

Post-collaboration Survey

5 responses

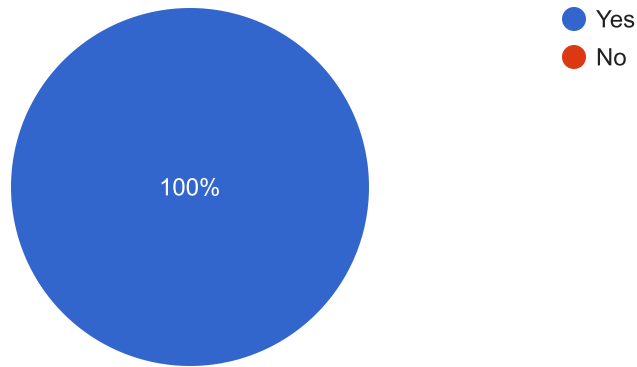
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Consent Statement

Did the Soil Health Plan you received meet your expectations?

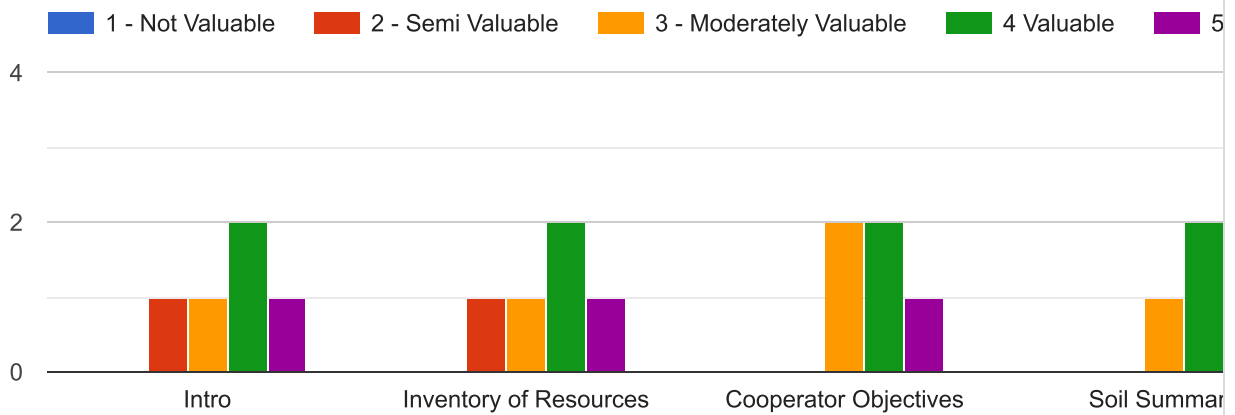
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5 responses



On a scale of 1-5, how valuable are these components of the Soil Health Plan you received for your operation

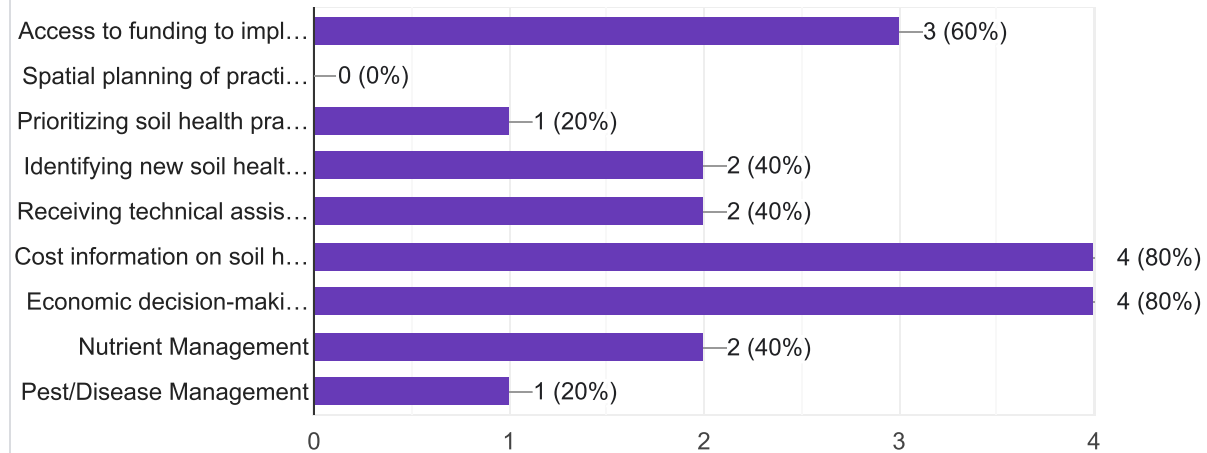
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The plan should have additional information on



5 responses



How would implementing the proposed practices in your soil health plan benefit your operation?

