

Upper Iowa River Watershed :: Resilience Planning 2017 Landowner Survey

Overview

In July 2017, 1,300 surveys were mailed to 1,300 landowners in the Upper Iowa River Watershed. The goal was to assess landowners' experiences with flooding and conservation, to learn about landowners' attitudes, and to contribute to an assessment of the willingness of landowners across the watershed, as well as landowners within specific HUC 12 sub-watersheds, to participate in water quality and quantity solutions.

As of December 2017, 308 surveys were returned, which is an approximately 24 percent response rate. The results were compiled and reported to the Upper Iowa River Watershed Management Authority (WMA) Board. A report on the results will also be included in the long term plan Northeast Iowa RC&D is producing for the WMA.

Audience and Response

Surveys mailed :: 1,300

Surveys returned :: 307

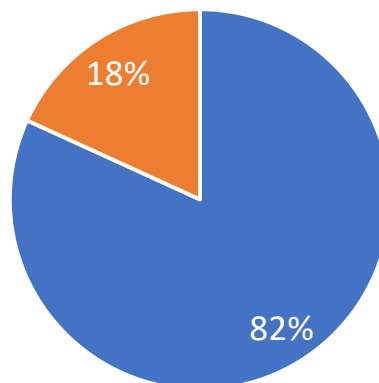
Response Rate :: 24%

Audience :: A list of people and companies that own land was compiled from county parcel data. 1,300 addresses were chosen at random.

Survey recipients and respondents included landowners who live in the watershed, as well as landowners who live outside the watershed. Both landowners in municipalities and in unincorporated areas were included in the list. Residents who do not own property/land were not included.

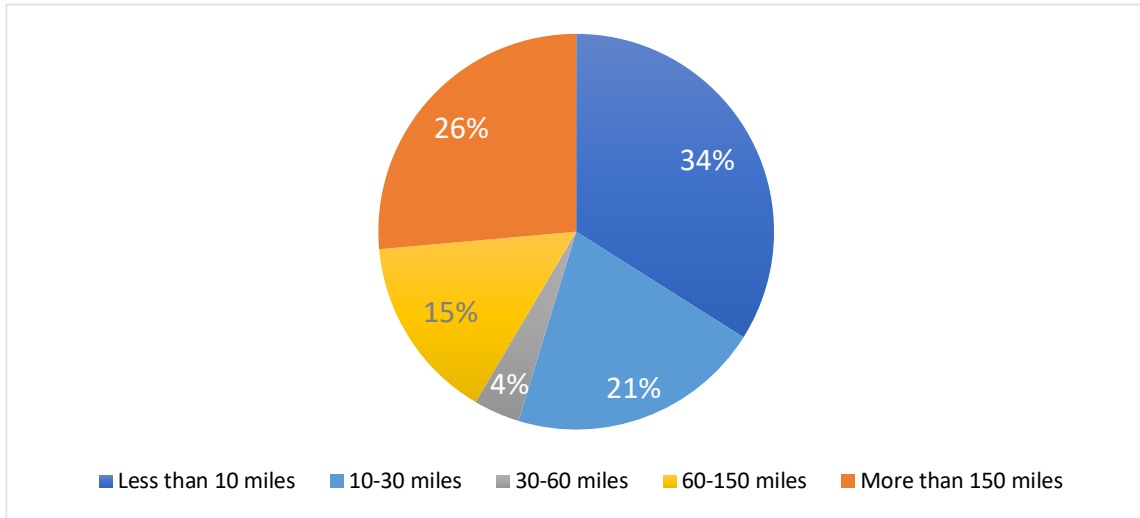
Property & Residence

Is your primary residence in the Upper Iowa River Watershed?¹

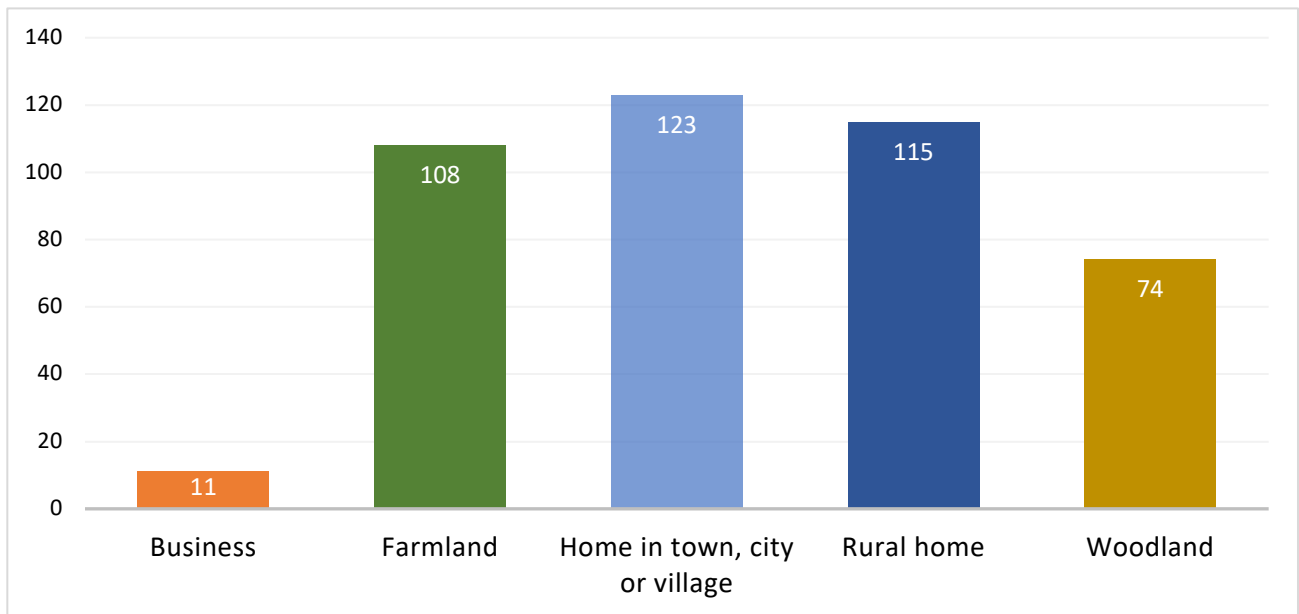


■ Lives in the watershed ■ Lives outside the watershed

If not, how close do you live to the Upper Iowa River Watershed?

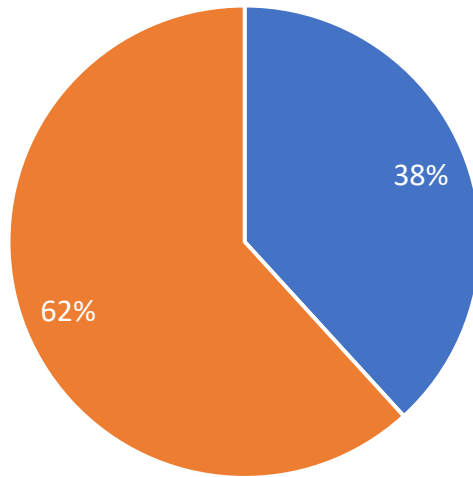


Which of the following best describes your property in the Upper Iowa River Watershed?



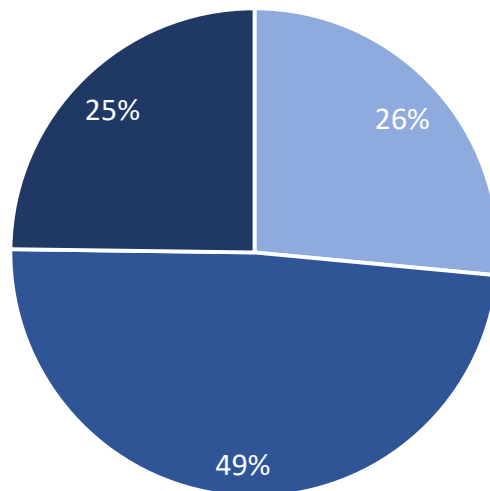
Experience with Flooding

In the last 5 years, has your home, land or business in the Upper Iowa River Watershed been impacted by flooding?



