

# Financial and Environmental Impact of Conservation Practices



Precision Conservation Management

## ILLINOIS



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precisionconservation.org



Precision Conservation Management

**Positioning farmers to benefit  
from conservation outcomes**



- Understand how conservation practices impact farm net returns
- Address water quality concerns. Prevent agricultural regulation
- Position farmers to benefit from positive conservation outcomes



Precision Conservation Management

- 1-on-1 technical support
- Data collection platform
- Individualized yearly RAAP report
  - Economic cost tables
  - Environmental assessments
  - Local practice comparisons
- \$750 participation payment
- Exclusive program offers – cost share, other practice assistance
- Networking & educational opportunities

# Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy



**Goal: 45% Reduction** in Total N & Total P Losses by **2035**

**Interim: 15% Reduction in NO<sub>3</sub>-N & 25% Reduction in Total P by 2025**



# PCM GROWER ENGAGEMENT



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# PCM PARTNERS!



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**Heartland** Science and  
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United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**KFBM**



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A program of the *Illinois Corn Growers Association* and the *Illinois Soybean Association*

2015-2021 DATA SUMMARY

# The Business Case for Conservation

*Cost-Benefit Analysis of Conservation Practices*



Precision Conservation Management

**HOT OFF THE PRESS!**  
**JUNE EDITION**  
*PRAIRIE FARMER*





# Practice Standards

Precision Conservation Management

- Cover Crops
- Nitrogen Management
- Tillage



# Do you “another” expect a “Federal” Cover crop program making payments for cover crop usage

- ☐ Yes (over \$20 per acre)
- ☐ Yes (less than \$20 per acre)
- ☐ No

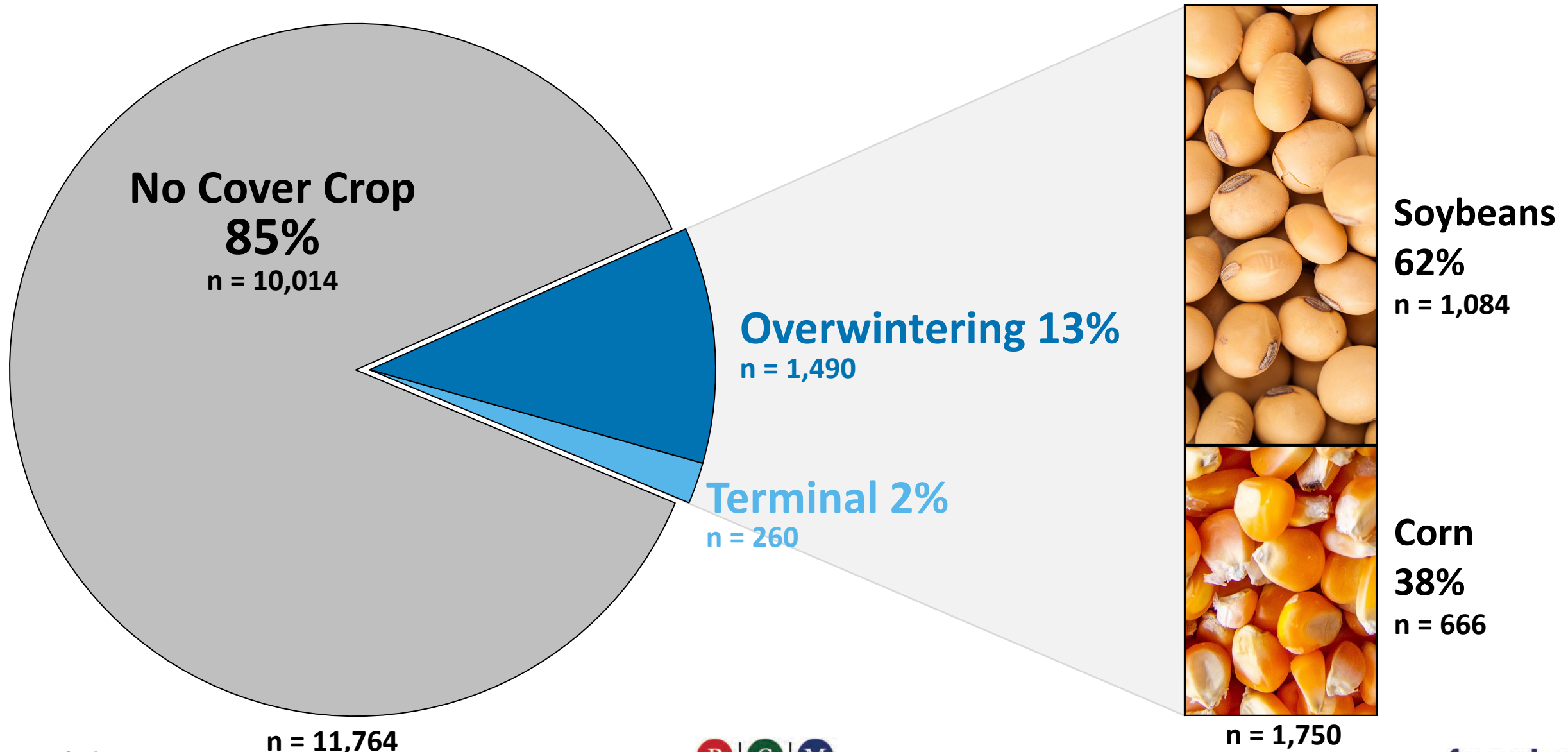
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# Cover Crops Overview



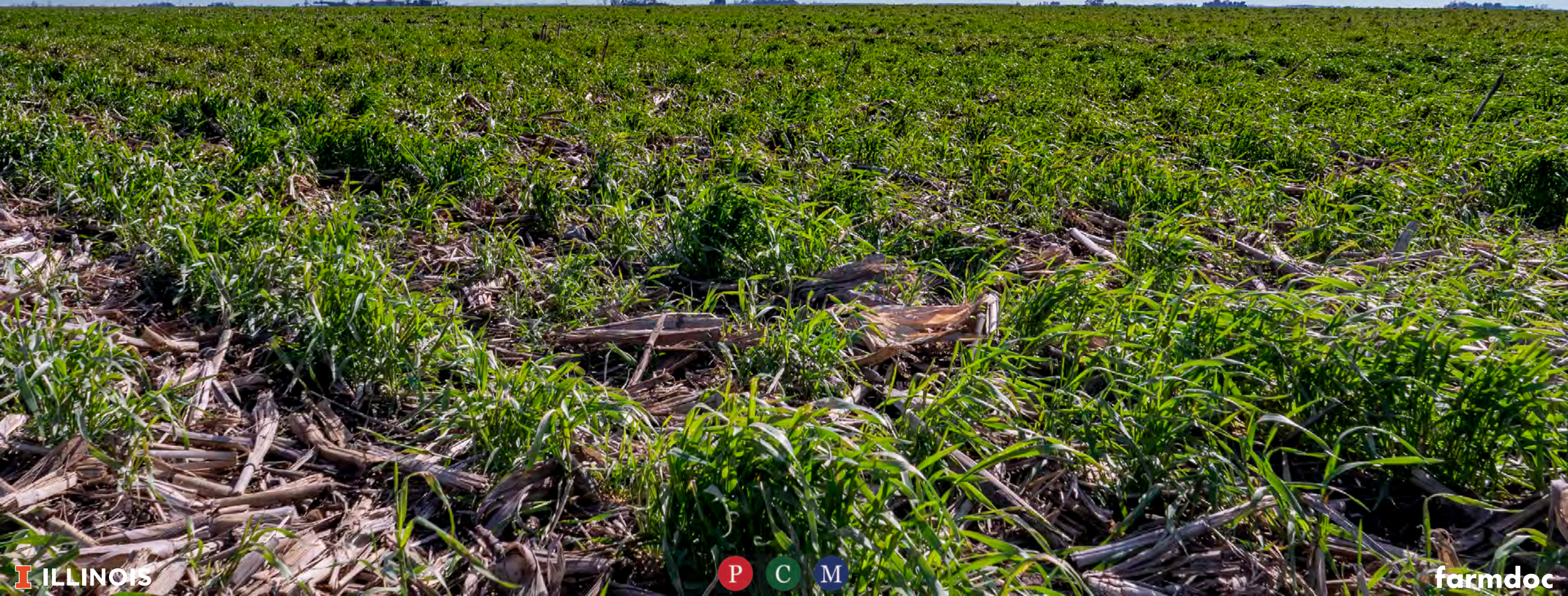


# Cover Crops Overview

- For the cover crop fields:
  - 91% are reduced till  
*no-till, strip-till, or 1-pass light tillage benchmarks*
  - 79% of the cover crop corn fields receive an in-season nitrogen application
- For all corn fields with a cover crop, 70% of the fields have a cover crop the next year the field is planted with corn
- For all soybean fields with a cover crop, 75% have a cover crop the next year the field is planted with soybeans



