

# Summary of surveys in the report

Survey	# Pages	# Questions	Date opened	Date closed	Responses	# Complete responses
2016 Cover Crops for Soil Health Workshop Survey	1	6	8/5/2016	10/1/2016	45	45



1.

**Response counts for survey '2016 Cover Crops for Soil Health Workshop Survey'**

	Before filtering	After filtering
Partial responses (unique respondents)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Completed responses (unique respondents)	45 (45)	45 (45)

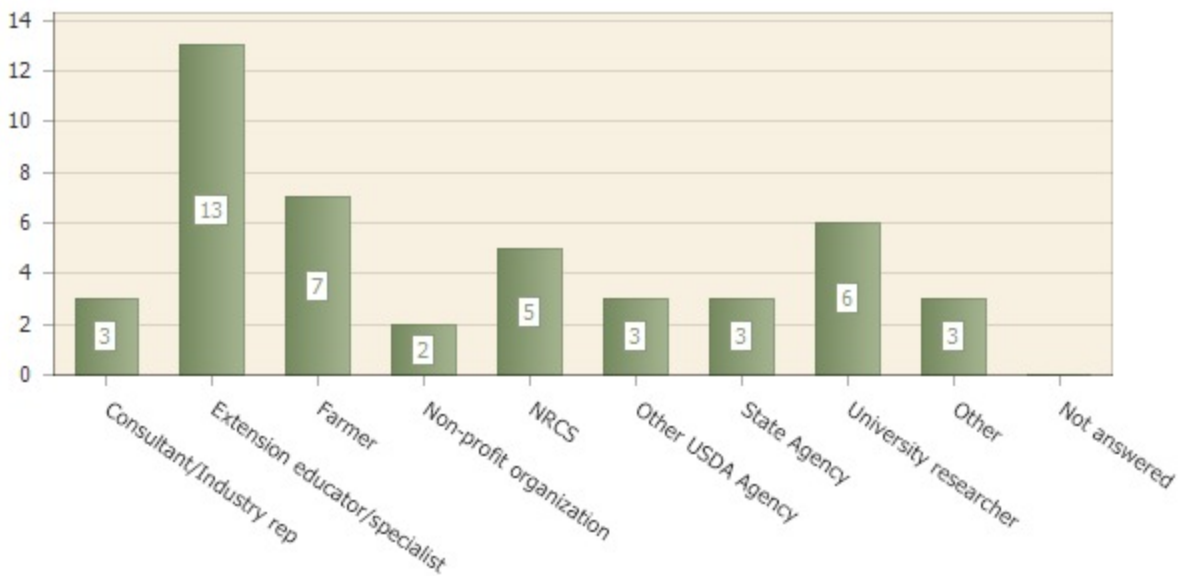
**1.1. P1Q1**

What is your primary profession?

Question type: Multiple choice

Number of responses: 45

Number of respondents: 45



Answer	Count	Percent answer
Consultant/Industry rep	3	6.7%
Extension educator/specialist	13	28.9%
Farmer	7	15.6%
Non-profit organization	2	4.4%
NRCS	5	11.1%
Other USDA Agency	3	6.7%
State Agency	3	6.7%
University researcher	6	13.3%
Other	3	6.7%
Not answered	0	0%



1.2. P1Q2

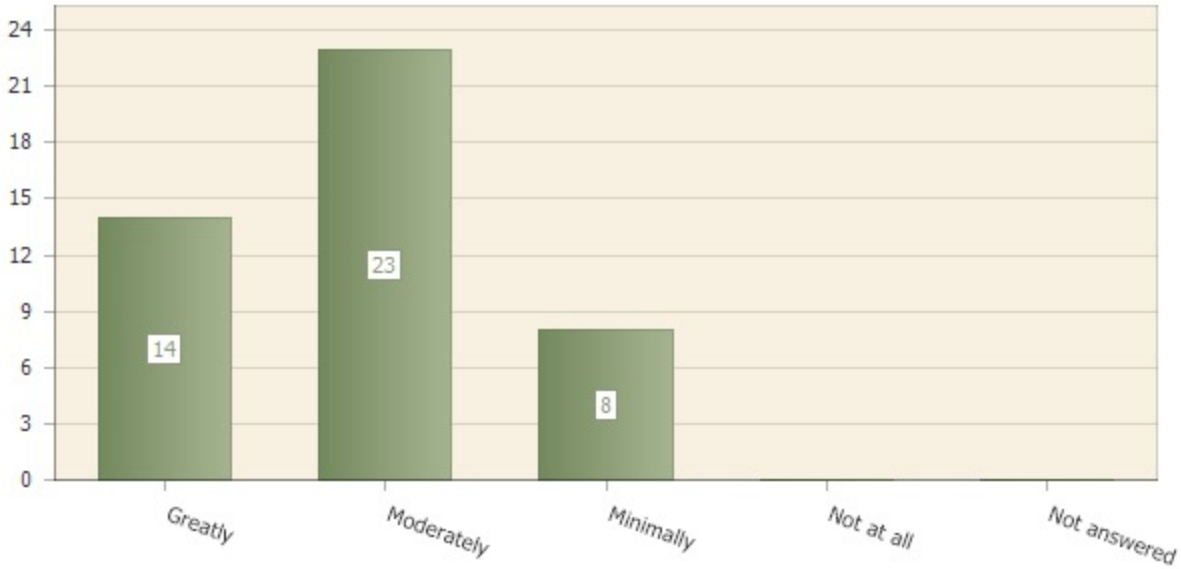
The 2016 Northeast SARE Cover Crops for Soil Health workshop improved my knowledge about:

