



NATIONAL COVER CROP SURVEY REPORT

2026



Ryan Heiniger

CTIC Executive Director & Iowa Farmer



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Vice President of Government Affairs, American Seed Trade Association



Dr. Rob Myers

Director, University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture & Illinois Farmer

CTIC champions, promotes and provides information on technologies and sustainable agricultural systems that conserve and enhance soil, water, air and wildlife resources, and are productive and profitable.



- MEMBERS -

CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION CENTER



Bayer CropScience



NATIONAL COVER CROP SURVEY REPORT

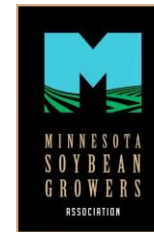


Conservation Technology
Information Center



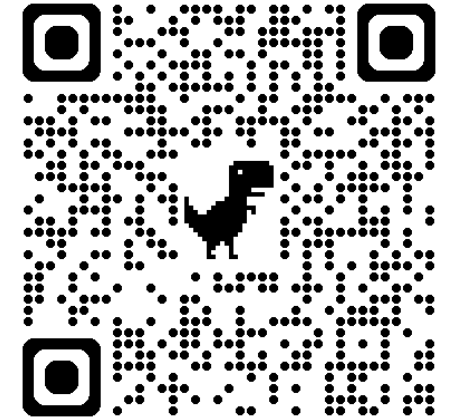
CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION CENTER

- PARTNERS -



CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION CENTER

- PAST REPORTS -
CTIC.ORG/PROJECTS -



NATIONAL COVER CROP SURVEY REPORT



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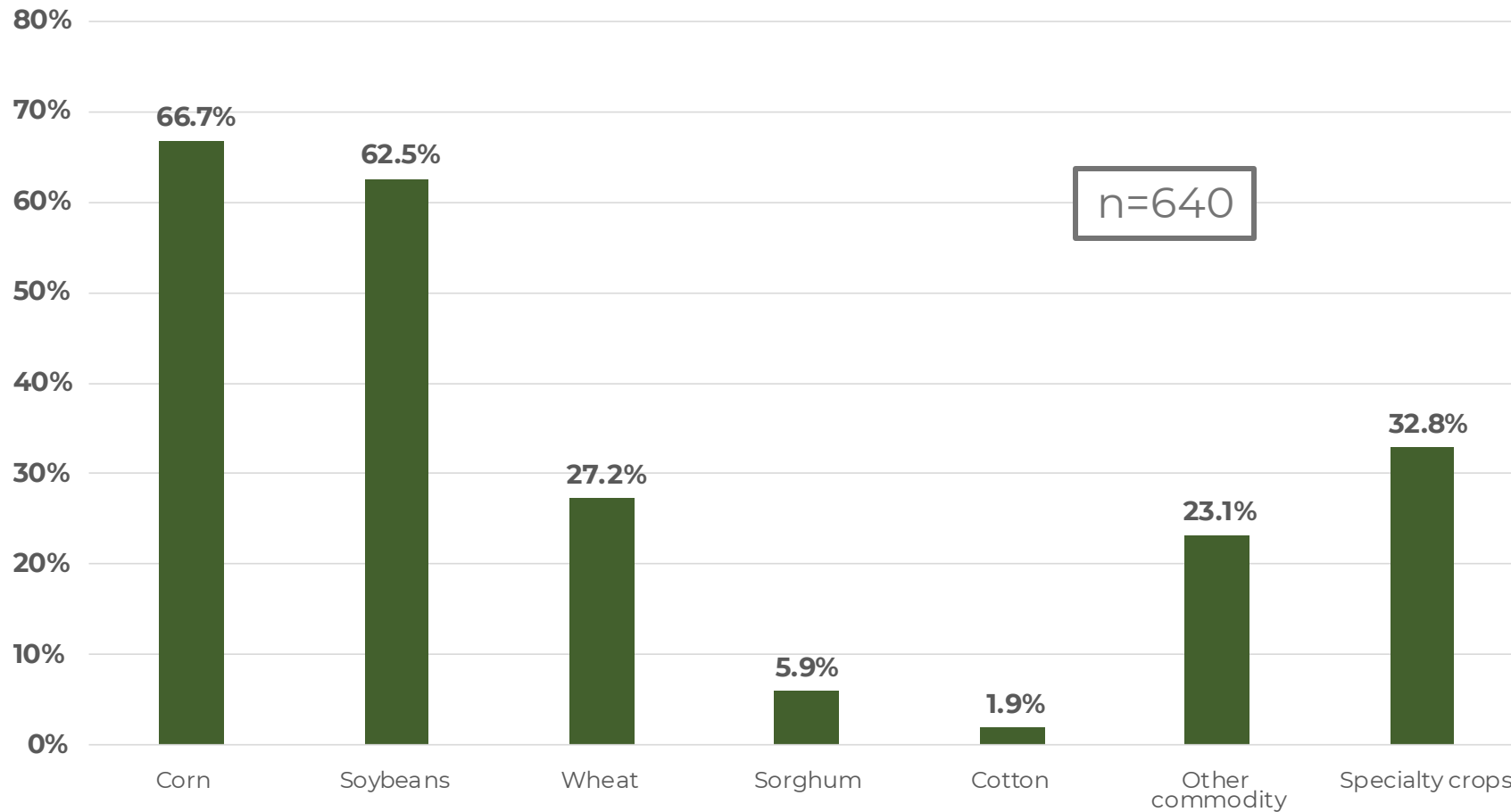
asta | american
seed trade
association

THANK YOU SARE + DR. ROBERT MYERS

- **Founding Director:** University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture
- **Extension Professor:** Division of Plant Sciences and Technology
- **Director:** North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (2010-June 2026)
- **Author:** “Cover Crops, Improving Life on the Land”
- **Film:** “Living Soil” with Soil Health Institute and filmmaker Chelsea Myers
- **Lead Researcher:** Nine National Cover Crop Surveys dating back to 2012
- **CTIC Hall of Fame Inductee,** Class of 2026



