CROPS + LIVESTOCK ONLY

Q2 - These first questions are about land that you farmed in 2022. How many acres of the land that you farmed in 2022 did you own? If you did not own any of the land please enter zero.

Field	Min	Max	Mean	Standard Deviation	Variance	Responses	Sum
These first questions are about land that you farmed in 2022. How many acres of the land that you farmed in 2022 did you own? If you did not own any of the land please enter zero.	0.00	3000.00	284.88	388.03	150567.68	452	128766.39

Q3 - How many acres of the land that you farmed in 2022 did you rent from others? If you did not rent any of the land from others, please enter zero.

Field	Min	Max	Mean	Standard Deviation	Variance	Responses	Sum
How many acres of the land that you farmed in 2022 did you rent from others? If you did not rent any of the land from others, please enter zero.	0.00	3500.00	273.58	455.80	207757.63	451	123385.00

Q4 - In the last three years, did you raise any of the following grain crops? Di...

Field	Yes	No	Total
…corn for grain?	288	153	441
…corn for silage?	191	242	433
…soybeans?	252	186	438
…wheat?	122	297	419
…other small grains, such as rye, barley, oats, or triticale?	221	215	436
…oilseeds, such as canola, sunflower, safflower, or flax?	33	373	406

Q5 - For this question, consider pasture and forages for livestock as crops. In...

Field	Yes	No	Total
…hay, such as alfalfa, clover, grass, or mix?	397	52	449
…annual forages for livestock?	299	131	430
…perennial pasture ?	361	78	439

Q6 - In the last three years, did you grow any of the following other kinds of c...

Field	Yes	No	Total
…single-species cover crops?	255	185	440
…multi-species cover crops?	213	223	436
…vegetables or fruit?	90	330	420
…sugar beets?	28	391	419
…any other crops? Please tell us:	23	227	250

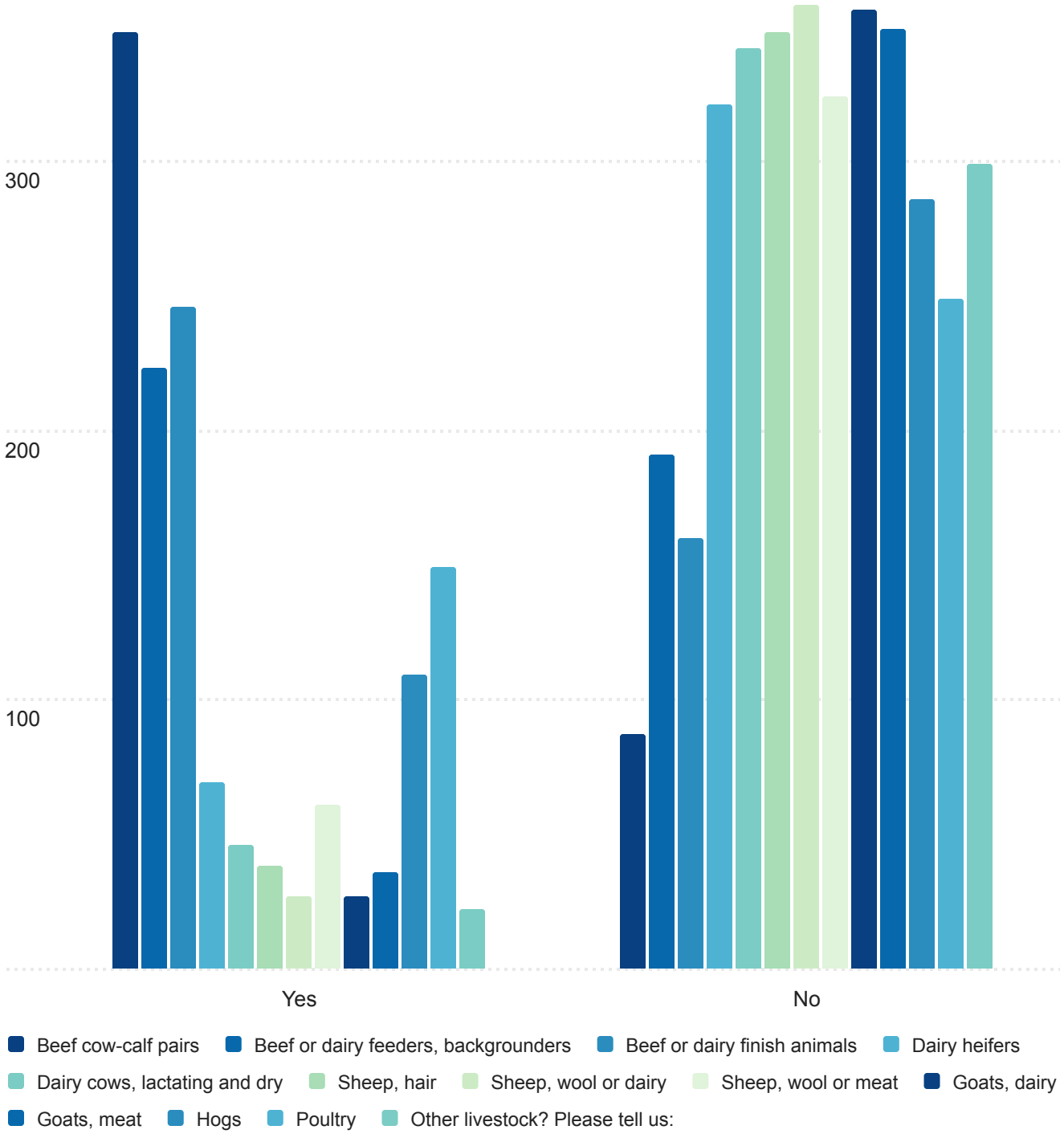
Q7 - In the last three years, did you raise any livestock?

Field	Choice Count
Yes	443
No	13
Total	456

Q8 - For each of the following kinds of livestock, please indicate if you have t...

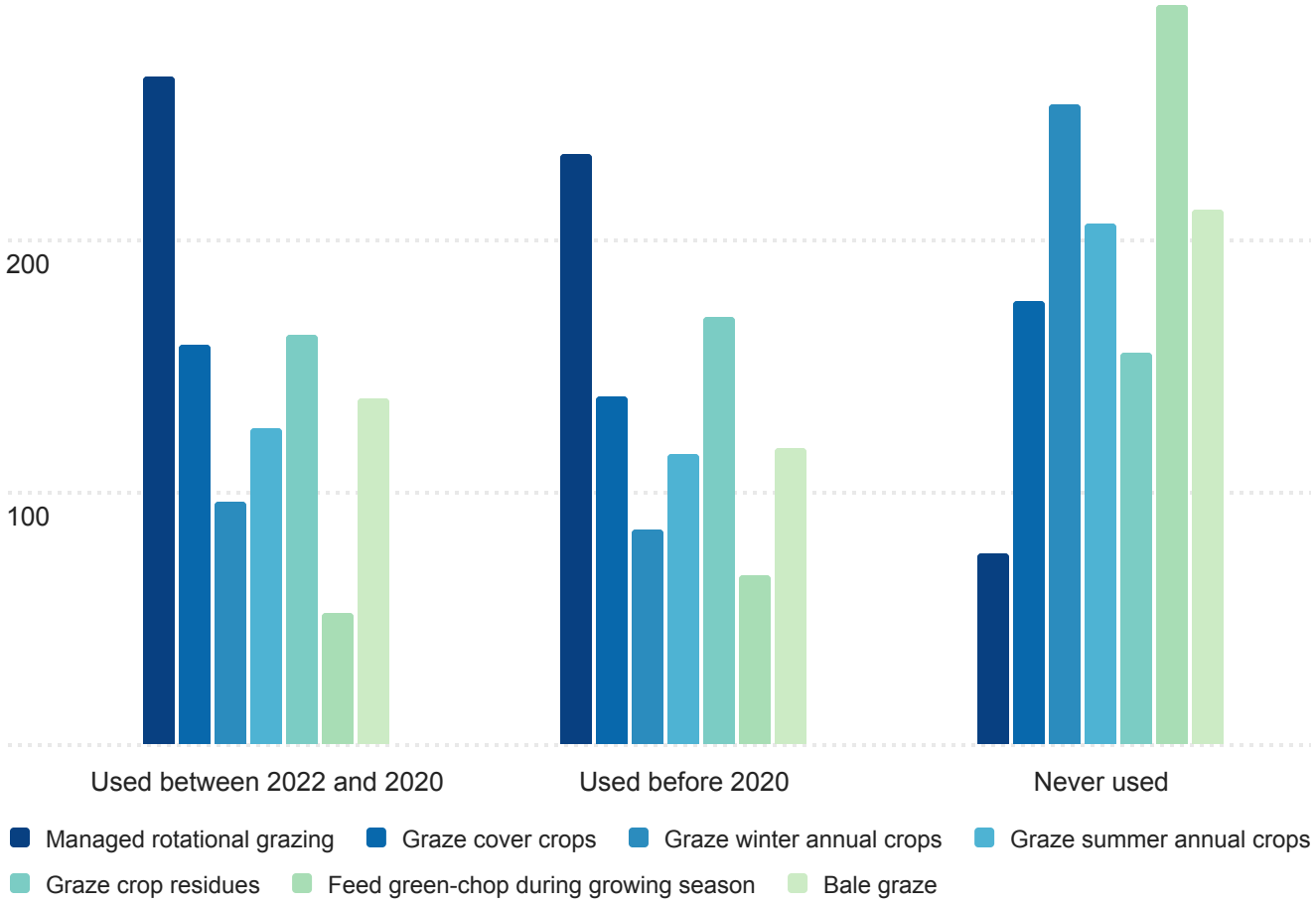
Field	Yes	No	Total
Beef cow-calf pairs	348	87	435
Beef or dairy feeders, backgrounders	223	191	414
Beef or dairy finish animals	246	160	406
Dairy heifers	69	321	390
Dairy cows, lactating and dry	46	342	388
Sheep, hair	38	348	386
Sheep, wool or dairy	27	358	385
Sheep, wool or meat	61	324	385
Goats, dairy	27	356	383
Goats, meat	36	349	385
Hogs	109	286	395
Poultry	149	249	398
Other livestock? Please tell us:	22	299	321

Q8 - For each of the following kinds of livestock, please indicate if you have t...