Question type: Matrix & Multimatrix

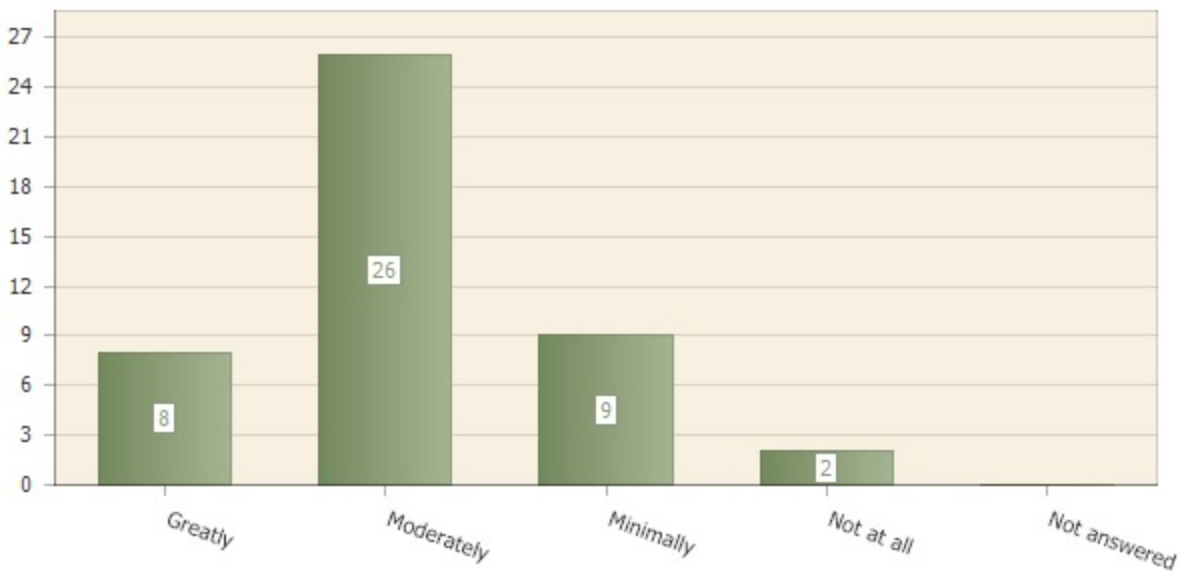
Number of responses: 45

Number of respondents: 45

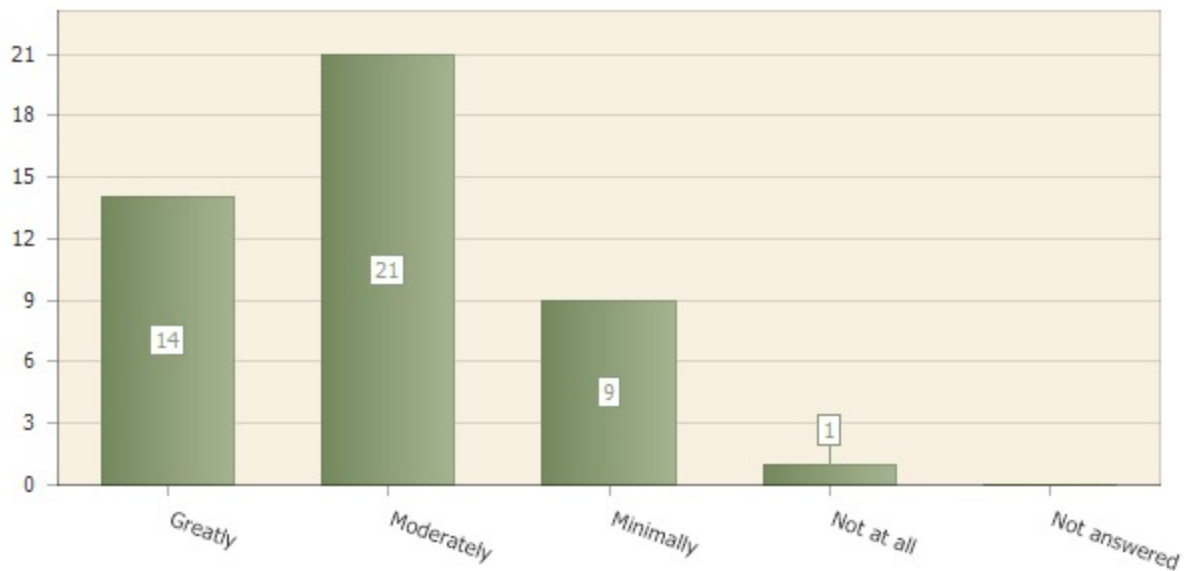
**Cover crop species and mixes**



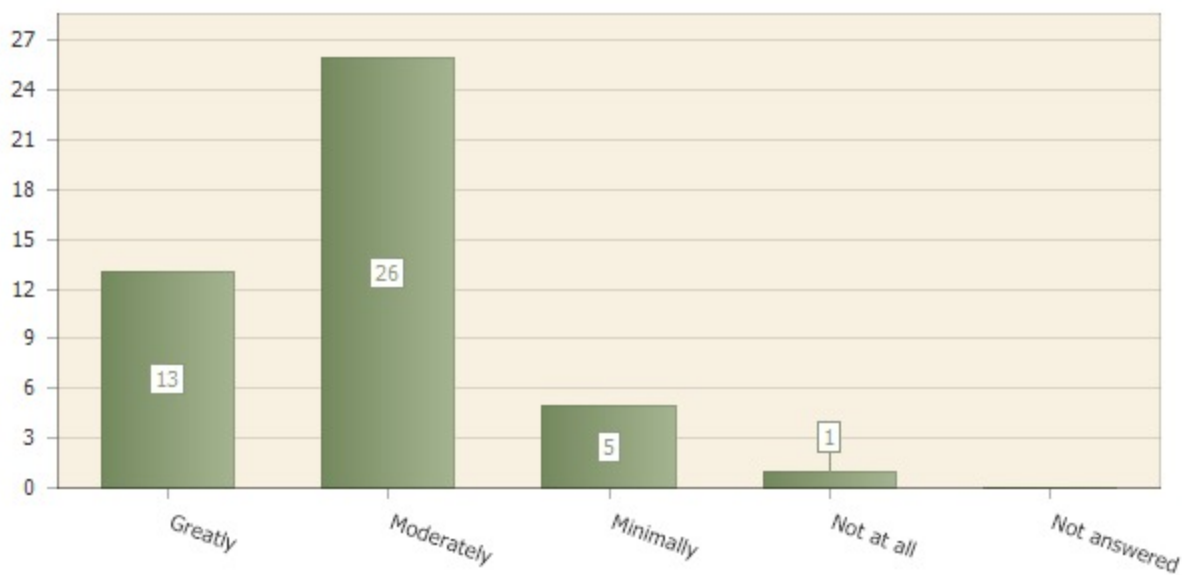
**Planting dates in different cropping systems**