# Corn into Cover Crop





# Cover Crops

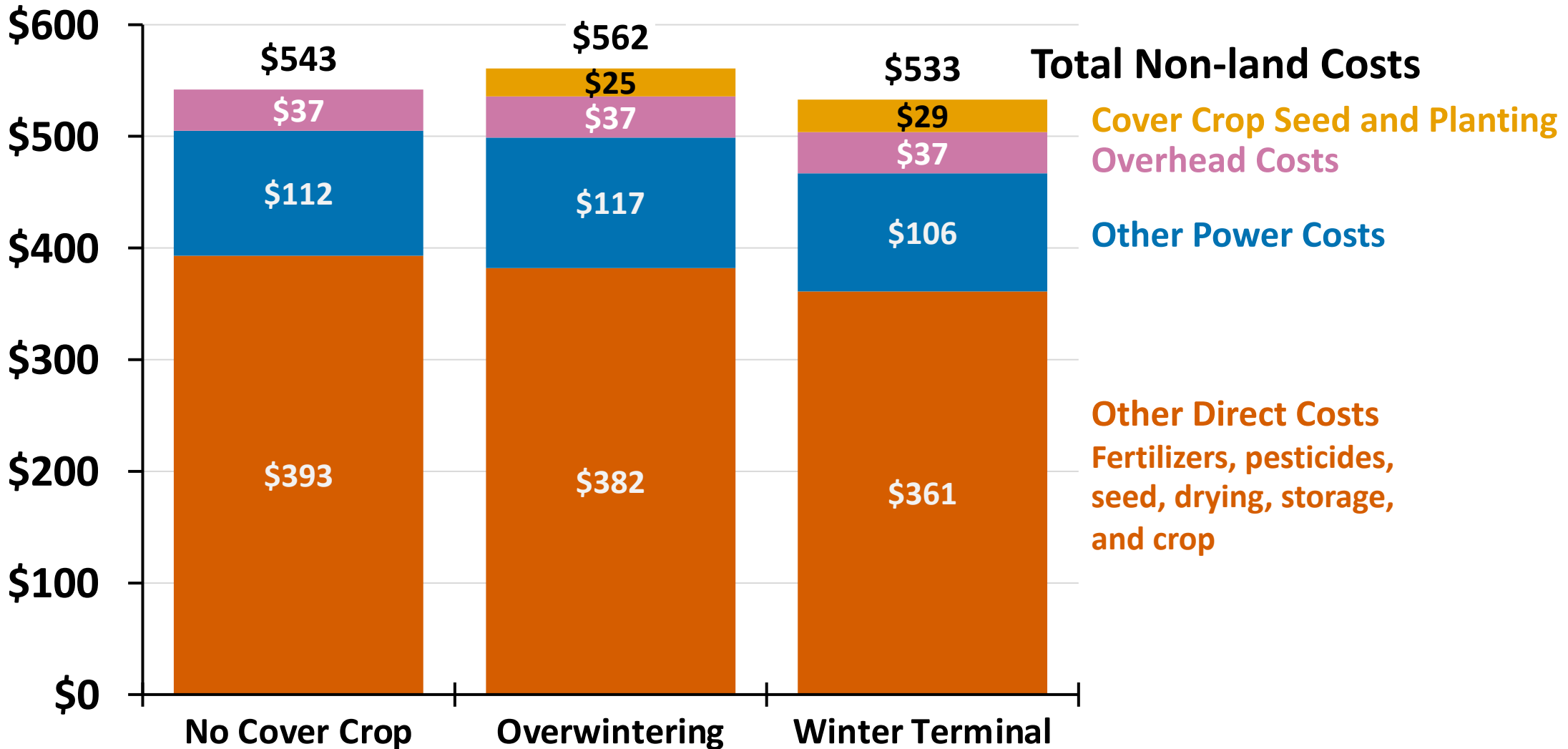
Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021

	Overwintering	Winter Terminal	No Cover Crop
Number of Fields	243	109	3523
Yield per Acre	214	215	221
Soil Productivity Rating	139	139	140
Gross Revenue	\$833	\$834	\$856
Total Non-land Cost	\$562	\$533	\$543
Operator & Land Return	\$271	\$301	\$313



# Cover Crops Costs

Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021





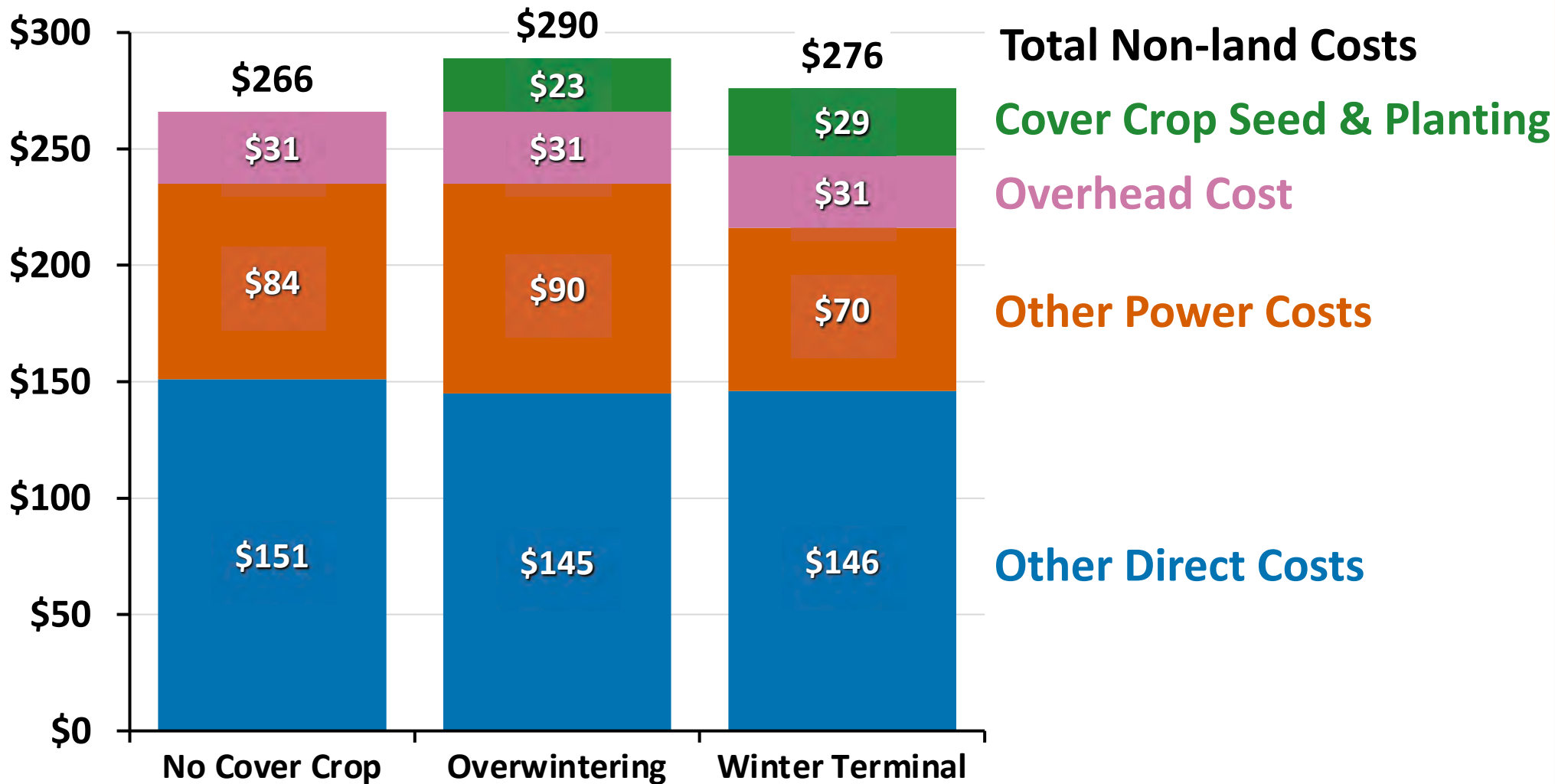
# Soybeans into Cover Crop





# Cover Crops

## Soybean, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021



# Cover Crops

Soybean, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021

	Overwintering	Winter Terminal	No Cover Crop
Number of fields	588	28	3,066
Yield per acre	68	68	70
Soil Productivity Rating	139	139	140
Gross Revenue	\$666	\$675	\$686
Total Non-land Costs	\$290	\$276	\$266
Operator & Land Return	\$376	\$399	\$420



# Nitrogen Rates





# What are your expectations for anhydrous ammonia prices for application in late fall 2022?

- Over \$2,000 per ton
- \$1,500 to \$2,000 per ton
- \$1,000 to \$1,500 per ton
- Less than \$1,000 per ton