■ Yes, I have been impacted by flooding ■ No, I have not been impacted by flooding

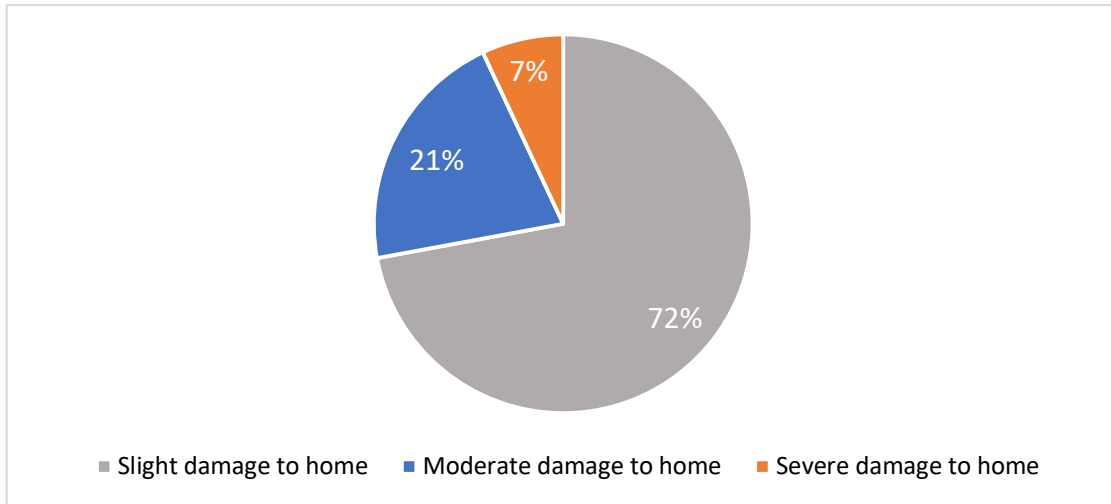
How often have you experienced flooding in the last 5 years?



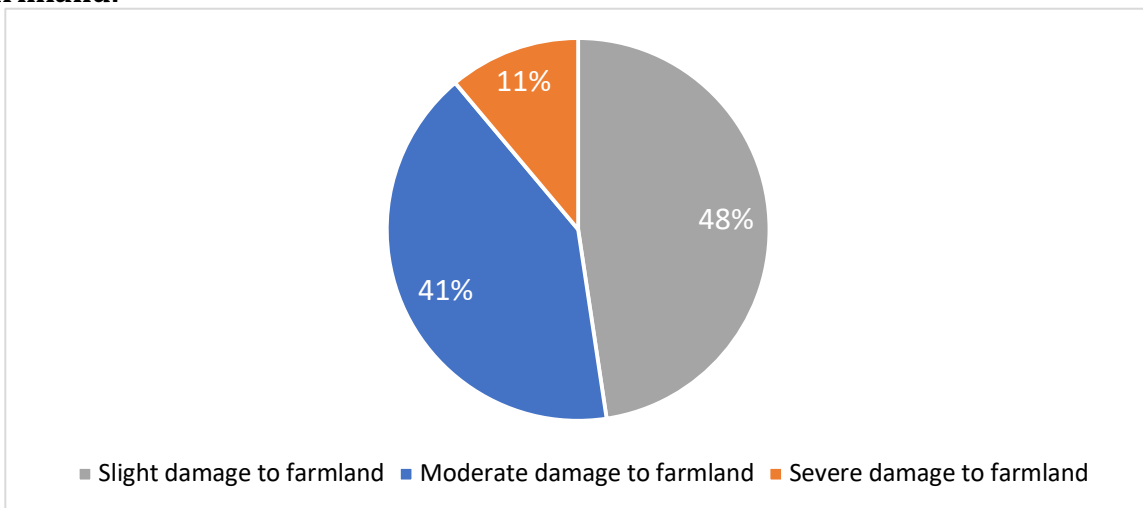
■ Once ■ 2-3 times ■ More than 3 times

How severe was the damage from flooding?

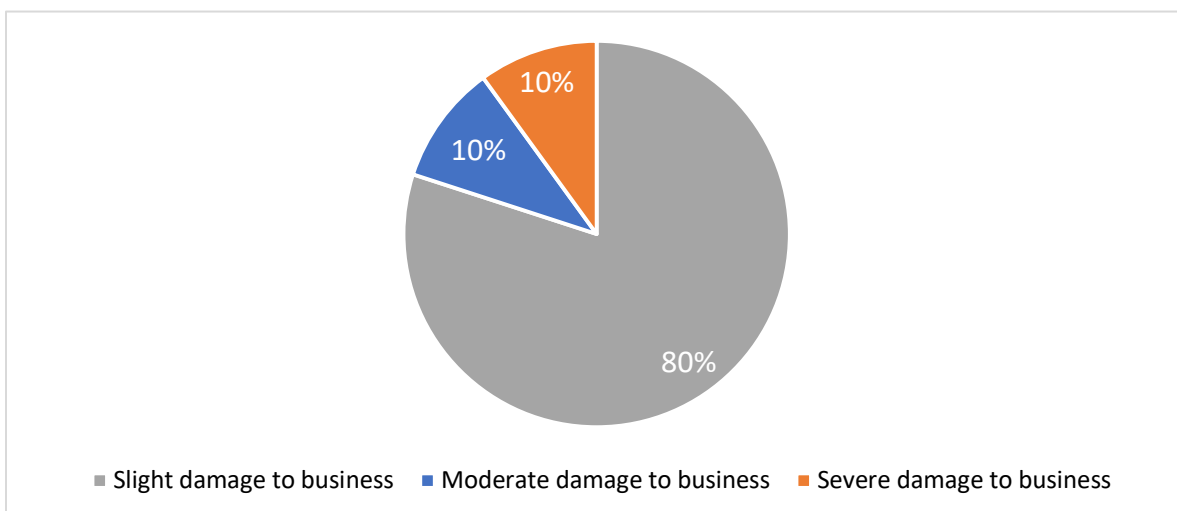
To your **home**:



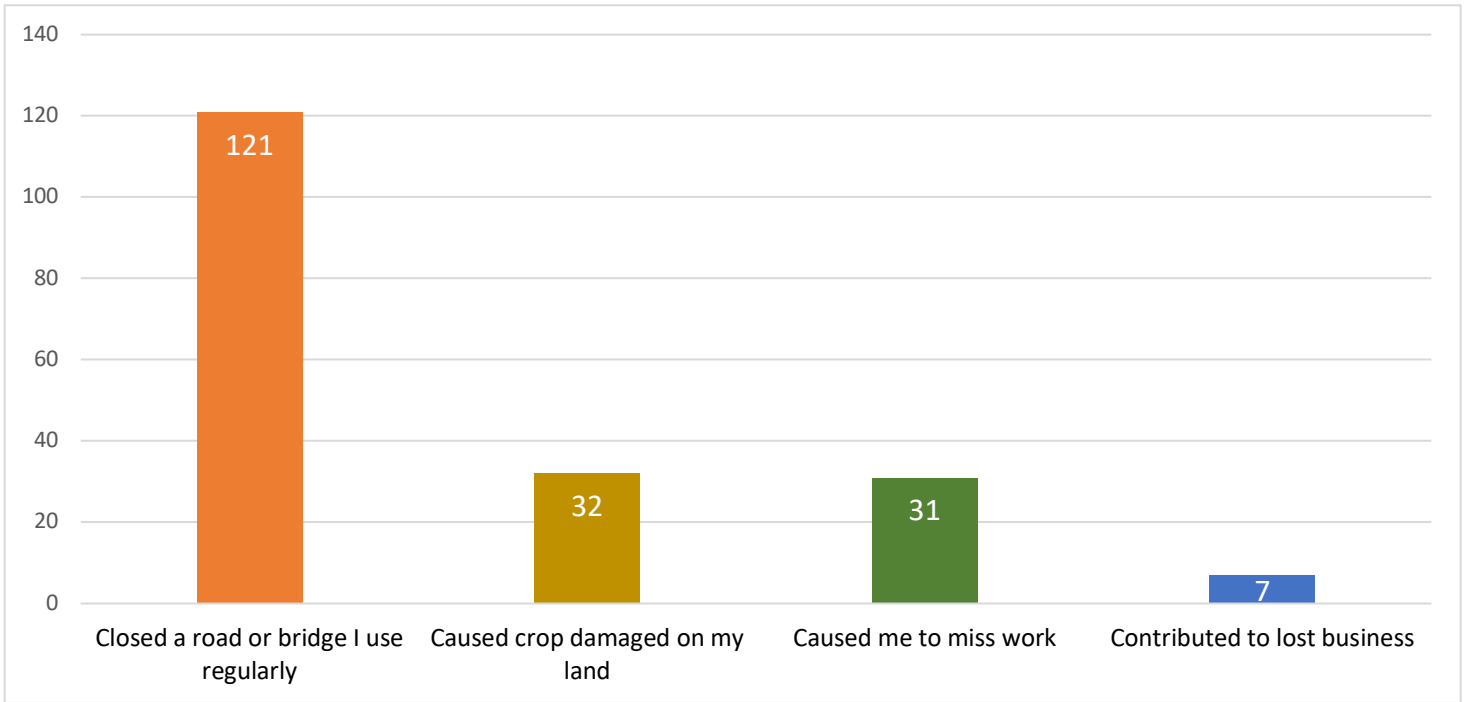
To your **farmland**:



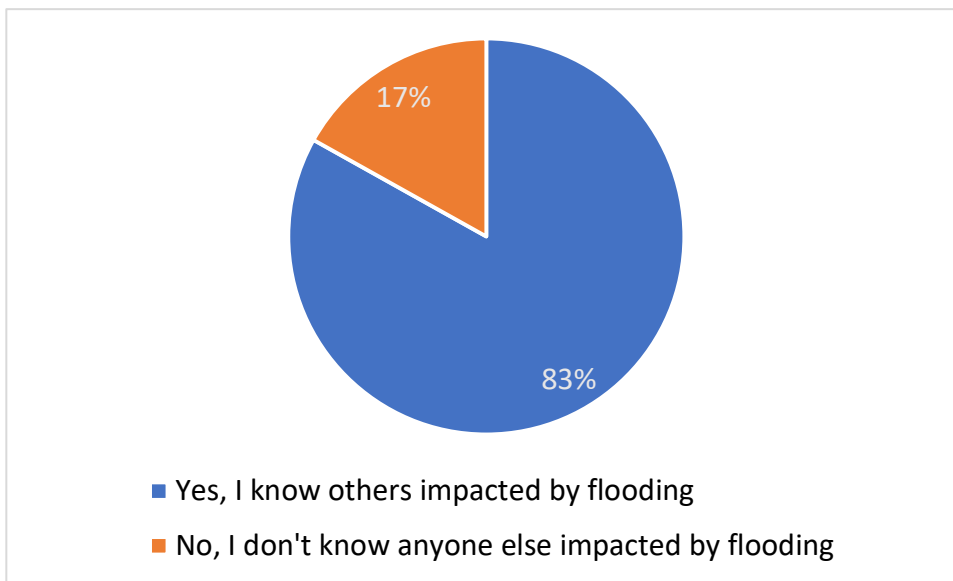
To your **business**:



Has flooding in the Upper Iowa River Watershed affected your life in any of the following ways?

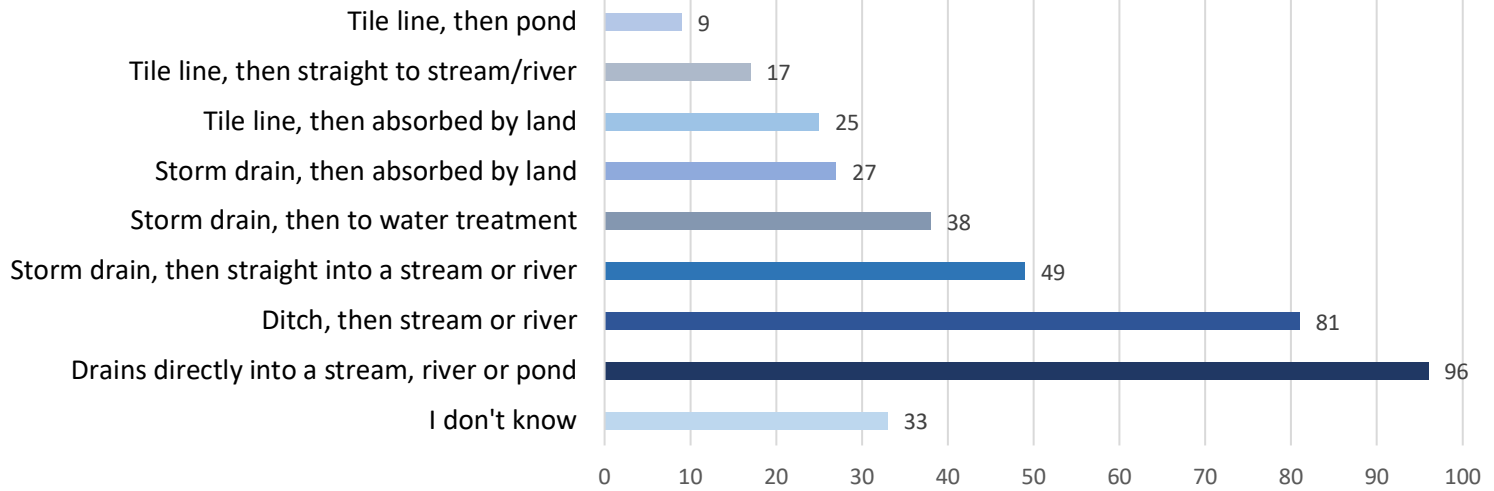


Do you know anyone else in the Upper Iowa River Watershed who has been impacted by flooding in the last 5 years?