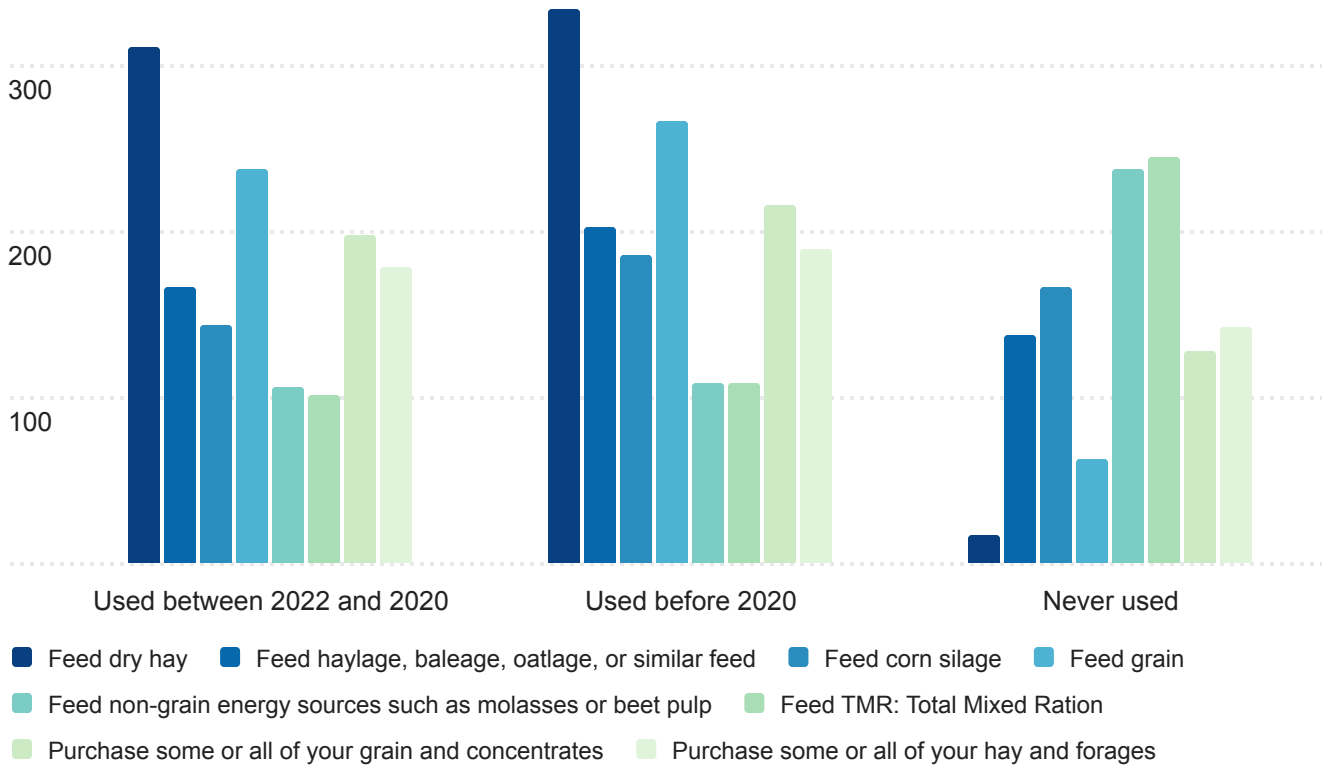
Q10 - The next questions are about your grazing management practices. Please tell...

Field	Used between 2022 and 2020	Used before 2020	Never used	Total
Managed rotational grazing	265	234	76	575
Graze cover crops	158	138	176	472
Graze winter annual crops	96	85	254	435
Graze summer annual crops	125	115	206	446
Graze crop residues	162	169	155	486
Feed green-chop during growing season	52	67	293	412
Bale graze	137	117	212	466



Q11 - The next questions are about your livestock feeding practices. Please tell...

Field	Used between 2022 and 2020	Used before 2020	Never used	Total
Feed dry hay	311	334	17	662
Feed haylage, baleage, oatlage, or similar feed	166	203	137	506
Feed corn silage	144	186	166	496
Feed grain	237	267	63	567
Feed non-grain energy sources such as molasses or beet pulp	106	109	238	453
Feed TMR: Total Mixed Ration	101	109	245	455
Purchase some or all of your grain and concentrates	198	216	128	542
Purchase some or all of your hay and forages	179	189	142	510



