

STRIPS Collaborator Survey: 2021 Results

Sociology Technical Report 1062 • March 2022





The research summarized in this report was conducted as part of the STRIPS project. STRIPS stands for Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips. Since 2007, the long-term project has been measuring the impacts of strategically planting prairie strips in crop fields at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Prairie City, Iowa. Results have shown that small amounts of prairie can yield disproportionate, multi-functional benefits to soils, watersheds, wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

Find more information about the STRIPS project online at <http://www.prairiestrips.org>.

Learn more about the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/neal_smith.

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Introduction

The STRIPS (Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips) project has developed collaborative partnerships with more than 50 farmers, landowners, and organizations that have integrated prairie strips into their farm landscapes. One of the STRIPS project's guiding principles is to "create and maintain feedback loops for information sharing among team members, farmer/farm landowner adopters, and other stakeholders." A major goal of these feedback loops is to learn from collaborators who have adopted prairie strips so project staff can help current and future collaborators to successfully establish and manage prairie strips.

An important part of those feedback loops is an annual, online survey of STRIPS collaborators who have established prairie strips. The purpose of the survey is to learn about collaborating landowners' experiences with the establishment and management of prairie strips to help project staff understand (1) what positive and negative experiences they have had, (2) what information and technical assistance needs they may have, and (3) to learn from their ideas about how the STRIPS team can improve outreach and promotional efforts. The 2021 survey consisted of 10 open-ended questions and three yes/no questions.

Experiences with prairie strips:

- Q1. What have been some of your positive experiences with your prairie strips this past year?
- Q2. What have been some of the challenges with your prairie strips this past year?
- Q3. What advice would you give someone who is getting ready to plant prairie strips?
- Q4. What have people (e.g., neighbors, friends, crop advisers) said to you about your prairie strips, whether positive, negative, or questions?

How else can we help?

- Q5. What are some of the questions you have about prairies and prairie management?
- Q6. What else can the STRIPS project team do to help?
- Q7. What educational events that you attended this past year – formal or informal – have helped you to improve your understanding of prairie strips? In what ways were they helpful?

Prairie Strips Promotion:

- Q8. How did you first hear about prairie strips?
- Q9. What can the STRIPS project team do to more effectively promote prairie strips with farmers and landowners?
- Q10. If you have recommended prairie strips to others, what motivated you to recommend them?
- Q11. Have you ever recommended prairie strips to other farmers and/or landowners?
- Q12. Post-pandemic (and/or maybe virtually), would you be willing to show your prairie strips to potential adopters in your area and share your knowledge and experiences?
- Q13. Prairie strips are now eligible for annual rental payments through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Would you be interested in establishing CRP prairie strips?

The web-based survey was sent by email to 53 collaborators in December 2021, and the survey remained open until early January 2022. Thirty-one collaborators opened the survey, and 25 completed at least some of the survey for a response rate of 47 percent. This report presents the responses to the questions.

Q1. What have been some of your positive experiences with your prairie strips this past year?