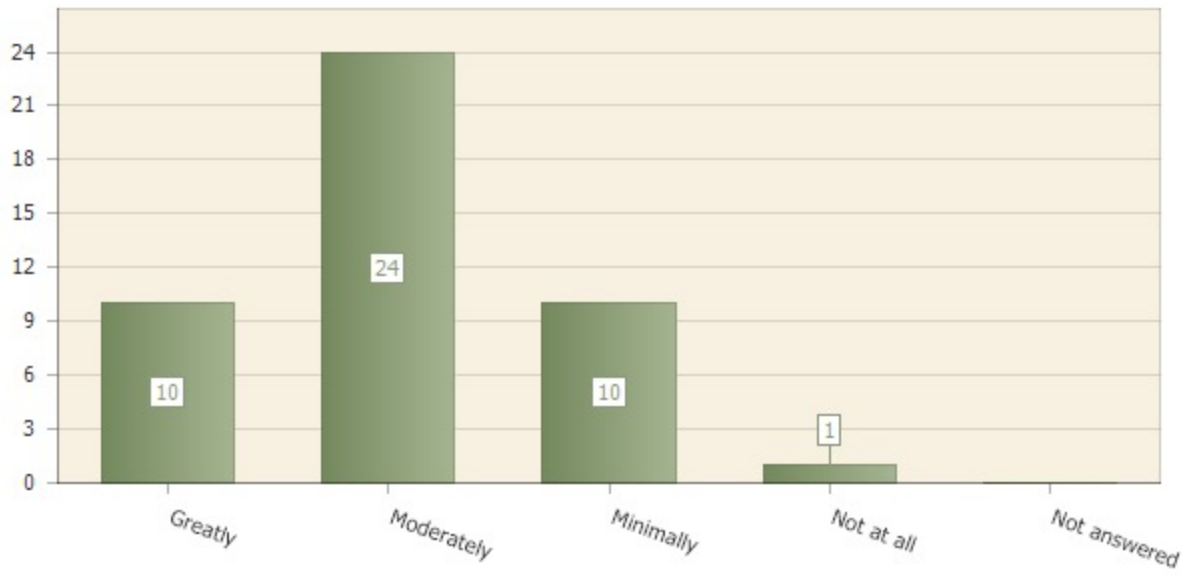
### Cover crop establishment methods



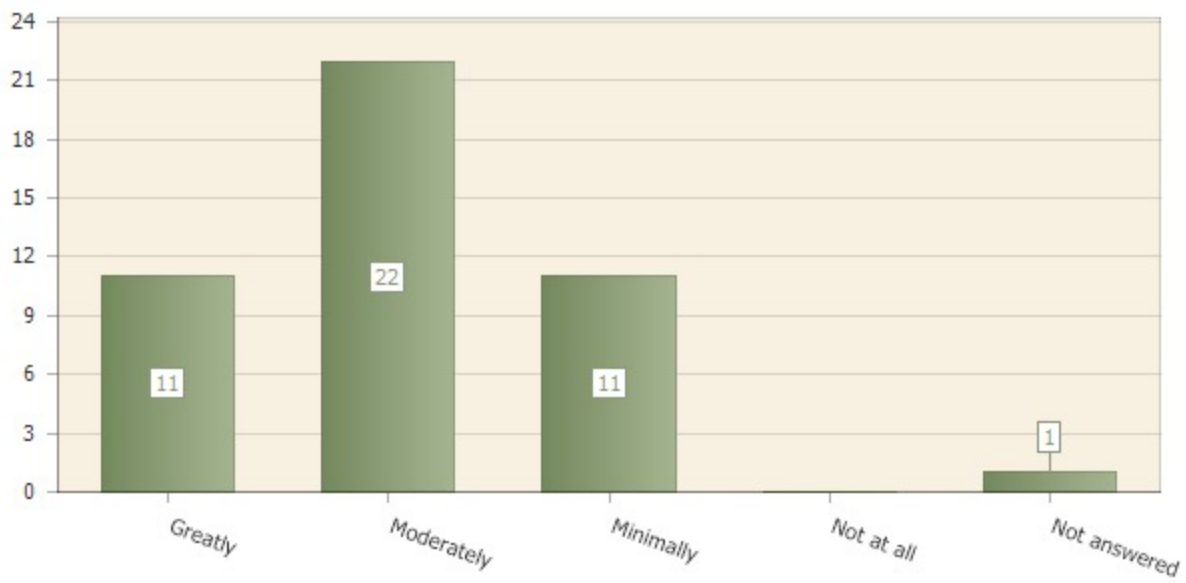
### Cover crop termination and cash crop planting methods



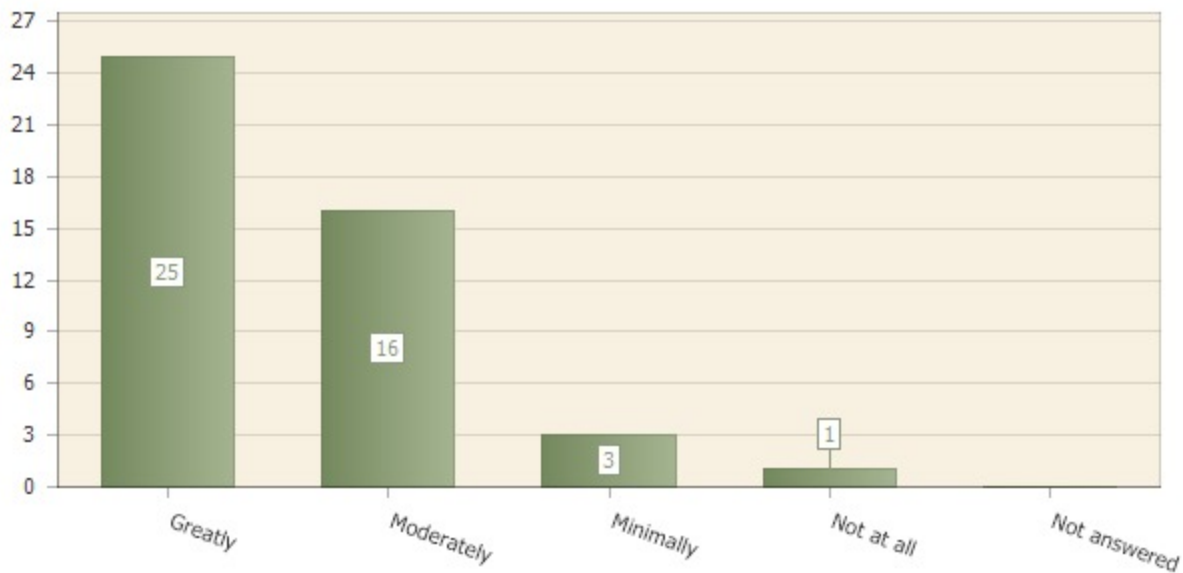
### The role of cover crops in nutrient management



### The role of cover crops for soil health improvement



## Equipment innovations for cover cropping



Matrix row	Not answered	Greatly	Moderately	Minimally	Not at all
Cover crop species and mixes	0 (0%)	14 (31.1%)	23 (51.1%)	8 (17.8%)	0 (0%)
Planting dates in different cropping systems	0 (0%)	8 (17.8%)	26 (57.8%)	9 (20.0%)	2 (4.4%)
Cover crop establishment methods	0 (0%)	14 (31.1%)	21 (46.7%)	9 (20.0%)	1 (2.2%)
Cover crop termination and cash crop planting methods	0 (0%)	13 (28.9%)	26 (57.8%)	5 (11.1%)	1 (2.2%)
The role of cover crops in nutrient management	0 (0%)	10 (22.2%)	24 (53.3%)	10 (22.2%)	1 (2.2%)
The role of cover crops for soil health improvement	1 (2.2%)	11 (24.4%)	22 (48.9%)	11 (24.4%)	0 (0%)
Equipment innovations for cover cropping	0 (0%)	25 (55.6%)	16 (35.6%)	3 (6.7%)	1 (2.2%)

### Comments

Date	Respondent	Answer
8/11/2016	Anonymous	I found it very informative and a great networkign opportunity.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	Quotes from different speakers greatly improved my understanding of the role of cover crops in soil health improvement. I have a better understanding about the amount of dry matter needed to raise and maintain soil OM %. I have a renewed sense of devotion to cover cropping after the meeting - I learned how take a systems approach to agriculture and, more importantly, learned strategies for incorporating cover crops in a production system where they have previously not been utilized.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	The event was one of a kind and well received by all participants
8/11/2016	Anonymous	Very Good field program at Beltsville ARS station
8/11/2016	Anonymous	I learned a lot, although it felt like it was geared towards a warmer climate than the one I live in.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	I have been specializing in cover crops for several years, if not - I would have gained a whole wealth of information. Overall, the workshop was very well put together and I found it very valuable.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	Excellent program! A farmer/educator for decades, but great take-away information and always learn more. Just finished a successful cover crop program in NY with Paul Salon and NY team, great interest especially in a drought year in NE.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	This is my area of research, so i am pretty active in investigating these questions.
8/15/2016	Anonymous	I am sorry, your workshop is blending in with the others I have been to recently. It might have been better to send this survey out earlier.
8/30/2016	Anonymous	I was a presenter and was very knowledgeable about these subjects before the meeting.
9/2/2016	Anonymous	The conference, interaction and education experience was excellent.



### 1.3. P1Q3

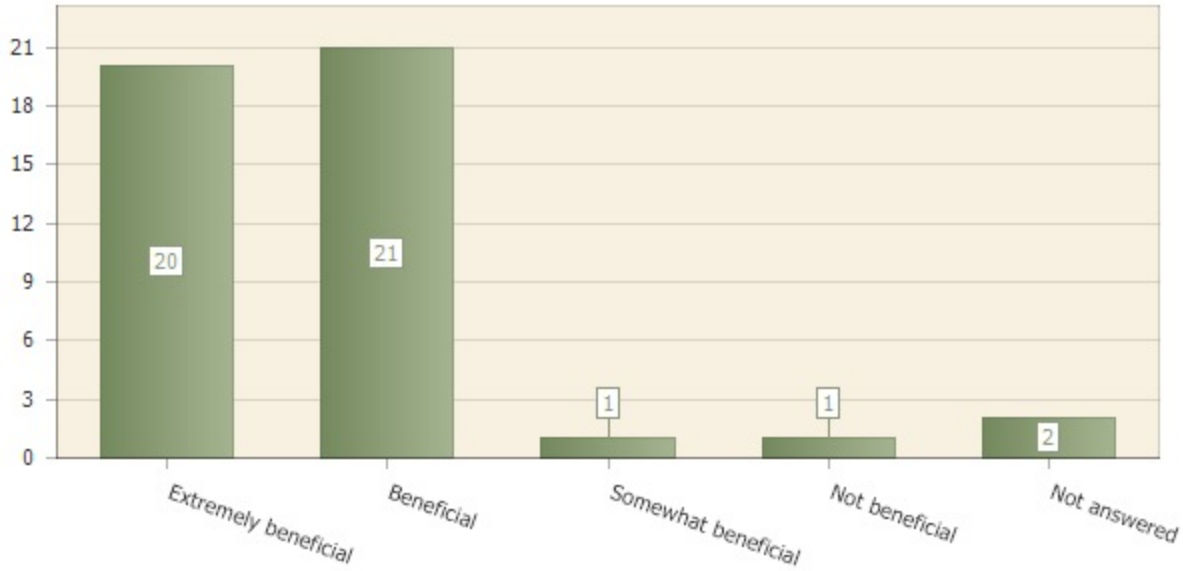
How beneficial to your learning were each of the following aspects of the workshop?

