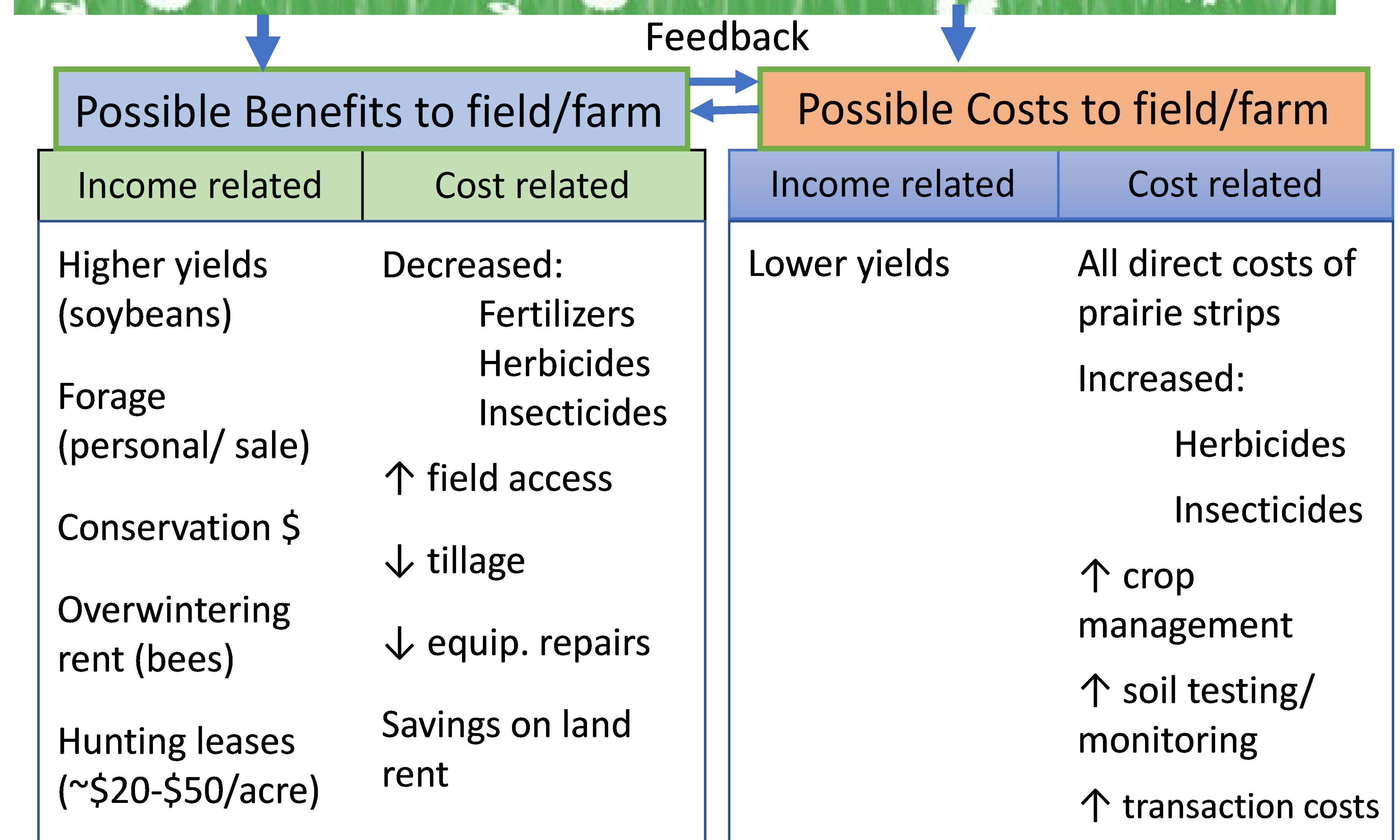


Full-field microeconomic impacts associated with prairie strips

Hypothesis: Prairie strips will have an overall positive economic impact on field/ farm economics depending on cash crop savings, conservation \$, ancillary markets, & subfield application.



