

The 2007 Farm Bill:

U.S. producer preferences
for agricultural, food
and public policy



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The 2007 Farm Bill: U.S. Producer Preferences for Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy

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Any views and opinions expressed in this report are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the sponsors or project collaborators.

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A group of more than 80 land grant university faculty members and NASS officials coordinated and implemented the

survey in the 27 participating states. A list of collaborators in each state is included on the inside front cover of this report.

Each state surveyed producers on a set of nationwide questions, selected optional questions, and any state-specific questions. The returned surveys were forwarded to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln for data entry and analysis. Pam Holmes helped coordinate the receiving and handling of the surveys. A large group of undergraduate and graduate students helped tabulate survey data and helped collect supporting data for analysis and comparison.

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Table of Contents

List of Figures and Tables	IV	Food System and Regulatory Policy	18
Executive Summary	V	Labeling and Traceability.....	18
Introduction	1	BSE Testing.....	19
Setting	1	Summary	19
Survey Methodology.....	3	Related Policy Issues	20
Analysis and Report.....	3	Commodity Programs and Risk Management	20
Farm Programs and Budget Priorities	6	Conservation.....	22
Farm Bill Goals.....	6	Rural Development and Agricultural Credit	22
Program Funding.....	6	Research and Extension.....	23
Summary	8	Public Lands	24
Commodity Programs and Risk Management Policy	9	Labor	24
Program Implementation Issues	9	Summary	25
Program Buy-Out.....	10	Survey Demographics	26
Dairy Programs.....	11	Operator Characteristics.....	26
Summary	11	Farm Income Characteristics	26
Conservation and Environmental Policy	12	Education, Management, and Related Issues.....	29
Environmental Goals and Incentives	12	Summary	31
Program Implementation Issues	14	Conclusion	33
Summary	15	Appendix A	
Trade Policy	16	Tables of State-Level Composite Survey Results	35
Trade Negotiations	16	Appendix B	
World Trade Organization Issues	16	National Questionnaire and Optional Question Bank ..	58
Trade Sanctions	17	References	64
Summary	17		

List of Figures and Tables

Figure

1. U.S. Net Farm Income.....	1
2. U.S. Federal Budget Balance by Farm Bill Cycle.....	2
3. State Participation in the National Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy Preference Survey.....	3
4. Goals for the Farm Bill (Question 1).....	7
5. Maintenance of Funding for Existing Programs (Question 2).....	8
6. Commodity Program Buy-Out (Question 10).....	10
7. Environmental Goals and Conservation Programs (Question 12).....	13
8. Risk Management Programs (Question Z2).....	21
9. Research Funding Priorities (Question Z9).....	24

Table

1. Participating States, Number of Farms, and Survey Responses.....	4
2. Goals for the Farm Bill (Question 1).....	6
3. Maintenance of Funding for Existing Programs (Question 2).....	7
4. Provision of New or Reallocated Funding for Select Programs (Question 3).....	8
5. Commodity Program Implementation (Questions 4-9).....	9
6. Commodity Program Buy-Out (Question 10).....	10
7. Dairy Programs (Question 11).....	11
8. Environmental Goals and Conservation Programs (Question 12).....	12
9. Conservation Program State Block Grants (Question 13).....	14
10. Conservation Reserve Program (Question 14).....	15
11. Conservation Security Program (Question 15).....	15
12. Trade Policy Issues (Questions 16-22).....	16
13. Food System and Regulatory Policy Issues (Questions 23-29).....	18
14. Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Programs (Question Z1).....	20
15. Risk Management Programs (Question Z2).....	21
16. Supply Control (Question Z3).....	21
17. Open Space and Farmland Preservation (Question Z4).....	22
18. Rural Development Programs (Question Z5).....	23
19. Farm Credit Program Funding (Question Z6).....	23
20. Research and Extension Funding (Question Z8).....	23
21. Research Funding Priorities (Question Z9).....	24
22. Public Lands Management (Question Z10).....	25
23. Labor Issues (Question Z11).....	25
24. Age of Respondent (Question 30).....	26
25. Gender of Respondent (Question 31).....	26
26. Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Background of Respondent (Question 32).....	27
27. Race or Ethnicity of Respondent (Question 33).....	27
28. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold on the Farm or Ranch (Question 34).....	27
29. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts by Commodity Group (Question 35).....	28
30. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts from Organic Production (Question 36).....	29
31. Share of Family Income from Farming or Ranching (Question 37).....	29

32. Education of Respondent (Question 38).....	29
33. Federal Farm Program Participation (Question 39).....	30
34. Farm or Ranch Tenure (Question 40).....	31
35. Expected Farm or Ranch Transition (Question 41).....	31
36. Respondent Definition of Farm Size (Question 42).....	32

Appendix Table

A-1. Goals for the Farm Bill (Question 1).....	35
A-2. Maintenance of Funding for Existing Programs (Question 2).....	36
A-3. Provision of New or Reallocated Funding for Select Programs (Question 3).....	37
A-4. Commodity Program Implementation (Questions 4-9).....	38
A-5. Commodity Program Buy-Out (Question 10).....	39
A-6. Dairy Programs (Question 11).....	40
A-7. Environmental Goals and Conservation Programs (Question 12).....	41
A-8. Conservation Program State Block Grants (Question 13).....	43
A-9. Conservation Reserve Program (Question 14).....	43
A-10. Conservation Security Program (Question 15).....	44
A-11. Trade Policy Issues (Questions 16-22).....	44
A-12. Food System and Regulatory Policy Issues (Questions 23-29).....	45
A-13. Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Programs (Question Z1).....	46
A-14. Risk Management Programs (Question Z2).....	46
A-15. Supply Control (Question Z3).....	46
A-16. Open Space and Farmland Preservation (Question Z4).....	46
A-17. Rural Development Programs (Question Z5).....	47
A-18. Farm Credit Program Funding (Question Z6).....	47
A-19. Research and Extension Funding (Question Z8).....	47
A-20. Research Funding Priorities (Question Z9).....	48
A-21. Public Lands Management (Question Z10).....	48
A-22. Labor Issues (Question Z11).....	49
A-23. Age of Respondent (Question 30).....	49
A-24. Gender of Respondent (Question 31).....	50
A-25. Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Background of Respondent (Question 32).....	50
A-26. Race or Ethnicity of Respondent (Question 33).....	50
A-27. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold on the Farm or Ranch (Question 34).....	51
A-28. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts by Commodity Group (Question 35).....	52
A-29. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts from Organic Production (Question 36).....	53
A-30. Share of Family Income from Farming or Ranching (Question 37).....	53
A-31. Education of Respondent (Question 38).....	54
A-32. Federal Farm Program Participation (Question 39).....	55
A-33. Farm or Ranch Tenure (Question 40).....	56
A-34. Expected Farm or Ranch Transition (Question 41).....	56
A-35. Respondent Definition of Farm Size (Question 42).....	57

Executive Summary

The development of the next farm bill is a complex, comprehensive process that involves numerous issues. The process will, in part, be driven by the economic climate, the budget situation, the trade arena, and the political setting at the time of the debate. The economic setting and the political setting invite a significant debate on the shape of the farm bill and the potential for new directions or alternatives. The budget setting and the trade setting both present challenges for this farm bill debate in terms of program priorities and potential program trade-offs.

In this complex environment, understanding producer attitudes and policy preferences can be valuable to the discussion. The National Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy Preference Survey elicited agricultural producers' preferences on current policy issues and future policy directions related to the next farm bill.

Twenty-seven states participated in the survey, representing 60 percent of all U.S. farms and ranches. More than 63,000 producers were surveyed in the 27 states, resulting in more than 15,000 usable responses. The sample responses were representative of the population of producers in the surveyed states and in the nation as a whole.

The survey focused on a number of policy issues and included key questions to identify underlying policy goals and budget priorities. It included questions

Survey States

- North Central: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
- Northeast: Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont
- South: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas
- West: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

Farm Programs and Budget Priorities

- Producers supported several fundamental goals for farm bill legislation
 - ✓ Renewable energy, small and beginning farm and ranch opportunities, and food security ranked as the highest goals
 - ✓ Increasing the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture, enhancing farm income, and enhancing rural economies received strong support
 - ✓ Protecting the nation's natural resources and reducing price and income risk also were supported
- Producers prioritized several existing program areas highly for continued funding in the next farm bill
 - ✓ Producers ranked disaster assistance followed by crop insurance programs as the highest priorities, two programs which have historically been addressed outside of farm program legislation
 - ✓ Producers ranked working land conservation programs highly, just behind disaster assistance and insurance programs
 - ✓ Producers also ranked traditional commodity program safety net tools highly, including commodity loans and loan deficiency payments, counter-cyclical payments, and direct payments
 - ✓ Producers also supported land preservation programs, agricultural credit programs, land retirement programs, and livestock commodity programs, including dairy
- Producers supported several other program areas for new or reallocated funding
 - ✓ Producers ranked bioenergy production incentives highest among new program areas followed closely by food safety programs
 - ✓ Producers also supported a number of other program areas, including support payments tied to farm income, biosecurity incentives, farm savings account incentives, and traceability and certification programs
 - ✓ Producers were split in their opinion on potential support programs for fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops

on specific commodity program issues, conservation programs, trade policy, food system and regulatory policy, and other related policy issues.

Farm Programs and Budget Priorities

A focal point of the survey was the examination of farm bill goals and budget priorities. Highest nationwide among the various goals for farm legislation was agriculture's role in reducing the nation's dependence on renewable energy. Producers also identified enhanced opportunities for small and beginning farms and ranches and the assurance of a safe, secure, abundant, and affordable food supply as key priorities. These three goals ranked higher than all others

in each of the four multi-state regions included in the analysis.

Perhaps reflecting the concern during the survey period of late 2005 to early 2006 on losses from agricultural disasters ranging from drought to hurricanes, producers ranked disaster assistance programs highest among a list of existing farm programs. Disaster assistance was the highest spending priority in all four regions and was highest or tied statistically as the highest spending priority across all farm size strata. The finding that disaster assistance, a program that has not historically been a formal part of the farm bill, was a highly-rated concern demonstrates the overall priority producers place on farm policy as a safety net.

Commodity Programs and Risk Management

- Producers disagreed with phasing out or reducing commodity program payments
- Producers generally supported the concept of targeting payments to small farmers
- Among program payment limit proposals:
 - ✓ Producers supported eliminating the three-entity rule
 - ✓ Producers supported eliminating the unlimited benefits from commodity loan certificate and forfeiture gains
 - ✓ Producers were nearly neutral on the idea of lowering commodity program payment limits
- Producers did not favor a commodity program buy-out proposal
- Producers favored retaining all of the dairy support programs, including the dairy price support program and the Milk Income Loss Contract program

The prioritization of the safety net is reinforced even more by the fact that producers in the medium and large farm size strata and producers in the North Central region ranked what is effectively a five-part safety net (disaster assistance, insurance, direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, and commodity loans and loan deficiency payments) above all other existing programs. But, not all producers or all regions have participated in the traditional safety net programs to the same degree and program priorities can be dependent on what programs have historically been important. Producers in the small farm stratum and in the South and West also ranked insurance programs second, but then ranked working land conservation programs as the next highest priority. Producers in the Northeast placed working lands conservation programs second behind disaster assistance and ranked land preservation programs as the next highest priority, followed by livestock commodity support programs including dairy.

This prioritization of spending will also affect the availability of new or reallocated funding for several programs. Among the alternatives, bioenergy production incentives ranked at the top of the list, consistent with the ranking of farm bill goals. Bioenergy production incentives and food safety initiatives were clearly first or second in all regions and among all farm size strata.

Commodity Programs and Risk Management

Restructuring the current farm program given trade and budgetary issues has been a recent topic of discussion. Producers nationwide generally disagreed with the concept of phasing out or reducing commodity program payments. But, there was producer support for increased targeting of program payments to small farms. Regarding specific proposals for tightening commodity program payment limits, producers supported eliminating the three-entity rule and eliminating the unlimited commodity loan gains. A third alternative, lowering program payment limits, received a nearly-neutral response.

Producers also responded to the idea of a commodity program buy-out,

following in the manner of recent buy-out programs for tobacco and peanuts and an earlier program for dairy in the mid-1980s. Nationwide, less than one-fourth of producers agreed with the concept of offering a buy-out, a level of support that was consistent across all regions and across all farm sizes. While there was a significant amount of uncertainty about a buy-out program, producers indicated clear preferences for a one-time lump-sum payment over installment payments and for buy-out payments equal to 25-years worth of program payments over 15-years worth of payments.

Dairy policy is also a significant issue that features a complex system of support programs and marketing orders. In a specific focus on dairy support programs, producers favored the continuation of both the milk price support program and the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program. This support was consistent across farm size, but varied significantly by region. The Northeast showed much greater support for extending the programs, but the West favored eliminating all milk support programs almost as much as it favored extending all of them.

Conservation and Environmental Policy

Producers showed strong support for programs focused on conservation, favoring technical assistance or technical and financial assistance for a number

Conservation and Environmental Policy

- Producers supported technical assistance or technical and financial assistance focused several environmental goals:
 - ✓ Water quality and soil erosion garnered the most support
 - ✓ Air quality, animal waste management, and wildlife habitat also had strong support
 - ✓ Open space preservation, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity maintenance were also supported
- Producers favored allocating federal conservation money as block grants to states for local implementation
- Producers favored continuing the Conservation Reserve Program in its current scope through the current bidding process or through automatic renewals for high-ranking contracts
- Producers favored continued implementation of the Conservation Security Program through the watershed-by-watershed approach with some support for additional funding to allow immediate nationwide implementation

Trade Policy

- Producers supported the pursuit of free-trade negotiations
- Producers supported trade expansion through the elimination of unilateral sanctions on food trade
- Producers supported continued participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and expected market access problems if the United States withdrew from the WTO
- Producers agreed on the need to comply with the recent WTO ruling on U.S. cotton programs
- Producer preferred comprehensive trade negotiations that include labor laws, environmental impacts, and food safety standards and policies that focus more emphasis on domestic policies instead of trade policies

of environmental goals. Water quality and soil erosion conservation, two areas with the longest history of federal programs and funding, received the highest producer support. All of the other environmental goals received substantial support from producers, with air quality, animal waste management, and wildlife habitat in the lead.

Producers clearly favored continuation of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with enrolled acreage at current levels. More than half of producers supported either the current bidding process or an automatic renewal process for the highest-ranking contracts. Similarly, producers supported continuing the Conservation Security Program (CSP), currently administered on a watershed-by-watershed basis under authorities established in the 2002 Farm Bill. A majority of producers favored the current watershed-by-watershed implementation plan while another fifth favored increased funding for immediate nationwide implementation.

While the various conservation programs have the apparent strong support of producers, more than half also favored sending federal funding for conservation programs to states in the form of block grants to allow states to design and implement local conservation programs rather than the current mode of federal implementation.