Question type: Matrix & Multimatrix

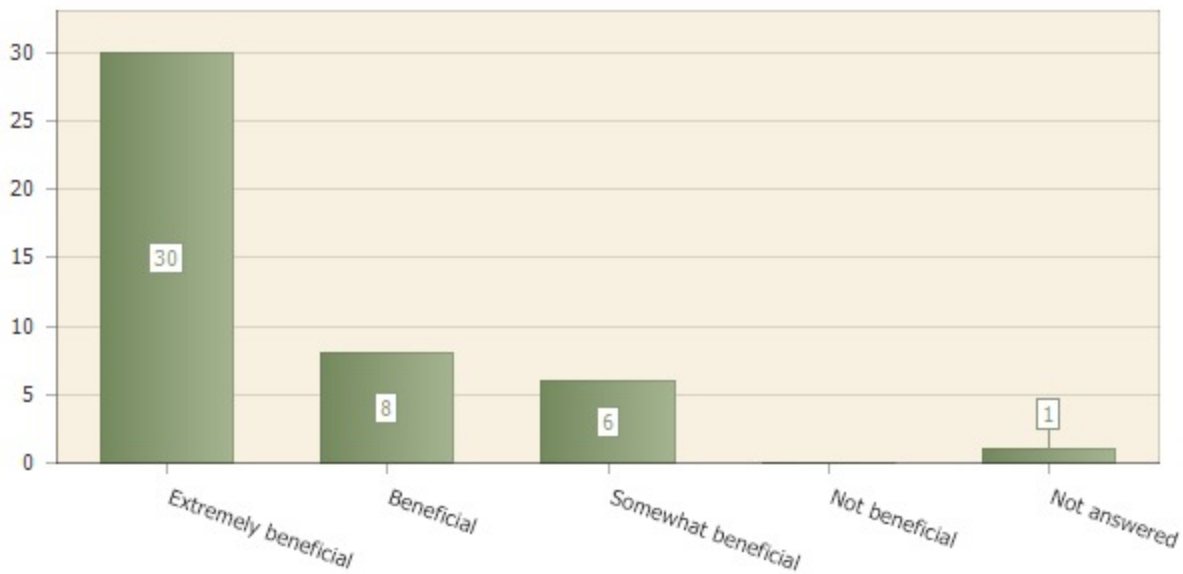
Number of responses: 45

Number of respondents: 45

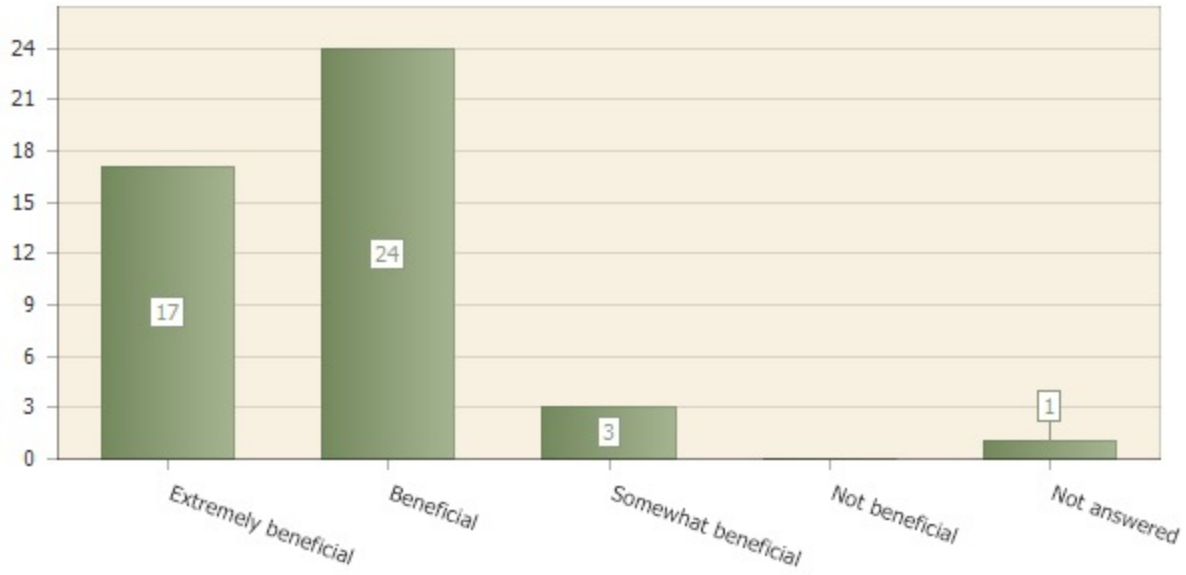
#### Sessions with presentations by cover crops specialists



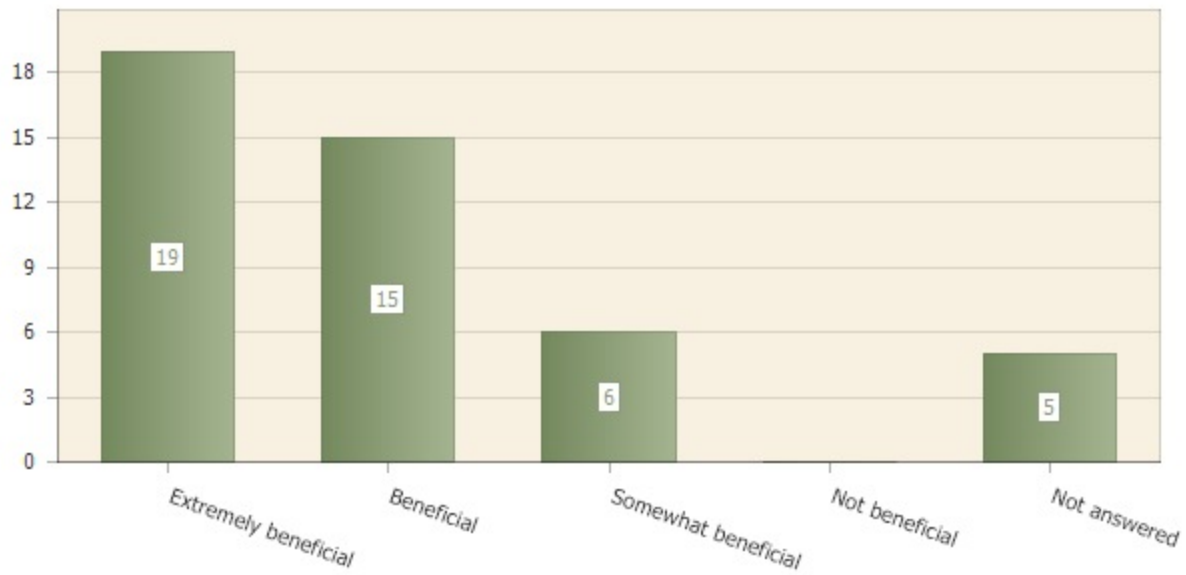
#### Tour at USDA ARS Beltsville Research Center