Q12_1 - Sell animals at sale barn or livestock auction

Sell animals at sale barn or livestock auction

Used between 2022 and 2020

Used before 2020

Used before 2020

Used between 2022 and 2020, Used before 2020

Used between 2022 and 2020, Used before 2020

Used between 2022 and 2020

Never used

Used between 2022 and 2020, Used before 2020

Used between 2022 and 2020, Used before 2020

Used before 2020

Used between 2022 and 2020

Used before 2020

Used before 2020

Used between 2022 and 2020, Used before 2020

Used before 2020

Used between 2022 and 2020, Used before 2020

Used between 2022 and 2020, Used before 2020

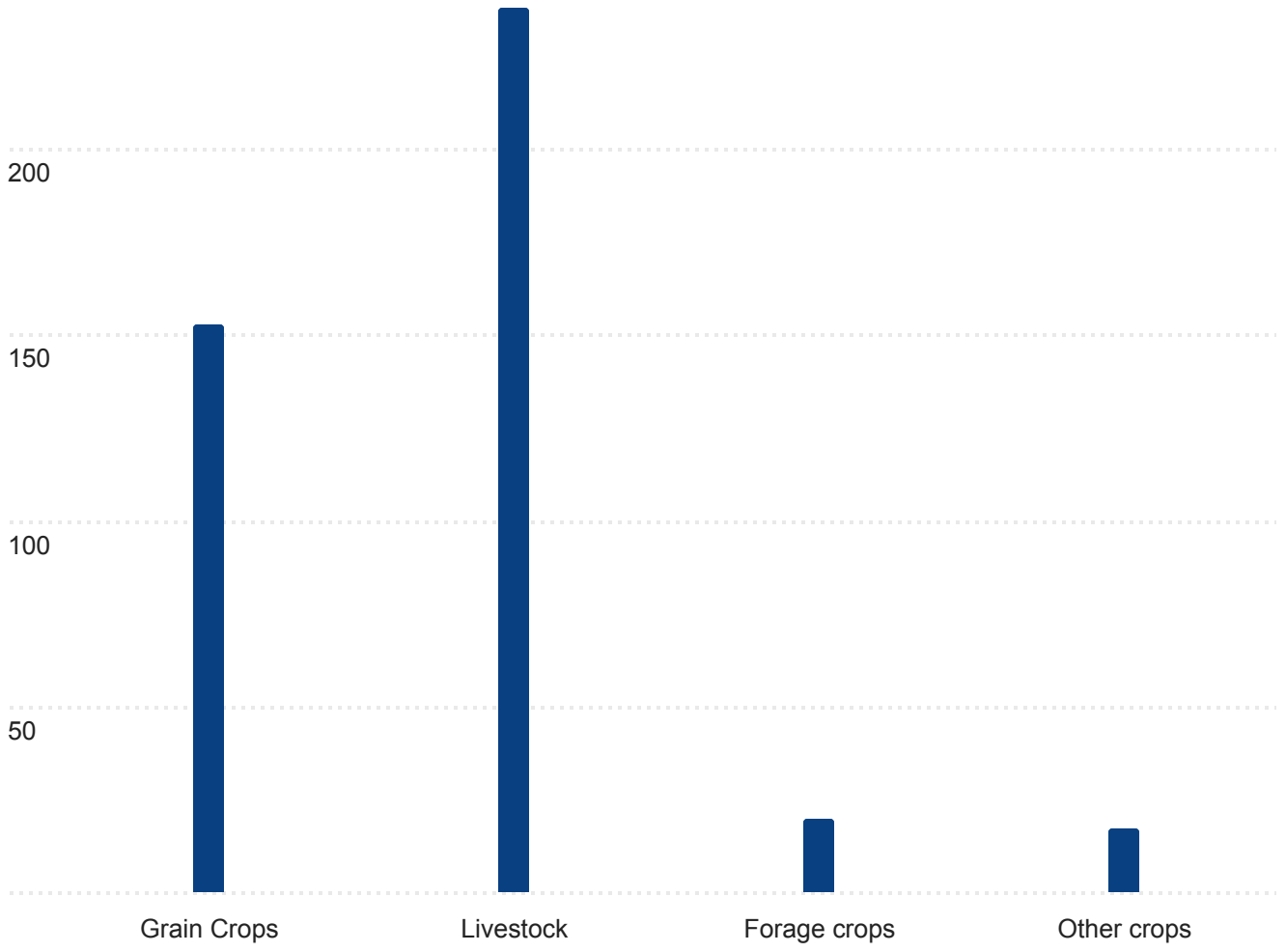
Used before 2020

Used between 2022 and 2020, Used before 2020

Used before 2020

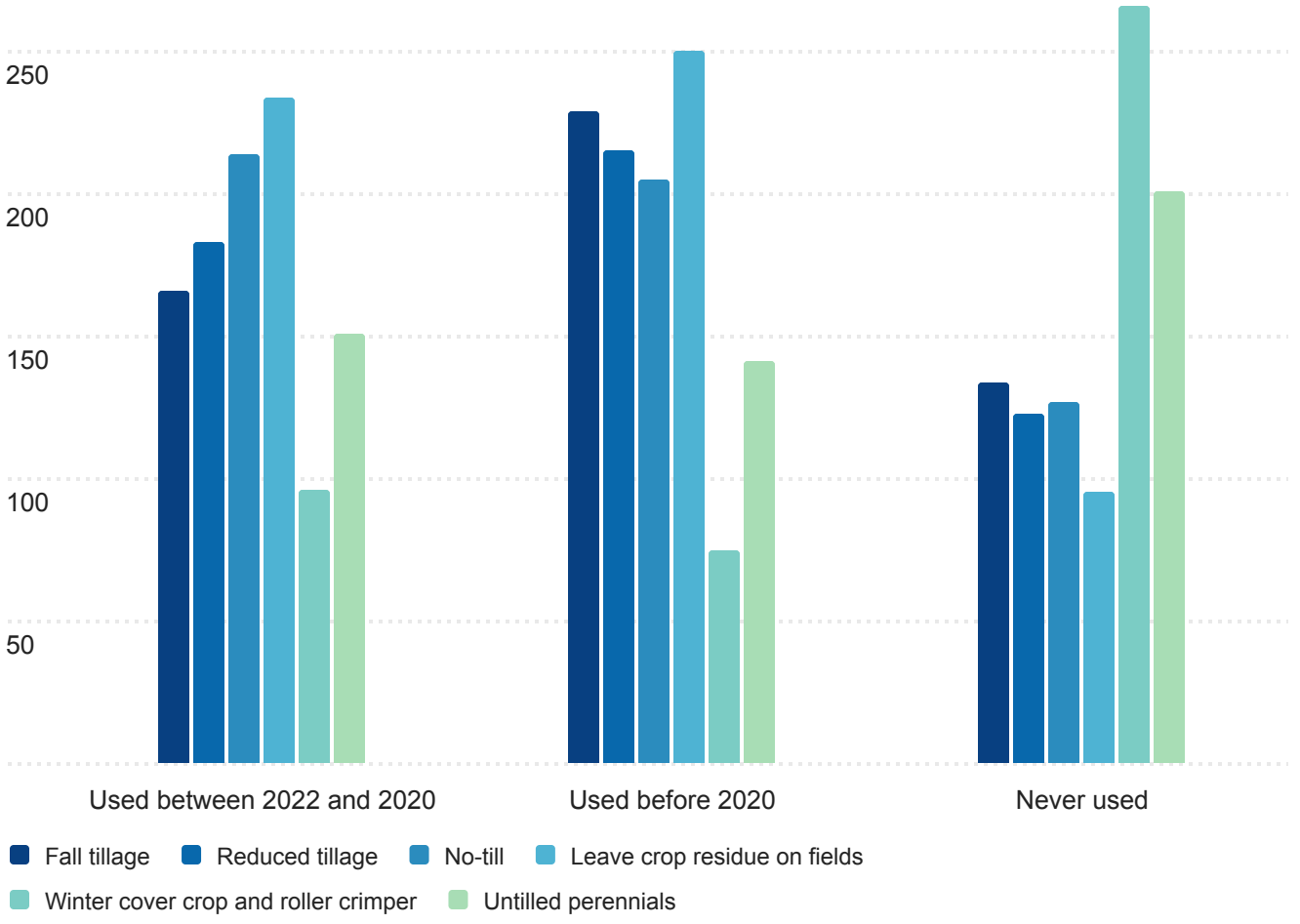
Q13 - Which one of the following do you consider your primary farming enterprise?

Field	Choice Count
Grain Crops	153
Livestock	238
Forage crops	20
Other crops	17
Total	428



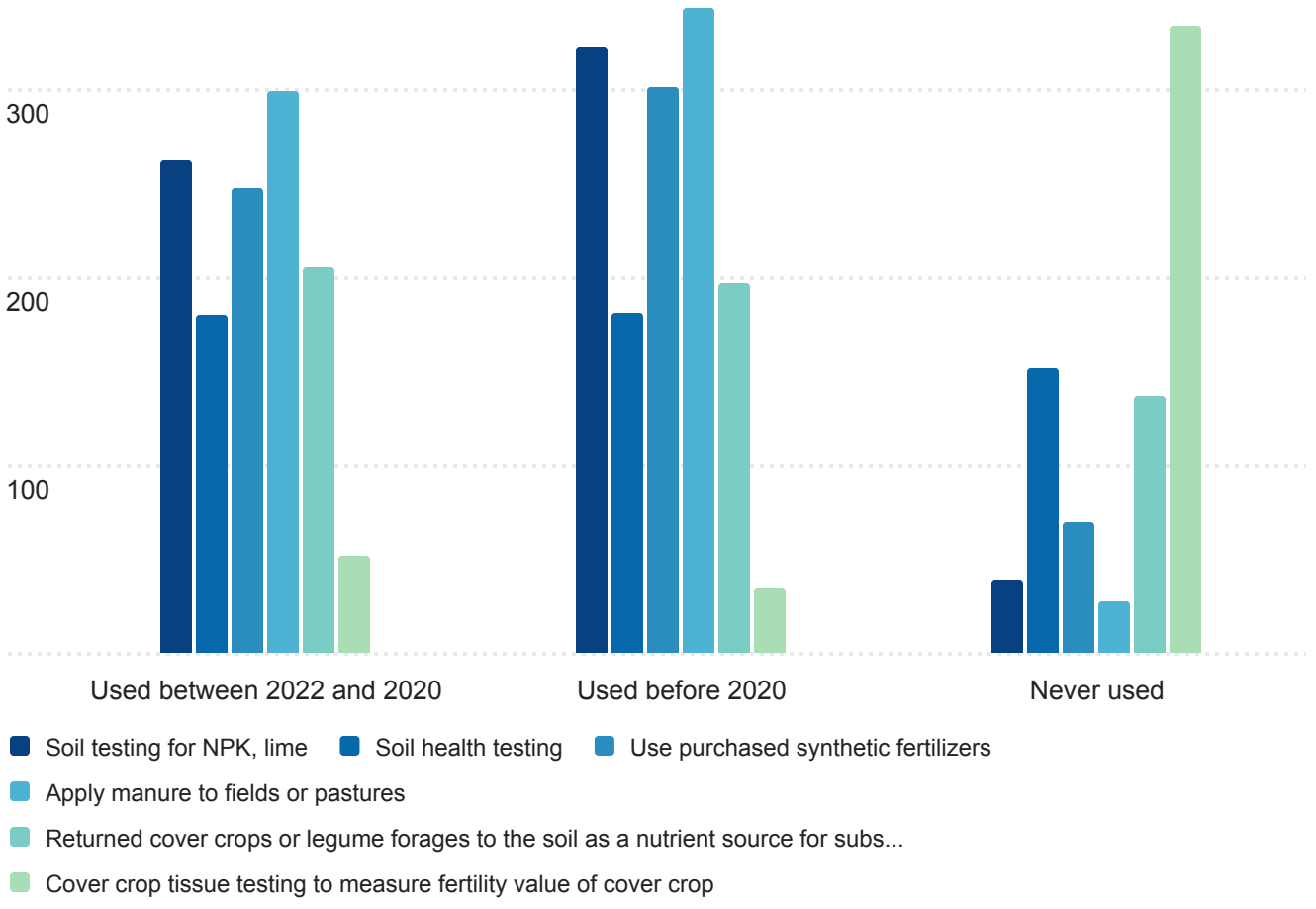
Q14 - The next questions are about your soil tillage practices. Please tell us wh...

Field	Used between 2022 and 2020	Used before 2020	Never used	Total
Fall tillage	166	229	134	529
Reduced tillage	183	215	123	521
No-till	214	205	127	546
Leave crop residue on fields	234	250	95	579
Winter cover crop and roller crimper	96	75	266	437
Untilled perennials	151	141	201	493



