

# 2019 FARMER SURVEY

## THE OBJECTIVES

The annual farmer survey measures grower recall and perception of MSPB, in addition to gauging attitudes on and behavior around key production topics.

## THE FINDINGS

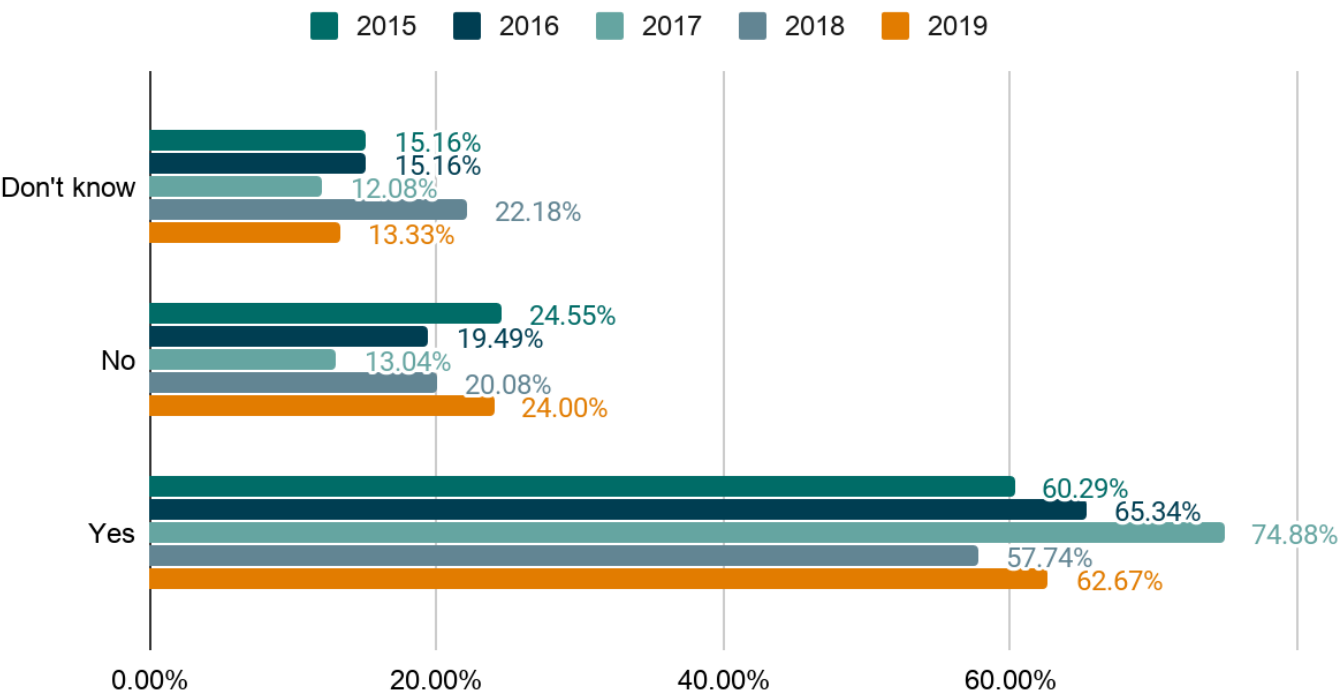
Despite the challenges of 2019, growers mostly reported that their approach to farming was business as usual.

05. —	<b>MSPB</b>
11. —	<b>CROPS</b>
27. —	<b>DISEASES, INSECTS AND WEEDS</b>
41. —	<b>IRRIGATION</b>
48. —	<b>CHALLENGES AND INFORMATION SOURCES</b>
53. —	<b>SURVEY RESPONDENTS</b>

# MSPB

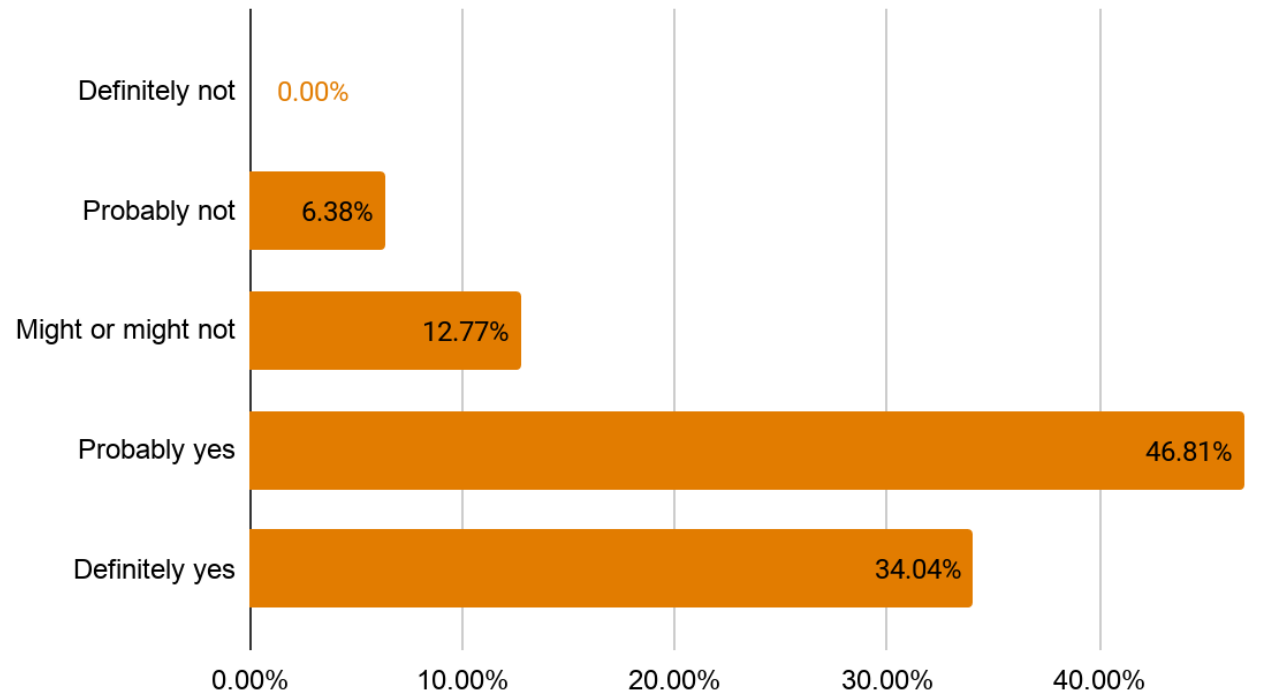
# Growers recalled receiving information from MSPB more in 2019 than they did in 2018.

Do you recall receiving information from MSPB in the last year?



## Growers overwhelmingly found the information from MSPB to be helpful.

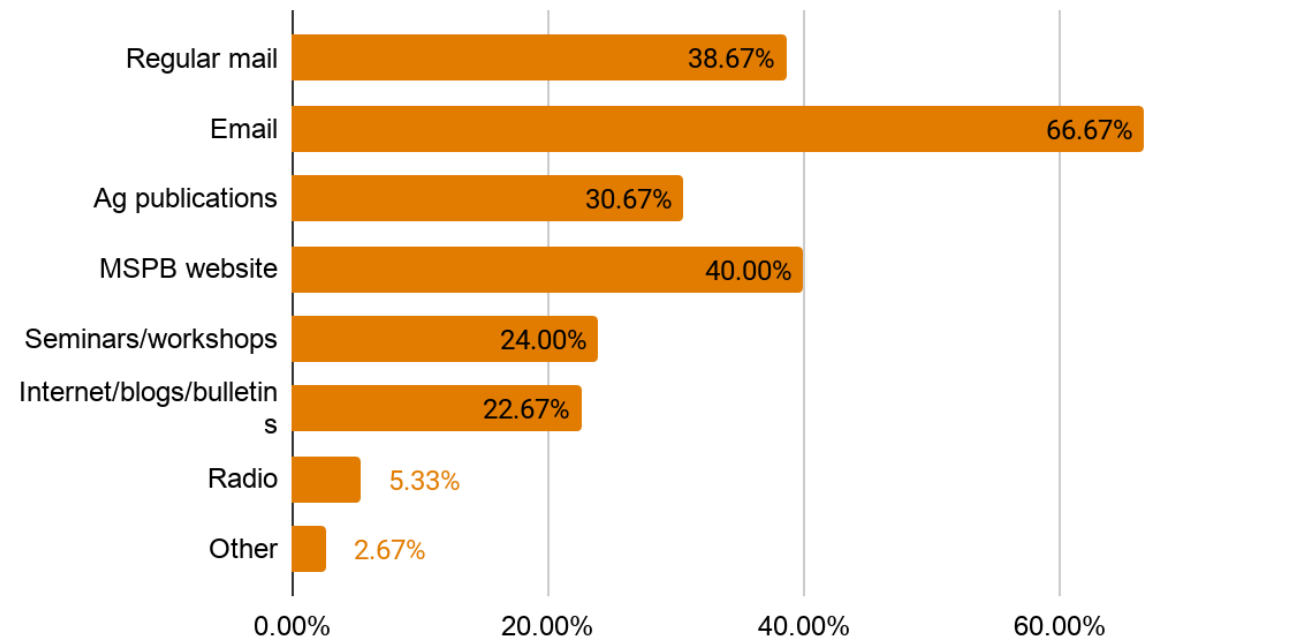
Did you find the information helpful?



NOTE: The 2015-2018 surveys offered the responses of “yes,” “no,” and “don’t know,” which averaged 58.55%, 3.63%, and 37.82% respectively. The grouped-together “probably yes” and “definitely yes” responses from the 2019 survey account for 80.85% of responses. Additionally, the 2019 survey only asked this question of people who recalled receiving information from MSPB.

## Respondents preferred receiving information from MSPB via email, followed by the website and regular mail.

How would you like to receive soybean production information from MSPB?

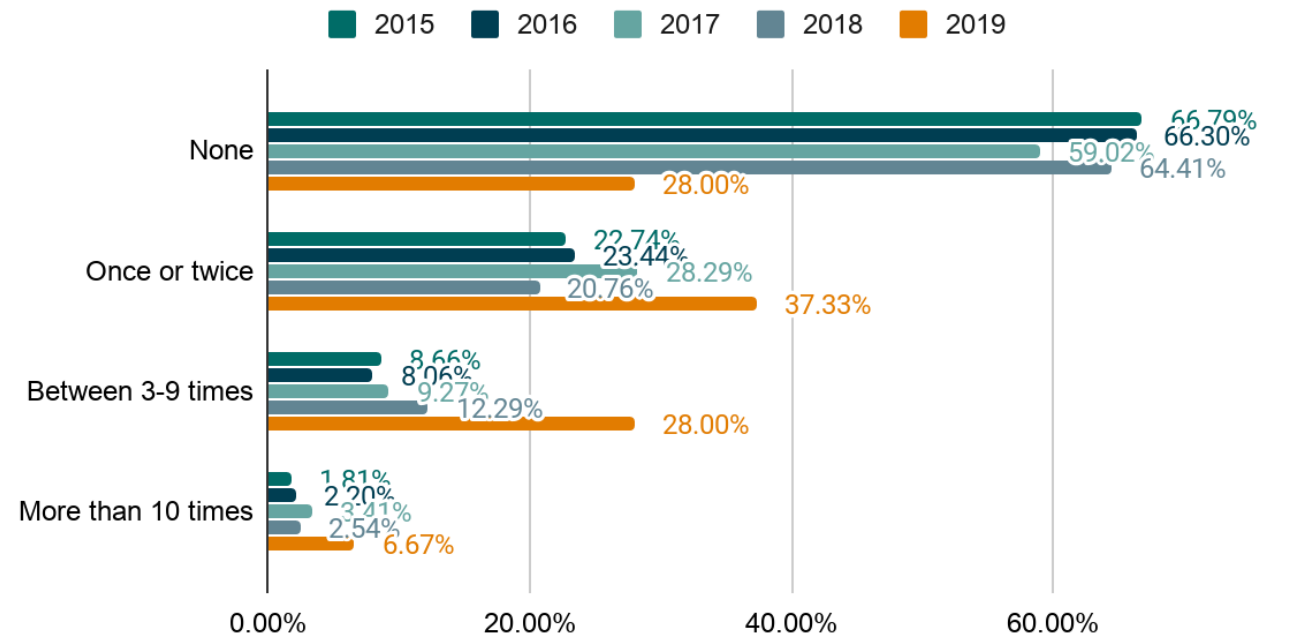


NOTE: Growers who participated in the 2019 survey were primarily invited to do so via email.



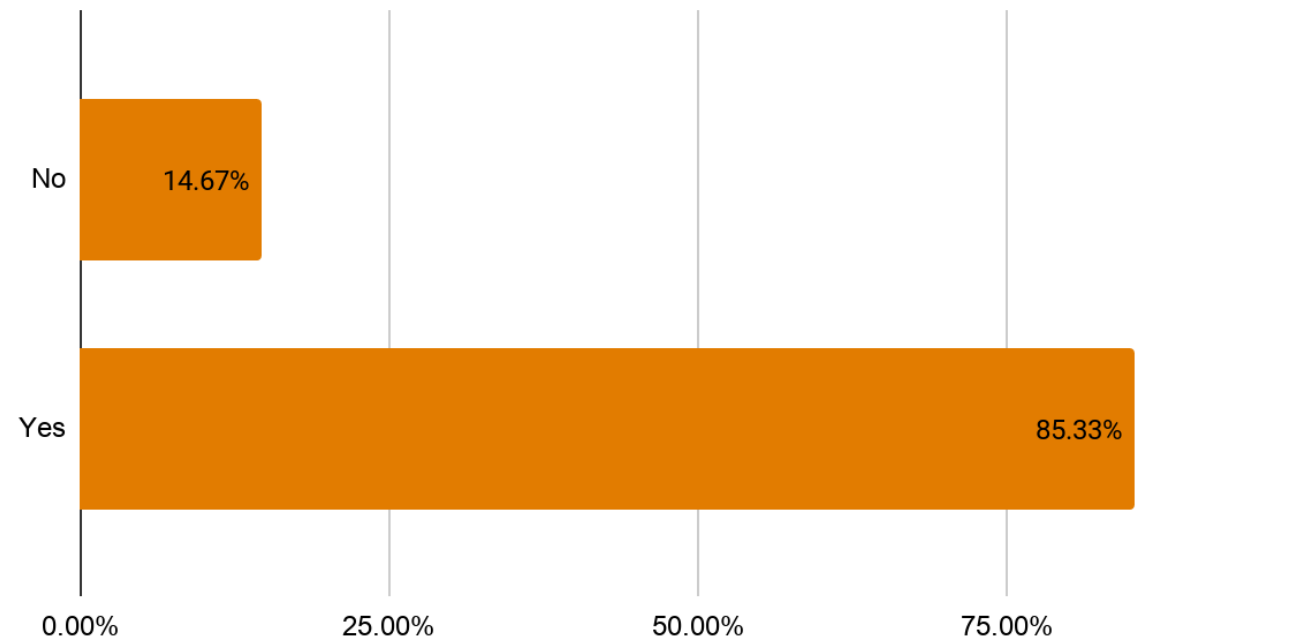
## Respondents reported visiting the website more in 2019.

How many times have you been to the MSPB website or one of the landing pages in the past year?



