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Canadian Cattle Producer Perspectives on Grassland Conservation Initiatives

Informing the Central Grasslands Roadmap



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About the author(s):

Pattison Resource Consulting, Ltd. is a natural resource consulting company specializing in the economic and social dimensions of environmental conservation. It is owned and operated by John K. Pattison-Williams, PhD PAg. and adjunct professor at the University of Alberta and a research consultant specializing in ecosystem service provision, agricultural systems and human dimensions of conservation. Jeremy Pittman (PhD) is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo, Canada. Ashley Klotz is a research assistant and assisted in conducting the survey and analysis for this paper.

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For more information:

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

700, de la Gauchetière Street West, Suite 1620

Montreal (Quebec)

H2Y 1N9 Canada

t 514.350.4300 f 514.350.4314

info@cec.org / www.cec.org

Table of Contents

List of Acronyms	iv
Abstract	v
Executive Summary	vi
1 Introduction	1
2 Methodology	2
3 Operation and Demographic Information	3
4 Condition of Canada's Grasslands	4
4.1 Losses of Grassland Areas	4
4.2 Cause of Losses in Grassland Areas	5
4.3 Level of Concern about Loss of Grasslands	5
4.4 Implications	6
5 Enrollment in Environmental and Conservation Programs	6
5.1 Current Program Enrollment	6
5.2 Enrollment by Program	7
5.3 Eligibility for Re-Enrollment in Programs	9
5.4 Interest in Future Program Enrollment	10
5.5 Ideal Program	11
6 Interest in Environmental and Conservation Programs	11
6.1 Interest in Learning More About Programs	11
6.2 Preferred Method for Learning More About Programs	12
6.3 Reasons for Not Wanting to Learn More About Programs	13
7 Efficacy of Environmental and Conservation Programs	13
8 Important Measures to Track	16
9 Comments	18
9.1 Program Recommendations	18
9.2 What People Should Know About You	18
10 Conclusions	20
Appendix A. Survey Questions	21
Bibliography	22

List of Tables

Table 1. Summary of location of agricultural operation by province (N=104).	3
Table 2. Summary of operation size by number of cattle (N=104).	3
Table 3. Summary of age of participants (N=104).	4
Table 4. Summary of gender of respondents (N=104).	4

List of Figures

Figure 1. Percentage of respondents who noticed losses of grassland areas where they live in the last 10 years (N=104).	5
Figure 2. Summary of participants' rating of their level of concern about grassland losses, as percent of respondents (N=103).	6
Figure 3. Percentage of participants enrolled in an environmental or conservation program (N=104).	7
Figure 4. Percentage of respondents enrolled in selected environmental or conservation programs (N=57).	8
Figure 5. Percentage of respondents enrolled in environmental or conservation programs by number of programs enrolled in (N=57).	9
Figure 6. Percentage of respondents enrolled in an environmental or conservation program with land eligible for re-enrollment when their current program ends (N=55).	10
Figure 7. Percentage of participants wanting to enroll in environmental or conservation programs in the future (N=47).	11
Figure 8. Percentage of participants interested in learning more about environmental and conservation programs (N=100).	12
Figure 9. Respondents' preferred method for learning more about environmental and conservation programs, as a percentage of respondents who were interested in learning more about programs (N=91).	13
Figure 10. Participants' ratings of the efficacy of environmental and conservation programs, as a percentage of respondents, by category (N=103). From left to right, the four categories are: "does not work at all", "does not work very well", "works somewhat ok", "works incredibly well", and the fifth is if the participant did not respond.	15
Figure 11. Support for various measures for tracking program success (N=104).	17

List of Acronyms

AFWA	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
ALUS	Alternative Land Use System
CAP	Canadian Agricultural Partnership
CCA	Canadian Cattle Association
CEC	Commission for Environmental Cooperation
DUC	Ducks Unlimited Canada
EFP	Environmental Farm Plan
EGS	Environmental Goods and Services
MULTISAR	Multiple Species at Risk program in Alberta
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
PRC	Pattison Resource Consulting, Ltd.

Abstract

In North America, the Central Grasslands Roadmap initiative was launched in 2019, just as global grasslands are disappearing rapidly. A virtual summit was held in 2020 to explore conservation strategies and bring together stakeholders from Canada, Mexico, and the United States. As producers are crucial to the success of these strategies, a survey was developed in 2022 to assess Canadian producer perspectives. The report presents the summary of those perspectives based on a sample of 104 producers. Most producers noticed grasslands losses in areas where they live, and many were concerned about these losses. Just over half of producers were enrolled in at least one environmental or conservation program, with the majority enrolled in more than one. The vast majority of producers were interested in learning more about such programs, with an equal proportion preferring in-person to virtual contact for this purpose. Technical assistance and ease of enrollment in such programs were rated favorably, while the amount of paperwork involved and the lack of enrollment incentives were considered problematic. Measures of biodiversity and annual yield were identified as important in tracking the success of cattle production and status of grassland health. Overall, these results suggest that grassland conservation programs may resonate with landowners if appropriately developed and framed, thus increasing conservation efforts.

Executive Summary

Across the globe, grasslands are disappearing at an alarming rate and currently rank highest of any ecosystem on the global Conservation Risk Index. The primary driver of grassland losses, globally, has been the conversion of grasslands for agricultural purposes. As grasslands can easily be converted for food production, the conservation of temperate grasslands is a complex public policy issue in Canada. Grassland conservation strategies are presently an area of high interest within the Canadian Prairies and across North America.

The Central Grasslands Roadmap initiative began in 2019, following recommendations from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), and a virtual summit was held in 2020 to bring together diverse stakeholders from Canada, Mexico, and the United States to explore conservation strategies that might help prevent the collapse of grassland ecosystems. As cattle producers are an integral component in the success of conservation strategies, a baseline understanding of their perspectives is required. Thus, a survey was developed to assess the perspectives of Canadian cattle producers, and this report represents the summary of those perspectives from a sample of 104 producers. Some highlights from this report include:

- Most producers (75%) noticed losses in grassland areas where they live over the last ten years, and many producers (70.9%) were concerned about these losses.
- Just over half (54.8%) of producers were enrolled in at least one environmental or conservation program. Of those enrolled in such a program, the majority (71.9%) were enrolled in more than one.
- The vast majority (92%) of producers were interested in learning more about environmental and conservation programs but were equally divided in preferring in-person to virtual contact as a way of learning more about such programs.
- Technical assistance and ease of enrollment (65% rated favourably) are aspects of environmental and conservation programs that are considered to work well. Conversely, aspects that received lower favorable ratings were the amount of paperwork and lack of enrollment incentives (46.6% and 47.6% rated favourably, respectively).

- When asked what measures are important to track, in terms of understanding the success of cattle production and health of the grasslands, the largest proportion of producers selected measure(s) of biodiversity and annual yield. Generally, just over half of producers surveyed said that tracking environmental indicators was important to them, while just under half said that tracking economic indicators was important to them.

Cattle producers across the Canadian Prairies are important allies in conservation of grassland ecosystems. Producers have stated their concerns over the loss of grasslands and have an interest in programs that support the conservation of grassland ecosystems. From a policy perspective, this indicates that programs for grassland conservation, if appropriately developed and framed, may resonate with landowners—thereby receiving higher levels of uptake and increasing conservation.

1 Introduction

Habitat loss due to human activities has resulted in a 60 percent decline in the world's vertebrate populations between 1970 and 2014 (WWF, 2018). This figure presents a sobering indication of the extent of human impacts and ecosystem change across the planet. These impacts are most evident in the global grassland biomes. Comprising 8 percent of the total surface of the planet (IUCN, 2008), grasslands are currently the most at-risk ecosystem on the global Conservation Risk Index (Heidenreich, 2009).