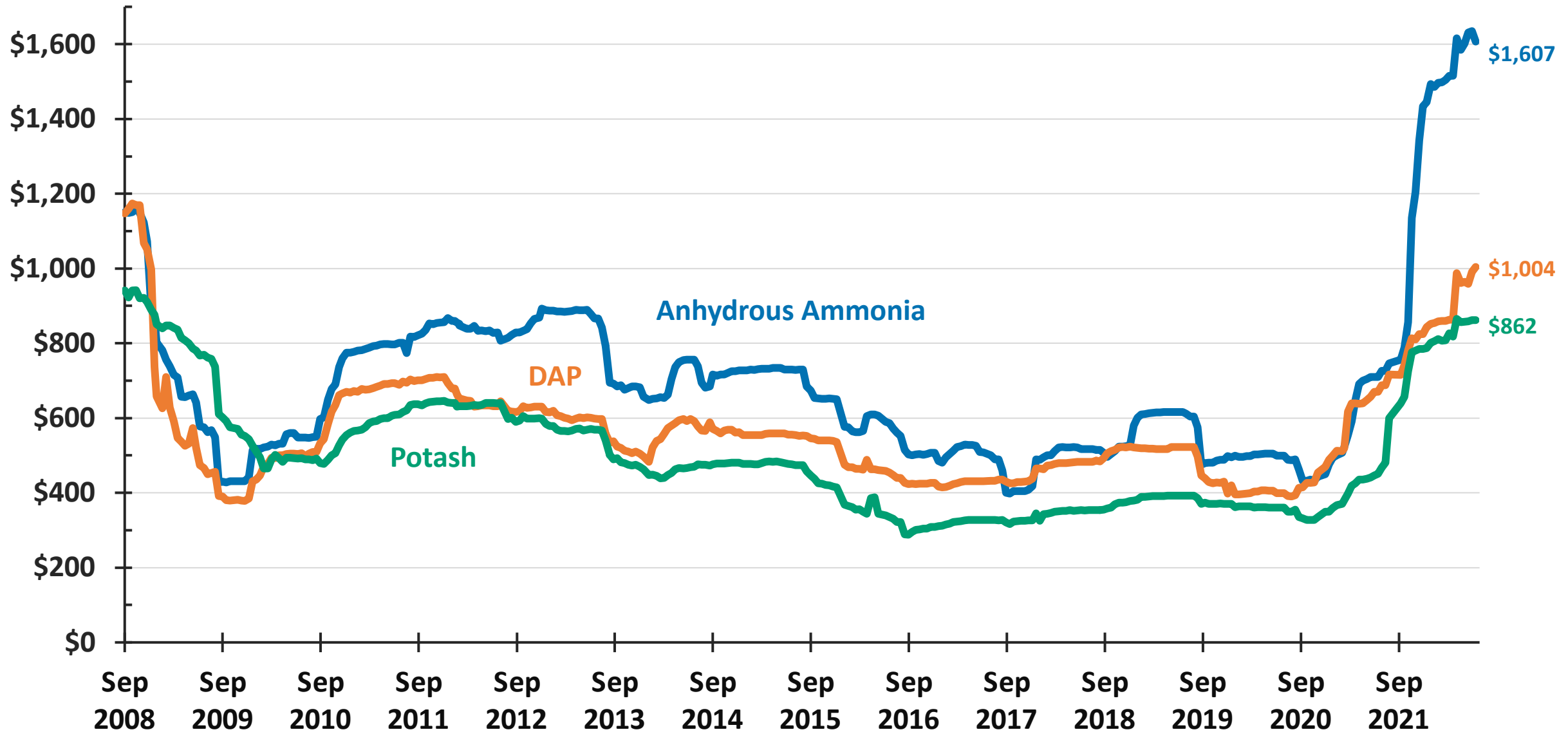
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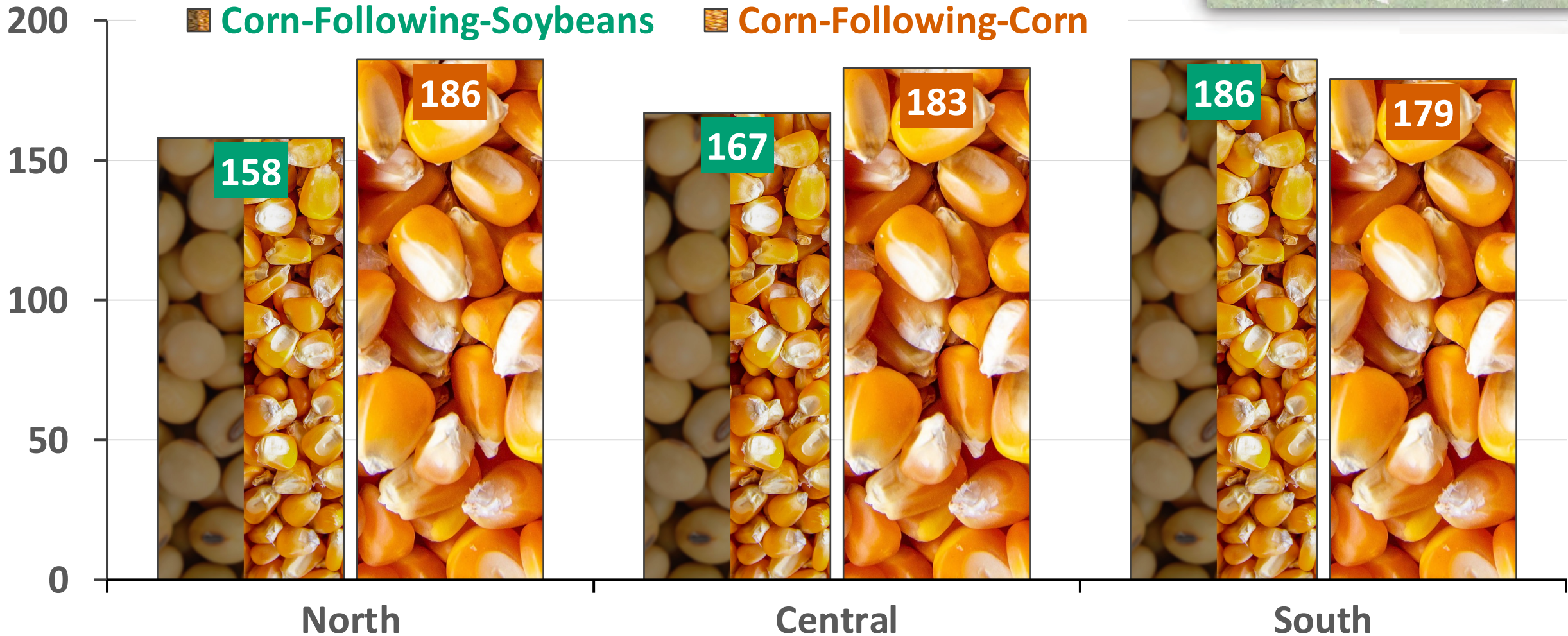
# Fertilizer Prices per Ton in Illinois From 2008 to 2022



Source: US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service

# Illinois 2022 MRTN Recommendation

in pounds of N applied<sup>1,2</sup>

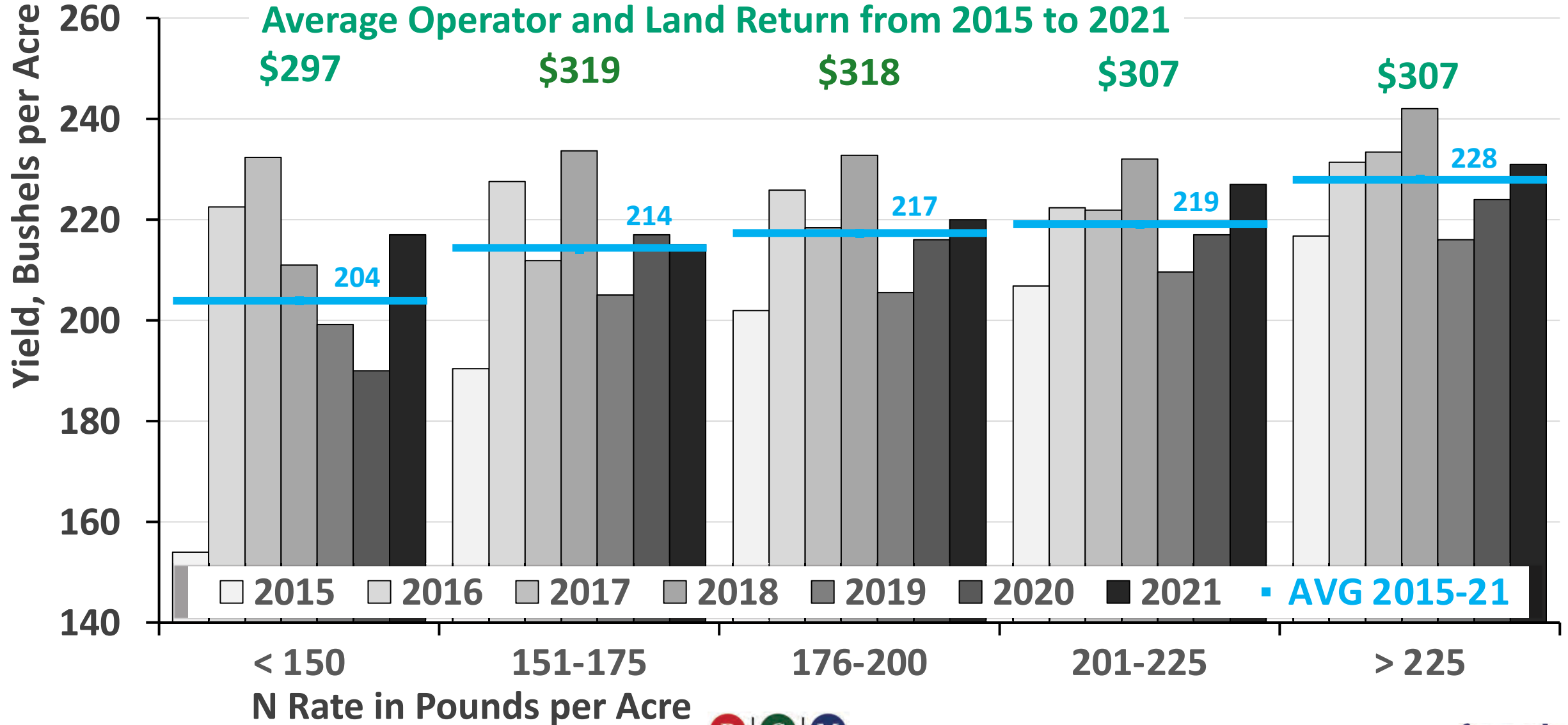


<sup>1</sup>Taken from Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator (<http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu/nRate.aspx>) on June 22, 2022

<sup>2</sup>MRTNs determined with a \$6.75 corn price, \$1,600 per ton anhydrous ammonia price, and \$630 per ton nitrogen solution price



# CORN, High SPR, N Rate, Pounds per Acre





# Nitrogen Application Timing





# Nitrogen Application Timing

Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021

	>40% Fall	Mostly Preplant	Mostly Sidedress	50% Pre 50% Sidedress	3-Way Split
# fields	1,428	841	933	310	363
NUE (lb N/bu grain)	0.98	0.92	0.91	0.95	0.93
Yield per acre	220	218	221	218	222