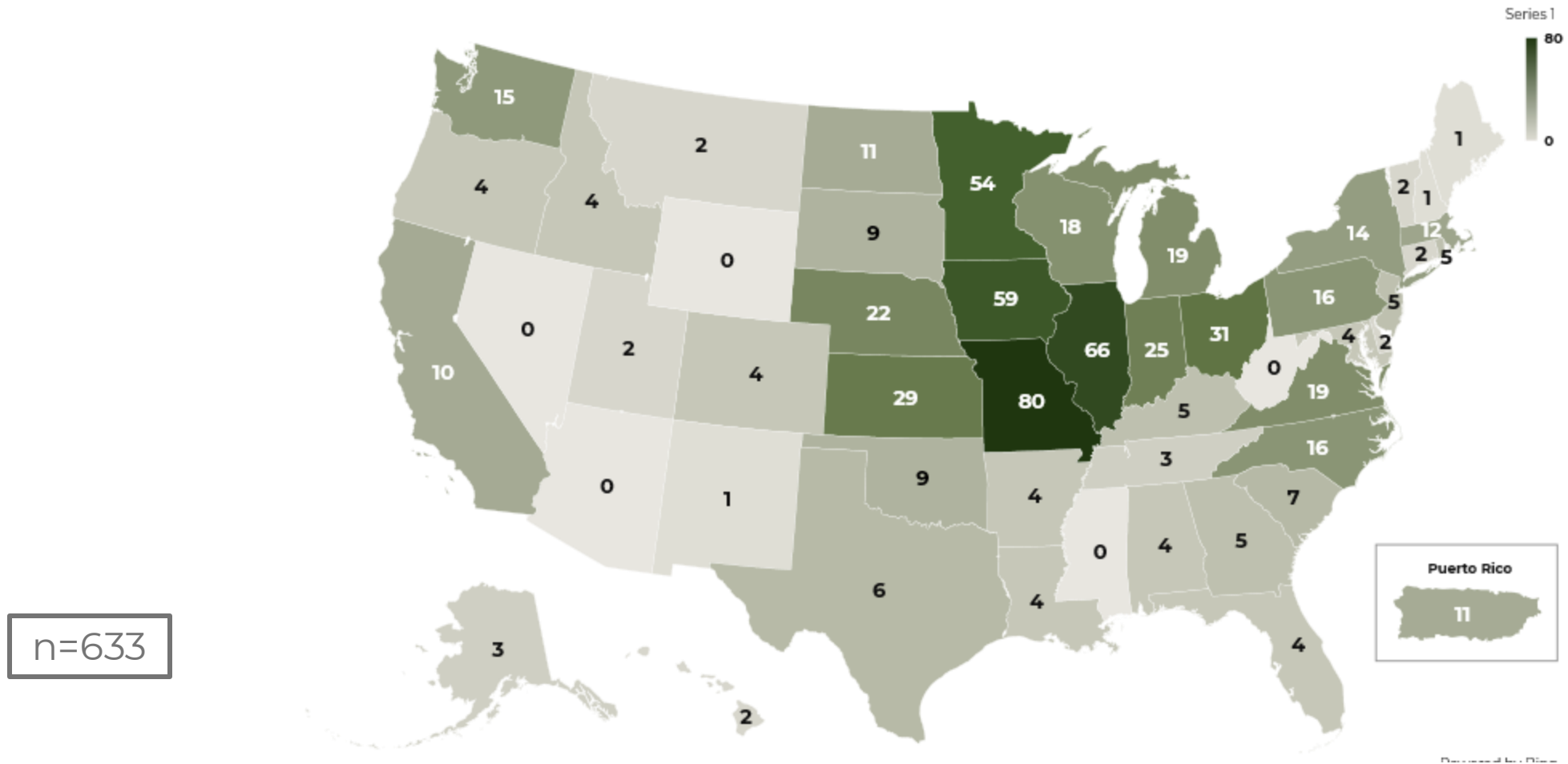
CROPS GROWN IN 2025



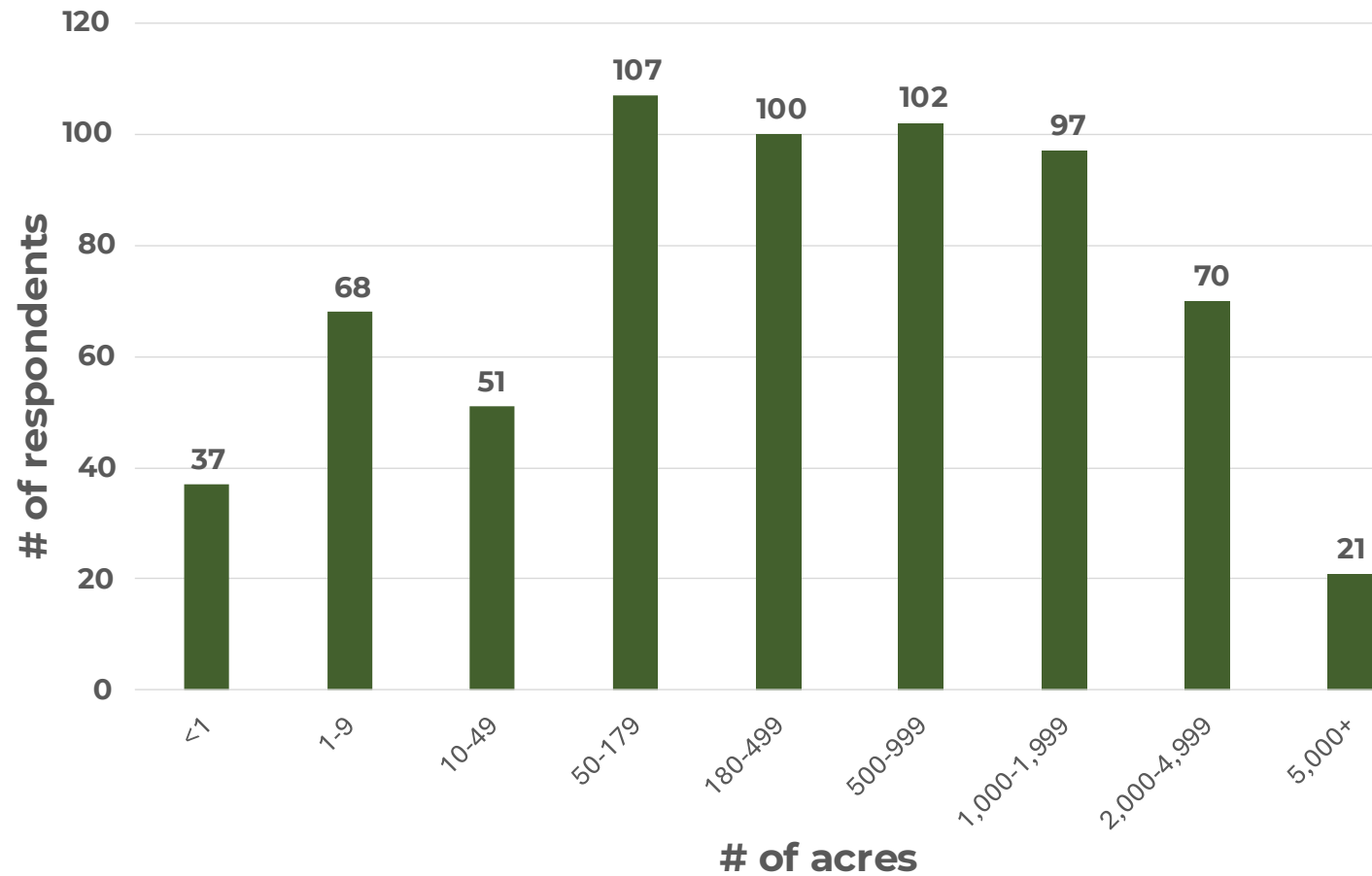
RESPONDENTS

- LOCATION -

FARM LOCATION



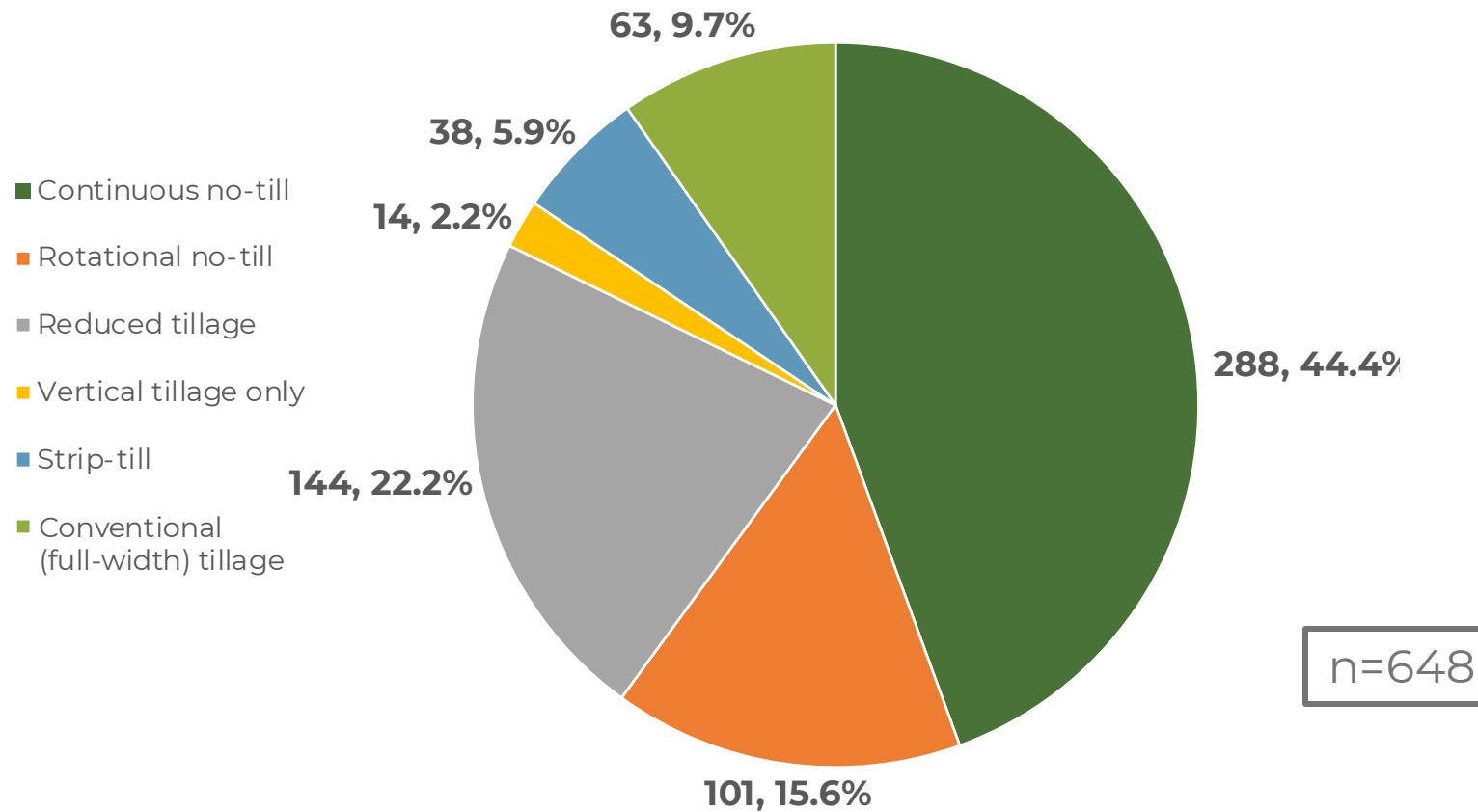
ACRES FARMED IN 2025



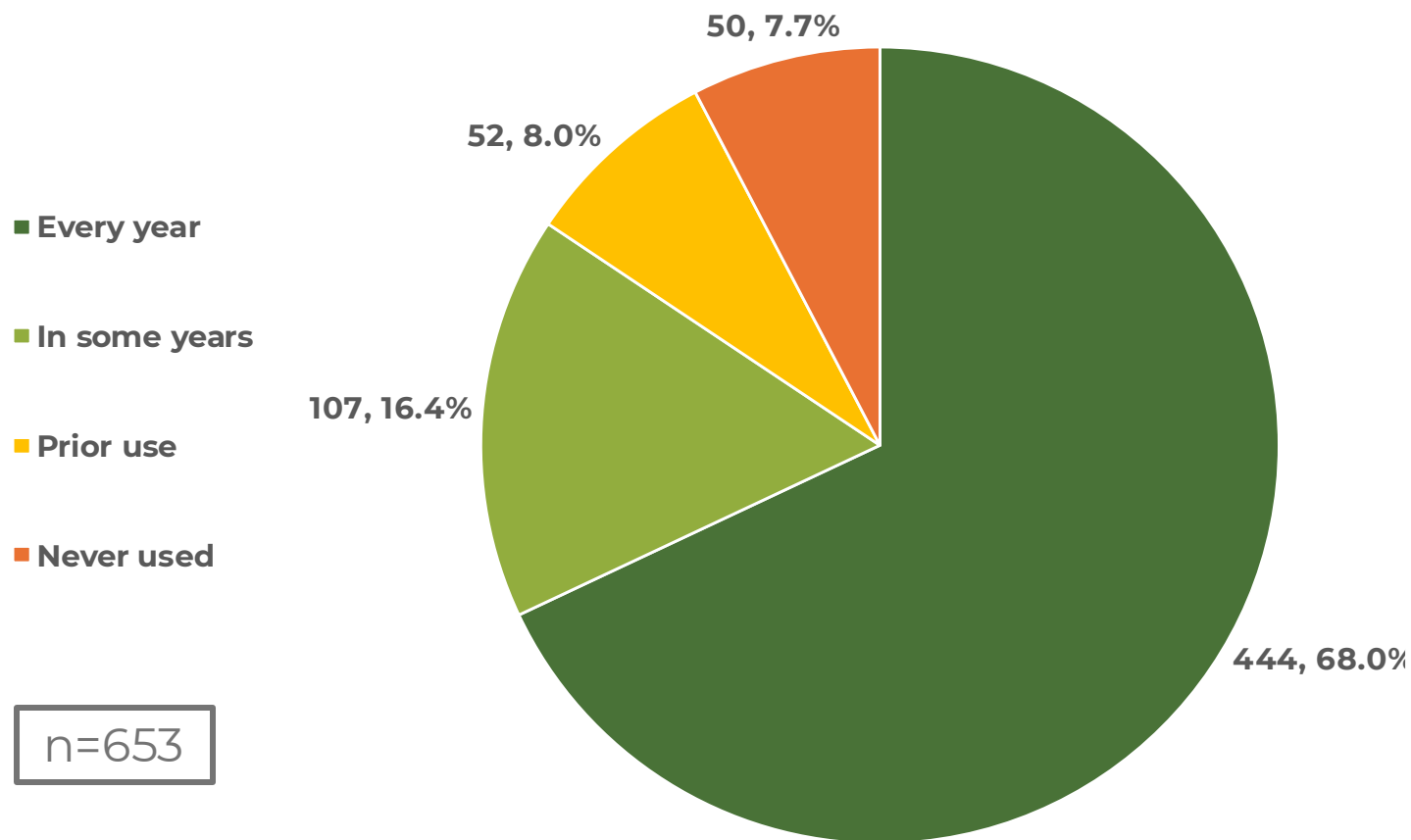
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- NINE IN 10 RESPONDENTS PRACTICE SOME FORM OF CONSERVATION TILLAGE -