ID	
1	Seeing some new flowers that I hadn't seen before and seeing all the bees enjoying the flowers.
2	Strips from 2 years ago did very well....early dry weather limited diversity in newly planted areas this year.
3	I actually saw two Big Blue Stem plants in my prairie strips planting (planted in 2020).
4	Understanding how effective they are & seeing the impact they can have to revitalize biodiversity in Iowa.
5	Seeing good regrowth after the spring burn. Seeing excellent numbers of pheasants in the prairie cover.
6	Better growth early. Thicker for most of the year.
7	The newest x acre prairie strip that was seeded 2020 showed some year 1 establishment (mainly sunflowers and partridge pea) in spite of the drought. Of course, we had great weed growth, so mowed the strip 3 times during the summer. Older, well-established prairie strips continue to thrive; we are seeing many native bees, birds and butterflies. We are seeing how each year the most prominent plants in the strips vary greatly. Wonderful to experience how much weather (temperature, moisture, sunlight) influences plant growth.
8	This was second growing season for STRIPS, so good to see the STRIPS getting more established.
9	Tim Youngquist organized an interview with [x group] for me to talk about why I like prairie on my farm. I also was interviewed by [y group] for STRIPS promotion. When we were out there, ... was able to confirm the Upland Sandpiper was the bird circling nearby.
10	1. The mass of Oxeyes and BE Susans were beautiful last summer. 2. My ewes are grazing one of the strips now and seem to be getting along fine. 3. We saw lots of pheasant and some deer in the strips this year.
11	All the variety of insects, birds, and wildlife that thrive in the prairie grasses and forbs.
12	Still stopping erosion!
13	I live [out of state]. Not until this past summer did I have an opportunity to see the prairie strips that were planted last fall. I was thrilled.
14	I stopped by to show the strips to a friend and she took a delightful photo of me drowning in a sea of Monarchs.
15	Great diversity of plants---lots of bees and butterflies.
16	After 2nd year they look a lot better and have more forbs.
17	Some positive experiences have been using our prairie strips as an example and showcase for others to view to help push the need and want for prairie strips to other land owners. Another positive experience year over year is the wildlife usage of the strips. Especially with pollinators.
18	Seeing pollinators and wildlife.
19	They continue to do their job. I think I am getting some benefit to beneficial insect control of pathogenic insects and seed predator control of weeds.
20	Looked good for the most part.
21	Spent less time on maintenance. Seeing more diversity in plantings. Include them regularly in educational farm tours.
22	Providing wildlife habitat next to food sources. Public hunting was more successful. People asked what the idea/concept was with the STRIPS. So awareness is being made with the presence of STRIPS.
23	I think they have helped with erosion. There are a few flowers showing up. I've seen more pollinators, which I love to see. I'm looking forward to next spring to see how they look.
24	We have been working with [x group] for the establishment of our strips. They have taken care of almost every detail after our initial meeting, so the hands-off nature has been nice. It was also nice to still have access to Tim Youngquist along the way.
25	Helps with soil erosion and wildlife habitat.

Note: NR = no response

Q2. What have been some of the challenges with your prairie strips this past year?

ID	
1	I could not burn until this fall due to ongoing corn on corn rotation with our tenant.
2	Dry weather right after new seedings.
3	Deciding when to mow this first year of the seeding.
4	FSA is basically nonfunctional and I had a landlord put in terraces instead of STRIPs because they basically did nothing with our request. Realizing that there is still an attitude that you can be productive and protect our environment.
5	Reseeding other CRP areas to new prairie.
6	Dry weather. Early growth was a problem to distribute so as not to damage stand when mowing weeds.
7	One of our original 2014 prairie strips still has a section dominated by smooth brome grass; over seeding has not solved the problem. We need to do some spot spraying and reseeding in 2022. Our newest prairie strips seeded in December 2020 still has large Canada thistle colonies in two areas in spite of our three-year efforts to eliminate the thistles prior to seeding. Hopefully, mowing and strong prairie establishment will eventually control this problem.
8	Perennial and annual-self-reseeding weeds.
9	Just the normal watching for trees and mowing Canada Thistle.
10	I have some volunteer vetch that has re-seeded in a couple of strips. Lots of weeds still in some areas of the strips.
11	As always, thistles.
12	None.
13	None, but I don't know how the operator would answer that question.
14	We have lots of cottonwood saplings showing up. Considering whether to cut down the mature trees that are seeding them.
15	Brome is creeping back into strips. Heavy snow flattens strips in winter.
16	Drought this summer hurt the new seeding.
17	The width of the strips and not being wide enough. We are making efforts to widen them.
18	Shrubby encroachment, a few weeds, point rows on the contour.
19	As in other years, the biggest problem is Canada Thistle. Also, the 20 year-old strip has some brome encroachment.
20	Weed Management.
21	1) Spraying crops, working around strips. Takes 2-4 days to spray due to variable wind conditions, versus 1 day without strips. 2) Burning strips to promote diversity. Challenge to fit the burns into our schedule, especially within increasingly small burn windows (climate change), and to prioritize them when we have larger swaths of remnant habitats to burn.
22	Overspray shrinking strips.
23	Weeds, even though I have mowed every other month this summer the weeds are heavy in places. Because of the drought not many flowers. When I mow I cut at least 6 inches high. Some areas have a very heavy grass population. It looks like some kind of wet grass. I don't see much prairie grass . I would like to see more of that.
24	It has taken an incredibly long time to get our strips established (and they still aren't planted, though the folks doing the planting have visited and assure us they will be done this winter/spring). As we have been working with [x group], it's been nice to have them take care of the details, but communication has been sparse and progress slow since we had our first meeting three years ago. I can imagine this would rankle anyone with less patience.
25	None.

