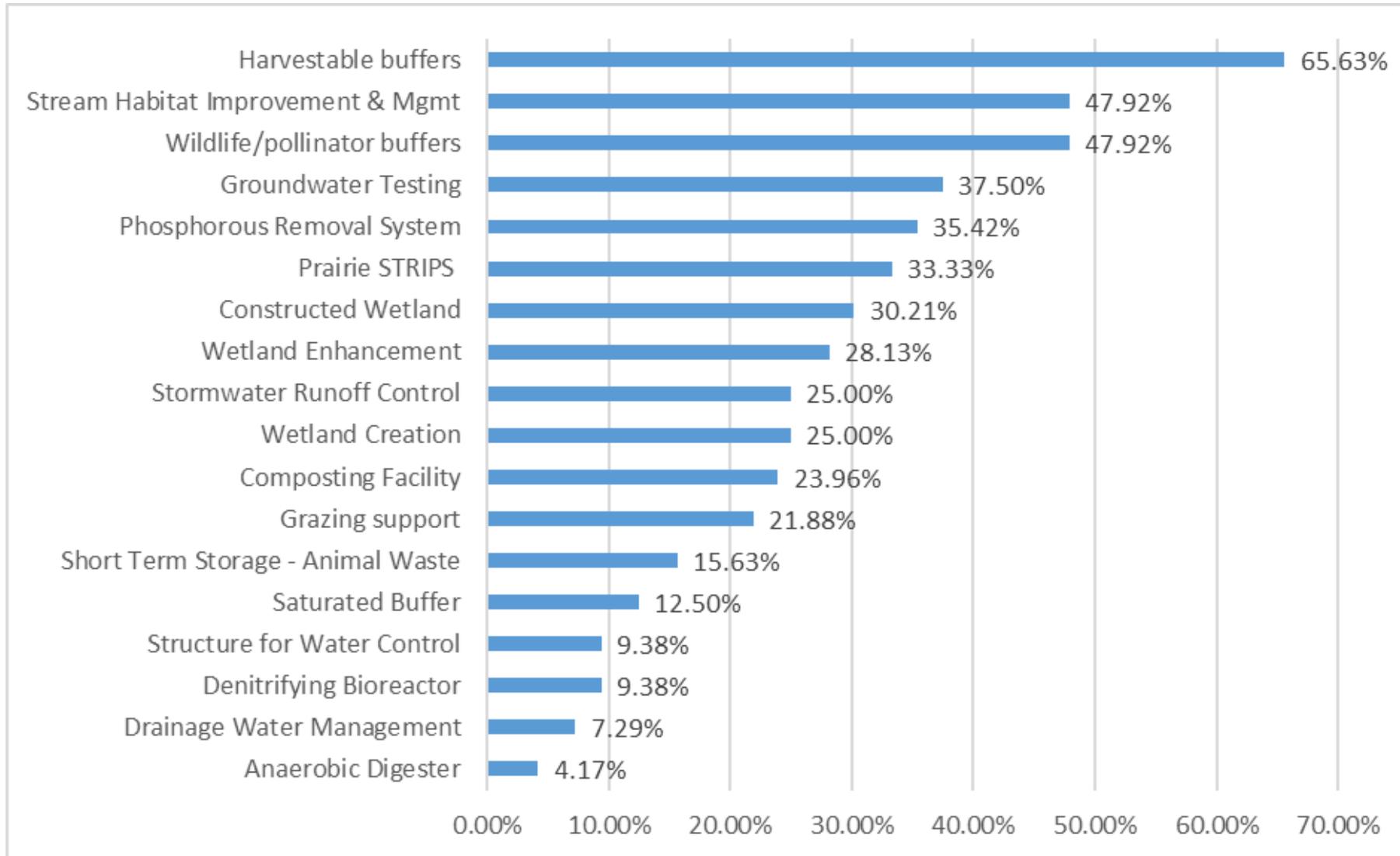
- Practices may be added to Subchapter VIII of ATCP 50: Standards for Cost-Shared Practices
- Allow use of soil and water resource management grant funds to cost-share practices
- Allow certification through the state's conservation engineering practitioner program
- Be responsive to evolving knowledge of best practices to meet conservation needs