Trade Policy

Producers generally supported the pursuit of free-trade agreements across all farm sizes and across all regions except the West, where producer sentiment was almost evenly split. Expanded trade opportunities are also an obvious focal

point for producers as they supported the elimination of unilateral trade sanctions on food products, such as those currently in place with Cuba.

Producers supported continued participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and expected market access problems if the United States withdrew from the WTO. Producers also expressed support for WTO principles in their agreement on the need to comply with the recent WTO ruling on U.S. cotton programs.

On the whole, producers supported the general concepts of trade and the WTO, but that support is tempered by additional producer preferences for comprehensive trade negotiations that include labor laws, environmental impacts, and food safety standards and for policies that focus more emphasis on domestic policies instead of trade policies.

Food System and Regulatory Policy

Policy and regulatory issues across the nation's food system are also a major part of the farm bill discussion.

Looking at the issue of country-of-origin labeling (COOL) for selected food products, producers strongly supported

COOL and favored mandatory regulations over voluntary guidelines. This support was consistent across farm size groups and across regions.

Producers also supported labeling of biotech food products regardless of whether there is a scientifically-determined difference in the product. This idea was also supported across the country, although its support did vary across farm size. Small-scale producers were strongly supportive, but medium-scale producers were nearly neutral on the concept and large-scale producers showed disagreement.

The COOL and biotech labeling issues might reflect a general strategy of improved food product traceability. That concept, improved food product traceability, also received strong support from producers, with a large majority in agreement with the general concept. The specific issue of mandatory animal identification rules also received support, though at a lesser degree than did general food product traceability.

The issue of testing for *bovine spongiform encephalopathy* (BSE) was also addressed. Producers expressed support for mandatory or voluntary BSE testing, although the preference was clearly for voluntary testing by industry.

Related Policy Issues

Beyond the basic elements of commodity programs, conservation programs, and other farm, food, and trade policies, a number of related policy issues affect agriculture and rural America. Several of these issues were covered with a series of optional questions that were asked in many, but not all of the states participating in the survey.

Producers in several states weighed in on the potential for new programs for fruits, vegetables, and other specialty

Food System and Regulatory Policy

- Producers supported country-of-origin labeling (COOL), favoring mandatory COOL regulations over voluntary COOL guidelines
- Producers supported labeling of biotech food products
- Producers supported improved food product traceability
- Producers supported mandatory animal identification rules
- Producers supported testing for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), favoring voluntary testing by industry over government-mandated testing

crops, but put the most support behind choices other than traditional commodity support programs. Instead, producers supported disaster assistance, subsidized crop insurance, and state block grants as the top alternatives for any new commodity programs.

In the area of risk management, producers expressed support for many alternatives, particularly for new tools such as tax-deferred savings accounts and risk management incentive payments to encourage the use of tools such as hedging, insurance, savings accounts, or education. These alternatives ranked ahead of increased coverage and subsidies for crop, livestock, or whole-farm income insurance.

Supply control policies received much more limited support from producers. Only voluntary programs such as a paid set-aside program and a farmer-owned reserve program received support, while a mandatory unpaid set-aside program met with strong disagreement from producers.

In the area of conservation, producers considered open space and farmland preservation alternatives. Producers showed a preference for programs aimed at increasing agricultural competitiveness and an emphasis on voluntary conservation easements. These alternatives both received producer support while proposals focused on funding the purchase of or facilitating the trade of conservation easements met with uneven support from producers. On the issue of the management of public lands, producers carried a similar message of maintaining active management and local control rather than federally-implemented controls.

Producers favored returning revenues from federal lands to local governments as the highest priority, followed by allowing oil and gas exploration and grazing and timber cutting activities. Closely behind in terms of support was the transfer of the management of public lands from the federal government to the respective states.

Producers strongly supported rural development programs, particularly those with a direct focus on economic development. Education and training, grants for business development and job creation, and access to capital were ranked highest, followed by rural high-speed Internet access and funds for infrastructure and services.

Farm credit programs also received strong support from producers, with support for all of the program areas of operating loans, ownership loans, and beginning farmer loan. However, the beginning farmer loan programs were clearly the highest priority.

Regarding research and Extension, producers showed strong support for funding. They favored maintaining the current funding mix for research and Extension activities or even increasing the formula funding levels over alternatives to shift funding to competitive grants or to eliminate funding altogether. Among numerous priority research areas, producers placed biofuels and renewable energy as the highest priority, a finding consistent with earlier choices in the survey on farm bill goals and program funding. Water quality and food safety research also received high marks from producers.

Finally, several states asked producers to comment on farm labor policy. While not be a formal part of the farm bill debate, farm labor is currently a high profile issue with implications for agriculture. The survey showed producers were most concerned about labor availability. Producers rated seasonal availability of agricultural workers as the biggest labor issue, just ahead of full-time availability of agricultural workers. Both issues ranked ahead of the foreign guest worker program and the issue of public service needs in immigrant agricultural communities.

Conclusion

In sum, the survey analysis helps inform the upcoming farm bill debate. Certainly, the climate for the next farm bill is different than the last. The economic setting and the political setting open the door to a debate on the shape of the farm bill and the potential for new directions or alternatives. The budget setting and the trade setting both present challenges for this farm bill debate in terms of program priorities and potential program trade-offs.

Producers clearly demonstrated support for some of the emerging policy areas, including expanded conservation programs and bioenergy opportunities. But, producers also prioritized existing programs very highly, including the multi-part farm safety net.

The complex issues and the potential policy trade-offs will make policy choices for the next farm bill extremely challenging. Having a comprehensive analysis of policy alternatives and a clear understanding of producer preferences will be vital to the farm bill development process.

Introduction

The *Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002* provides the direction for federal programs and policy to address agricultural, food, and public policy issues through September of 2007. The 2002 Act is the most recent in a series of comprehensive farm bills that have authorized federal farm programs. When the 2002 Act expires, new legislation will need to be in place to guide future programs and policies. In the absence of new legislation, federal farm programs could revert to permanent legislation dating from 1949. The presence of permanent legislation helps provide the impetus needed to insure that agriculture, food, and rural policy issues will be addressed by Congress and that new legislation will be put in place to be implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Setting

The development of new farm legislation is a complex, comprehensive process that involves numerous issues. Understanding the issues and the policy choices in part rests on an understanding of the setting in which the new farm bill is debated. This setting can be described for broad categories: economics, budget, trade, and politics.

Heading into the 2007 Farm Bill, the economic setting is substantially different than it was in 2001 as the 2002 Farm Bill

was being developed. The farm income and government payment numbers in Figure 1 help to illustrate the changed economic environment.

In the four-year period of 1998–2001, U.S. net farm income had dropped to levels that averaged under \$30 billion nationally, not counting government payments (Economic Research Service). In this income trough, producers lobbied for, and Congress passed, significant packages of *ad hoc* agricultural cash assistance packaged as emergency and disaster support. This assistance added up to nearly \$28 billion over the four-year period and helped producers overcome production losses and also economic losses due to price declines. A significant part of the debate during the development of the 2002 farm legislation was about how to increase the size of the safety net and formalize the additional support as a way to eliminate the need for annual *ad hoc* assistance from Congress. The counter-cyclical payment program included in the 2002 Farm Bill was in some measure a direct response to this situation.

The economic setting heading into the 2007 Farm Bill is very different. U.S. farm income levels are projected down substantially in 2006, partly due to multi-billion dollar increases in energy costs. However, the farm income drops in 2006 are relative to the record levels

of 2004 and 2005. U.S. net farm income (including government payments) set a record in 2004 at more than \$82 billion, followed up in 2005 by an income level of more than \$72 billion. Against those records, the projected 2006 farm income level of \$56 billion is down substantially, but it is still nearly \$9 billion higher than the average farm income levels of the 1990s in nominal dollars.

With the relative strength in the farm economy at present, the emergent farm bill debate may be less about the size of the safety net needed and more about the shape of the safety net. The debate could include issues of how the safety net programs should be put together, who should get government supports, and what supports should be provided.

A second major issue is the budget setting under which the 2007 Farm Bill will be developed. In 2001, Congress was looking at a projected government budget surplus and developed a farm bill that allocated more than \$70 billion in new baseline spending for agricultural programs over the coming decade. In fiscal year 2006, the budget setting is very different. Figure 2 illustrates the historical and projected budget numbers for the fiscal year prior to the listed farm bill year as reported by the Congressional Budget Office. For example, the 2002 Farm Bill bar on the graph shows a budget surplus of \$128 billion from fiscal year 2001, the year in which deliberations began whereas the 2007 Farm Bill bar shows a projected deficit of \$260 billion for fiscal year 2006. These projections are fragile and subject to revision, but it is clear that concerns over federal deficits will weigh more heavily going forward.

The budget deficit has already led to the passage in Congress of the *Deficit Reduction Act of 2005* that included budget cuts for agriculture in the form of delays in commodity payments and cuts in projected conservation, rural development, and research funding. Such a budget climate could focus some of the farm bill debate on further budget cuts and trade-offs among programs or

Figure 1. U.S. Net Farm Income (USDA-ERS)

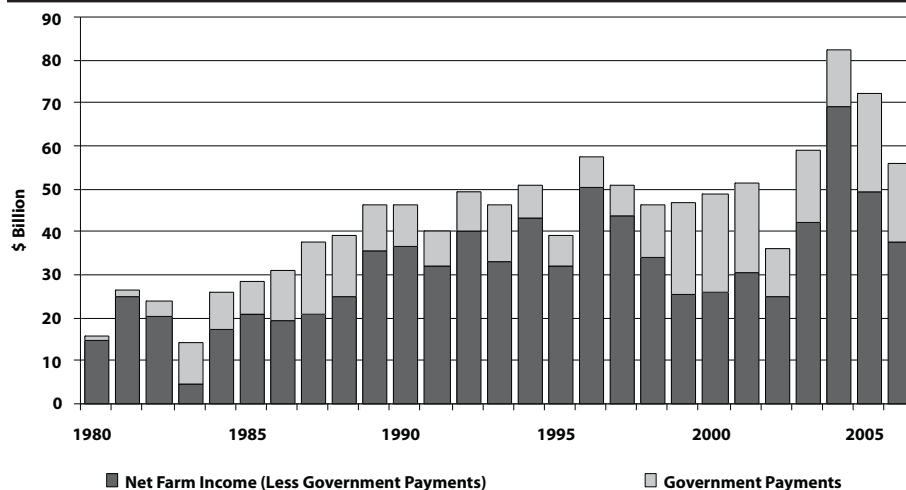
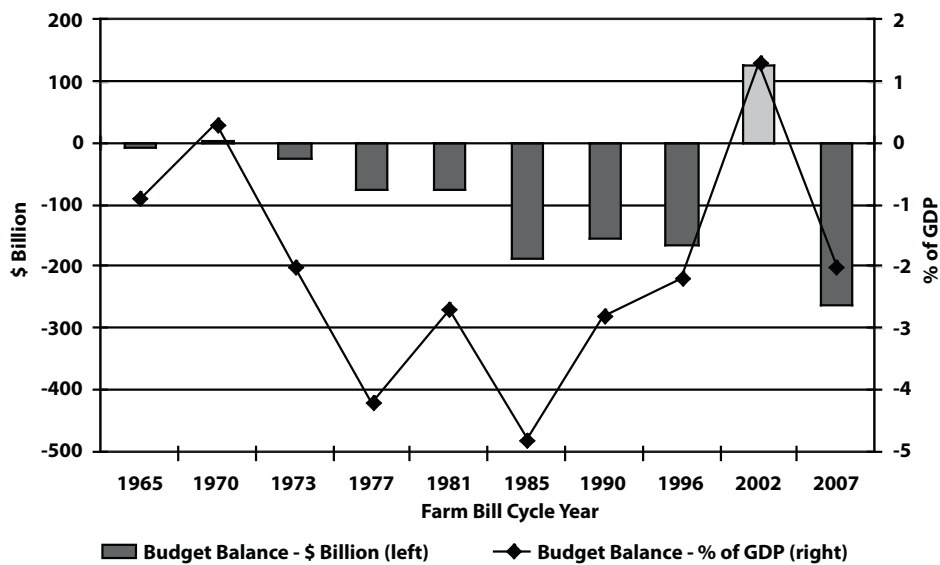


Figure 2. U.S. Federal Budget Balance by Farm Bill Cycle (CBO)



between existing and new programs. On the other hand, developing a farm bill in the midst of a budget deficit is not new. Only two farm bills since the 1960s were developed in periods of budget surpluses (1970 and 2002). And, as Figure 2 shows, the projected budget deficit in fiscal year 2006, although a record in nominal terms, is only about 2 percent of gross domestic product, less in real dollar terms than any time during most of the 1970s and 1980s.

How the budget deficit impacts the development of legislation remains to be seen. There could be a very tight budget with no additional baseline funding for agriculture and perhaps even additional budget reconciliation requirements to cut the baseline. Such a situation could focus the debate on the trade-offs between programs and the budget constraints for building new program areas.

The trade setting is also critical to the development of the next farm bill. The current suspension of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on the Doha Round trade agreement has led to some calls for a simple extension of the current legislation for one or more years. An extension of current legislation, perhaps in conjunction with passage of an extension of Trade Promotion Authority, is part of a possible strategy to achieve completion of the Doha round of trade negotiations before analyzing changes in U.S. farm programs.

If WTO negotiations resume and eventually results in a new trade

agreement, the impact on U.S. farm programs could be substantial. Current farm program spending on support programs like the marketing assistance loan program and the counter-cyclical payment program and support programs for dairy and sugar might need substantial reforms to come under new negotiated support limits. These reforms would not necessarily need to be cuts in total spending, but rather cuts in terms of payments within the category of trade-distorting supports, or “Amber Box” programs. Thus, a new trade agreement could lead to substantial cuts or shifts in farm program spending to make them compatible with a new trade agreement.

If the WTO negotiations do not resume or lead to timely progress, there are still trade issues that could influence the next farm bill. The WTO ruled against the United States in a trade dispute brought forth by Brazil over U.S. cotton subsidies. Some programs have already been changed to comply with the cotton ruling, including export credit subsidies and industry payments (Step 2 payments) for cotton. But, additional issues remain, including the design of safety net programs and the possible need to address a planting restriction that limits fruit and vegetable production on farm program contract acres. A change in the restriction could bring a new set of issues and commodities into the farm program debate. The potential for challenges to programs for other commodities

beyond cotton could also push forward changes in the safety net programs.

Beyond the economics, the budget, and the trade setting, politics will obviously shape the next farm bill. The changing environment for the debate includes more interest groups pushing for new or reallocated spending from current programs to fund expanded opportunities in other areas. The reality is that there are several competing interests fighting for a larger share of farm program funding. In the commodity arena, specialty crop producers are looking for a bigger part of the safety net. In the conservation arena, several groups are calling for expanded funding and, in some cases, a reconsideration of how funds are allocated among programs and geographic regions. Just as significantly, interest groups are looking for additional support in other areas such as bioenergy and rural development. In the existing budget environment, where new program spending may come at the expense of other programs, this political effort could put significant pressure on major agricultural spending categories, including commodity programs and food programs.