Q3. What advice would you give someone who is getting ready to plant prairie strips?

ID	
1	Use GPS and planter equipment to mark the distance between strips.
2	Kill the brome, kill the brome, and kill the brome.
3	Be very patient.
4	1.) Try to utilize CRP 2.) Make them part of a master plan. 3.) Hire a pro to seed them.
5	Learn all you can about taking care of the seeding. Make sure you can mow the growth that takes place, it isn't all desirable prairie out there.
6	Make sure you have good quality seed. The first year is important.
7	1. Advance planning and site preparation are key. Planning placement of the strips based on strategic goals and patient, diligent site prep will help yield a rewarding prairie strip program on your land. 2. Use the most diverse and locally selected eco-type seed mix that fits your budget. 3. Year 1-2 mowing and weed management are key.
8	Plan carefully for planting. This is the single most important component of establishing. This is also a high-risk operation, so careful planning can help push down the risk.
9	Match them to your equipment so your GPS layouts work easily. Grow a small grain after soybeans where you want to plant the prairie. Don't use herbicides. Plant oats cover crop early in the Fall. Dormant seed the prairie on the surface with winter wheat in late November. This all means plan 3 years in advance.
10	Be patient and go for it.
11	Listen and follow what the professionals have to say, and follow their instructions.
12	Go ahead and do it. Mow mid-summer first year before weeds seed out- mow high-let sun come in to germinate plants.
13	To stop for a minute to think about what's happening on our planet, the 2020 derecho very much included. Here's a positive contribution you can make that's also a good investment for you and your family.
14	You won't regret it!
15	Be patient. Plan ahead. Do good site prep.
16	Be patient.
17	Work with your local NRCS office and see about enrolling the CRP prairie strips program. Utilize the vast prairie strip configurations you can put on your farm to best fit your needs.
18	Work with NRCS technicians to be sure STRIPS are laid out to make cropping convenient. Use as diverse a prairie seed mix as possible. Mow frequently for the first two years.
19	Be ready to manage for the first few years.
20	NR
21	1) Max out diversity in seed mix, include plenty of forbs. 2) Think critically about the design and placement of strips/ prairie and how they fit into existing operations and facilitate management. We would recommend minimizing edges when possible, either creating larger blocks of prairie or running them along existing edges. 3) Maximize quality and impact of prairie by creating wider strips and thinking about erosion control in placement.
22	Do it. About all I can speak of is wildlife attractions and benefits, which have in our case been very positive.
23	I think the idea of prairie strips for erosion will work well. I love to see the pollinators and flowers.
24	Continue to manage the locations as normal until they see the drill/planter roll.
25	Be patient with establishing natives.

Note: NR = no response

Q4. What have people (e.g., neighbors, friends, crop advisers) said to you about your prairie strips, whether positive, negative, or questions?