## Respondents indicated an interest in a mobile app version of the scouting guide.

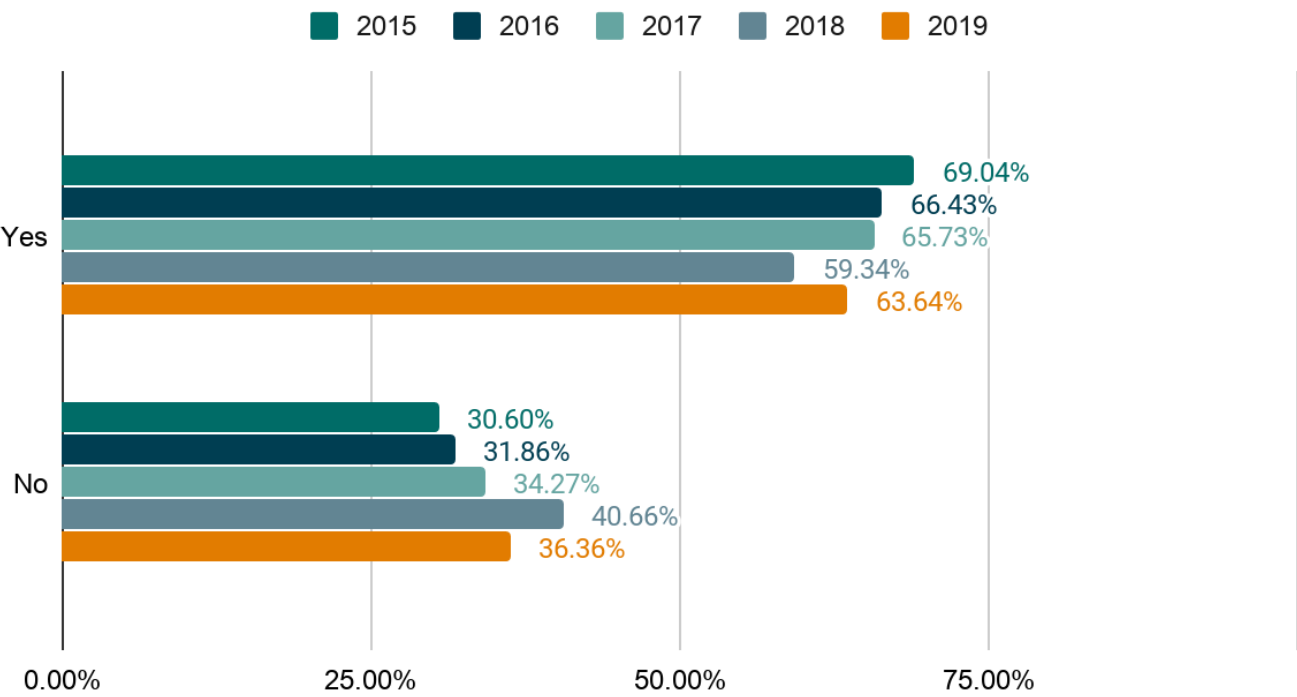
(Scouting Guide) Would you be interested in a mobile app with this information?



# CROPS

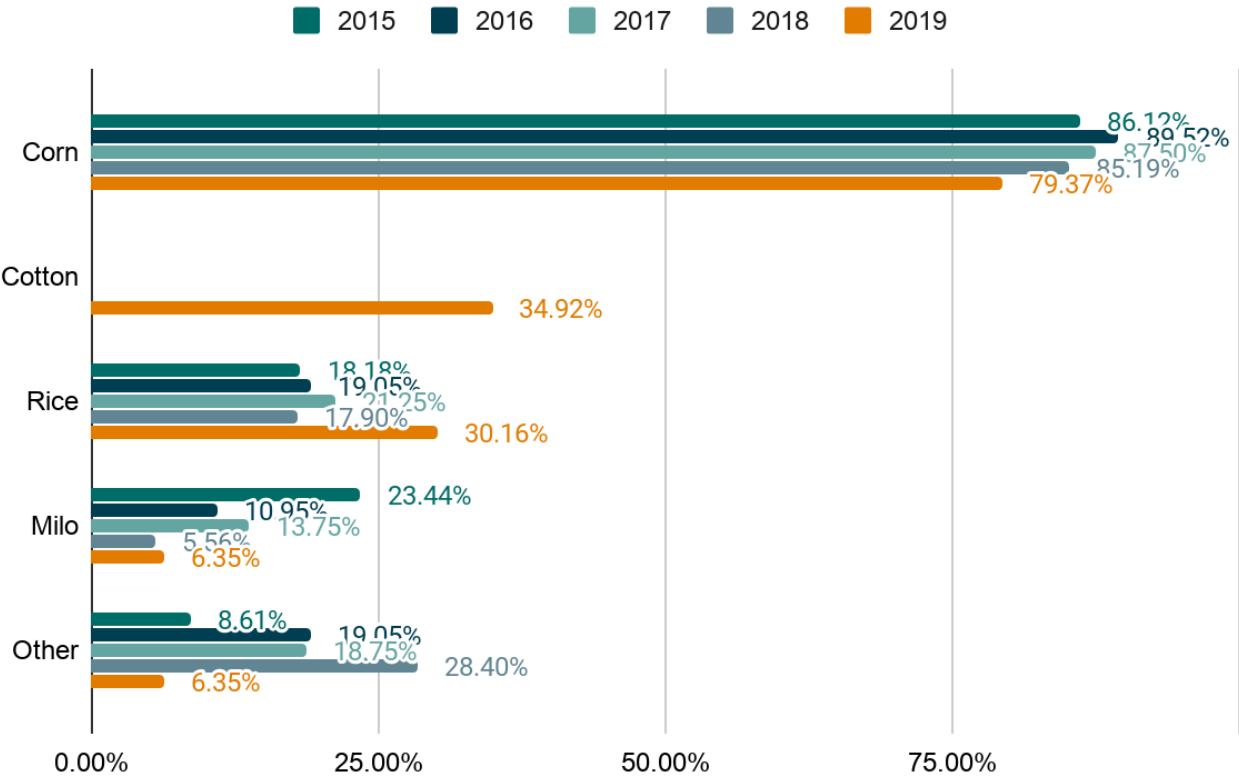
# The number of growers rotating their crops increased since 2018.

Do you rotate your crops annually?



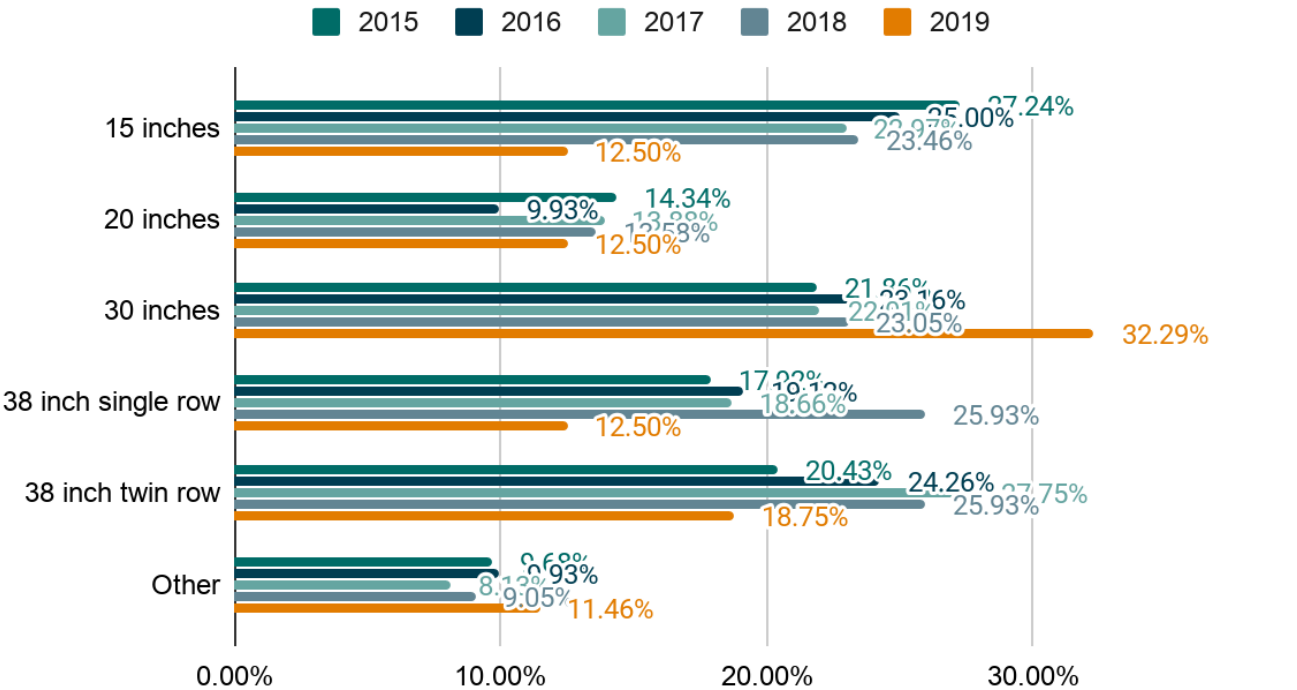
While corn is still the most common crop to rotate with soybeans, cotton and rice were chosen more.

What crop do you rotate with soybeans?



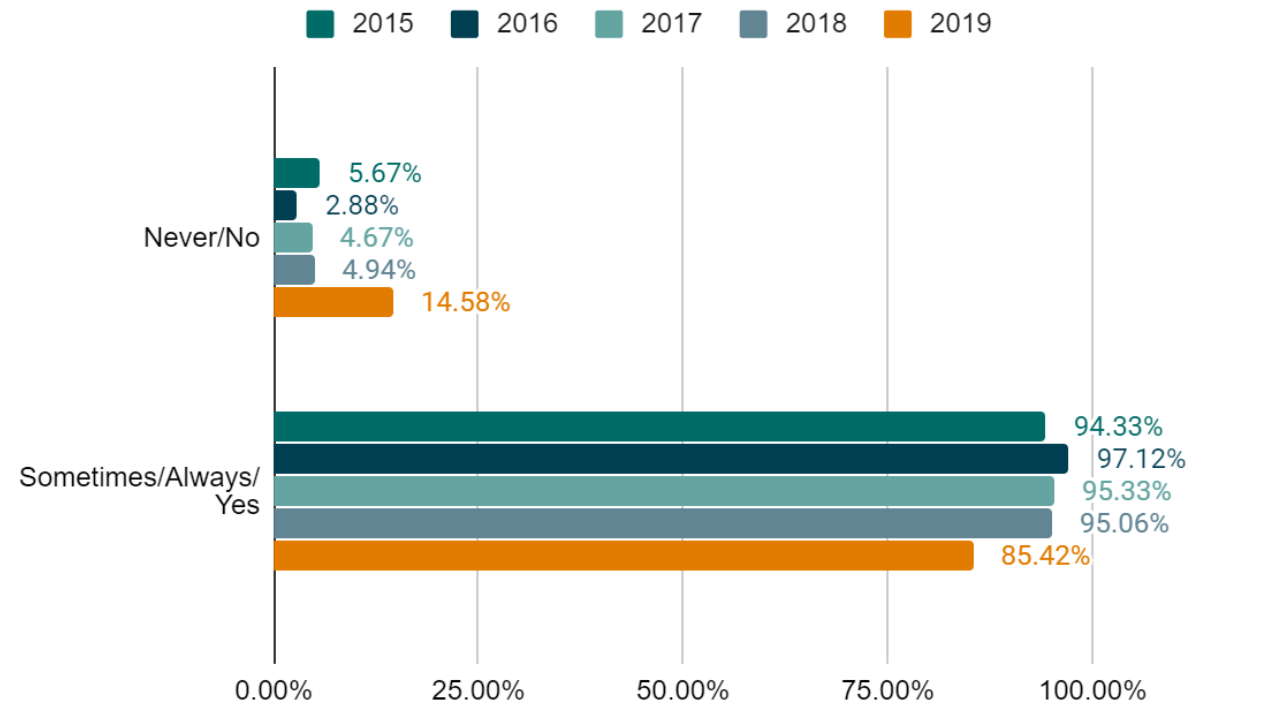
30-inch rows were the most popular in 2019.

What row width do you typically use when planting soybeans?



## The majority of growers soil test their soybean fields.

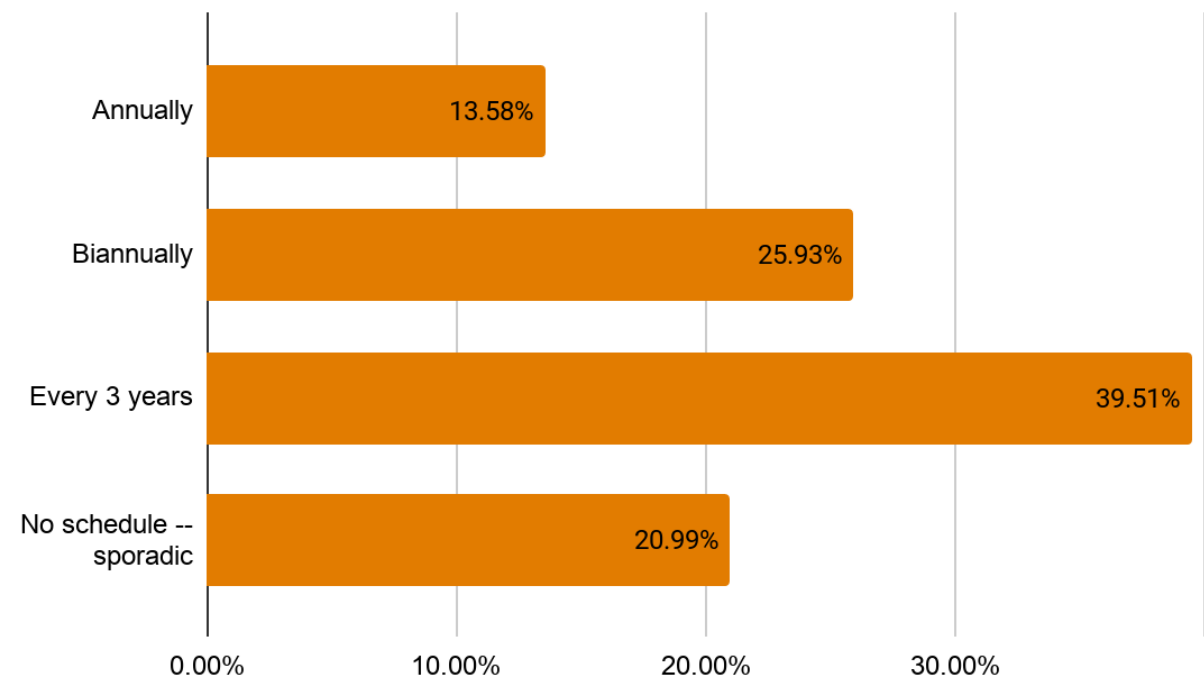
Do you soil test your soybean fields?\*



NOTE: The 2015-2018 surveys asked the question as “Do you soil test your soybean fields at least every 3 years?” with “never,” “sometimes” and “always” as responses. The 2019 survey asked the question as “Do you soil test your soybean fields?” with “yes” and “no” as responses and a follow-up question about frequency.

Of those that soil test their soybean fields, growers are most likely to do so every three years.