The drivers of grassland losses are primarily cultivation for agricultural purposes and urban expansion. According to Asner et al. (2004), 41 percent of global grasslands have been converted to agriculture cropland, and 13.5 percent have been replaced by urban, industrial or transportation infrastructure (Heidenreich, 2009). The expanding “plow print” across temperate grassland ecoregions in North America presents a striking visualization of such change (Gage et. al., 2016).

Trends like these have galvanized grassland conservation initiatives across Canada among government policy makers, conservation implementers, and other stakeholders and rightsholders. Conservation organizations are actively engaging in research and outreach (DUC, 2018; NABCI, 2016; NCC, 2017). Initiatives within the beef sector, such as the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) and the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), are conducting research that retains market access for beef and prevents further grassland conversion (BCRC, 2018; CRSB, 2018; Gunn, Kulshreshtha, and Roy, 2018). In addition, there is focus from the federal government on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), general interest in market-based incentives, investigation into avoided conversion and carbon sequestration benefits (such as the Canada's Grasslands Protocol and through the Nature-smart Climate Solutions Fund), and investigation into various environmental indicators such as the Bird Friendliness Indicator.

Grasslands also stretch across national boundaries, and international conservation efforts are integral to maintaining broad biome-level integrity. In North America, the Central Grasslands Roadmap was established in 2019 with the goal of bringing together diverse stakeholders from Canada, Mexico, and the United States to explore a path forward to prevent biome collapse. As producers are an integral component of the success of any such plan, a baseline understanding of producer perspectives was conducted in the United States (2021) and in Mexico (2022).

This report is based upon a survey (see Appendix A for survey questions) designed to assess Canadian producer perspectives and it provides a descriptive summary of the results, organized thematically, for questions contained in the Canadian producer survey. The following sections discuss the methodology, the operational and demographic nature of the respondents, producer opinions on the present state of Canada's grasslands, an exploration of current producer enrollment in such programs and future interest in grassland conservation programs, impressions of the efficacy of such programs, important measures for tracking success, future recommendations, and an outline of basic conclusions.

2 Methodology

The Canadian survey instrument (Appendix A) was developed in March 2022. Feedback was received at four levels: i) Canadian producers through the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA)¹, who engaged with representatives from the Alberta Beef Producers, Saskatchewan Stockgrowers and Manitoba Beef Producers, ii) the CEC team, iii) the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Policy and Human Dimensions Committees, and iv) academic experts in human dimensions research.

The survey was implemented and distributed via the CEC to their membership list from April 15 to May 20, 2022, in the survey software *Alchemer*. Distribution was directed primarily towards the Prairie region but was available to ranchers in other regions of Canada. No bias toward respondents that might have a positive predisposition to or enrollment in a conservation program was anticipated in this recruitment approach. A reminder was sent out on May 1, 2022, and ultimately a sample of N=104 respondents completed the survey.²

As producers are often fatigued by survey length and required questions, the survey was designed to be approximately 10 minutes long and none of the questions were mandatory. Although this design approach led to higher respondent satisfaction, it also meant that not all 104 respondents completed each question, and some questions have fewer recorded responses than others.

¹ The organization formally changed its name to the Canadian Cattle Association in July 2022.

² Thirty-eight additional respondents partially completed the survey, but this information is not included in this report.

3 Operation and Demographic Information

Respondents were first asked to select in which province their agricultural operation is situated in Question 1 (Table 1). As the emphasis was on the Prairie ecoregion of Canada, most operations were in Saskatchewan (42.3%), followed by Alberta (25%) and Manitoba (19%). A small number of respondents were located elsewhere in Canada.

Table 1. Summary of location of agricultural operation by province (N=104).

Location of Operation	# of Respondents
British Columbia	3
Alberta	26
Saskatchewan	44
Manitoba	20
Ontario	4
Quebec	3
Prince Edward Island	1
New Brunswick	3
Nova Scotia	0
Newfoundland and Labrador	0
Yukon	0
Northwest Territories	0
Nunavut	0

Respondents were then asked to select the number of cattle in their operation in Question 2 (Table 2). Operation sizes were varied, with between 101 and 250 cattle being the most common operation size (34.6% of respondents). Seven respondents currently did not have any cattle, which we inferred as meaning that they were recently retired from cattle operations or were in between cattle rotations.

Table 2. Summary of operation size by number of cattle (N=104).

Number of Cattle	Number of Respondents
0	7
<100	21
101-250	36
251-500	18
501-1000	13
>1000	9

Participants were asked what year they were born in Question 18 (see Table 3). Approximate age was calculated by subtracting the birth year from the current year (2022). The average age of respondents is 49 years.

Table 3. Summary of age of participants (N=104).

Age	Number of Respondents
<20	1
21-30	7
31-40	27
41-50	23
51-60	17
61-70	26
71-80	3
>80	0

Respondents were asked to identify their gender in Question 19 (Table 4). Of the participants, a majority identified as male (76%), less than one quarter (22.1%) identified as female, and the remainder (1.9%) preferred not to say.

Table 4. Summary of gender of respondents (N=104).

Gender	Number of Respondents
Female	23
Male	79
Other	0
Prefer not to say	2

4 Condition of Canada's Grasslands

4.1 Losses of Grassland Areas

Respondents were asked if, over the last ten years, they had noticed less grassland areas where they live over the last ten years in Question 3 (Figure 1). Most respondents (78) said they had noticed such losses, the rest (26) had not.

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Informing the Central Grasslands Roadmap

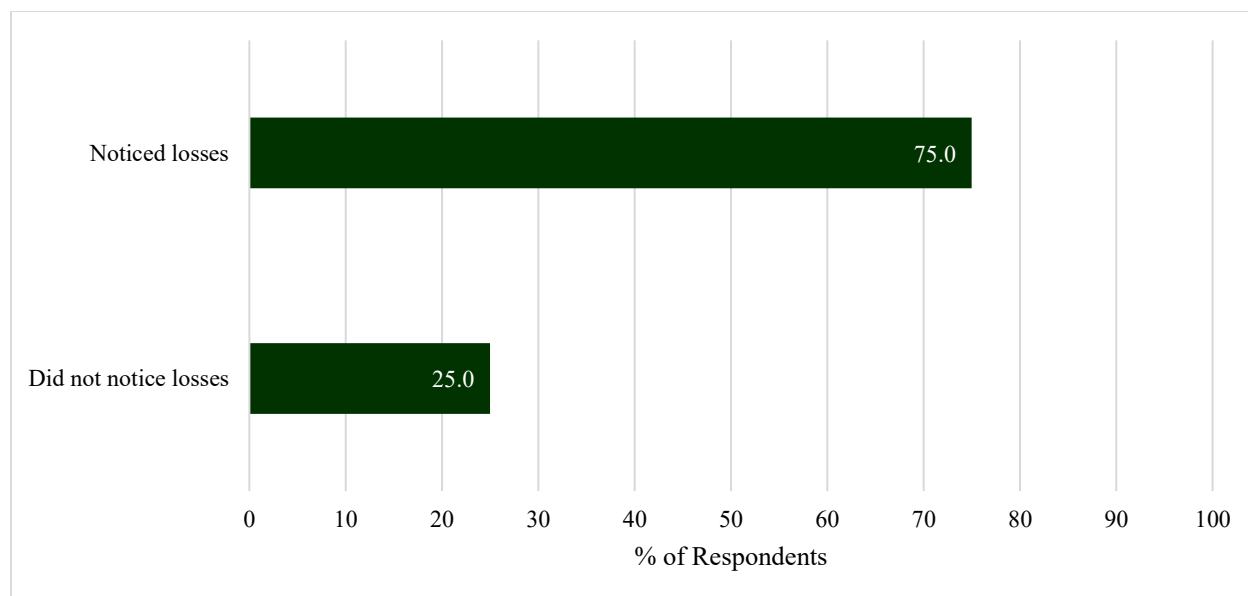


Figure 1. Percentage of respondents who noticed losses of grassland areas where they live in the last 10 years (N=104).

