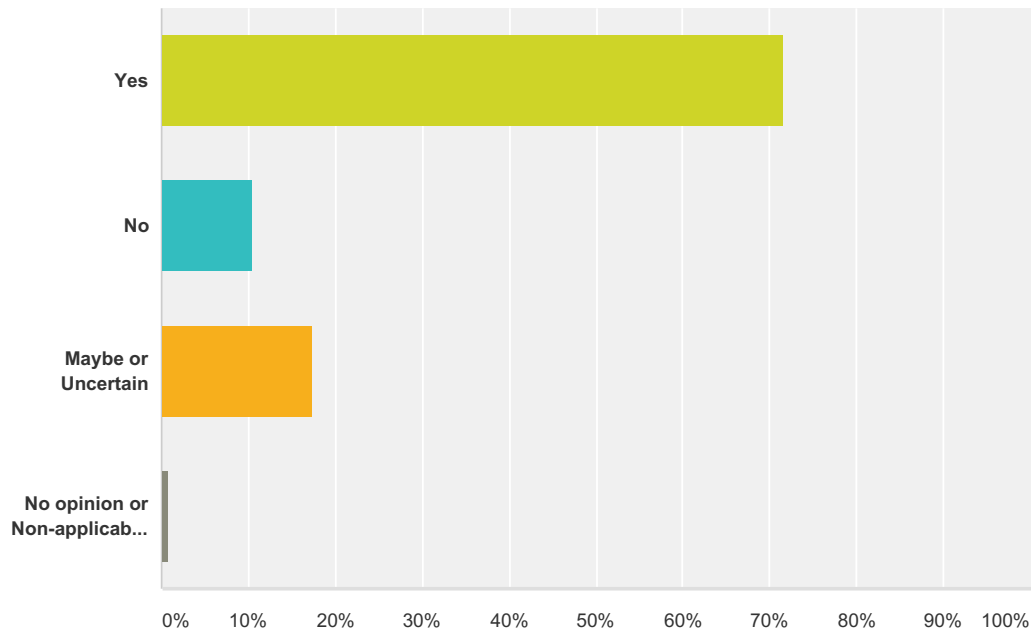


**Q1 Should the county soil and water conservation district commissioners be willing to bring enforcement actions against landowners who are determined to be losing soil at rates in excess of the county soil loss limits?**

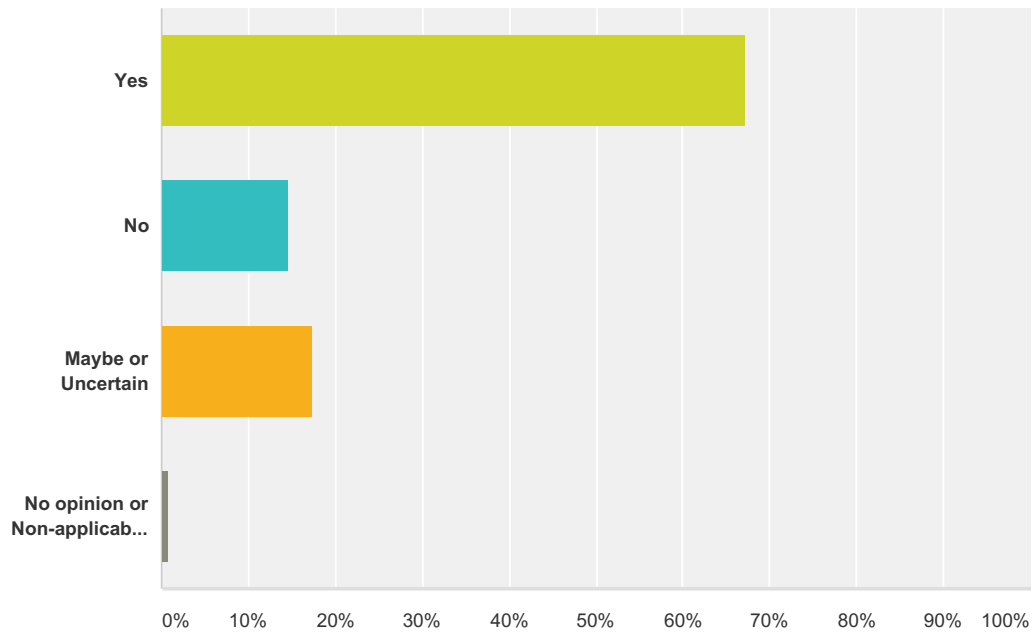
Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	71.55%	83
No	10.34%	12
Maybe or Uncertain	17.24%	20
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	0.86%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>116</b>

**Q2 Should every farmland owner in Iowa be required to have a current conservation plan developed by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)?**

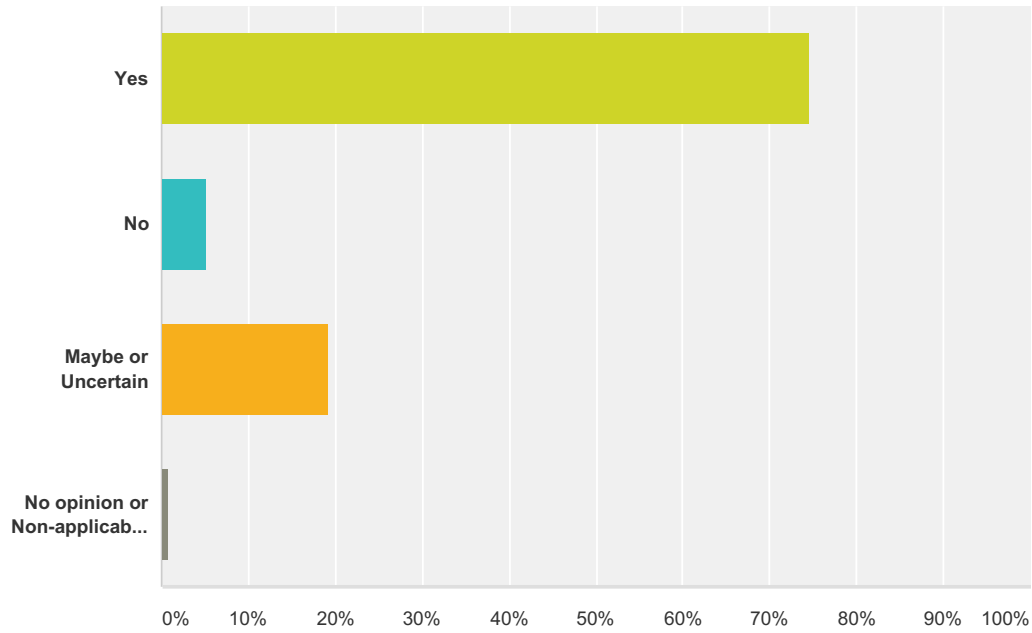
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Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	67.24%	78
No	14.66%	17
Maybe or Uncertain	17.24%	20
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	0.86%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>116</b>

**Q3 Should the USDA include the amount of soil lost from ephemeral gullies (the rills tilled away in the spring) when it calculates and reports on the average annual soil losses in Iowa?**