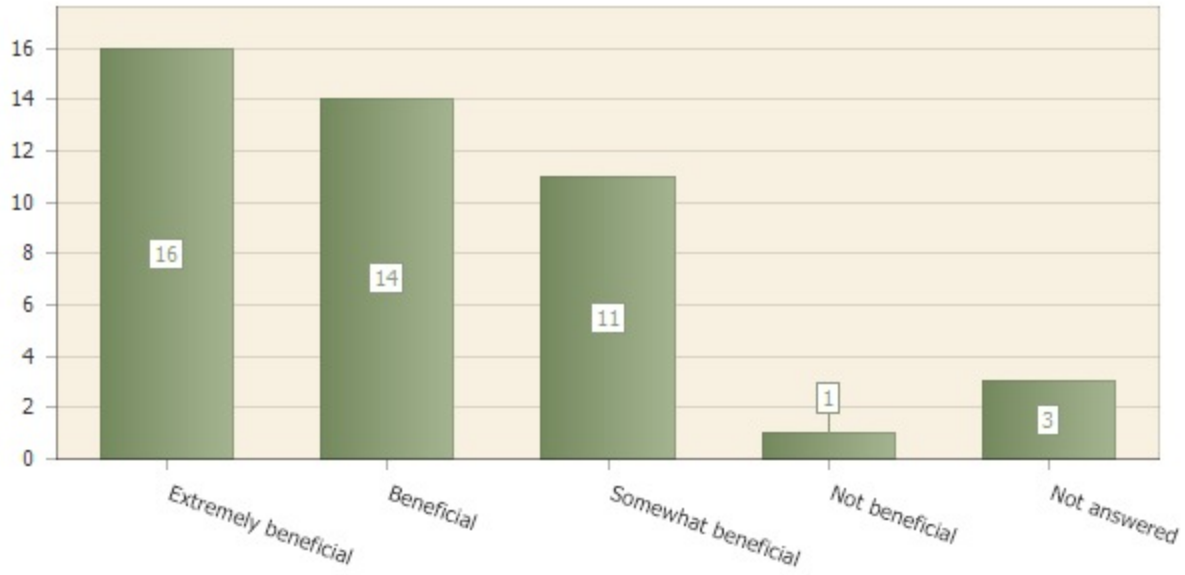
### Farmer panel discussion



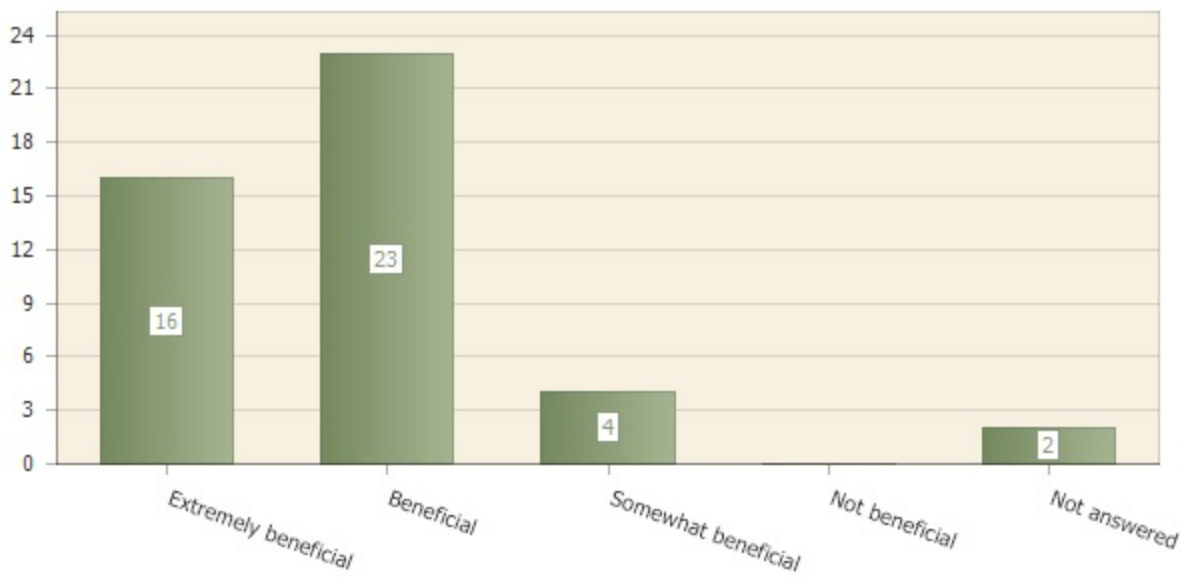
### Attending the workshop as part of a state team of other interested individuals



### Team planning session at end of workshop



### Informal networking and discussion



Matrix row	Not answered	Extremely beneficial	Beneficial	Somewhat beneficial	Not beneficial
Sessions with presentations by cover crops specialists	2 (4.4%)	20 (44.4%)	21 (46.7%)	1 (2.2%)	1 (2.2%)
Tour at USDA ARS Beltsville Research Center	1 (2.2%)	30 (66.7%)	8 (17.8%)	6 (13.3%)	0 (0%)
Farmer panel discussion	1 (2.2%)	17 (37.8%)	24 (53.3%)	3 (6.7%)	0 (0%)
Attending the workshop as part of a state team of other interested individuals	5 (11.1%)	19 (42.2%)	15 (33.3%)	6 (13.3%)	0 (0%)
Team planning session at end of workshop	3 (6.7%)	16 (35.6%)	14 (31.1%)	11 (24.4%)	1 (2.2%)
Informal networking and discussion	2 (4.4%)	16 (35.6%)	23 (51.1%)	4 (8.9%)	0 (0%)

### Comments

Date	Respondent	Answer
8/11/2016	Anonymous	I was inspired by the resulting field conditions following the tillage radish in one of the fields at the Beltsville Research Center. We are in the process of trying to adjust field conditions (namely pH) so that we can use the tillage radish in our cropping system. I did not find the other stops on the Beltsville tour to be particularly pertinent, but they were interesting. I hope that this conference will be held next year - I am looking forward to it! Although we learned a lot from this conference, it was difficult to relate some of the information because we are set in a perennial cropping system. It would be great to have some speakers who have worked to incorporate cover crops with perennial cash crops. Otherwise, we really enjoyed ourselves and thank you for putting the conference together so well.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	The tour of Beltsville Ag Experiment station was phenomenal! More roundtable discussions and project planning would have been helpful.... reading research results ahead of time then sitting with Steve Mirsky at a table to plan a project in our own state would have helped me more.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	I would like to see a before workshop networking session so that we can collaborate further with states closer to us to further improve how we get conservation on the ground using covers.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	Take the Beltsville tour in the morning. The rush hour bus ride back to the hotel was horrible.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	Conference presentations and diversity of presenters was excellent. NY team walked away with a successful work plan and the deliverables are being implemented and developed for upcoming programs
9/2/2016	Anonymous	Very good interaction, USDA tour and presentations.