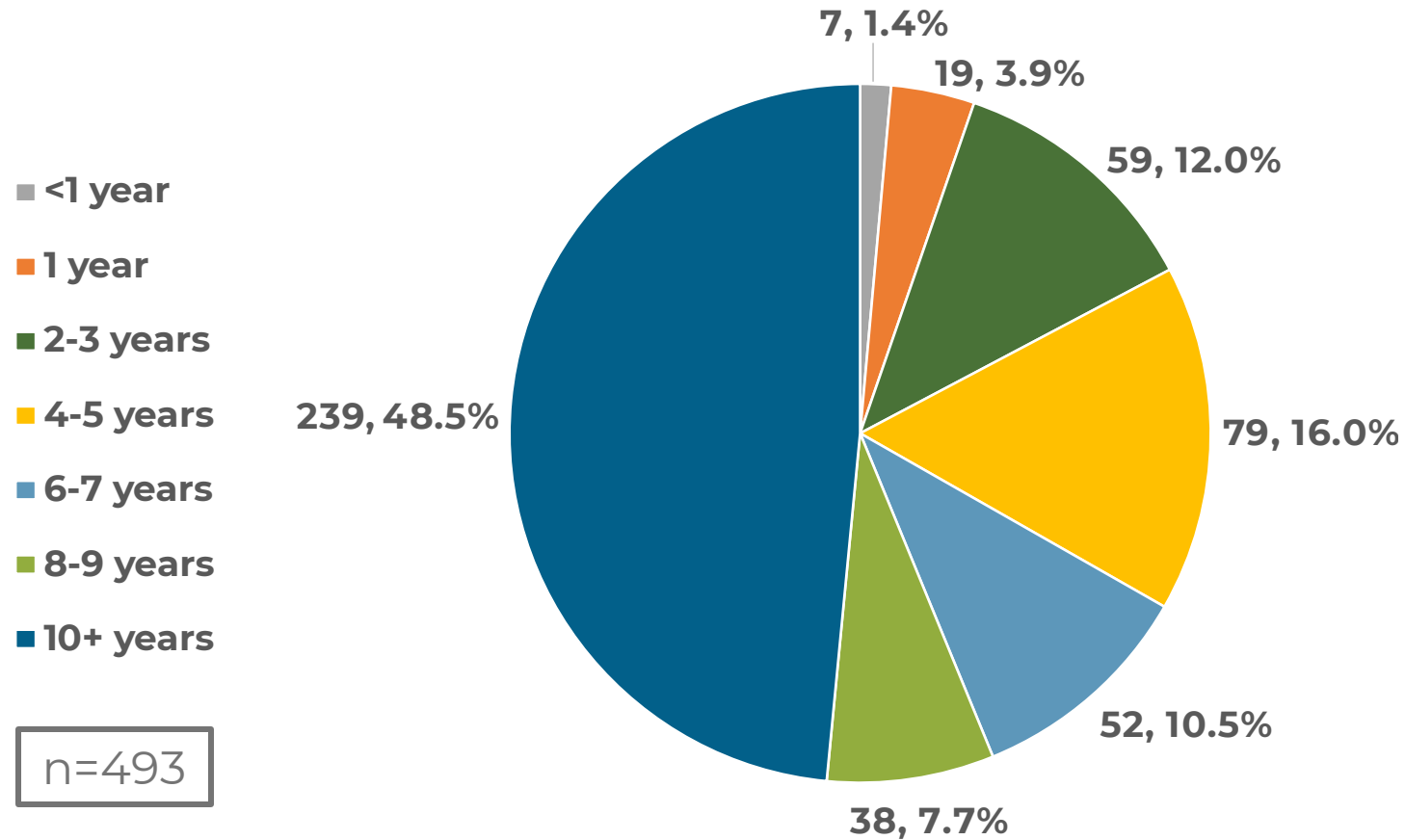
MOST COMMON TILLAGE PRACTICE



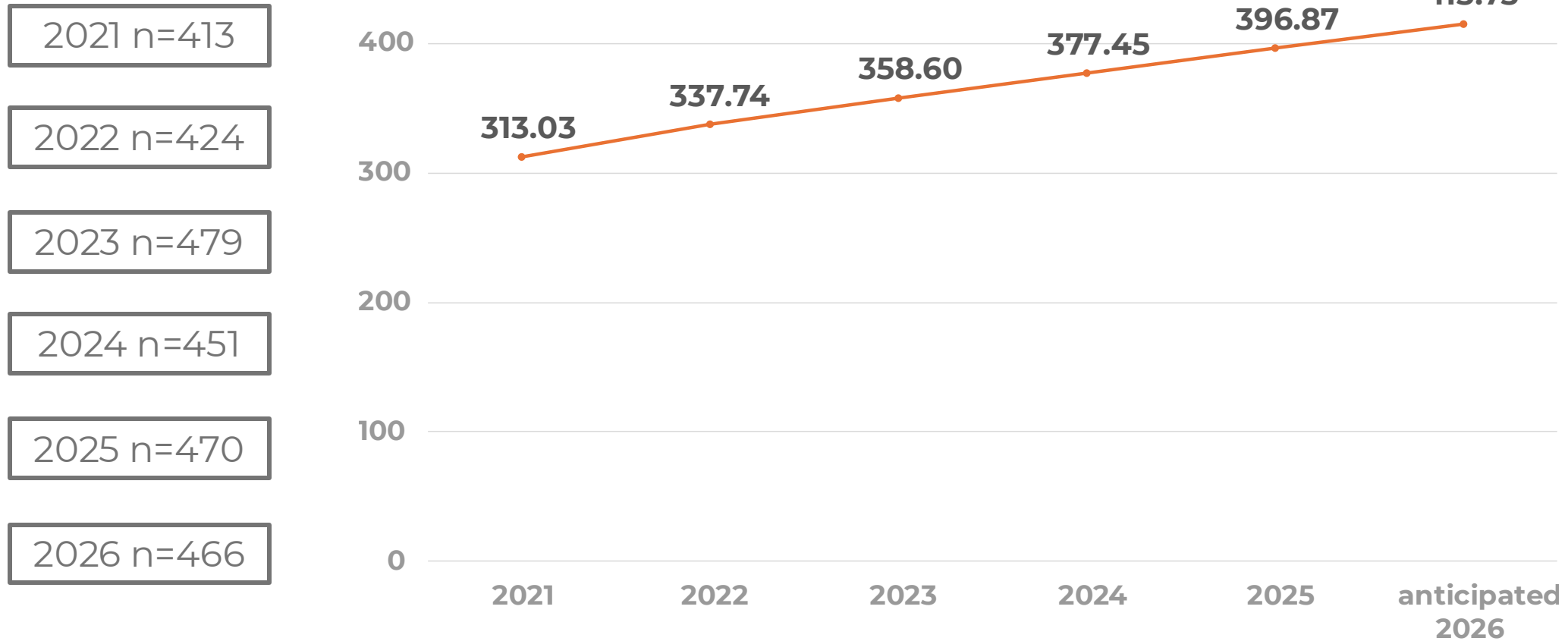
COVER CROP USE



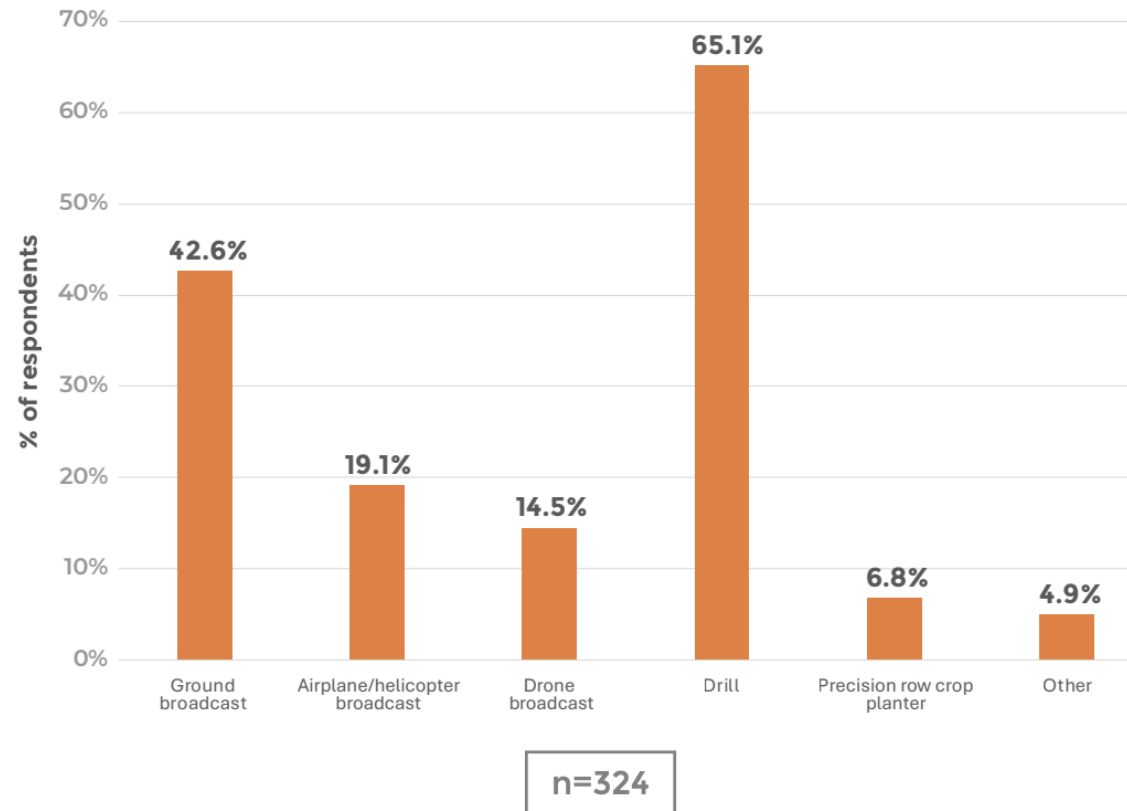
COVER CROP EXPERIENCE



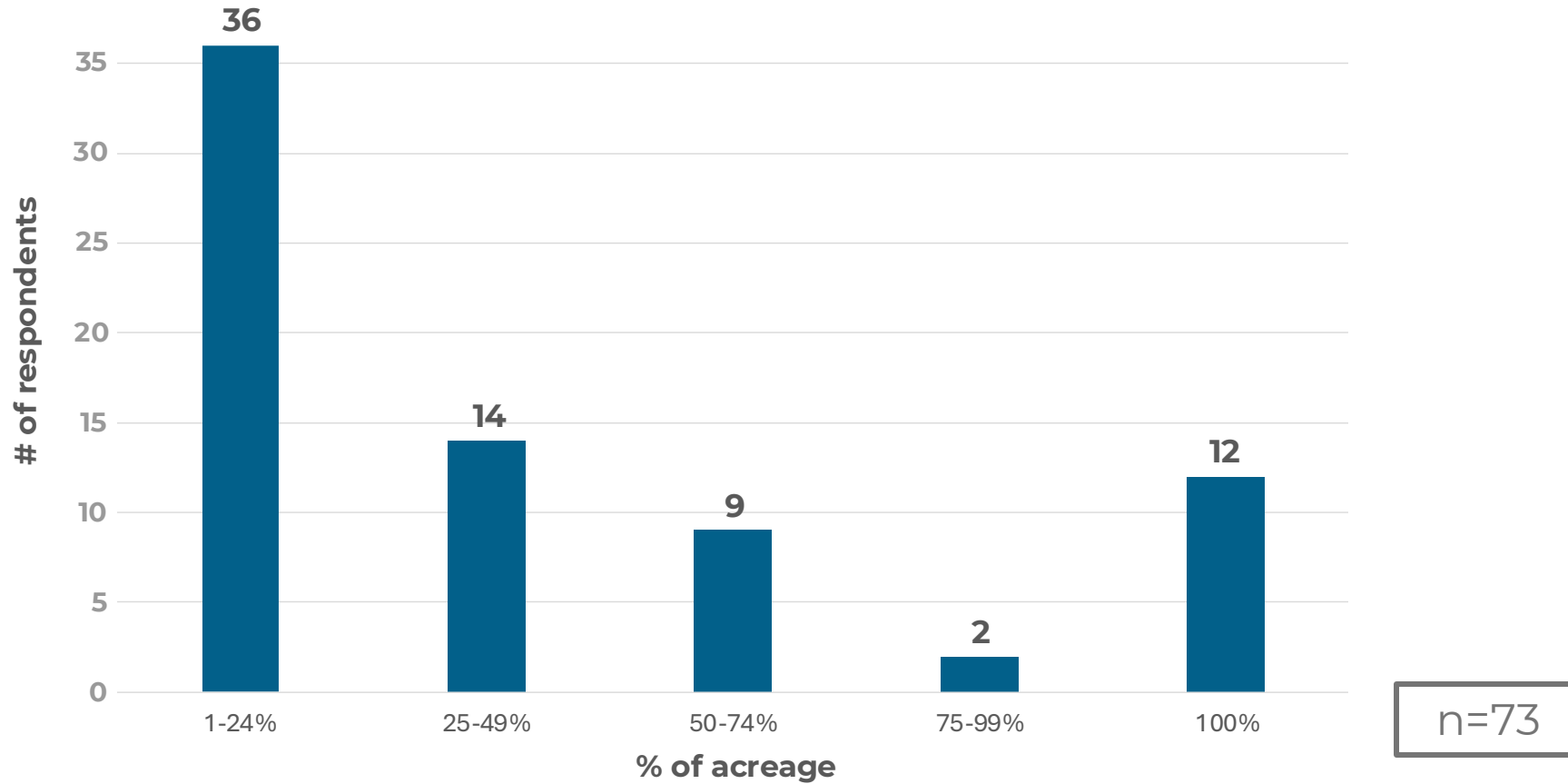
AVERAGE ACREAGE PLANTED



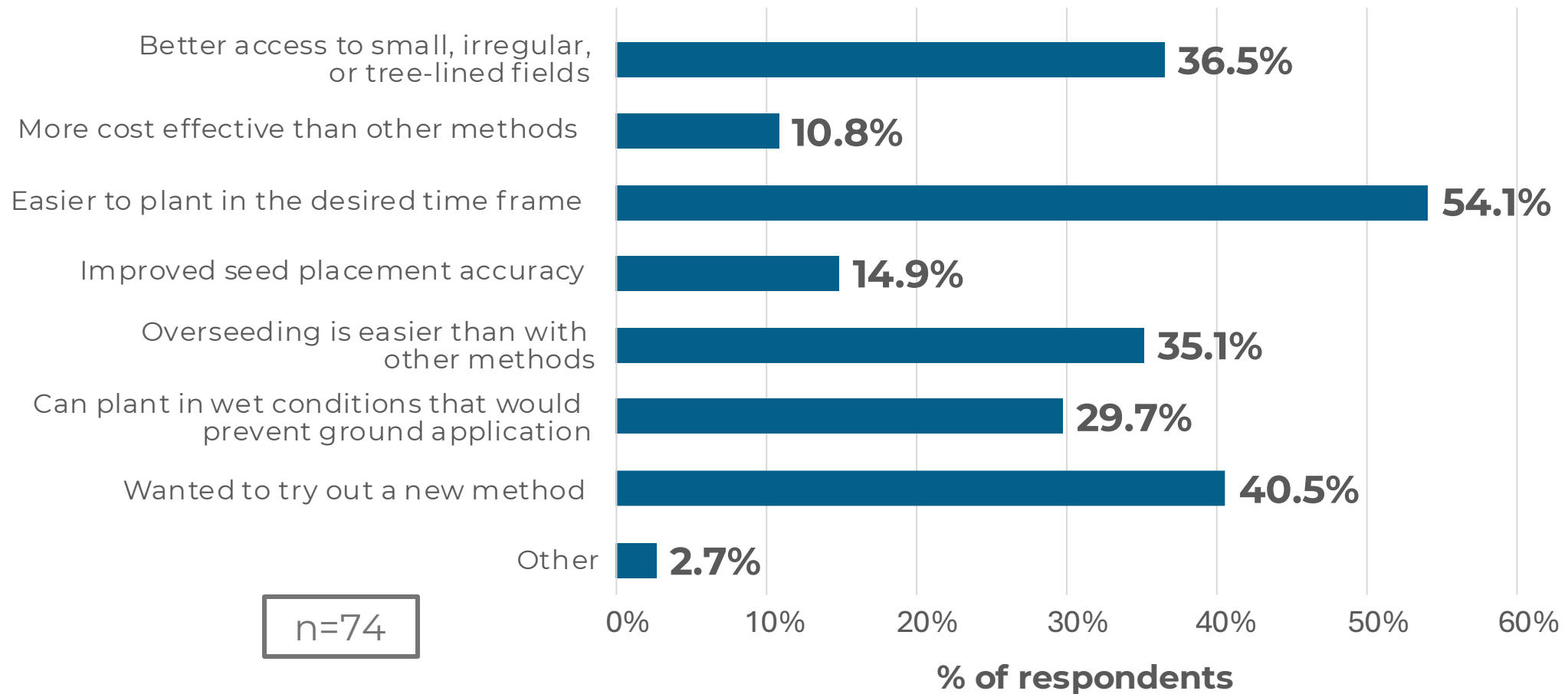
MOST USED SEEDING METHODS



COVER CROP ACREAGE SEEDED BY DRONE

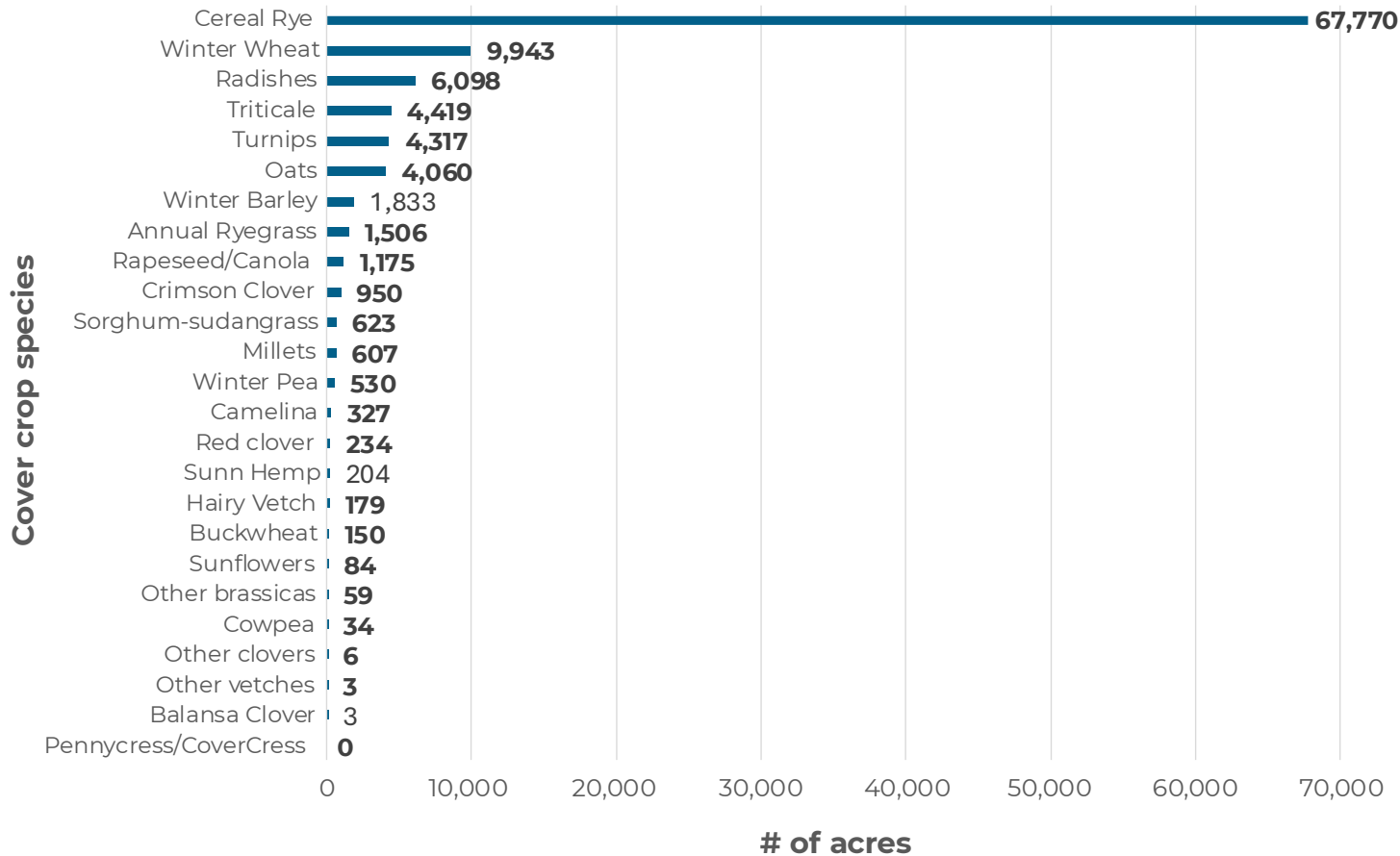


REASONS FOR DRONE SEEDING