ID	
1	None.
2	All positive, seeing lots of pheasant.
3	I have had no comments.
4	The majority of my farmer neighbors still call prairie weeds-this is my biggest concern. Good support from non-farming friends and neighbors.
5	I'm not aware of any.
6	None.
7	We hosted a garden club this summer to tour our produce garden and prairie strips. Interestingly the members were most interested in our prairie strips and how they are benefiting our farm. Since our prairie strips are not visible from the road, many people may not be aware that we have them. We do have 2 pollinator buffer plots along the main county road bordering our farm; we plan to improve the diversity and establishment in those plots, which should increase awareness and dialogue. So far we have not received negative comments, only positive comments and curiosity questions.
8	We don't live near the farm, so we don't hear a lot back from others. But what we do hear is mostly positive.
9	Lots of positive comments when I shared the interviews on social networks. People are proud of farmers who show that they care about our environment and all the creatures in it.
10	NR
11	Happy to see all the wildflowers, happy to see and hear the pheasants and other wildlife. One neighbor reported me regarding thistle management.
12	Most people don't seem to understand purpose of strips.
13	None of my neighbors here in [state], except for one who's an Iowa State grad, know anything about prairie strips.
14	People respond very positively to the beauty.
15	N/A
16	Like the beauty of the wildflowers
17	Some farmers worry that it is a corridor for wildlife like deer to walk through allowing them to feed on their cash crop more easily. Advisors have mentioned that you may one to make one big strip instead of multiple smaller ones. It's easier to manage and easier for wildlife.
18	Generally supportive commercial chemical applicators have been relatively cooperative in trying to work with STRIPS farm operator struggles with point rows farm tenant's family likes to hunt STRIPS.
19	I have not received a lot of response. I think everyone is supportive.
20	NR
21	We don't get much feedback from neighbors. Friends and visitors sometimes react. Negatives: visitors aren't sure about the strips' purpose--not inherently apparent. Positives: once explained, people generally agree with the concept.
22	People asking what it is and why so education/awareness is being done. Producers can't see it other than saying it is taking money out our pocket from what could be produced on that land.
23	Haven't heard much about them from others. Would love to have a field demonstration.
24	As our location is in a potentially sensitive cultural area, they were surprised to see the visits from the folks who come in to make sure there aren't any archeological surprises before establishment of strips. The communication with those outfits was zero until we saw them doing their job on the strip locations.
25	N/A

Note: NR = no response

Q5. What are some of the questions you have about prairies and prairie management?

ID	
1	None, or how long will the strips' robustness last?
2	NR
3	When should I mow the second year? Should I be seeing this much foxtail and red clover this first year after seeding?
4	Dealing with leafy spurge.
5	Nothing at this time.
6	How long will they last on average?
7	I would like more information on locally sourced seed availability and local Eco-types. Since our county [x] only has one remnant prairie still intact, in researching this topic I have found very little information about which prairie species are native to our county.
8	Mowing and weed management.
9	I want to try a fall burn in 2022 after soybean harvest--after the cover crops are greening up. How late can I get it done? What might be different for me? I know I won't be catching snow in them afterwards, at least not the same. These STRIPS will be 10 years old and have been burned twice in the spring.
10	NR
11	What are the best ways to manage and/or eradicate thistles.
12	Sweet clover came into the strips this year. Is that bad?
13	I'd like to understand better the argument for planting prairie strips on land that's relatively flat.
14	NR
15	Can one establish prairie strips through USDA programs (CP) on land without cropping history?
16	Don't have any.
17	What frequency of fire best suits prairie strips? Does mowing the prairie strips help? What time of year is best?
18	Decisions on how frequently and when to burn when/if mowing (or herbicide) is advisable for spot weed control?
19	How do you control thistles?
20	NR
21	We would appreciate tips on efficiently burning a prairie strip and information on ongoing monitoring so that we can continue to evaluate their quality and impact.
22	Nothing at this time other than we offer our space for field days.
23	How long before the prairie strips are established? And when can I start seeing more prairie grasses? Is there a way to manage the weeds without hurting the prairie grasses and wild flowers? How tall is the prairie grass supposed to be?
24	I can't think of any offhand, but I'll bet they will come after seeding. I'm looking forward to communicating with Tim Youngquist about what we're seeing, what's happening and future plans.
25	Is there cost share?