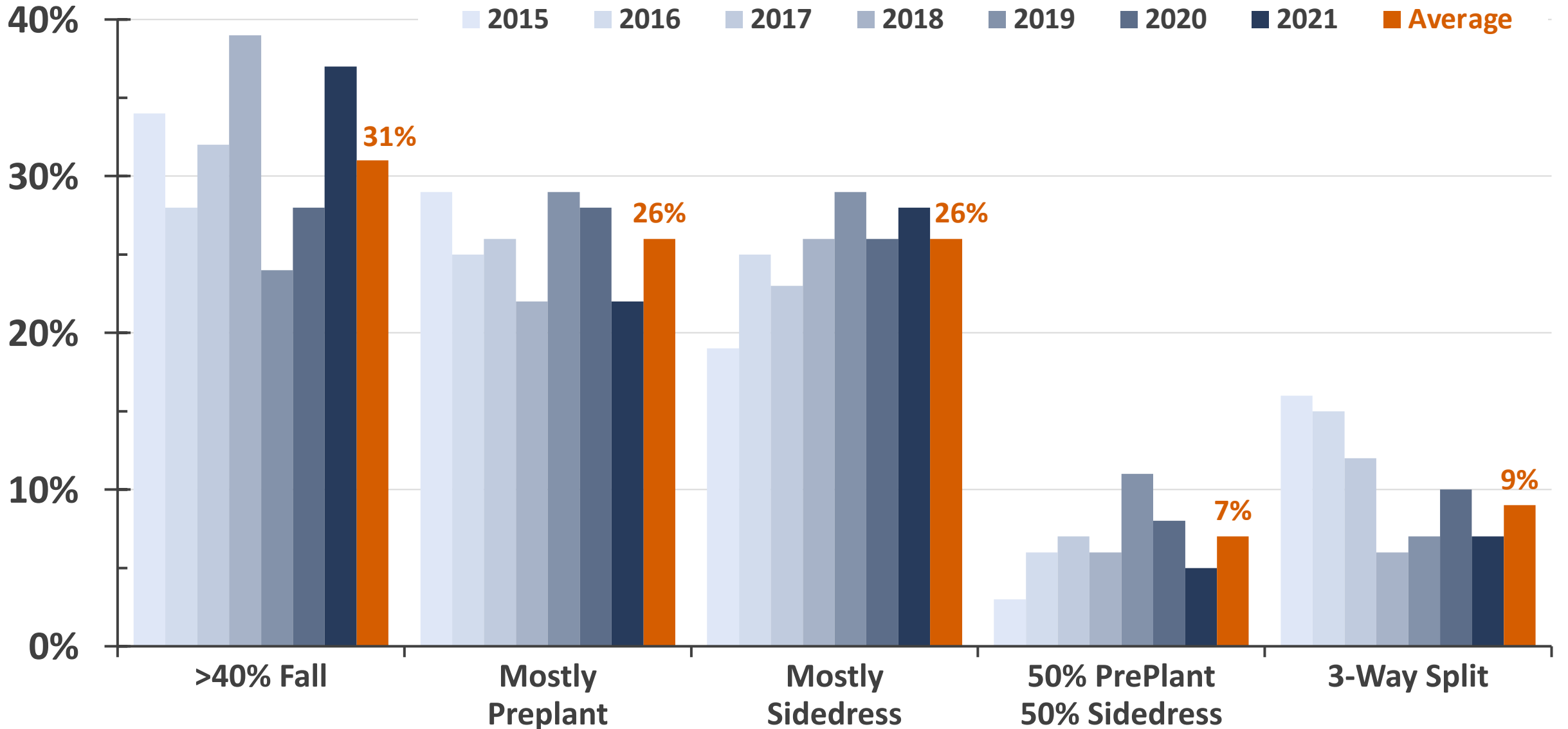
# Nitrogen Timing

Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021

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# fields	1,428	841	933	310	363
NUE (lb N/bu grain)	0.98	0.92	0.91	0.95	0.93
Yield per acre	220	218	221	218	222
Gross Revenue	\$854	\$844	\$857	\$843	\$860
Total Non-land Cost	\$555	\$515	\$535	\$548	\$564
Operator & Land Return	\$299	\$329	\$322	\$295	\$296

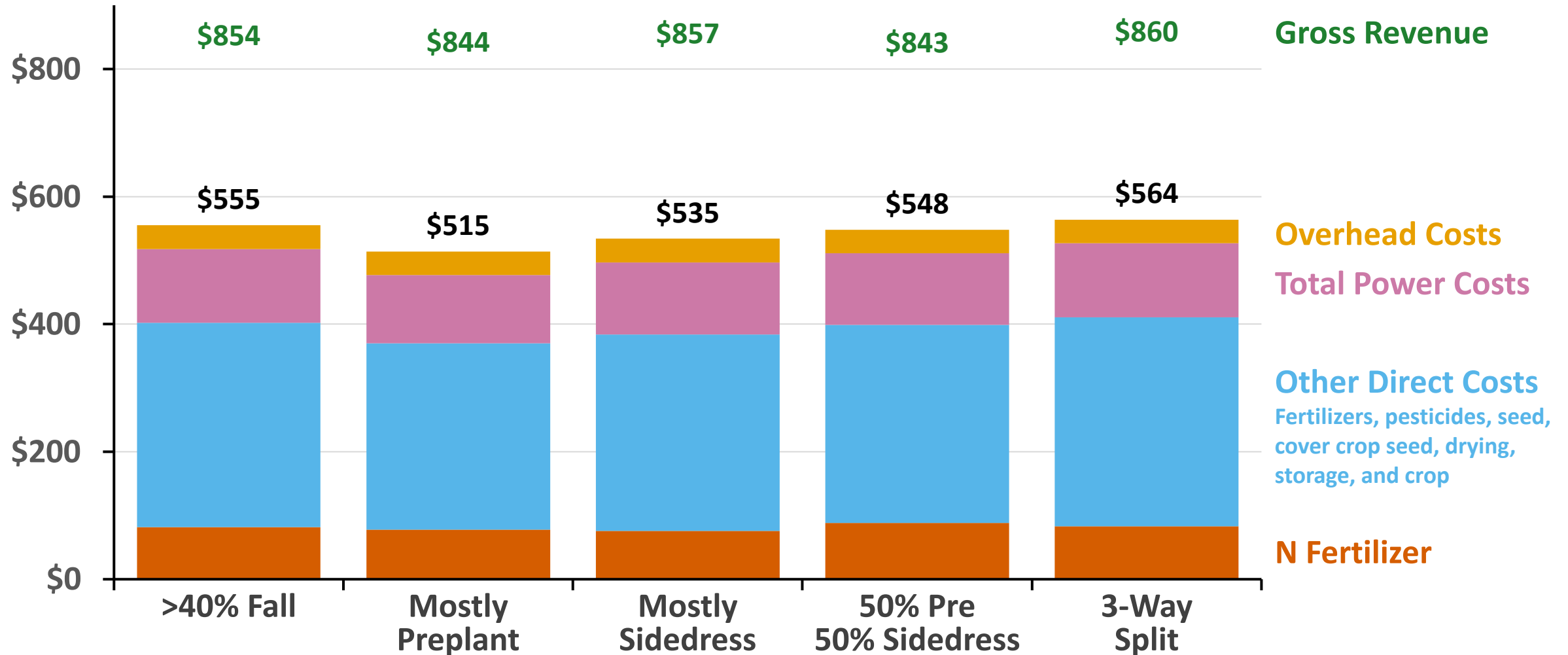


# Percent of Fields by N Benchmark



# Nitrogen Timing

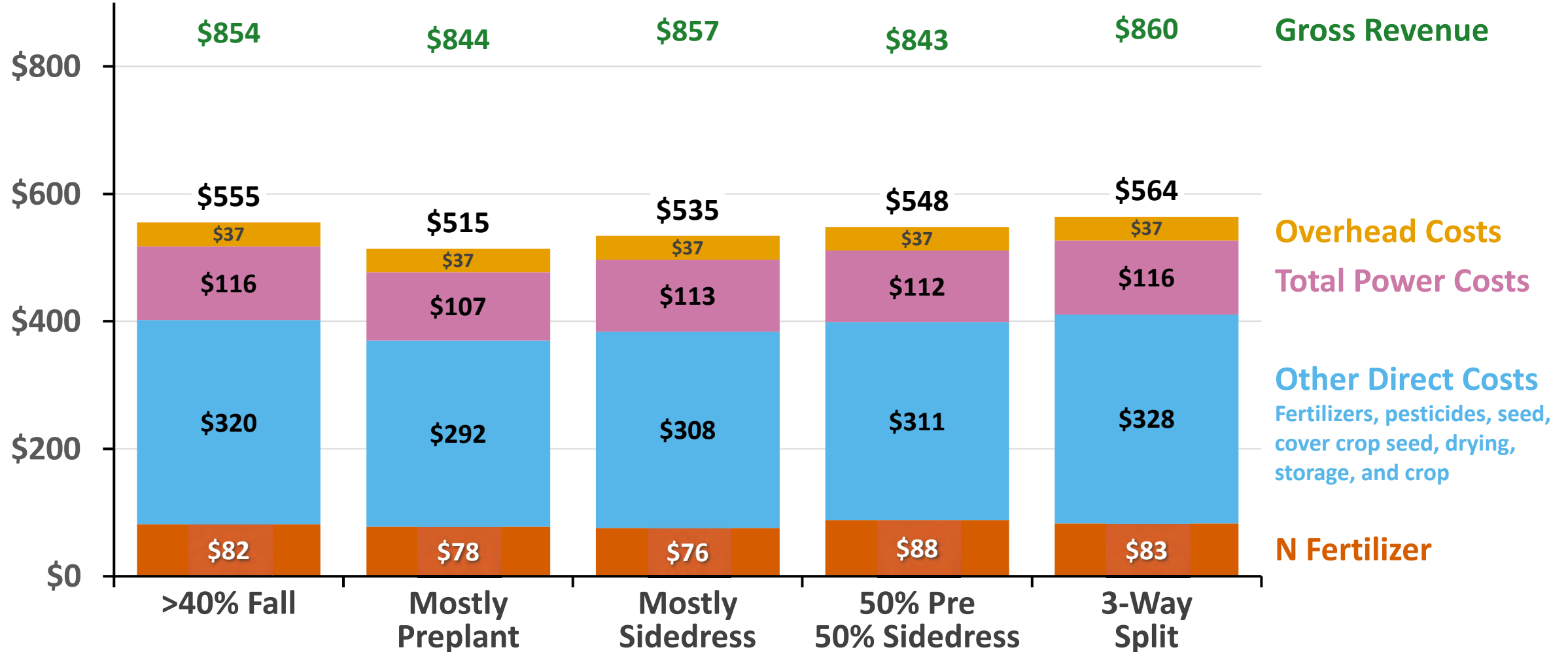
## Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021