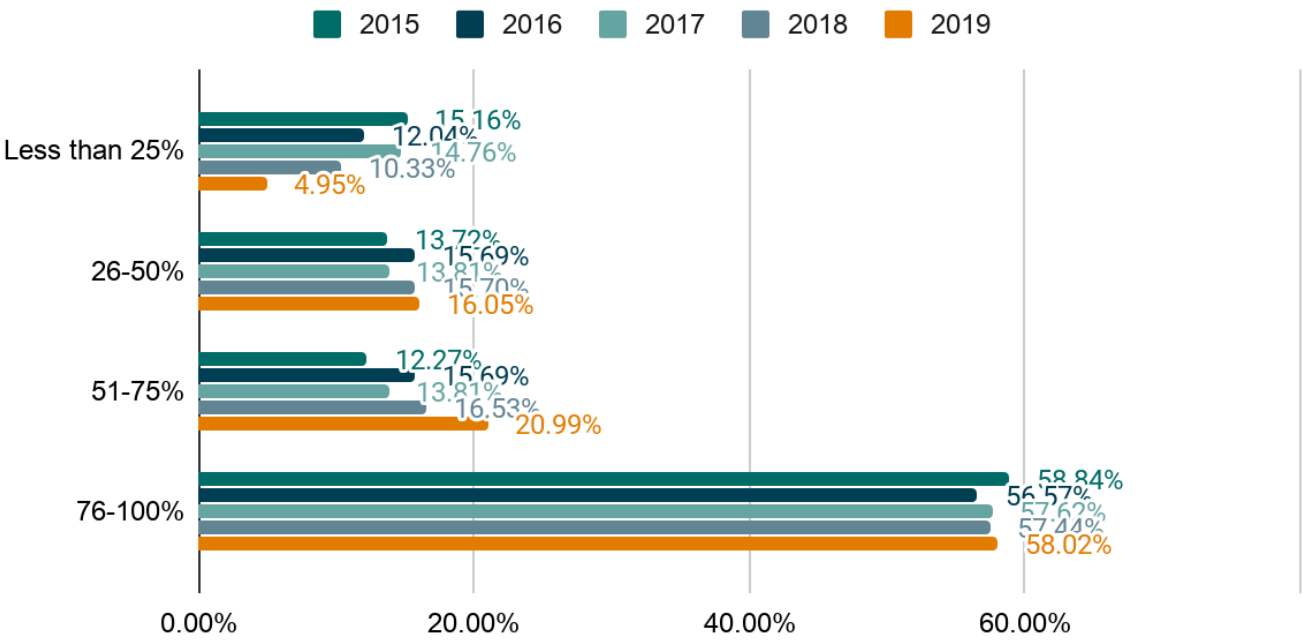
How often do you soil test your soybean fields?



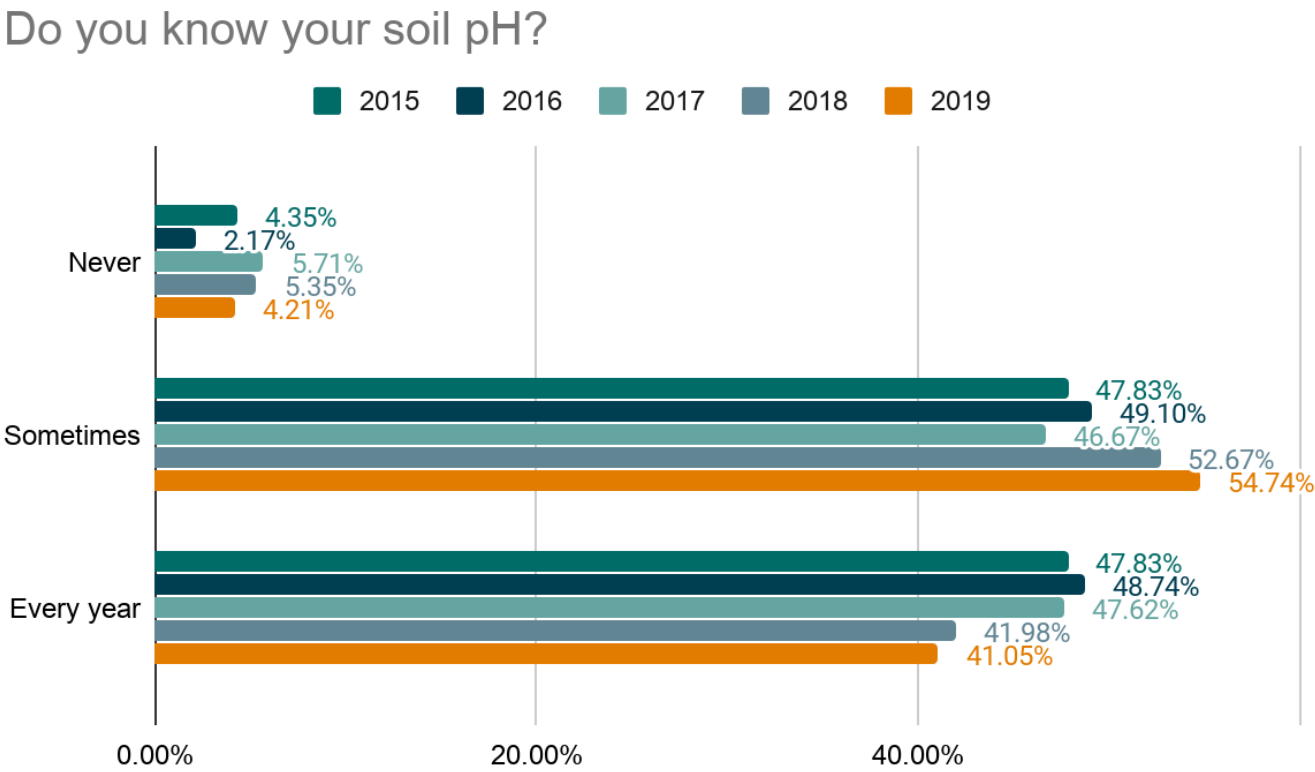


# Of those that take soil samples, growers are most likely to do so on at least three-quarters of their soybean acres.

On what percentage of your soybean acres do you take soil samples?

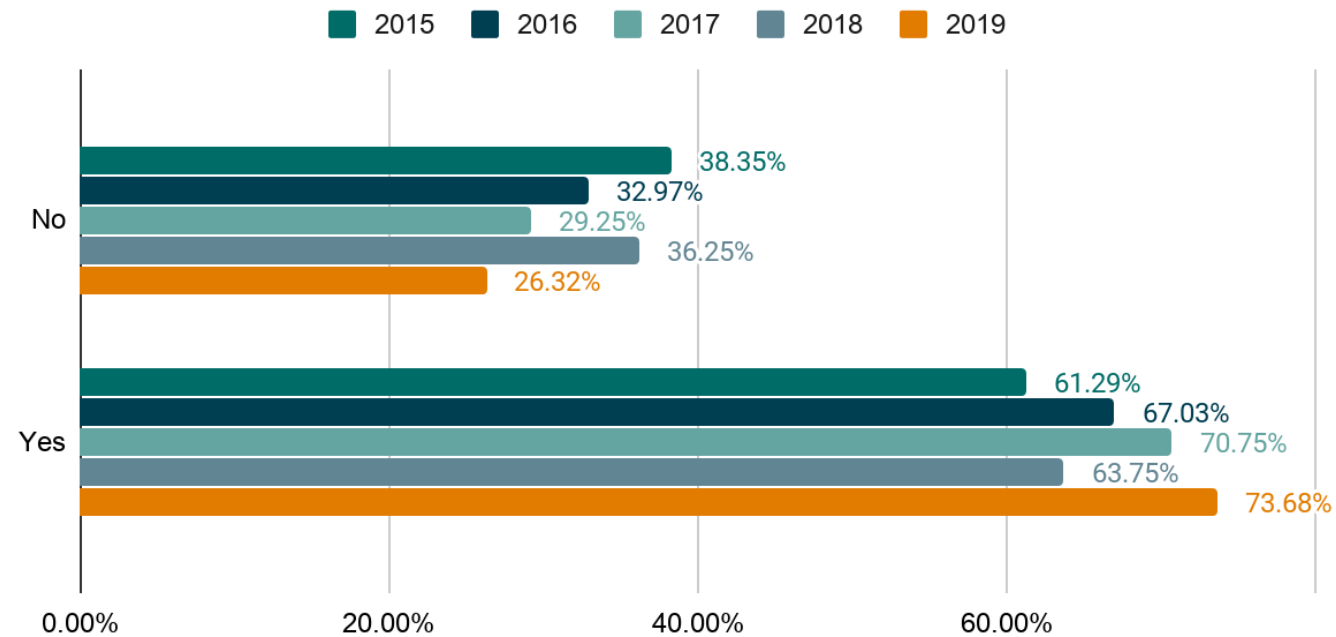


# Over 90% of growers report knowing their soil pH.



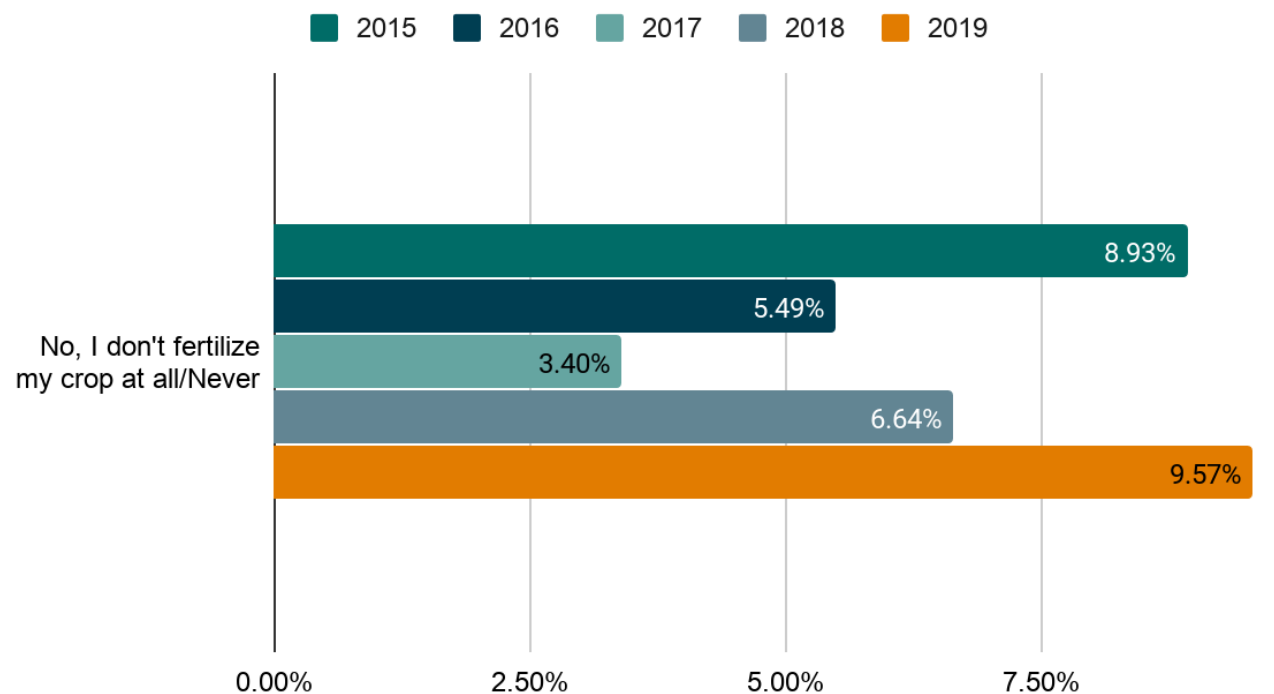
## Growers increasingly report they are aware of the amount of nutrients removed in each bushel of harvested soybean grain.

Are you aware of the amount of nutrients removed in each bushel of harvested soybean grain?



## The majority of growers fertilize their soybean fields before planting.

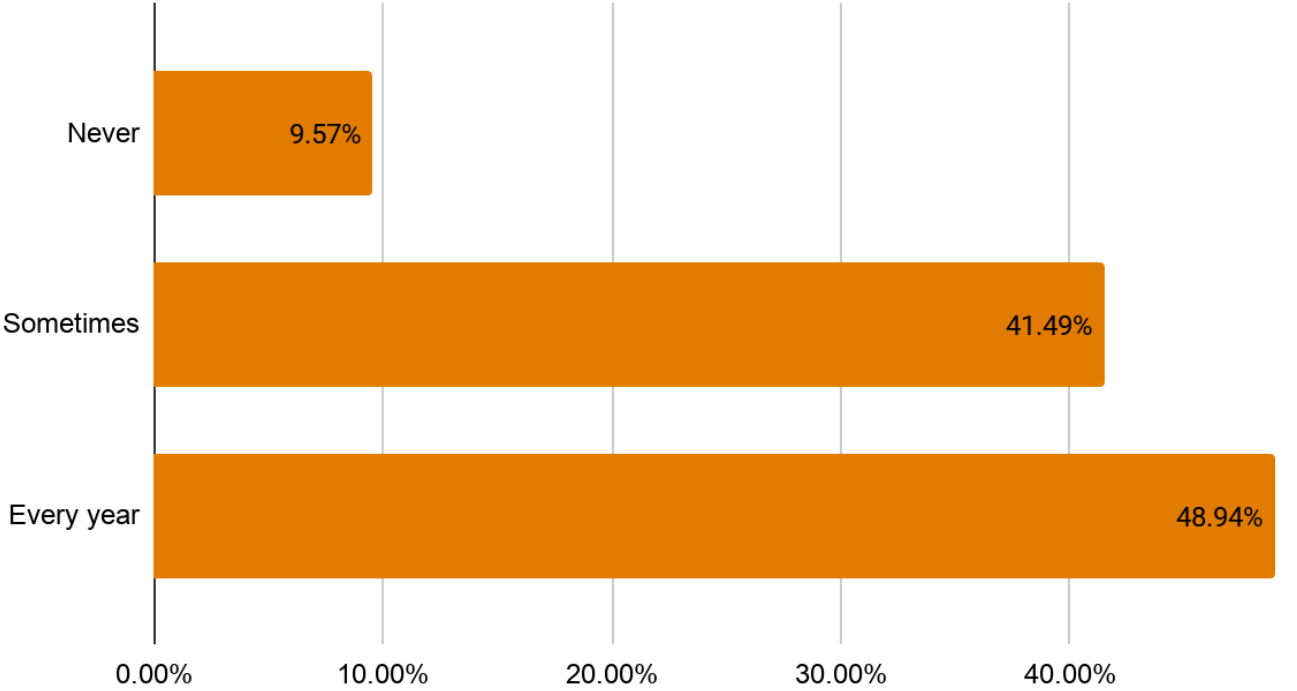
Do you fertilize your soybean fields before planting?\*



NOTE: The 2015-2018 surveys offered the responses of "No, I don't fertilize my crop at all"; "No, crop uses remaining nutrients from previous years"; "Yes, based on retailer recommendation"; and "Yes, based on soil test results." The 2019 survey offered the responses "never," "sometimes" and "always."