Note: NR = no response

Q6. What else can the STRIPS project team do to help?

ID	
1	I have had excellent support.
2	NR
3	Check my strips and give me any advice they can think of.
4	Put them on ISU owned land.
5	Helping to identify the specific species growing was beneficial to me. Just knowing that I had a good stand of everything I planted is a good motivation.
6	NR
7	Keep up the good work, ongoing research and education of the USDA & farm management professionals. Because of ISU's success in getting prairie strips approved as a CRP practice, our 2023 prairie strip will be establishing as a CRP CP43!
8	What about researching the possibility of using Kernza in a STRIPS-like application? Typically Kernza lasts three years, but breeding program at U of MN seeks to increase this to 5+ years. Obviously nowhere near the biodiversity of STRIPS, but similar erosion control benefits plus revenue for farmer. Could this increase the acres in STRIPS-like programs with a concurrent reduction in erosion?
9	You do a great job coordinating all the different aspects of how this project has grown, the interests and opportunities.
10	NR
11	Have another collaborators meeting in the summer of 2022.
12	Just tell everybody that I love them- have for 6 years. They need some too!
13	NR
14	NR
15	N/A
16	Keep doing what you are doing.
17	NR
18	Continued educational efforts about STRIPS.
19	NR
20	NR
21	We could also use a refresher on points of contact within the strips program. We don't generally have time to review strips publications and materials and have had staff turnover, so are fuzzy on the subject. We would also appreciate information on economic metrics we could use to speak to the impact of strips so that we can better tell their story. We would be happy to serve as a demonstration site for a webinar or training on strips management and/or to chat with folks interested in implementing prairie strips.
22	Got any signage we can post?
23	I would love to have a walk through with the experts to point out some of the flowers and grasses.
24	I have had excellent support.
25	NR

Note: NR = no response

Q7. What educational events that you attended this past year—formal or informal—have helped you to improve your understanding of prairie strips? In what ways were they helpful?

ID	
1	Not able to attend any.
2	NR
3	I didn't attend any.
4	Drake SOIL Conference. Various PFI events.
5	None.
6	NR
7	I didn't attend any prairie strip specific events. I did attend the Iowa Prairie Network virtual annual conference. I was a co-presenter for a Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center/Xerces Society Prairie webinar. I attend as many virtual prairie-related webinars, field days and other online events as possible. Now that COVID may become less of an obstacle to in-person events, I hope to attend more prairie strips and native prairie events in person.
8	None that I can think of.
9	I've been working with Tallgrass Prairie Center at UNI to promote Prairie On Farms through detailed case studies on several different farms. This has helped me see how it has helped other farmers in their field layouts. Board meetings are a couple times/year and virtual.
10	NR
11	Listened to one or two webinars.
12	COVID kept me home.
13	The only "educational event" I've attended this past year, and the best I've ever attended, was to hear from the farm operator about his experiences planting and caring for the prairie strips as we stood on the land. I appreciate the virtual resources, and I've learned a lot from them, but being there with the operator gave me a visceral understanding of prairie strips. I'm so looking forward to returning next summer and taking my son.
14	Holistic Management study group as follow-up to an HMI class through PFI, informing a possible future for livestock on the land. Iowa Prairie Conference. Iowa Prairie Network annual meeting and prairie walk Tom Rosburg's class on weeds and invasives. Hiking at Hitchcock Nature Center.
15	N/A Pandemic.
16	None.
17	We had a field day with ISU prairie strips staff present to answer any and all questions regarding prairie strips and the new CRP program. Missouri NRCS staff were present also to better understand the new strips program.
18	Did not have a chance to attend.
19	I have not been to too much.
20	NR
21	We were isolated due to COVID this year.
22	Didn't attend.
23	I did not attend any.
24	While technically not in the last year (in fact, it may have been closer to five or more years ago), we visited a location where prairie strips had been established for at least three years. It was helpful to see what ribbons of prairies 30 or 60 feet wide looks like in person, especially after it had had a chance to get well established. It's one thing to see pictures and/or blueprint plans, it's quite another to see them in person: they look much, much larger and are much, much more interesting and exciting in person.
25	Not able I to attend any.