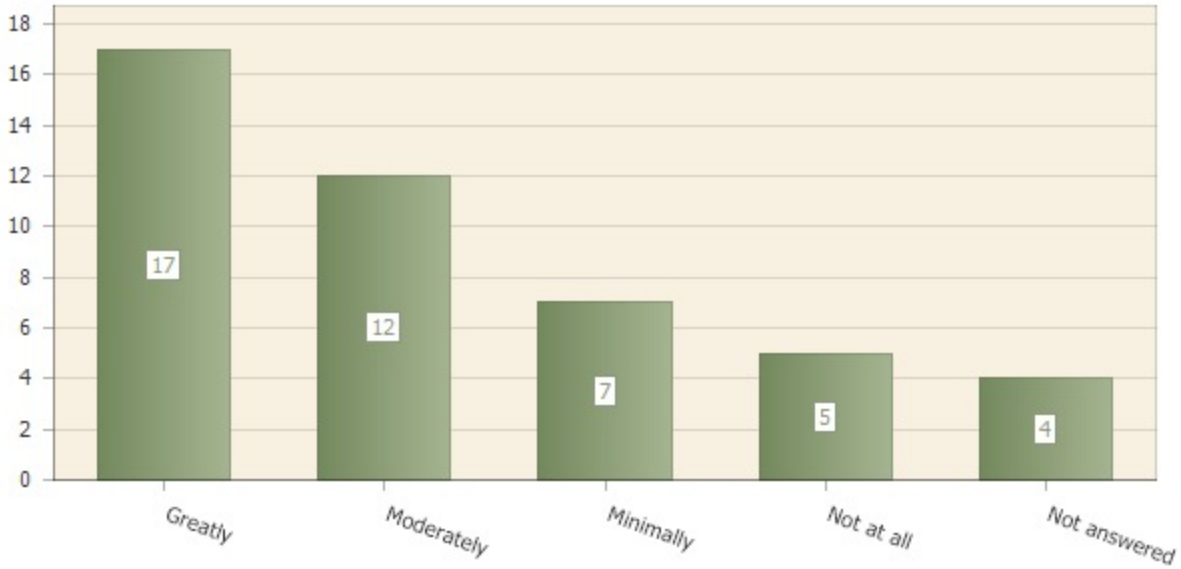
**1.4. P1Q4**

My interest and motivation to learn were enhanced by the opportunity to obtain post-workshop funding for a cover crops project in my state:

Question type: Multiple choice

Number of responses: 42

Number of respondents: 45



Answer	Count	Percent answer
Greatly	17	37.8%
Moderately	12	26.7%
Minimally	7	15.6%
Not at all	5	11.1%
Not answered	4	8.9%

**Comments**

Date	Respondent	Answer
8/11/2016	Anonymous	The opportunity to obtain additional funding to supplement our existing grant allowed me consider more soil health parameters than we had originally planned on. Ultimately, we will be able to make more specific recommendations thanks to this funding. Also, the extra funding ensures that I will be able to continue this work for the foreseeable future and I am very thankful for this.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	I learned about some innovative methodologies that I will use in educating farmers and students. In fact I with the help from NRCS-MA organized a no-till/cover crop corn system for dairy farmers on July 20. We had a panel of 4 dairy farmers who already transitioned to no-till/cover crop system to answer any concerns that some farmers may have to move away from conventional corn production.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	Funding is minimal for a statewide initiative. Covering the cost of attending the workshop was more motivation than future funds.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	The cost sharing and SARE funding certainly solidified participation in the conference and created some new relationships for shared programing in NYS
8/15/2016	Anonymous	n/a
8/30/2016	Anonymous	Applied for a NE SARE Research and Education grant with the Northeast Cover Crop Council
9/2/2016	Anonymous	Yes, cover crop projects that are funded to expand field day opportunities and further interaction will improve the overall experience and outreach efforts.

### 1.5. P1Q5

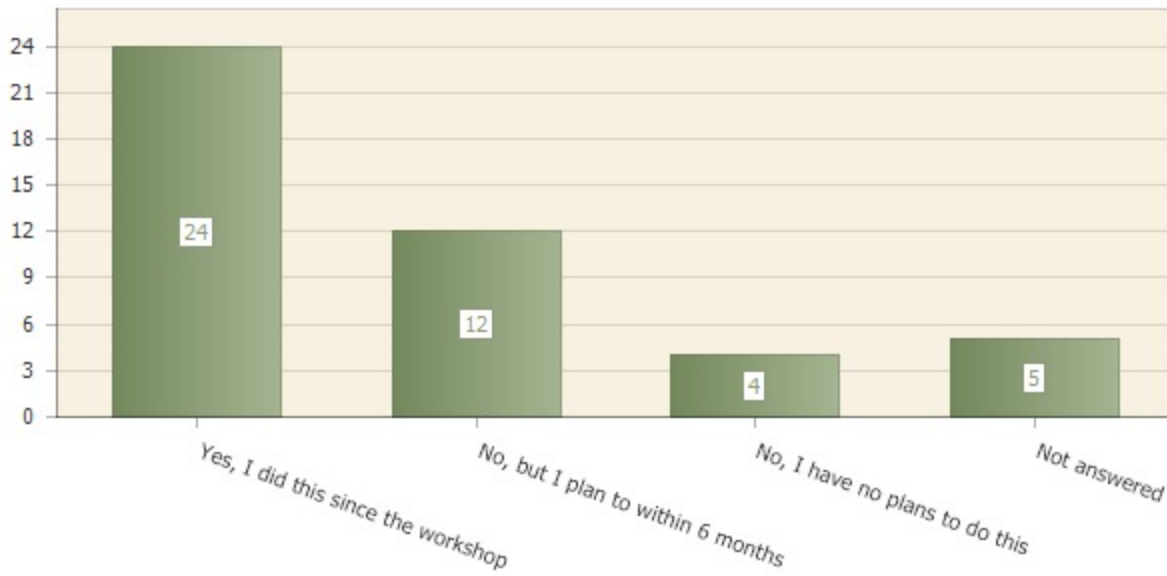
As a result of participating in the 2016 Cover Crops for Soil Health workshop, have you DONE (if you're a farmer) or RECOMMENDED to Farmers (if you're a service provider) any of the actions listed below?

