

# South Dakota Farmers' Usage of Integrated Crop & Livestock Management

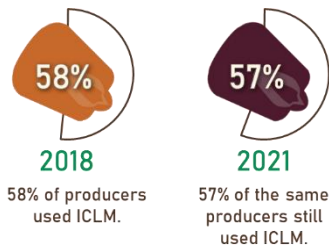


Researchers at South Dakota State University (SDSU) conducted producer surveys in the eastern part of South Dakota in both 2018 and 2021. Producers could take the survey online or via mail and were asked questions about their farm, farming practices including usage of soil and water conservation practices, and their values.

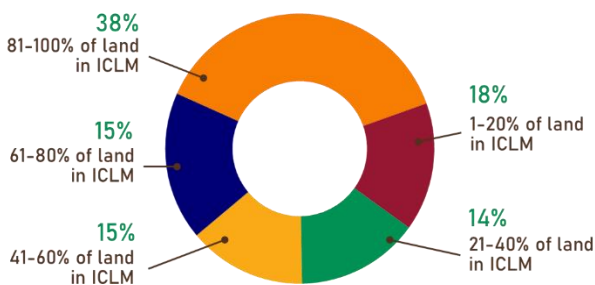
Using publicly available addresses from the Farm Service Agency, a random sample of 3,000 producers were sent the survey in 2018. 650 were ineligible, and 708 responded to the survey for a response rate of 30%. In 2021, the same producers who took the survey in 2018 were asked to take a follow up survey. 94 were ineligible, and 350 responded for a 59% response rate.

This factsheet shows results based on the responses of the same participants who answered conservation practice questions in both surveys. Our focus here is only on the integrated crop and livestock management (ICLM) questions.

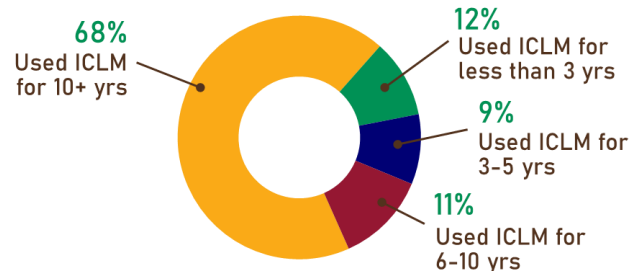
Over *half* of South Dakota farmers used integrated crop and livestock management in both 2018 and 2021.



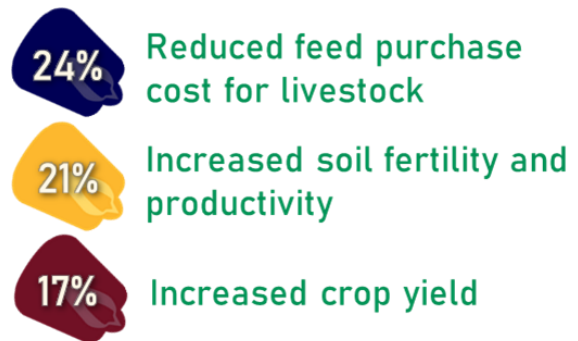
In 2021, over *half* (53%) of integrated crop and livestock management (ICLM) users used this practice on most (>61%) of their farmland.



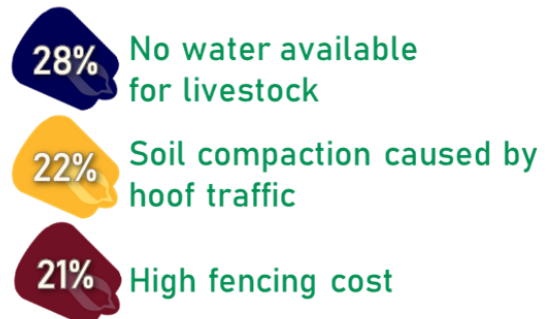
Most of those using integrated crop and livestock management (ICLM) in 2021 had been using this practice for more than 10 years.



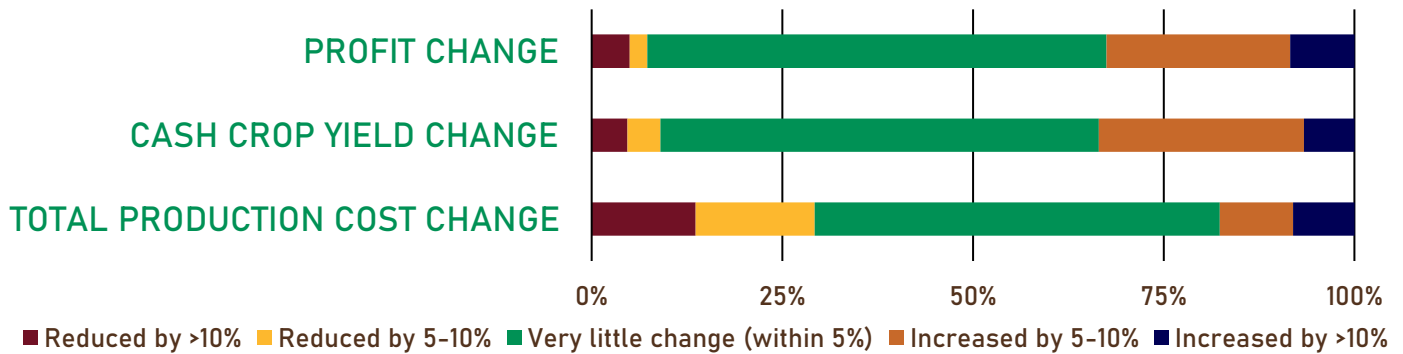
The top three *benefits* that South Dakota farmers associated with integrated crop and livestock management in 2018 (those who strongly agreed) were:



The top three *challenges* that South Dakota farmers had with integrated crop and livestock management in 2018 (those who said very important) were:



In 2021, producers were asked about *changes* to their total production costs, cash crop yields, and profitability from integrated crop and livestock management. While the majority saw very little change for each (e.g., within 5%; see darker green in figure below), for most who did see a change, it was an increase by 5-10% (see darker orange in figure below) for profit and yield and a decrease by 5-10% for cost.



Most farmers who use integrated crop and livestock management, are *not* getting cost share to adopt this practice.



### NO COST SHARE

79% of producers using ICLM did not receive cost share to adopt this practice.

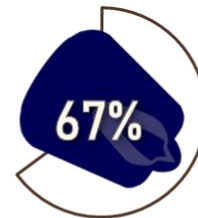
About one-third of South Dakota farmers are planning to use integrated crop and livestock management to *protect* their conventional fields most affected by droughts and/or floods.



### NATURAL DISASTER PROTECTION

In 2021, many (29%) producers indicated they were likely to use ICLM to protect fields affected by droughts and/or floods.

Integrated crop and livestock management use in South Dakota will likely continue to increase. The majority of those surveyed said they *plan to use* or are *likely to continue using* integrated crop and livestock management.



### FUTURE USAGE

Most producers surveyed in 2018 plan to continue to use ICLM.

To learn more about this survey, please visit SDSU Open Prairie (<https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/sdfarmsurvey>).

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