One other political factor is the continual turnover of members of Congress and members of the agriculture committees. In fact, 33 of the current 66 members of the House and Senate agricultural committees did not serve on their respective committee during consideration of the 2002 Farm Bill. Counting retirements, any election turnover in the November 2006 election, and committee reorganization in the next Congress, less than half of the committee members convening in the 110th Congress in January 2007 will have committee experience working on new farm legislation. With such a turnover of legislative experience, there is a continual need and challenge to work with and cultivate support among lawmakers on the part of agricultural groups and other groups with a stake in the farm bill. There is also a need in such an environment to have objective information on policy issues and producer preferences for policy alternatives during farm bill deliberations.

Survey Methodology

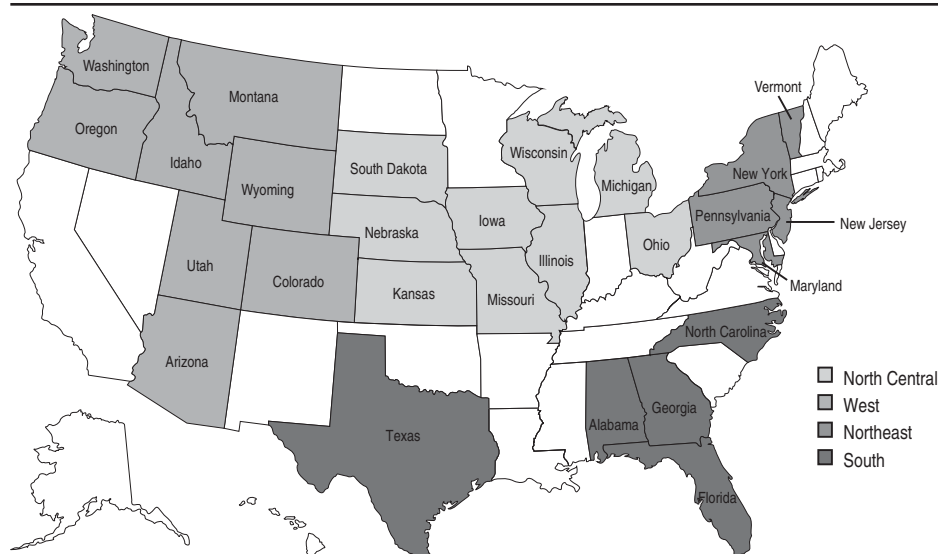
This report highlights the results of a survey of producer preferences regarding agricultural, food, and public policy issues to provide input into the farm bill deliberations. This survey builds on the history and procedures followed in previous survey efforts conducted prior to each of the past several farm bills. Dating back to at least the 1985 Farm Bill, policy specialists at many of the nation's land grant universities have coordinated a survey of producers in cooperation with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in USDA and with the support and assistance of Farm Foundation (Guither, et al., 1984; Guither, et al., 1989; Guither, et al., 1994; Lubben, et al., 2001).

The nationwide survey of agricultural producers was conducted in 27 states across the country in four regions, as shown in Figure 3. The participating states represent a broad distribution of regional interests, agricultural production, and historic farm program participation. As shown in Table 1, the total number of farms in the 27 surveyed states is 1,345,900. This is approximately 64 percent of the total number of farms in the United States according to the report *Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations: 2005 Summary* (NASS).

The mail survey was designed as stratified random sample of producers in each of the 27 states with the guidance of personnel from the NASS. The stratified sample of farms was drawn from the NASS sample frame by level of farm sales. The three strata were "small" farms with less than \$100,000 in market value of agricultural products sold annually; "medium" farms with \$100,000 to less than \$250,000 in market value of agricultural products sold annually; and "large" farms with \$250,000 or more in market value of agricultural products sold annually.

The stratification of farms into the small, medium, and large categories was not designed to create or reinforce a definition of small or large farms. Rather, it was necessary to allow for varying sampling rates designed to provide statistical precision in the sample across all sizes of farms. According to the report of farm numbers, with certain adjustments

Figure 3. State Participation in the National Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy Preference Survey



based on the 2002 *Census of Agriculture* (NASS), more than 80 percent of the total farms in the 27-state nationwide survey area are estimated to fall in the small strata, very representative of the United States as a whole. Only 9 percent of the farms fall within the medium stratum, similar to the 8 percent of all farms in this stratum in the United States as a whole. The large stratum includes only 8 percent of the farms in both the 27-state nationwide survey area and in the United States.

The survey questionnaire contained 29 policy questions and 13 demographic questions asked in all participating states. The questionnaire also contained space for participating state collaborators to include questions selected from an optional set of 11 questions or from unique questions written specifically for a given state. The questionnaire and the optional question set are included in Appendix B.

University collaborators and NASS officials in each participating state were responsible for funding and coordinating the survey effort in their state. Coordination included selecting and developing questions, drawing the sample, and managing the timing and details of the mail survey. The survey window began in October of 2005 and concluded in April of 2006. Returned surveys were forwarded to the national task force for data entry and analysis. The national task force was responsible for coordinating the overall survey project, developing

the master survey questionnaire, and managing the data entry and analysis process. This work was supported by the institutions of the task force members and the funding of Farm Foundation.

Returned questionnaires were first sorted into "invalid" and "valid" categories. If the respondent reported that he/she was no longer farming, the survey was marked as invalid. The remaining valid surveys represented responses from active producers. The valid surveys were further sorted into the categories of "usable" and "unusable" based on whether the respondent answered the size question on value of annual farm and ranch sales of agricultural products (question 34). The usable survey results were post-stratified based on farm size, using the respondent's categorization of annual farm and ranch sales. This categorization could differ from the NASS sample frame because of coding errors or changes in the scale of the farm or ranch operation. But, the post-stratification ensures that the responses are representative of the three size strata used for the survey.

Farm numbers, survey sample sizes, survey responses, and response rates are reported in Table 1 for each of the participating states. A total of 15,602 usable responses were generated from the total sample size of 63,935 for an overall usable response rate of 24 percent.

Analysis and Report

As noted, the survey sample frame was stratified into the small, medium,

Table 1. Participating States, Number of Farms, and Survey Responses

State/Region	Number of Farms*				Sample Size	Total Responses**	Usable Responses**				Response Rate (Percent)	
	Small	Medium	Large	Total			Small	Medium	Large	Total	Total	Usable
Illinois	50,500	11,000	11,000	72,500	1,705	465	198	139	112	449	27	26
Iowa	60,300	15,100	13,600	89,000	3,000	857	297	212	227	736	29	25
Kansas	52,800	6,700	5,000	64,500	3,075	765	402	157	108	667	25	22
Michigan	46,100	3,200	3,700	53,000	1,834	472	128	161	145	434	26	24
Missouri	94,000	6,400	4,600	105,000	5,000	1,040	589	231	153	973	21	19
Nebraska	30,200	8,900	8,900	48,000	3,000	654	250	178	149	577	22	19
Ohio	67,000	5,600	3,900	76,500	3,000	675	323	183	144	650	23	22
South Dakota	20,800	6,200	4,400	31,400	2,500	523	224	138	103	465	21	19
Wisconsin	57,900	11,700	6,900	76,500	3,000	1,275	766	226	70	1,062	43	35
North Central	479,600	74,800	62,000	616,400	26,114	6,726	3,177	1,625	1,211	6,013	26	23
Maryland	10,018	807	1,275	12,100	950	335	228	23	26	277	35	29
New Jersey	8,754	457	589	9,800	700	162	121	7	21	149	23	21
New York	29,200	3,450	2,950	35,600	2,900	1,045	568	212	230	1,010	36	35
Pennsylvania	48,700	6,300	3,200	58,200	3,756	1,224	562	272	200	1,034	33	28
Vermont	5,181	686	432	6,300	719	367	244	31	32	307	51	43
Northeast	101,853	11,700	8,446	122,000	9,025	3,133	1,723	545	509	2,777	35	31
Alabama	38,700	1,400	3,400	43,500	1,498	317	218	21	23	262	21	17
Florida	36,800	2,500	3,200	42,500	1,910	294	181	29	34	244	15	13
Georgia	43,000	1,800	4,200	49,000	1,477	259	184	19	44	247	18	17
North Carolina	41,200	2,500	6,300	50,000	3,000	672	434	118	97	649	22	22
Texas	213,600	8,200	8,200	230,000	4,000	1,025	554	217	182	953	26	24
South	373,300	16,400	25,300	415,000	11,885	2,567	1,571	404	380	2,355	22	20
Arizona	8,449	443	1,207	10,100	1,279	424	234	46	73	353	33	28
Colorado	26,400	2,100	2,000	30,500	2,500	714	369	153	124	646	29	26
Idaho	21,000	1,600	2,400	25,000	1,719	362	161	76	109	346	21	20
Montana	22,200	3,700	2,100	28,000	2,250	671	306	190	96	592	30	26
Oregon	35,200	2,100	2,700	40,000	3,002	1,064	510	152	257	919	35	31
Utah	13,650	750	800	15,200	1,050	275	191	28	31	250	26	24
Washington	27,600	3,000	3,900	34,500	3,461	1,006	450	213	256	919	29	27
Wyoming	7,436	1,044	721	9,200	1,650	501	285	98	49	432	30	26
West	161,935	14,737	15,828	192,500	16,911	5,017	2,506	956	995	4,457	30	26
Nationwide	1,116,688	117,637	111,574	1,345,900	63,935	17,443	8,977	3,530	3,095	15,602	27	24

* Farm numbers by strata from USDA-NASS, 2005 where available or from 2002 Census of Agriculture numbers adjusted to 2005 total numbers. For purposes of the survey, small farms are defined as farms reporting less than \$100,000 in market value of agricultural products sold annually. Medium farms are those reporting from \$100,000 to less than \$250,000 in market value of agricultural products sold annually. Large farms are those reporting \$250,000 or more in market value of agricultural products sold annually.

** Total responses are the total number of returned surveys, included invalid returns (no longer farming, etc.). Usable responses are the total number of returned surveys that included an answer to the question on sales such that they could be post-stratified for analysis.

and large farm categories. With the lower farm numbers in the medium and large farm strata, it was necessary to use higher sampling rates in these strata to ensure sufficient response for statistical precision. To account for the different sampling rates, the survey results for each stratum in each state were tabulated separately. The results across size strata within each state were weighted by the proportion of

the total farm numbers in each stratum in each state as reported for 2005 by NASS. The weighted results provide a composite result representative of all farms in each state. Similarly, composite results and results by size strata could be tabulated at the regional and nationwide level based on farm numbers across states in each region or in the 27 states nationwide.

All of the national questions and all of the optional questions that were asked by more than one state are summarized in the report (question Z7 was not asked in multiple states and is not summarized). The survey questions included several Likert-scale questions and several multiple choice questions among others.

Responses to the Likert-scale questions are calculated as averages of

the Likert score on a scale of 1 to 5 as defined for each question. The average score by size strata and the average composite score across size strata are both reported at the nationwide level. The relative ranking of the composite score is also reported at the nationwide level and at the regional level. Where relevant, statistical analysis is reported with statistically-significant differences noted. Responses to the multiple-choice questions are similarly reported by size strata nationwide while composite results are reported at the national level and at the regional level. Responses at the composite level for each state are also reported for each question in the detailed tables in the appendix.

For purposes of this report, it is important to note the definitions of regional and nationwide results correspond only to the 27 participating states. The participating states shown in Figure 3 include 9 states in the North Central region, 5 states in the Northeast, 5 states in the South, and 8 states in the West. However, the results in these 27 states do provide significant insight on producer policy preferences for the United States as a whole. As noted earlier, these 27 states comprise 64 percent of the total number of farms in the United States. Demographic results discussed later in the report also show the survey

respondents in the participating states are similar to all producers in the participating states and also to all producers across the nation.

The remainder of this report follows the basic outline of the issues addressed in the nationwide survey.

The Farm Programs and Budget Priorities chapter focuses on three key questions regarding funding priorities in a farm bill. A question on fundamental farm bill policy goals and two questions on the prioritization of existing program funding and new or reallocated program funding set the stage for the full report.

The Commodity Programs and Risk Management Policy results focus on key issues for current commodity programs. Separate sections of the chapter focus on implementation issues including funding and payment limits; program buy-out options, and dairy policy options.

Conservation and Environmental Policy focuses on general preferences for assistance targeted at various environmental goals and also addresses program implementation issues related to the state-by-state distribution of funding, the Conservation Reserve Program, and the Conservation Security Program.

Trade Policy covers several trade issues. Separate sections address the categories of trade negotiations, World Trade Organization participation, and trade sanctions.

The Food System and Regulatory Policy results summarize seven questions on food and food system policy. This chapter includes a focus on labeling and traceability issues, including country-of-origin labeling, animal identification, and labeling of biotechnology-derived food products. The chapter also includes a focus on testing policies for *bovine spongiform encephalopathy* (BSE).

A chapter on Related Policy Issues covers the optional questions that were asked in various states. This chapter includes a focus on issues and policies in the areas of commodity programs and risk management, conservation and land management, rural development, agricultural credit, research and education, and labor.

A summary of Survey Demographics completes the analysis of survey questions by listing personal and economic characteristics of the survey respondents. Sections address operator characteristics; farm income characteristics; and education, management, and related issues.

The Conclusion summarizes key results and implications of the survey findings for agricultural, food, and public policy issues.

The Appendix includes summary tables of state composite results for all questions summarized in the report and a copy of the national survey questionnaire and the optional question set.

Farm Programs and Budget Priorities

The 2007 Farm Bill may need to reduce or reallocate federal funding for current farm programs. The new legislation may also require support for new programs from new or reallocated federal funding. Given these possible trade-offs, agricultural producers were asked their opinions on three related issues. What should be the fundamental goals for the farm bill? How important is it to maintain funding for existing programs? And, how important is it to provide new or reallocated funding for other selected program initiatives?

Farm Bill Goals

In the first question of the survey, eight separate goals were proposed to producers to be ranked in terms of importance. Seven of the goals are long-standing, and have been mentioned in farm bill discussions for many years. These include ideas related to farm income, risk, competitiveness, small and beginning farms, natural resources, rural economies, and the food supply. The eighth goal invokes agriculture's role in renewable energy. While not a goal of long historical reference, energy has become a major issue in recent years and had a separate title

in the farm bill in 2002. Results for the question on farm bill goals are presented in Table 2.

At the nationwide level, producers ranked renewable energy and enhanced small/beginning farm opportunities as the most important goals for farm legislation. The scores for both goals, rounded to 4.32 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important) were significantly higher than all other goals. The renewable energy goal scored slightly higher and thus, is listed first in the nationwide rankings. The responses by size strata show that renewable energy ranked highly across the farm size spectrum. By comparison, small/beginning farm opportunities ranked high predominantly on the strength of its ranking by small and medium size farms.