Question type: Matrix & Multimatrix

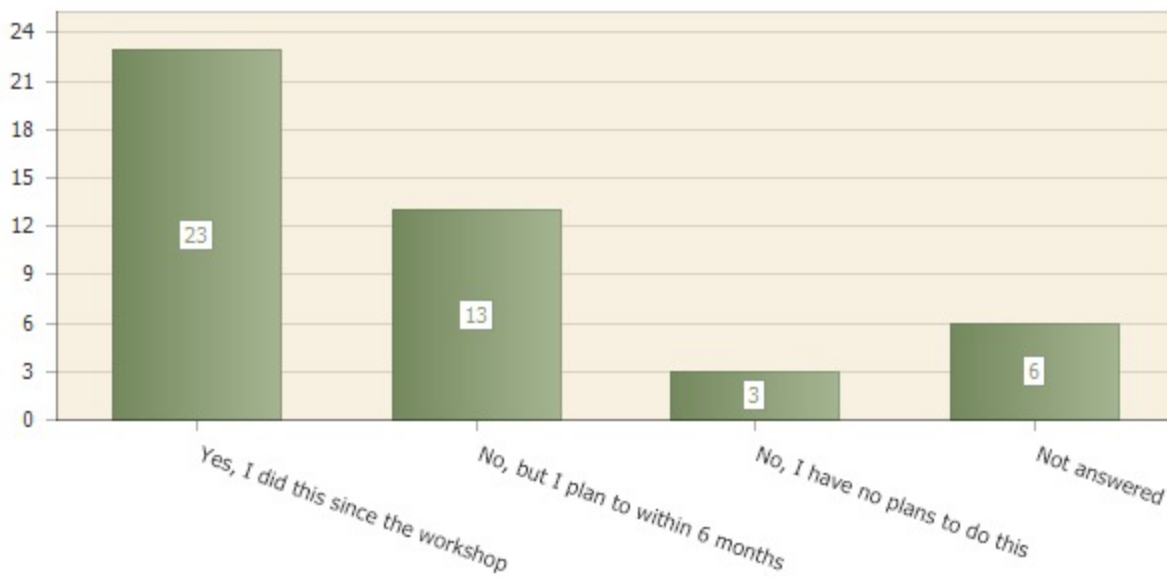
Number of responses: 42

Number of respondents: 45

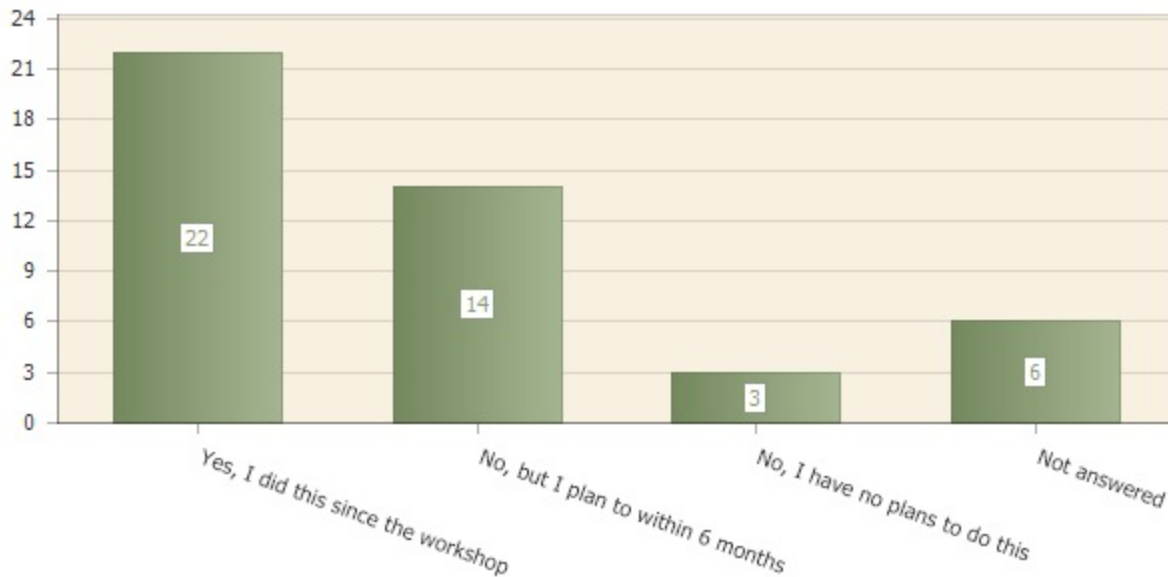
#### Plant a new cover crop species or mix



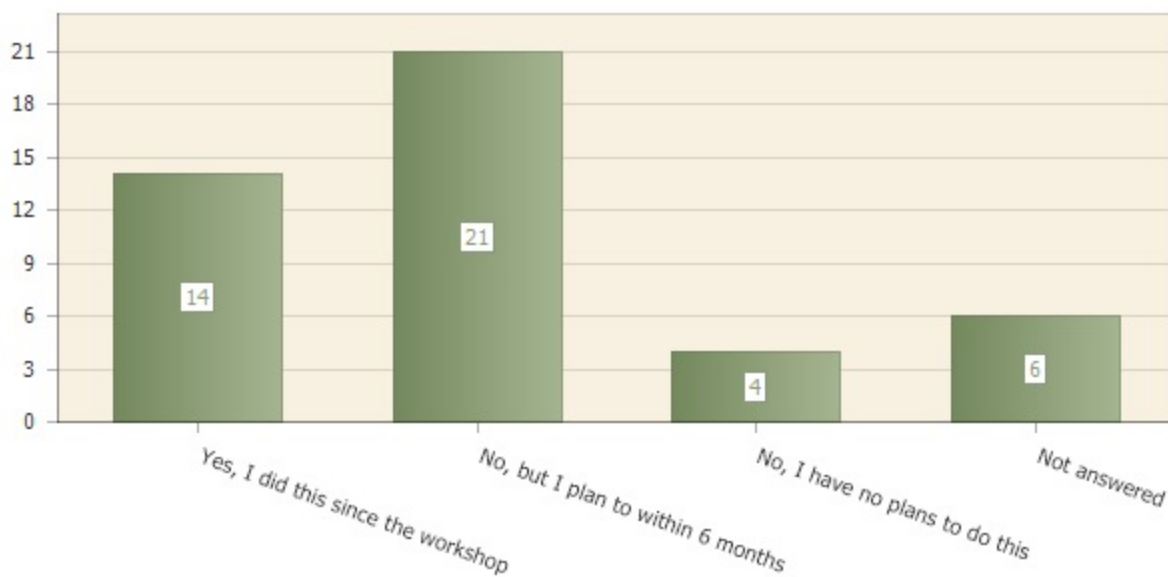
#### Plant a cover crop in a new crop or field



**Use a new cover crop establishment technique (e.g. timing, method, equipment)**



**Use a new cover crop termination technique (e.g. timing, method, equipment)**





Matrix row	Not answered	Yes, I did this since the workshop	No, but I plan to within 6 months	No, I have no plans to do this
Plant a new cover crop species or mix	5 (11.1%)	24 (53.3%)	12 (26.7%)	4 (8.9%)
Plant a cover crop in a new crop or field	6 (13.3%)	23 (51.1%)	13 (28.9%)	3 (6.7%)
Use a new cover crop establishment technique (e.g. timing, method, equipment)	6 (13.3%)	22 (48.9%)	14 (31.1%)	3 (6.7%)
Use a new cover crop termination technique (e.g. timing, method, equipment)	6 (13.3%)	14 (31.1%)	21 (46.7%)	4 (8.9%)

### Comments

Date	Respondent	Answer
8/11/2016	Anonymous	As a student conducting research for the university, I have done each of these things in my demonstration plots. As a result of collaborations at the meeting, I was able to identify a wider range of potential cover crop species that might be successful despite our difficulties with low pH, low fertility, dry ground, and compaction. We have experimented with different types of seeding methods and equipment to get the best establishment out of various seed types. I speak weekly with the grower who also attended the conference and he intends to try a new cover crop in his rotation next year based on findings from my work this summer. We both returned with new excitement and he intends to take large amounts of acreage out of production this year so that he can incorporate cover crops.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	Myself and my graduate students presented at a organic farm (NOFA)and discussed all of the topics above.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	Established field trials on conventional silage and organic vegetable farms, including intercropping covers with cash crops.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	I did a summer cover crop trial in a high tunnel using sunn hemp. I also farm 5 acres of pumpkins and I rolled wheat and no till planted for the first time this year after presentations and discussions at the meeting. I used a roller crimper to roll down the crop at milk stage and sprayed with roundup.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	collaborated with NRCS USDA Cornell Cooperative Extension and NOFA-NY on a 3 day cover crop seminar at Empire Farm Days this week and planning continuing education workshops for winter 2017
8/12/2016	Anonymous	Like farmers feel more confident about doing something after they see it work, I feel more comfortable recommending something after seeing it work and farmers reporting how they made it work for them.
8/13/2016	Anonymous	The drought conditions have made farmers look at ways to try to use cover or summer seeded crops not normally done or used as a hopeful feed source this year
8/15/2016	Anonymous	n/a
8/31/2016	Anonymous	As an educator I was already making these types of recommendations before the workshop.
9/2/2016	Anonymous	Continuing looking at cover crop mixes, pricing and where they fit best in rotation. Continuing to interact with farmers discussing cover crop s in rotation and benefits including soil health.

## 1.6. P1Q6

Have there been any additional beneficial outcomes for you as a result of the workshop, e.g. new collaborations, contacts, information sources, projects, etc.?