4.2 Cause of Losses in Grassland Areas

Participants who had noticed reduction in grassland areas were asked what they thought was the cause of the losses in Question 4 (N=78). The most common cause listed by participants was the conversion of grasslands to crop production. The reason most listed is that the economic incentives for crop farming far outweigh those for cattle production, thus incentivizing the conversion to crop production. Some respondents also mentioned that many producers are aging out of cattle production and there is a lack of support programs for cattle producers. Some participants also listed urbanization and residential development as reasons for grassland losses.

4.3 Level of Concern about Loss of Grasslands

Respondents were asked to rate their level of concern about the loss of grasslands in Canada in Question 5, from 'very unconcerned' to 'very concerned' (Figure 2). More than two-thirds of respondents (70.9%) answered that they were concerned about grassland losses, a smaller proportion were not concerned (24.3%), the remaining respondents were neutral.

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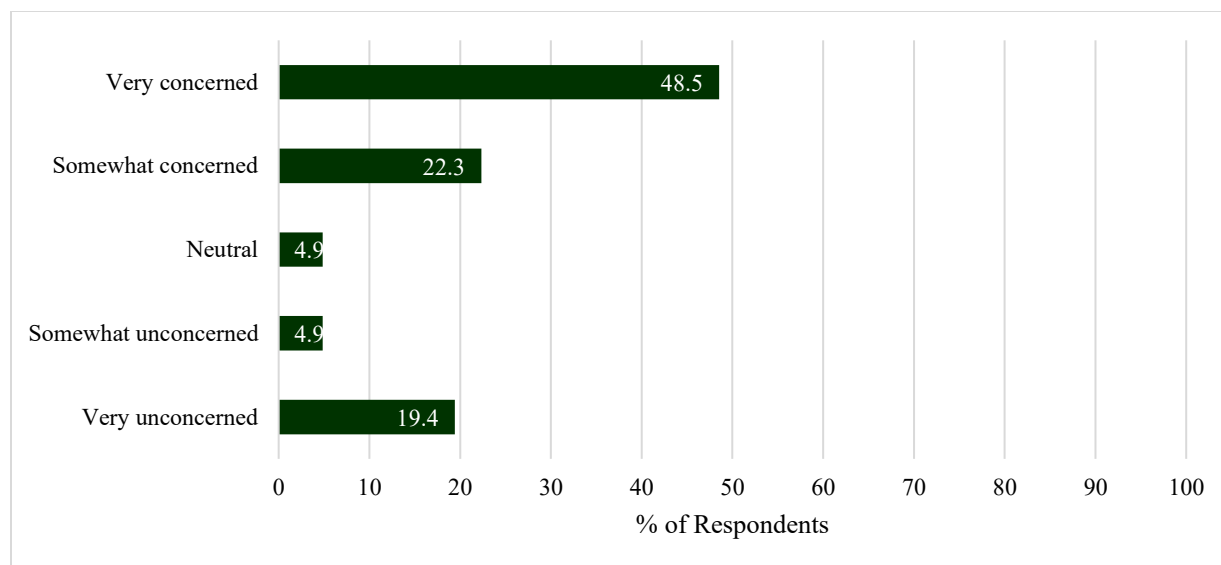


Figure 2. Summary of participants' rating of their level of concern about grassland losses, as percent of respondents (N=103).

4.4 Implications

The information from this section signals that there is an increasing awareness and concern about grassland loss within the cattle-producing sector in Canada. From a policy perspective, this concern indicates that programs for grassland conservation—if appropriately framed and developed in consultation with producers—may resonate with landowners and receive higher levels of participation. This result is supported by research by Parker (2020) regarding grassland values, and from Davidson et al. (2019) that indicates producers will adopt practices that improve soil quality, efficiency, and protect biodiversity, regardless of their perspectives on issues such as climate change.

5 Enrollment in Environmental and Conservation Programs

5.1 Current Program Enrollment

Respondents were asked if they were enrolled in any local, regional, Indigenous, or provincial environmental or conservation programs in Question 6 (Figure 3). Just over half of the participants were enrolled in at least one program.

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Informing the Central Grasslands Roadmap

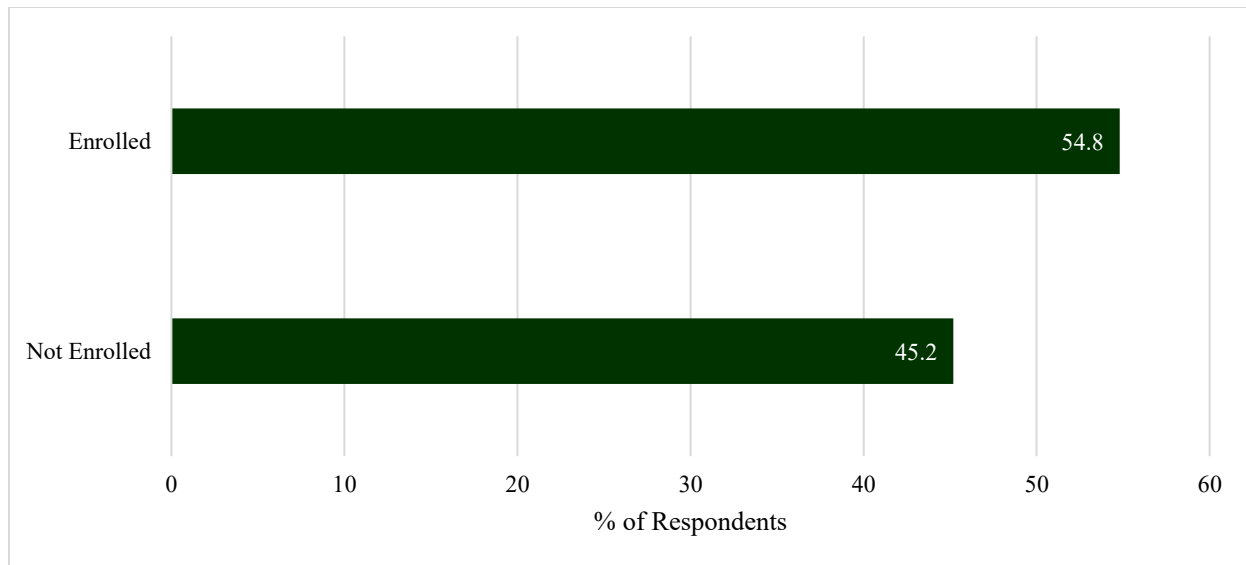


Figure 3. Percentage of participants enrolled in an environmental or conservation program (N=104).

5.2 Enrollment by Program

Participants who responded that they were currently enrolled in a program were asked to identify the program(s) in Question 7 (Figure 4). The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) had the highest enrollment, with more than half of respondents being enrolled in it. This was followed by Certified Sustainable Beef, Marginal Areas or Forage Programs, and Conservation Easements, each of which had more than a quarter of the participants enrolled.