Note: NR = no response

Q8. How did you first hear about prairie strips?**(if you have answered this question in previous years, please feel free to skip it)**

ID	
1	NR
2	NR
3	I don't recall.
4	NR
5	I was an early adopter.
6	NR
7	I have answered this each year, but here is a short summary of my perennial answer: Heard about prairie strips in a 2013 news article announcing that the STRIPS research group was looking for landowners/farmers to participate in the project. I immediately contacted Lisa Schulte Moore and threw my hat (farm) into the ring.
8	Answered previously.
9	NR
10	NR
11	NR
12	My wife saw an article in Wallace's Farmer and said I should read it. Awful thankful she saw it.
13	From a long-ago op ed piece by Mark Bittman in the New York Times.
14	NR
15	Lisa Schulte
16	NR
17	NR
18	PR about STRIPS at Neal Smith NWR.
19	NR
20	NR
21	Heard about them at a PFI event.
22	NR
23	Through the USDA office trying to stop erosion on my farm. Also, my forester who is working on my timber to improve it.
24	Magazine article...it was so long ago I don't remember which publication.
25	NR

Note: NR = no response

Q9. What can the STRIPS project team do to more effectively promote prairie strips with farmers and landowners?

ID	
1	Work at promotion via larger farmer organizations such as Farm Bureau.
2	Regional meetings with NRCS and county conservation groups.
3	Place signage on the successful strips once they are established. Hold field days on successful strips.
4	Plant them on their own land. The University has to lead by example. Promote them at Athletic events. Maybe put ANP on football helmets?
5	Keep up the good work you have started.
6	Work on payment plan.
7	Get the Iowa Farm Bureau and the national Farm Bureau educated and on board. Reach out to, educate and get onboard all Regenerative Ag groups- Understanding Ag, Soil Health Academy, Rodale Institute, etc. Educate Iowa county SWCD commissioners.
8	Develop Kernza as a STRIPS-like solution.
9	Work with NRCS and SWCD professionals to add prairie to their toolbox. Encourage farmers to consider prairie on marginal acres.
10	NR
11	Make sure to give out contact information of people that currently have strips, so that farmers can call and visit that are considering the practice.
12	More field days and publicity.
13	Initiate more coverage in the mainstream national media.
14	Work with 4-H and FFA to bring prairie education to young people?
15	County fairs booth.
16	Get the word out around the state and country.
17	Field days/webinars with NRCS staff members would be very helpful. That way NRCS is more knowledgeable on prairie strips to work with land owners in their areas.
18	Continue grad student projects involving STRIPS.
19	I think if you can get people to field days they will see the benefits and the beauty and be sold.
20	NR
21	Continue to develop the mentoring program, farmer-to-farmer learning. Expand the soil health goals, ramping up from erosion control to biology, organic matter, water infiltration, etc. Expand the concept from prairie strips to "prairie strips plus ____"-- cover crops, nitrogen management, etc. Offer more holistic management concepts.
22	Signage, news releases in local media if it is not already being done.
23	I think education is the answer to that. Also seeing some examples of how they work. Sorry to say some farmers don't care about taking care of the land and are only in it for a profit .
24	You might already be doing this, but having information/publications in local NRCS offices and making sure their staff are aware (and willing to mention/promote) of prairie strips.
25	Should be an alternative to terraces.

Note: NR = no response

Q10. If you have recommended prairie strips to others, what motivated you to recommend them?