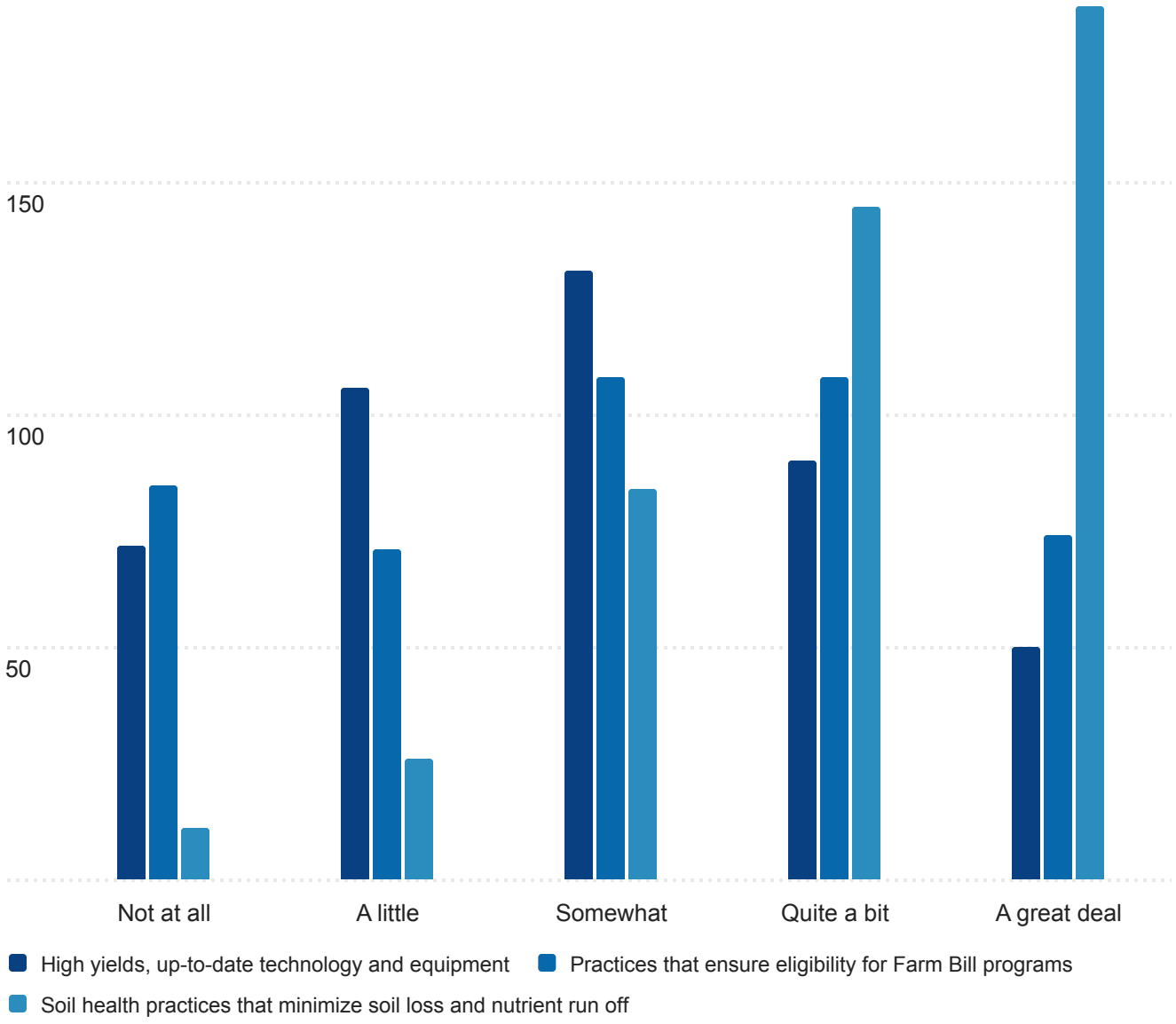
Q15 - The next questions are about your fertility management practices. Please te...

Field	Used between 2022 and 2020	Used before 2020	Never used	Total
Soil testing for NPK, lime	262	322	39	623
Soil health testing	180	181	151	512
Use purchased synthetic fertilizers	247	301	69	617
Apply manure to fields or pastures	299	343	27	669
Returned cover crops or legume forages to the soil as a nutrient source for subsequent crops	205	197	137	539
Cover crop tissue testing to measure fertility value of cover crop	52	35	334	421



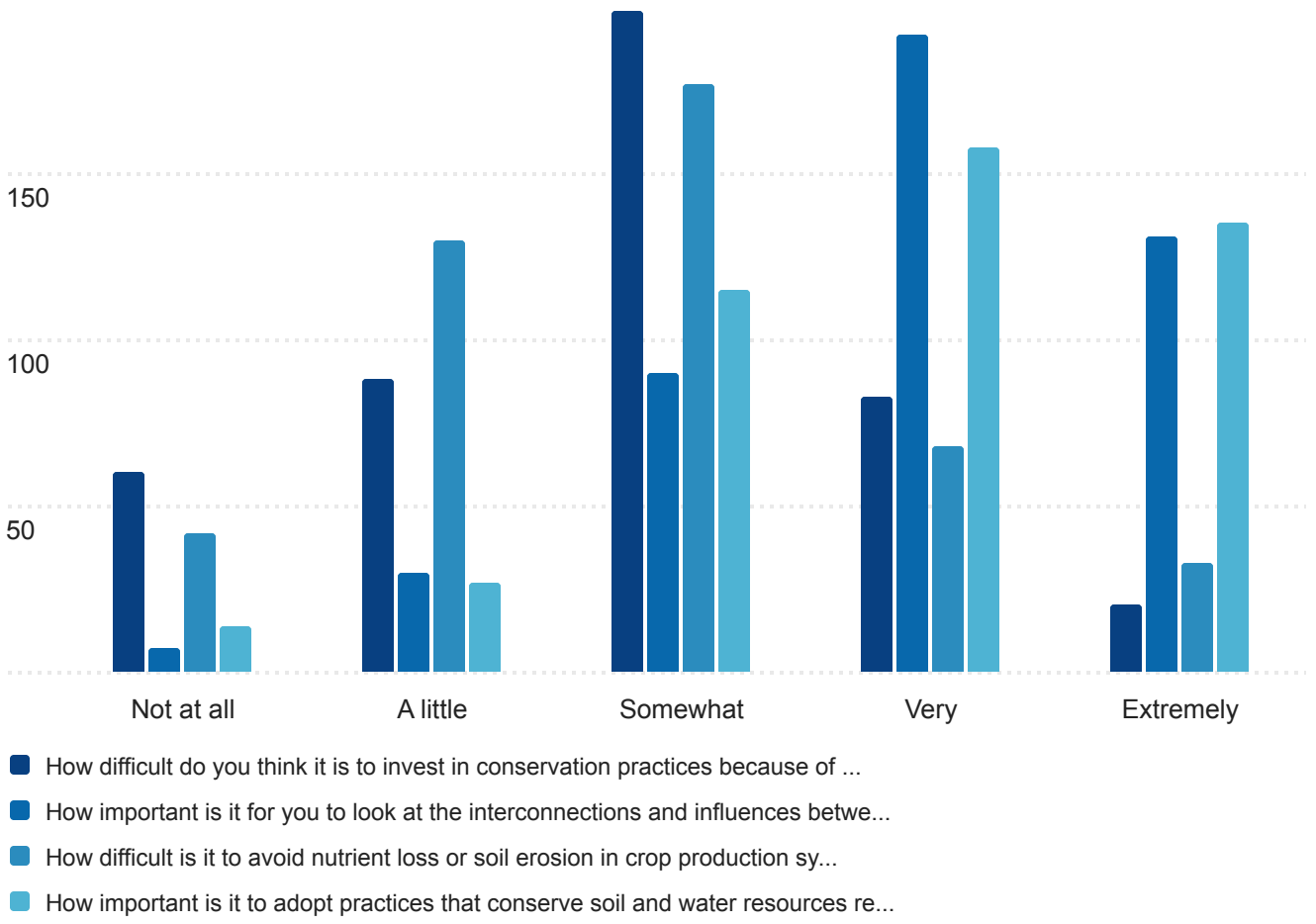
Q16 - How much do the following match your farming approach?

Field	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Quite a bit	A great deal	Total
High yields, up-to-date technology and equipment	72	106	131	90	50	449
Practices that ensure eligibility for Farm Bill programs	85	71	108	108	74	446
Soil health practices that minimize soil loss and nutrient run off	11	26	84	145	188	454



Q17 - Continue to think about your farming approach and please tell us:

Field	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely	Total
How difficult do you think it is to invest in conservation practices because of economic pressure?	60	88	199	83	20	450
How important is it for you to look at the interconnections and influences between all of the decisions that go into your farm management?	7	30	90	192	131	450
How difficult is it to avoid nutrient loss or soil erosion in crop production systems?	42	130	177	68	33	450
How important is it to adopt practices that conserve soil and water resources regardless of economic concerns?	14	27	115	158	135	449



Q18 - How much do you rely on the conservation information provided by USDA-NRCS?

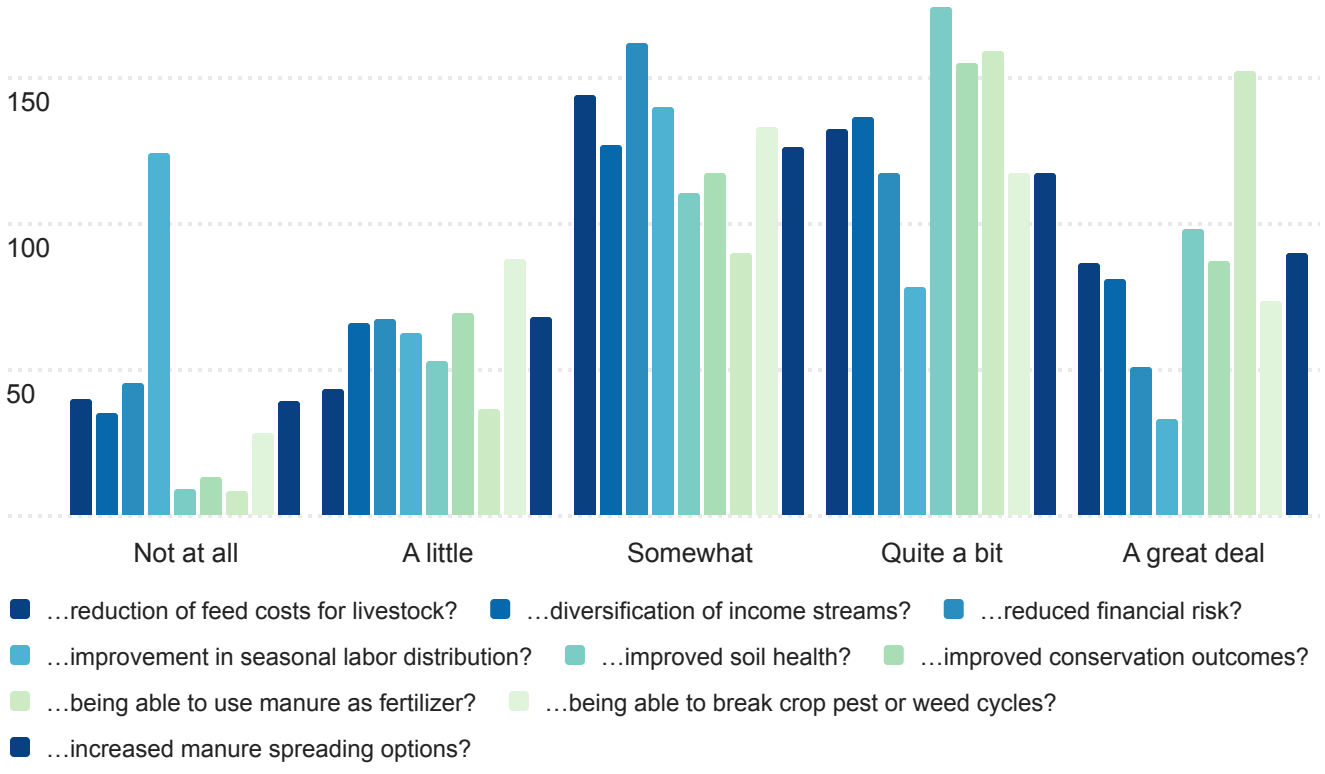
Field	Choice Count
Not at all	55
A little	96
Somewhat	162
Quite a bit	107
A great deal	32
Total	452

Q20 - For about how many years have both livestock and crops been on your farm?