Respondents that selected the 'other' option could write in the name of the program (N=16). The following additional programs were listed by respondents:

- *Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) caveat*
- *Riparian area protection*
- *Treaty Land Sharing Network*
- *Verified beef production*
- *Handshake partnerships with several organizations*
- *Operation Burrowing Owl*
- *Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program*
- *Grasslands Capital X*
- *Conservation market pilot*
- *Holistic management*

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- *Stewards of SK*
- *Watershed District, CAP*
- *MULTISAR*

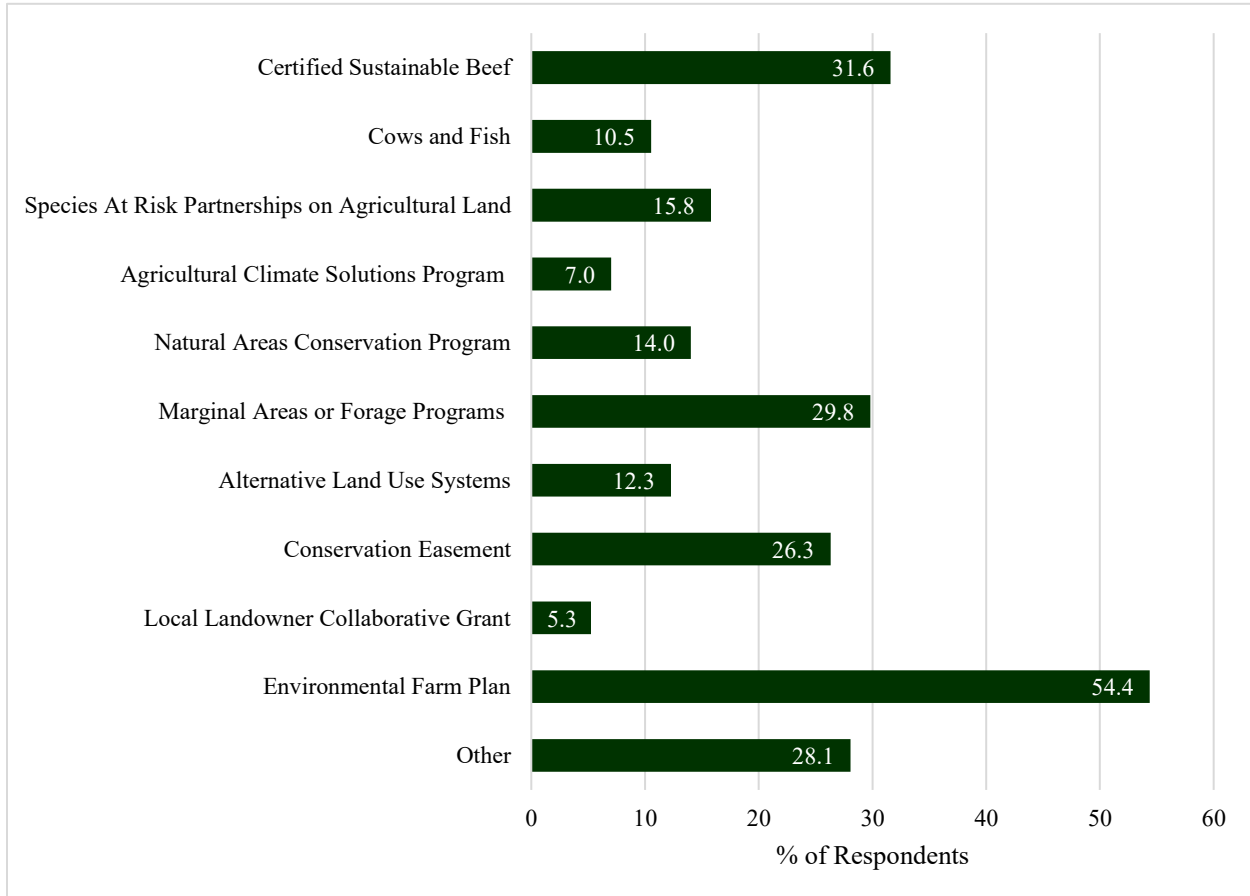


Figure 4. Percentage of respondents enrolled in selected environmental or conservation programs (N=57).

Out of the respondents enrolled in at least one program, a majority (72.0%) were enrolled in two or more, less than half (43.9%) were enrolled in three or more, a smaller portion (15.8%) were enrolled in four or more, only a few (3.5%) were enrolled in five, and none were enrolled in more than five programs (see Figure 5).

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Informing the Central Grasslands Roadmap

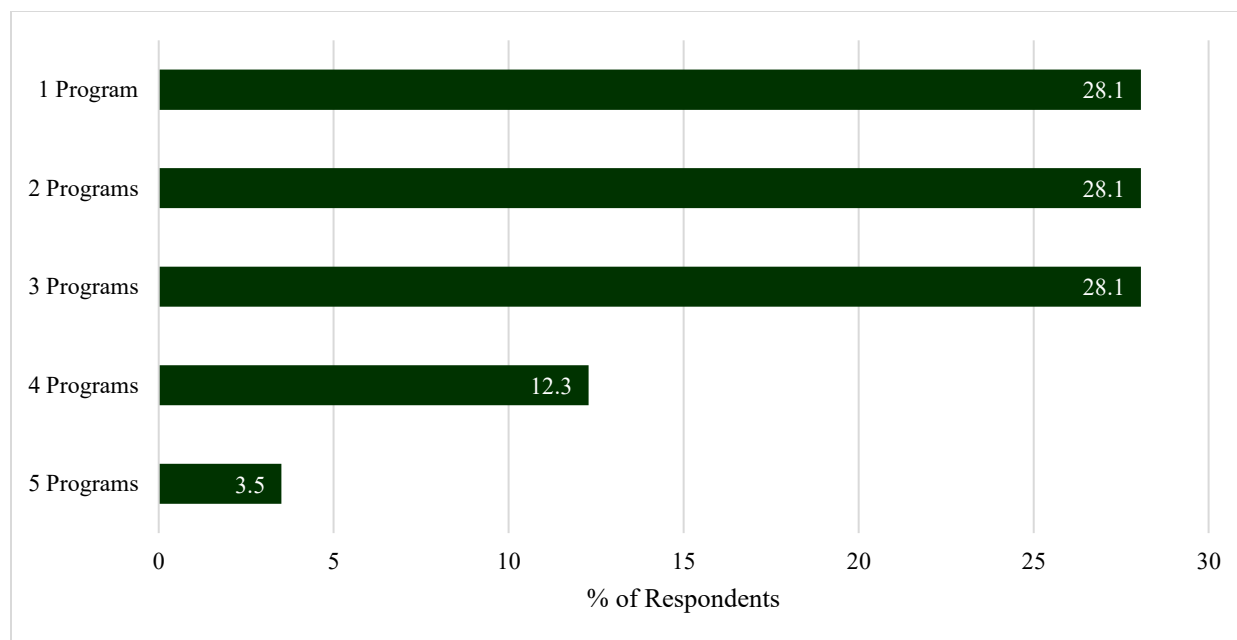


Figure 5. Percentage of respondents enrolled in environmental or conservation programs by number of programs enrolled in (N=57).

5.3 Eligibility for Re-Enrollment in Programs

Respondents that indicated they were currently enrolled in a program were then asked in Question 8 if their land was eligible for re-enrollment when their current program ended. Most producers (89.1%) had land that was eligible for re-enrollment when their current program ended; however, nearly a quarter (21.8%) of those with eligible land reported barriers to their participation. The remaining respondents (10.9%) reported that their land was not eligible for re-enrollment, with most (7.3%) willing to re-enroll (see Figure 6).

Respondents who selected 'yes, but there are barriers to my participation', 'no, and I do not plan to re-enroll', or 'no, but I want to re-enroll' were asked to describe why (N=11). Some barriers to re-enrollment and reasons for not being able to re-enroll listed by producers are high program costs, that programs in which they are currently enrolled are in perpetuity, or that the programs do not provide enough incentives for them to want to re-enroll.