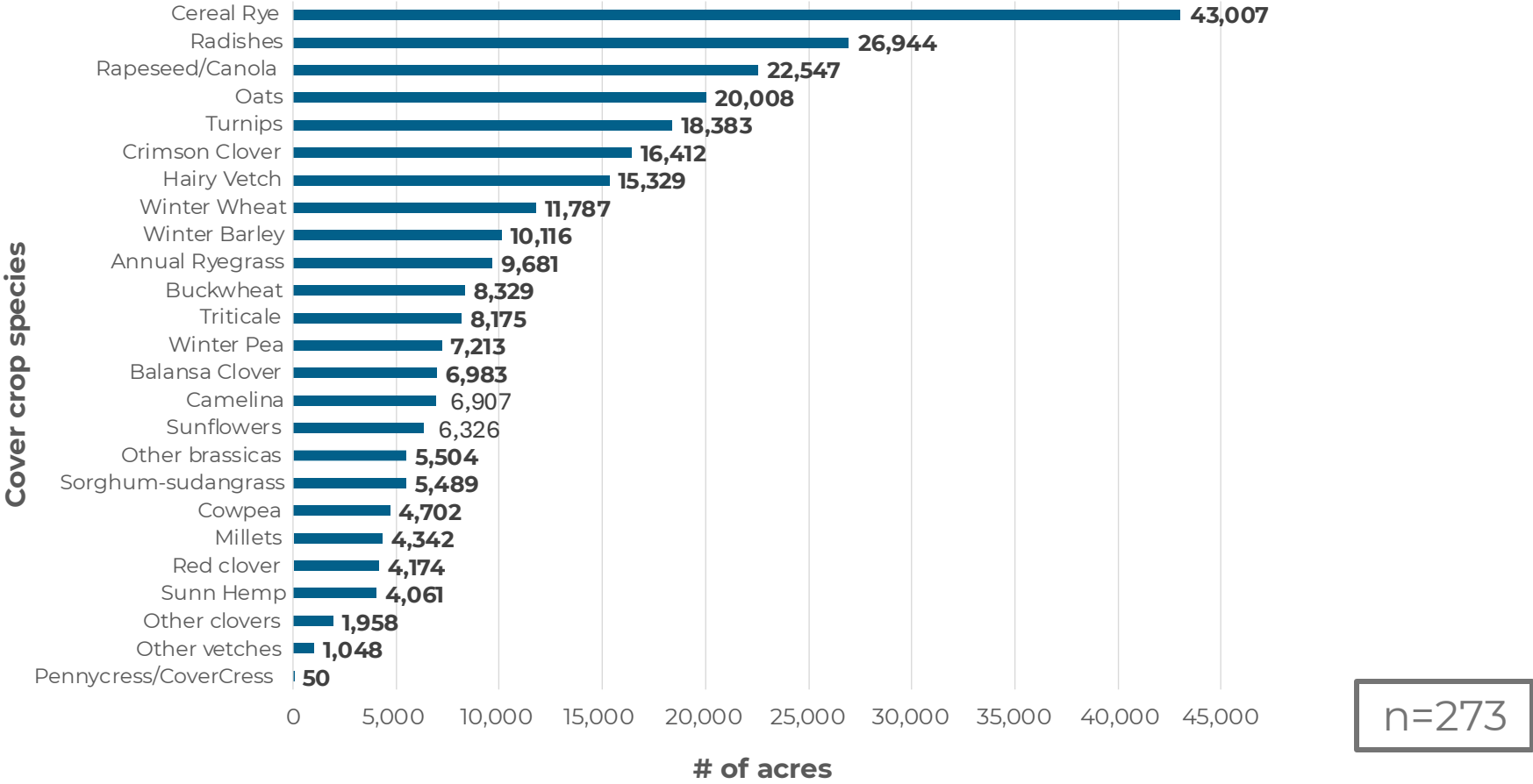


SINGLE-SPECIES COVER CROPS PLANTED IN 2025



n=283

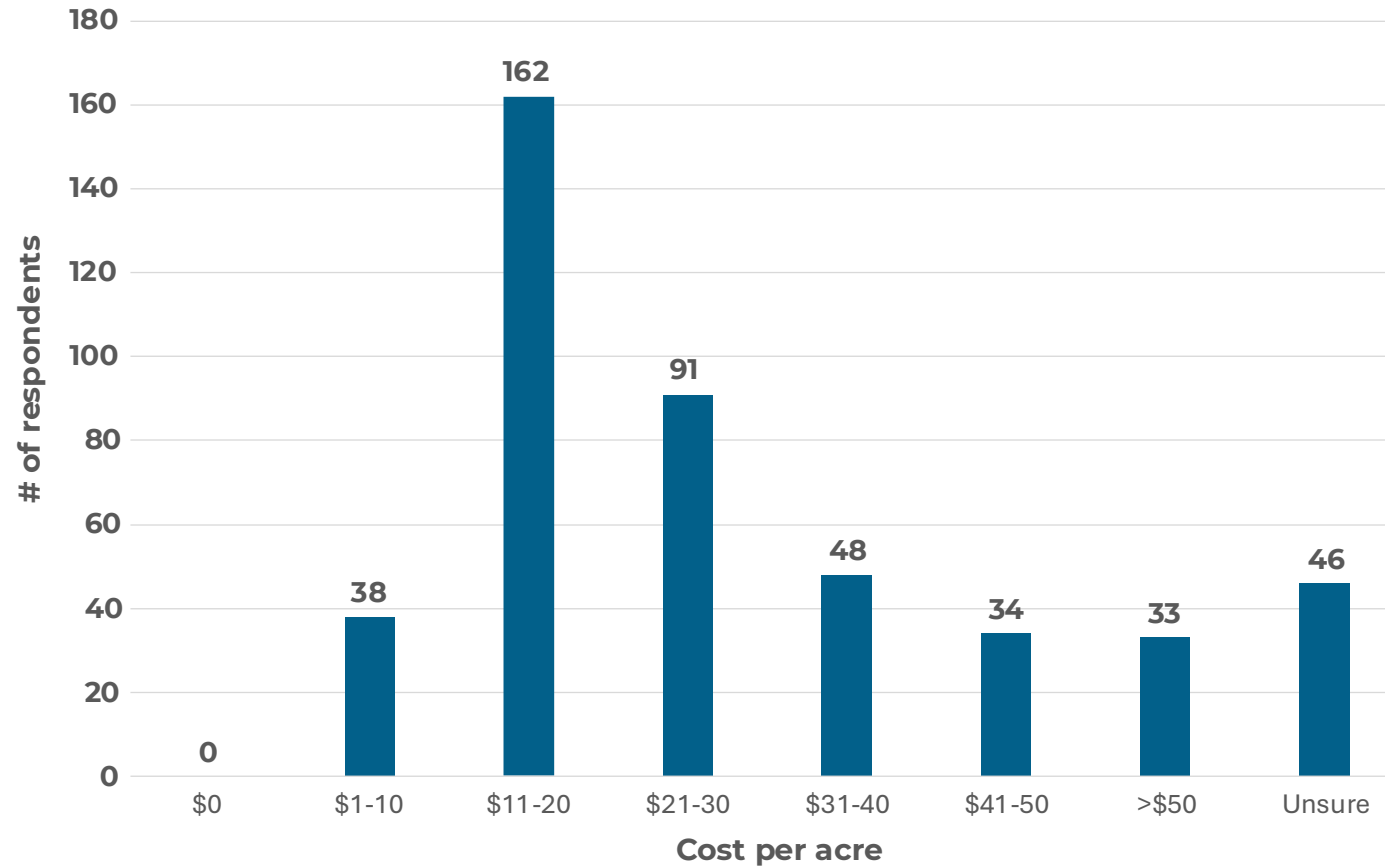
COVER CROP SPECIES PLANTED IN MIXES IN 2025



- CO-OPS & COVER CROP SEED
COMPANIES DOMINATE SOURCING -

COVER CROP SEED

AVERAGE COVER CROP SEED COST

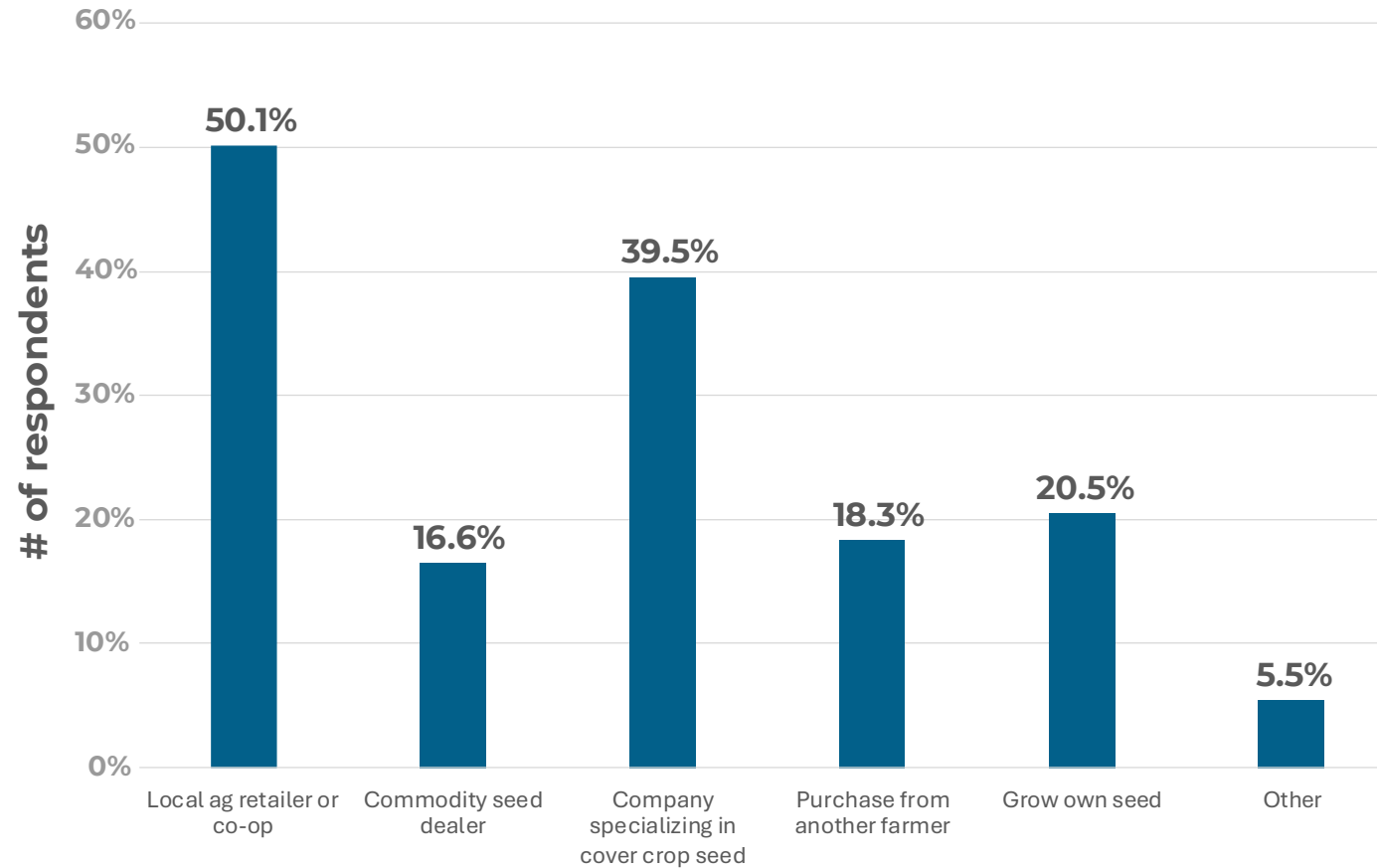


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– CO-OPS & COVER CROP SEED
COMPANIES DOMINATE SOURCING –
(CONTINUED)