Producing a safe, secure, abundant, and affordable food supply also ranked highly among producers with a composite score of 4.29. These three ranked goals stand above the rest, as is illustrated in Figure 4. While these three goals were consistent across all regions, the order of ranking did change. The North Central region placed renewable energy as the top goal, the Northeast ranked small and

beginning farms first, and the South and West ranked the secure food supply as the highest priority.

At the other end of the scale, reducing price and income risk ranked lowest among the eight choices for goals for the farm bill. It should be noted that the composite score of 3.85 on a scale of 1 to 5 comes from results that show a majority (66 percent) of producers ranked the goal as important or most important. Overall the listed farm bill goals received relatively high rankings, showing broad levels of support among producers.

Program Funding

Producers were asked to prioritize which of several existing programs are most important to maintain in light of potential funding constraints or trade-offs. The results for 10 separate programs or program categories are listed in Table 3.

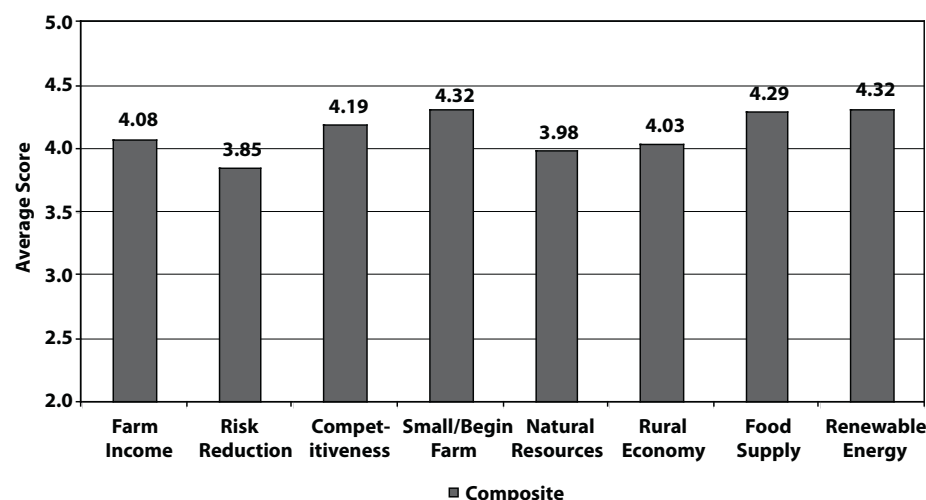
In the 2002 farm legislation, producers of program crops received a mix of programs geared to supporting prices and enhancing farm income, including the three-part commodity program safety net of direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, and marketing assistance loans. Outside of the farm

Table 2. Goals for the Farm Bill (Question 1)

Farm Bill Goal	Rankings Across Farm Size and Regions*								
	Average Score by Farm Size (Nationwide)				Relative Rank by Region				
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Nation-wide	North Central	North-east	South	West
Enhance Farm Income	4.09	4.07	4.03	4.08 ^d	5	5	4	5	6
Reduce Risk	3.82	3.98	3.94	3.85 ^a	8	8	8	8	8
Increase Competitiveness	4.19	4.11	4.19	4.19 ^c	4	4	6	4	4
Enhance Small/Beginning Farm Opportunities	4.39	4.16	3.74	4.32 ^a	2	2	1	3	2
Protect Natural Resources	4.03	3.79	3.72	3.98 ^f	7	7	5	6	7
Enhance Rural Economies	4.06	3.93	3.90	4.03 ^e	6	6	7	6	5
Assure Food Supply	4.33	4.08	4.14	4.29 ^b	3	3	3	1	1
Reduce Dependence on Non-Renewable Energy	4.33	4.28	4.29	4.32 ^a	1	1	2	2	3

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Nationwide composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-1 in Appendix A.

Figure 4. Goals for the Farm Bill (Question 1)



program, additional crop and select livestock commodities were covered by insurance and disaster assistance programs. For the 2007 farm legislation, producers placed the highest priority on maintaining funding for disaster assistance programs, with a score of 4.00 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). Crop and livestock insurance programs ranked second in importance, with a composite score of 3.58. Historically, both of these programs have been authorized by legislation outside of the traditional farm bill. Of possible significance in terms of the survey results, the perceived importance of these programs may have been influenced by the timing of the survey process, October 2005 to April 2006, a period in which legislative proposals for agricultural disaster assis-

tance were being discussed. The results may also be an indicator of the close linkage and interplay of these programs with the traditional safety net programs.

Producers also prioritized working lands conservation programs near the top of existing programs competing for continued funding. The score of 3.56 was statistically indifferent from the second-place insurance programs. The working lands programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Security Program (CSP) ranked significantly higher than either the preservation programs such as the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) and the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) or the and retirement programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

There are important differences across regions in the rankings shown in Table 3. Northeast producers placed a much higher priority on livestock commodity programs, ranking them fourth while the rest of the regions ranked them last. The importance of the livestock sector, particularly dairy, in the five Northeast states surveyed may have contributed to this ranking. Conversely, North Central producers ranked the three-part farm income safety net much higher than did the other regions. The North Central region also garners a much larger share of its receipts from the program commodities that do the other regions.

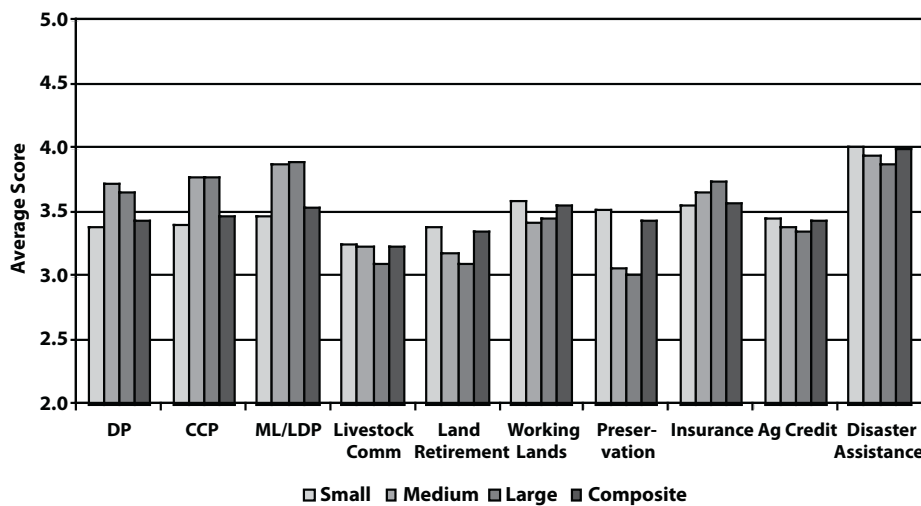
Commodity program receipts may also explain the relative differences in rankings of the farm income safety net programs across the farm size categories. Medium and large farms realize more of their receipts from program commodities than do small farms. As illustrated in Figure 5, medium and large farms ranked all parts of the farm income safety net (direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, commodity loans and loan deficiency payments, insurance programs, and disaster assistance) above the other listed programs. This expressed preference for the wider five-part safety net may suggest that farm bill deliberations could expand beyond the traditional three-part farm program safety net. But, it is also clear that not all producers preferred this mix of programs. In

Table 3. Maintenance of Funding for Existing Programs (Question 2)

Existing Program	Rankings Across Farm Size and Regions*								
	Average Score by Farm Size (Nationwide)				Relative Rank by Region				
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Nation-wide	North Central	North-east	South	West
Direct Payments	3.39	3.72	3.66	3.44 ^e	6	4	10	7	9
Counter-Cyclical Payments	3.41	3.77	3.78	3.47 ^d	5	3	9	8	7
Commodity Loans and LDPs	3.47	3.88	3.89	3.54 ^c	4	2	7	6	6
Livestock Commodity Supports	3.25	3.24	3.10	3.23 ^a	10	10	4	10	10
Land Retirement Programs	3.39	3.18	3.10	3.35 ^f	9	7	8	8	8
Working Land Programs	3.59	3.42	3.45	3.56 ^{bc}	3	6	2	3	3
Land Preservation Programs	3.52	3.06	3.02	3.44 ^e	7	9	3	5	5
Insurance Programs	3.55	3.66	3.75	3.58 ^b	2	5	6	2	2
Agricultural Credit Programs	3.45	3.38	3.35	3.44 ^e	8	8	5	4	4
Disaster Assistance Programs	4.02	3.95	3.88	4.00 ^a	1	1	1	1	1

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Nationwide composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-2 in Appendix A.

Figure 5. Maintenance of Funding for Existing Programs (Question 2)



general, small farms placed more value on some of the conservation programs and ranked working lands programs and preservation programs closely behind disaster assistance and insurance programs.

While it is evident that many existing programs are highly valued by producers, other new or existing programs might command significantly more funding in the coming farm bill, creating a situation of trade-offs between these programs and existing programs. To assess possible trade-offs, producers were asked to rank seven additional programs in terms of importance. The results are highlighted in Table 4.

Producers ranked bioenergy production incentives as the highest priority with a composite score of 3.78 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). Second in the priority ranking is additional funding for food safety initiatives with a composite score of 3.71. Last in the priority ranking was funding

for support payments for commodities outside of traditional farm program crops, including fruits, vegetables, other specialty crops, and livestock. A composite score for this program area of 3.06 represented 38 percent of producers ranking it as important or most important and 31 percent ranking it as least important or less important (30 percent neutral).

This issue of expanding programs to non-traditional commodities may be a major part of the farm bill discussion, particularly as it relates to possible changes in current program restrictions on fruit and vegetable production. Within the mixed score for this program area, the most support comes from small farms, while producers in the medium and large farm strata actually rank it below 3.00, demonstrating much less support. As medium and large farms might be greater participants in existing commodity

programs, this result suggests concern current program participants might have that widening the safety net to more producers could erode the size of their existing safety net.

Summary

Looking at all of the results, producers ranked bioenergy highest as a fundamental goal for farm bill legislation and also as a priority for new or reallocated funding. The question for policy makers is why? Do the recent increases in energy prices and the recent growth in the biofuels production sector indicate a new environment for farm bill legislation? Or, are the producer preferences a temporary response to the short-term shocks in market conditions?

Similarly, producers ranked disaster assistance highest among existing program funding categories. Is this a function of current stresses in the farm economy due to production problems and cost concerns, in particular, energy? Or, is it a signal of a longer-term desire for a formalized strategy to address what have become regular calls for disaster assistance?

Addressing these priority policy areas in a farm bill environment of budget constraints or program trade-offs will be challenging. Developing a comprehensive farm program in light of such disparate views of producers is always difficult. While medium- and large-scale producers put stock in the widely-defined farm income safety net, small producers have found more potential and put more priority on conservation programs. Regional and commodity differences also

lead to different program priorities. How these varying priorities are addressed and how the resulting legislation is developed to the success of the farm bill.

Table 4. Provision of New or Reallocated Funding for Select Programs (Question 3)

Program	Rankings Across Farm Size and Regions*								
	Average Score by Farm Size (Nationwide)				Relative Rank by Region				
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Nation-wide	North Central	North-east	South	West
Supports Tied to Farm Income	3.45	3.57	3.32	3.45 ^c	3	3	4	5	6
Supports for Non-Program Commodities	3.11	2.83	2.72	3.06 ^f	7	7	6	7	7
Incentives for Farm Savings Accounts	3.43	3.22	3.14	3.39 ^d	5	5	3	3	4
Bioenergy Production Incentives	3.78	3.77	3.78	3.78 ^a	1	1	1	2	1
Biosecurity Incentives	3.42	3.35	3.38	3.41 ^d	4	4	3	4	5
Food Safety Programs	3.75	3.53	3.53	3.71 ^b	2	2	2	1	2
Traceability and Certification	3.30	3.20	3.21	3.28 ^e	6	6	5	6	3

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Nationwide composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-3 in Appendix A.

Commodity Programs and Risk Management Policy

Commodity programs and related risk management programs have been a fundamental part of federal farm policy over the years. The design of these programs and their impact on producers and production decisions is a critical part of the farm bill debate. Producers were asked to respond to several questions relating to farm program directions and implementation issues.

Program Implementation Issues

The first part of Table 5 compares two separate basic policy directions for the next farm bill. Should farm programs be phased out over the length of the 2007 Farm Bill? Or, should farm programs be reduced, but not phased out in the 2007 Farm Bill? Producers were strongly opposed to either choice and were even more opposed to a phase-out than a reduction. Producers scored a phase-out at 2.37 on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). This score represents 59 percent of producers who strongly disagreed or disagreed with the phase-out option as opposed to only 22 percent who agreed or strongly agreed that programs should be phased out (19 percent neutral). By comparison, a phase-down scored higher statistically at 2.48, but it still represented a preference

of 52 percent who strongly disagreed or disagreed with a reduction to only 25 percent who agreed or strongly agreed that there should be a reduction in program benefits (22 percent neutral).

In contrast to the negative opinion on elimination or reduction of commodity program payments, there was more producer support for increased targeting of program payments to small farmers. In Table 5, the analysis of this targeting concept shows a composite score of 3.78 on the scale of 1 to 5. This score is largely supported by the responses of small- and medium-scale producers at 3.87 and 3.65, respectively. Large-scale producers are less agreeable with the concept of targeting, scoring a nearly-neutral 2.94. The survey question addressed here does not define a small farm, so the concept of targeting to small farms is a relative and often elusive concept. In fact, results in the demographics section will show that even a significant percentage of “large” farms (defined by the survey strata as those farms with sales of \$250,000 or more) consider themselves to be “small”. While the concept of targeting may be agreeable to many, its implementation at a specific size level could be more challenging.

At the bottom of Table 5 are three alternative proposals for tightening commodity program payment limit rules. The three alternatives are: lowering payment limits, eliminating the three-entity rule, and eliminating unlimited commodity loan certificate and forfeiture gains. Among these three alternatives, producers most favored eliminating the three-entity rule. The composite score for this alternative was 3.69 on the scale of 1 to 5, significantly higher than either of the other two choices. The second choice was eliminating the unlimited commodity loan certificate and forfeiture gains with a composite score of 3.42, a score that still represented general agreement among producers. The alternative of lowering program payment limits scored 3.06, showing a near-neutral mix of producer sentiment.

The rankings of these three payment limit alternatives are consistent across all regions and across all size strata. However, it is clear that large-scale producers are less favorable to any of the proposed revisions than are small- and medium-scale producers and, in fact, are disagreeable with the choice of lowering program payment limits.

Table 5. Commodity Program Implementation (Questions 4-9)

Implementation Issue	Rankings Across Farm Size and Regions*								
	Average Score by Farm Size (Nationwide)				Relative Rank by Region				
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Nation-wide	North Central	Northeast	South	West
Phase Out Commodity Payments (4)	2.43	2.06	2.10	2.37 ^b	2	2	2	2	1
Reduce Commodity Payments (5)	2.51	2.32	2.31	2.48 ^a	1	1	1	1	2
Target Payments to Small Farmers (6)	3.87	3.65	2.94	3.78	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lower Program Payment Limits (7)	3.08	3.15	2.82	3.06 ^c	3	3	3	3	3
Eliminate the Three-Entity Rule (8)	3.71	3.78	3.33	3.69 ^a	1	1	1	1	1
Eliminate Unlimited Commodity Loan Gains (9)	3.44	3.47	3.15	3.42 ^b	2	2	2	2	2

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion. Nationwide composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD within each group of questions. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05). Detailed results are listed in Table A-4 in Appendix A.