ID	
1	For water quality and soil conservation.
2	Soil conservation and habitat.
3	NR
4	1.) Environmental benefits. 2.) Cost effective.
5	It's a good practice that yields great benefit for so many aspects of conservation.
6	NR
7	I love prairie and believe prairie strips are one of the best conservation practices in our tool belt.
8	NR
9	I'm especially interested in keeping habitat for pollinators, migrating birds and arthropods established broadly on the land.
10	NR
11	Because I see all the good that it creates as well as it's a paid practice.
12	My extreme success with them.
13	I recommended them informally in a 2019 Hertz Farm Management seminar for Iowa-Illinois-Nebraska landowners held in the [x] Area. At that event, I also brought up strips to a farm manager and then-president of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers who was one of the seminar leaders. He knew very little about them. Since then, Hertz organization has learned more. I know this because there was an article about prairie strips in their newsletter. But I wonder if they discuss prairie strips in the landowners' seminars they hold every year. These may be in abeyance because of the pandemic, but what a great venue for educating landowners.
14	I believe strongly in the need for prairie reconstruction in any form.
15	We need better erosion control in our area.
16	I like the positive benefits.
17	NR
18	Our positive experiences.
19	I love them.
20	NR
21	We like prairie and diversity and we think conservation pays. Per our mission, we seek to improve our environment and demonstrate how to do so in an economically viable manner.
22	Wildlife habitat.
23	I would love to see more farmers take part in preserving the land and improving their soil and water quality.
24	For water quality and soil conservation.
25	Soil conservation and habitat.

Note: NR = no response

Additional comments

ID	
1	I am an early adopter so I do not qualify. Work with government to reward early adopters!
2	NR
3	NR
4	NR
5	The practice has so many pluses to the landscape. I wish I'd known of the benefits long ago.
6	NR
7	No, other than "hi, J!"
8	NR
9	NR
10	NR
11	NR
12	Tried to get these into CRP but strips have to be an acre or more in size. These are, but FSA office stops measuring at water ways and starts over, thus denied. I'm glad they aren't in CRP, so I can enjoy and do what I want to with them - like using them for a turning row.
13	No. Thank you.
14	Thanks as always!
15	Very little wildlife habitat in winter. Great for nesting season and summer.
16	NR
17	NR
18	THANKS!
19	NR
20	NR
21	We've struggled with whether or not to withdraw from the study in order to establish cover crops, as this is our only farm that is not cover cropped and we hate to see the fields bare. However, the strips fields serve as a good control for a cover crop and no-cover-crop comparison, as the neighboring farm has similar topography and soil types. We hope to take some data on each farm and compare their soil health. This is why we suggested in a previous comment that the strips program take a more holistic approach to land management, including soil health. We would also like to fewer restrictions on the strips-- blocks of prairie versus linear strips, for example; grazing; haying.
22	NR
23	Sorry it took me so long to fill out your questions didn't see your e- mail right away.
24	NR
25	I work for a public entity.

Note: NR = no response

Q11. Have you ever recommended prairie strips to other farmers and/or landowners? (n=23)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	73.9
No	6	26.1

Q12. In 2022, would you be willing to show your prairie strips to potential adopters in your area and share your knowledge and experiences? (n=22)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	18	81.8
No	1	4.5
Maybe	3	13.6

Q13. Prairie strips are now eligible for annual rental payments through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Would you be interested in establishing CRP prairie strips?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	4	17.4
No	4	17.4
Maybe	2	8.7
I already enrolled prairie strips in CRP	13	56.5



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The Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips (STRIPS) has many project partners. These presently include Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Flood Center, Iowa Soybean Association, Prairie Rivers of Iowa, The Eastern Iowa Airport, The McKnight Foundation, Trees Forever, University of Iowa Biomass Fuel Project, University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center, USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Forest Service, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA North Central SARE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Walton Family Foundation, Whiterock Conservancy, as well as over 35 private farmers and farmland owners. Our partner list is updated over time at www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/content/partners.