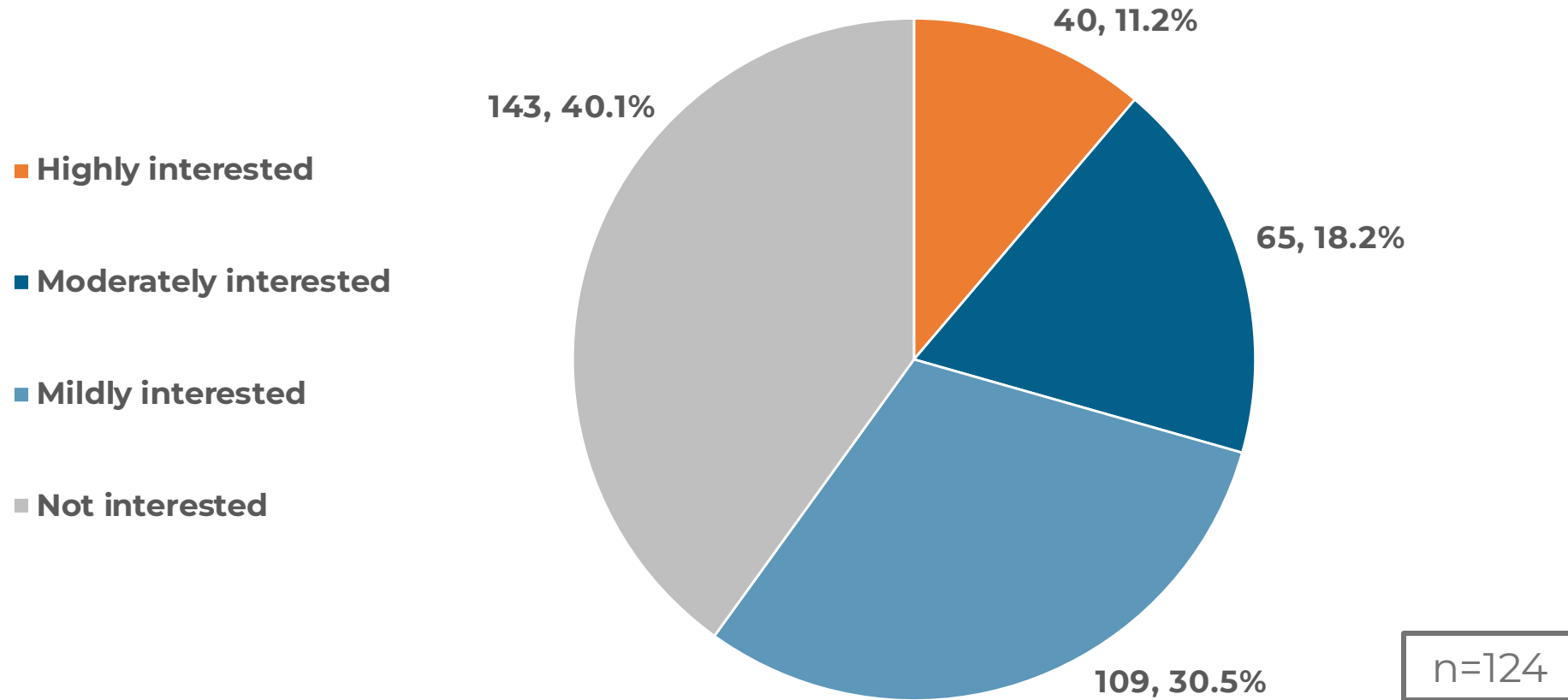
COVER CROP SEED

COVER CROP SEED SOURCES



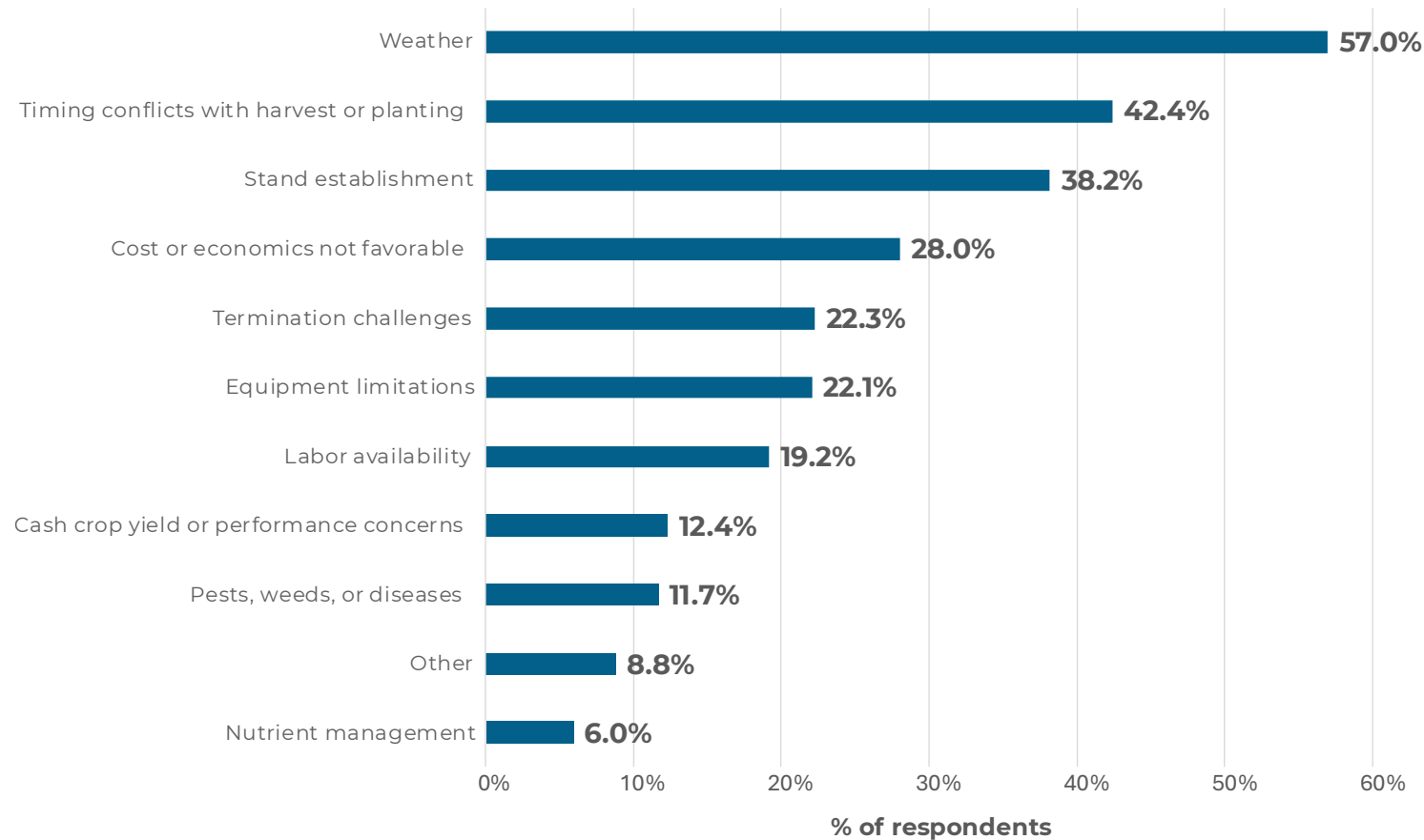
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—INTEREST IN PRODUCING COVER CROPS FOR SEED



- CONDITIONS, ROTATIONS, HARVESTS, EQUIPMENT, AND TIME CONTRIBUTE TO INTERMITTENT USE –

COVER CROP CHALLENGES



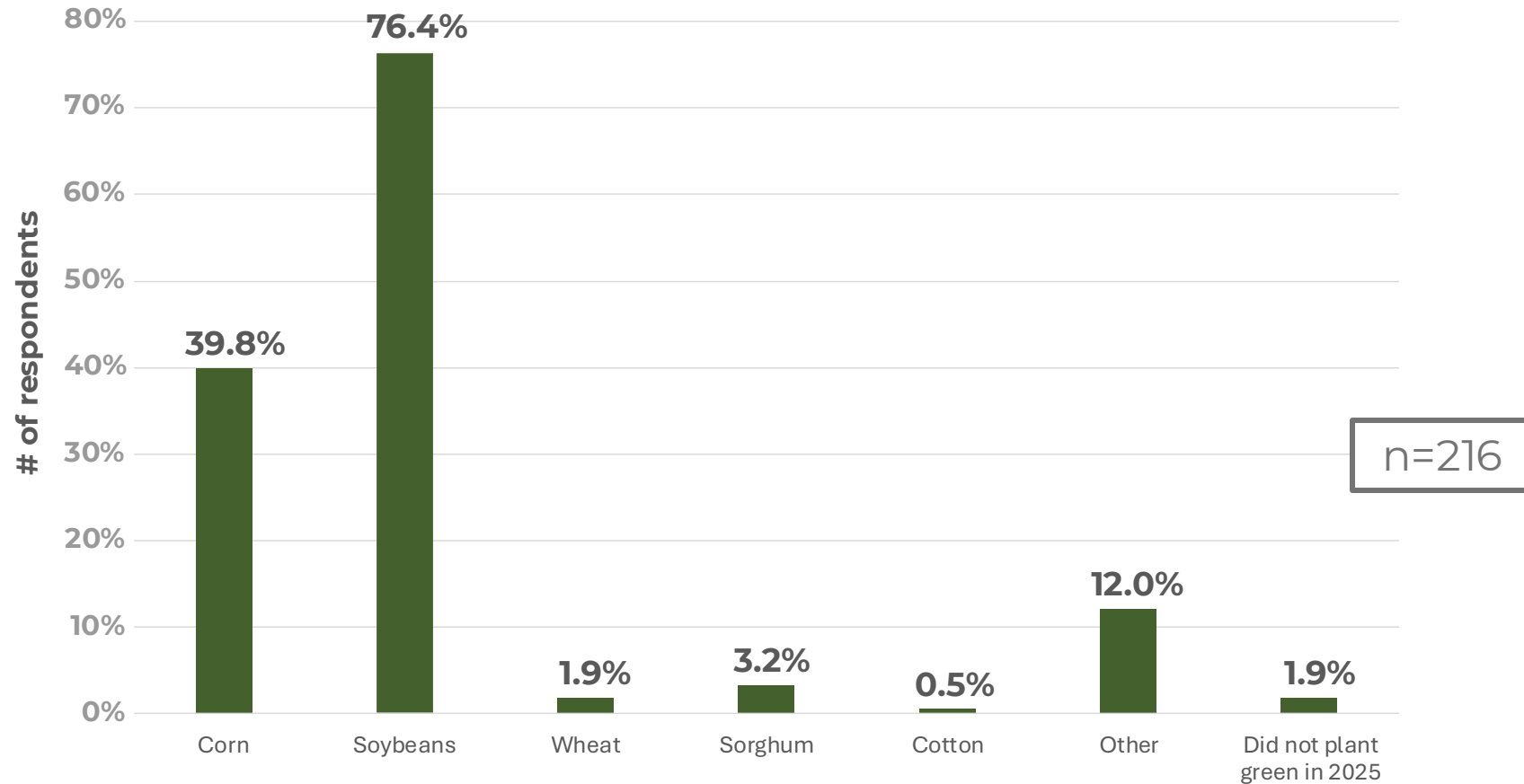
Get more information about professional seed dealers near you at betterseed.org