Table 6. Commodity Program Buy-Out (Question 10)

Commodity Program Buy-Out Issue		Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
		Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
		(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Offer Producers a Buy-Out?	Yes	23	21	22	23	21	24	24	23
	No	40	50	53	42	47	31	39	41
	Don't Know	37	28	25	35	32	45	36	35
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
15-Year Buy-Out with Lump Sum Payment	Yes	25	23	26	25	23	22	29	20
	No	32	43	42	34	39	28	28	34
	Don't Know	43	34	33	41	37	49	42	45
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
15-Year Buy-Out with Installment Payments	Yes	24	24	24	24	23	22	27	20
	No	32	40	41	33	37	27	29	33
	Don't Know	44	35	34	42	39	50	43	47
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
25-Year Buy-Out with Lump Sum Payment	Yes	29	33	35	30	29	23	36	26
	No	29	36	33	30	35	28	24	30
	Don't Know	41	32	32	39	36	49	40	43
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
25-Year Buy-Out with Installment Payments	Yes	26	31	32	27	27	23	30	24
	No	29	35	35	30	34	26	26	30
	Don't Know	44	34	33	42	39	51	44	46
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents answering "Yes", "No", or "No Opinion/Don't Know" for each separate part of the question. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-5 in Appendix A.

Program Buy-Out

In a departure from existing program issues, producers were also asked about preferences regarding a commodity program buy-out. Given the recent history of buy-out programs for tobacco and peanuts and the precedent of a dairy program buy-out in the mid-1980s, the concept is potentially familiar, although there are no specific details or dollar amounts to attach to the possible alternatives. The results of the multi-part buy-

out question are shown in Table 6 across size strata and regions and in Figure 6 for the composite results.

Nationwide, 23 percent of producers answered "yes" to the question of whether or not producers should be offered a buy-out of existing commodity programs. A total of 42 percent answered "no" and 35 percent answered "no opinion/don't know". The results suggest that while support for such a proposal is modest, a large percentage of producers are unsure

of what a buy-out could mean. About two-thirds of producers with an opinion did not favor the offering of a commodity program buy-out. This general preference was consistent across size categories and across regions of the country.

Taking the buy-out question further, the survey asked for producer opinions on the terms of a buy-out if one were offered. Producers were questioned on their preference for a lump-sum payment or an installment payment of the present value of either 15 years worth of commodity program payments or 25 years worth of commodity program payments. While the results were still dominated by the response of "don't know", it is apparent that producers had clear preferences on any buy-out terms. Thirty percent of producers agreed with a 25-year buy-out with a lump sum payment while 27 percent of producers agreed with a 25-year buy-out with installment payments. By comparison, 25 percent of producers agreed with a 15-year buy-out with a lump sum payment and 24 percent of producers agreed with a 15-year buy-out with installment payments.

The results shed some light on the challenges of a potential buy-out

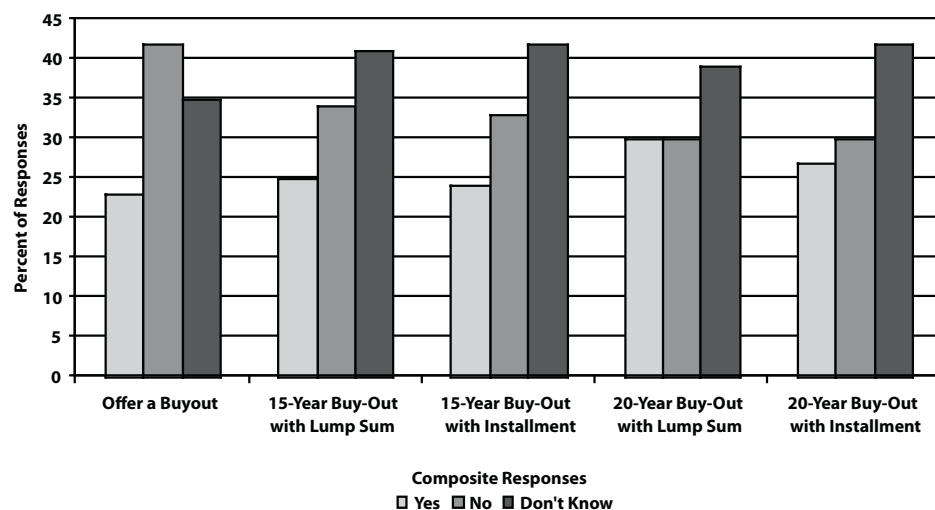
Figure 6. Commodity Program Buy-Out (Question 10)

Table 7. Dairy Programs (Question 11)

Policy Alternative	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Eliminate all dairy support programs	28	24	29	28	26	22	28	34
Eliminate the MILC program and retain the price support program	16	17	17	16	16	12	16	16
Eliminate the price support program and make payments through MILC	13	15	16	13	15	13	11	14
Re-authorize both the price support program and the MILC program	44	43	39	43	43	53	45	36
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-6 in Appendix A.

program. Even before the difficulty of funding a buy-out is addressed, the buy-out concept would face difficulty of acceptance with producers. The results showed producers favoring 25-years worth of payments in contrast to 15-years worth of payments. The results also showed a preference for a one-time lump sum payment instead of a series of installment payments (Figure 6). It is possible that some of the uncertainty or disagreement that producers have regarding a buy-out would be eliminated by a detailed proposal for a buy-out program. However, the results suggest producers are not eager to accept a buy-out payment in lieu of continued commodity programs.

Dairy Programs

The federal dairy program includes a combination of income support tools and marketing orders. The marketing order structure influences pricing patterns and milk flows across regions of the country. The price support mechanism is designed to support producer prices received for milk by supporting the minimum milk price through government purchases of cheese, butter, and non-fat dry milk. The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) as defined in the 2002 Farm Bill and as extended in recent legislation pays producers on a portion of their milk production when the price of fluid milk drops below a specified target price set in policy. Looking at the future options

for milk programs, producers were asked their preferences for either extending or eliminating combinations of the two price safety net programs. The results are shown in Table 7.

The largest percentage of producers nationwide (43 percent) favored retaining both the price support program and the MILC program. While size did not appear to be a major influence on producer opinion, there were diverging views across regions. Producers in the Northeast were much more in favor of re-authorizing both support programs (53 percent) than were producers in any of the other regions, particularly the West (36 percent). Conversely, more than one third of producers in the West were in favor of eliminating both support programs for dairy, a much larger percentage than in any of the other regions.

Summary

Summing up the commodity programs portion of the survey demonstrates the challenges policy makers face in crafting the next farm bill. Producers were clearly against a wide-scale elimination of commodity programs, with a majority of producers against either a phase-out of programs or even a phase-down of programs. Similarly, producers were not in favor of a buy-out program as a means to eliminate commodity programs.

Within the scope of existing programs, producers expressed some clear preferences for policy changes if they were to occur. Producers favored targeting commodity program payments to small producers. Producers also supported possible payment limit reductions, although they showed a clear preference for eliminating the three-entity rule first, eliminating unlimited commodity loan certificate and forfeiture gains second, and finally reducing payment limit levels. With the overall support for targeting payments to small producers, the ranking of the three alternative payment limit proposals may suggest that the three-entity rule and the unlimited commodity loan gains are simply larger targets for initial policy changes.

The dairy results also illustrate the difficult challenges facing policy makers. The largest percentage of producers favored continuing both the dairy price support program and the MILC program. The challenge is that the design of these programs may not be fully compatible. The MILC program supports additional production during times of lower prices while the additional production can require additional government dairy product purchases in an attempt to maintain the basic milk price at support levels. Whether changes in dairy policy can be proposed that are both technically feasible and politically feasible remains to be seen.

Conservation and Environmental Policy

Conservation of the nation's land and water resources has been a well-recognized national priority. Effective federal program design must deal with targeting conservation priorities, streamlining program delivery, managing partnerships with state and local governments, recognizing changes in farm and land ownership, and encouraging farmers and rural landowners to be conservation-minded, all within budget constraints. Because of the significant issues involved in these programs, producers were asked to respond to questions on several conservation programs and issues.

Environmental Goals and Incentives

The survey asked producers to evaluate the use of technical assistance and direct financial assistance from the USDA as incentives to address various environmental goals. The results are listed in Table 8 by farm size strata and by region. Figure 7 illustrates the nationwide preferences.

Voluntary federal programs to provide conservation assistance

and incentives to producers date to the 1930s. Beginning in the 1980s, greater attention has been given to water quality issues. Survey results suggest producers are uniformly in favor of continuing this federal assistance with a sharp focus on

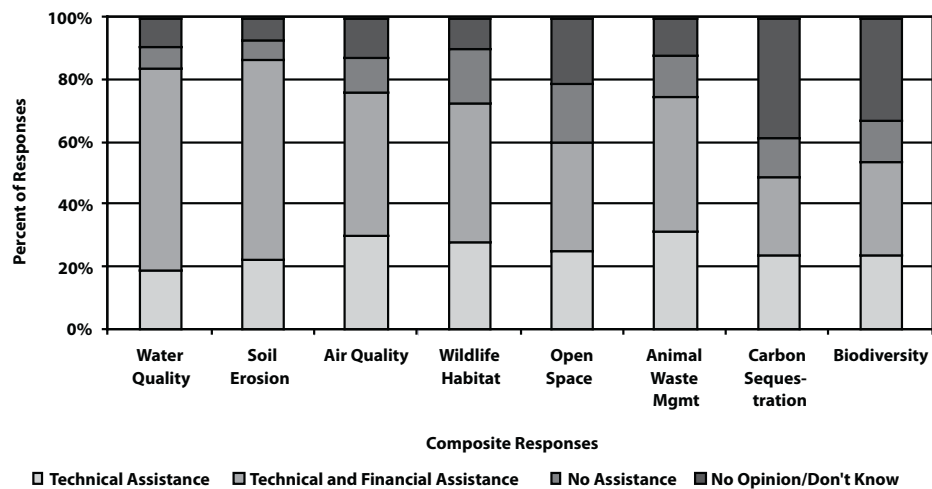
water quality. Nationwide, 65 percent of producers preferred federal technical and financial assistance and an additional 19 percent of producers preferred technical assistance only. Altogether, a total of 84 percent of producers favored some form

Table 8. Environmental Goals and Conservation Programs (Question 12)

Environmental Goal		Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
		Small	Medium	Large	Composite	North Central	North-east	South	West
		(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Water Quality	No Assist.	7	6	7	7	7	5	8	9
	Tech. Assist.	19	18	19	19	18	16	20	19
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	65	67	68	65	65	68	66	65
	Don't Know	9	8	6	9	10	10	7	8
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Soil Erosion	No Assist.	7	6	6	7	7	5	6	9
	Tech. Assist.	23	20	23	23	21	25	23	26
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	64	68	67	65	66	61	66	58
	Don't Know	7	6	5	7	7	8	6	8
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Air Quality	No Assist.	11	14	13	11	12	10	9	12
	Tech. Assist.	30	30	31	30	30	28	30	31
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	47	42	45	46	44	47	49	45
	Don't Know	13	13	11	13	15	15	11	12
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Wildlife Habitat	No Assist.	16	23	21	17	19	17	14	17
	Tech. Assist.	27	30	32	28	28	27	28	26
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	46	37	37	44	42	42	49	47
	Don't Know	10	10	9	10	11	13	9	9
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Open Space Protection	No Assist.	18	25	25	19	21	15	16	23
	Tech. Assist.	25	25	25	25	24	22	28	23
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	36	29	29	35	30	46	37	40
	Don't Know	21	22	20	21	25	18	20	14
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Animal Waste Management	No Assist.	13	13	11	13	13	10	14	16
	Tech. Assist.	31	30	32	31	31	27	32	33
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	42	47	49	43	44	52	40	39
	Don't Know	13	10	9	12	11	12	15	13
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Carbon Sequestration	No Assist.	12	16	14	13	12	9	12	15
	Tech. Assist.	24	24	26	24	24	22	25	23
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	25	27	29	26	25	27	24	28
	Don't Know	40	34	30	39	39	42	39	35
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Biodiversity Maintenance	No Assist.	12	16	15	13	12	10	12	15
	Tech. Assist.	24	25	27	24	24	24	25	25
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	30	27	29	30	28	32	30	32
	Don't Know	34	33	29	33	35	34	33	28
		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents answering "No Federal Assistance," "Technical Assistance Only," "Technical and Financial Assistance," or "No Opinion/Don't Know". Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-7 in Appendix A.

Figure 7. Environmental Goals and Conservation Programs (Question 12)



of federal assistance to address water quality issues. These preferences were consistent across farm size groups and across regions of the country.

Soil erosion is the nation's most persistent conservation problem, leading to reduced long-term soil productivity and water quality impairments off-site. Survey results again suggest producers are heavily in favor of federal assistance for the control of soil erosion. A total of 88 percent of producers favored some form of assistance to address soil erosion, whether through technical assistance (23 percent) or through technical and financial assistance (65 percent). These preferences are also consistent across farm size groups and across regions.

Together, water quality and soil erosion dominated the eight listed conservation goals. As illustrated clearly by the cumulative percentages shown in Figure 7, more than 80 percent of producers favored some form of federal assistance for water quality and soil erosion control. These two goals draw on a history of programs and support and continue to be the primary focus for producers.

A large percentage of producers (76 percent) favored federal assistance for air quality management even though federal assistance to address air quality issues in agriculture has received limited emphasis to date. The survey suggests that potential air quality assistance however, is an emergent issue. The percentage of producers favoring technical and financial assistance decreased relative to

the water quality and soil erosion and the number of producers answering "don't know" increased. But, preferences for air quality technical assistance (30 percent) or technical and financial assistance (46 percent), are consistent across farm size groups and regions.

Several federal conservation programs or parts of programs encourage wildlife habitat protection and enhancement (WHIP, CRP, CSP, and EQIP). Producers strongly supported assistance for wildlife habitat, with 28 percent favoring technical assistance and 44 percent favoring technical and financial assistance. Differences across farm size categories and regions in the producer support for wildlife habitat incentives are minimal.

Open space protection is an increasingly familiar part of the national discussion of environmental issues and conservation priorities, particularly through a number of state and local farmland preservation efforts. Beginning with the 1996 farm legislation, Congress has provided for limited federally-funded assistance programs. Survey results show that producers favored incentives for open space protection, either through technical assistance (25 percent) or through technical and financial assistance (35 percent). The number of producers responding "don't know" is higher for this goal (21 percent). Unlike the previously discussed environmental goals, it is apparent that producers in the Northeast and in the West, where farmland protection programs are more prominent, were more

supportive of both technical and financial assistance for open space preservation. A higher percentage of small farms also favored some form of assistance (71 percent) than did medium or large farms (61 percent and 49 percent respectively), a finding that is consistent with the earlier discussion of greater small farm preferences for maintaining budget dollars for preservation programs.