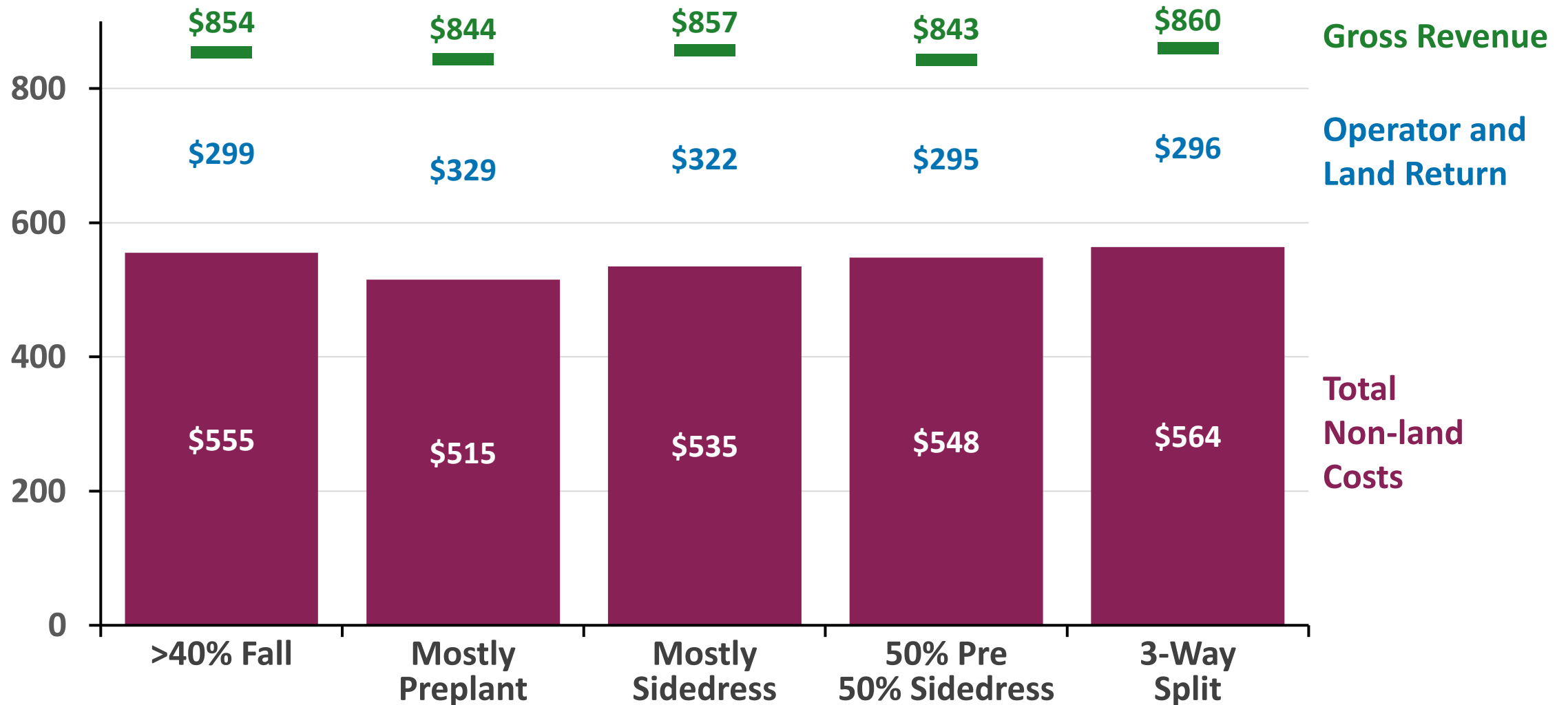
# Nitrogen Timing

## Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021



# Nitrogen Timing

## Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021





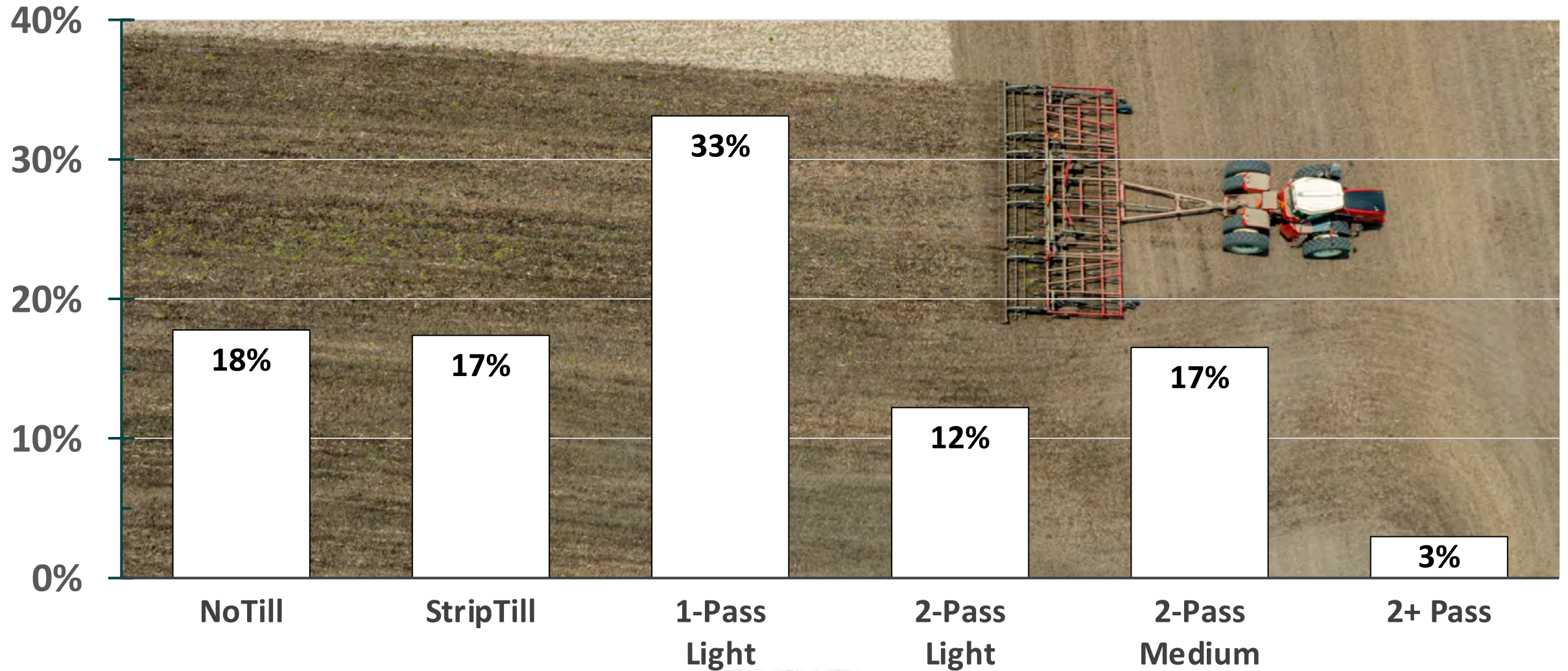
# Tillage Practices





# Percent of Fields by Tillage Benchmark

2015-2021, Corn





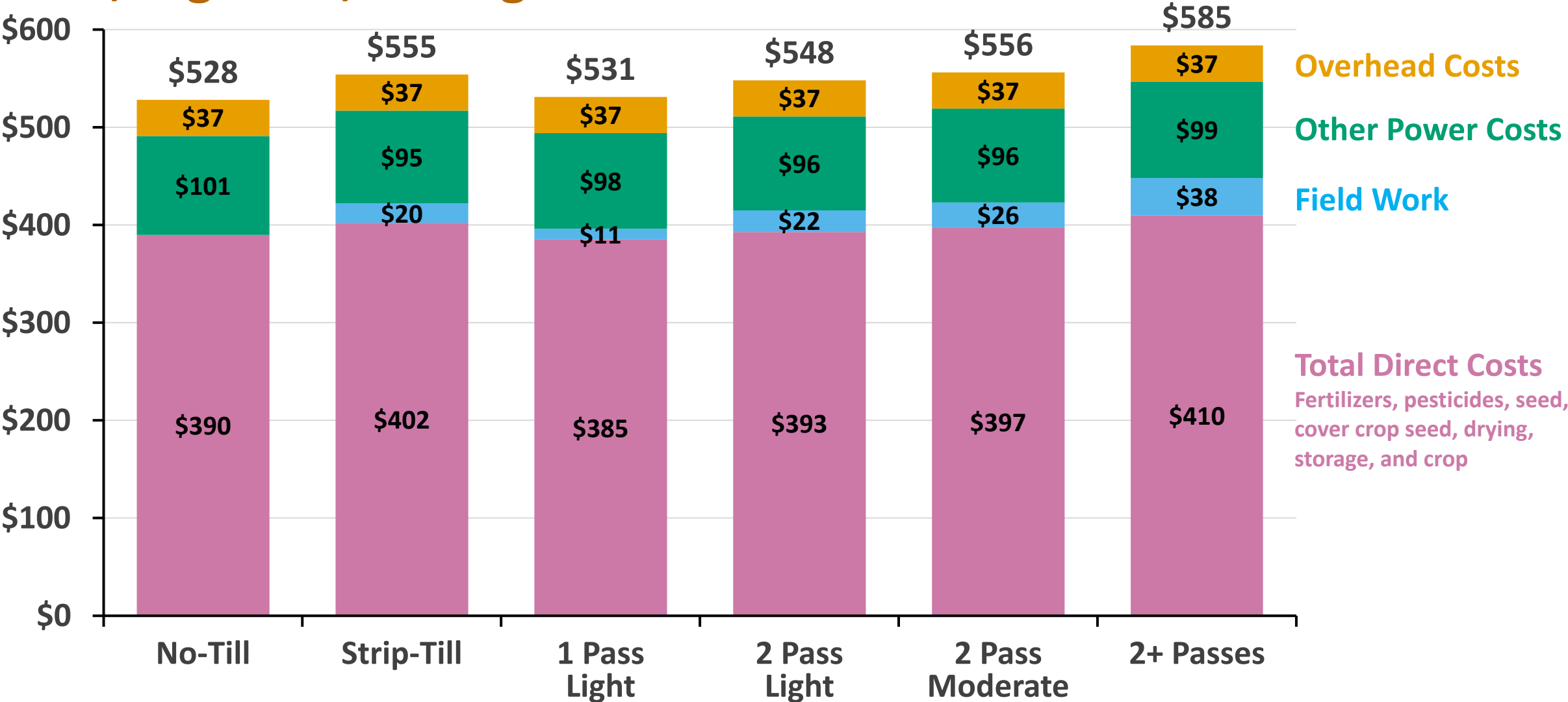
# Tillage

Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021

	No-Till	Strip-Till	1 Pass Light	2 Pass Light	2 Pass Moderate	2+ Passes
# fields	590	731	1,312	442	638	88
Yield per acre	213	218	219	225	225	218
Gross Revenue	\$826	\$845	\$851	\$876	\$873	\$845
Total Non-land Cost	\$528	\$555	\$531	\$548	\$556	\$585