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Informing the Central Grasslands Roadmap

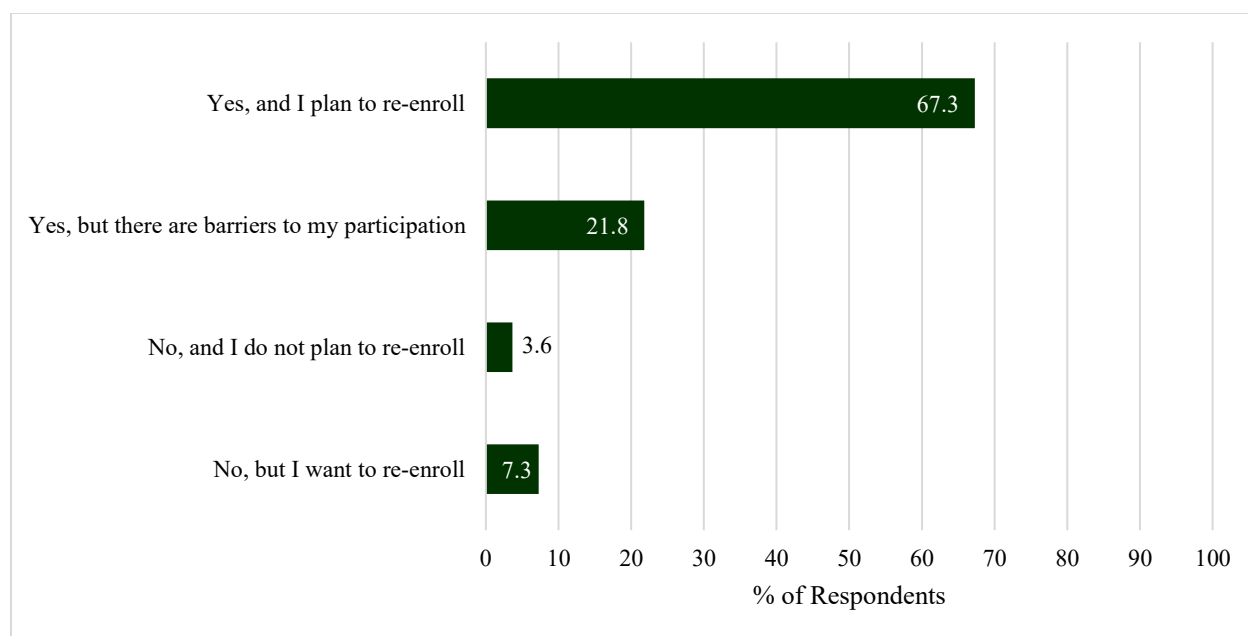


Figure 6. Percentage of respondents enrolled in an environmental or conservation program with land eligible for re-enrollment when their current program ends (N=55).

5.4 Interest in Future Program Enrollment

Participants who indicated that they were not currently enrolled in a program were asked in Question 9 (Figure 7) if they would like to enroll in the future, and the majority (78.7%) did so wish. Respondents that stated they were not interested in enrolling were asked to comment on why (N=7). A commonly held viewpoint that conservation programs require caveats on land title was expressed, even though few programs in fact require it. Several representative reasons for not wanting to enroll in the future were:

- *No advantage to doing so and concerned that programs will limit flexibility of decisions with respect to disposition of land.*
- *Prefer not to enroll in government programs.*
- *Programs place caveats on the land and limit what can be done with it.*

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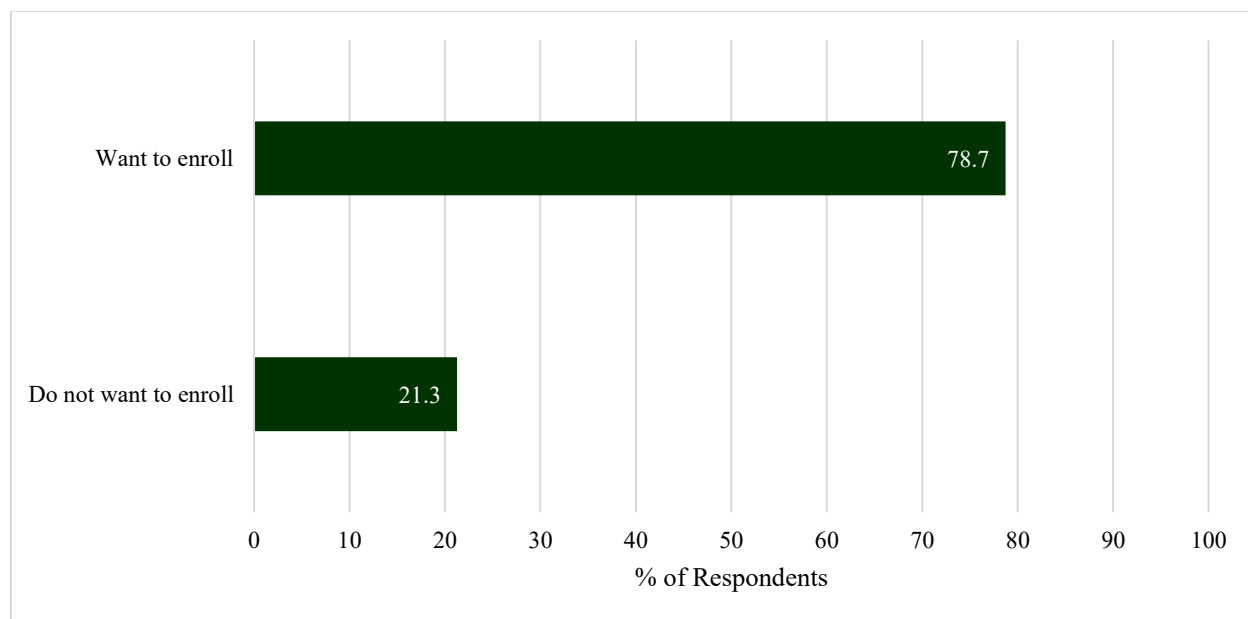


Figure 7. Percentage of participants wanting to enroll in environmental or conservation programs in the future (N=47).

5.5 Ideal Program

To understand motivations of respondents who were not involved in conservation programs, those who so responded were asked in Question 10 (N=40) to describe what their ideal program might look like. While a thematic analysis of these responses is beyond the scope of this report, some suggestions survey respondents provided included:

1. *Credits positive stewardship of the grasslands (e.g., carbon storage).*
2. *Simple, time-efficient and directly benefits the land and agricultural operations.*
3. *Tax credit or deduction for the management of native prairie.*

6 Interest in Environmental and Conservation Programs

6.1 Interest in Learning More About Programs

Respondents were asked in Question 11 (Figure 8) if they were interested in learning more about environmental or conservation programs for their operation. Most respondents said they were interested in learning more about such programs.