Animal waste issues have been addressed through federal legislation since the early 1970s. A combination of regulatory guidelines and voluntary incentive and assistance programs, largely under authority delegated to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, have been used to address both point-source and non-point-source concerns. While the mix of regulations and incentives is continuing to evolve, producers supported using farm legislation as a vehicle for providing federal assistance to address waste management (74 percent), either in the form of technical assistance (31 percent) or technical and financial assistance (43 percent). While there is general support for assistance across all size groups and regions of the country, producers in the small-scale category were less in favor of financial assistance (42 percent support) than were medium-scale producers (47 percent support) and large-scale producers (49 percent support). In part, many small-scale producers recognize that their operations are not subject to certain waste management regulations and thus, are likely to see fewer benefits from any financial incentives.

Carbon sequestration is another emergent environmental goal that has received increasing attention in recent years. Nearly 40 percent of producers responding to the survey answered "don't know" to the question of offering technical or financial assistance for carbon sequestration. There were no major farm size or regional deviations from this general response. These results suggest that education to inform policy decisions is a challenge in this area. Similarly, there are still a number of issues to address and questions to research in developing future policies or programs focused on carbon sequestration.

Table 9. Conservation Program State Block Grants (Question 13)

Agreement on Transferring Block Grants to States for Conservation	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Strongly Disagree or Disagree	19	18	21	19	18	21	20	20
Neutral	17	19	18	17	19	17	15	13
Agree or Strongly Agree	53	53	55	53	52	49	54	57
No Opinion/Don't Know	12	9	7	11	10	14	12	10
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-8 in Appendix A.

Biodiversity concerns are also a still-emerging component of the environmental debate for U.S. agriculture. A third of all producers answered “don’t know” in regard to the provision of federal technical or financial assistance for biodiversity, a similar pattern to that for carbon sequestration. This pattern holds across farm size categories and across regions.

When reviewing all eight listed conservation goals, the numbers show they are all well supported (Figure 7), with 50 percent or more of producers favoring either technical assistance or technical and financial assistance. But, water quality and soil erosion top the list of goals in terms of producer support, followed by the goals of air quality, animal waste management, and wildlife habitat. The remaining goals, open space preservation, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity maintenance show less support due in part to greater producer uncertainties. Defining the needs, opportunities, and objectives of any federal assistance is critical to addressing these uncertainties.

Program Implementation Issues

While there are a number of different environmental and conservation goals targeted by conservation programs, there are also a number of different programs, each with a unique design and purpose. There are several questions about key programs and questions about the general structure of funding federal conservation programs. Three questions on the survey addressed these issues in more depth.

Producers were asked their opinion on whether the federal government

should distribute conservation funds through block grants to the states, giving the states more authority to implement conservation programs. Table 9 displays an analysis of this issue.

Nationwide, a majority of producers agreed with the concept of federal funding transferred as block grants to states for implementing conservation programs. A total of 53 percent of producers agreed or strongly agreed with the idea; only 19 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed (17 percent neutral and 11 percent no opinion/don’t know). These preferences were generally consistent across farm size categories. Responses were also consistent across regions of the country, although block grants might shift the allocation of conservation funding in a different pattern across states and regions that the current distribution of conservation funding.

Another question focused on the future of the Conservation Reserve Program. The CRP currently has more than 36 million acres enrolled through various enrollment periods and options. A continuing issue for the future of the CRP is the fate of enrolled acreage when contracts expire. This issue is particularly critical now because a large majority of the currently-enrolled acres are set to expire within the next three years. In the spring of 2006, after the survey period was complete, the Secretary of Agriculture announced re-enrollment options for certain categories of lands currently enrolled in the program and short-term extensions of other categories of enrolled land. The re-enrollment and extension offer stretches out the large share of expirations, but at least 80 percent of the expiring contracts will still do so in

the next few years. Producer preferences regarding the future of the CRP are summarized in Table 10.

The largest group (34 percent) of producers nationwide favored maintaining traditional CRP implementation rules which allowed contracts to expire and be competitively re-bid for enrollment. Not far behind was the group favoring automatic re-enrollment of existing contracts on land offering the highest environmental benefits (29 percent), an alternative similar to the option announced by the Secretary. Together, these groups represented 63 of producers looking for a continuation of the CRP at its current scale through either re-bidding or automatic re-enrollment options. Only 36 percent of producers nationwide were looking to downsize the CRP by reducing and targeting future enrollments (18 percent) or by eliminating it as current contracts expire (18 percent). These results are consistent across farm size categories and regions, although there is substantial deviation among some states and to a lesser extent, among regions regarding the elimination of the CRP (for state results, refer to Appendix Table A-9).

Producers were also asked about future options for the Conservation Security Program. The CSP was first authorized in the *Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002* and was first implemented in fiscal year 2004. Currently, the CSP is being implemented on a watershed-by-watershed basis across the country. Through the first three years of implementation, the program has reached roughly 10 percent of the potential watersheds nationwide. Producers were asked their opinion on

Table 10. Conservation Reserve Program (Question 14)

Future Policy Alternative	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Allow Contracts to Expire and Compete for Re-Enrollment	34	34	32	34	34	31	37	30
Allow Highest-Ranking Contracts to Re-Enroll Automatically at Existing Rental Rates	28	31	31	29	32	27	25	27
Reduce CRP Acreage and Restrict Future Enrollments to Environmentally-Sensitive Lands	18	20	20	18	19	21	17	19
Eliminate the CRP as Current Contracts Expire	19	16	16	18	15	20	21	24
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-9 in Appendix A.

Table 11. Conservation Security Program (Question 15)

Future Policy Alternative	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Continue Implementation on a Watershed-by-Watershed Basis	55	58	57	55	58	57	53	51
Increase Funding for Immediate Nationwide Implementation	22	20	21	22	21	23	23	23
Eliminate the Program as Current Contracts Expire	22	22	22	22	20	19	25	26
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the three policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-10 in Appendix A.

whether to continue implementing the CSP on a watershed-by-watershed basis, to increase funding to implement the program nationally immediately, or to cut the program and eliminate existing contracts as they expire. The results are shown in Table 11.

Producers overwhelmingly favored continued implementation of the CSP. However, more than half the producers (55 percent) favored continuing the current implementation approach based on a watershed-by-watershed approach while just 22 percent favored increased funding for immediate nationwide

implementation. These preferences are surprisingly consistent across farm size and region. One explanation might be a bias toward maintaining the status quo, which is the watershed-by-watershed approach. Or, there may be a concern over the budget cost of full, nationwide implementation and the resulting competition or trade-off of dollars for other existing programs.

Summary

Overall, the survey indicated a large proportion of producers supported various conservation goals and conserva-

tion programs. Federal assistance to address specific conservation goals had strong support from producers, whether it is technical assistance, financial assistance, or both. A majority of producers supported the continued funding and implementation of major conservation programs like the CRP and the CSP. However, there was also a majority of producers favoring the transfer of federal conservation dollars to states to design and operate conservation programs at the state level. Continued support for conservation spending is clearly evident. The design of conservation spending remains as one of the key issues.

Trade Policy

Most U.S. agricultural commodities are substantially affected by international trade including both competition from imports and demand for exports. The United States participates in bilateral and regional trade agreements and in the multinational World Trade Organization (WTO). Because of the impact of international trade, producers were asked their opinion on a number of trade issues, the results of which are summarized in Table 12.

Trade Negotiations

Trade negotiations are a fundamental part of trade policy, whether they are part of bilateral, regional, or multilateral talks. Producers continued to favor the pursuit of free-trade agreements (question 16), with a nationwide composite score of 3.42 on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Some 56 percent of producers agreed or strongly agreed with the pursuit of free trade. Just 27 percent of producers disagreed or strongly disagreed while 16 percent were neutral. This result generally holds across all size categories and regions except the West. There, the average score was a near-neutral 2.94, indicating a producer base that is split on the idea of free trade. A total of 41 percent of Western producers disagreed or strongly disagreed with the pursuit of free-trade; an identical 41

percent agreed or strongly agreed (18 percent neutral).

While the results demonstrate nationwide producer support for the pursuit of free trade agreements, there are some limits or qualifications on this support. Producers favored placing more emphasis on domestic policies than on trade policies (question 19). This issue is often characterized by concern about potential conflict between domestic policies and trade policies and the role of domestic goals in trade policy, a concept sometimes called multifunctionality. A total of 44 percent of producers agreed or strongly agreed with this increased focus on domestic goals while 27 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed (29 percent neutral).

Additionally, while producers favored pursuing free trade agreements, they also strongly favored doing so in a comprehensive set of negotiations that include labor laws, environmental impacts, and food safety standards (question 17). A total of 77 percent of producers agreed or strongly agreed with the idea of comprehensive negotiations while just 10 percent of producers disagreed or strongly disagreed (13 percent neutral).

World Trade Organization Issues

The support for pursuing free-trade agreements is a foundation piece in the trade policy arena. The advent of the WTO in the last round of global trade negotiations brought up its own set of issues, including on-going multilateral trade negotiations and trade dispute settlement. U.S. producers demonstrated support of the free-trade agenda and the role of the WTO in their general disagreement on the idea of withdrawing from the WTO (question 20). The nationwide composite score of 2.82 reflected 43 percent of producers disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with withdrawal while just 28 percent of producers agreed or strongly agreed (29 percent neutral). As with free-trade pursuit, the West was an exception to this result, with a slight margin of producers (38 percent) who agreed or strongly agreed with withdrawal against 36 percent of producers who disagreed or strongly disagreed (26 percent neutral).

Producers clearly expected greater market access problems if in fact the United States were to withdraw from the WTO (question 21). With an average score of 3.43, a majority of producers (52 percent) agreed or strongly agreed with the premise that market access would be more difficult upon withdrawal from

Table 12. Trade Policy Issues (Questions 16-22)

Trade Policy Issue	Average Score by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Average Score by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	North Central	North-east	South	West
Pursue Free-Trade Agreements (16)	3.41	3.41	3.55	3.42	3.54	3.39	3.47	2.94
Include Labor, Environment, and Food Safety in Trade Negotiations (17)	4.11	3.95	3.94	4.08	3.99	4.16	4.18	4.10
Eliminate Export Credits and Industry Payments to Comply with WTO (18)	3.22	3.05	3.00	3.19	3.22	3.38	3.06	3.26
Emphasize Domestic Economic and Social Policy Goals Rather than Trade (19)	3.31	3.20	3.04	3.28	3.22	3.33	3.29	3.39
Withdraw from WTO (20)	2.83	2.80	2.71	2.82	2.73	2.66	2.90	3.06
Greater Market Access Problems if U.S. Withdraws from WTO (21)	3.43	3.39	3.47	3.43	3.47	3.58	3.40	3.23
Eliminate Unilateral Sanctions on Food Trade (22)	3.20	3.30	3.33	3.22	3.30	3.13	3.17	3.12

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion. Detailed results are listed in Table A-11 in Appendix A.

the WTO. Only 22 percent of producers disagreed or strongly disagreed while 26 percent were neutral. The West was in agreement with the rest of the country on this question, although it was at a lower level of agreement based on the average score of 3.23.

Producers expressed additional support for WTO principles in their agreement on the need to comply with WTO rulings and eliminate export credits and industry payments (such as Step 2 payments for cotton) that were found to be in violation of WTO rules (question 18). The nationwide composite score of 3.19 reflected a total of 36 percent of producers in agreement and just 24 percent in disagreement. A large segment of producers (40 percent) are neutral on this issue, perhaps due to a lack of familiarity with the specific programs or a perspective that the issue only affected cotton producers as the target of the recent WTO ruling. The lower average score in the South (3.06) and the lower average scores for medium and large producers (3.05 and 3.00 respectively) suggests that cotton producers may think differently about this issue than producers of other commodities.

It is noted that the violating portions of the export credit program and the

industry payments have already been eliminated as part of the response of the United States to comply with the WTO ruling in the Brazil-vs.-United States cotton case. It is also noted that the issue of trade compliance is not limited to these specific programs nor is it limited to cotton. If the United States makes additional program adjustments in compliance with the WTO cotton ruling, or if the United States faces additional WTO challenges on programs for other commodities, the preferences of producers would be expected to adjust.

Trade Sanctions

Apart from the WTO framework, producers also favor expanded trade opportunities in terms of eliminating unilateral sanctions on food trade (question 22). Unilateral trade sanctions such as those between the United States and Cuba prevent or curtail trade between the two countries, including food products. With an average score of 3.22, a total of 44 percent of producers agreed or strongly agreed that unilateral trade sanctions on food should be eliminated. Just 29 percent of producers disagreed or strongly disagreed with the elimination of sanctions while 27 percent of producers were neutral.

Summary

Survey results indicate that producers generally supported trade agreements and trade opportunities. Producers favored pursuing free trade agreements, favored maintaining membership in the WTO, and even favored complying with WTO rulings. However, producers also showed preferences that may temper their support of trade and the WTO, including a greater focus on domestic policy instead of trade policy and a comprehensive trade negotiating process that includes labor, environmental, and food safety standards. These preferences, at a minimum, add complexity to the negotiations process for any trade agreement.

It must be remembered that these results come from a producer surveys distributed between October 2005 and April 2006. During this period, WTO negotiations were on-going, leading up to and following the ministerial meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005. The stalemate in WTO negotiations as of July 2006 might temper some of the producer support for trade expressed during the survey period.

Food System and Regulatory Policy

Many policies developed in the Farm Bill or in closely related legislation affect the nation's food system and regulatory framework. Because of the impact of these food system policies on U.S. agriculture, producers' opinions were sought on several key issues. Producer responses are summarized in Table 13.

Labeling and Traceability

A critical policy issue within the food system is the role of labeling and traceability regulations. In the *Food Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002*, legislation on country-of-origin labeling (COOL) called for voluntary guidelines for the labeling of certain covered commodities with mandatory rules slated for implementation in 2004. Legislation since that time has twice delayed the mandatory rules for most covered commodities until 2008, leaving the issue to be a likely point of debate during the development of the next farm bill.

Producers were asked two related questions on the implementation of mandatory COOL rules (question 23) and the development of voluntary COOL guidelines (question 24). Producers

strongly preferred mandatory COOL over voluntary COOL. Producers strongly supported mandatory rules, as illustrated by the nationwide composite score of 4.31 on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). This high score represents 83 percent of producers who agreed or strongly agreed with mandatory COOL, versus just 8 percent who disagreed or strongly disagreed (9 percent neutral). The composite score of 3.31 for voluntary COOL guidelines still indicated a majority of producers (54 percent) who agreed or strongly agreed with the development of voluntary COOL guidelines, but the score for voluntary COOL was substantially less than the score for mandatory COOL. This preference holds across farm size groups and across regions, indicating the importance producers place on the differentiation of products produced domestically versus those produced or originated internationally.