Question type: Open ended

Number of responses: 22

Number of respondents: 45

Not answered: 23

Date	Respondent	Answer
8/11/2016	Anonymous	Very helpful to meet others throughout the northeast, to bring together farmers, researchers, NRCS, and Extension to create more of a community and network. The meeting overall was excellent and I think a lot of good will come of it.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	Collaborating with Conservation Districts in the state to look at new methods for CC establishment.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	There have not been any measurable outcomes but I can assure you that my enthusiasm for cover cropping leads me to ask new and exciting questions each day. I thank the organizers for helping me to confirm that this aspect of agriculture and crop management is well worth spending the rest of my life studying.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	Yes, Seedway is donating seed for the covercrop trials in our state and even more farmers have decided to plant our trial than we had anticipated! The industry, NRCS, Extension, farmer teams were a great idea! Thanks.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	I believe as an outcome of the workshop I have a closer relationship with NOFA, generated a factsheet with collaboration from UMaine and NRCS, and I'm in the preliminary process of organizing a multi-state event to promote no-till/cover crop system.
8/11/2016	Anonymous	Networking and new contacts
8/11/2016	Anonymous	Yes, the collaborations and networking were great, and the resources were extremely helpful.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	Yes. New collaborations, contacts, etc. I found this to be one of the most beneficial items I took from this workshop. We established quite a network here in beautiful CT, and we have been talking almost weekly about how we are going to improve to use of covers, especially on small scale, organic farms and dairies.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	I met a local grain farmer and plan to work with him in the future. I spoke with the Beltsville farm manager about no till transplanter and have purchase one since and also spoke to him about the vetch/tomato system. We plan to replicate the vetch/tomato bed system used at Beltsville with a local farmer, but may use broccoli instead. I believe small vegetable farmers that use organic practices could really benefit from these types of systems for weed suppression and nitrogen fixation.
8/12/2016	Anonymous	See above comments. Thank you again for the conference opportunity!
8/12/2016	Anonymous	Renewed focus on the cover crops as a soil nutrient and soil health resource.
8/13/2016	Anonymous	Have Made acquaintance with a Canadian producer who would be willing to be part of the NECCC ! He is focused on cover crops and soil health !
8/15/2016	Anonymous	NRCS grant funding for cover crop seeds
8/17/2016	Anonymous	New opportunities to work with people outside of my state, very beneficial.
8/19/2016	Anonymous	Yes, contacts and collaboration. Helping growers understand better the benefits of cover crops.
8/30/2016	Anonymous	We held a cover crop twilight at a demonstration site here in July.

8/30/2016	Anonymous	n/a
8/31/2016	Anonymous	New contacts
8/31/2016	Anonymous	I've built some great working relationships with my team members, and am excited about our state project that came out of the the workshop.
9/2/2016	Anonymous	Collaborations have expanded. Contacts made and networking from the conference were very beneficial.
9/6/2016	Anonymous	This is probably the wrong place to comment on this but I have yet to be reimbursed for my travel and honorarium. I expect my participation in this project to be a volunteer but I don't expect it to cost me in excess of \$500. I think the program was good and beneficial but the administration of the financial end dampers my enthusiasm.
9/12/2016	Anonymous	Yes, hopefully collaboration with/support from rodale

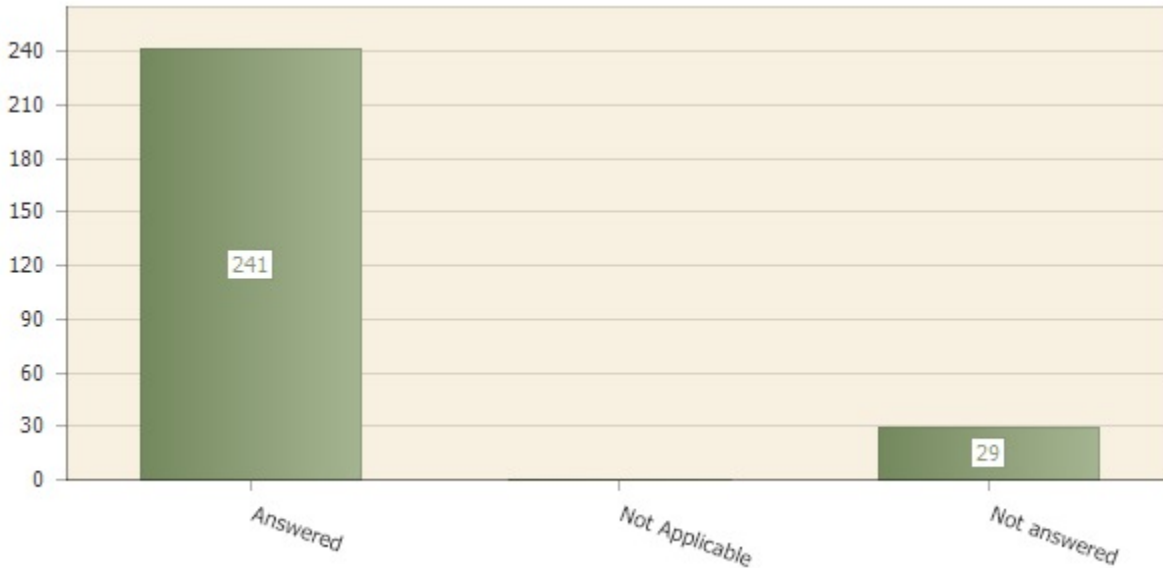
2.

**Response counts for survey '2016 Cover Crops for Soil Health Workshop Survey'**

	Before filtering	After filtering
Partial responses (unique respondents)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Completed responses (unique respondents)	45 (45)	45 (45)

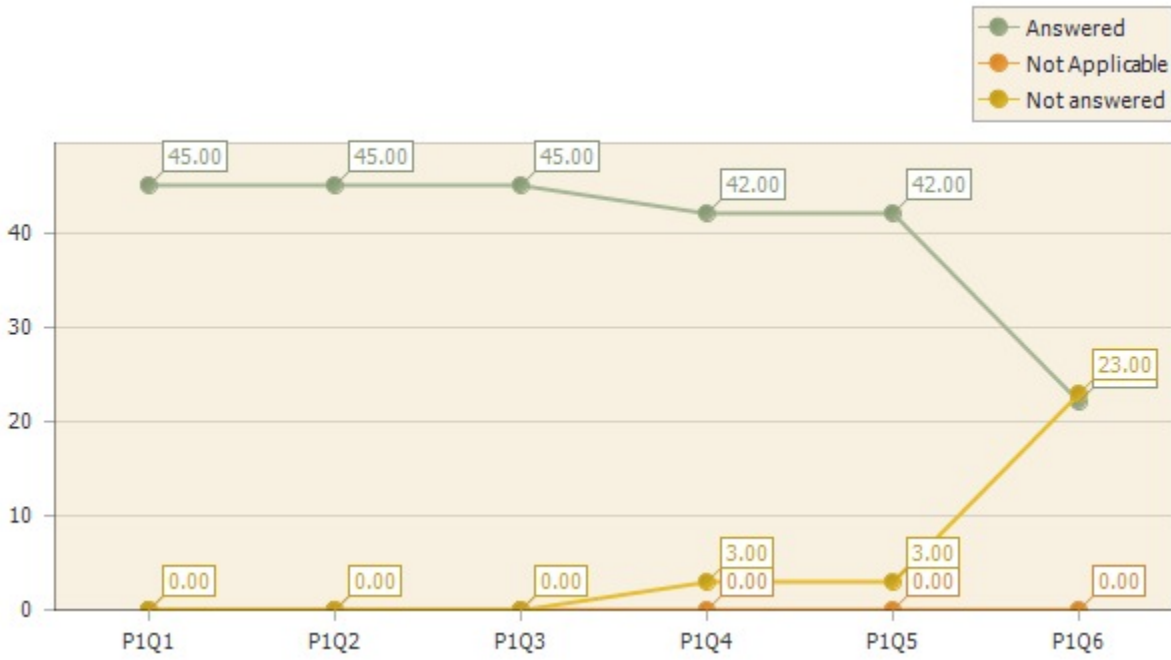
**2016 Cover Crops for Soil Health Workshop Survey**

**Overall statistics**



	Question count
Answered	241
Not Applicable	0
Not answered	29

**Status per question**



Question	Answered	Not Applicable	Not answered
P1Q1 – What is your primary profession?	45	0	0
P1Q2 – The 2016 Northeast SARE Cover Crops for Soil Heal...	45	0	0
P1Q3 – How beneficial to your learning were each of the ...	45	0	0
P1Q4 – My interest and motivation to learn were enhanced...	42	0	3
P1Q5 – As a result of participating in the 2016 Cover Cr...	42	0	3
P1Q6 – Have there been any additional beneficial outcome...	22	0	23