- MORE THAN 75% WHO PLANT GREEN DO SO WITH SOYBEANS -

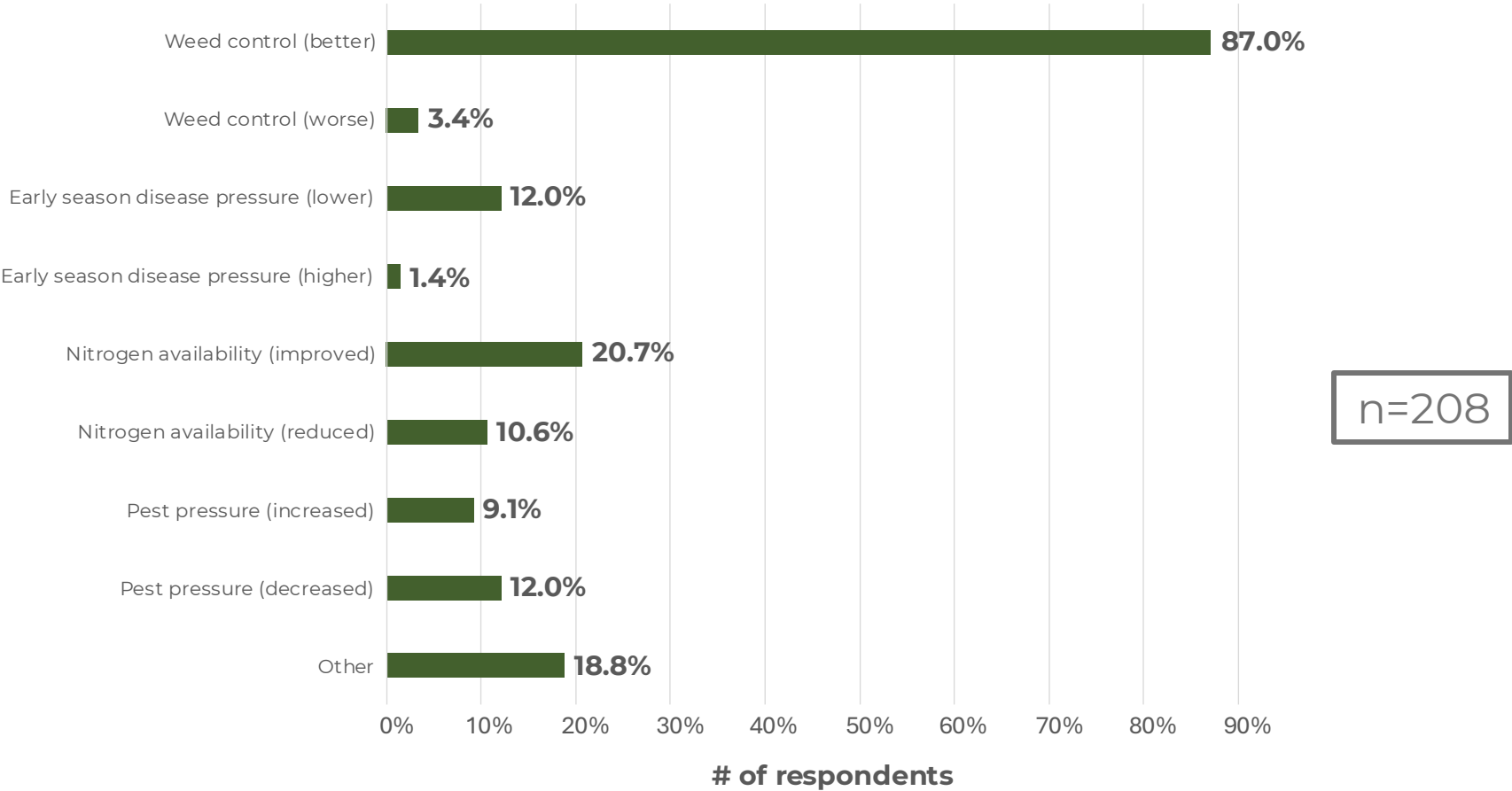
PLANTING GREEN

CROPS PLANTED GREEN IN 2025



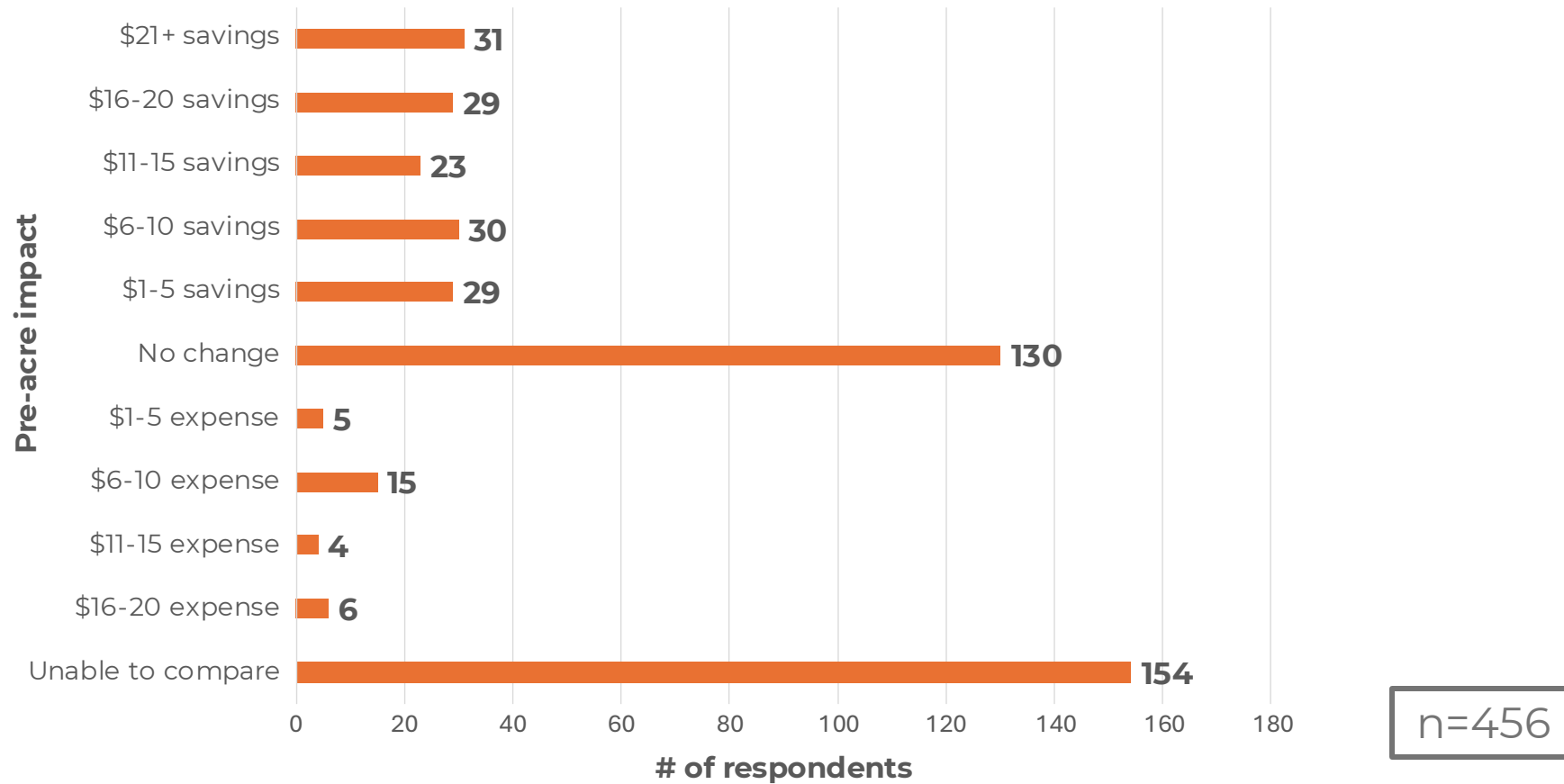
- ALMOST 9 IN 10 WHO PLANT GREEN
REPORT BETTER WEED CONTROL -

IMPACTS OF PLANTING GREEN



- SIX IN 10 REPORT BETTER WEED CONTROL -

COVER CROP IMPACTS ON WEED CONTROL COSTS

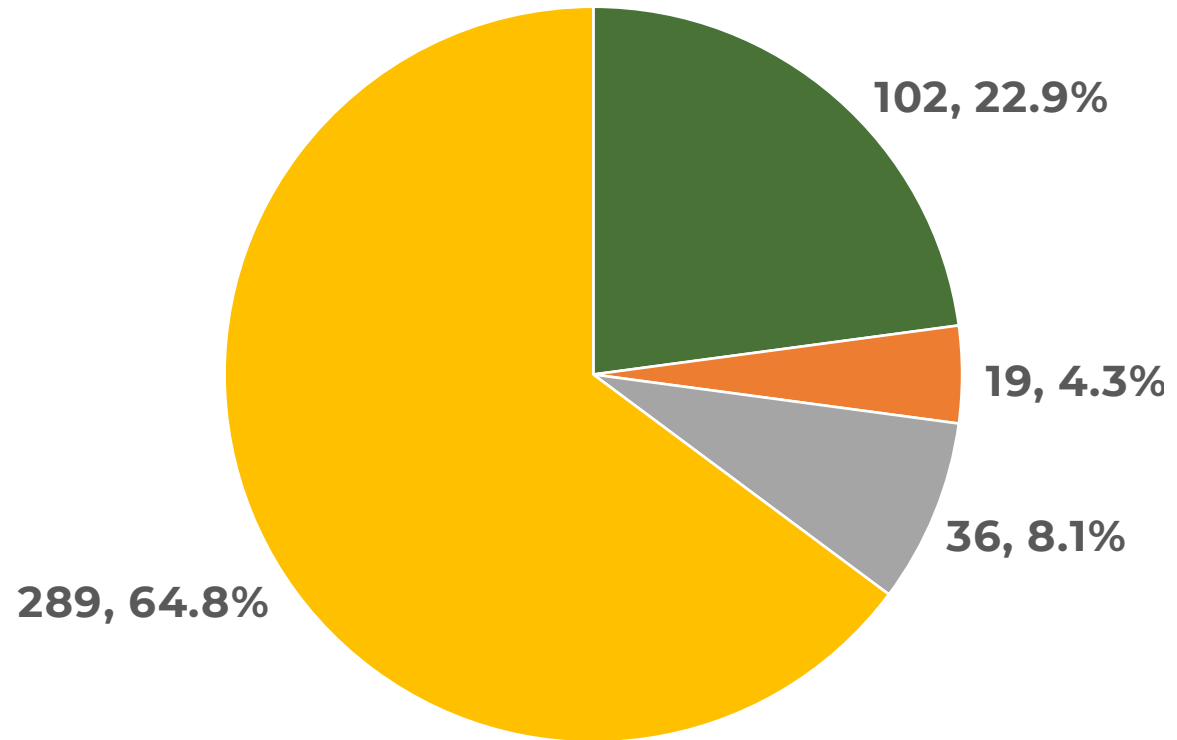


– FALL GRAZING FOR INTEGRATED
LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS SHOWS
POTENTIAL –

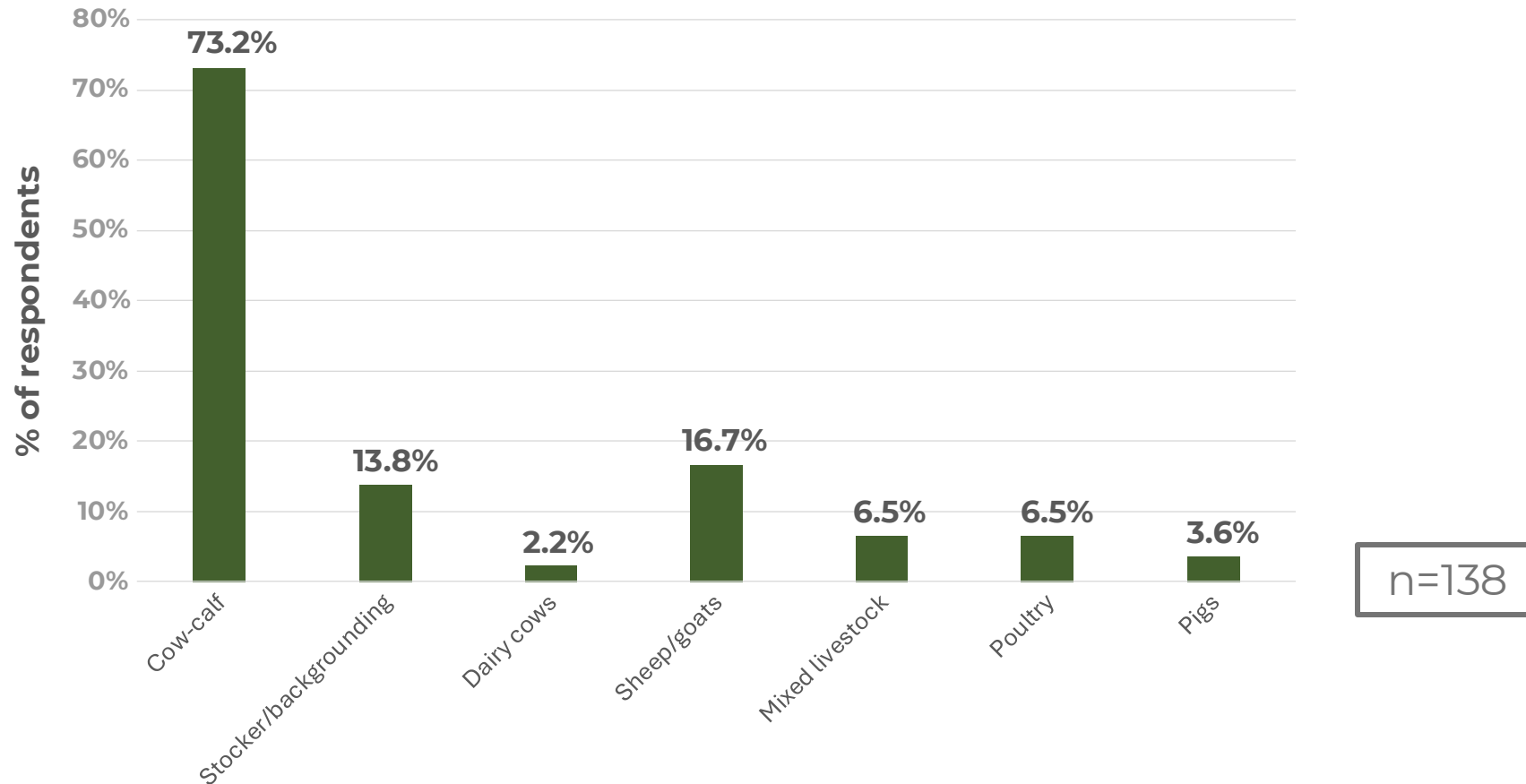
COVER CROPS AND LIVESTOCK INTEGRATION

- Grazed
- Harvested for forage
- Both grazed and harvested
- No integration

n=446