Operator & Land Return	\$298	\$290	\$320	\$328	\$317	\$260

# Tillage

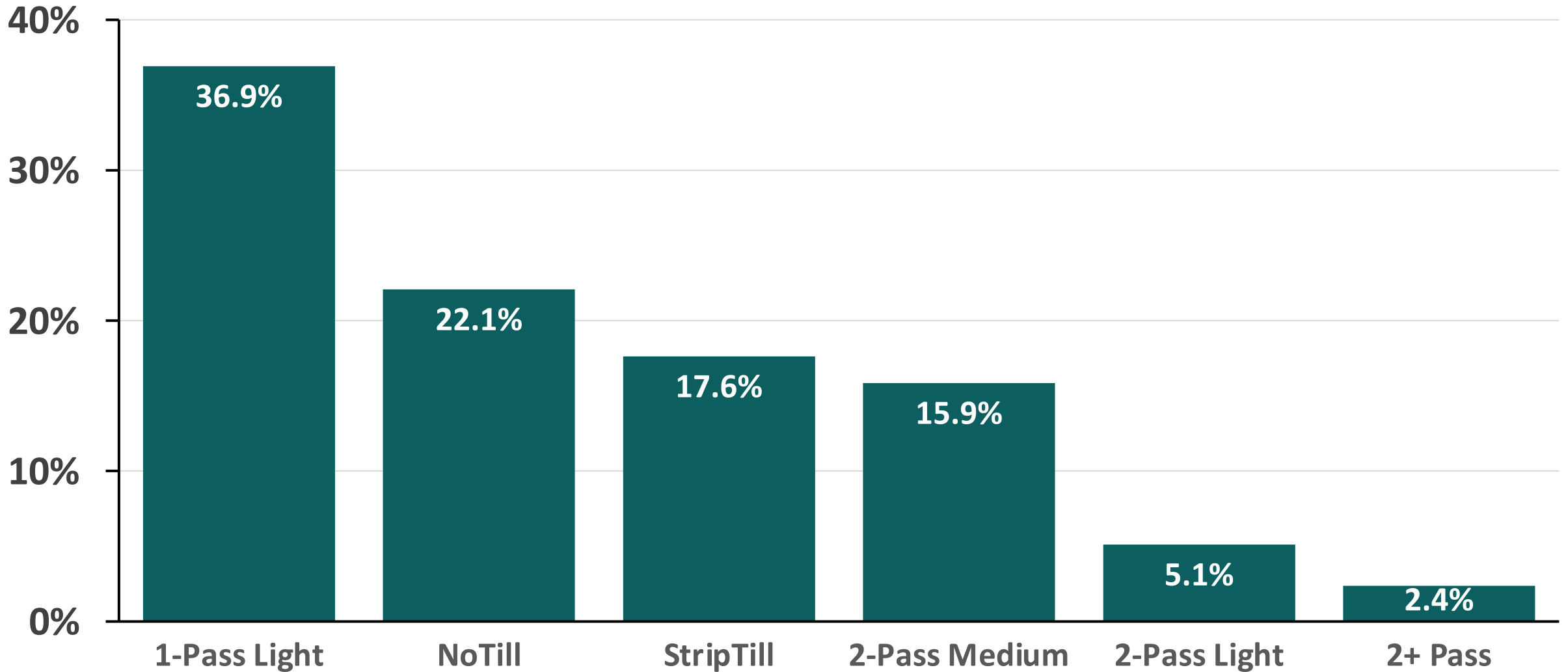
Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021





# Most Profitable Fields by Tillage Class

Corn, High SPR, Average from 2015 to 2021



# Most Profitable Fields by Tillage Class

## Corn, High Soil Productivity Rating (SPR)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
NoTill	0%	25%	83%	11%	5%	17%	14%	22%
StripTill	33%	13%	0%	14%	16%	17%	30%	18%
1-Pass Light	33%	38%	17%	38%	59%	42%	32%	37%
2-Pass Light	0%	0%	0%	11%	9%	7%	8%	5%
2-Pass Medium	33%	13%	0%	25%	11%	15%	14%	16%
2+ Pass	0%	13%	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	2%