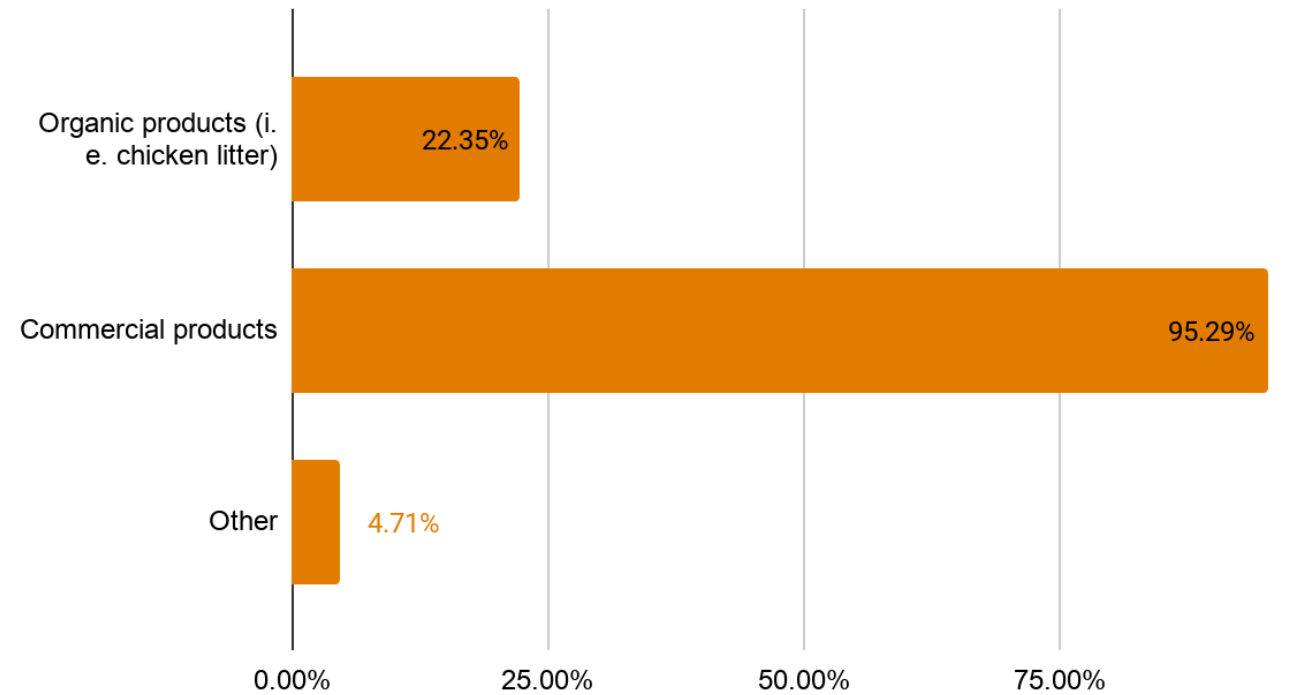
# Fertilizing frequency varies by the grower.

Do you fertilize your soybean fields before planting?



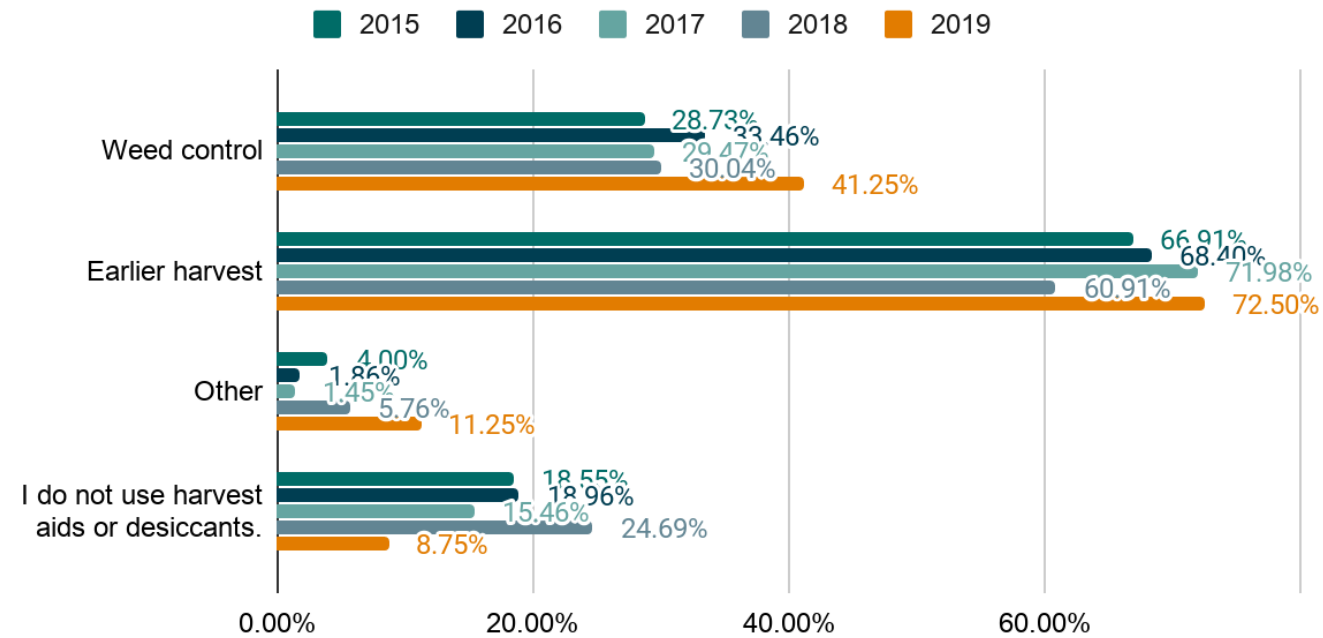
## The most commonly used type of fertilizer is commercial products.

What types of fertilizer do you use?



## Harvest aids and desiccants are most used to prompt an earlier harvest.

What factors do you consider when applying harvest aids or harvest desiccants?



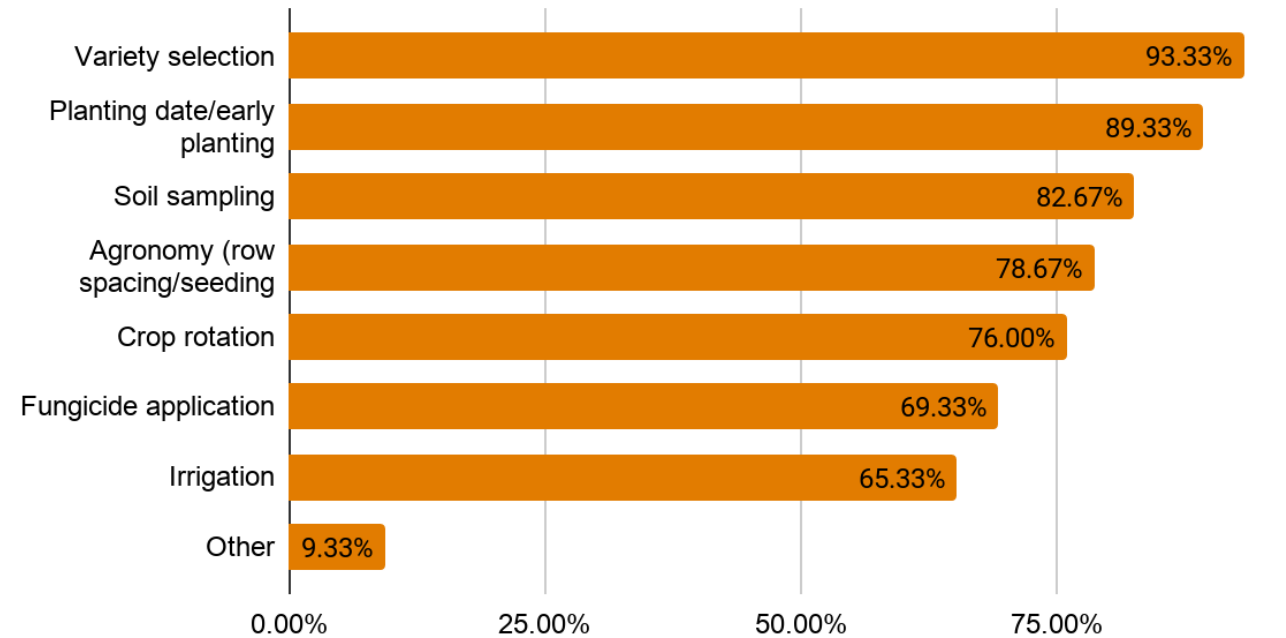
The highest yielding varieties were the top consideration in both 2018 and 2019.

Please rank the following in importance when choosing soybean varieties, with 1 being most important and 11 being least important. Click and drag to rearrange.	
CONSIDERATION	AVG. RANK
Highest-yielding Varieties	2.76
Maturity Group	3.71
Yield/Plot Data from Potential Varieties	4.05
Specific Field Soil Type	4.63
Range of Maturity Groups	5.55
Row Spacing That You Plan to Use	6.59
Specific Field Weed History	6.67
Specific Field Disease History	7.35
Specific Field Insect History	8.16
Grain Quality Characteristics (oil and protein)	8.17
Specific Field Nematode History	8.37



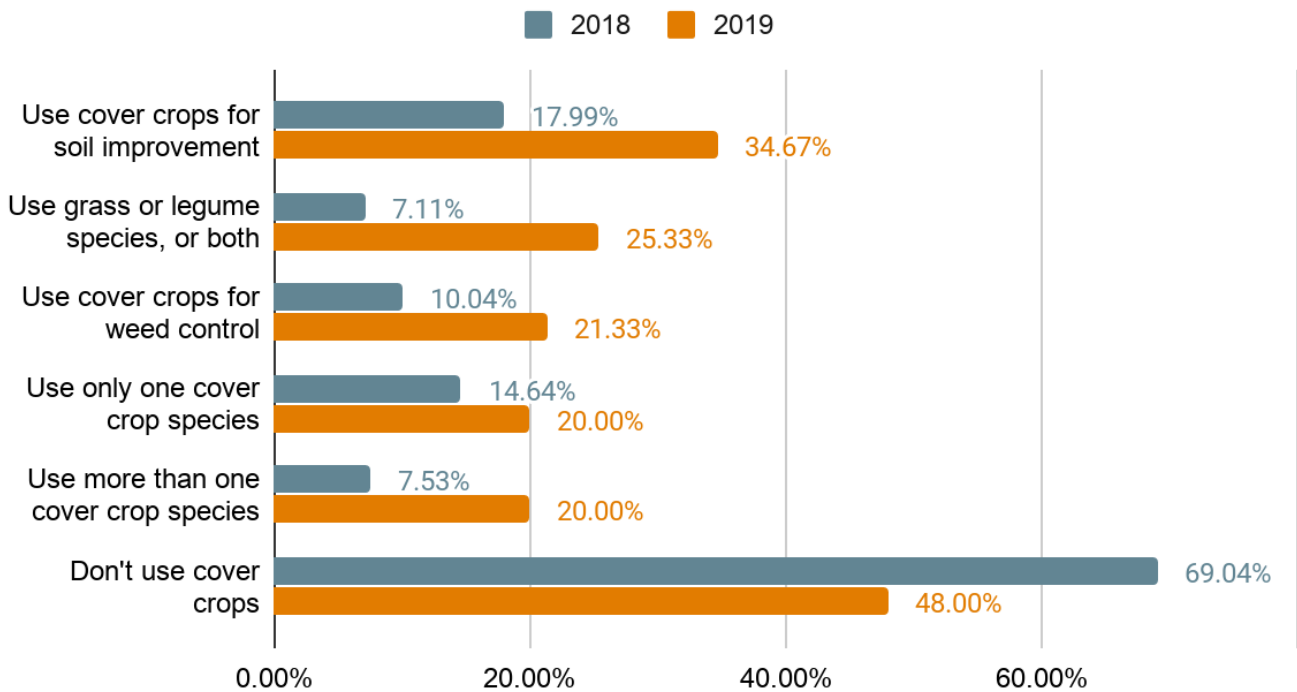
**In the same order as 2018, the majority of growers reported taking a variety of steps to increase yields.**

What things are you doing on your farm to increase soybean yields?



More growers indicated they are using cover crops, with soil improvement being the primary use. Those that plant cover crops do so on an average of 37% of their acres.

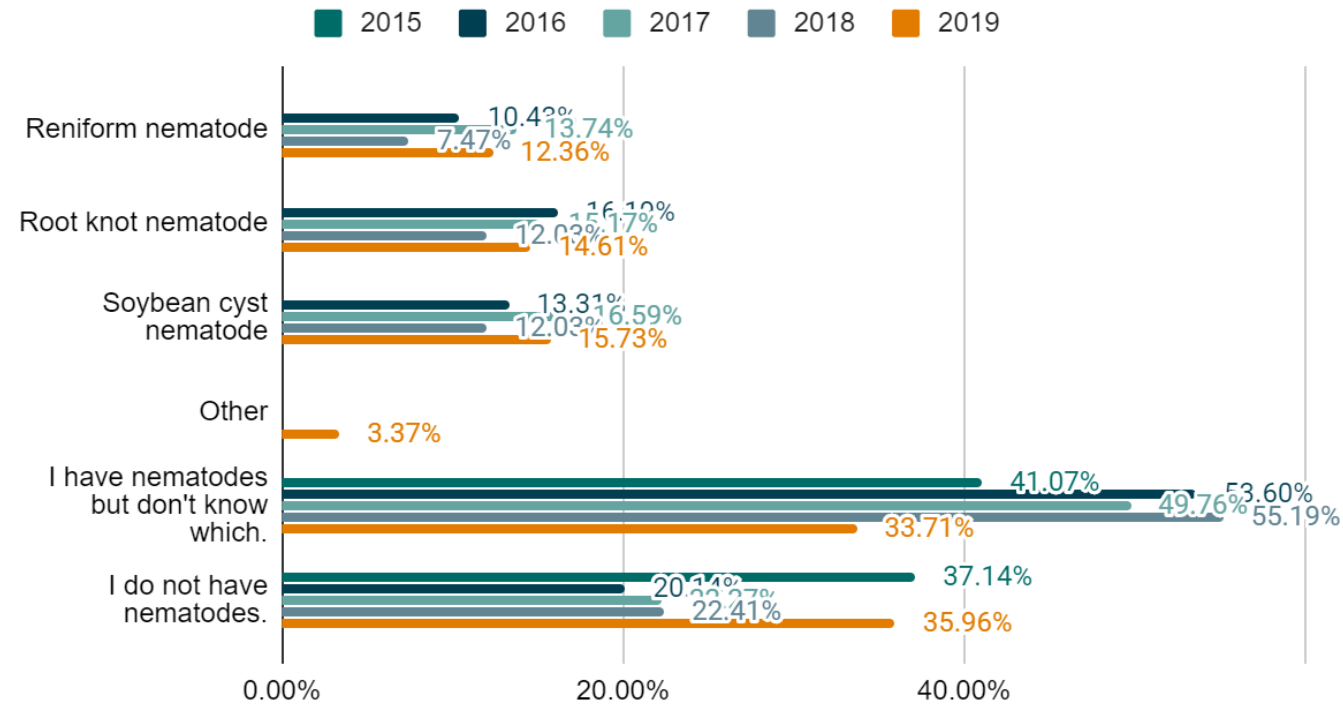
How do you use cover crops in your operation?