Field	Choice Count
0 to 2 years	22
3 to 5 years	59
More than 5 years	372
Total	453

Q21 - Integration of crops and livestock is associated with several potential ben...

Field	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Quite a bit	A great deal	Total
…reduction of feed costs for livestock?	40	43	144	132	86	445
…diversification of income streams?	35	66	127	136	81	445
…reduced financial risk?	45	67	162	117	51	442
…improvement in seasonal labor distribution?	124	62	140	78	33	437
…improved soil health?	9	53	110	174	98	444
…improved conservation outcomes?	13	69	117	155	87	441
…being able to use manure as fertilizer?	8	36	90	159	152	445
…being able to break crop pest or weed cycles?	28	88	133	117	73	439
…increased manure spreading options?	39	68	126	117	90	440

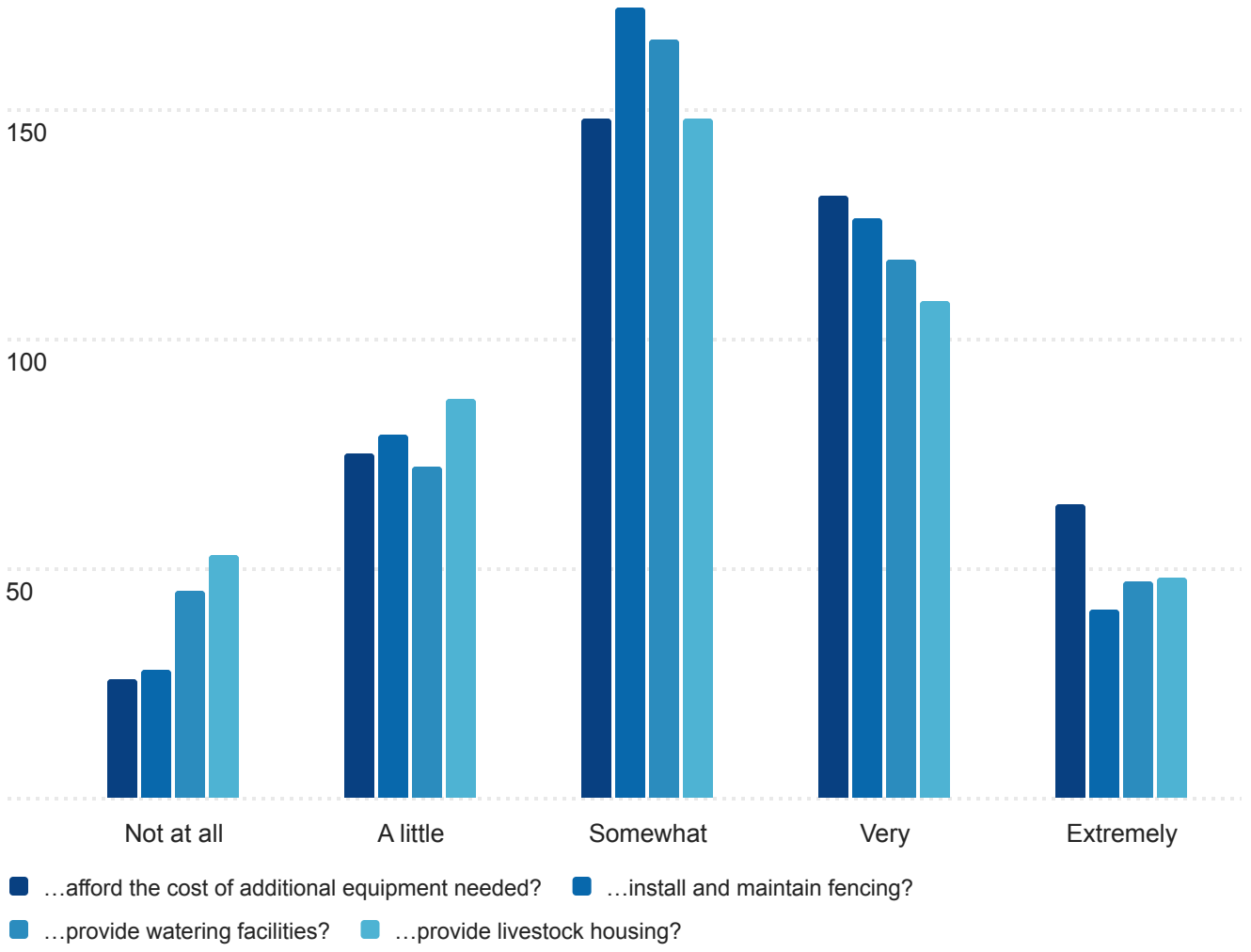


Q22 - Have you found any other benefits from integrating crops and livestock on your farm? Please tell us about them:

Have you found any other benefits from integrating crops and livestock on your farm? Please tell us about them:
Great reduction of purchased fertilizer
use of non crop producing acres that can sustain animals
winter feeding - move hay rings Improves pasture
clean fields fertilizes field ahd stretches grazing for herd
cattle & pasture rotation
compaction, manure mgmt
Building up soil + our manure. Reductiom im the need to spread manure by unrolling our bales for feeding.
When you grow your own feed you know exactly what goes into your cattle.
more profit
save on feed cost cows do the work spreading the manure
longer grazing on perennial cropland
more income stabilization
marketing flexibility
lower feed costs per animal unit, benefits of manure
Have gone to strip till about 75% of acres - soil health has improved (angle worms) easy way to put in crops, spread manure, improve yields - good for dry conditions
Being able to use crops that are not as easy to sell because of quality, for the cattle intake
better cattle from rotational grazing healthier crops
les cost commercial fertilizers
being able to control the quality
only raise hay & pasture

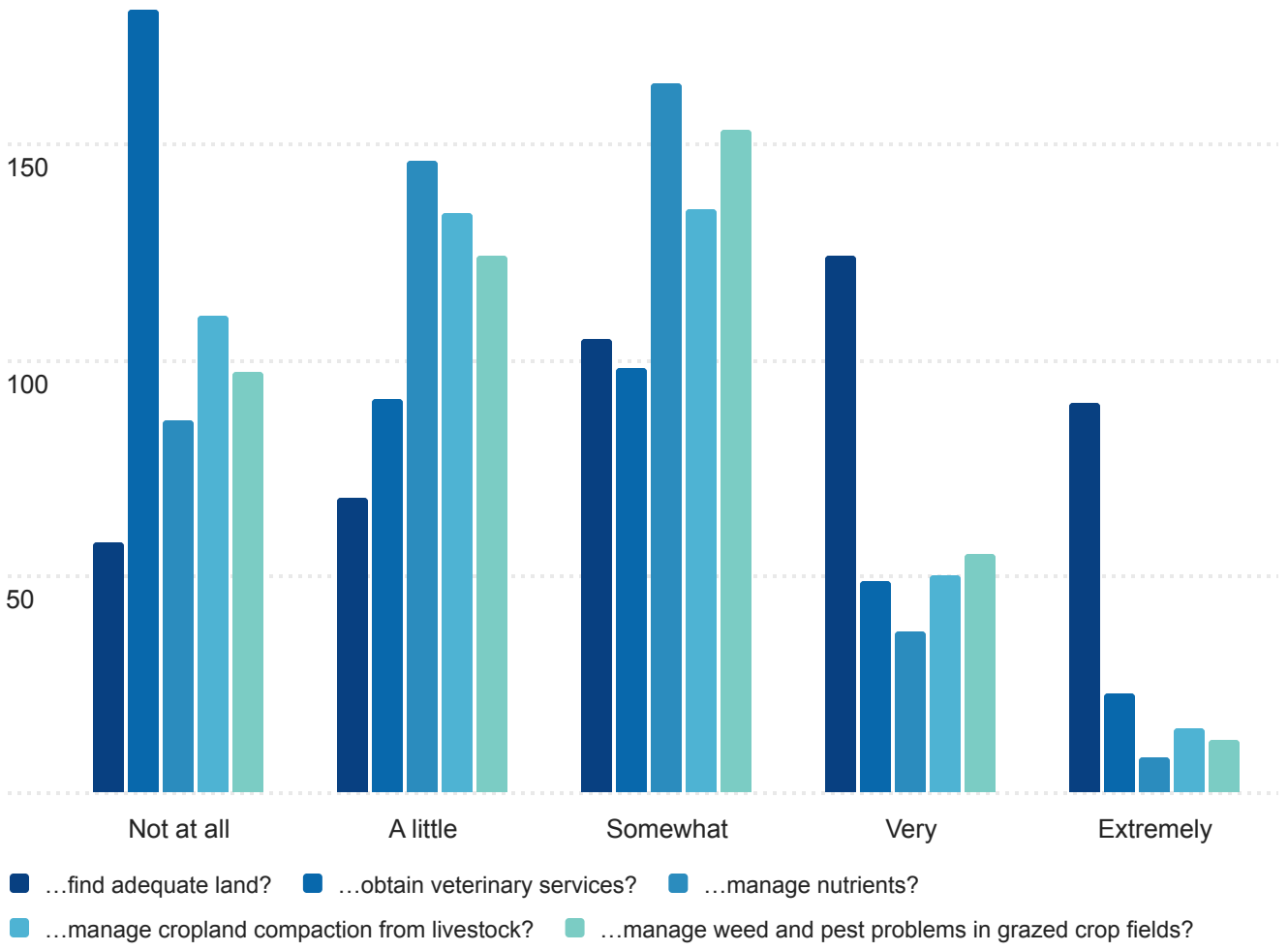
Q23 - The next questions are about challenges you may have faced in your adoption...