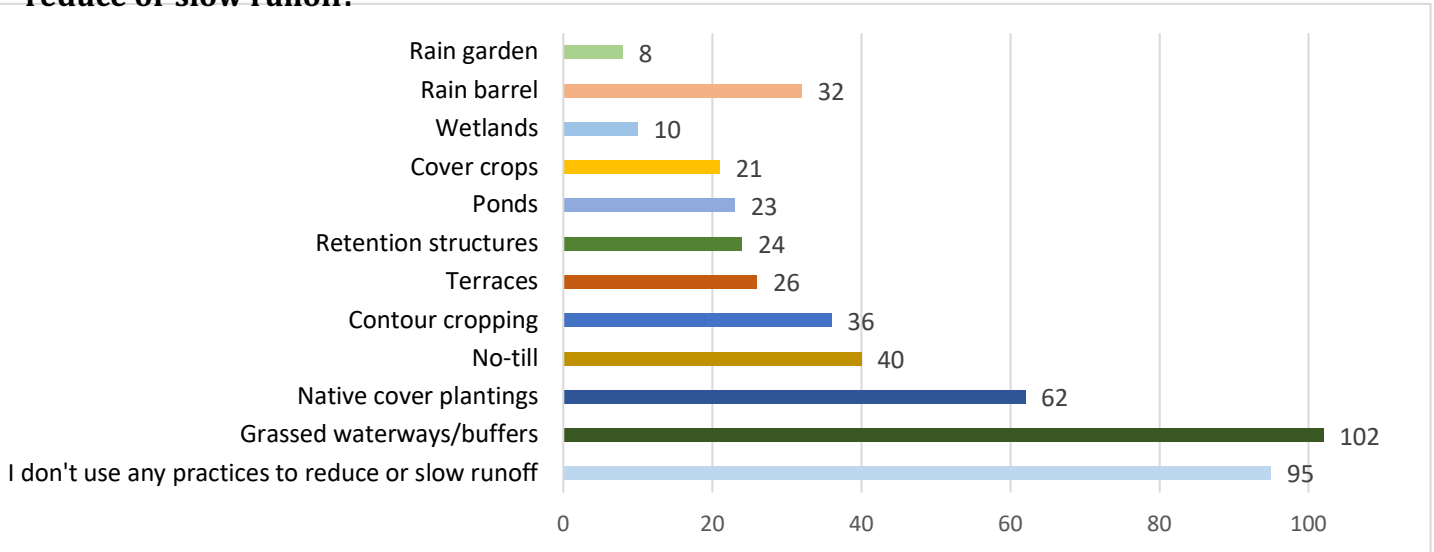


Drainage and Practices

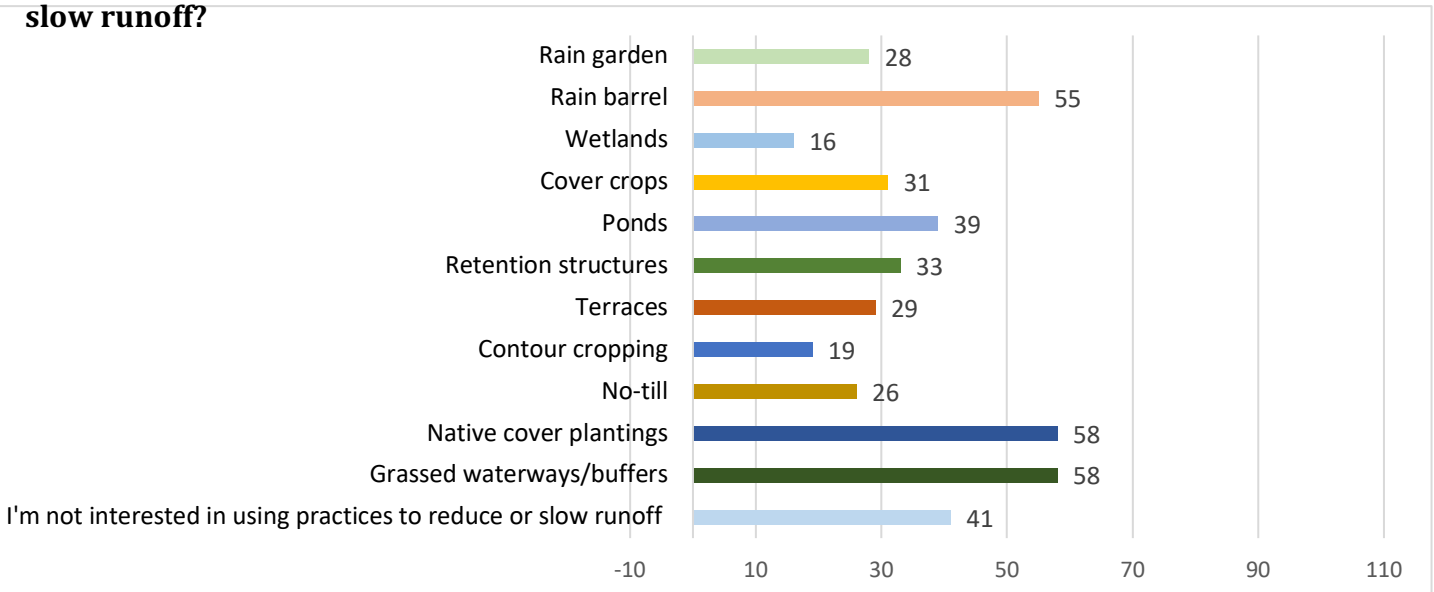
When water drains from your property, where does it go? Select all that apply.



In the last 5 years, what are some of the practices you have used on your land or property to reduce or slow runoff?

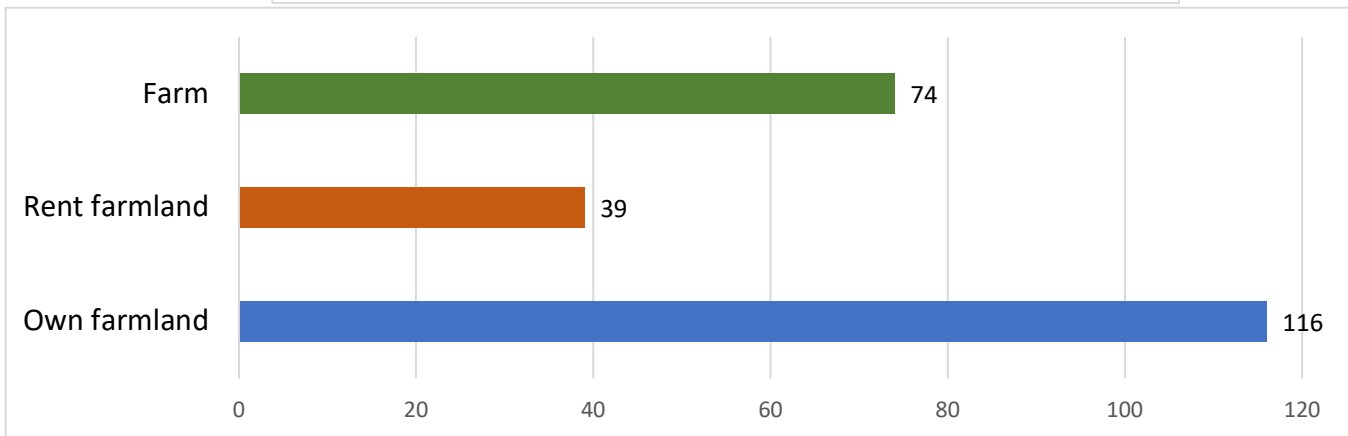
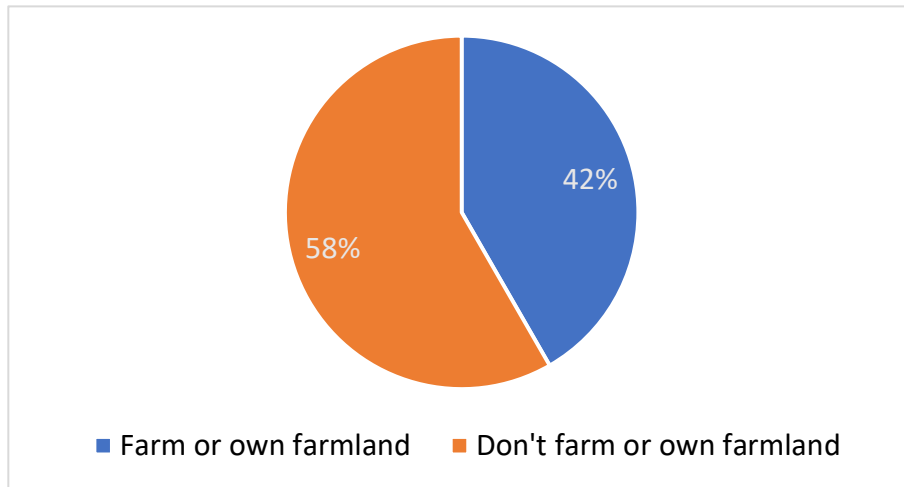


What practices would you be interested in using on your property in the next 5 years to reduce or slow runoff?