# DISEASES, INSECTS AND WEEDS

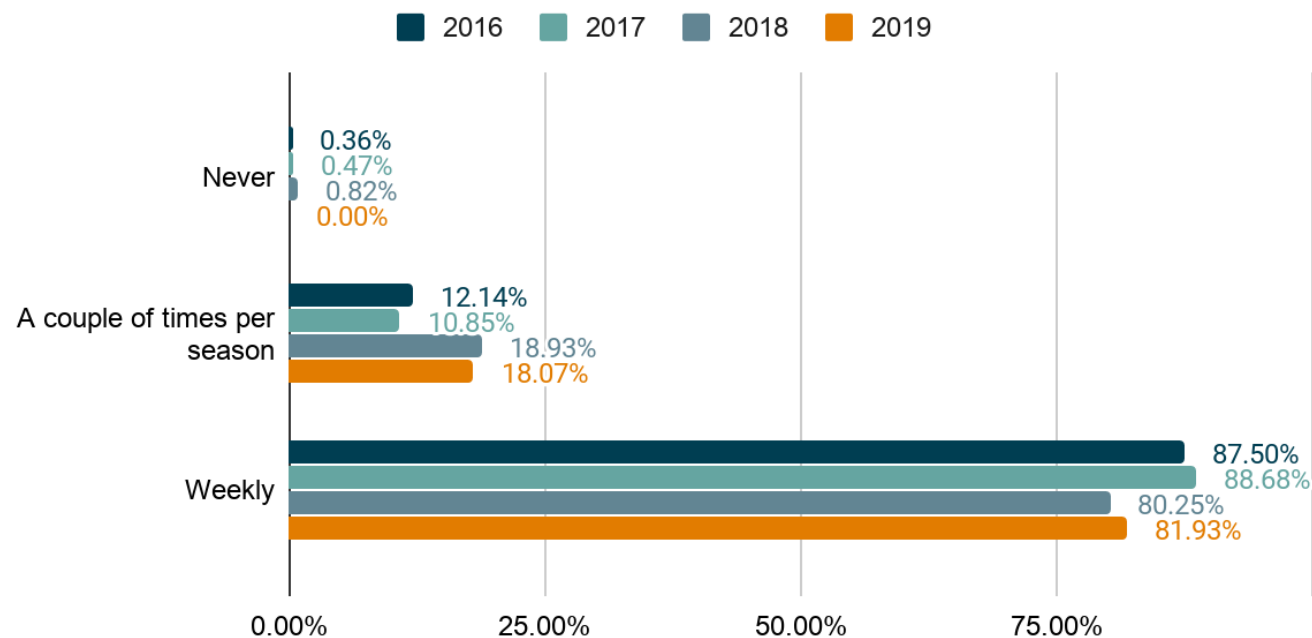
## Reniform, root knot and soybean cyst nematodes all continue to pose problems for growers.

What nematodes are present in your fields?



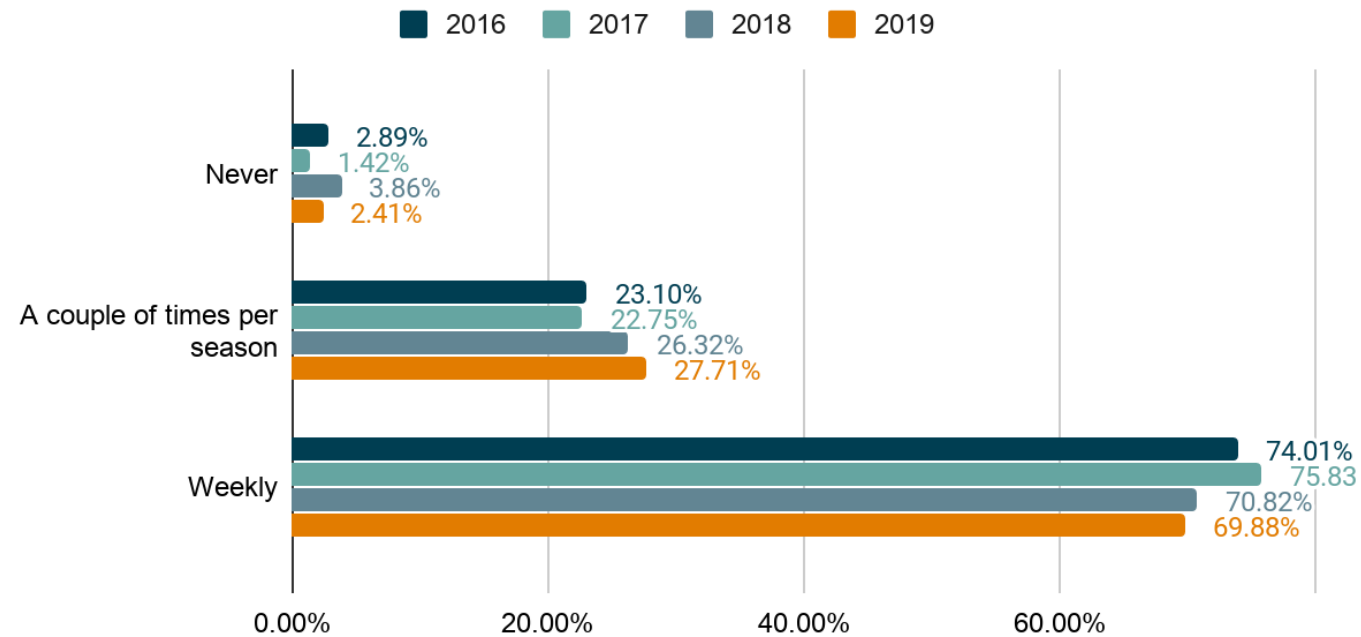
## Farmers consistently check for weeds during the growing season.

How often do you, or someone on behalf of your farm, scout your fields to check for the presence of weeds during...?



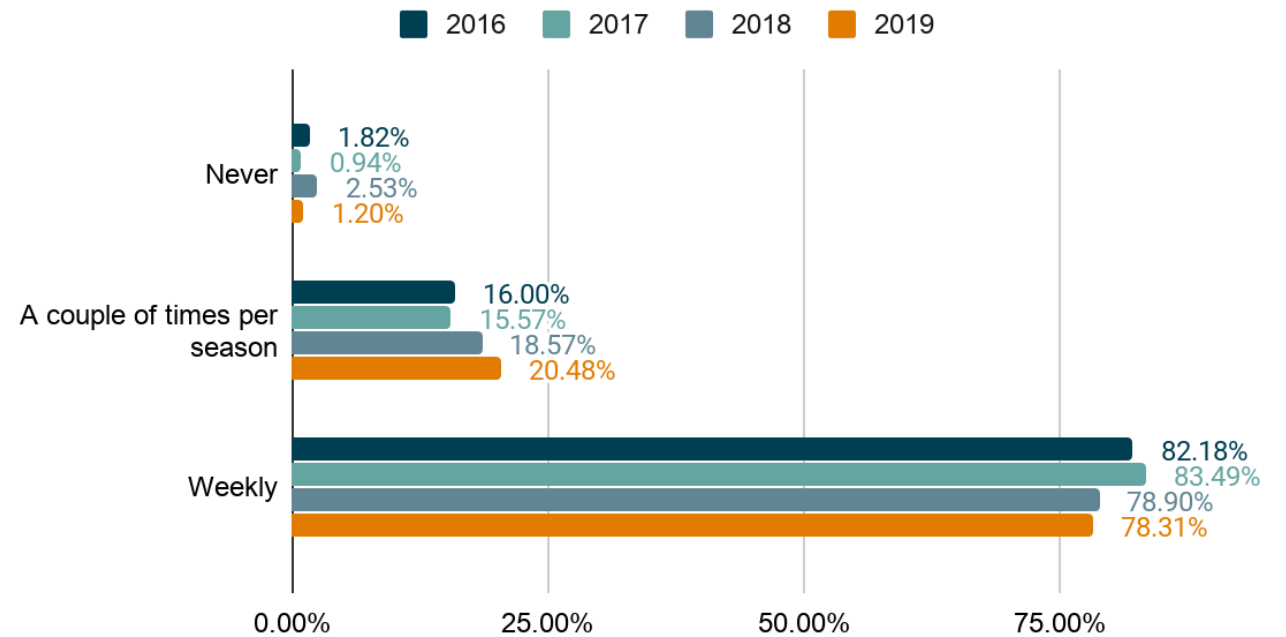
## Farmers also recognize the importance of checking for diseases but do so less often than they check for weeds during the growing season.

How often do you, or someone on behalf of your farm, scout your fields to check for the presence of diseases during...?



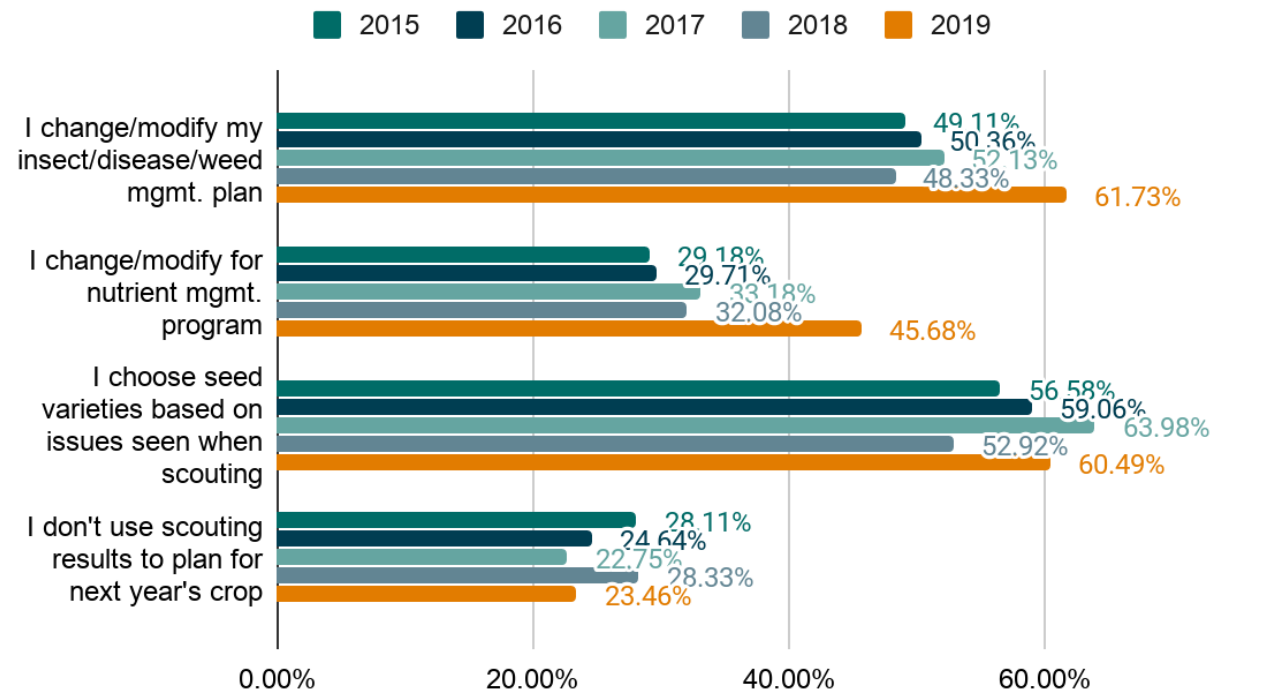
## Farmers indicated a stronger commitment to checking for insects weekly than they do for diseases.

How often do you, or someone on behalf of your farm, scout your fields to check for the presence of insects during...?



## Growers most use scouting results to impact their pest management plans and seed selections.

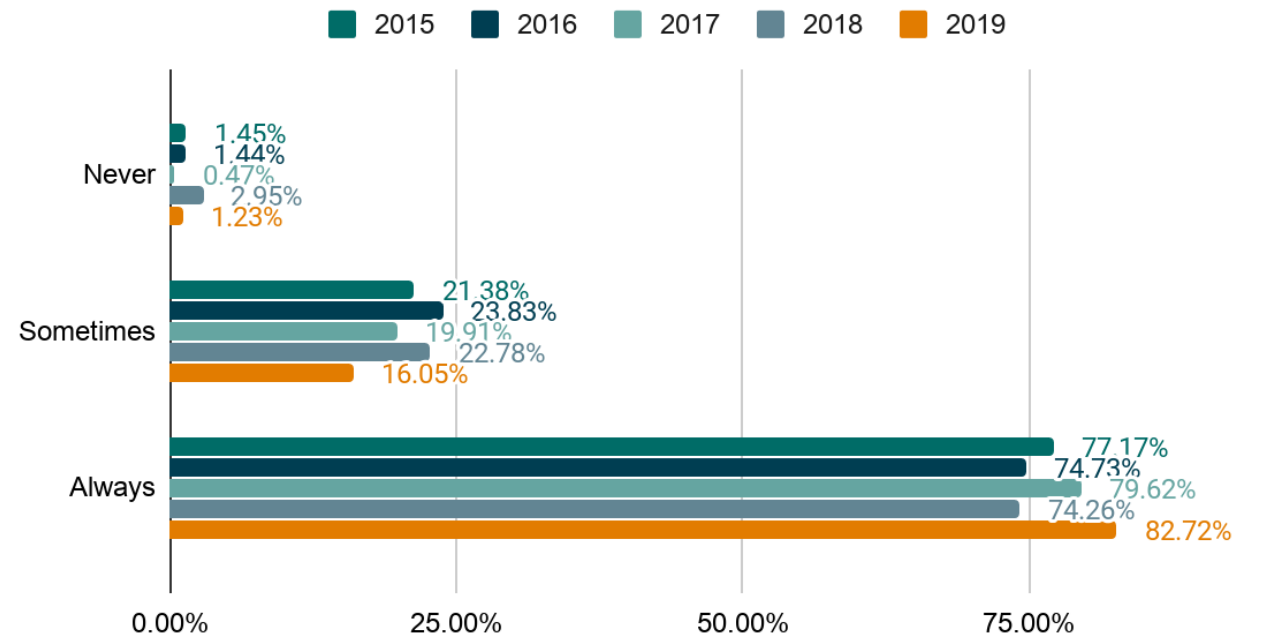
How do you use scouting results to plan for next year's crop?





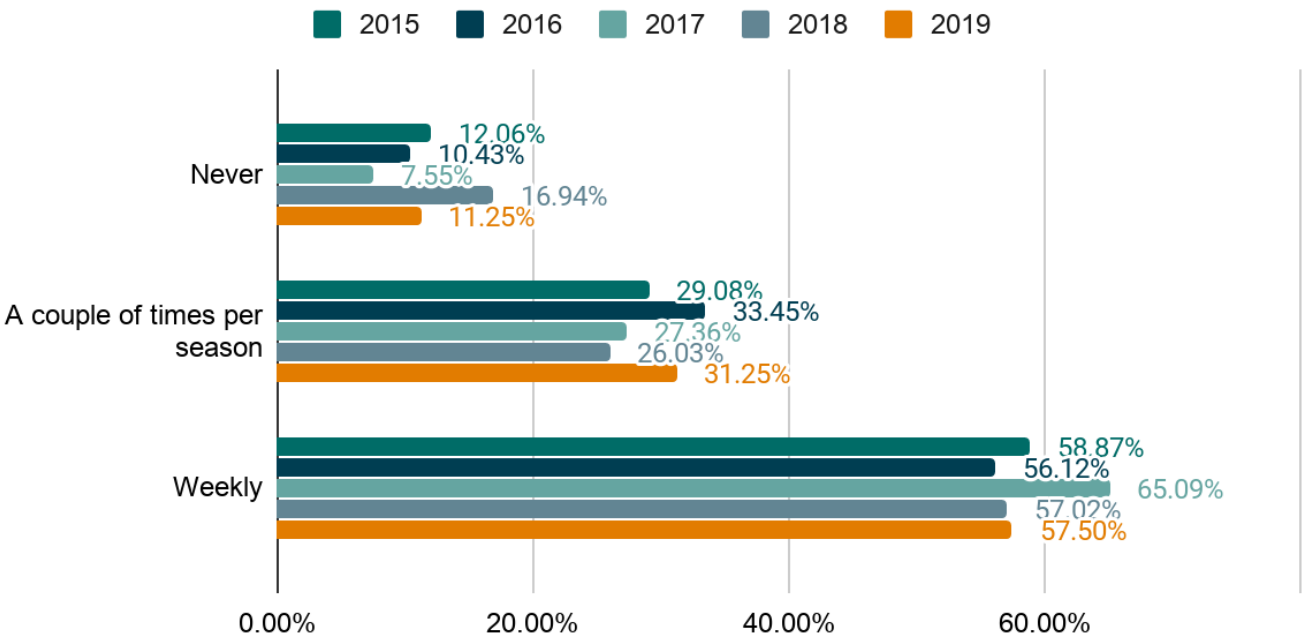
## Actually walking the fields is the common approach to scouting.