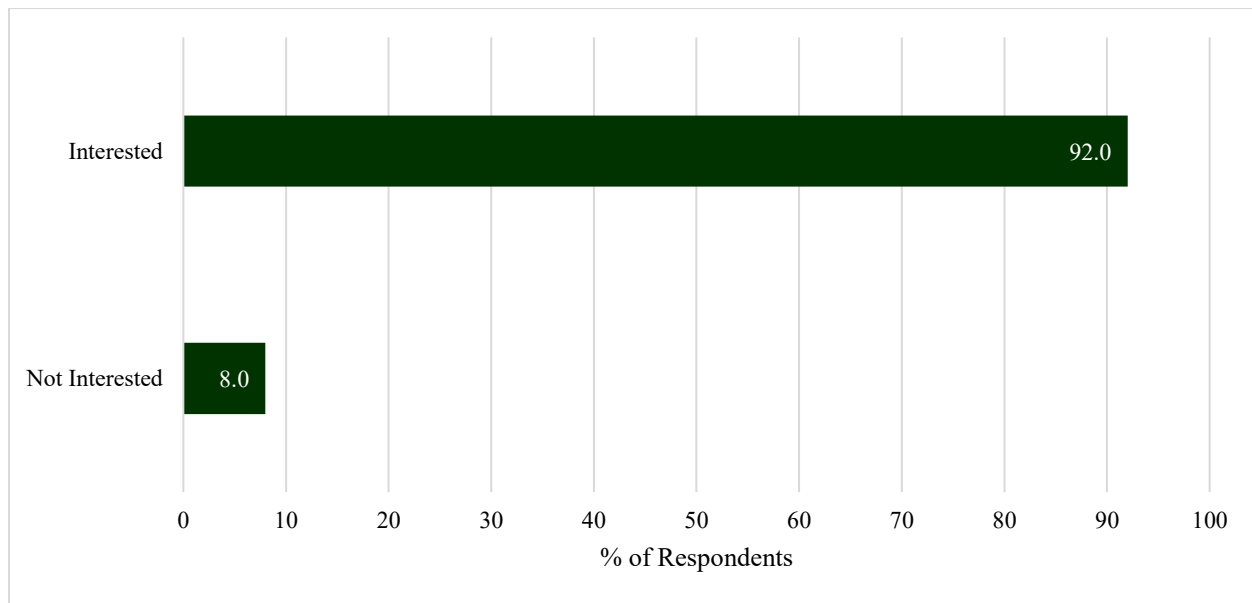


Figure 8. Percentage of participants interested in learning more about environmental and conservation programs (N=100).

6.2 Preferred Method for Learning More About Programs

Participants who said they would like to learn more about programs were asked in Question 12 (Figure 9, select only one option) to select their preferred method for further learning. Interestingly, an equal percentage of respondents (47.3%) preferred the methods involving in-person contact (choices: in-person workshop or farm field tours) to the methods utilizing virtual contact (choices: virtual workshop, emails or e-newsletters), although the method with the slightly greatest preference was the in-person workshop. No producers selected flyers as their preferred method. Respondents that selected 'other' were able to comment on their preferred method of learning more (N=4). One respondent said "all of the above", another said personal contact was their preferred method for learning more.

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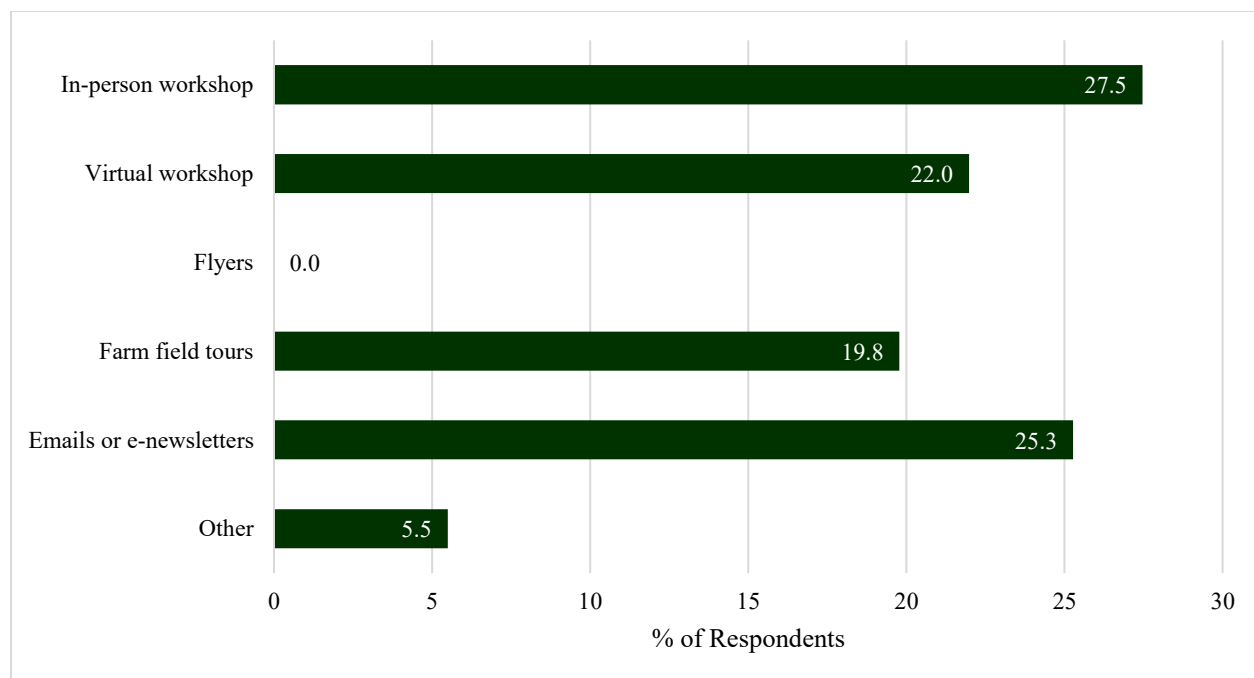


Figure 9. Respondents' preferred method for learning more about environmental and conservation programs, as a percentage of respondents who were interested in learning more about programs (N=91).

6.3 Reasons for Not Wanting to Learn More About Programs

Respondents who stated they were not interested in learning more about programs were asked in Question 13 (N=8) to comment on why they were not interested. Some reasons listed by producers were:

- *No environmental or financial benefits to programs.*
- *Prefer to make changes and improvements without the government.*
- *Programs do not address the underlying economic issues and there is a lack of risk management programs for grasslands.*
- *Already doing a good job and do not want assistance.*

7 Efficacy of Environmental and Conservation Programs

Information regarding efficacy of environmental and conservation programs was captured in Question 14. Respondents were asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 4, whether “programs do not work at all” to “programs work incredibly well”. Similarly, they were asked to evaluate how effective overall aspects of local,

regional, provincial and federal programs are at supporting range improvement, soil health, and/or water conservation activities (Figure 10). The program aspects rated most favorably (scores of 3 or 4) were technical assistance and ease of enrollment (65.1% rated favorably). The program aspects rated least favorably were the amount of paperwork and having limited enrollment incentives (46.6% and 47.6% rated favorably, respectively).

Respondents were also allowed to provide comments on their ratings (N=31). A sentiment commonly expressed was a preference for programs operated by nongovernmental organizations rather than government-operated programs. Some representative comments included:

- 1. Applications are overwhelming and eligibility criteria restrict access to assistance. Lack of time and financial assets limit ability to get assistance.*
- 2. Finding information becomes complicated with too many organizations; regional representatives and programs longevity are needed.*
- 3. A promising strategy involves valuing environmental goods and services (EGS) (e.g., carbon sequestration), verifying EGS provided by the land and allowing the landholder to market the EGS through an exchange, thus allowing the producer to make additional income from their land.*
- 4. Most government programs are administratively heavy and light on incentives and technical assistance, whereas NGOs have better flexibility and are more adaptive to producers.*

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Informing the Central Grasslands Roadmap

