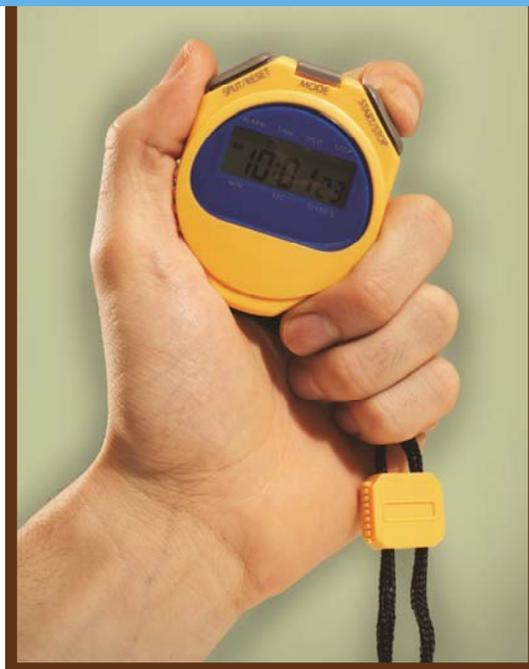
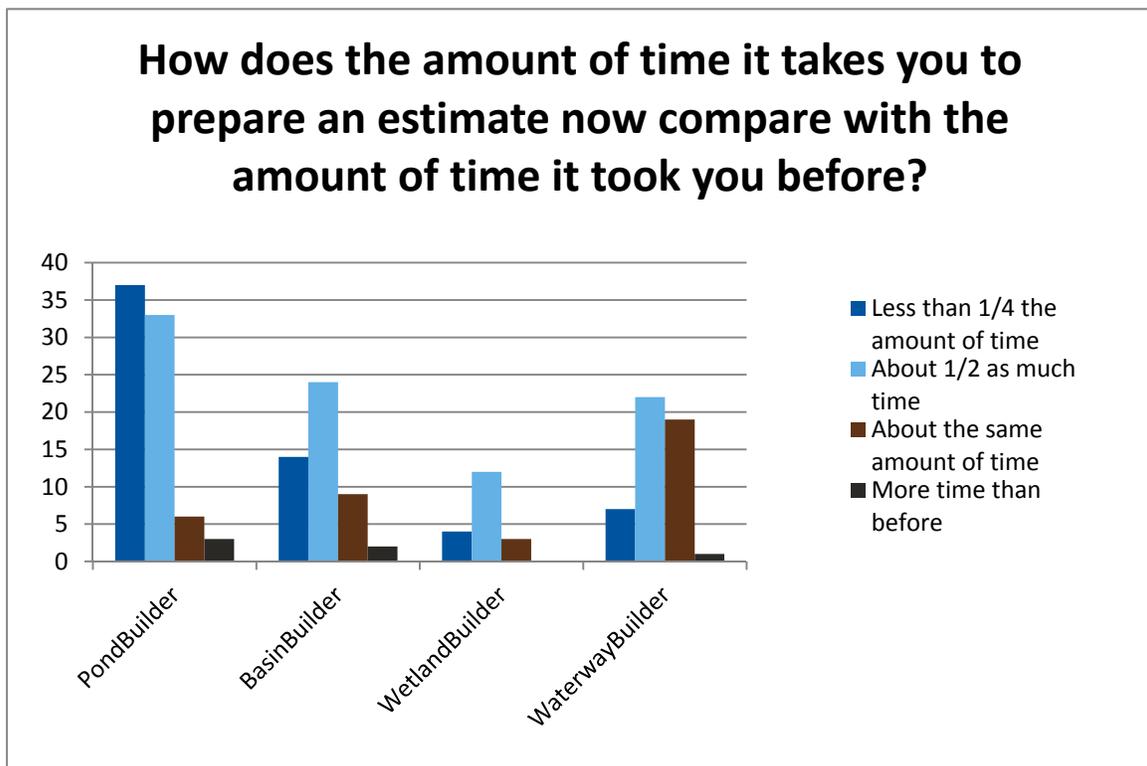