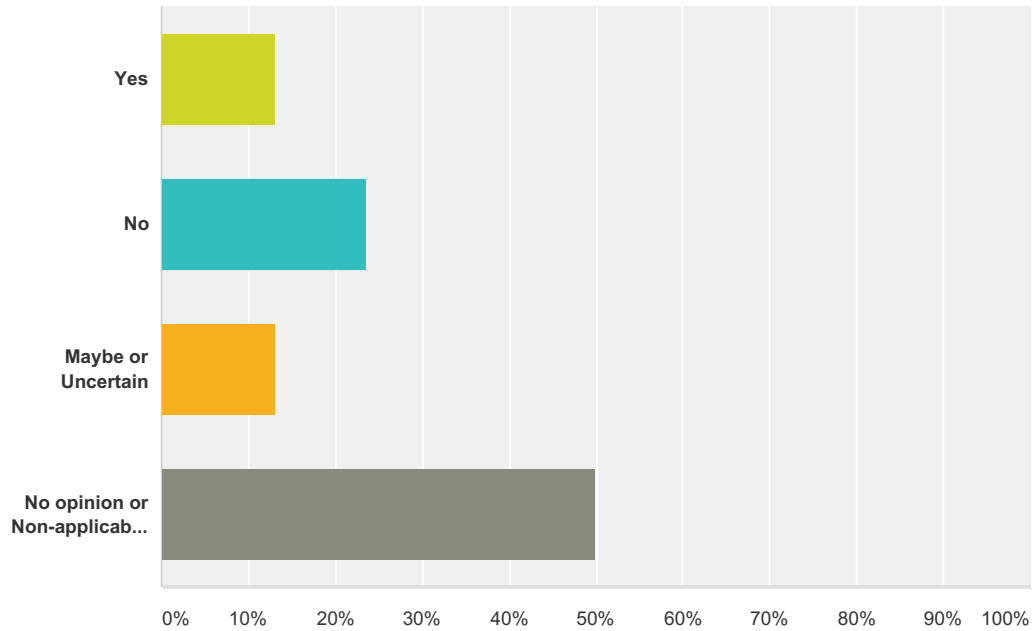
Answered: 114 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	74.56%	85
No	5.26%	6
Maybe or Uncertain	19.30%	22
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	0.88%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>114</b>

**Q4 Is the soil in your farm fields regenerating at 5 tons per acre per year – what people call T - the level needed for soil replacement?**

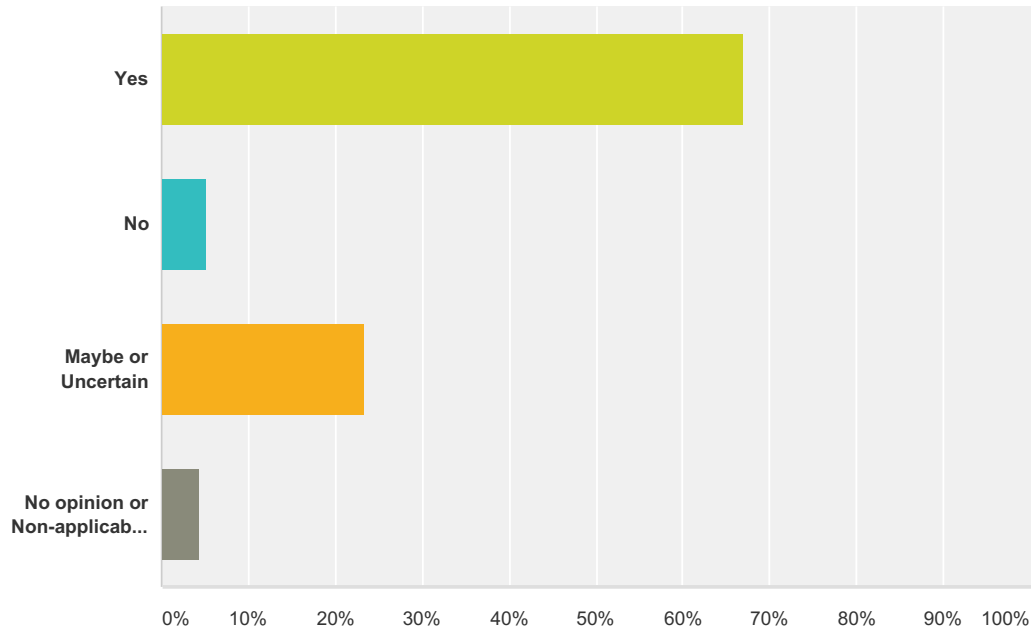
Answered: 114 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	13.16%	15
No	23.68%	27
Maybe or Uncertain	13.16%	15
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	50.00%	57
<b>Total</b>		<b>114</b>

### Q5 Is the expansion of subsidized crop insurance causing some farmers to take more risks by farming marginal and erosive ground?

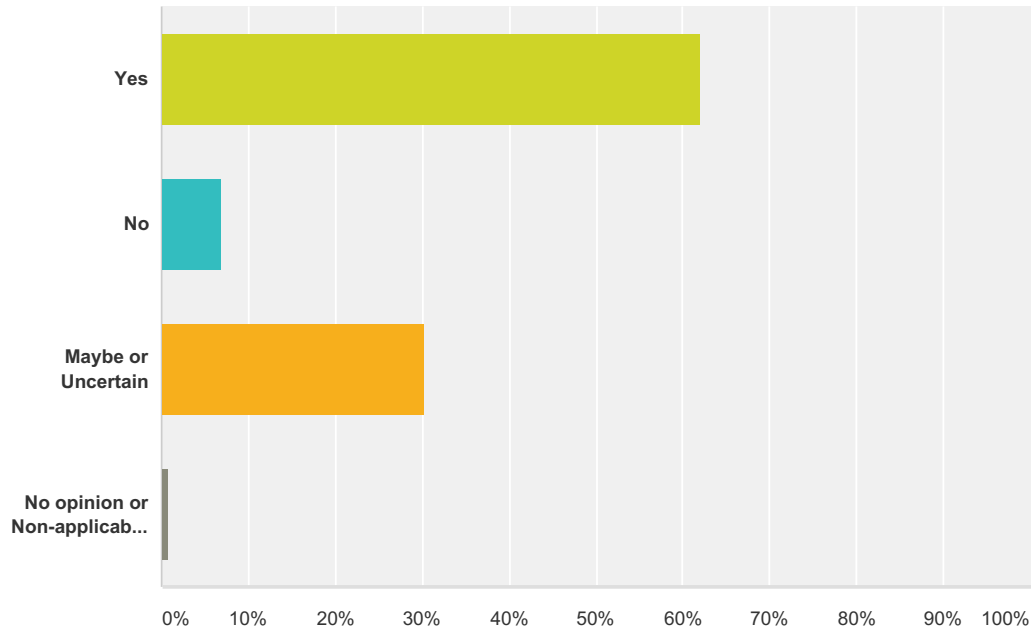
Answered: 115 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	66.96% 77
No	5.22% 6
Maybe or Uncertain	23.48% 27
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	4.35% 5
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

### Q6 Are changes in Iowa land tenure – with bigger farms, more non-operator owners, and more cash leasing – resulting in greater soil erosion?

