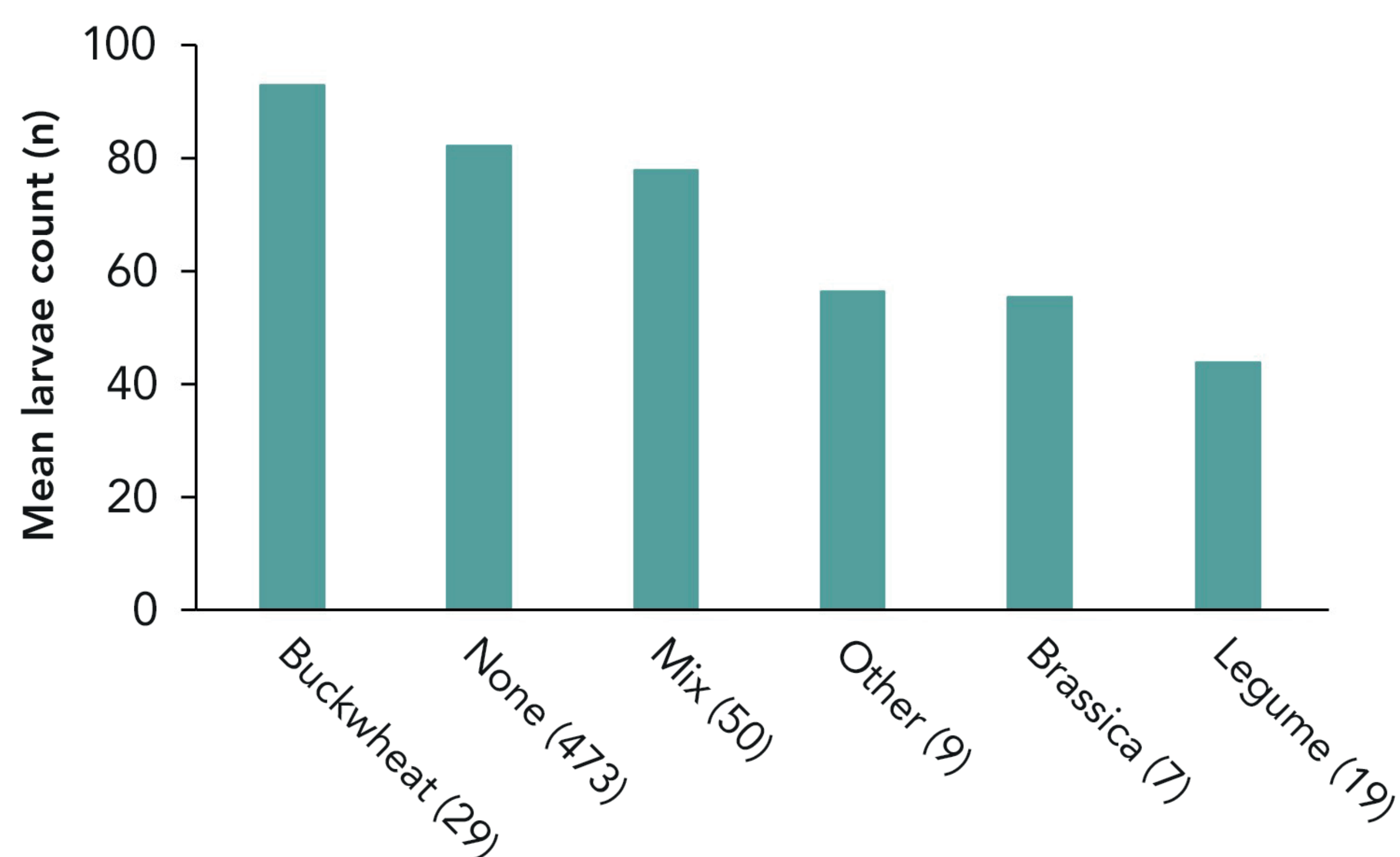


MANAGEMENT OPTIONS TO BEAT THE BEETLE

A survey was carried out over winter 2021/2022 to better understand the range of Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle (CSFB) management options being used by UK farmers and how these relate to plant larvae counts. The survey included questions on companion/cover cropping, defoliation, establishment method, stubble length and starter fertiliser.

Companion and cover cropping

Using a companion/cover crop resulted in a small reduction in larvae count. There were a large variety of companion/cover cropping approaches in the survey. No significant differences were observed between these categories.



