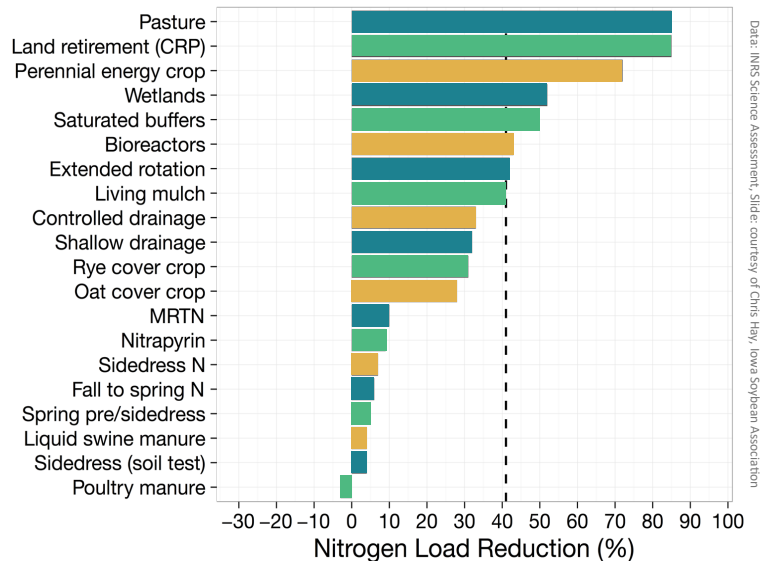




# DUBUNKING 3 CONSERVATION MYTHS

**WATER MYTH:** “All conservation practices contribute equally to improving water quality.”

**FALSE:** Some practices, such as bioreactors and cover crops, can reduce 3x the amount of nitrogen as fertilizer management.



Data: INRS Science Assessment, Slide courtesy of Chris Hay, Iowa Soybean Association

## How close are we to reaching the goals of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy?

No Till	~ 5.25 million of 11.1 million
Cover Crops	~ 470,000 of 12.5 million acres
Wetlands	~ 77 of 7,600
Bioreactors	~ 50 of 120,000

Data: Courtesy of Iowa Learning Farms

**LAND MYTH:** “Conservation practices that will help us reach the goals of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy have been widely adopted.”

**FALSE:** While we are about halfway on the “no till” goal, we have reached less than 1% in the other 3 categories.

**PEOPLE MYTH:** “Farmers do not need more technical assistance (personnel) to help them adopt conservation practices.”

**FALSE:** A Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) survey asked farmers to rate the main factors limiting their adoption of cover crops. More farmers responded “access to trusted technical assistance providers for cover crop advice” than “amount and availability of financial incentives.”



While state government has **increased** by more than 13,627 employees (+35%)...



Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Staff has **decreased** by ~122 employees (-27%)