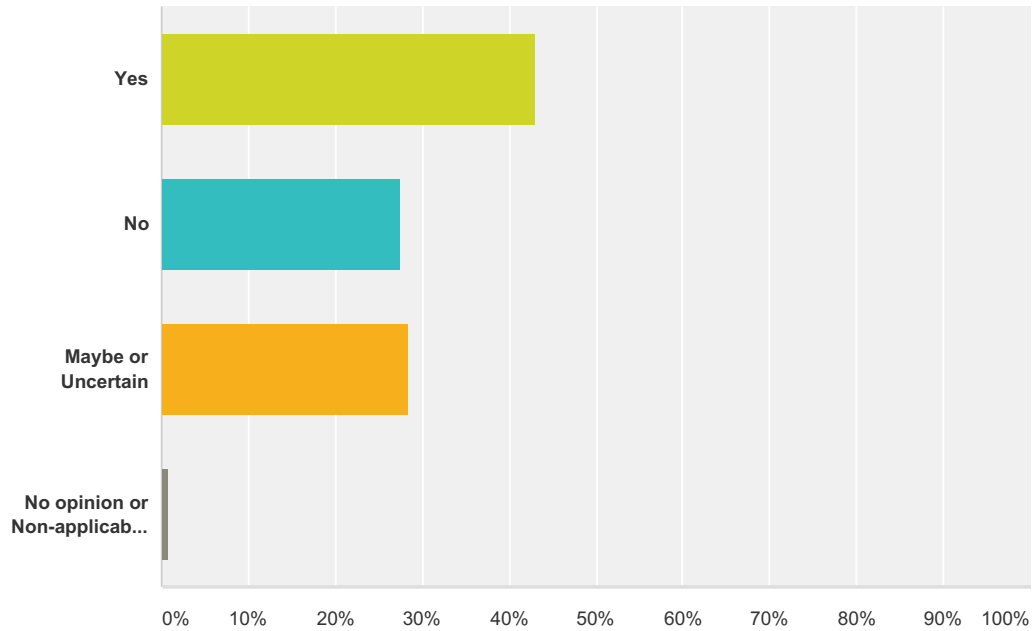
Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	62.07% 72
No	6.90% 8
Maybe or Uncertain	30.17% 35
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	0.86% 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

### Q7 Is the increased focus on “feeding the world” diverting farmers’ attention away from conserving soil and protecting water resources?

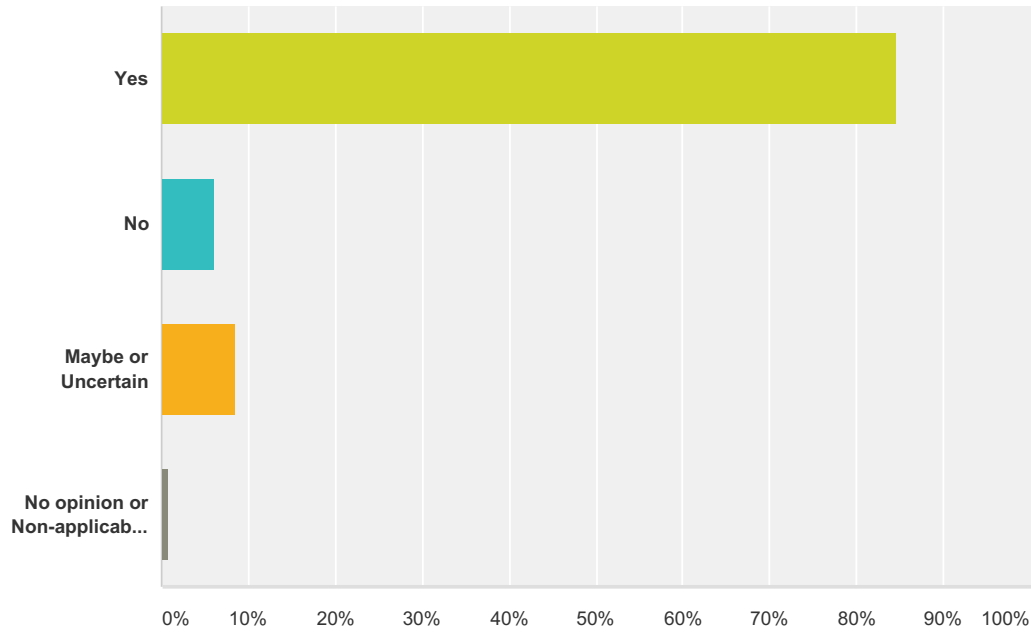
Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	43.10% 50
No	27.59% 32
Maybe or Uncertain	28.45% 33
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	0.86% 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

**Q8 Should the Iowa legislature increase the sales tax by 3/8 cent to help fund natural resource protection and cost-sharing for farm conservation, as endorsed by over 63% of Iowa voters in the 2010 election?**

Answered: 116 Skipped: 0

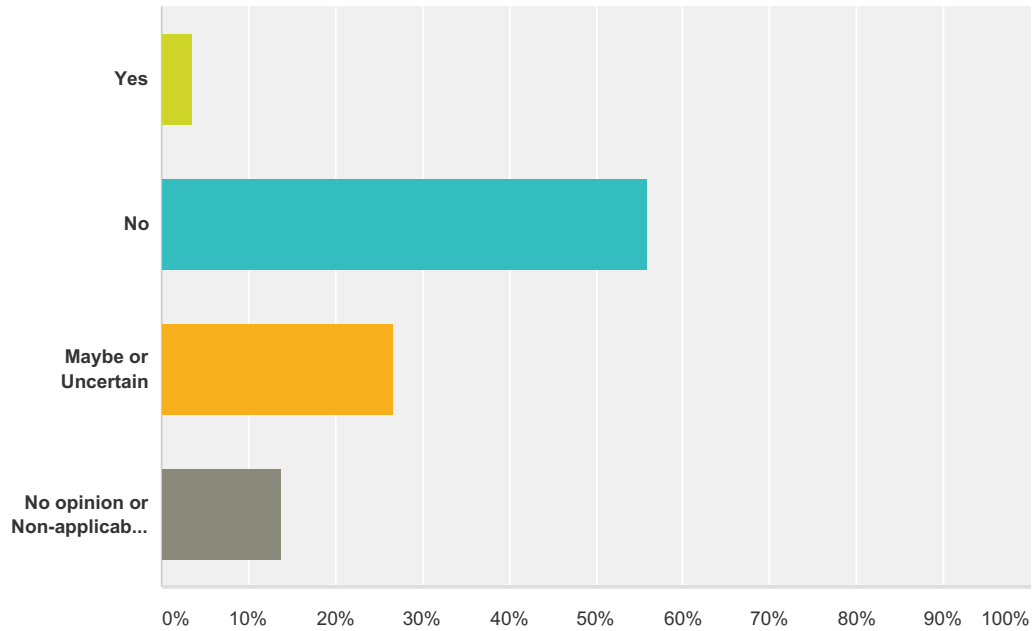


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	84.48%	98
No	6.03%	7
Maybe or Uncertain	8.62%	10
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	0.86%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>116</b>



### Q9 Is your county Soil and Water Conservation District adequately staffed and funded to promote soil stewardship and conservation?

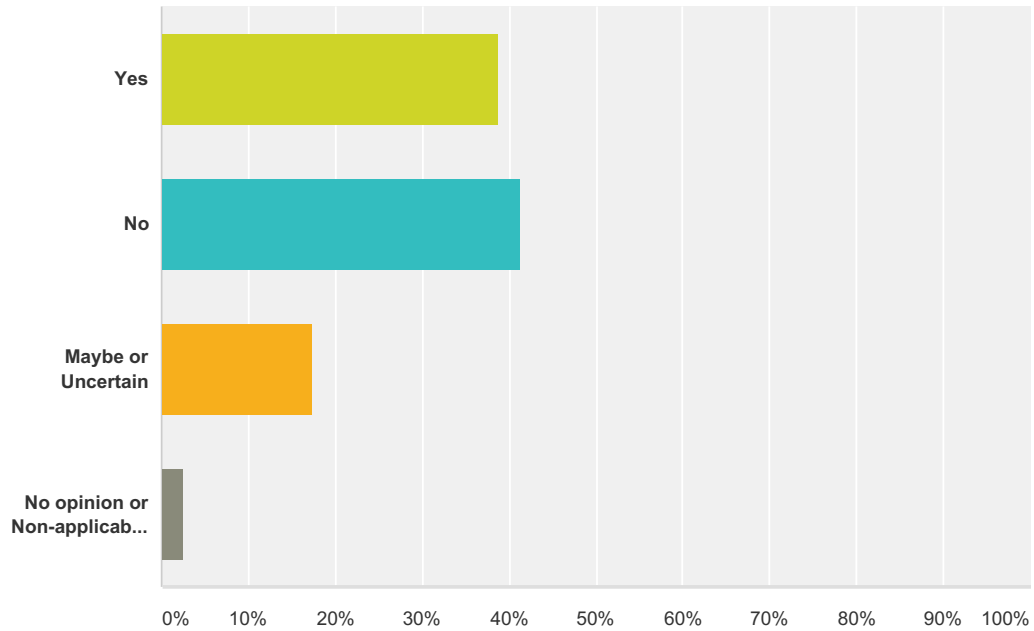
Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	3.45% 4
No	56.03% 65
Maybe or Uncertain	26.72% 31
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	13.79% 16
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

### Q10 Is it possible to implement effective soil and water conservation efforts if a farming system is based on only a corn and soybean rotation?