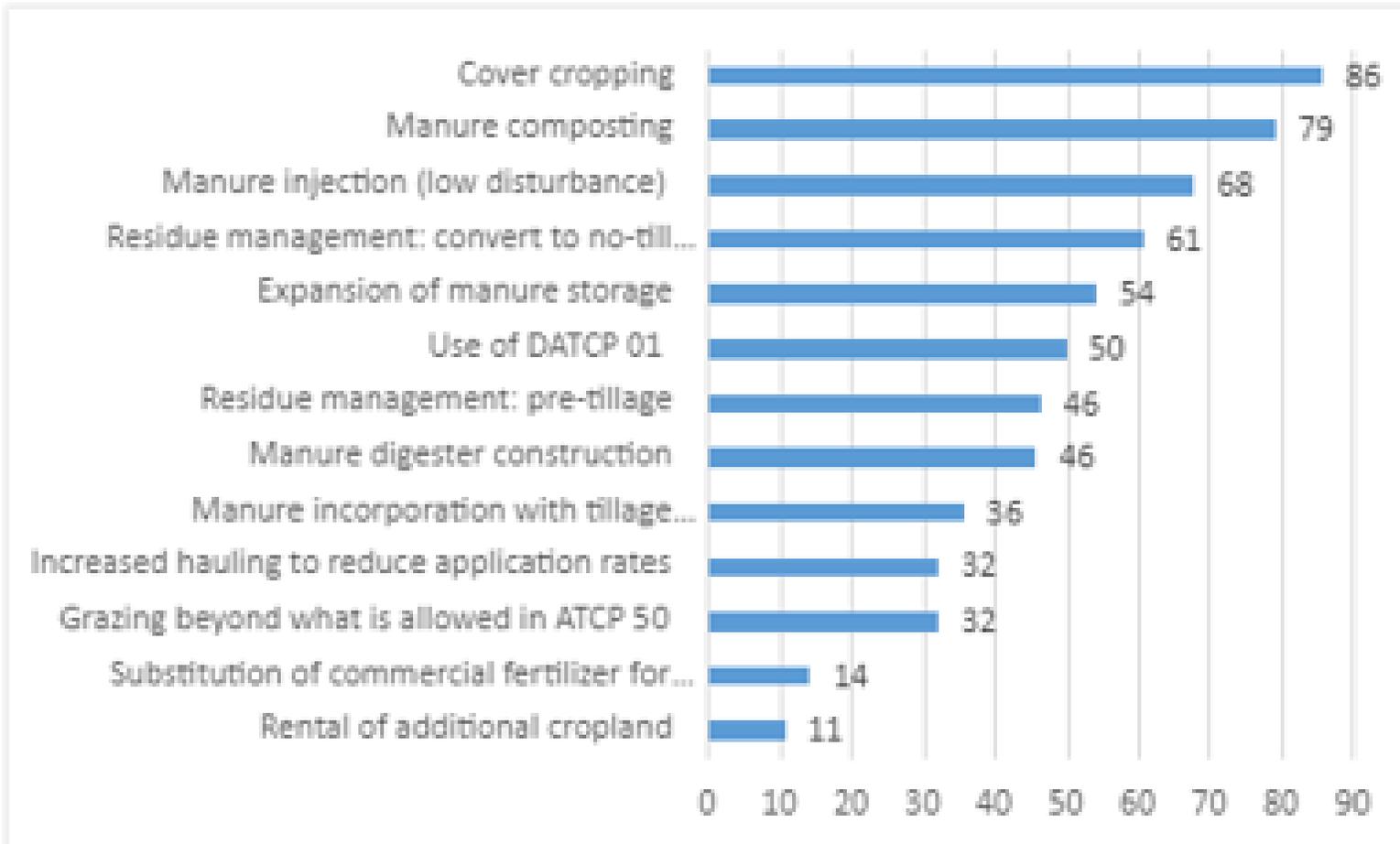
Practices you either are using or anticipate using in your county (96 responses)



TOP 5 practices most appropriate for funding through the DATCP cost-sharing program (96 responses)



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF NR 151.075



Cost-share Practices to Implement the Silurian bedrock performance standard (percentage based upon 28 or 24 responses)



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: REVISIONS TO EXISTING STANDARD

- Updates needed based upon revised standards
 - Updated stream standards
 - Revised 313 standard: Waste Storage Facility
 - Revised 635 standard: Vegetated Treatment
 - Revise 629 standard: Waste Treatment

Other potential updates – Practices related to hydrologic restoration



NEXT STEPS: ADDING PRACTICES

Guided by

- Stakeholder feedback
- State resources needs and trends
- Compatibility with soil and water resource management program and goals

Future opportunities to review and comment will be made available.

Any initial thoughts, discussion, comments, questions?





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