When scouting, do you, or someone on behalf of your farm, actually walk the fields?



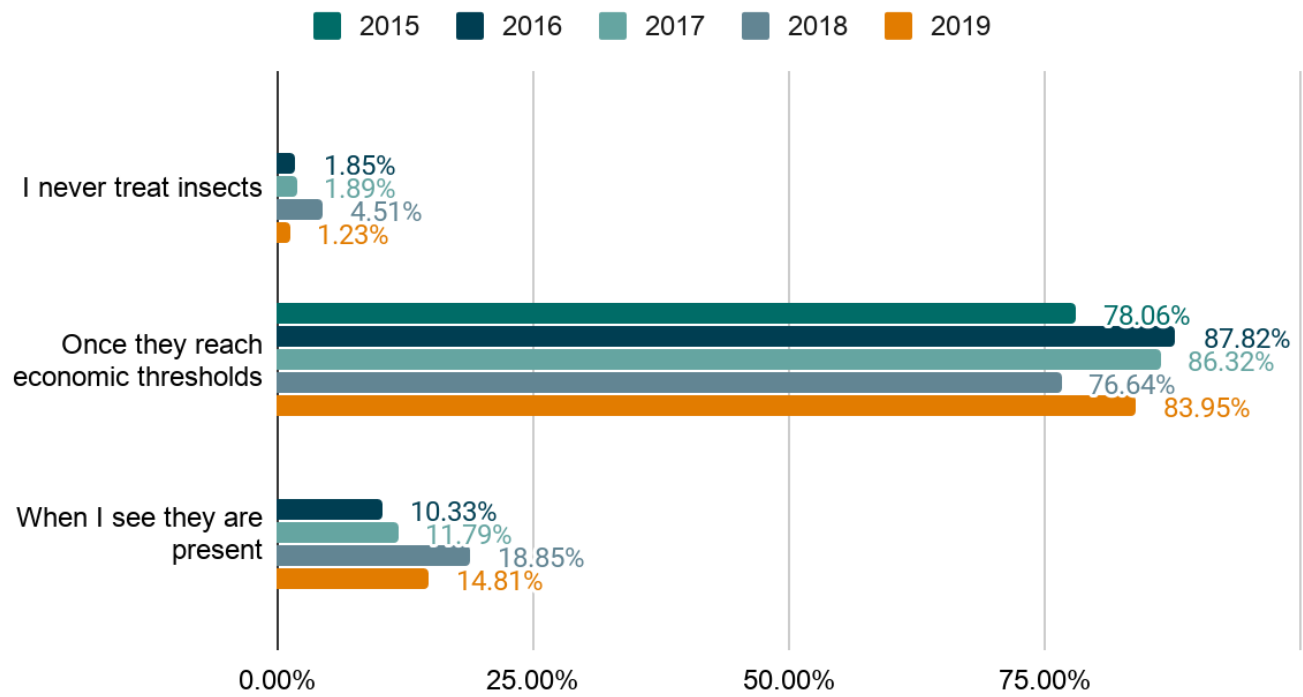
# Over half of growers continue to use a sweep net or drop cloth weekly to measure the amount of insects in a field.

Throughout the growing season, do you, or someone on behalf of your farm, use a sweep net or drop cloth to measure...?

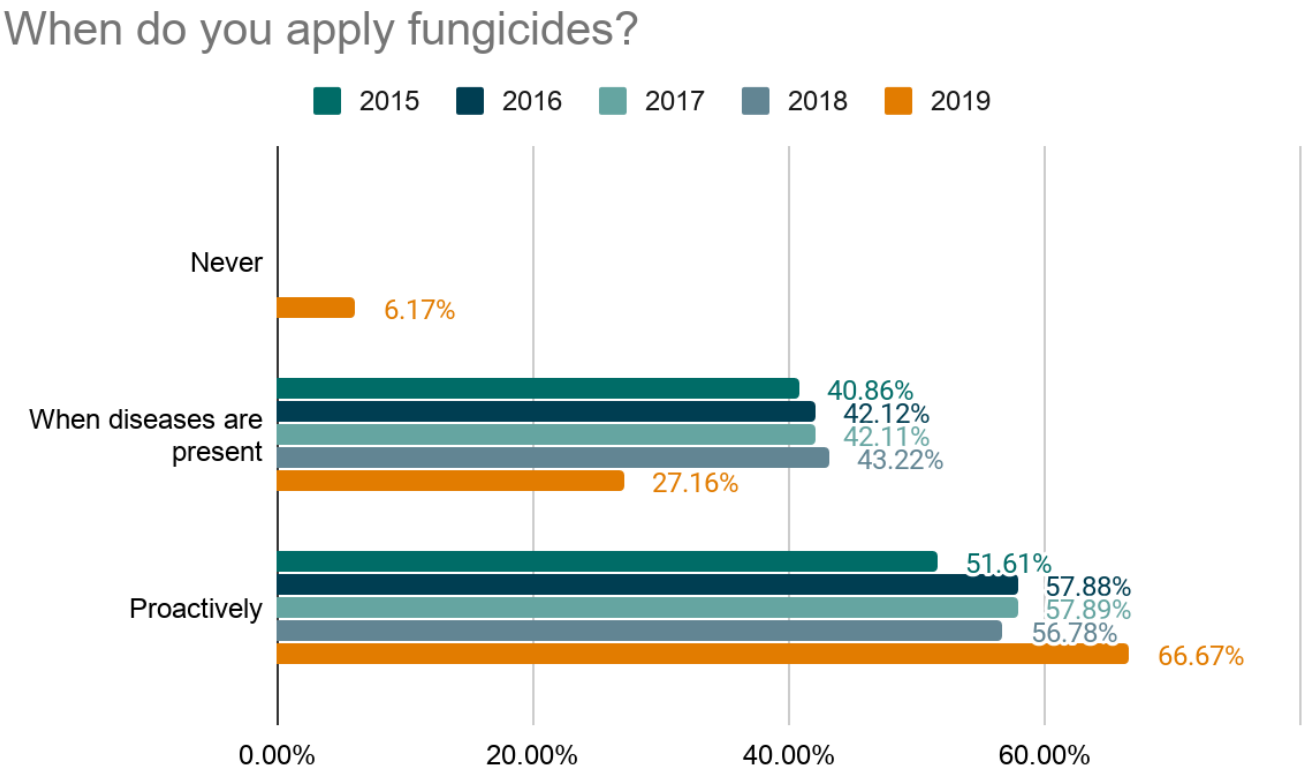


# The majority of growers treat for insects once the amount of insects reaches economic thresholds.

When do you treat for insects?

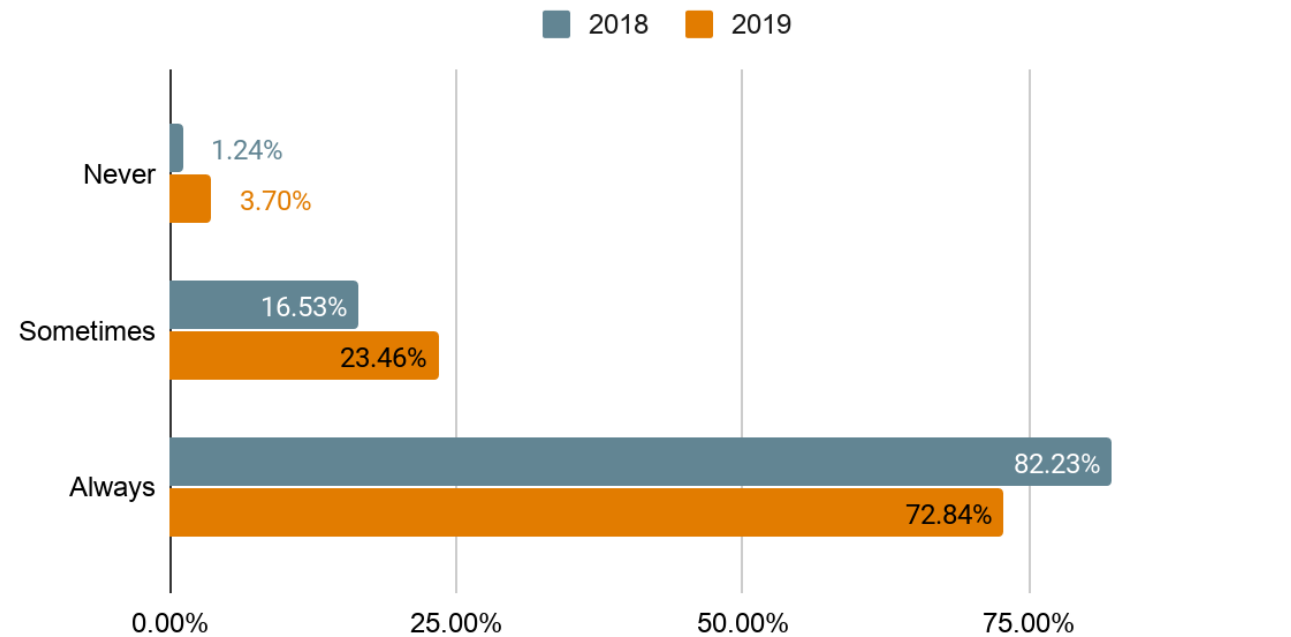


# Growers are most likely to apply fungicides proactively.



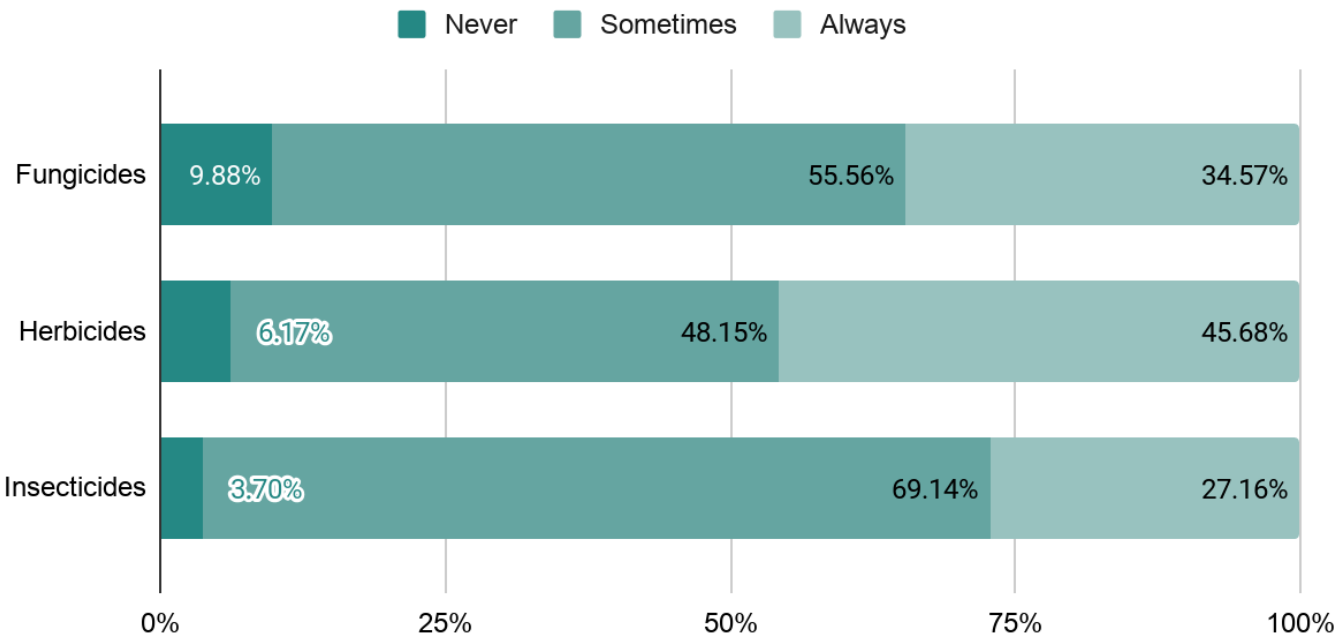
## The majority of growers reported always applying the full labeled rate of pesticides.

When applying fungicides, insecticides or herbicides, do you use the full labeled rate?



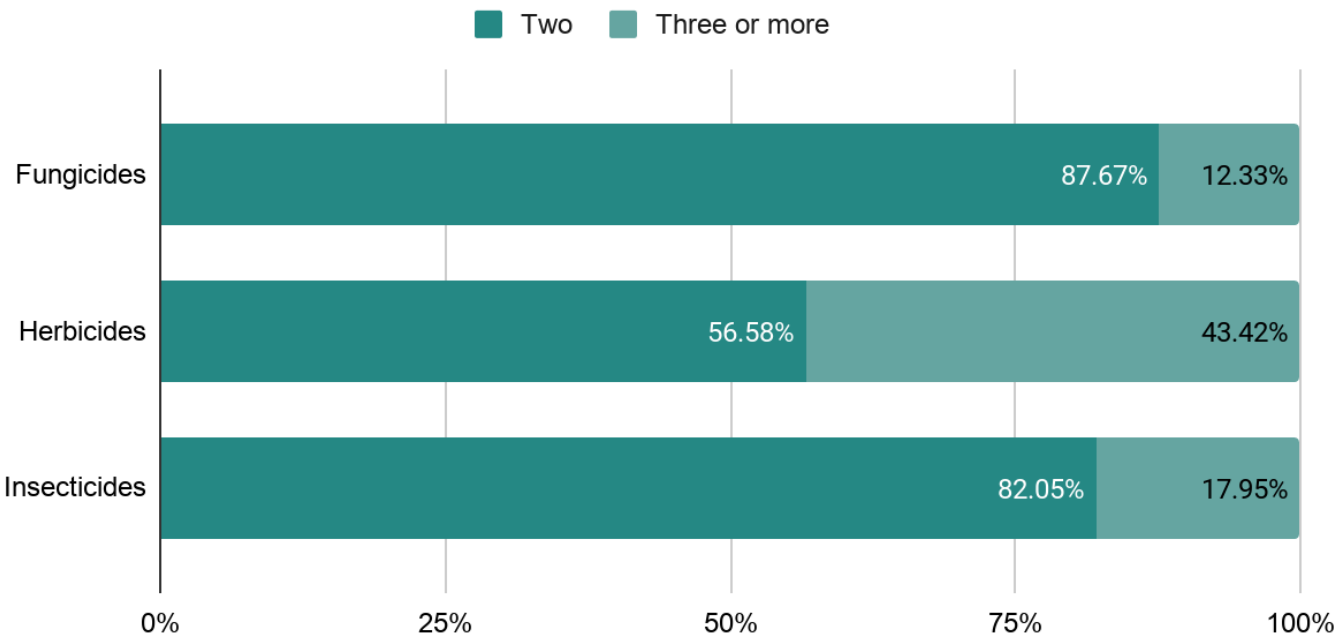
# Growers are most consistent in using multiple modes of action when applying herbicides.