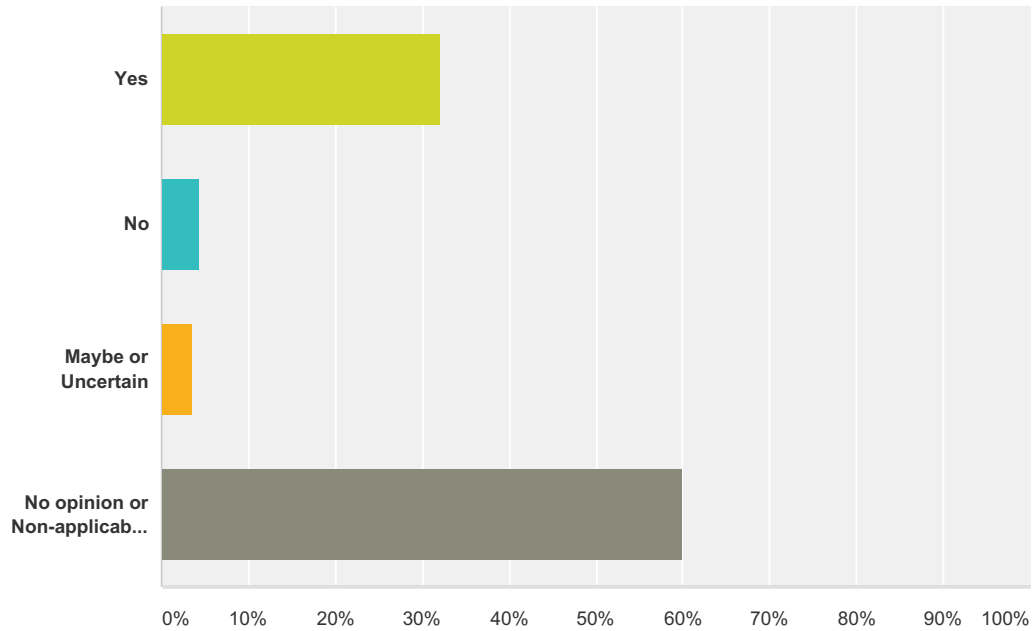
Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	38.79% 45
No	41.38% 48
Maybe or Uncertain	17.24% 20
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	2.59% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

### Q11 Have you ever chosen to pay the full cost of implementing a soil conservation practice rather than apply for cost-sharing funds from the NRCS or SWCD?

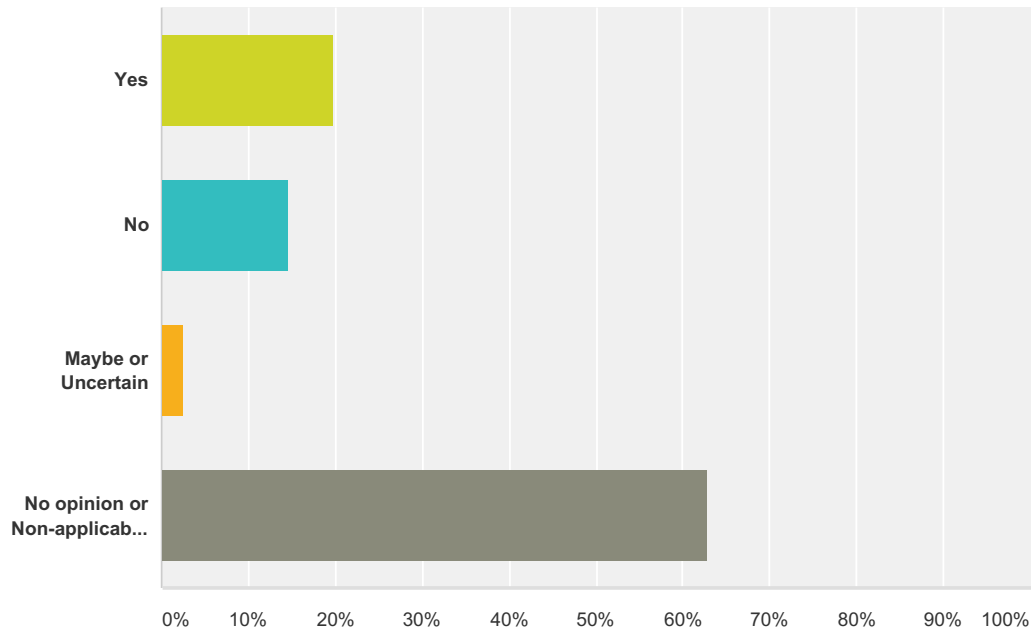
Answered: 115 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	32.17% 37
No	4.35% 5
Maybe or Uncertain	3.48% 4
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	60.00% 69
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

### Q12 Have you ever applied for cost-sharing funds or been approved for funding only to be informed later funds are not available?

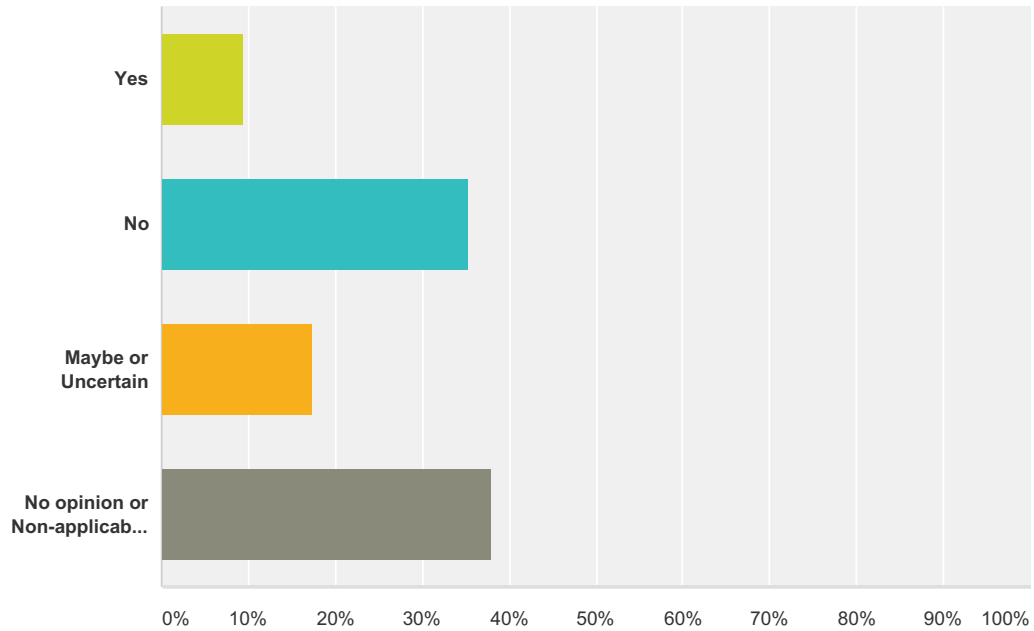
Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	19.83% 23
No	14.66% 17
Maybe or Uncertain	2.59% 3
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	62.93% 73
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

### Q13 If you comply with your conservation plan and the federal conservation rules do you believe this means soil erosion is being prevented on your land?