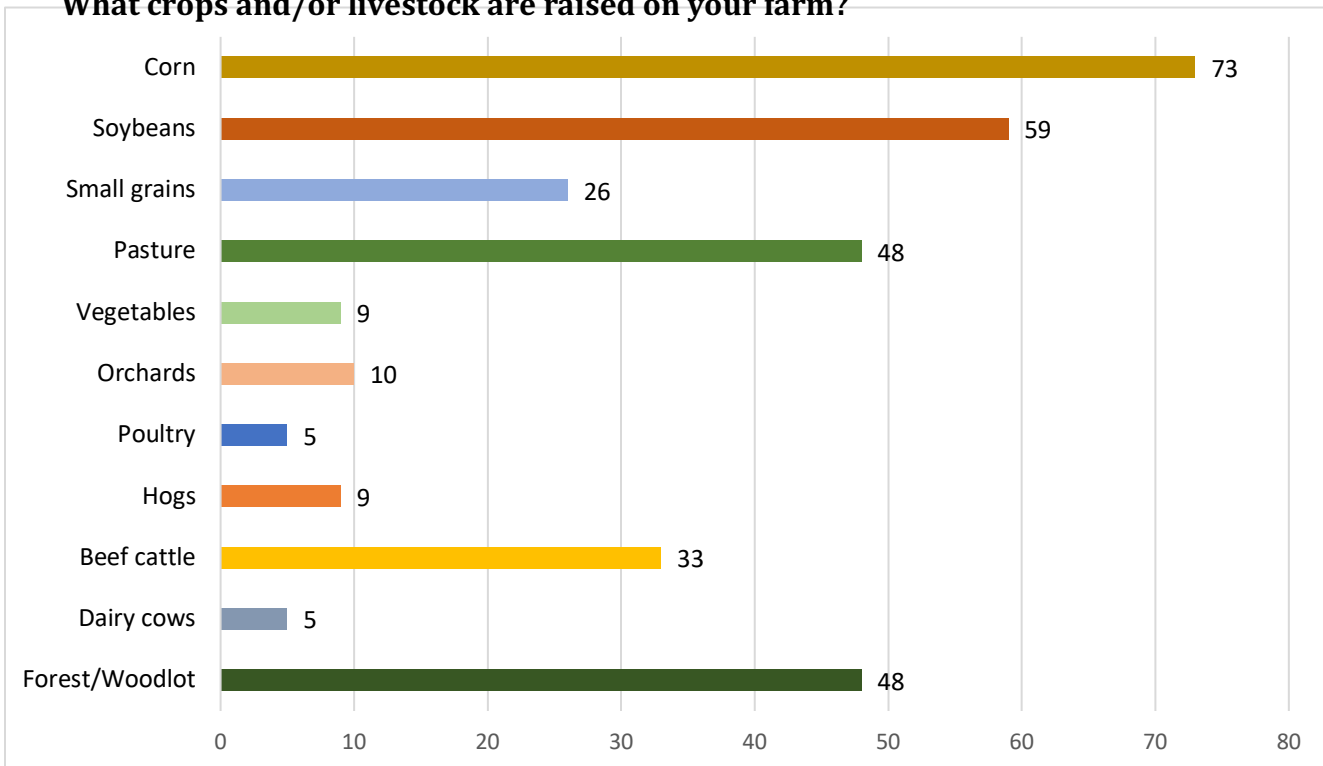


Farmland Ownership and Farm Practices

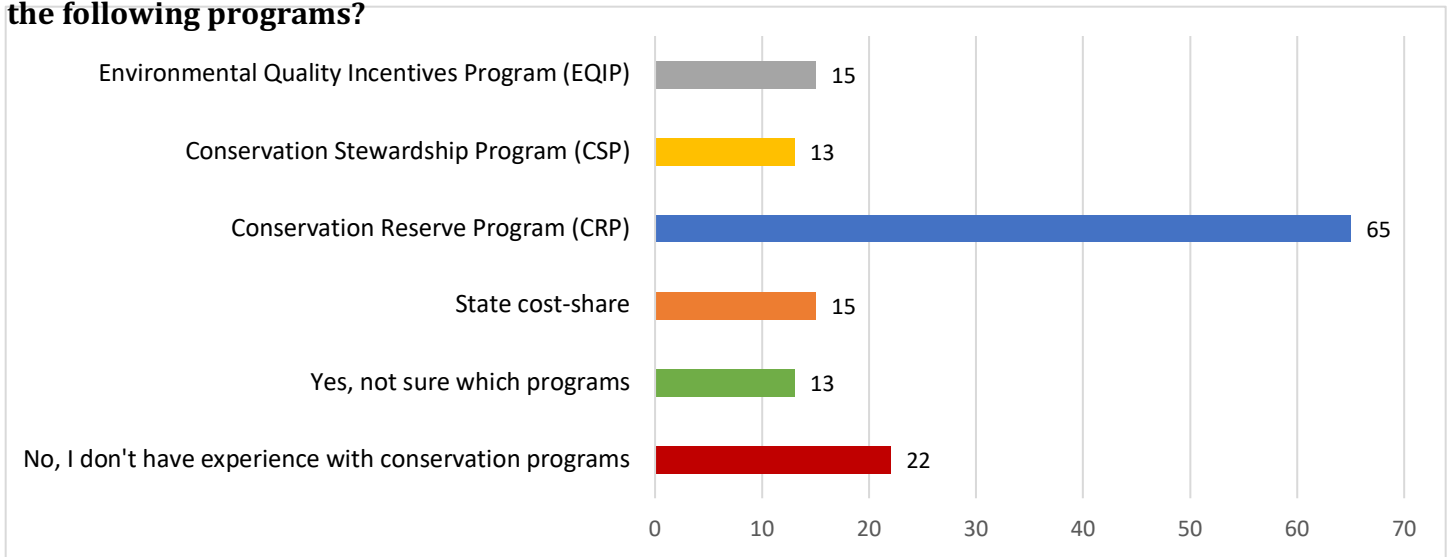
Respondents were asked if they own farmland, rent farmland, and if they farm. **Overall, 42% of respondents indicated they are involved in managing farmland in one of those 3 ways.**



What crops and/or livestock are raised on your farm?

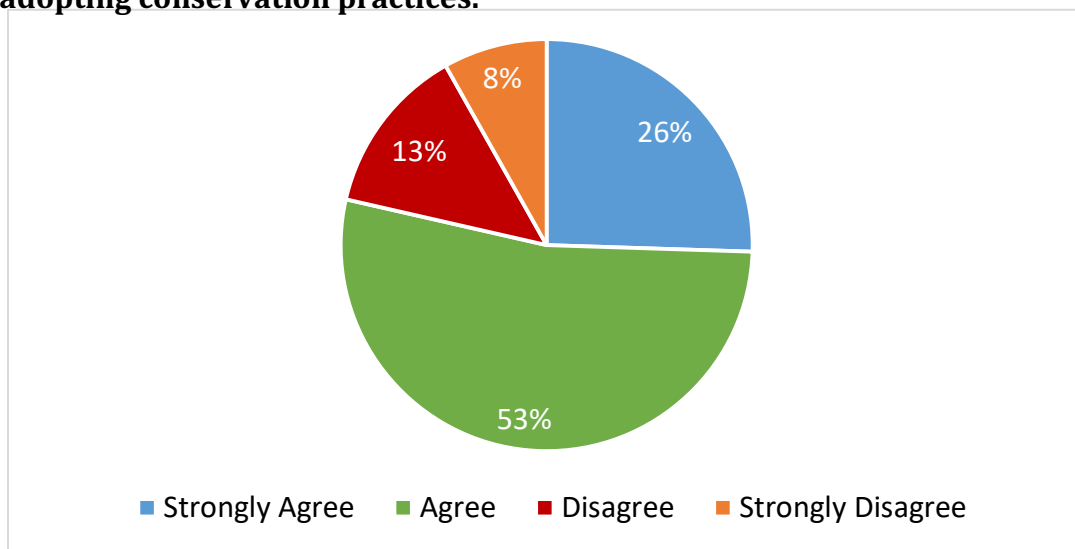


Have you applied for and/or received funding to implement conservation practices through any of the following programs?