5 responses

I think all these practices would help us improve our soil health metrics, reduce disease/pest pressure, and make our trees healthier and more productive because the soil is healthier and more productive.

All steps to soil health improvement are positive steps for the farm/ranch

We already have plans to plant cover crops (red clover, white clover and perennial peanut) in our top field, which has the most soil erosion. This will help prevent the washing of topsoil down the mountain, and it will better maintain the health of our coffee trees in that area.

Create more space for beneficial insect habitat and to minimize the outside inputs we need to use to both manage the grass but also for fertilizing the fruit trees. Hopefully it would increase our soil carbon content also.

I didn't learn anything that I was not already aware of and was my current practices



What barriers might keep you from implementing soil health practices?

5 responses

Time and resources usually, we definitely do a lot of these things without any additional funding but it helps us when there is. For example, we'd love to apply bio char to our orchards regardless of funding, but we would apply at a higher rate if we had funding to help offset the costs. Same thing with things like cover cropping.

silvopasture is not a practical in all pasture locations

Cost and lack of staffing. As perennial peanut seed is no longer available in Hawaii, planting it requires harvesting stolons -- in addition to all of the other steps.

Financial and time management will be what could prevent implementation

The major problem is that landowners expect you to pay large sums of rent and force farmers to continually using their land year round

What additional assistance would help you to implement the soil health practices in your plan?

5 responses

Cost-share funding through NRCS. We've had a hard time working with our field office to do the EQIP program because they said we don't have the resource concerns they need to qualify us. So they funneled us into the CSP program which has been good, but not quite as helpful as EQIP could be.

external resources that can help implement the practices suggested

Funding.

Funding for implementation and labor

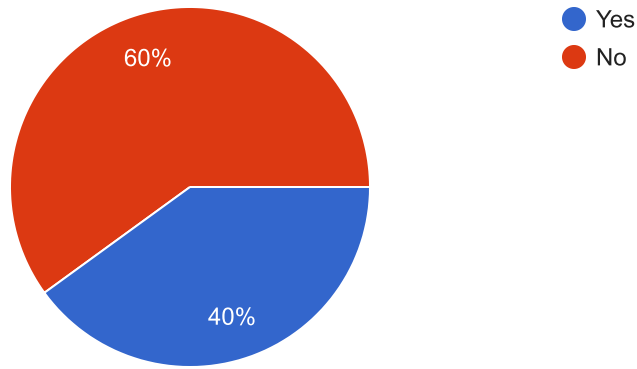
Farms have lots of problems with soil health we do not think is the low hanging fruit to make improvements on our farm



Has your operation received technical or financial assistance from NRCS in the last 5 years?



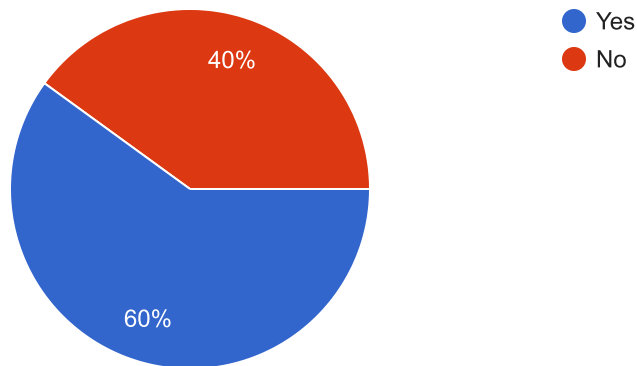
5 responses



Are you interested in receiving financial assistance from NRCS to fund the soil health practices in your plan?



5 responses



How could this document be adapted to provide more use? What's missing?

4 responses

I think keeping it to the length is good because it's not overwhelming. The one thing that could use a little more explanation is how and why the different metrics in soil health testing from UH correlate to soil health. Like what does it mean when TOC is different than hot water extractable C? What are those specific enzymes being tested? How/why do those correlate to soil health?

Those were some questions I had that Louise explained well in our call but could also be expanded on in the document.

listed above in the additional items check boxes

It would be great to get more specifics on the recommendations. For example, our plan suggested a "grassed waterway." It would be great to get recommendations of the different grass varieties that would be great for this purpose, tailored to our soil type and climatic conditions. (Note: The exit interview we did with Oahu RC&D offered more specific details like this, but it would be terrific to have those details in the report.)

Another example: We just wrapped up a project with a soil scientist that tested three nitrogen-fixing cover crops in our field for more than a year, so we already know which cover-crop seeds to buy. It would be great to get that level of detail for all of the different recommendations.

Interesting question, you don't know what you don't know 👍

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