Field	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely	Total
…afford the cost of additional equipment needed?	26	75	148	131	64	444
…install and maintain fencing?	28	79	172	126	41	446
…provide watering facilities?	45	72	165	117	47	446
…provide livestock housing?	53	87	148	108	48	444



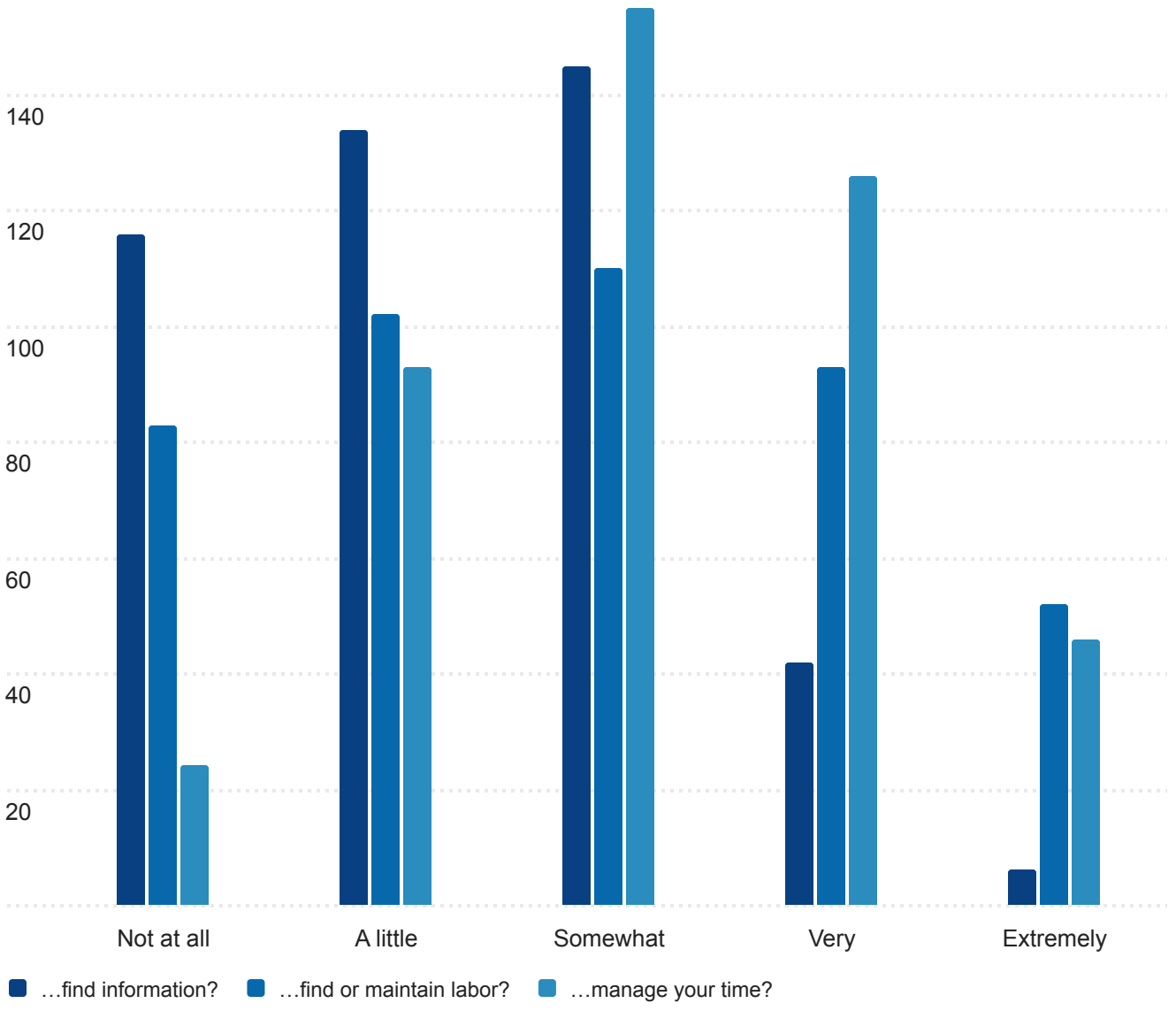
Q24 - Continuing to think about crop and livestock integration production systems...

Field	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely	Total
…find adequate land?	58	68	105	124	90	445
…obtain veterinary services?	181	91	98	49	23	442
…manage nutrients?	86	146	164	37	8	441
…manage cropland compaction from livestock?	110	134	135	50	15	444
…manage weed and pest problems in grazed crop fields?	97	124	153	55	12	441



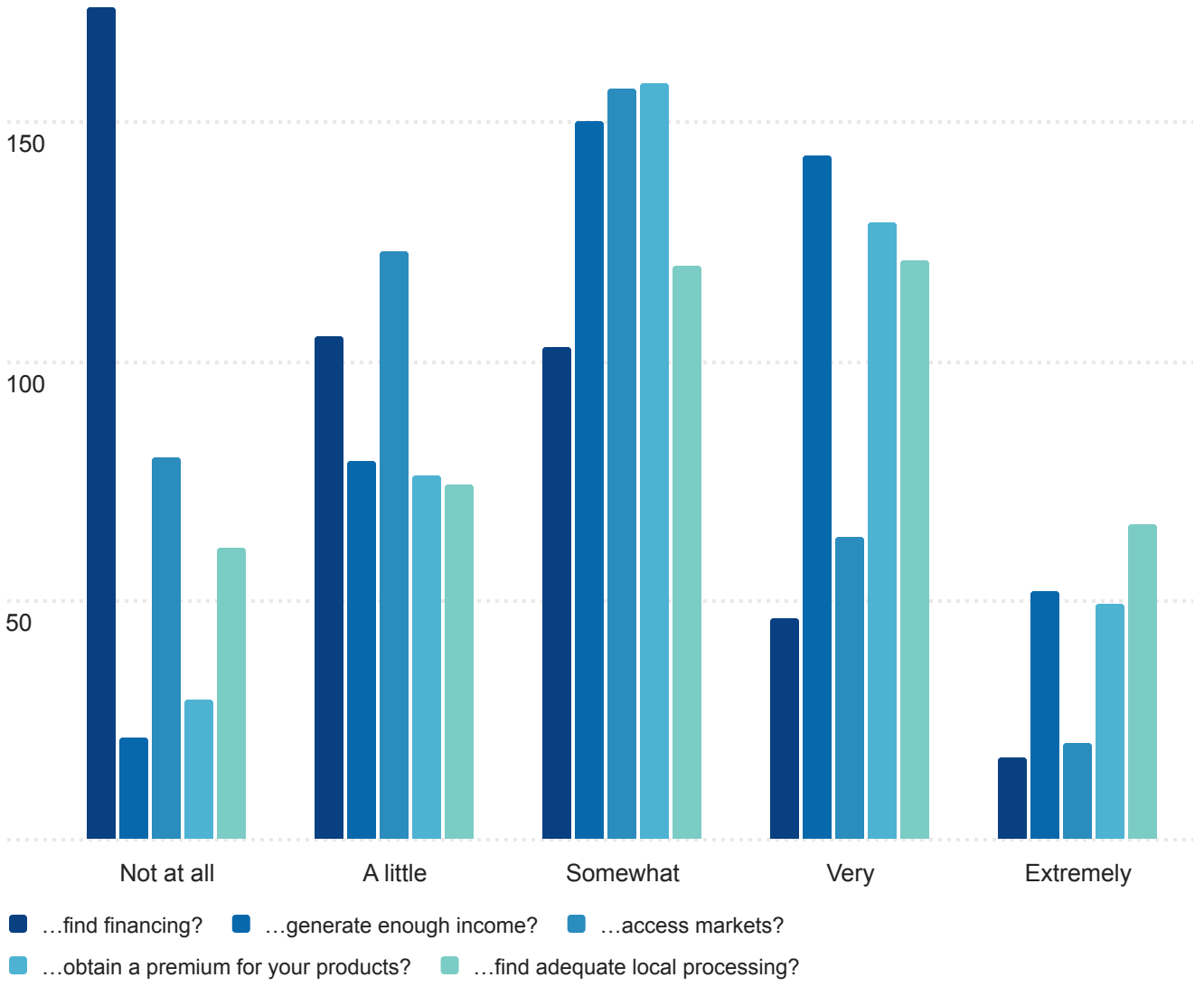
Q25 - Next, think about farm business management. How challenging has it been to…

Field	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely	Total
…find information?	116	134	145	42	6	443
…find or maintain labor?	83	102	110	93	52	440
…manage your time?	24	93	155	126	46	444



Q26 - Next, think about financial issues. How challenging has it been to…

Field	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely	Total
…find financing?	174	105	103	46	17	445
…generate enough income?	21	79	150	143	52	445
…access markets?	80	123	157	63	20	443
…obtain a premium for your products?	29	76	158	129	49	441
…find adequate local processing?	61	74	120	121	66	442



Q27 - Have you experienced other challenges in integrating livestock and crops on your farm not mentioned above? Please tell us about them:

Have you experienced other challenges in integrating livestock and crops on your farm not mentioned above? Please tell us about them:

many advisors claim its not worth the time commitment
no
breaking generational stigma and beliefs
crop rotation, using annuals to extend grazing, growing feed on rented acres
Working FT & farming + a large family is hard to balance.
our crops are only hay and pasture so a lot of these questions don't apply
no
maintaining & keeping rented land. Big farmers keep pressure on + neighbors.
Have to keep up to date with changes with regulations by the lakes
weather challenges
having crop residue fields contiguous with pastures
not enough pasture - winter feeding is expensive
We have always had cattle and crops.
Dealing with mud is our main concern.
no
sale barns - deficit in northern MN
finding usda inspected or E2 processor for sheep
having enough good fencing to graze stalks etc and maintaining fencing due to cars off road or deer
time
My cows often eat my crops

Q47 - The next questions are about farm policy and programs. In the last 3 years,...