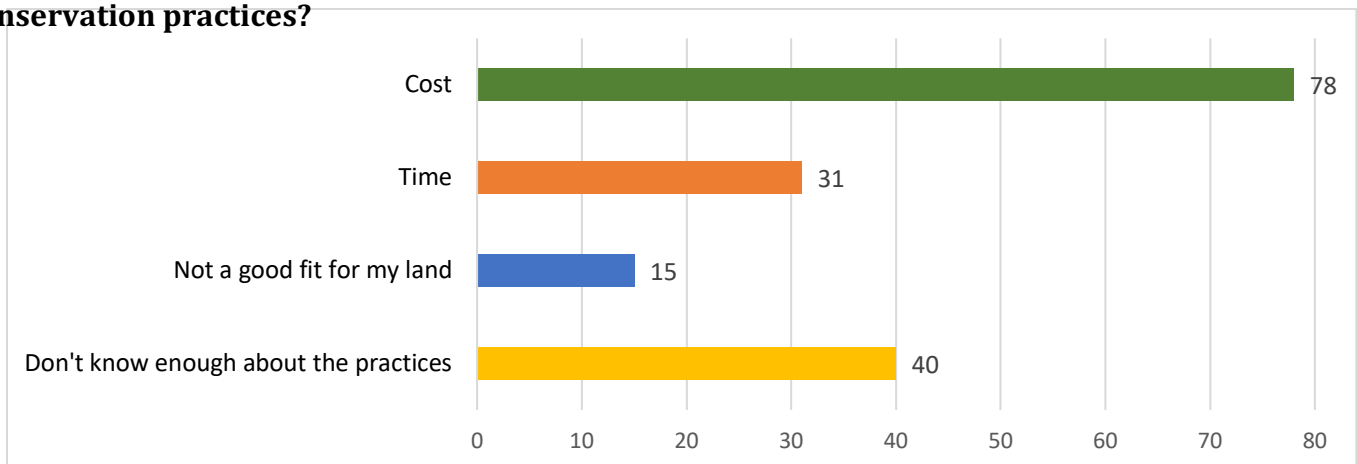


Farmer & Farmland Owner Attitudes

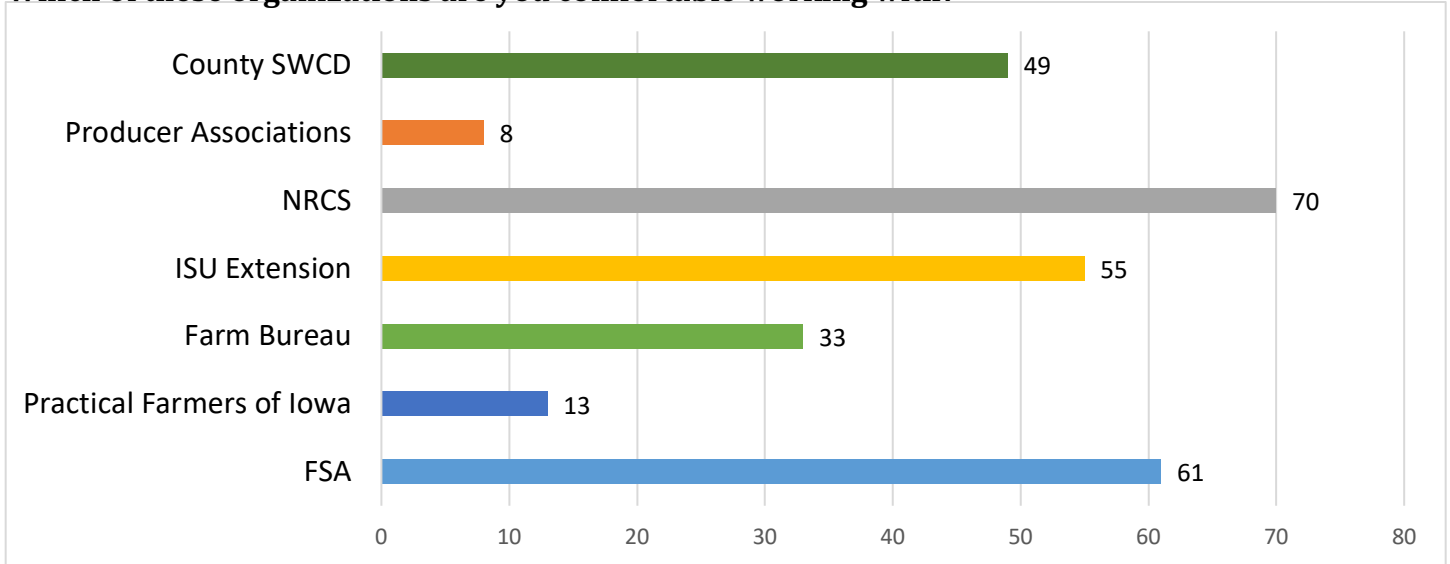
I am interested in receiving conservation planning assistance, with the potential to receive funding for adopting conservation practices.



In your opinion, what are the biggest obstacles to farmers and landowners implementing conservation practices?

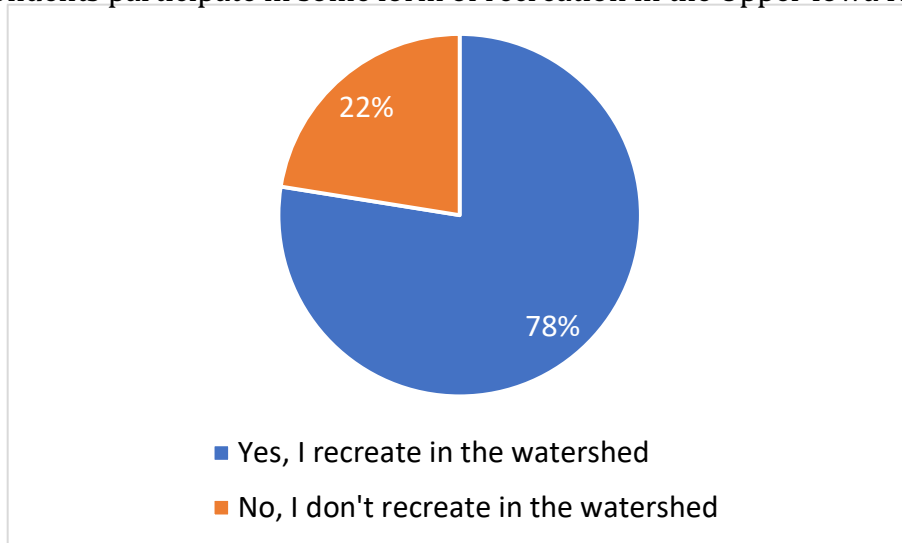


Which of these organizations are you comfortable working with?

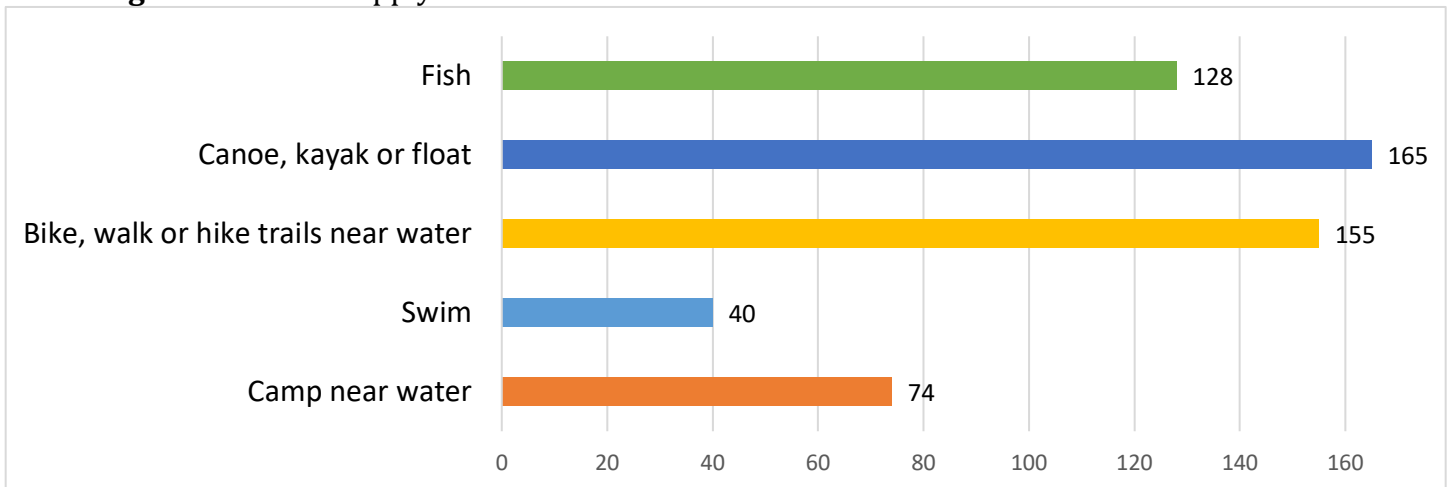


Experience with Recreation

78 percent of respondents participate in some form of recreation in the Upper Iowa River Watershed.