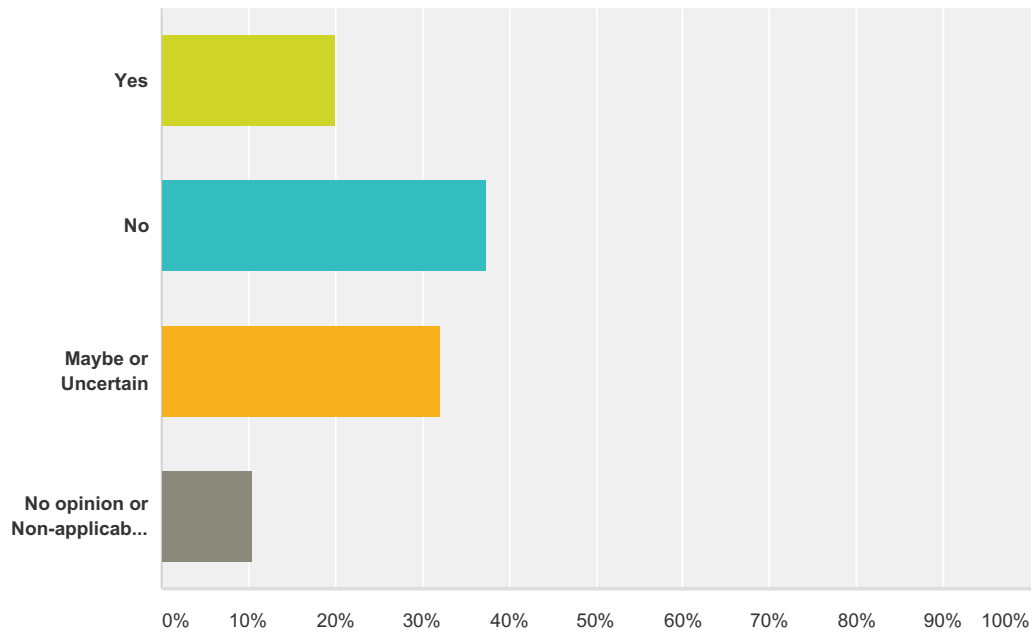
Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	9.48% 11
No	35.34% 41
Maybe or Uncertain	17.24% 20
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	37.93% 44
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

**Q14 Does fear of being penalized for being found "out of compliance" with soil conservation rules, such as not following a conservation plan on highly erodible land, serve as a real motivation for farmers to adopt better conservation practices?**

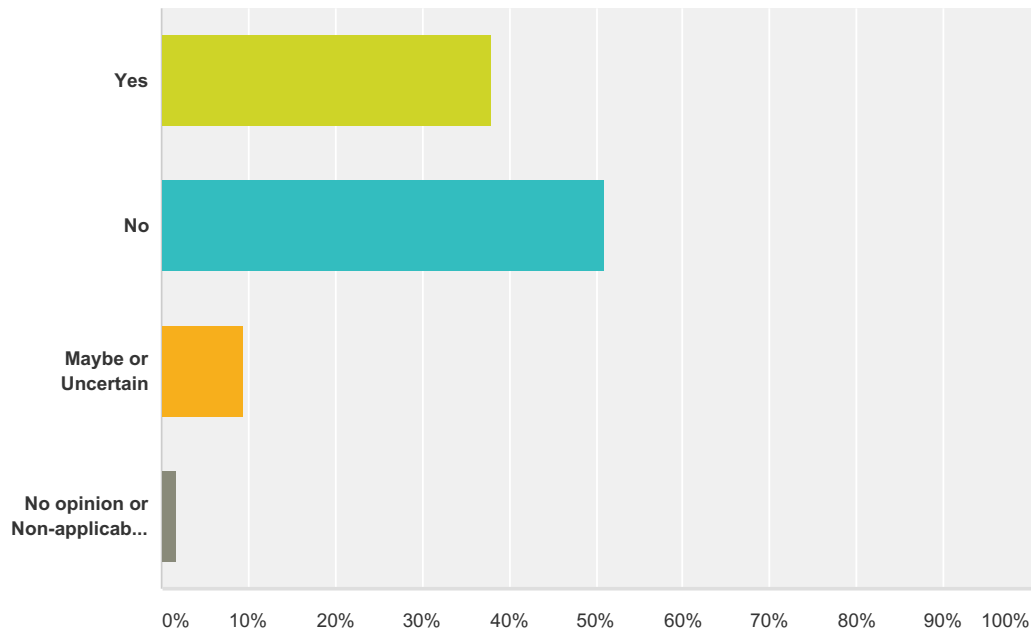
Answered: 115 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	20.00%	23
No	37.39%	43
Maybe or Uncertain	32.17%	37
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	10.43%	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>115</b>

**Q15 Do you know current Iowa law requires landowners to meet allowable soil loss limits established by the county soil and water conservation district, under rules separate from the federal conservation programs administered by the USDA?**

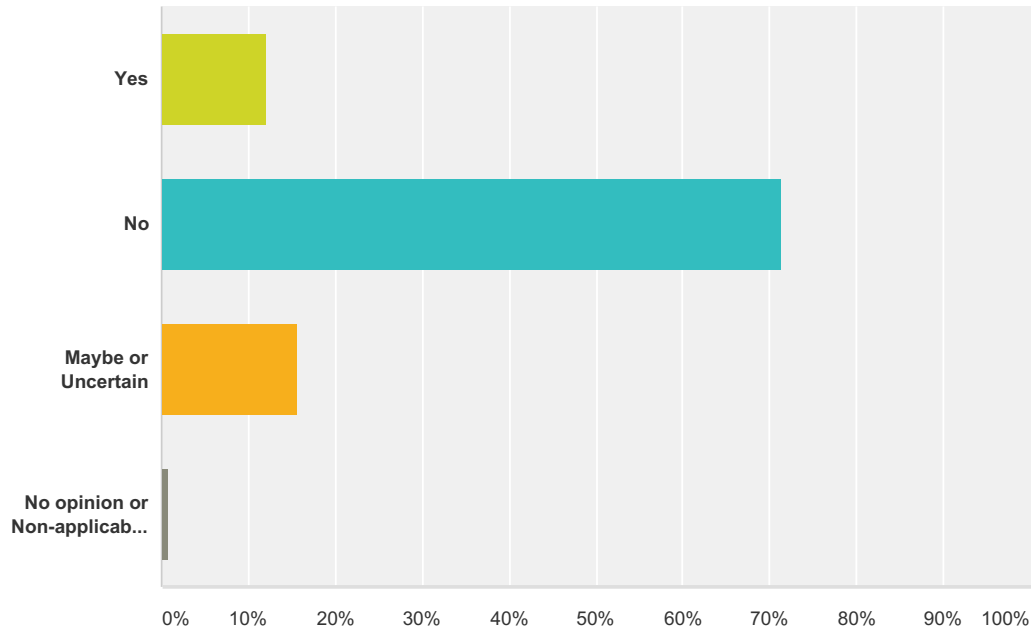
Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	37.93% 44
No	50.86% 59
Maybe or Uncertain	9.48% 11
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	1.72% 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

### Q16 Do you believe Iowa's current laws and regulations concerning water quality protection are adequate to prevent the pollution of our rivers and streams?