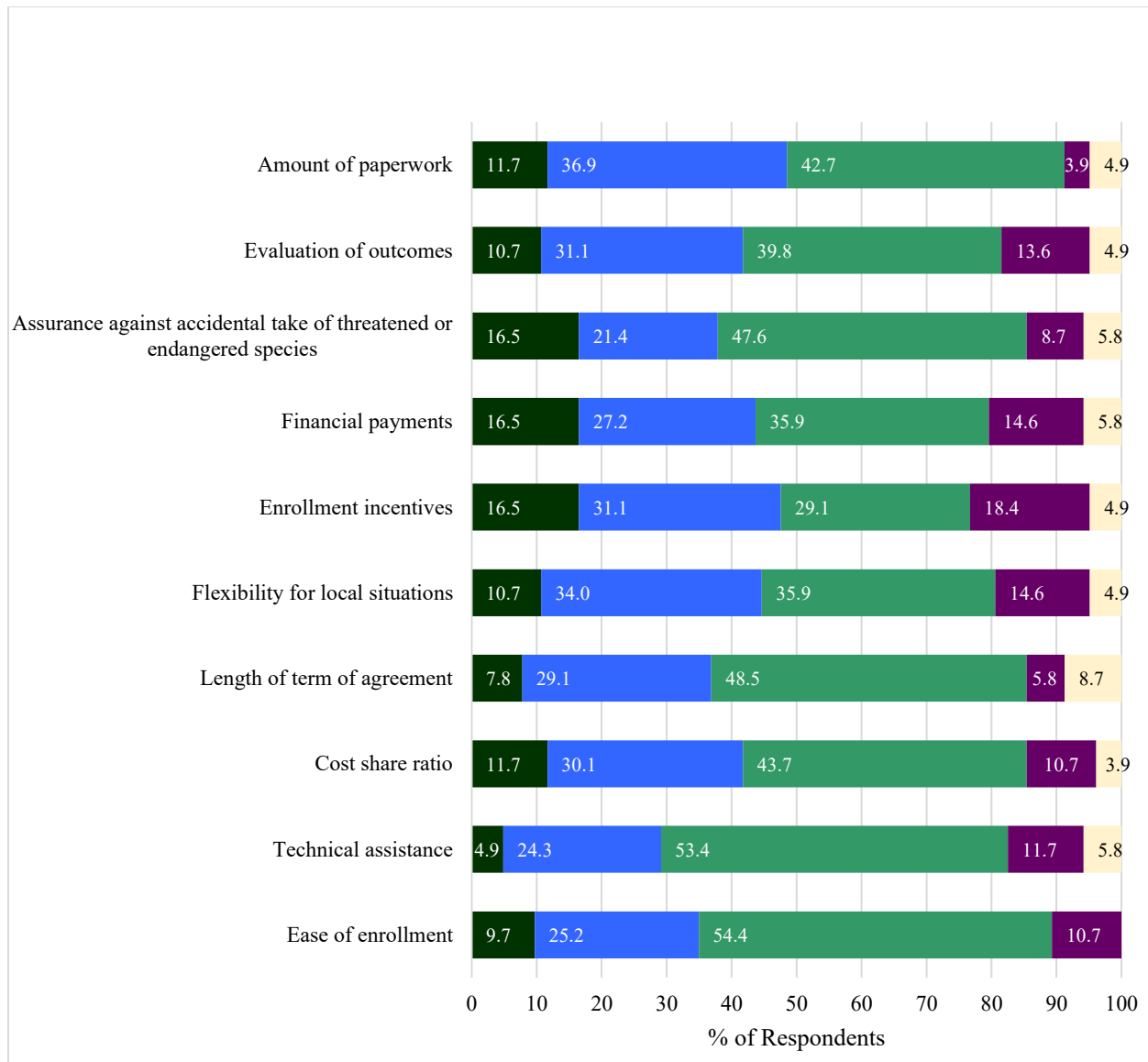


Figure 10. Participants' ratings of the efficacy of environmental and conservation programs, as a percentage of respondents, by category (N=103). From left to right, the four categories are: "does not work at all", "does not work very well", "works somewhat ok", "works incredibly well", and the fifth is if the participant did not respond.

8 Important Measures to Track

Respondents were asked in Question 15 (Figure 11) what measures they would find important to track, in terms of understanding the success of cattle production and health of the grasslands. Their responses indicate that they find most important to track measures of biodiversity and annual yield, followed by population rates of birds and other species, and cost per pound of product. On average, just over half of respondents (53.2%) said that tracking environmental indicators (bird and other species' population rates, carbon sequestration rates, and other measure(s) of biodiversity) were important to them, while just under half of respondents (48.1%) said that tracking economic measures (cost per pound of product, annual yield, economic success of local town or community) were most important to them.

Participants that chose 'other' were able to specify any other measures they thought were important (N=16). Such additional measures included:

1. *Water infiltration rate*
2. *Total number of acres of native and perennial grasslands from year to year*
3. *Profit per pound of product or per area*
4. *Amount of litter left in grassland at end of grazing season*
5. *Positive cash flow*
6. *Success of families involved*
7. *Profitability of livestock production in the grazing sector*
8. *Health of the prairie and influx of invasive species*

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Informing the Central Grasslands Roadmap

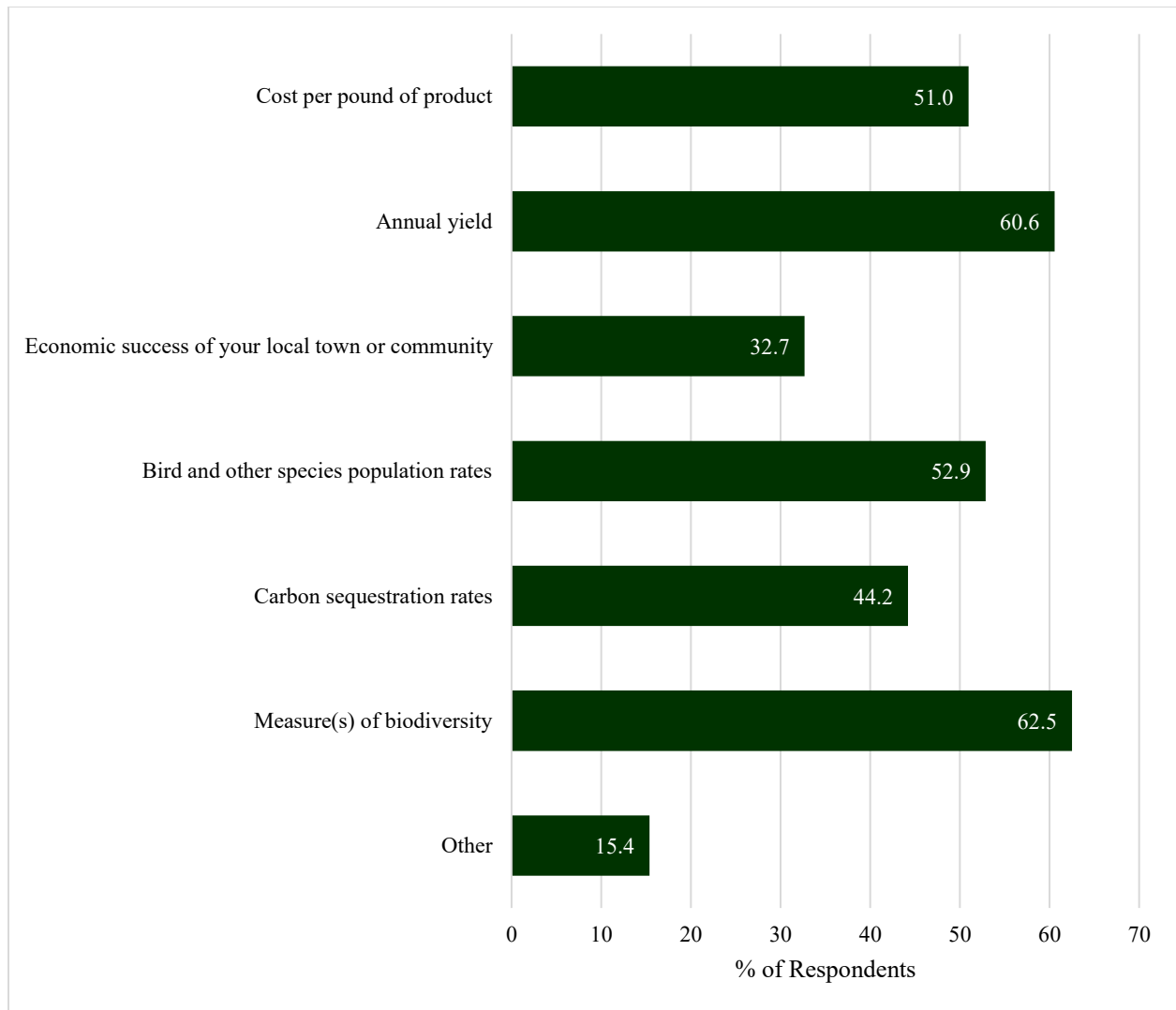


Figure 11. Support for various measures for tracking program success (N=104).