On the whole, producers were also supportive of labeling food products made with biotechnology regardless of whether there is a scientific difference in the product (question 29). The nation-

wide composite score of 3.51 comes from 56 percent of producers who agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal for labeling while just 24 percent of producers disagreed or strongly disagreed (21 percent neutral). While results were consistent across regions, it is evident in the average scores by size category that the support for biotech labeling rested primarily with the small farm category. Small farms scored a strong 3.63 on this issue, but medium producers were nearly neutral at 3.06 and large-scale producers showed disagreement with an average score of 2.78.

While the COOL issue and the biotech labeling issue are specific examples of food product tracking and labeling, there was also general support for government efforts to improve traceability across the food system (question 25). The nationwide composite score of 3.91 represented 69 percent of producers who were in agreement with the general concept of improving traceability of food products from the consumer back to the producer. Only 11 percent of producers were opposed, with 20 percent neutral on the issue of improved traceability.

Table 13. Food System and Regulatory Policy Issues (Questions 23-29)

Food System and Regulatory Policy Issue	Average Score by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Average Score by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	North Central	North-east	South	West
Implement Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling (23)	4.34	4.22	4.12	4.31 ^a	4.19	4.45	4.38	4.43
Develop Voluntary Country-of-Origin Labeling Guidelines (24)	3.31	3.32	3.31	3.31 ^b	3.31	3.33	3.34	3.21
Improve Food Product Traceability (25)	3.94	3.72	3.74	3.91 ^a	3.80	4.05	4.01	3.95
Adopt Mandatory Animal Identification (26)	3.57	3.34	3.44	3.54 ^b	3.47	3.69	3.56	3.63
Adopt Government-Mandated BSE Testing (27)	3.27	2.99	3.00	3.22 ^b	3.15	3.34	3.25	3.30
Establish Guidelines for Voluntary Industry BSE Testing (28)	3.38	3.37	3.39	3.38 ^a	3.36	3.37	3.42	3.37
Label Biotech Food Products (29)	3.63	3.06	2.78	3.51	3.33	3.73	3.69	3.58

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion. Nationwide composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD within each group of questions. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-12 in Appendix A.

When the traceability issue is defined as mandatory animal identification (question 26), support among producers drops somewhat. The survey results showed there is support for the government adopting mandatory animal identification rules, but the average score of 3.54 was substantially less than that for the general concept of improved traceability. This support for mandatory animal identification came from 58 percent of producers agreeing or strong agreeing with the idea and just 21 percent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing (21 percent neutral). Both of these proposals have consistent levels of support across farm size categories and across regions.

BSE Testing

Producers were asked two questions on *bovine spongiform encephalopathy* (BSE) testing – an option to adopt mandatory BSE testing of all cattle over 30 months of age (question 27) and an option to establish guidelines for voluntary BSE testing of cattle by private industry (question 28). As the results in Table 13 show, producers were more amenable to the establishment of voluntary guidelines for BSE testing of cattle by private industry than they were to government-mandated testing of all cattle over 30 months of age. The nationwide composite score of 3.38 on the scale of 1 to 5 for voluntary BSE testing was significantly higher than the score of 3.22 for mandatory BSE testing. This preference for voluntary testing over mandatory testing holds across all farm sizes and regions.

Summary

The survey results show there was support for COOL and a preference for mandatory COOL over voluntary COOL. There was also support for labeling biotech food products. Mandatory animal identification was also supported, although at a lesser level than for the general concept of improved food product traceability.

BSE testing proposals were also supported by producers, although the preference of producers was clearly for voluntary testing guidelines over mandatory testing rules. Altogether, these responses reflect the general strength of producer attitudes for developing and maintaining a safe and secure food system.

Related Policy Issues

Beyond the basic elements of commodity programs, conservation programs, and other farm, food, and trade policies, there are a number of policy issues that affect agriculture and rural America. Historically, some of these have been included in the farm bill. Others may be addressed outside of the farm bill, but still have a substantial impact on agriculture and rural America.

Several of these issues were addressed through an optional set of survey questions that were asked in select, but not all of the participating survey states. The optional questions are included at the end of Appendix B. Questions with sufficient state-by-state responses are analyzed here.

Commodity Programs and Risk Management

Three relevant questions on commodity programs and risk management were developed and asked in several states. The first addressed issues related to potential new programs for fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops. Historically, these crops have received some federal assistance through programs targeted at nutrition, research, and market development, but were not part of the traditional set of program crops.

Since the 2002 Farm Bill, the specialty crop sector has gained benefits from a separate legislative effort to expand federal funding for programs targeted at the sector (*Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004*). Existing program rules limiting the planting of fruits and vegetables on commodity program contract acreage were called into question in the WTO ruling against U.S. cotton supports. The possibility of eliminating this planting restriction in partial compliance with trade rules and the increased legislative efforts on behalf of the specialty crop sector have contributed to the need to explore potential policy alternatives for these crops.

Producers in seven states throughout the country were asked what kind of programs would be preferred if fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops were included in government programs.

Table 14 shows that producers ranked disaster assistance and federally-subsidized crop insurance as most important, with composite scores of 3.76 and 3.31, respectively on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). Block grants for state programs were ranked third among the listed program alternatives. Commodity loan programs (3.10), counter-cyclical payments (3.00), and direct payments (2.84) ranked fourth, fifth, and sixth respectively with average scores that reflected a near-neutral mix of producer preferences. The relative ranking of existing commodity program safety net tools at the bottom of the list suggests that if producers want program support for fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops, they may want it in a different form than the traditional commodity program safety net. The ranking could also be an indicator that producers of current commodity program crops are concerned about the potential for new crops to be added to the commodity program safety net and reduce the levels of support they currently receive.

A second question on commodity programs and risk management directly addresses the possible mix of insurance and risk management incentives. Producers were asked to rank several options if funding for risk management programs were increased. The results in Table 15 show the ranking of preferences

among existing insurance tools and other potential risk management programs.

When asked to prioritize crop insurance, livestock insurance, revenue insurance, savings accounts, and risk management incentive payments, producers in the 13 polled states ranked tax-deferred savings accounts highest with a composite score of 4.02 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). Approximately 76 percent of producers in the 13 states rated savings accounts as important or most important. Only 11 percent of producers rated savings accounts as less important or least important (13 percent neutral). Among the remaining choices, incentive payments ranked second. These incentive payments, which might encourage the use of risk management tools, including hedging, insurance, savings, and education, had a composite score of 3.44 on the scale of 1 to 5. The remaining alternatives were scored, in rank order from top to bottom, as crop production and revenue insurance, whole-farm income insurance, and finally livestock revenue insurance.

These rankings on risk management tools might seem unexpected, given the current demand for and usage of insurance programs by commodity producers and the support for insurance shown in the earlier survey question on existing program priorities (question 2). It is important to note that even livestock revenue insurance, last in the list of five

Table 14. Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Programs (Question Z1)

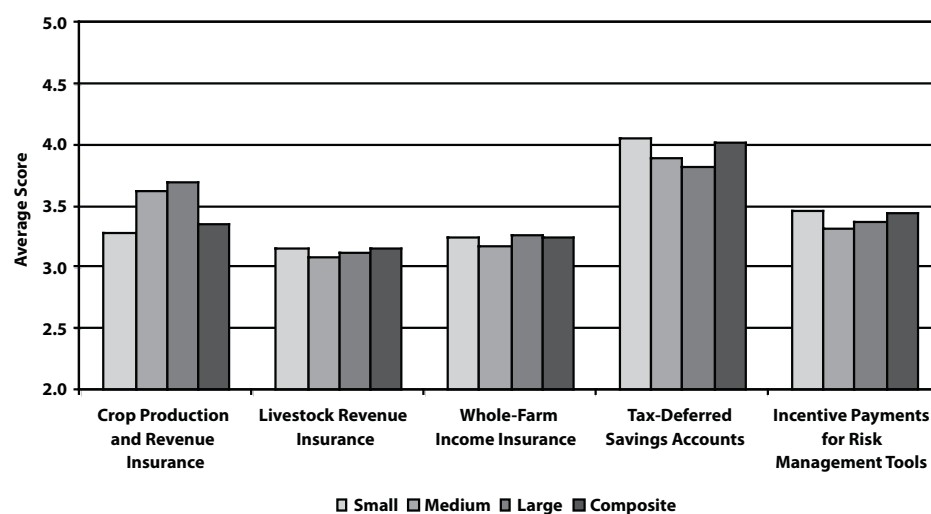
Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Program Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size (Among 7 Selected States)*				Composite Ranking
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Direct Payments	2.87	2.59	2.84	2.84 ^e	6
Counter-Cyclical Payments Tied to Price	3.02	3.02	2.84	3.00 ^d	5
Payments Tied to Price and Production (Commodity Loans and LDPs)	3.12	3.05	2.96	3.10 ^c	4
Subsidized Crop Insurance	3.28	3.37	3.48	3.31 ^b	2
Disaster Assistance Program	3.81	3.64	3.44	3.76 ^a	1
Block Grants for State Programs	3.19	2.90	2.91	3.14 ^c	3

* Selected states include Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Montana, New York, and Oregon. Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05). Detailed results are listed in Table A-13 in Appendix A.

Table 15. Risk Management Programs (Question Z2)

Risk Management Program Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size (Among 13 Selected States)*				Composite Ranking
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	
Increased Coverage Levels and Subsidies for Crop Production and Revenue Insurance	3.28	3.63	3.70	3.35 ^c	3
Increased Coverage Levels and Subsidies for Livestock Revenue Insurance	3.16	3.09	3.13	3.15 ^e	5
Increased Coverage Levels and Subsidies for Whole-Farm Income Insurance	3.24	3.17	3.27	3.24 ^d	4
Tax-Deferred Savings Accounts	4.05	3.90	3.83	4.02 ^a	1
Incentive Payments for Use of Risk Management Tools	3.47	3.32	3.38	3.44 ^b	2

* Selected states include Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-14 in Appendix A.

Figure 8. Risk Management Programs (Question Z2)**Table 16. Supply Control (Question Z3)**

Supply Control Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size (Among 6 Selected States)*				Composite Ranking
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	
Mandatory Non-Paid Set-Aside Acreage Program	2.46	2.15	2.06	2.41 ^c	3
Voluntary Paid Set-Aside Acreage Program	3.25	3.11	2.98	3.22 ^a	1
Farmer-Owned Reserve Commodity Storage Program	3.18	2.87	2.86	3.14 ^b	2

* Selected states include Alabama, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Texas. Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion. Composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-15 in Appendix A.

choices, has a score of 3.15, indicating 40 percent of producers rated it as important or most important while only 26 percent rated it as less important or least important (34 percent neutral).

Figure 8 further illustrates the risk management issue, showing that producers in the medium and large farm size categories rated crop production and revenue insurance much more highly than farmers in the small farm size category. As noted earlier, medium-scale and large-scale producers have received a larger share of their receipts from traditional program crops. Recognizing that these crops have historically had more available crop insurance tools, it would be expected that these producers ranked crop insurance more highly.

A final commodity policy question relates to the issue of supply control and management. The *Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act* in 1996 eliminated the authority for supply control measures such as acreage reduction requirements and commodity reserve. However, the issue still remains a point of discussion. Six states asked producers about supply control tools, focusing on policy alternatives of mandatory non-paid set-aside acreage, voluntary paid set-aside acreage, and a farmer-owned reserve commodity storage program, with the results shown in Table 16.

The voluntary paid set-aside ranked first among three supply control alternatives with a composite score of 3.22 on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The farmer-owned reserve ranked second with a composite score of 3.14. The mandatory unpaid set-aside ranked a distant third with a composite score of 2.41 on the scale of 1 to 5. The score of 2.41 showed strong disagreement as 57 percent of producers in the six states disagreed or strongly disagreed with the use of mandatory unpaid set-aside compared to only 25 percent who agreed or strongly agreed with the use of mandatory unpaid set-asides (18 percent neutral). This general disfavor for unpaid set-aside was consistent across farm size, although small producers are somewhat less disagreeable.

Conservation

Focusing on the second major part of the farm bill legislation, producers in several states were asked to prioritize five separate alternatives for government funding for the preservation of open space and farmland. Table 17 shows the results and relative rankings of selected alternatives in the 10 states asking the question. These responses supplement the finding in question 12 regarding open space preservation as a goal for federal assistance.

Among the five policy alternatives, the first choice among producers was supporting entrepreneurial programs to help make farm and food production more competitive with non-farmland uses. Scoring at 4.03 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important), this alternative had significantly more support than the other proposals. Some 64 percent of producers rated this alternative as important or most important while just 15 percent rated it as less important or least important (21 percent neutral). Second in rank is the encouragement of voluntary easements for open space and farmland preservation. The composite score of 3.35 is based on 50 percent of producers who rated it important or most important and just 24 percent who rated it as less important or least important (26 percent neutral).

The remaining three choices had composite scores less than 3.00, indicating a relative lack of support among producers. Easement purchase and transfer programs likely suffered in the prioritization process because of the mechanics and perceived complexity of the programs. They may also have suffered because of the perceived cost per acre of preserving land. By comparison, there was strong, widespread support for entrepreneurial programs which focused on producers instead of land and may be perceived as more directly affecting the on-going operations of those responding to the survey.

Rural Development and Agricultural Credit

Two related areas of policy affecting agriculture and rural America are rural development and agricultural credit programs. Two of three optional questions on these topics were asked in

Table 17. Open Space and Farmland Preservation (Question Z4)

Open Space and Farmland Preservation Policy Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size (Among 10 Selected States)*				
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Composite Ranking
Federal Funding to Purchase Development Rights and Conservation Easements	2.93	2.74	2.74	2.90 ^c	3
Private Funding to Purchase Development Rights and Conservation Easements	2.87	2.93	3.02	2.89 ^c	4
Federal Supports/Grants to Local Governments to Allow Transfer-of-Development-Rights Programs	2.56	2.50	2.65	2.56 ^d	5
Encouragement of Voluntary Donations of Conservation Easements to Conservation Foundations	3.37	3.16	3.35	3.35 ^b	2
Support Entrepreneurial Programs to Increase Agricultural Competitiveness	4.03	4.03	3.99	4.03 ^a	1

* Selected states include Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-16 in Appendix A.

enough states to be summarized in this report. A question on future program directions for rural development is summarized first in Table 18.

Producers in 13 states compared five possible directions for rural development programs, including access to business capital, education and training, rural high-speed Internet access, local government infrastructure and services, and business development and job creation. Among these five choices, Table 18 shows that producers ranked education and training as the most important, with a composite score of 3.72 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). This score reflects 65 percent of producers who rated this alternative as important or most important compared to just 13 percent of producers who rated it as less important or least important (21 percent neutral). Business development and job creation (3.61) and access to capital (3.59) ranked second and third, respectively among the choices.