# What field office staff are saying about Agren's conservation planning tools

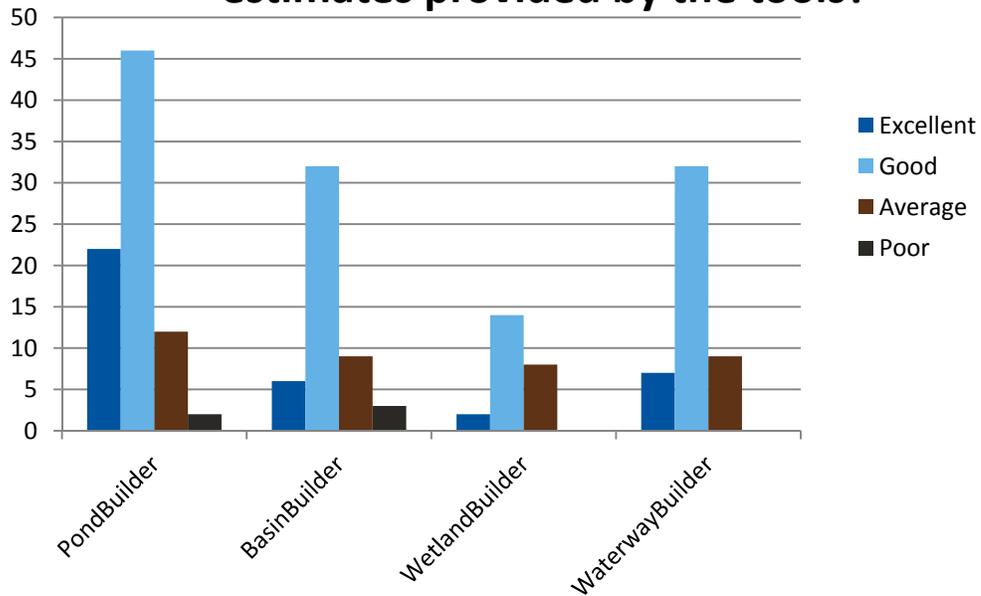


## Background:

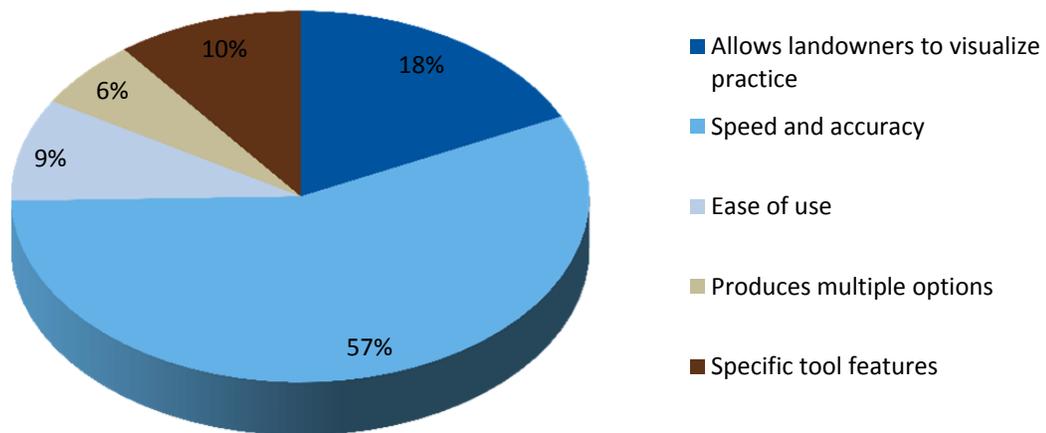
In January 2013, Agren contacted Iowa NRCS/SWCD field offices to survey users on the value of Agren's conservation planning tools. A total of 10 questions were asked using Survey Monkey. A total of 104 individuals out of 305 registered users (34%) provided comments about the use and strengths and weaknesses of the planning tools. A summary of the responses are provided on the following pages.



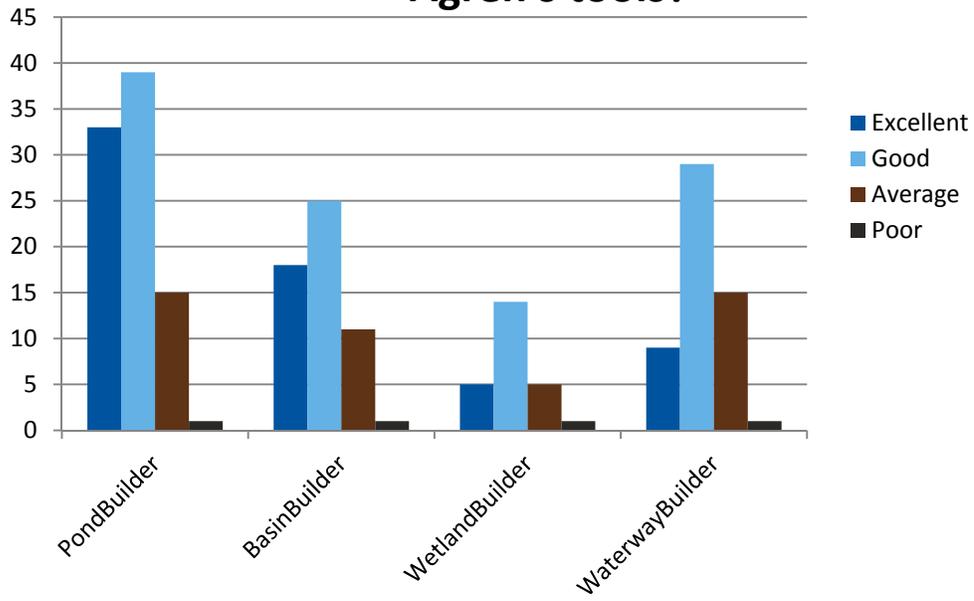
### How would you rate the accuracy of the estimates provided by the tools?



### Consider the tool you use the most. What do you feel is the greatest strength of the tool?



## How would you rate the ease-of-use of Agren's tools?



## How have the tools changed the way you perform your job?

“My staff uses the tools and says it's quicker and easier to provide cost estimates. Great way to provide planning information to customers and give them an idea of the cost. Has saved time and improved efficiency, especially if the customer changes their mind after they see the preliminary cost estimate.”

“PondBuilder has made my job much easier. I can get accurate estimates. I use the drainage area, RCN, sediment storage, etc., in my design so that saves even more time. Then I use an R8 to set pins and shoot a centerline, and use LIDAR data for pool and storage info. I can design a structure in 1/8th time it used to take to do a full survey and design with very good accuracy.”

“They save much time, thus saving several hundred (probably thousands) of NRCS/SWCD payroll dollars.”

“We are able to provide landowners better before survey options so they have more input. This saves time because fewer changes occur after survey. We also are able to get a firmer commitment from the producer with the AGREN tool. Cost-share approvals are closer to actual needed dollars reducing the number of modifications or amendments. Quicker estimates allow staff to get through workload quicker when they are trying to get c/s applications ranked for EQIP and IFIP dollars.”

“It is great to run the program and then meet with a landowner to explain the estimate. It's a great visual in the fact that the landowner can get an idea of the dam location and pool area when using the pond builder program.”

“Can more quickly provide an estimate to a landowner. Previously, techs did most of the estimates, but more employees use this program than just the techs.”