Answered: 115 Skipped: 1

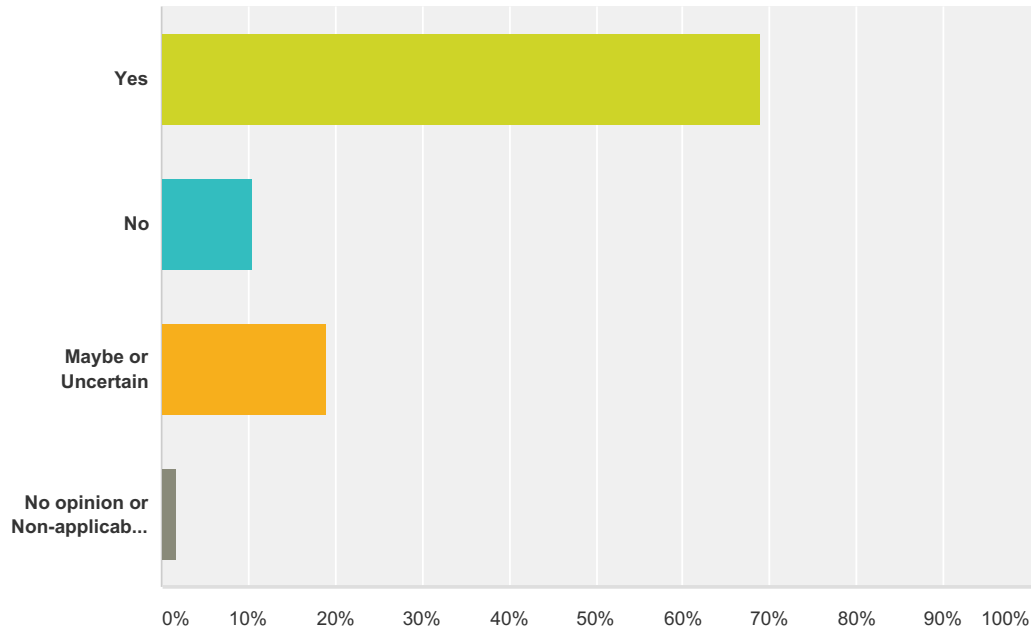


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	12.17%	14
No	71.30%	82
Maybe or Uncertain	15.65%	18
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	0.87%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>115</b>



### Q17 Should farmers who raise crops on land next to rivers and streams be required to plant vegetative buffer strips to help protect water quality and limit soil loss?

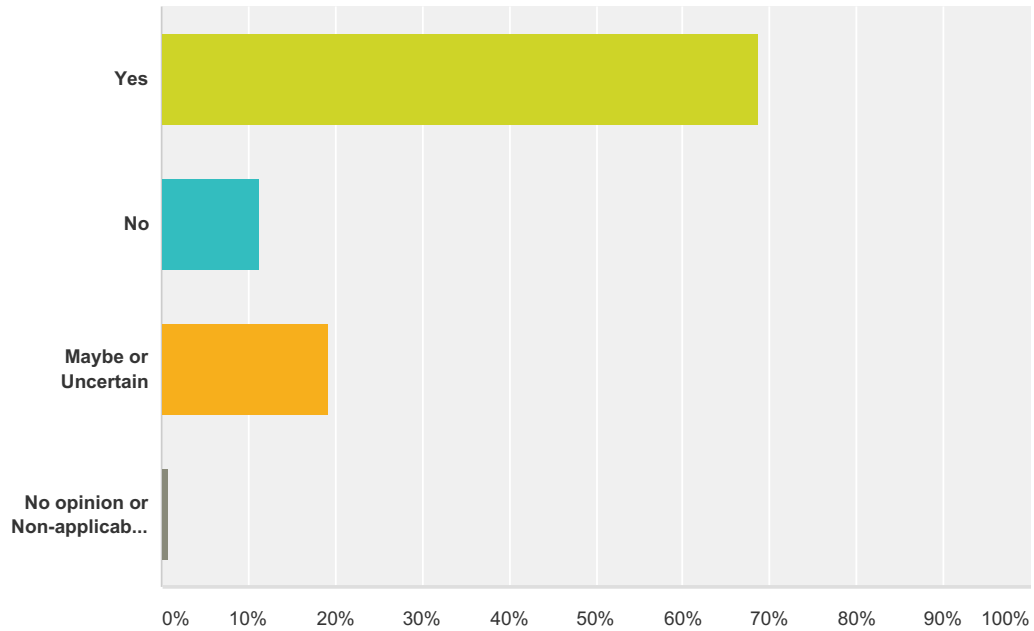
Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	68.97% 80
No	10.34% 12
Maybe or Uncertain	18.97% 22
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	1.72% 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

### Q18 Should farmers be required to have a nutrient management plan to help guide decisions on fertilizer use, such as the timing of application and amounts used?

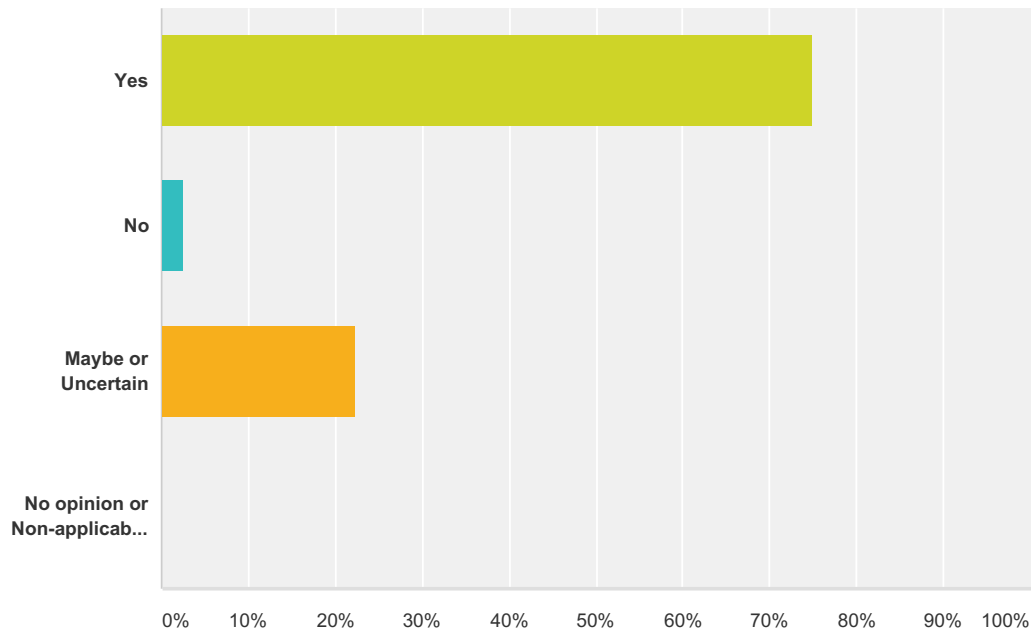
Answered: 115 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	68.70% 79
No	11.30% 13
Maybe or Uncertain	19.13% 22
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	0.87% 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

**Q19 Do you believe private conservation initiatives being developed by some agricultural suppliers and food companies can play an important role in increasing the adoption of soil and water conservation practices?**

Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	75.00% 87
No	2.59% 3
Maybe or Uncertain	22.41% 26
No opinion or Non-applicable to me	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

**Q20 Policy Suggestion – What is Your One Big Idea? If you could make one change in Iowa’s soil and water conservation policy or suggest one idea you think would be a valuable improvement for Iowans to consider – what is it?**