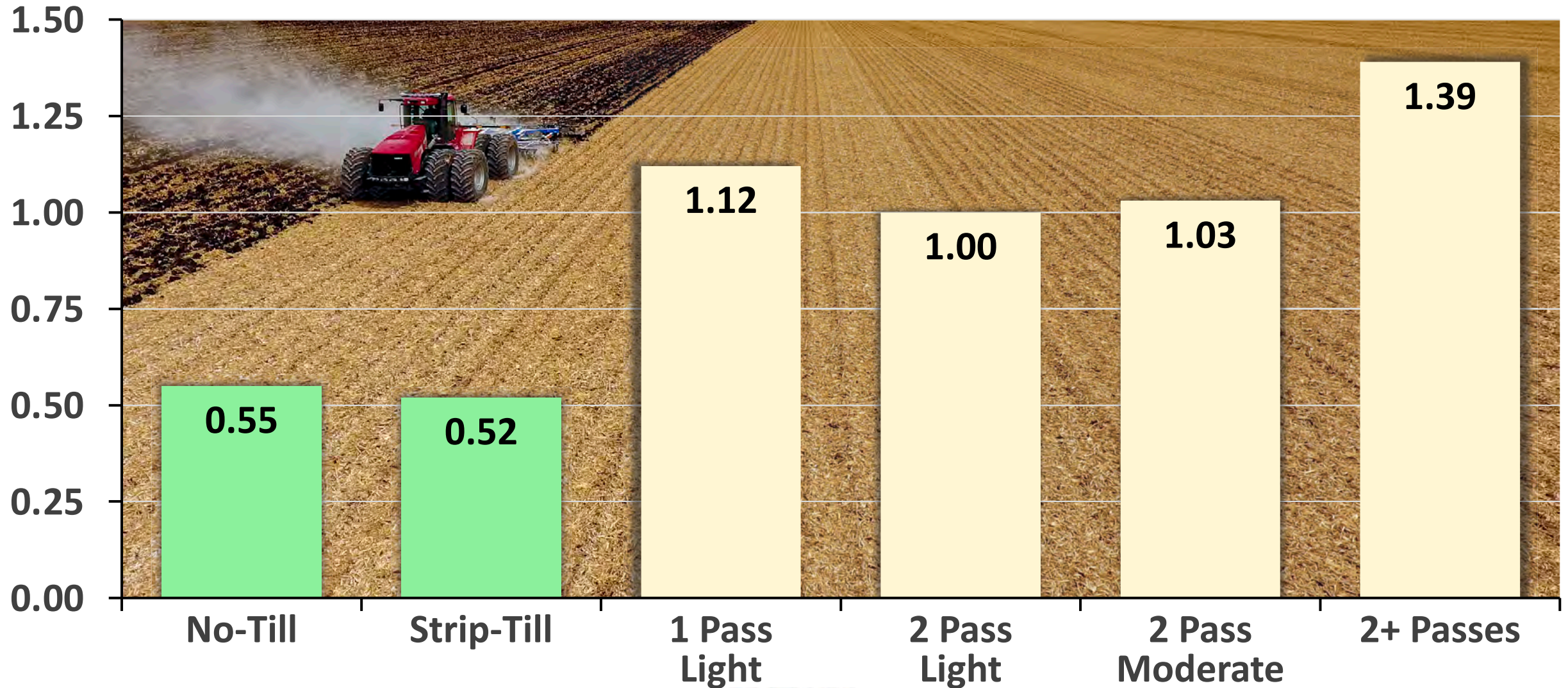
# Environmental Factors





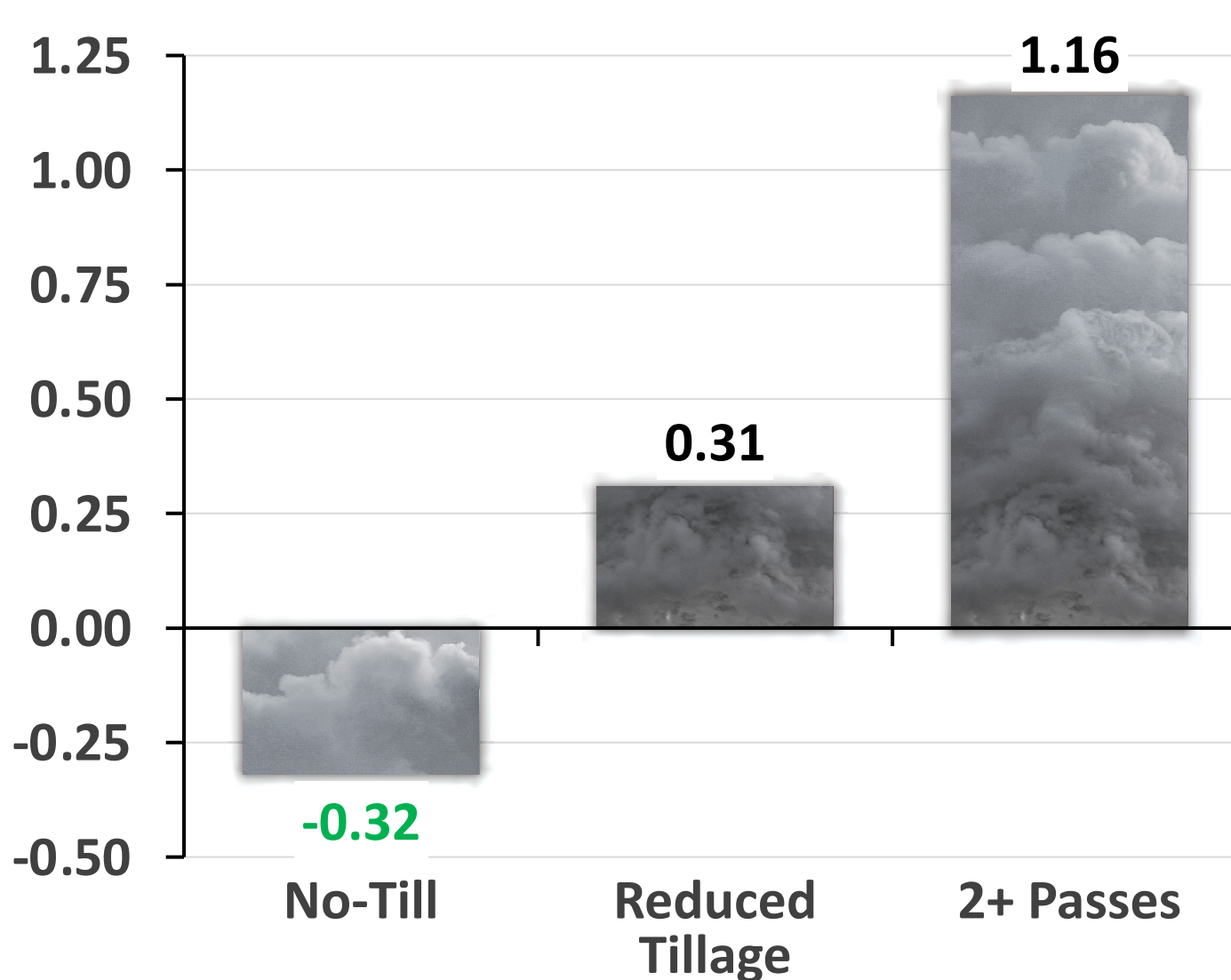
# Soil Loss (Tons/acre), by Tillage Class