- Implementation of prairie strips costs less than \$100/ha(treated) or less than \$40/A (treated)¹
- Survey sent to 40+ farmers or landowners with prairie strips installed on their land in July 2020
- Focus on how prairie strips affect on-farm and off-farm income in the long-run.
 - Nutrient management
 - Pest management
 - Soil health

¹Tyndall, J. C., Schulte, L. A., Liebman, M., & Helmers, M. (2013). Field-level financial assessment of contour prairie strips for enhancement of environmental quality. *Environmental Management*, 52(3), 736–747. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-013-0106-9>



Science-Based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips

Since 2007, 42 cooperators in the Midwest have joined the STRIPS project, allowing research on their land.

In the 2018 Farm Bill, prairie strips were funded under the Conservation Reserve Program (CP43).

In the first year of CP43, over 9,000 acres were added - a third of those acres in Iowa.¹

A meta-analysis suggested that ***economics and management*** are the primary concerns for farmers in their decision to adopt BMPs.²

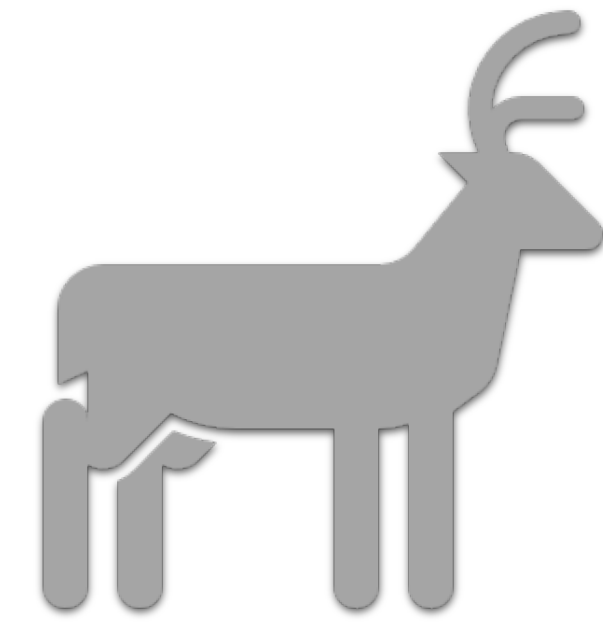


<https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/content/what-are-prairie-strips>

¹USDA Farm Service Agency. (2020). *Conservation Reserve Program Monthly Summary – December 2020*.

²Ranjan, P., Church, S. P., Floress, K., & Prokopy, L. S. (2019). Synthesizing Conservation Motivations and Barriers: What Have We Learned from Qualitative Studies of Farmers' Behaviors in the United States? *Society and Natural Resources*, 32(11), 1171–1199. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2019.1648710>

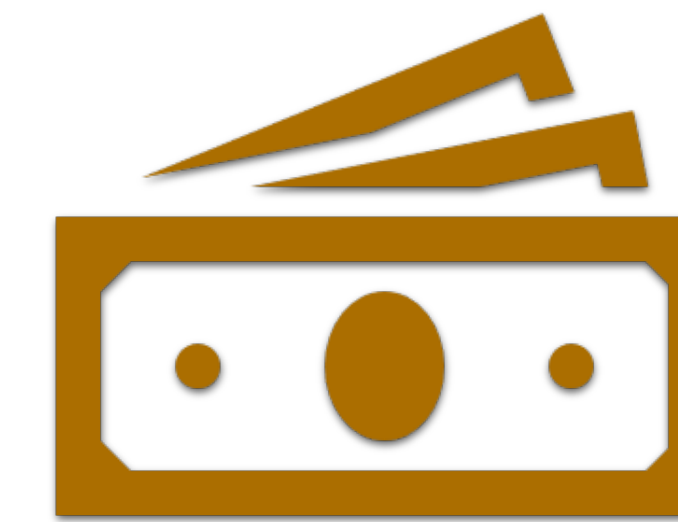
Since adding prairie strips, most respondents...