Answered: 81 Skipped: 35

#	Responses	Date
1	No till, cover crops	11/19/2015 2:30 AM
2	All livestock feed should include Iowa grown small grains in at 5% of the ration to rebuild the demand for small grain production which improves water quality, reduces soil erosion and buffers farm income from extremes.	11/18/2015 6:20 PM
3	Make a certain amount of reporting of water & soil data mandatory, and have a plan to increase number of data collection stations. This is a more incremental step than mandating specific benchmarks or practices, but just as necessary. Since it's more incremental, I think it could find wider support.	11/18/2015 4:52 PM
4	Increase regulations such as adoption of no-till in all rowcropped lands, limit sizing and require additional sitting restrictions for animal confinements, and create stricter manure application rules.	11/18/2015 3:26 PM
5	Fully fund the 3/8 cent sales tax.	11/18/2015 11:04 AM
6	Convince, through legislation and concerted political capital, Farm Bureau and Governor that it is in their long and short term best interests to regenerate soil on Iowa ground. Pass IWILL and feature the Nutrient Reduction Strategy in the news every month.	11/18/2015 8:58 AM
7	Enforce current regulations (there is very minimal risk of being found out of compliance or being required to refund cost share money when practices are removed) and provide adequate funding for voluntary soil conservation practices and farm plan compliance will go a long way to decreasing soil loss and protecting water quality. Those who care are willing to do what they can and those that don't have little risk of enforcement or financial consequences as a result of their actions.	11/18/2015 8:32 AM
8	Environmental financing arrangement between city operations and SWCD or Drainage Districts.	11/18/2015 7:41 AM
9	More state dollars need to be allocated toward soil conservation and not toward permitting drainage outlets. On some soil types, continuous corn requiring deep tillage may hinder the water permeability of the soil and increase nitrogen leaching from the soil. Also, utilization of strip tillage methods may reduce phosphorus applications. This is \$130,000+ piece of equipment pulled by a 400+ horsepower tractor. Funding to help smaller farmers purchase strip till equipment and for farmers to be willing to do custom tillage may make this conservation practice more available to farmers. Previous USDA programs allowed first time reduced tillage applications to be eligible for up to 3 years of funding for the three year commitment to this soil conservation project. This is more than one idea for this multi faceted challenge of water quality and soil conservation in the land between to rivers.	11/17/2015 10:01 PM
10	subsidize bringing alfalfa back into the system	11/17/2015 9:59 PM
11	The conservation delivery system needs to be privatized. USDA and IDALS needs to contract with ag retailers to deliver these services. It will get done more effectively and it will give ag retailers a way to offset the loss of sales in ag products.	11/17/2015 9:30 PM
12	I believe that most farmers will adopt responsible soil and water conservation practices that lead to improved performance and profitability. The cost of any additional practices needed that do not lead to better performance or profitability must be shared between land owners and those who do benefit from those additional practices. That's not a big or new idea, but it seems some of the more vocal people in the general public have forgotten that. More conservation advice and assistance is what's needed...not more regulations.	11/17/2015 9:01 PM
13	Programs to encourage farmers to prevent blanket bailing of corn stocks to increase fall residue. Responsible farmers take care of their fields, but neglect farmers kept in business through government subsidies do not. Farm subsidies hurt the land in a round about way.	11/17/2015 8:12 PM
14	Absentee landlords who live out of state have to pay a maintenance fee for land they lease that would ultimately pay for 4-5 staff to monitor the land and work with the renter farmers to make sure they are compliant with current standards, and best conservation practices are being implemented.	11/17/2015 8:07 PM

## SOIL conference: 20 questions

15	Require farmers to no-till if they want to keep crop insurance and other government benefits.	11/17/2015 7:06 PM
16	A point based system nutrient management plan, The field and agronomic actions are all related to a point system. Fall tillage on HEL or fall N application could be scored higher thus higher insurance rates or some other result, no-till and buffers result in lower score. Look at true actions by the operator and not a across the board. This allows for a true field by field and operator by operator evaluation.	11/17/2015 6:23 PM
17	Regulate drainage tiles! Or monitor and report at the very least.	11/17/2015 6:05 PM
18	Farmland within 1/4 mile and/or in a designated floodway be taken out of commission. Not enrolled in wetland reserve or other conservation program - but purchased and owned by others. This land is often farmed to take advantage of insurance payments. The cost is significant to do this, but it's a permanent move that doesn't require the same level of monitoring on an annual basis once appropriate plant material is established. Benefits to habitat, water quality and soil protection would be tremendous.	11/17/2015 5:54 PM
19	Create real carrots (incentives) and real sticks (regulations) into the Iowa NRS	11/17/2015 5:23 PM
20	Focus ALL resources in one watershed and rotate that focus after so many years vs spreading limited resources thinly over the state	11/17/2015 2:13 PM
21	If a police officer witnesses a person throwing trash (pollution) out of their car when driving down the highway, they are pulled over and cited for littering. It's not publicly acceptable. Water pollution and soil loss aren't publicly acceptable either, but they are less obvious than trash being thrown out a window of a car. DNR conservation officers currently enforce fishing and hunting regulations. More conservation officers could be hired with water quality funding and they could be trained to educate/regulate (in their communities) fish, wildlife, water and soil regulations.	11/17/2015 1:43 PM
22	Conservation plans should require that all cropland meet soil health criteria, as defined by USDA/NRCS, reduce soil erosion to one percent or less, and increase soil organic matter to six percent in 20 years or less. .	11/17/2015 11:45 AM
23	Market development for third and fourth crops, establishment of infrastructure for local processing/local foods, more diversified leadership in gender and race on local and state levels	11/17/2015 11:33 AM
24	Reorganization of SWCDs to a more regional model. 100 SWCDs is too many.	11/17/2015 10:09 AM
25	Bacteria needs to be included in every conversation about water quality. Not just nitrates and phosphates.	11/17/2015 8:09 AM
26	Encourage a comprehensive plan be prepared for all land and develop a long-term schedule to implement the plan coordinating landowner, producer and government resources.	11/17/2015 8:01 AM
27	regulation and monitoring of tiling and implementing tiling catch basins to slow water from entering open ditches and waterways	11/17/2015 6:59 AM
28	Tax policy that rewards farmers that implement a basic soil and water conservation plan. If no SWP plan then an extra tax to offset cost of degradation of Iowa's natural resources.	11/16/2015 10:58 PM
29	Make fall tillage a crime.	11/16/2015 8:04 PM
30	Well targeted funding for both technical assistance and financial assistance. The CREP program, for example, works.	11/16/2015 8:01 PM
31	I believe farmers next to rivers and streams should be expected to plant buffer strips to protect water quality and limit soil loss.	11/16/2015 7:16 PM
32	Even more emphasis on planting cover crops. More education about how and why and the benefits.	11/16/2015 6:50 PM
33	Federally- tie conservation compliance to crop insurance subsidies State- required buffers	11/16/2015 6:16 PM
34	Tithe for nature. Convert up to 10% of cropland (start with the unprofitable areas first) to natural ecosystems to bring balance to our land.	11/16/2015 5:57 PM
35	Redefine T with research. It is not realistic now	11/16/2015 5:57 PM
36	Increase education in soil quality	11/16/2015 5:25 PM
37	Appropriate river restoration practices	11/16/2015 5:16 PM
38	I think there needs to be increased interaction between researchers and farmers.	11/16/2015 4:59 PM
39	Empower farmers to overcome tradition and change.	11/16/2015 4:44 PM
40	Field buffers on all creeks, streams and lakes, public or private. Also additional funding for stream bank restoration to try and prevent bank erosion. Of course there was natural erosion with meandering streams in the past, however, I would suggest we have greatly increased this erosion with conventional farming practices.	11/16/2015 4:34 PM
41	limit support to large farmers (i.e. 1000 acres)	11/16/2015 4:21 PM