Averages from 2015 to 2021, Corn, High SPR



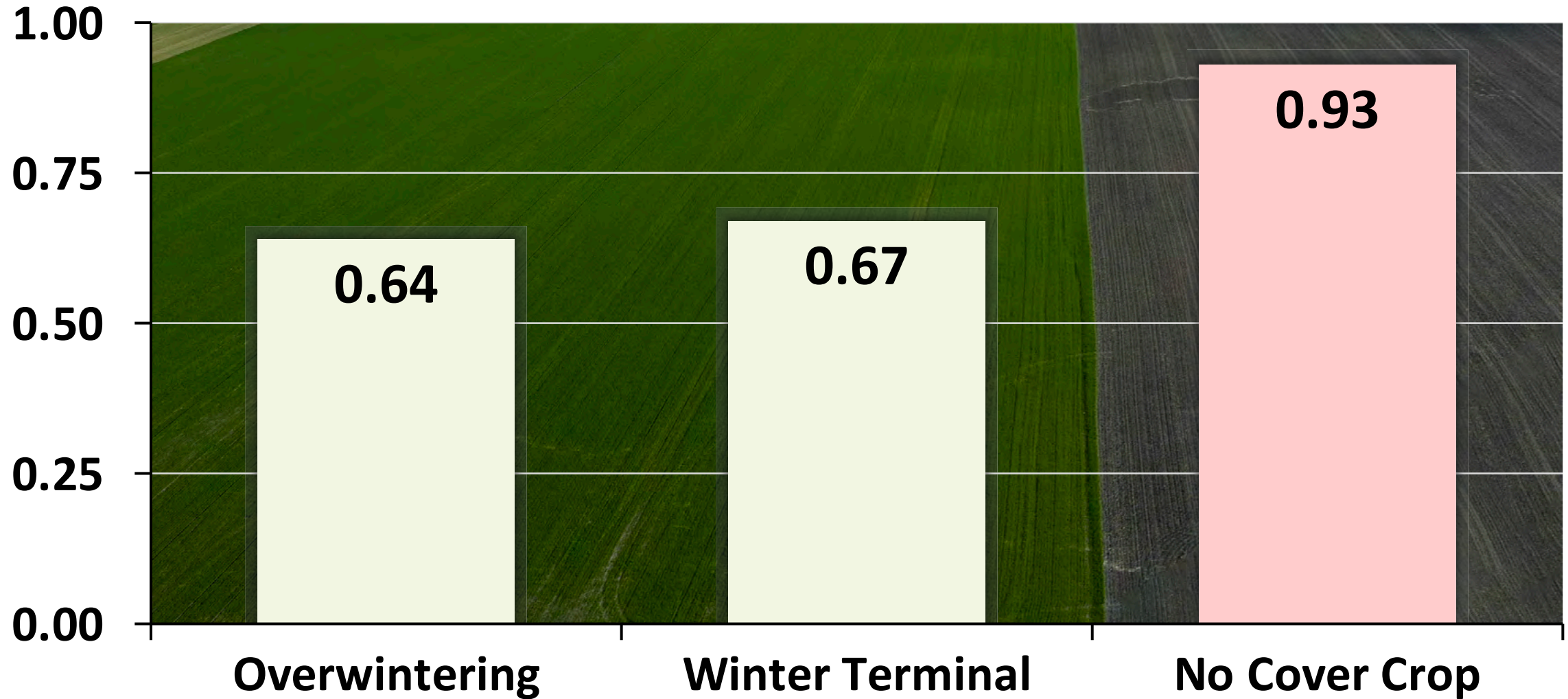


## Averages from 2015 to 2021, Corn, High SPR



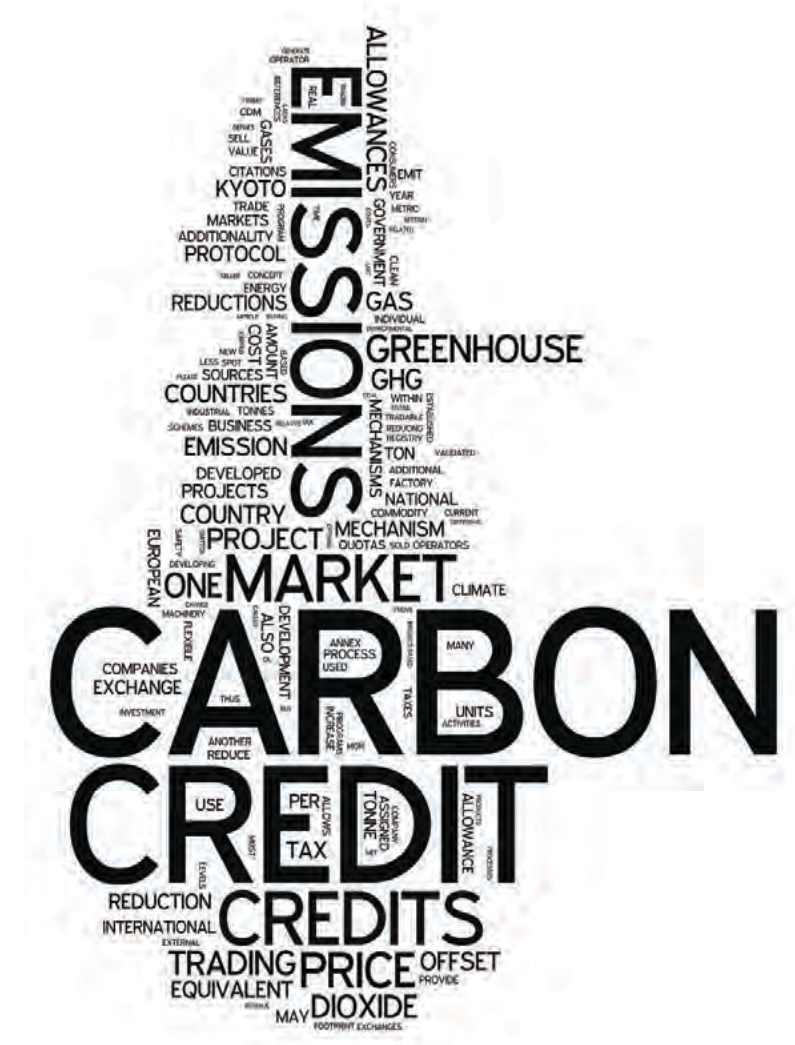
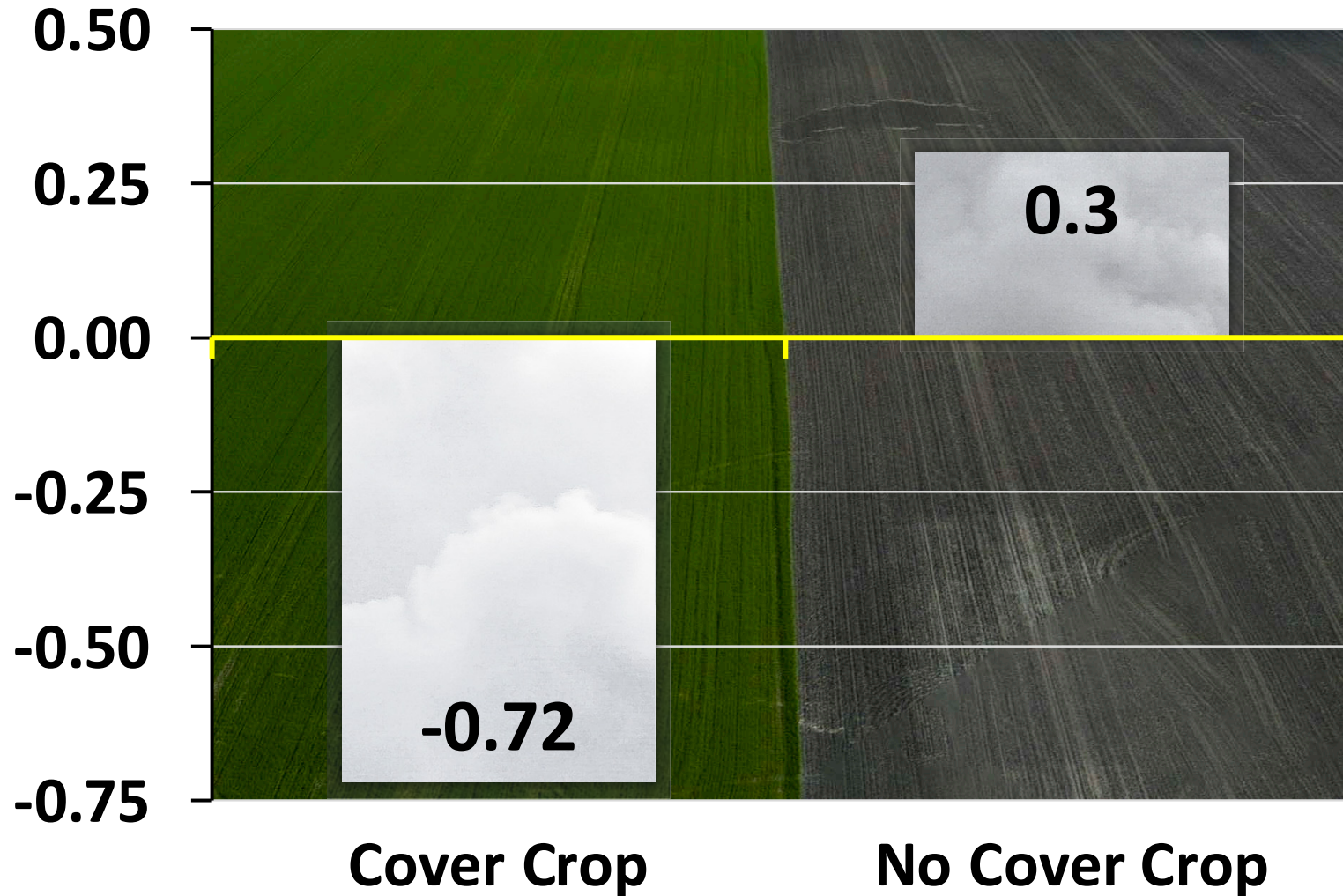
# Soil Loss (Tons/acre), by Cover Crop Class

Averages from 2015 to 2021, Corn, High SPR



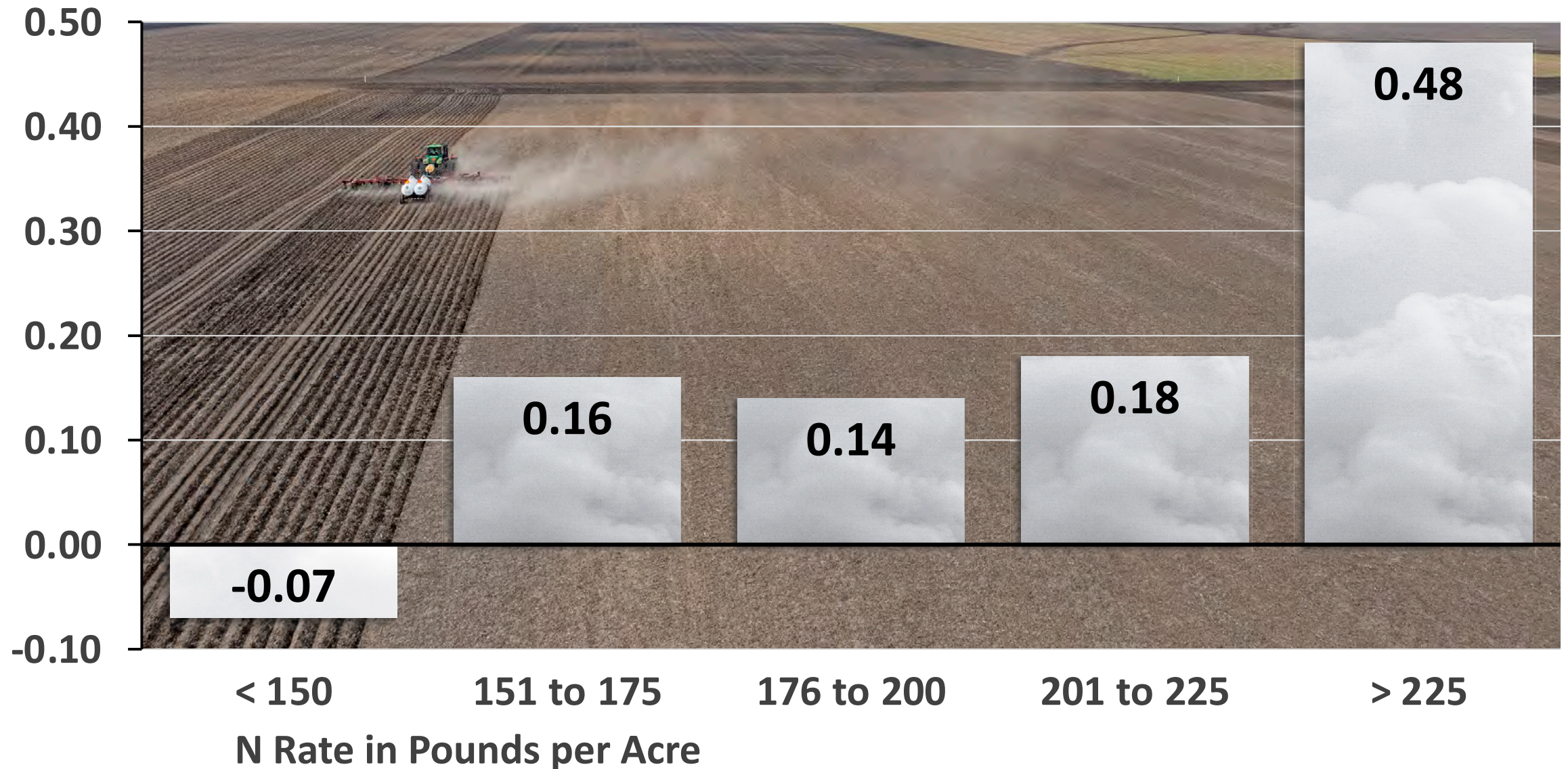


## Averages from 2015 to 2021, Corn, High SPR





# GHG Emissions (metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/a), by N rate





# PCM Impact, 2021

## Conservation Acres

**118,418**

reduced tillage

**125,081**

of in-season  
N fertilizer  
application,  
corn

**36,080**

cover crop



# PCM Impact, 2021

## Environmental Outcomes

**578,550 lb**

**NO<sub>3</sub>-N loss  
reductions**

**84,040 lb**

**P loss  
reductions**

**124,875 tons**

**Sediment loss  
reductions**





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# THANK YOU!

Learn more at  
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