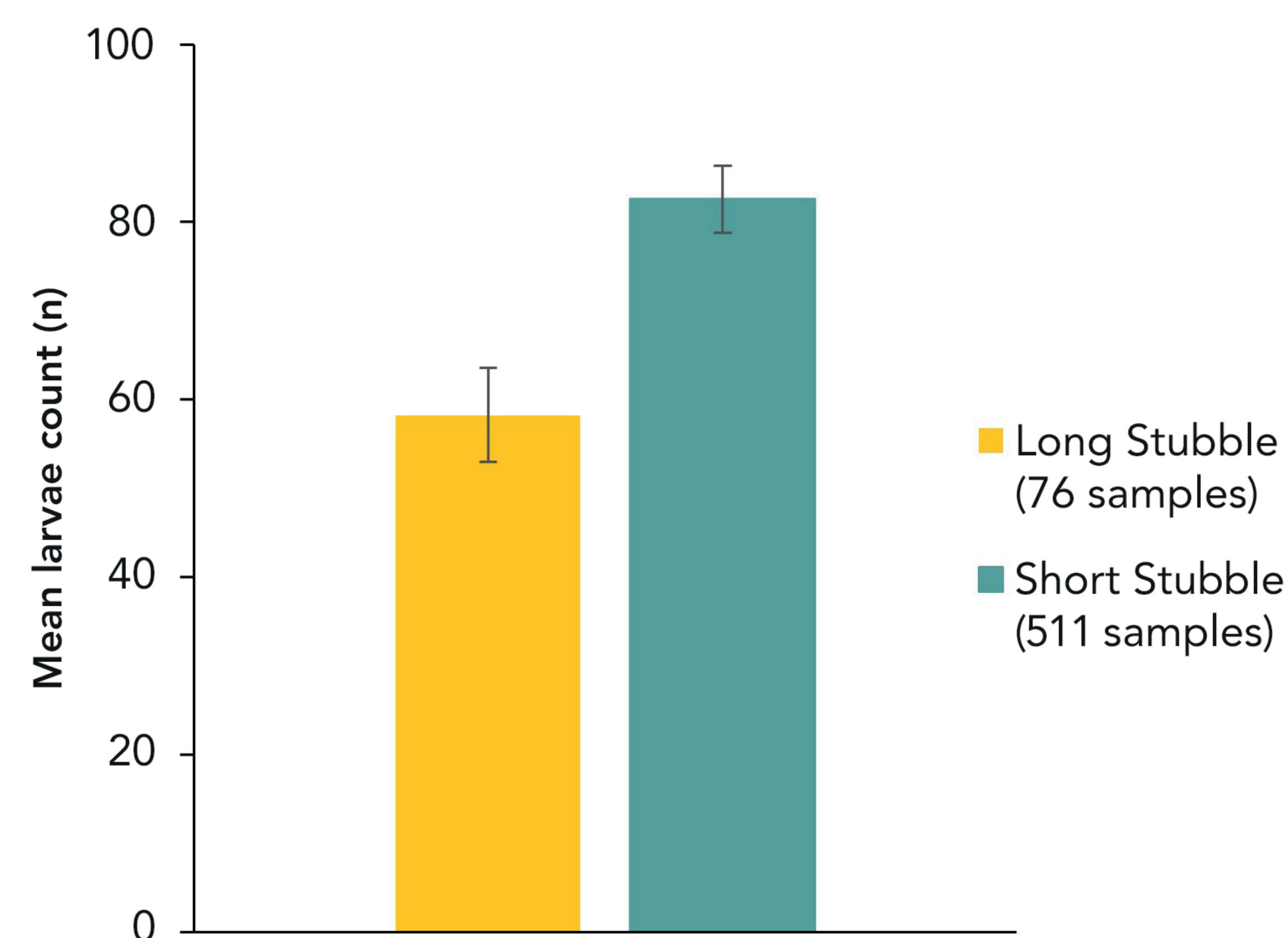
Larvae count by companion/cover crop category (sample population in parentheses).

Although drilling date appeared to be the main driver of winter larvae count, some of the additional management options demonstrated trends. The next steps of the csfbSMART project will continue to monitor these approaches and further investigate the CSFB lifecycle, to understand whether these results can help select effective management options.



Stubble management

Retaining long stubble resulted in a small, non-significant reduction in larvae count. This approach, usually associated with adult CSFB damage, appeared to also have a positive impact on stem larvae count later in the season.



Larvae count by stubble management (sample population in parentheses, error bars indicate standard error).

csfbSMART – ‘Sharing Management and Agronomy Research Tools’

The research project aims to test management methods and tools for use against cabbage stem flea beetle on UK farms, with OSR growers provided with information on how to implement and assess these management strategies.

csfbSMART partners and funders include:



csfbSMART industry taskforce includes Agrovista, AICC, BASF, Bayer CropScience, Cotton Farm Consultancy Ltd, DSV, Elsoms, Frontier, Innovative Farmers, KWS UK, Limagrain, LS Plant Breeding, RAGT, Sentry Ltd, Syngenta, Tuckwell Farms, United Oilseeds and Yara.