## SOIL conference: 20 questions

42	Private businesses must step up and find innovative funding mechanisms to get growers to invest in conservation-growers choose economics over environment every time, so we must make it financially feasible for them to do the right thing.	11/16/2015 4:15 PM
43	Require all non-operator landowners to register with IDALS to facilitate outreach to them.	11/16/2015 4:09 PM
44	So much is tied to Federal Policy through the farm bill, but I think more CRP lands may be enrolled if there was an interim payment adjustment- say every 5 years. Maybe Iowa could offer that adjustment amount if it is an increase. Farmland shouldn't be taxed so low, either.	11/16/2015 4:07 PM
45	Develop watershed based N and P reduction goals as an alternative to a 45% reduction statewide.	11/16/2015 4:07 PM
46	All farms should have a basic conservation plan that includes soil and water considerations, and show that they are making progress to implement.	11/16/2015 3:59 PM
47	To allow wetlands developed with Federal cost share dollars to be used for mitigation of farmed wetlands. This would encourage more treatment wetland developments that would reduce nutrients in downstream waters. Farmers would be more likely to install edge of field practices or establish buffer strips if they could improve their drainage to marginal farmed wetlands in the middle of their fields.	11/16/2015 3:56 PM
48	Tackle non-point source pollution issues. Require construction companies to mitigate soils disturbed after construction is complete. Stop building/constructing in green space; rather, (re)develop in urban areas. Sorry, that's three.	11/16/2015 3:55 PM
49	Replace the zeal (by advocates) for regulation with zeal directed towards repealing perverse incentives/subsidizes that encourage risk-taking and production on marginal lands that, without subsidies, would not be economical viable for producers/farmers.	11/16/2015 3:48 PM
50	Do away with all government agricultural farm programs.	11/16/2015 3:46 PM
51	I like the idea that question 18 presents, if farmers were required to have a nutrient management plan to be eligible for crop insurance there could be a lot more awareness brought to the table. A plan requiring for soil samples on a regular basis to aid in decision making, maybe insurance incentives for having data driven decisions rather than old habits or the "norm". There could be different levels for this for instance different criteria depending on the total acreage you have in row crop. Possibly a change in the "double cropping" insurance restrictions as an incentive to get more cover crops on the ground.	11/16/2015 3:26 PM
52	Find an economical third crop for incorporating into the Iowa Landscape such as a small grain.	11/16/2015 1:52 PM
53	Ban fall application of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer	11/16/2015 1:28 PM
54	cover crops at very least in corn/soybean rotations; focus on moving to third crop added to their systems	11/16/2015 10:28 AM
55	NRCS has a policy that we do not fail that may have caused the lack of staffing and funds. The staff is so short in our office that we are is half of a year to a full year to get projects started, and funding is the same.	11/16/2015 8:44 AM
56	Require nutrient removal wetlands when drainage is upgraded.	11/15/2015 7:48 PM
57	Also require conservation plans from landowners, without it becoming a burden on farmers who are renting land	11/15/2015 6:05 PM
58	develop a market based approach for valuing and financing soil conservation and water quality practices as called for in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.	11/14/2015 2:07 PM
59	No crop insurance subsidy on Class 4 land because of erosion or flooding. FSA stop widely granting "Good Faith" and follow through with appropriate penalties when farmers are found repeatedly out of compliance.	11/14/2015 10:02 AM
60	Farmers would comply with best NRCS recommendations for soil conservation however that comes about.	11/13/2015 9:03 PM
61	A combination of government policy and private industry investment that targets improving the market for sustainability produced food to the consumer. Agriculture follows consumer demand. If consumers want it then farmers will produce it.	11/13/2015 4:11 PM
62	All Iowans should work on soil and water conservation together and not divert to divisive policies that attempt to tell those who know the land what they should do.	11/13/2015 2:19 PM
63	Require practitioners to receive periodic continuing education, verified by CEU's--similar to professional certification standards for licensed professionals like doctors and architects.	11/13/2015 9:38 AM
64	Getting producers to farm for soil health and erosion reduction for preservation of the land.	11/13/2015 8:03 AM
65	Incentivize inclusion of forage crops in rotations and increased pastured livestock	11/12/2015 8:06 PM

## SOIL conference: 20 questions

66	Like any other public health danger, agricultural pollution must be regulated, including water quality monitoring, TMDLs, permits on tile outlets, incentives tied to crop insurance and water quality plans tailored to the landscape. This is not singling out farmers; rather it is bringing agriculture in line with accepted technological, ethical, economic, and cultural norms.	11/12/2015 4:44 PM
67	The "One Big Idea" is to not believe there is one big idea. The challenge to agriculture in Iowa is to build a resilient system of more diverse cropping and livestock systems with less row crops and more perennials, small grains, and cover crops; till less; take advantage of the full growing season for more plant growth; slow runoff to reduce concentrated flow erosion and streambank erosion; use fertilizers and other inputs conservatively; be smart and diverse in our pest control; strategically redevelop land into wetlands, buffers, and other mitigation practices; stop urban encroachment onto prime farmland; stabilize the climate; and – this is critical – create a culture, an agri-culture, which values the capacity of future generations to feed themselves even while making money and optimizing our ability to feed the world today. There are low hanging fruit, but no shortcuts.	11/12/2015 4:10 PM
68	Increase support for regular monitoring of water quality on all Iowa rivers and streams.	11/12/2015 3:42 PM
69	Take acres within field out of production that are not profitable and put them into a conservation program (CPR, pollinator programs, etc).	11/12/2015 3:31 PM
70	Remove perverse subsidies and incentives (such as insurance programs that subsidize risk and push annual row crop production onto marginal lands). People clamor for regulation, but in my opinion, these programs should be eliminated first for the biggest bang for the buck. Money is saved, enforcement isn't needed, and other less harmful and possible productive uses would be innovated for such lands. Also, more should be done to promote alternative crops/markets, such as trees and other perennials for food, fuel, and fiber production. Also, pastured meat production should be encouraged, not lumped in with "unsustainable" meat production utilizing annual grains for feed.	11/12/2015 3:28 PM
71	Require minimum environmental performance standards for soil erosion and water quality on all runoff from tilled acres and let farmers decide what approaches they want to use to meet those performance standards.	11/12/2015 3:22 PM
72	Enforce the federal Clean Water Act, with real consequences for non-compliance.	11/12/2015 3:20 PM
73	none	11/12/2015 3:10 PM
74	IWILL!!!	11/12/2015 3:05 PM
75	create a targeted system that rewards positive conservation outcomes, based on scientific measurements of water quality and soil erosion and stop paying for random acts of conservation that independently do not have a significant impact.	11/12/2015 3:04 PM
76	Implement a soil severance tax for landowners when soil losses exceed a set standard unless a conservation plan is in place, using the revenue to fund local SWCD efforts.	11/12/2015 8:40 AM
77	How can we educate everyone who owns land that they have a responsibility to protect their natural resources and can we provide the best technical assistance possible to address those resources?	11/12/2015 8:35 AM
78	Privatizing soil & nutrient management plans, tied to the companies already working with farmers in these areas.	11/11/2015 4:52 PM
79	Government gets more of what it subsidizes. Real conservation needs to be coupled with FSA farm payments and crop ins.subsidies. Despite push back from some farm groups, real change will only come about by mandating conservation practices that are tied to subsidized crop insurance and farm programs.	11/11/2015 3:56 PM
80	Require HEL to have permanent cover. Could be grazed, row cropped with permanent cover crop, baled..., but cover must exist.	11/11/2015 2:40 PM
81	Mandate the use of effective conservation practices that can be reasonably enforced from year to year.	11/11/2015 1:44 PM