When applying fungicides, insecticides or herbicides, do you use multiple modes of action?



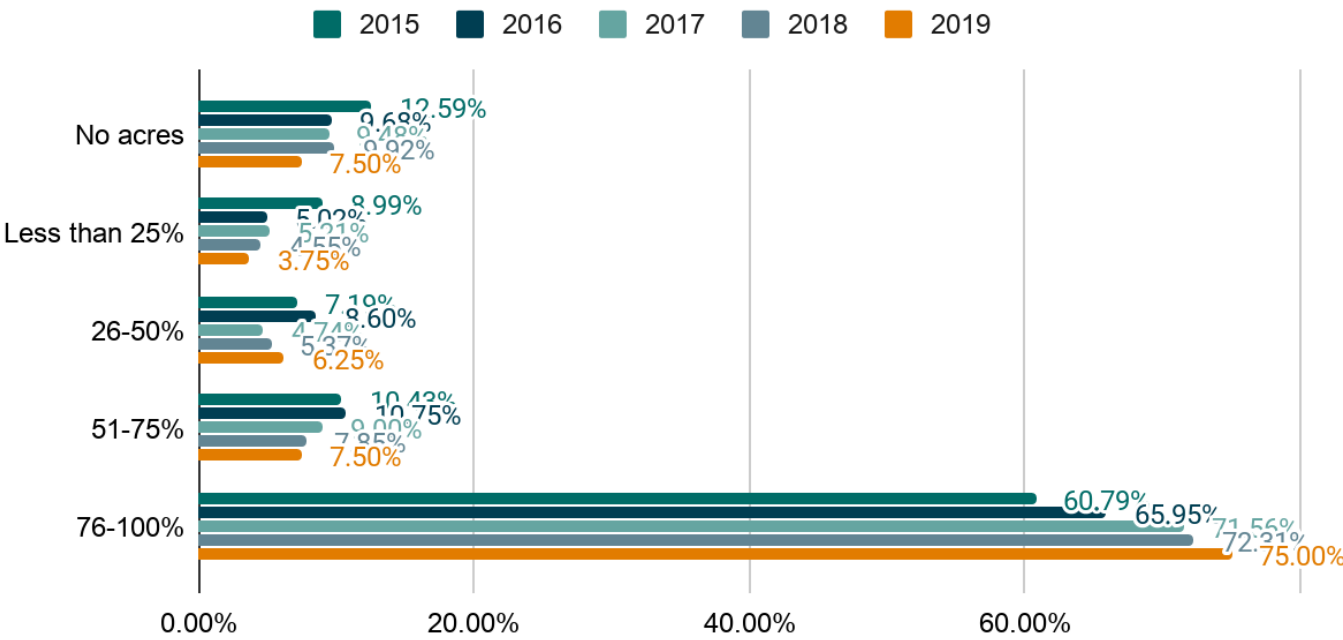
# For those who do apply multiple modes of action, growers use the most when applying herbicides.

How many modes/sites of action do you typically use for your soybeans?



# Growers use pre-plant or pre-emergent herbicides on the majority of their acres.

On what percentage of acres do you use a pre-plant or pre-emergent herbicide?

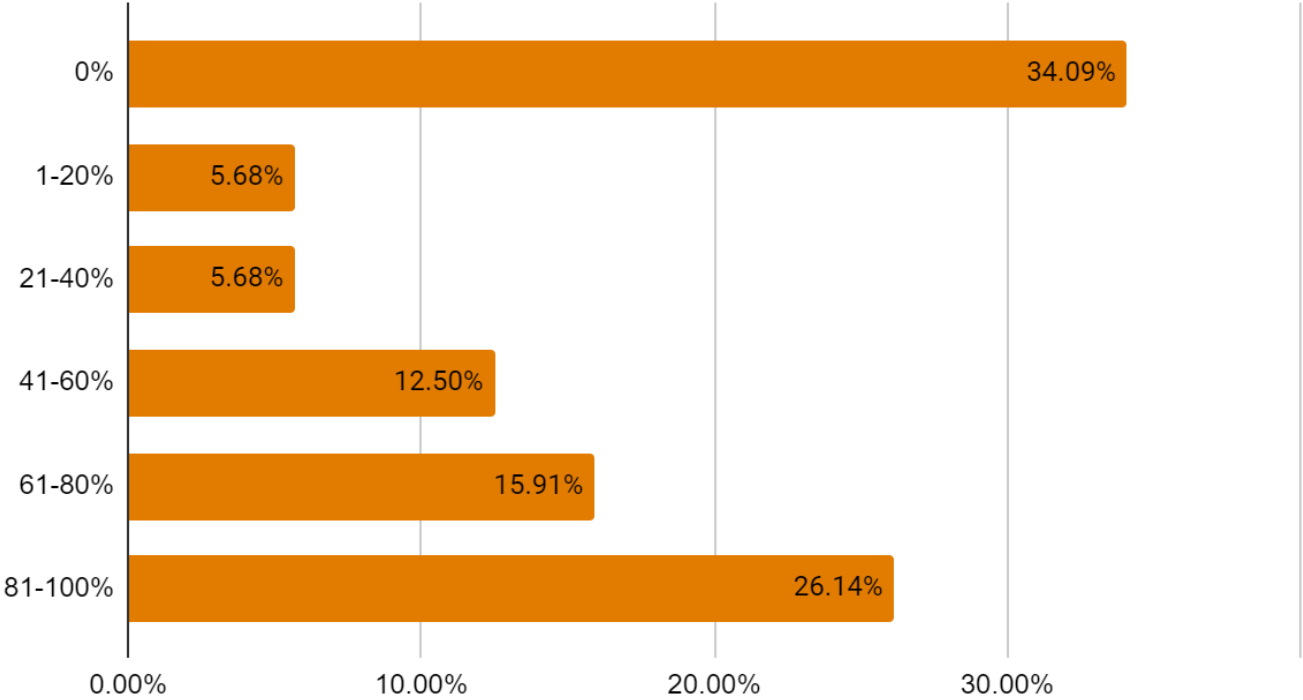




# IRRIGATION

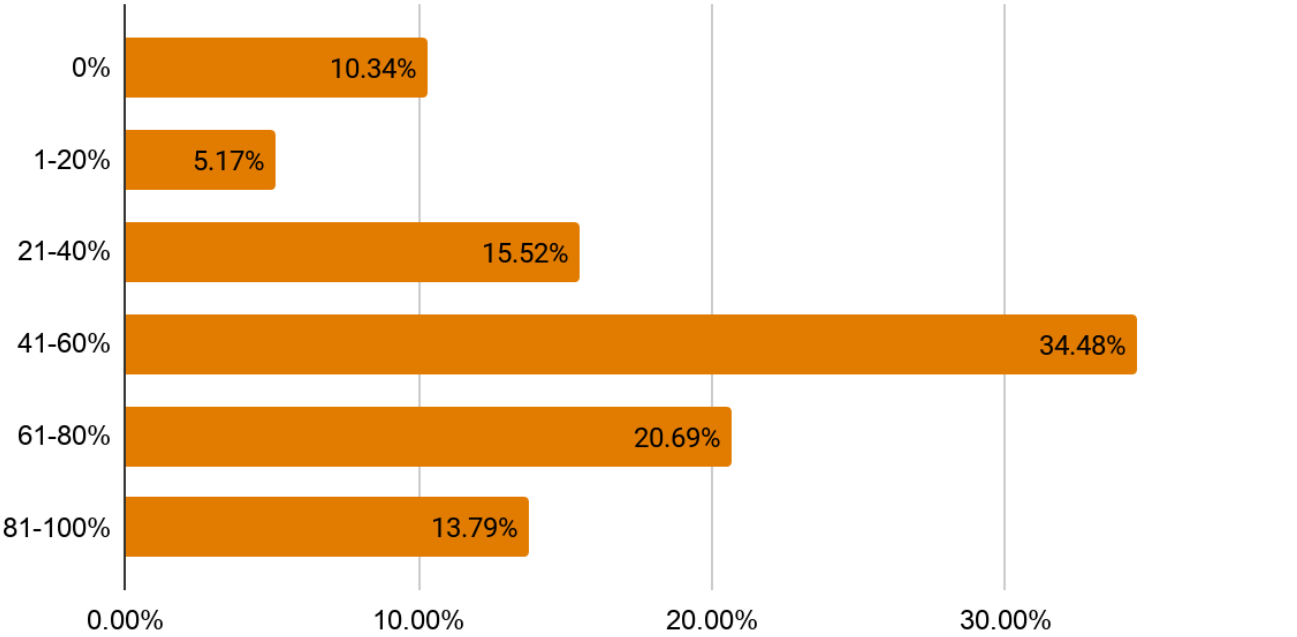
# One-third of Mississippi soybean growers do not irrigate any of their fields.

What percentage of your total acres are irrigated?



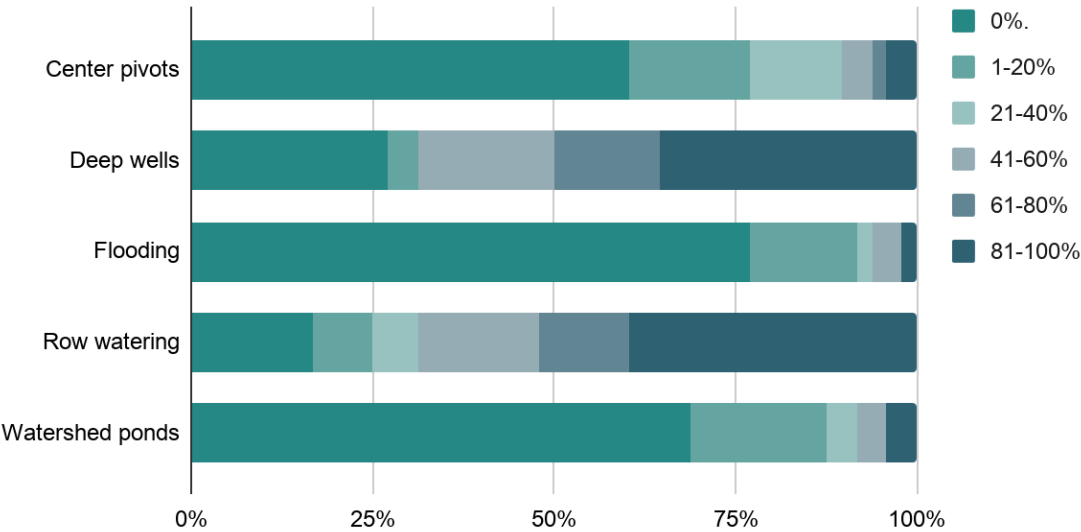
**This is on par with the proportion of 2019 soybean acres to respondents’ total acres.**

Of your total irrigated acres, what percentage were soybeans in 2019?



# Row watering and deep wells were the two most-used irrigation methods in 2019.

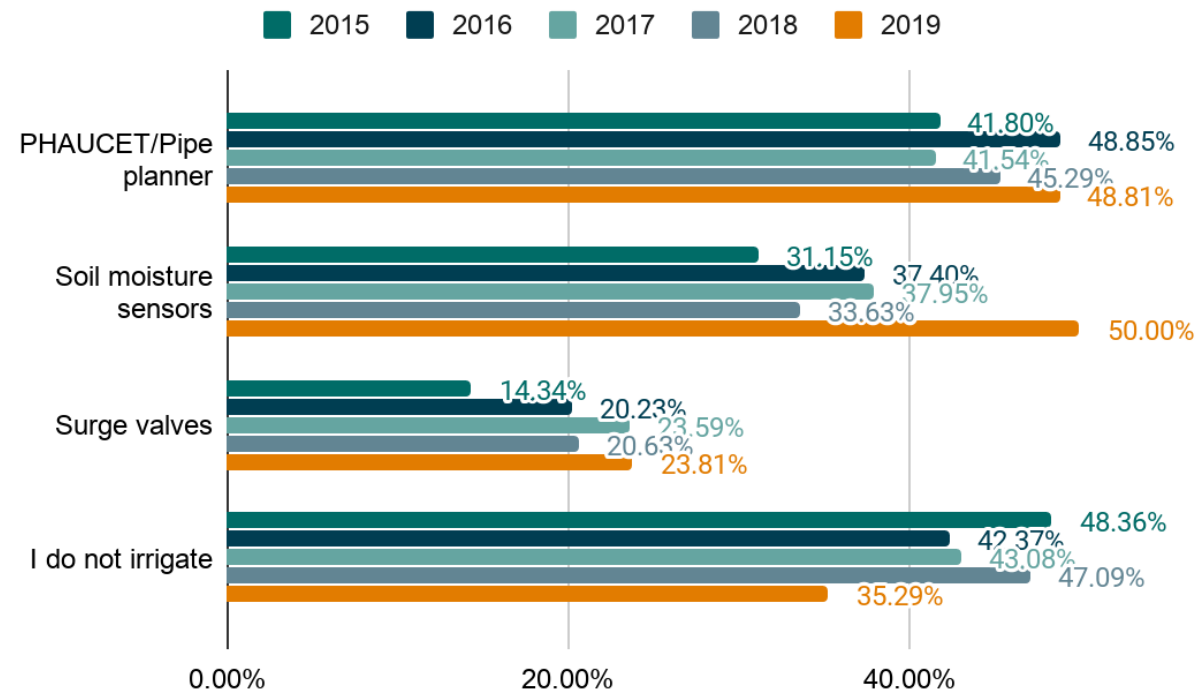
What percentage of your 2019 soybean acres are irrigated by each of the following methods?