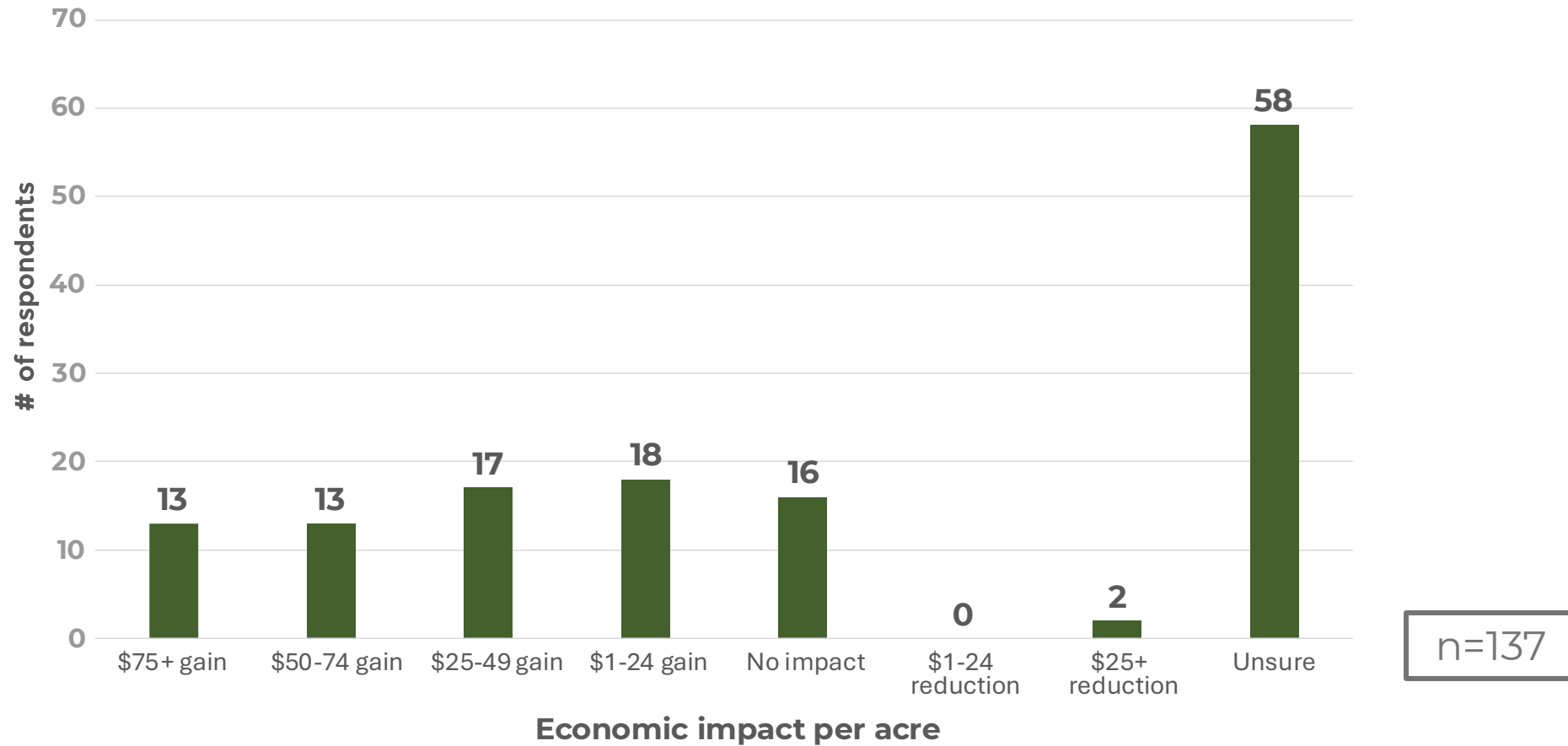


LIVESTOCK GRAZING COVER CROPS



– GRAZING COVER CROPS
PROVIDES NET PROFIT GAINS FOR
6 IN 10 PRODUCERS –

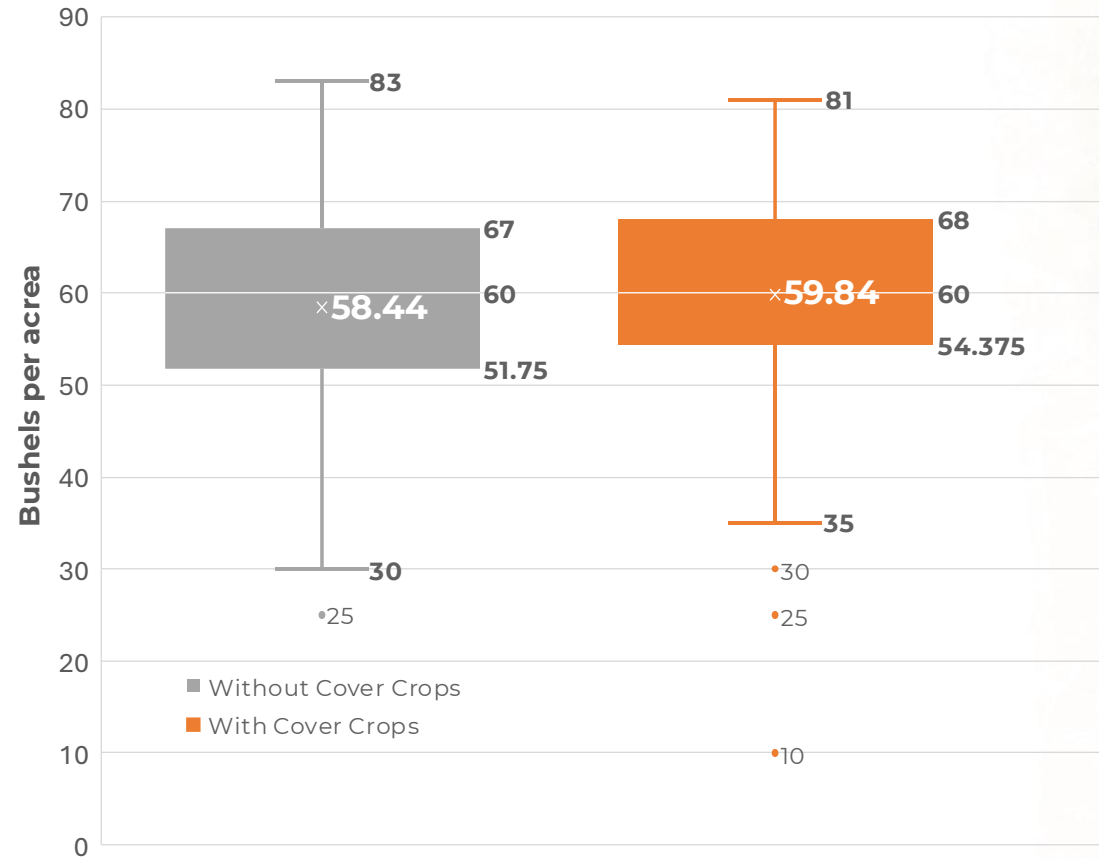
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GRAZING COVERS



COMMODITY GROWERS USING COVER CROPS

– COMMODITY PRODUCERS SEE SLIGHT
YIELD ADVANTAGES AFTER COVER CROPS –

SOYBEAN YIELDS



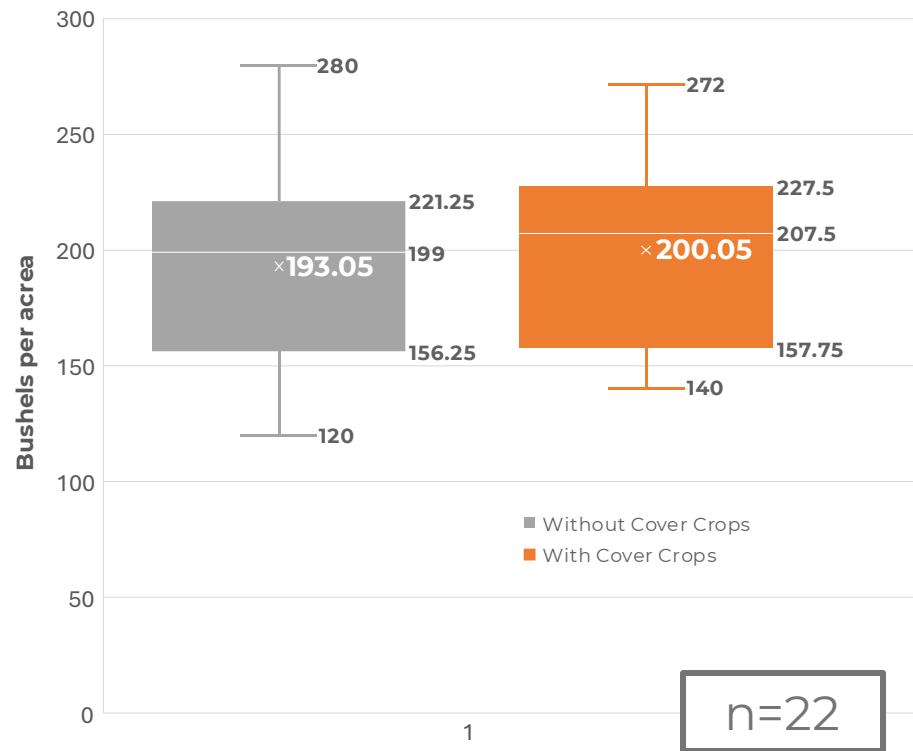
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COMMODITY GROWERS USING COVER CROPS

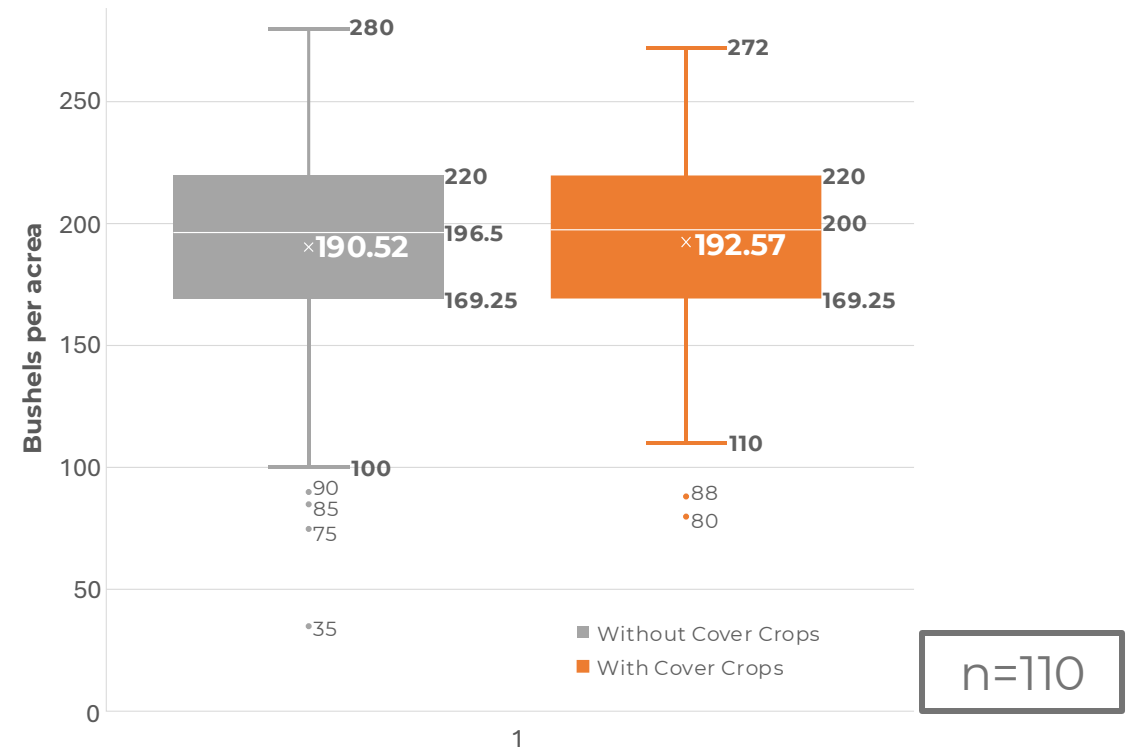
– COMMODITY PRODUCERS SEE SLIGHT
YIELD ADVANTAGES AFTER COVER CROPS –

CORN YIELDS

CORN YIELDS (10+ YEARS)