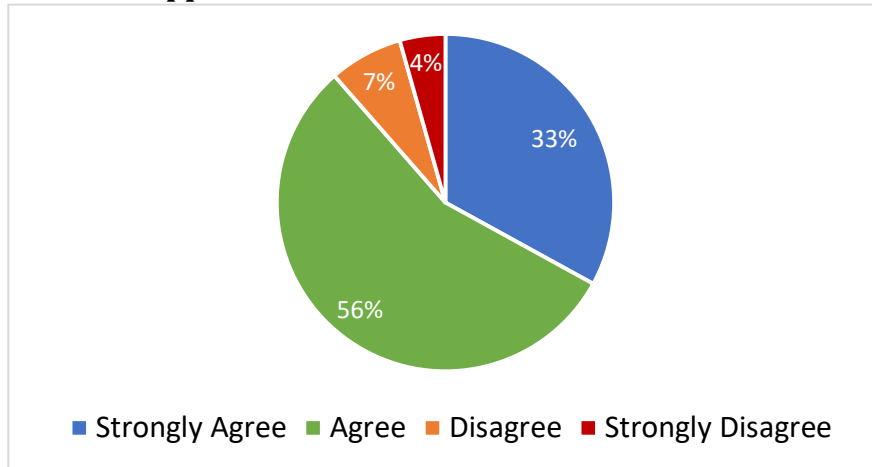


Do you ever go to the Upper Iowa River or streams or ponds in the watershed to do any of the following? Select all that apply.

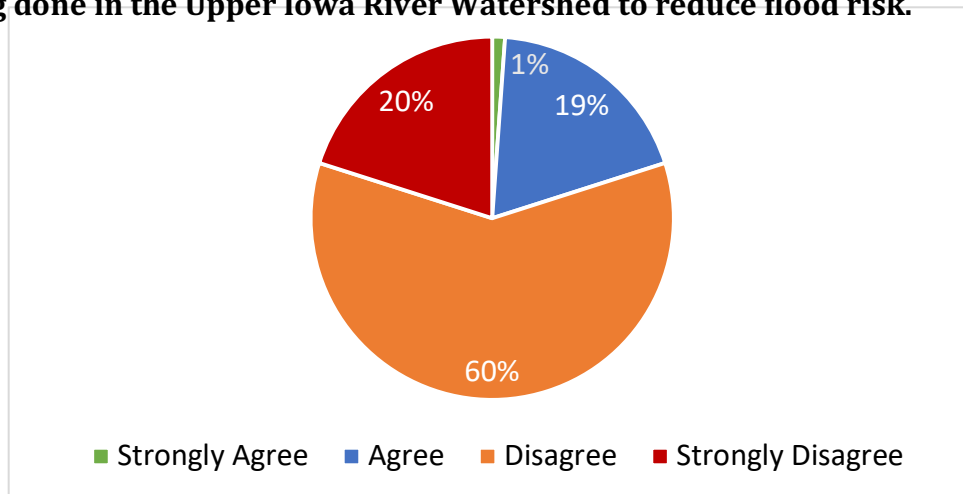


Attitudes toward Flooding

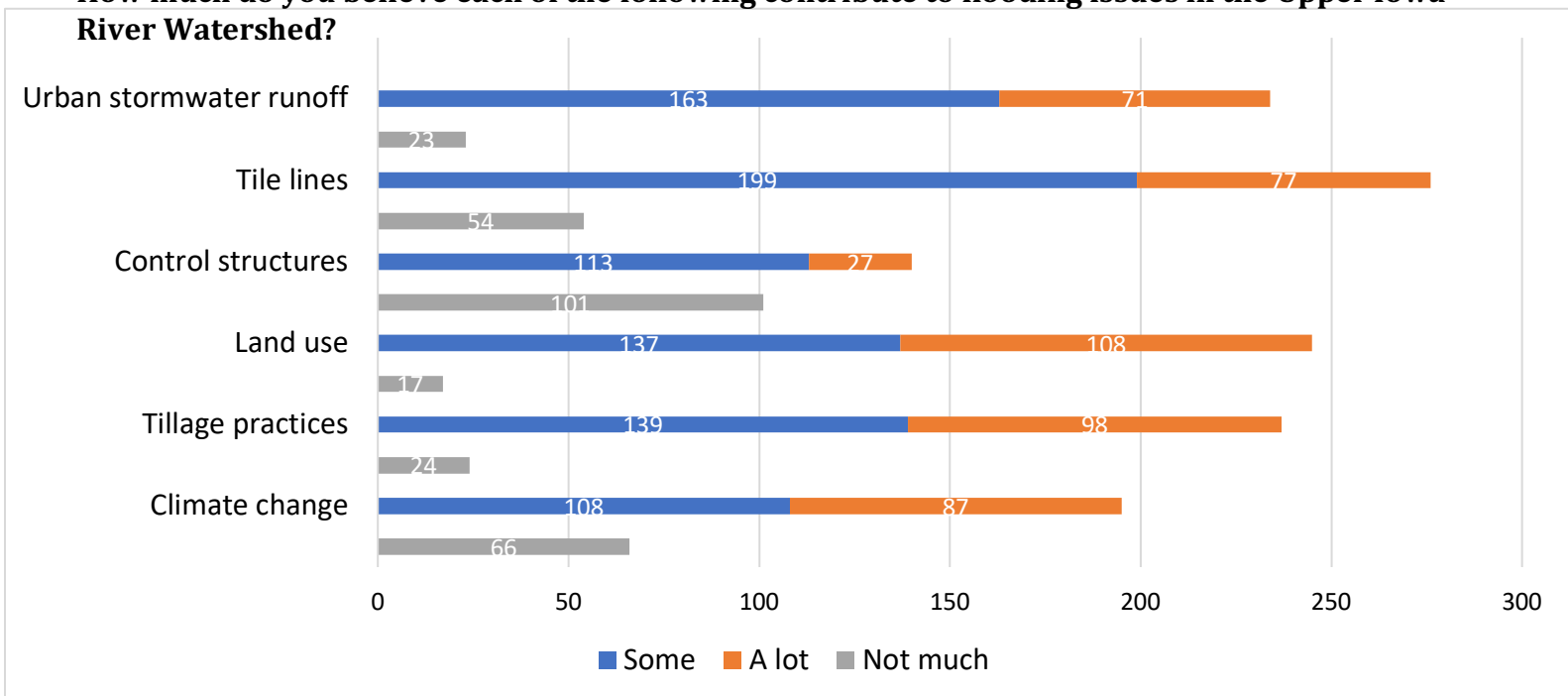
Flooding is a problem in the Upper Iowa River Watershed.



Enough is being done in the Upper Iowa River Watershed to reduce flood risk.