Field	Yes	No	Total
…the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, EQIP?	193	227	420
…the Conservation Stewardship Program, CSP?	121	296	417
…the Conservation Reserve Program, CRP?	112	304	416
…a local or county conservation program?	158	260	418
…a state conservation program?	146	271	417
…a program funded by non-governmental organization?	90	326	416
…a program funded by private sector, such as input suppliers or food companies?	60	356	416
…federal crop subsidies?	206	210	416
…crop insurance?	242	177	419

Q48 - We have asked you questions about challenges and potential support. Now is your chance to share any additional ideas you have. What specific types of assistance that are not currently offered would be useful to you in achieving your soil health or livestock integration goals?

We have asked you questions about challenges and potential support. Now is your chance to share any additional ideas you have. What specific types of assistance that are not currently offered would be useful to you in achieving your soil health or livestock integration goals?

Agriculture is artificially propped up by the government. There is no money in it otherwise.

further variety in EQIP and conservation programs. more flexibility in allowing adaptive strategies.

better crop like insurance on cattle, based on proven history

I've started using cover crops, need a way to get cover crop into standing corn to get more growth before cutting.

soil microbio health and micronutrient balancing

I think that the crop insurance program is what got monocroping of corn & soybeans to be so big, and thats the problem.

fencing - maybe wireless
water = important

Finding capable help do chores when needed, hard to go anywhere on vacations.

Ditching - help in getting the county to maintain the ditches they put in years ago.

Closer markets to take advantage of crops & cattle.

Have NRCS & USDA people better trained and all trained the same.

maintaining a farm income with cattle prices unstable

EQIP was wonderful in updating infrastructure to enable rotational grazing & crop residue grazing

"My cows can get sick, but I don't understand these things, which can be troublesome. My crops are easy to solve because they have been in contact for a long time."

Reduce labor force, reduce machinery input, improve soil health, and reduce farming

Having an off farm job has sidelined me from most offerings. I don't bother applying because every time I have in the past, I get declined because I have an off farm job. I farm 30 cow calf pairs and work 40+ hours at another job. And yet, a grain farmer can get crop insurance, have a failed crop, and still get paid (and profit) from never starting the combine. That makes sense. Oh and when I started I was 25. So much for "beginning farmer" loans.

It's all about the money, we cannot afford to upgrade equipment to do full no till practices or expand our fencing infrastructure to do more grazing.

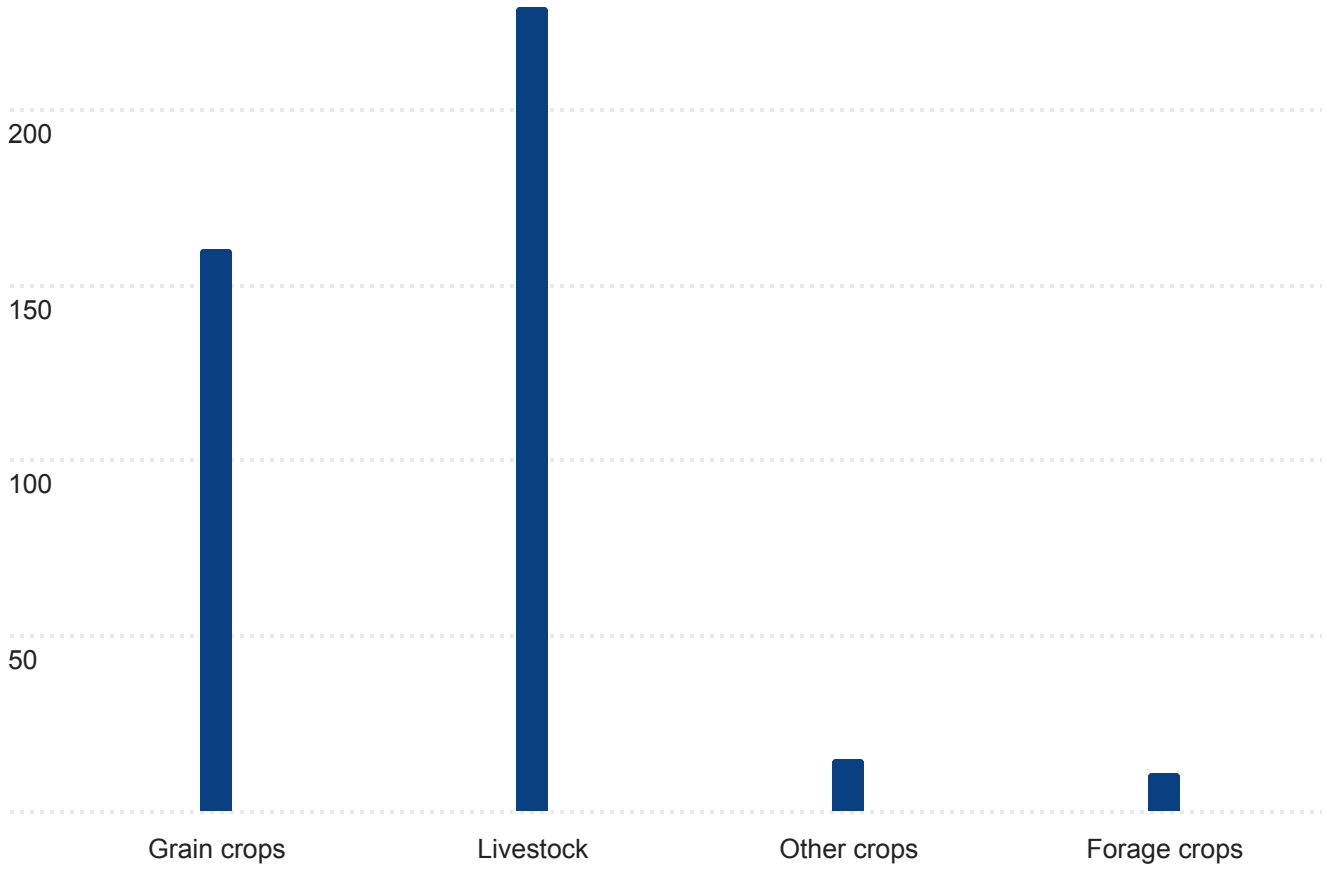
grazing plans for people who are not applying for NRCS or County land conservation funding.

I think we have lots of support. And we don't need more government hand outs. I'd like to see farmers get off the Farm Bill Welfare program. I think we need a three tier approach. 1. A buyout program for large grain growers. Meaning the government would reward farmers who sold off land in excess of 640 acres. This would make more land available to new folks wanting to farm. Smaller farms mean more people on the land which means we could regenerate our rural communities. 2. Provide debt forgiveness to large farms for infrastructure and equipment. We can't sink the banks or the farmers in trying to get them use other methods of farming. 3. Require sliding scale prices for commodities. Example the first 250,000 bushels of corn you can get $4, the next 250,000 to 500,00 bushels you can get $3 bushel, 500,000 to 750,00 bushels you get $2 bushels and over 750,000 bushels you get $1 bushels. This creates disincentives in getting large. It keeps family farms family sized. It reduces the boom bust we have seen with grains, milk, and every other commodity. It also makes folks look at low input practices like grazing.
My other other idea is reprint the USDA 1948 Yearbook "The Year of Grass." and make a required class of every graduate with a college of ag degree at a land grant university the study of grasslands and natural bios.

"My cows can get sick, but I don't understand these things, which can be troublesome. My crops are easy to solve because they have been in contact for a long time."