Saw an increase in
wildlife



Did not notice cash crop
yield changes



Did not spend more
money on fuel



Did not spend more
time scouting for pests

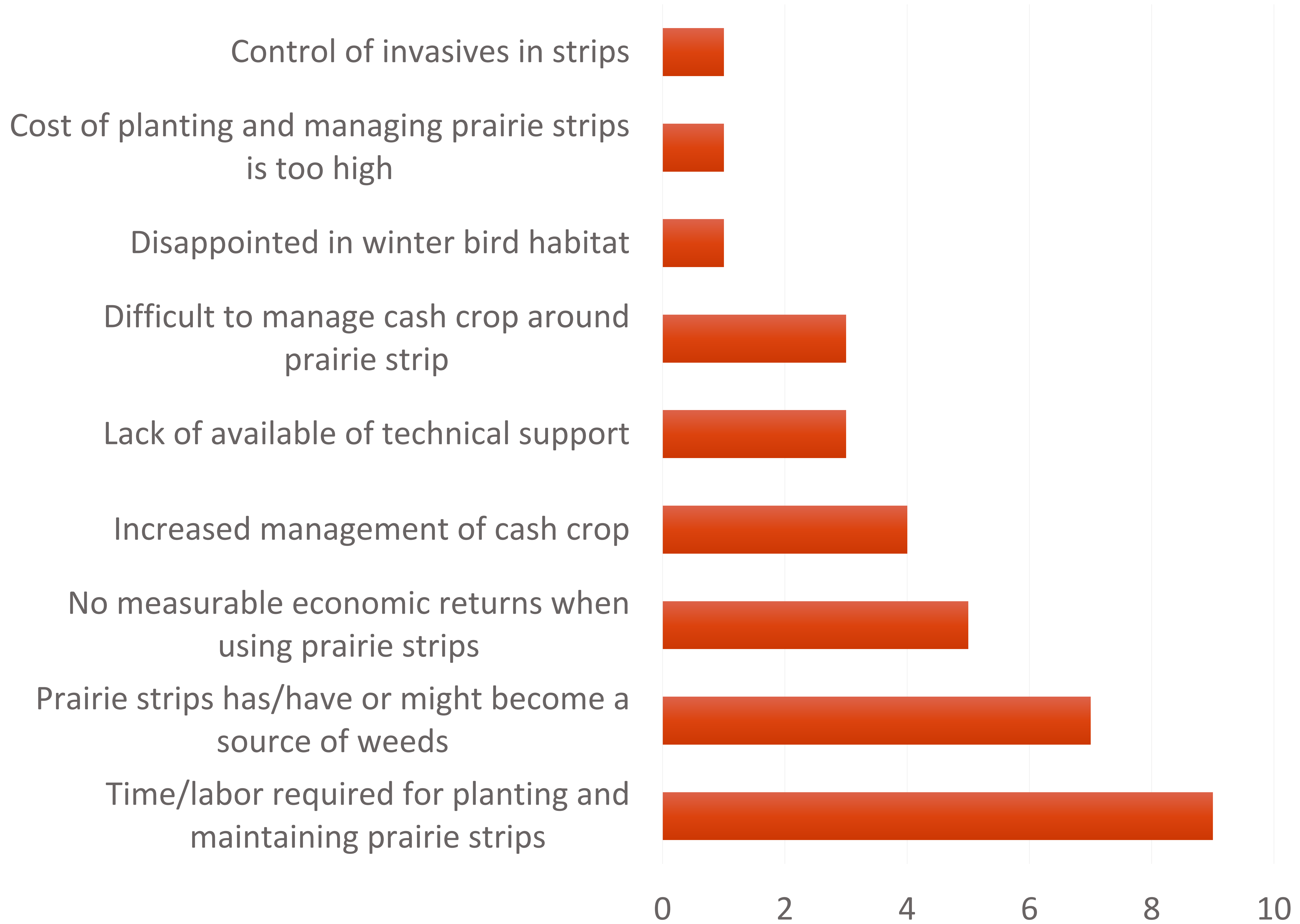


Did not change fertilizer
amounts or timing

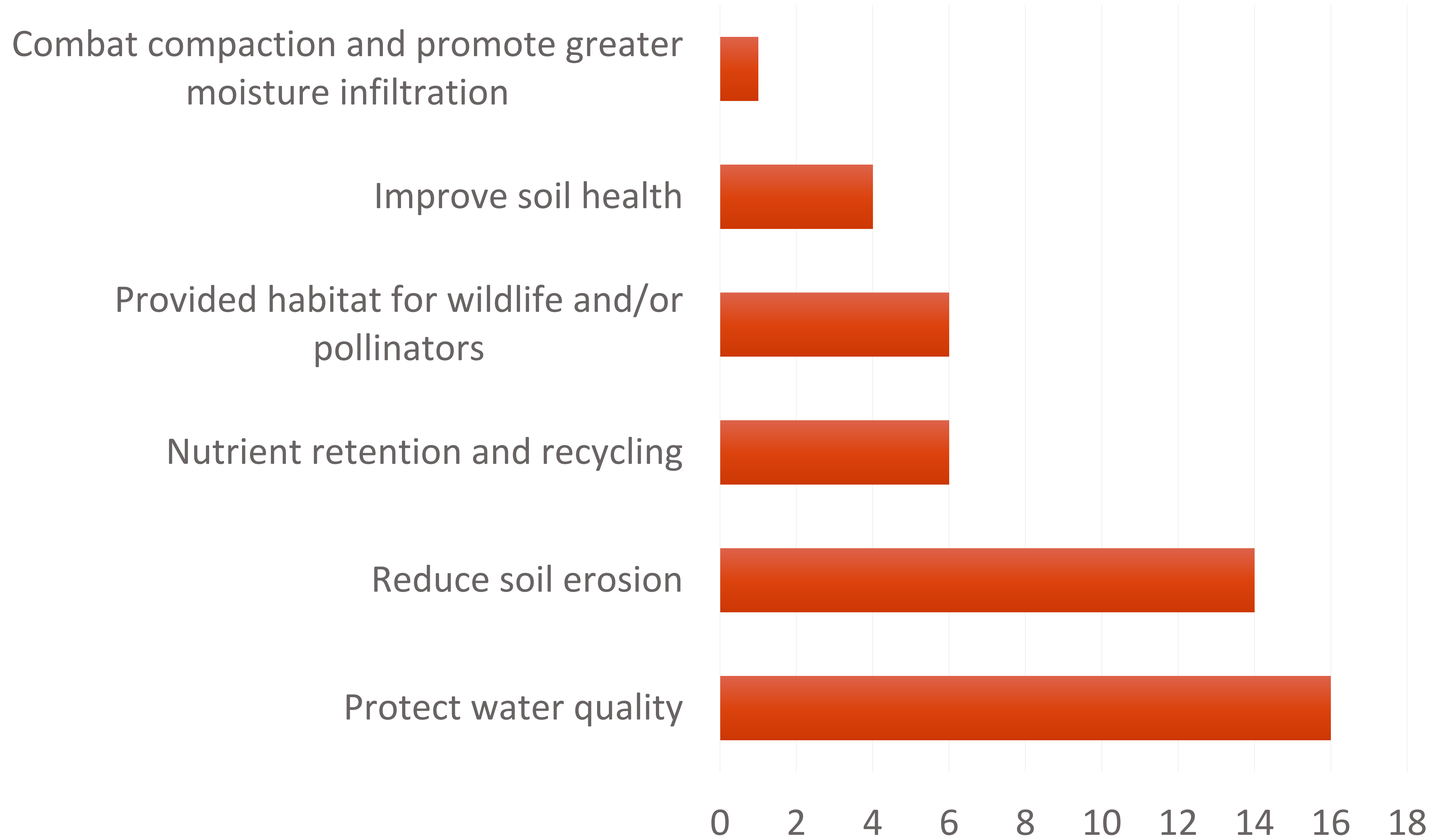


Did not change
chemical pesticide use

What are the main challenges with prairie strips?



What are the main benefits of prairie strips?





While operators noted challenges to working with prairie strips, these challenges were not enough to significantly affect their farm-level economics



Many farmers have not had to adjust cash crop management due to prairie strips



Yield effects from the prairie strips have not been observed

These results can help inform new adopters of prairie strips what to expect during the life of the practice