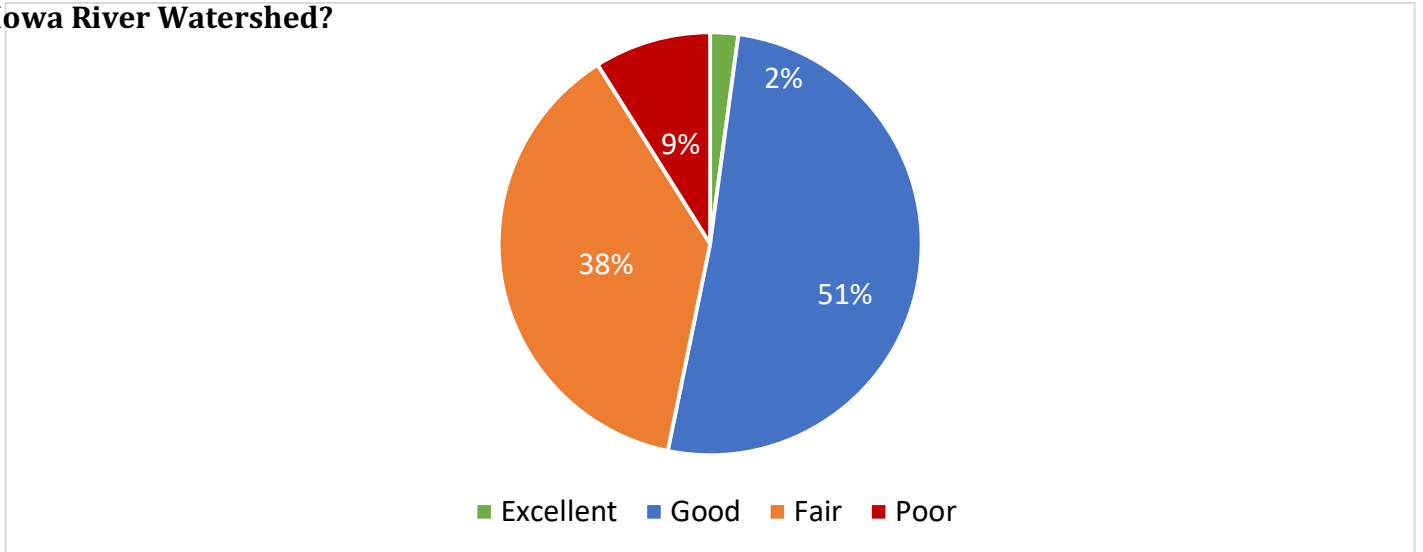


How much do you believe each of the following contribute to flooding issues in the Upper Iowa River Watershed?

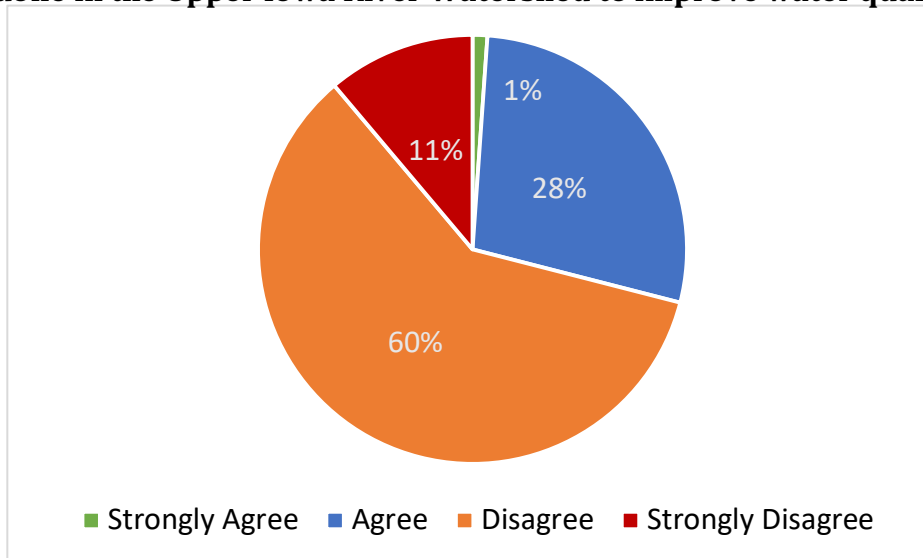


Attitudes toward Water Quality

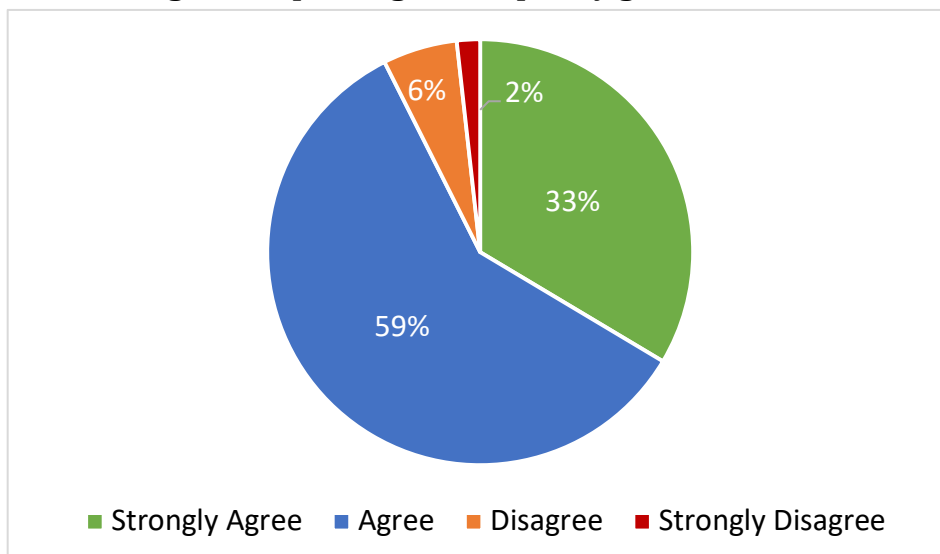
How would you rate the quality of surface waters, such as rivers, streams and ponds, in the Upper Iowa River Watershed?



Enough is being done in the Upper Iowa River Watershed to improve water quality.

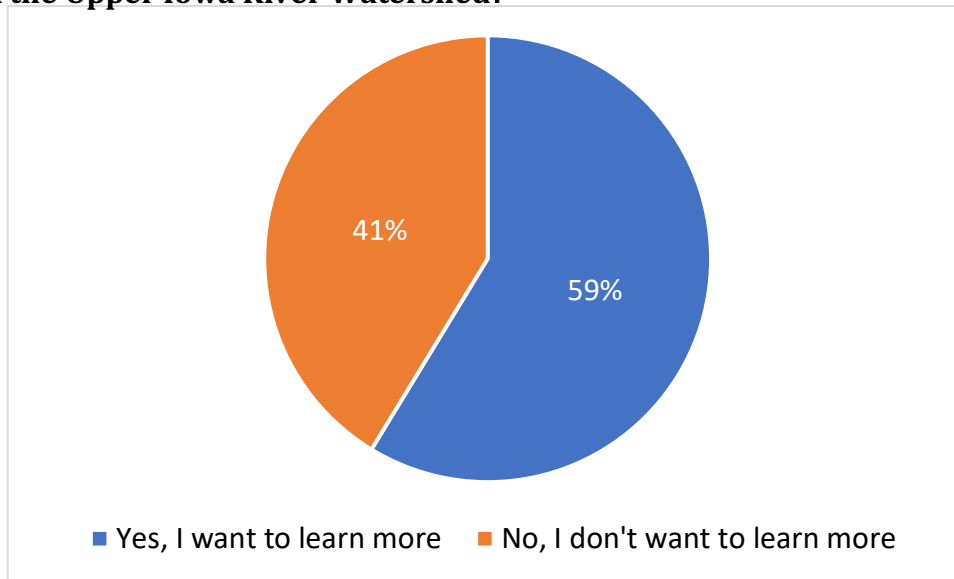


Reducing the risk of flooding and improving water quality go hand-in-hand.



Interest in Participating in Solutions

Are you interested in learning more about what you could do to reduce flooding and/or improve water quality in the Upper Iowa River Watershed?



¹ Survey respondents were instructed to complete or skip sections based on their previous answers. Unless otherwise noted, all answers reflected as percentages represent respondents who answered the question at hand, not overall survey respondents.