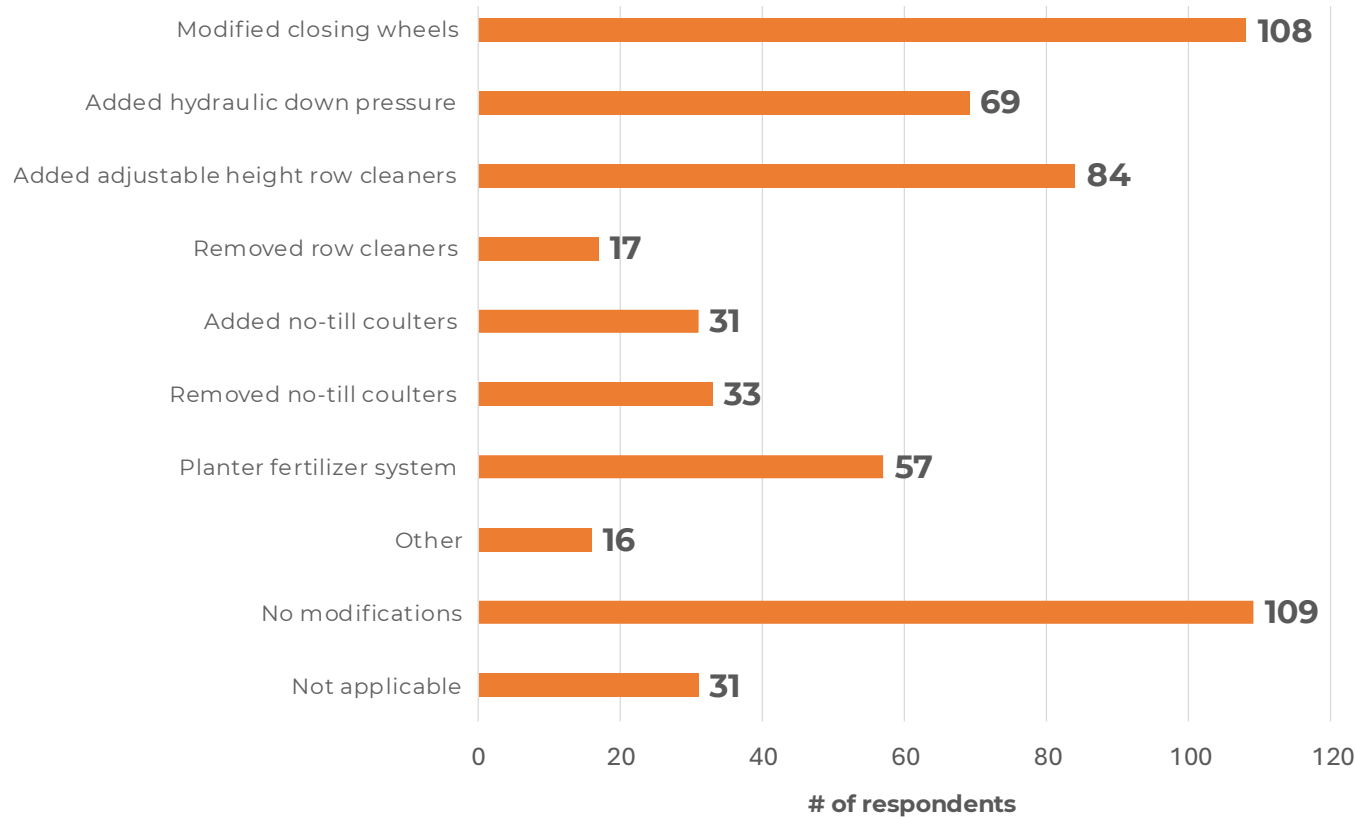
CORN PERFORMANCE WITH & WITHOUT COVER CROPS



- DRILLS TOP COVER CROP
EQUIPMENT INVESTMENTS -

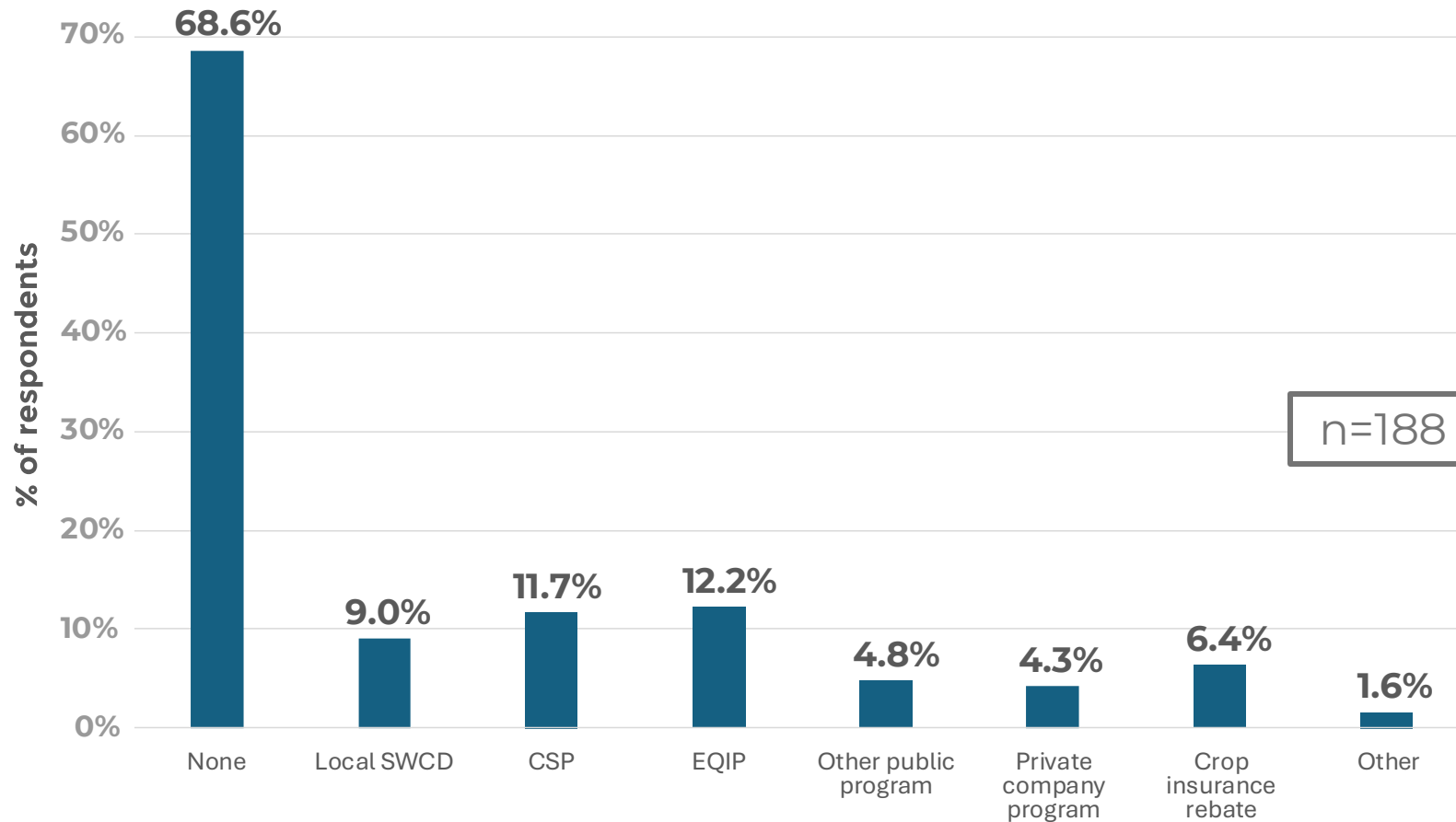
COMMODITY GROWERS USING COVER CROPS

ROW CROP PLANTER MODIFICATIONS FOR COVER CROP RESIDUE

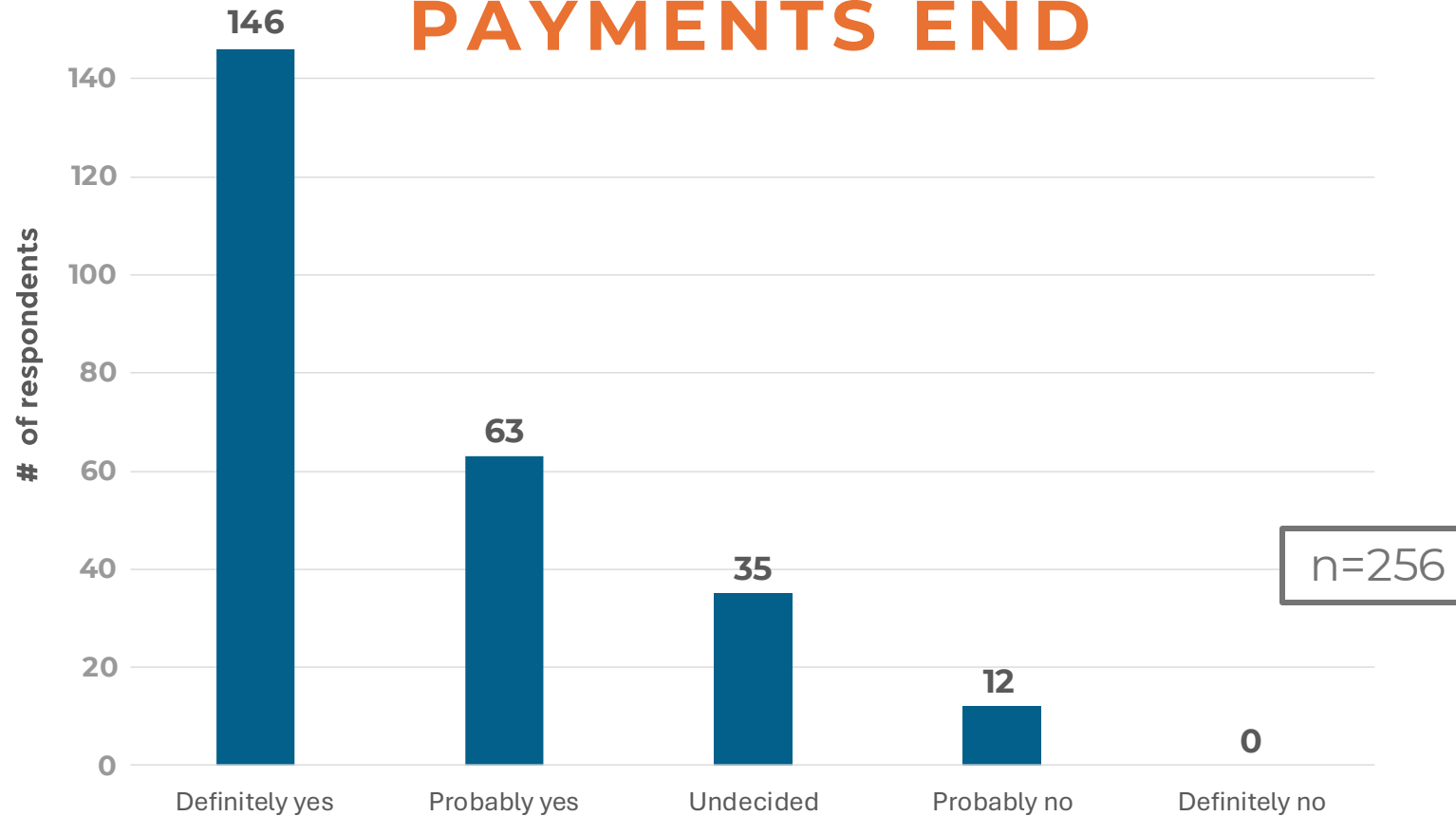


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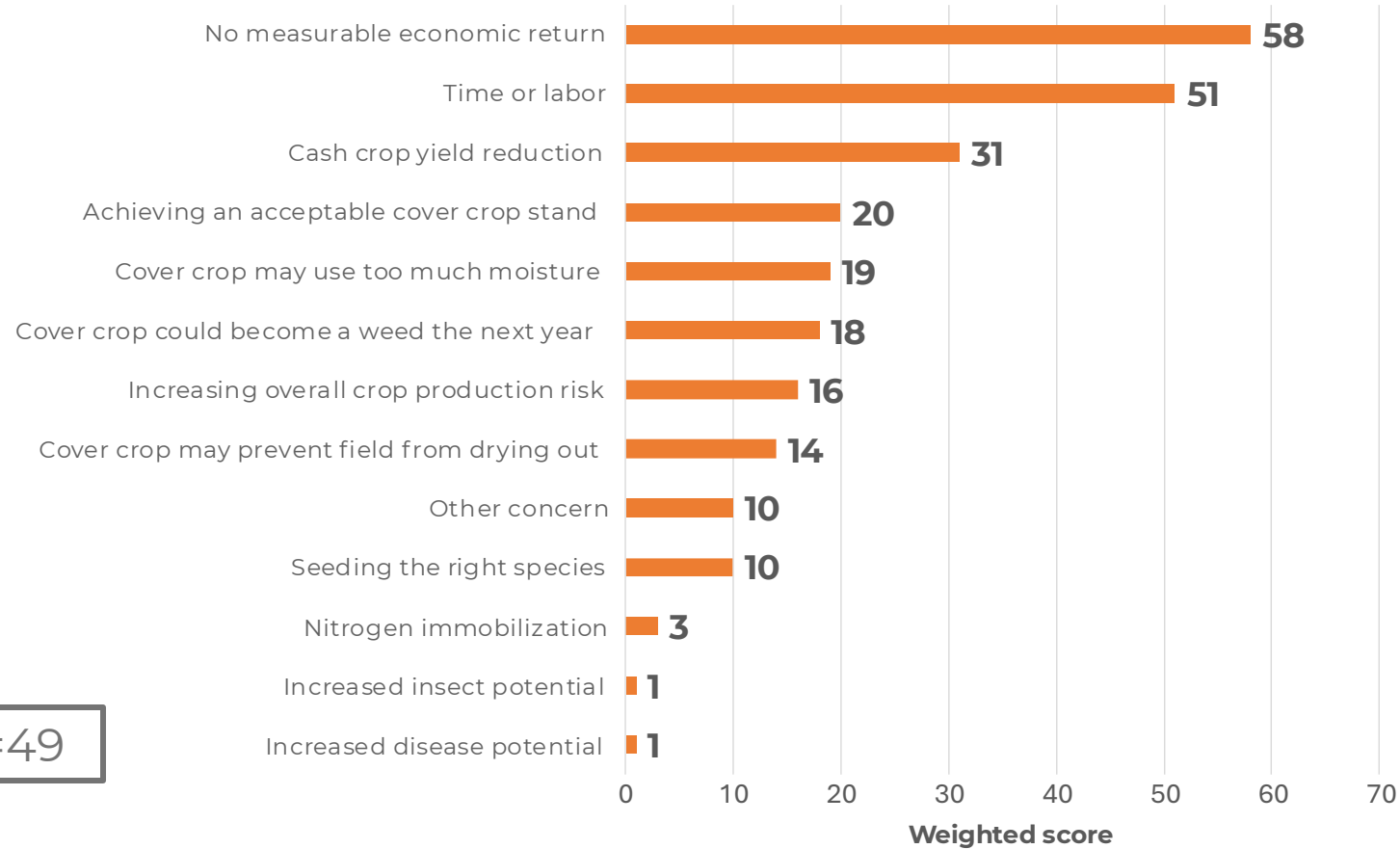
PAST COVER CROP PAYMENTS RECEIVED



INTENT TO CONTINUE COVER CROP USE AFTER PAYMENTS END



TOP 3 COVER CROP CONCERNS – NON-USERS

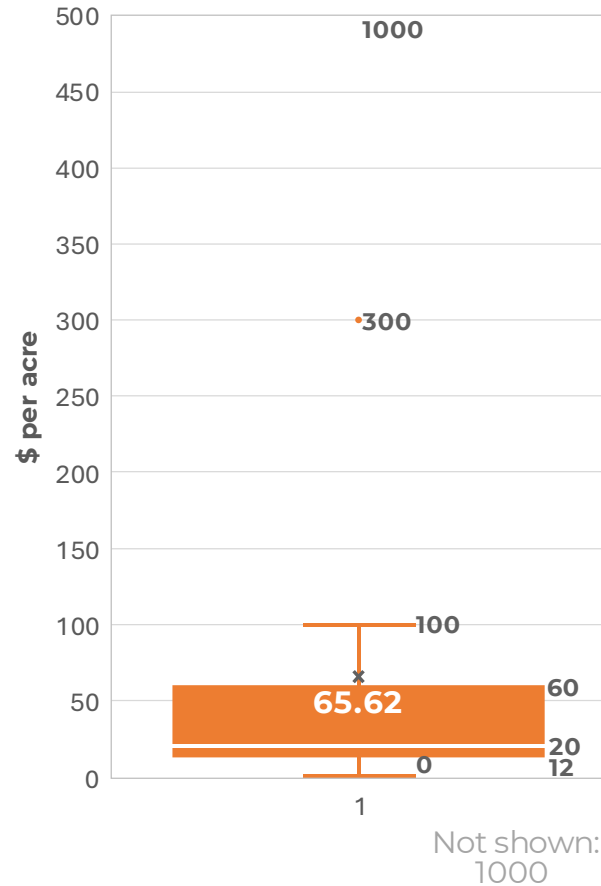


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NON-USERS

- FINANCIAL INCENTIVES -

PERCEIVED COVER CROP INCENTIVE PAYMENT RATES, NON-USERS



"Benefits I see from not only the conservation side, but the agronomic benefits such as water infiltration and weed control."

"Cover crops can be a great way to incorporate livestock on the land and cut costs for producers."

"To know that they remain profitable and can continue farming in a challenging economic environment."

"Have seen the improvements on my own farm for improved water infiltration, better weed control and higher yields."

"Limit erosion, reduce compaction/improve infiltration, improve spring field trafficability, cycle nutrients."

"It is my job, but I've seen firsthand how they can work and provide more benefits than single use practices like herbicides, fertilizers, or tillage."

"They can also act as a gateway practice for farmers and perhaps at some point, they will extend rotations, reduce inputs, or incorporate other conservation practices."

"Cover crops are a great tool in our toolbox!"



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