	0%	1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%
Center pivots	60.42%	16.67%	12.50%	4.17%	2.08%	4.17%
Deep wells	27.08%	4.17%	0.00%	18.75%	14.58%	35.42%
Flooding	77.08%	14.58%	2.08%	4.17%	0.00%	2.08%
Row watering	16.67%	8.33%	6.25%	16.67%	12.50%	39.58%
Watershed ponds	68.75%	18.75%	4.17%	4.17%	0.00%	4.17%

## Growers reported using soil moisture sensors more in 2019.

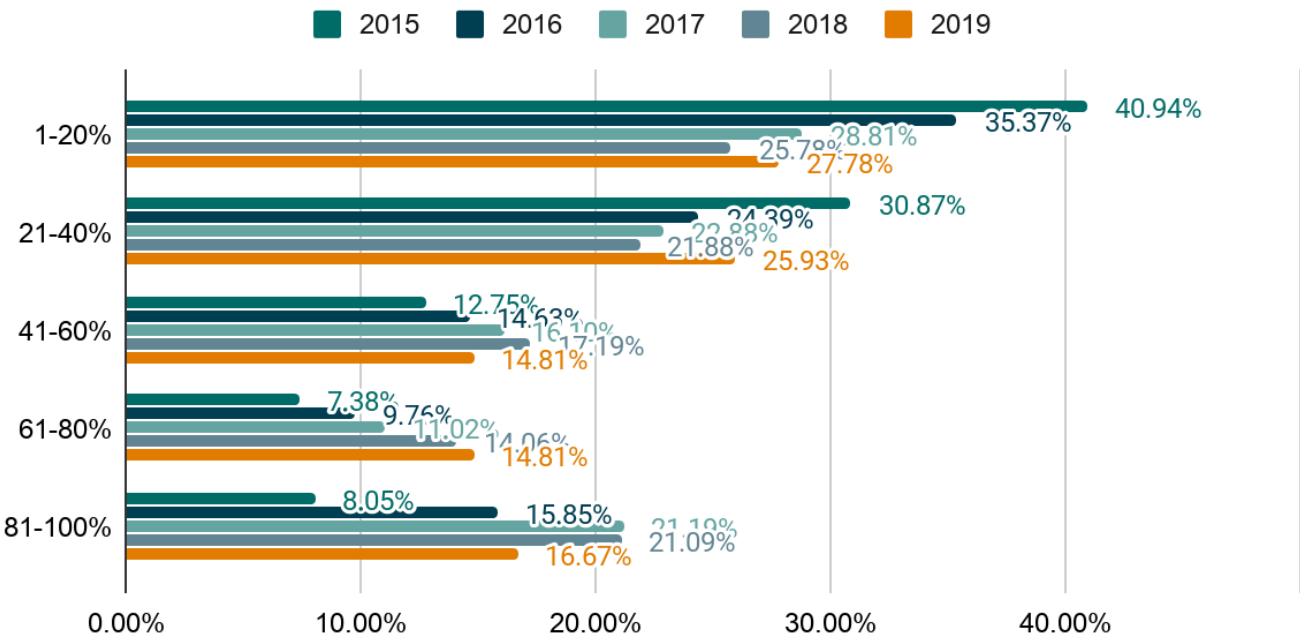
Do you use any of the following on your farm?\*



\*The 2019 survey only asked this question of respondents who indicated they do irrigate their fields.

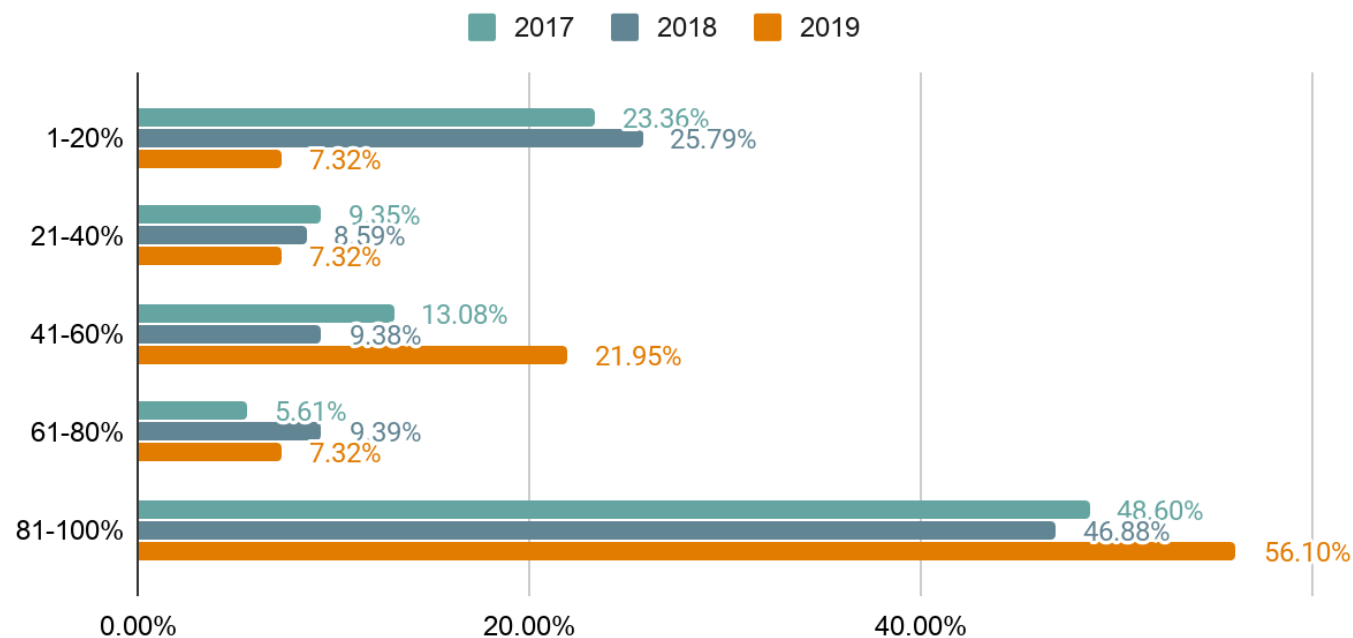
# Growers are using well or flow meters on more acres than they were several years ago.

On what percentage of total irrigated acres do you monitor your water use with well or flow meters?



## Growers reported using PHAUCET/Pipe Planner on more acres in 2019.

On what percentage of total irrigated acres do you implement PHAUCET/Pipe Planner?

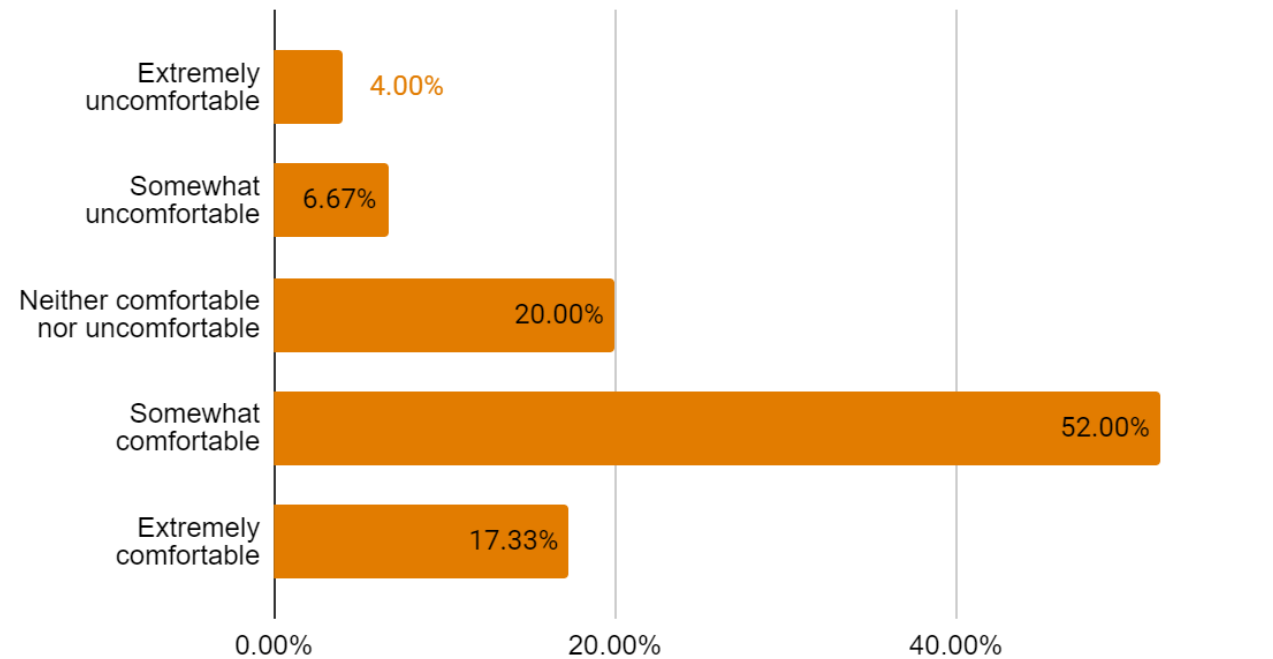


# CHALLENGES AND INFORMATION SOURCES



## Growers are fairly comfortable with recommendations from ag retailers.

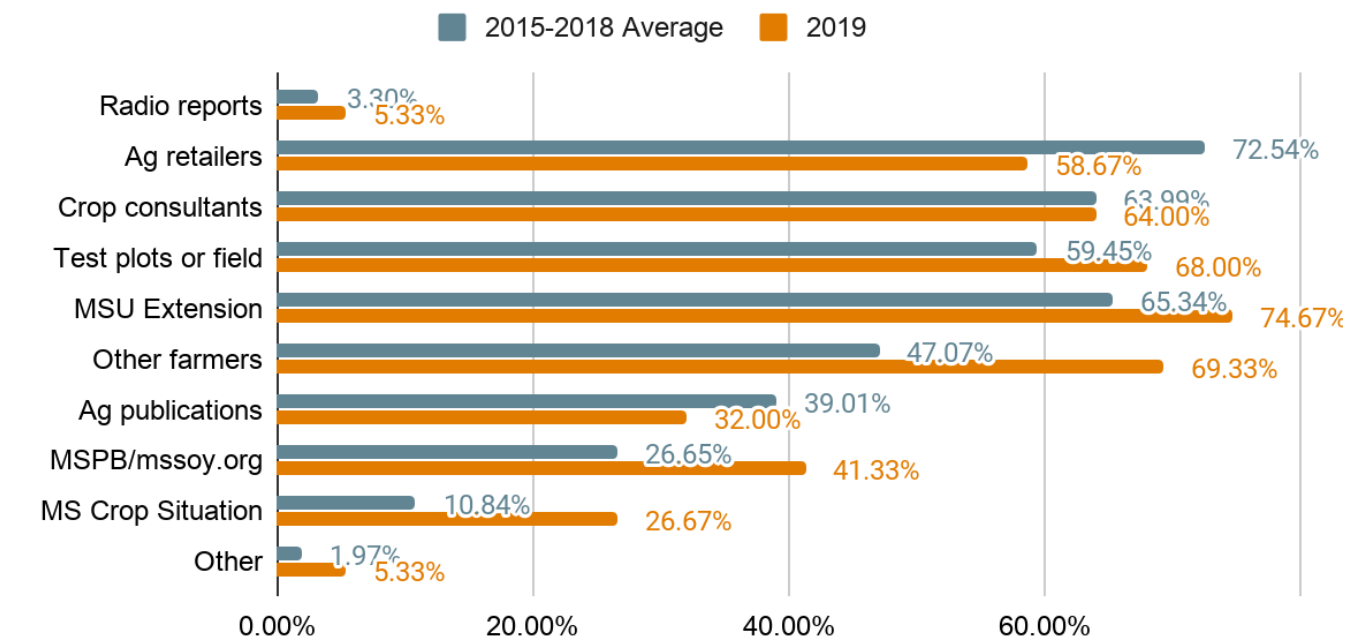
How comfortable are you with the recommendations you receive from ag retailers to help you produce soybeans?



NOTE: The 2015-2018 surveys offered the responses of “not comfortable,” “comfortable,” “very comfortable” and “wish I had more information options,” which averaged 7.29%, 60.82%, 25.52% and 7.61%, respectively.

# Growers reported turning to test plots or fields, MSU Extension, other farmers, MSPB and MS Crop Situation more in 2019 than in the past.

What source(s) do you use to assist in making soybean production decisions?

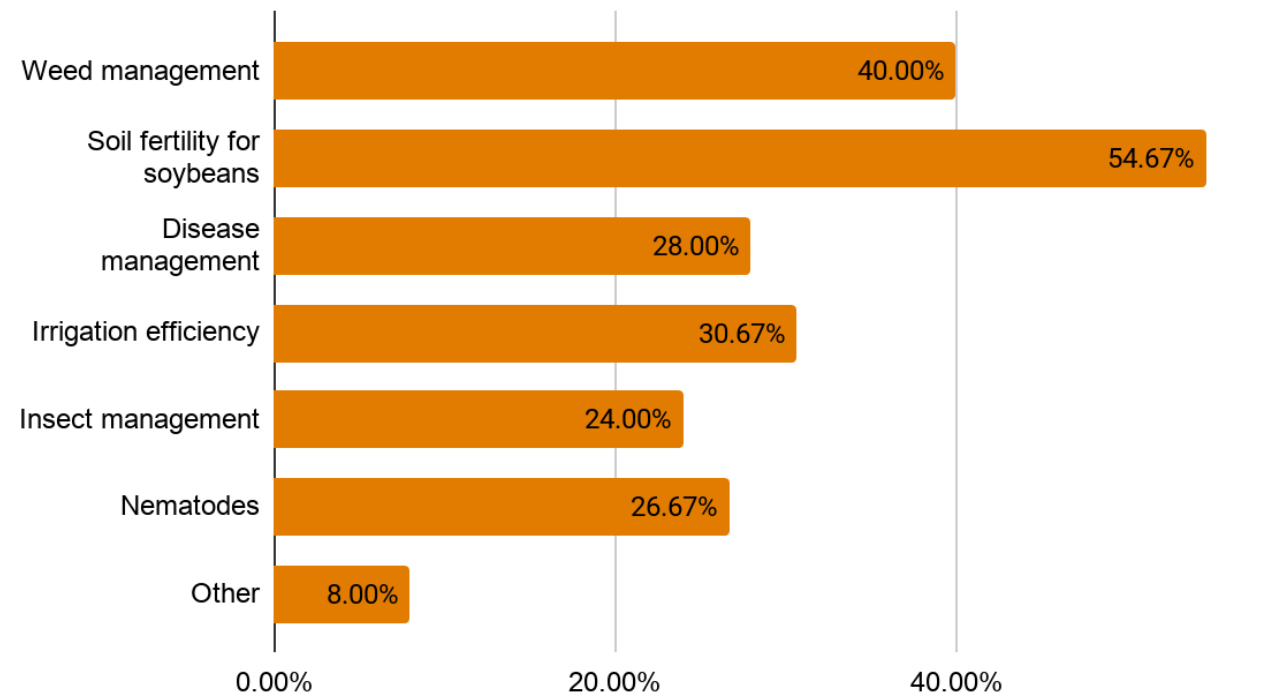


**Price, weather and weeds are the three top challenges farmers noted facing when growing soybeans, among others.**



## Soil fertility is top of mind, with weed management continuing to be a challenge.

What topic(s) do you wish you had more information on?



# SURVEY RESPONDENTS

## THE SAMPLE

99 growers answered at least one question, and 74 growers completed the entire survey.

The respondents farm an average of 2,329 acres – 1,125 of which were soybean acres in 2019 (n=74).

The respondents farm in 34 Mississippi counties (n=99).

## THE METHODOLOGY

Growers were invited to complete the online survey through the platform Qualtrics.

MSPB's email lists were invited to take the survey via email, which provided over half of the respondents. The link was posted on MSPB's social channels and website, and partners were invited to share the link with their networks.

Respondents were first invited to take the survey on December 4, and the survey was closed on January 17.

In which Mississippi county do you farm?					
COUNTY	RESPONDENTS	COUNTY	RESPONDENTS	COUNTY	RESPONDENTS
Bolivar	9	Tunica	4	Hancock	1
Coahoma	9	Hinds	2	Newton	1
Sunflower	9	Holmes	2	Oktibbeha	1
Washington	6	Humphreys	2	Prentiss	1
Leflore	5	Lowndes	2	Quitman	1
Panola	5	Marshall	2	Scott	1
Chickasaw	4	Tate	2	Tallahatchie	1
DeSoto	4	Yazoo	2	Tippah	1
Issaquena	4	Adams	1	Union	1
Lee	4	Alcorn	1	Warren	1
Monroe	4	Calhoun	1		
Noxubee	4	Clay	1		



What is your age?