9 Comments

9.1 Program Recommendations

In Question 16 (N = 85), respondents were asked what other ideas they would recommend for programs that support range improvement, cattle production, soil health and/or water conservation. Their recommendations included:

1. *Payments for EGS to enable grasslands to compete financially with other land uses.*
2. *Support and recognition of small producers as important agents of conservation.*
3. *Support for operations already doing a good job, in addition to supporting operations needing to change.*
4. *Must be mutually beneficial for the environment and cattle production, and important for the producer to feel they are still in charge of the operation.*
5. *More localized information sessions, since it is hard for producers to travel.*
6. *More regionally specific programs, as needs vary by region.*
7. *Tying programs to gross revenue restricts small producers and landowners from participation.*
8. *Support from experts in project planning and execution, and financial incentives for improvements that are otherwise not economically feasible. Recognition of goods and services provided by producers to society.*
9. *Programs do not recognize the economic value of opportunities that producers give up to retain grasslands, or the adaptive management that producers undertake.*
10. *Equalize the economic incentives between crop and cattle production (e.g., production insurance equal to crop insurance).*

9.2 What People Should Know About You

Respondents were asked in Question 17 (N=87) to comment on what they felt were the most important pieces of information they wanted more people and leaders to know about their livelihoods and communities. Written responses generally conveyed a strong desire for the public to know that cattle producers care about the land and its future, and that they want recognition for their conservation and food production efforts—especially on the part of those they view as disconnected from the production system. Examples of the written statements are as follows:

1. *Producers are experts in their field, and it is in their best interest to take care of the land.*
2. *Cattle farmers are struggling with high costs and competition with large grain farms that are buying up grasslands to convert to cropland. Most cattle farmers are concerned about the environment and the importance of cattle to the grassland ecosystem is under-recognized.*
3. *Local people protect native prairie. Unreasonably high land prices lead to large farming operations buying prairie grasslands, but native prairie should not be sold as potential farmland. It is important to ensure that ranchers can afford to stay in ranching.*
4. *By the nature of the business, livestock producers are conservationists and strive to be sustainable. The majority of producers are generational family businesses that support local communities and the longevity of grasslands. If society values the EGS that producers provide, they should be willing to pay accordingly.*
5. *It is difficult to be profitable in the cow/calf business and communities are losing young people due to the lack of financial stability.*
6. *Most grassland landowners and leaseholders are interested in their operations being environmentally sustainable, but they also need to be financially sustainable. Grassland habitat should be valued and compensation paid to those who maintain it. Create programs that work with ranchers to improve the environment rather than creating more regulations and restrictions.*
7. *Cattle farming is not ruining the land or causing all the greenhouse gases the industry is blamed for.*
8. *Producers care about natural resources and want to protect them for future generations. Although industrial agriculture provides cheap food it has negative trade-offs, such as making the family farm/ranch lifestyle unsustainable. Individual producers cannot compete with big agriculture, beef should be more expensive, and producers should get a fair share of the profits.*
9. *Producers are stewards of the grasslands. Adding regulatory and administrative burdens makes their jobs harder and puts environmental stewardship at risk. Producers are experts in grassland health and management.*
10. *The margins in the cow/calf sector are razor thin. To compete with the cropping sector, the role of the cow/calf sector in grassland conservation must be recognized and producers need to be financially compensated for EGS.*

10 Conclusions

Cattle producers from across the Canadian Prairies are important allies in the conservation of grassland ecosystems. As landowners, they have an integral part to play in policy and programs, and thus their input to the Central Grassland Roadmap is vital for the success of grassland conservation initiatives. This report highlights some key perspectives on grassland conservation, in terms of producer awareness, current enrollment in conservation programs, interest in future enrollment, preferred aspects of programs, and the metrics of success.

General descriptive trends from the surveyed producers indicate that a majority of producers have noticed losses in grassland areas where they live and that they are concerned about this. Approximately half of producers surveyed were already enrolled in a program, which though large, also means that there is untapped potential of other producers to engage. Such engagement would be effective with either virtual or in-person contact and presented in the context of soil and water conservation. The most important factor of success indicated was biodiversity health and yield of cattle growth, highlighting the twin arenas of sustainability and profitability wherein cattle producers operate.

Producers have stated concerns over the loss of grasslands and an interest in programs that support the conservation of grassland ecosystems. From a policy perspective, this indicates that programs for grassland conservation, if appropriately framed and developed, may resonate with landowners, thereby receiving higher levels of uptake and helping to increase conservation. This information complements similar surveys with American and Mexican cattle producers, and the information arising from these reports provides valuable insight into strategies for grassland conservation success across the continent.

Appendix A. Survey Questions

1. **Select the best option.** In what province is your agricultural operation?
2. **Select the best option.** How many cattle do you have in your operation?
3. **Yes/No.** Have you noticed less grassland areas where you live over the last 10 years?
4. **Open response, shown if answered Yes to Q3.** What do you think is the cause of this loss?
5. **Select the best option.** Are you concerned about the loss of grasslands in Canada?
6. **Yes/No.** Are you enrolled in any local, regional, Indigenous, or provincial environmental or conservation programs?
7. **Multiple selection, shown if answered Yes to Q6.** What is the name of the program(s)?
8. **Multipart Question, shown if answered Yes to Q6.**
 - **Part 1: Select the best option.** When your current program ends, is your land eligible for re-enrollment?
 - **Part 2: Open answer, shown if answered No or Yes, with barriers in part 1.** Please describe why.
9. **Multipart Question, shown if answered No to Q6.**
 - **Part 1: Yes/No.** Would you like to enroll in the future?
 - **Part 2: Open answer, shown if answered No to Part 1.** If no, why?
10. **Open response, shown if answered No to Q6.** Please describe what your ideal program would look like.
11. **Yes/No.** Are you interested in learning more about environmental or conservation programs for your operation?
12. **Multiple selection, shown if answered Yes to Q11.** What is your preferred method for learning more?
13. **Open response, shown if answered no to Q11.** Why are you not interested in these programs?
14. **Matrix rating scale with option to comment.** Overall, on a scale of 1, “programs do not work at all,” to 4, “programs work incredibly well,” how effective overall do you think the following parts of local, regional, provincial and federal programs are at supporting range improvement, soil health, and/or water conservation activities?
15. **Multiple selection.** In terms of understanding the success of cattle production and the health of the grasslands, what measurements are important to you to track?
16. **Open response.** What other ideas would you recommend for programs that support range improvement, cattle production, soil health, and/or water conservation?
17. **Open response.** What are the most important pieces of information you want more people and leaders to know about your livelihoods and about your communities?
18. **Open response.** What year were you born?
19. **Select the best option.** What is your gender?

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