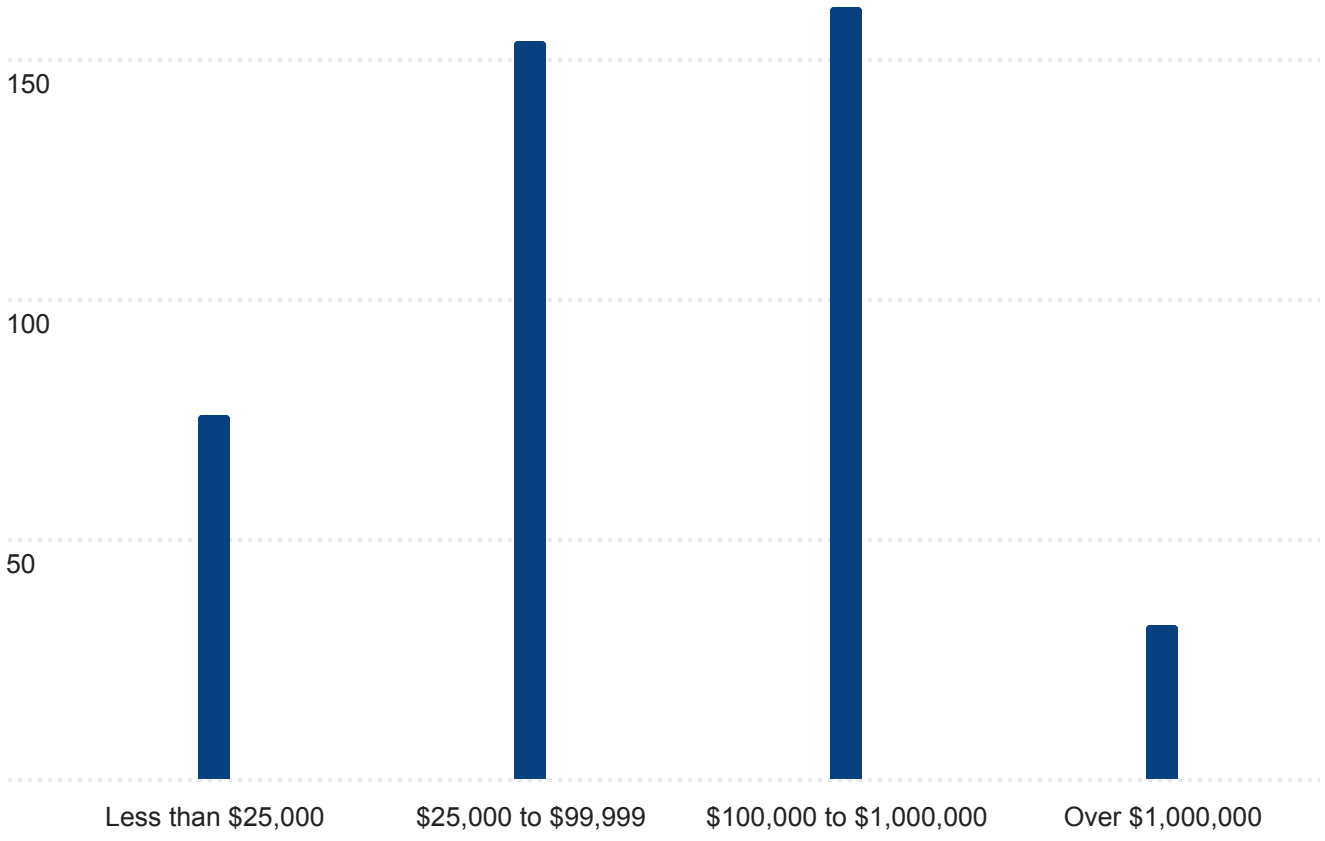
Q49 - What farming enterprise is your primary source of farm income?

Field	Choice Count
Grain crops	160
Livestock	229
Other crops	15
Forage crops	11
Total	415



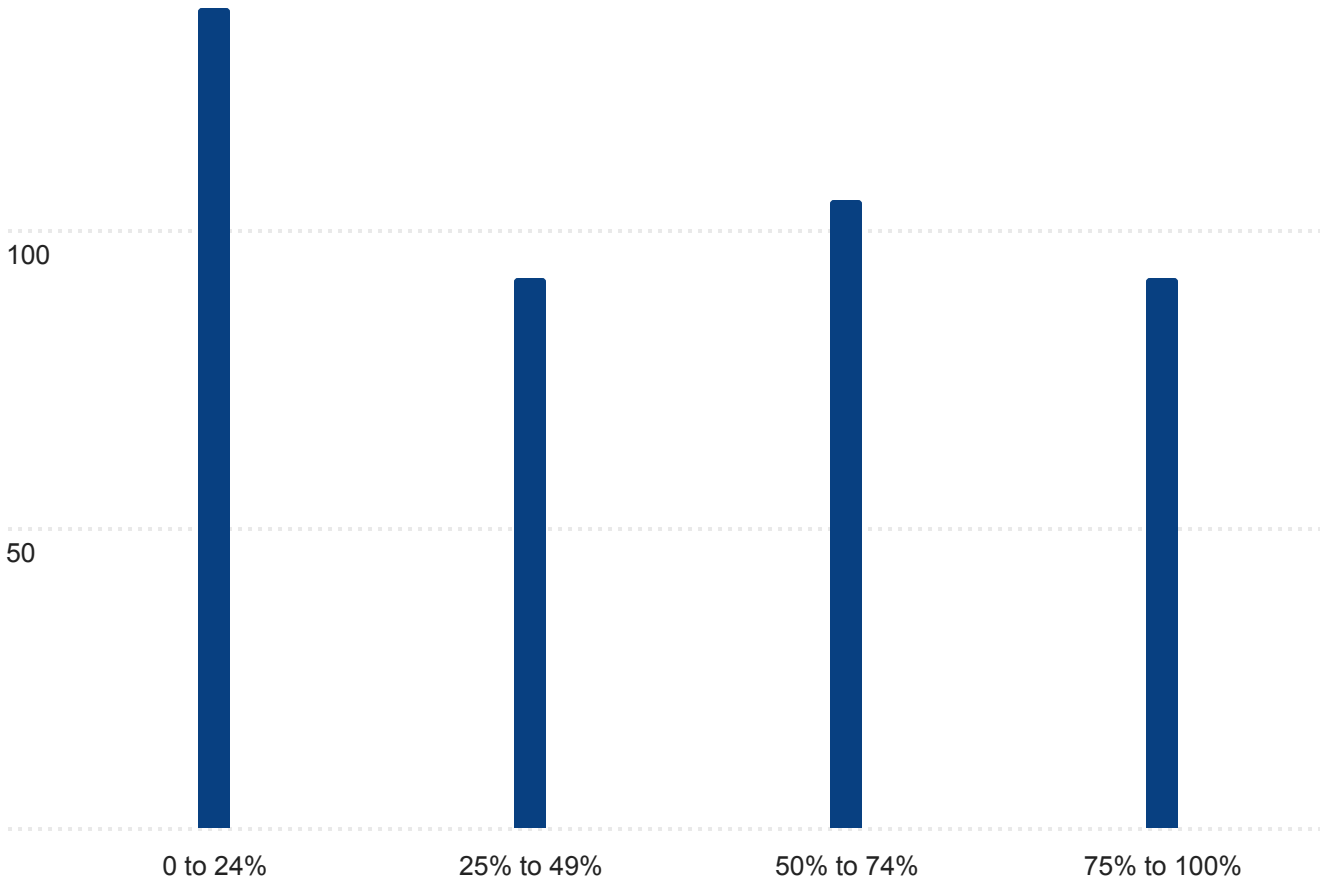
Q50 - In 2022, about how much was your gross farming income?

Field	Choice Count
Less than $25,000	76
$25,000 to $99,999	154
$100,000 to $1,000,000	161
Over $1,000,000	32
Total	423



Q51 - In 2022, about how much of your total household income was from off-farm sources?

Field	Choice Count
0 to 24%	137
25% to 49%	92
50% to 74%	105
75% to 100%	92
Total	426



Q52 - Did you hear about this survey from any of the following organizations? Did...

Field	Yes	No	Total
…Green Lands Blue Waters?	57	308	365
…Corn Growers Association?	52	311	363
…Soybean Growers Association?	50	312	362
…Cattlemen’s Association?	117	260	377
…GrassWorks?	57	310	367
…Sustainable Farming Association?	80	287	367
…Practical Farmers of Iowa?	58	307	365
…Land Stewardship Project?	58	308	366
…University Extension?	206	185	391
…some other organization? Please tell us :	192	139	331

Q53 - If you heard about it through an organization you participate in, how does that organization help you and in what way could it do better?

If you heard about it through an organization you participate in, how does that organization help you and in what way could it do better?

They have good cover crop information
more producer interaction with extension specialists. farm visits with experts.
cow/calf days - ideas on how to become a more efficient operation
participate in cow/calf days
cow/calf days address current relevant issues
more education on best practices and practical nutrition and applying in traditional operations
farmer conversations
alternative methods to corn & soybean only farms
local cattlemens. local coop.
education - doing good
information & marketing
interesting speakers
sfa
Helping my agricultural development
Improve soil health and increase grain yield and quality
Extremely satisfied with the green county land conservation services and I am an active member of the Farmers of the Sugar River watershed group.
They do good.
Helping my agricultural development
Helping my agricultural development
Local county organization that helps with education and overall support for farmers interested in soil healing farm practices. Some groups dont count poultry the way they could or should when it comes to pasture / grazing.

Q54 - Finally, just a few questions about you. Not including years growing up on a farm, for about how many years have you been farming?

Field	Min	Max	Mean	Standard Deviation	Variance	Responses	Sum
Finally, just a few questions about you. Not including years growing up on a farm, for about how many years have you been farming?	1.00	70.00	23.80	16.47	271.24	413	9829.00

Q55 - What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Field	Choice Count
High school diploma or less	57
Some college, but no degree	87
Associate degree	79
Bachelor’s degree	156
Master’s degree or more	54
Total	433

Q56 - Is this degree in Agriculture?

Field	Choice Count
Yes	171
No	115
Total	286

Q57 - If you have a college degree in a field other than agriculture, what is that field?

If you have a college degree in a field other than agriculture, what is that field?
Administration
nursing
wildlife mgmt
electrician
education
biology
construction pipeline + road
education
accounting
2 degrees: law enforcement & carpentry
criminal justice
tech school (farm mechanics)
diesel mechanic
biology
machist
biology, chemistry, neuroscience
business management
history
history
architectural drafting

Q58: What is your gender?

Field	Count
Male	17
Female	3
Total	20

Q59 - What is your age?

Field	Min	Max	Mean	Standard Deviation	Variance	Responses	Sum
What is your age?	15.00	89.00	48.79	15.18	230.51	421	20540.00

Q60 - Check all of the following that describe your race or ethnicity: - Selected Choice

Field	Choice Count
American Indian or Alaskan Native	12
Asian	4
Black or African American	5
Hispanic or Latino	2
Middle Eastern or North African	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1
White	386
Other: Please tell us:	15
Total	425