The first three choices represented different facets of general economic development strategies, suggesting the priority that producers put on efforts to maintain and grow the rural economy. Rural high-speed Internet access (3.43) and infrastructure and services (3.31) ranked fourth and fifth, respectively. Some

may find it surprising that high-speed Internet access did not rank higher than fourth given the attention to the issue in many recent discussions. However, these last two alternatives are essentially infrastructure issues and, while important or even vital to economic development, they may not produce the direct, identifiable benefits to individuals common to the first three choices. Additionally, while these infrastructure issues rank lowest, even the last-place score of 3.31 for infrastructure and services is a sign of strong support. Some 48 percent of producers rated this alternative as important or most important compared to just 23 percent who rated it as less important or least important (29 percent neutral).

Credit is also one of the tools used by the federal government to support agriculture and rural America. Table 19 summarizes the results of a survey question on credit asked in three states.

Choosing between beginning farmer loan programs, farm operating loan programs, and farm ownership loan programs, producers demonstrated a strong preference for the beginning farmer programs. Producers rated beginning farmer loan programs at 4.04 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). This result is strong across all farm sizes, but is strongest among small

Table 18. Rural Development Programs (Question Z5)

Rural Development Program Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size (Among 13 Selected States)*				Composite Ranking
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Access to Capital	3.58	3.58	3.66	3.59 ^b	3
Education and Training	3.75	3.61	3.61	3.72 ^a	1
Rural High-Speed Internet Access	3.42	3.39	3.55	3.43 ^c	4
Funds for Infrastructure and Services	3.31	3.27	3.35	3.31 ^d	5
Grants for Business Development and Job Creation	3.63	3.58	3.54	3.61 ^b	2

* Selected states include Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05). Detailed results are listed in Table A-17 in Appendix A.

Table 19. Farm Credit Program Funding (Question Z6)

Farm Credit Program Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size (Among 3 Selected States)*				Composite Ranking
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating Loans	3.53	3.51	3.56	3.53 ^b	3
Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loans	3.58	3.40	3.49	3.56 ^b	2
Beginning Farmer Loans	4.07	3.87	3.93	4.04 ^a	1

* Selected states include Illinois, Michigan, and Missouri. Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05). Detailed results are listed in Table A-18 in Appendix A.

Table 20. Research and Extension Funding (Question Z8)

Research and Extension Funding Alternative	Response by Farm Size (Among 6 Selected States)*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite
	(percent of responses)			
Maintain Current Mix of Formula and Competitive Funding	55	58	56	56
Increase Formula Funding	21	18	23	21
Shift to Competitive Funding	15	14	16	15
Eliminate Funding	9	9	6	9

* Selected states include Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-19 in Appendix A.

farms, a category that likely includes a larger percentage of beginning farmers. Farm ownership loans ranked second in priority followed by farm operating loans, but their composite scores of 3.56 and 3.53 were statistically indifferent. Their scores, far above the neutral level of 3.00, demonstrated general strength of producer support for all of the farm credit programs.

Research and Extension

Two optional questions in the survey asked producers for their opinions on research and Extension funding levels and on research priorities. In the first question, producers in six states were asked their opinion of funding alternatives for research and Extension activities. Existing funding mechanisms include a mix of traditional formula funds allocated to land grant universities and funds

allocated through competitive grant programs. Various alternatives sometimes mentioned in policy discussions include increasing formula funding, shifting all funding to competitive grants, or eliminating federal funding altogether.

The results in Table 20 indicate that 56 percent of producers supported the current blend of formula and competitive funding. While there was some producer support for increasing formula funding (21 percent), there was less support for a shift in the funding approach to competitive funding (15 percent) or for the complete elimination of funding (9 percent). Looking across categories, 77 percent of producers essentially supported the current mix of funding or increased funding levels. A full 91 percent of producers favored some form of federal funding to continue for research and Extension activities.

A separate question on research focused on a number of possible research topics and the relative priority of each. Table 21 summarizes these alternatives and the priority producers place on them.

Producers clearly ranked biofuels and renewable energy research as the top priority, with a composite score of 4.42 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). This is consistent with producer preferences shown in the first part of the survey where renewable energy was the top farm bill goal (question 1) and where bioenergy was the top program area for additional federal funding (question 3).

Water quality and food safety research issues ranked second and third with composite scores of 4.22 and 4.11 respectively. All of these first three choices ranked above 4.00 on the scale of 1 to 5, showing the high level of importance producers placed on these issues. With the current situation in the energy sector, producers recognize that bioenergy will impact them directly in terms of product demand and input cost concerns. Producers also know that they face water quality regulatory issues that demand attention and they know that food safety is critical to sustaining product demand.

Figure 9 shows the relative ranking of these research areas by size group as summarized in Table 21. Bioenergy was consistently first across all farm size categories.

Table 21. Research Funding Priorities (Question Z9)

Research Funding Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size (Among 15 Selected States)*				Composite Ranking
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Biofuels and Renewable Energy	4.40	4.50	4.45	4.42 ^a	1
Biotechnology	3.67	3.66	3.73	3.68 ^a	9
Production Agriculture	3.93	3.86	3.88	3.92 ^c	5
Biosecurity	3.71	3.50	3.54	3.68 ^a	8
Food Security	4.02	3.73	3.72	3.97 ^d	4
Food Safety	4.16	3.89	3.88	4.11 ^c	3
Nutrition and Obesity	3.39	3.10	3.11	3.34 ^b	10
Air Quality	3.80	3.44	3.38	3.73 ^f	7
Soil Quality	3.95	3.71	3.65	3.91 ^e	6
Water Quality	4.27	4.02	3.94	4.22 ^b	2
Private Forest Land Management	3.27	2.86	2.85	3.21 ⁱ	12
Community and Economic Development	3.32	3.24	3.23	3.31 ⁱ	11

* Selected states include Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-20 in Appendix A.

ries. Water quality and food safety were next, but garnered their strongest support from the small farm sector.

Other potential funding areas followed, but still garnered the support of producers, with composite rankings from 3.97 for the fourth-place category of food security down to 3.21 for the category of private forest land management. Production agriculture ranked fifth in the composite score. But, among medium-scale and large-scale producers, it was ranked very closely to the third-place category of food safety. Further down the list, biotechnology ranked ninth with a

composite score of 3.68, showing strong support of producers, but drawing the most support from large-scale producers. At the bottom of the list, private forest land management still drew on composite support to score 3.21.

Public Lands

The management of public lands is a significant issue across the western United States. Four western states asked a question on public lands management and the ten policy alternatives are summarized in Table 22.

Among producers, the number one policy alternative was returning a large portion of revenues from federal lands management to local governments. It received a composite score of 4.22 on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Second and third among producer preferences were policy directions which allow more oil and gas exploration and more grazing and timber cutting activities, with scores of 4.10 and 4.07 respectively, a difference that is statistically insignificant. Fourth in preference was a proposal to transfer the management of the public lands from the federal government to the respective states (4.19). All four of these alternatives were ranked highly by producers, with composite scores over 4.00. A commonality of all of these four proposals is reduced federal control and increased state management and state revenues with the increased opportunity for local production activities (oil and gas exploration, grazing, and timber harvesting).

Ranked at the bottom of the list of 10 alternatives was increased federal funding for the public purchase of more private lands, scoring 1.99 on the scale of 1 to 5. The low ranking of this alternative reinforces the preference for local control and activity over federal control. While it is clear that producers are not interested in more private lands being purchased by public agencies, there is less agreement on a converse proposal to sell federal lands to private owners. This proposal met with a slightly-negative response, having a composite score of 2.93. However, medium and large producers showed positive agreement with this idea, scoring 3.21 and 3.34 respectively, whereas small producers were in disagreement with the idea, showing a score of 2.86.

Labor

A question on agricultural labor issues was asked in five states. While the role of labor and particularly immigrant labor has been a focal point in recent legislative debates, producers were asked on the survey about the general issues of labor availability, the role of the foreign guest worker program, and a separate, but related issue of public services in communities experiencing an influx of immigrant laborers.

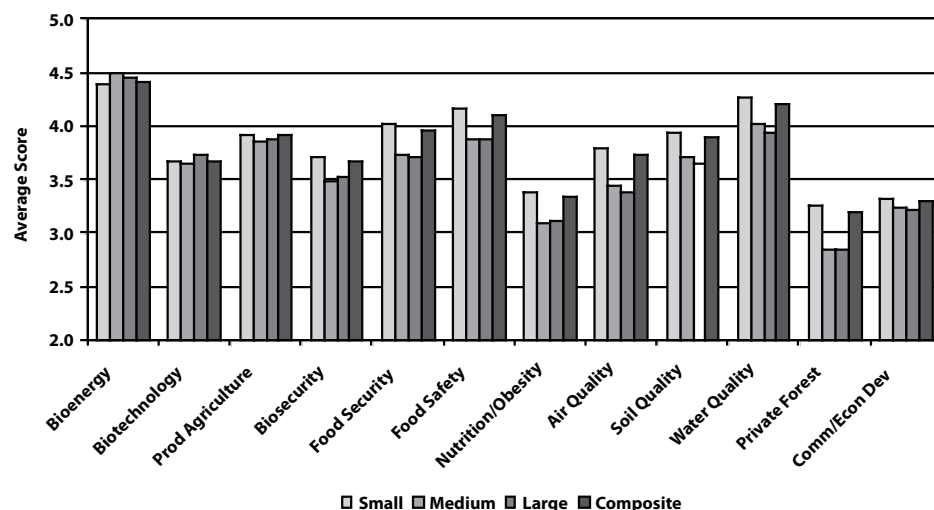
Figure 9. Research Funding Priorities (Question Z9)

Table 22. Public Lands Management (Question Z10)

Public Lands Management Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size (Among 4 Selected States)*				Composite Ranking
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Land Use Fees Comparable to Fair-Market Value	3.46	3.24	3.23	3.42 ^e	6
User Access Based on Economic Criteria	3.24	3.22	3.24	3.24 ^f	7
User Access Based on Ecological Criteria	3.06	2.75	2.80	3.01 ^g	8
Transfer Management of Federal Lands to States	3.86	4.05	4.05	4.19 ^c	4
Sale of Federal Lands to Private Owners	2.86	3.21	3.34	2.93 ^g	9
Federal Funding for Public Purchase of Private Lands	2.05	1.67	1.69	1.99 ^h	10
Encouragement of Grazing and Timber Cutting	4.05	4.34	4.40	4.10 ^b	2
Encouragement of Oil and Gas Exploration	4.02	4.29	4.39	4.07 ^b	3
Return Revenues from Federal Lands to Local Governments	4.21	4.26	4.24	4.22 ^a	1
Increase Payments in Lieu of Taxes for Local Government Services	3.65	3.71	3.70	3.66 ^d	5

* Selected states include Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion. Composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-21 in Appendix A.

The results in Table 23 suggest that producers placed the most importance on the labor issues that directly affect their operations. The availability of labor was the key issue as seasonal laborers ranked as the highest priority at 3.43 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). The availability of full-time laborers ranked second in priority at 3.33. These two categories of labor availability were clearly at the top of the list across all farm sizes, although large farms rated full-time labor more critical than part-time labor.

At the other end of the rankings were the two generalized issues of the foreign guest worker program (third at 2.86) and the community impacts of immigrant laborers (fourth at 2.70). Both showed a less-than-neutral composite response from producers, indicating the relatively low priority producers placed on them. On the issue of the foreign guest worker program, large producers varied slightly in their response, with a marginally-positive score of 3.09, perhaps because of their size and need for a larger complement of field workers. The community impact issue scored consistently less-than-neutral and was clearly last in importance among all producers. It may be an issue of signifi-

cance and an outcome of agricultural labor policies, but it is not directly garnering the attention of producers.

Summary

It is difficult to provide a general summary of the findings from the optional questions. The policy issues and alternatives addressed are quite varied. And, a different group of states generated the producer responses for each question. Despite the variations, the results do show some interesting producer insights. The preferences for fruit, vegetable, and specialty

crop programs are different than traditional commodity programs. In the risk management area, producers wanted new tools such as savings accounts and risk management incentive payments more than they wanted expanded insurance programs. Producers also indicated limited support for supply control measures, supporting only the voluntary alternatives of a paid set-aside or a farmer-owned reserve.

For open space and farmland preservation, producers pointed to agricultural profitability as a better tool, or at least a more-popular tool, for maintaining agriculture than any agricultural preservation program. For public lands, producers favored local control, active land management, and utilization over federally-implemented controls.

Rural development goals scored highest when focused on economic development. Farm credit programs were well supported, but scored highest when focused on beginning farmers. Maintaining or building research and extension funding and prioritizing research funding on key issues like bioenergy were also key preferences of producers.

In short, the survey results suggest that producers preferred policies that promised to support agriculture and rural America and agriculture's opportunity to grow with a changing environment. Producers preferences for pursuing new forms of support for specialty crops, creating new risk management tools, pushing agricultural competitiveness, and financing the development of new producers and new rural businesses shows a general preference for policies that look forward to address new issues.

Table 23. Labor Issues (Question Z11)

Labor Issue	Average Score by Farm Size (Among 5 Selected States)*				Composite Ranking
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Availability of Full-Time Agricultural Laborers	3.33	3.07	3.46	3.33 ^b	2
Availability of Seasonal Agricultural Laborers	3.44	3.23	3.43	3.43 ^a	1
Foreign Guest Worker Program	2.85	2.73	3.09	2.86 ^c	3
Public Service Needs in Immigrant Agricultural Communities	2.70	2.59	2.86	2.70 ^d	4

* Selected states include Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Texas, and Wyoming. Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts ($P < 0.05$). Detailed results are listed in Table A-22 in Appendix A.

Survey Demographics

The last section of the questionnaire asked producers for personal data. The responses provide a descriptive analysis of the survey respondents and set the stage for in-depth analysis of policy preferences.

Operator Characteristics

Producers were asked to identify their age, gender, ethnicity, and race. Table 24 provides information on the age of the survey respondents. Based on age, the survey sample is generally representative of the underlying distribution of producers.

The age distribution nationwide of survey respondents was less than one-half of 1 percent under 25 years of age, 2 percent from 25 to 34, 11 percent from 35 to 44, 27 percent from 45 to 54, 28 percent from 55 to 64, and 31 percent age 65 or older. Corresponding percentages for the 27 states according to the *2002 Census of Agriculture* were 1 percent, 5 percent, 17 percent, 27 percent, 24 percent, and 26 percent respectively.

There was a larger distribution of producers age 65 and over among survey respondents (31 percent) as compared to the agriculture census population (26 percent). Conversely, there was a smaller percentage of survey respondents in the age range of 35 to 44 (11 percent) than in the agriculture census population (17 percent).

Using the frequency distribution and the midpoint of the age ranges as an approximation of age, the average age of survey respondents was 57. This compared to the census average age of 55 for the 27 surveyed states and also to the census average age of 55 for the nation as a whole.

The survey data on age showed differences in age structure for small farms as compared to medium and large farms. Farm operators age 65 and over made up 34 percent of the small farms, but only 17 percent and 15 percent of the medium and large farms, respectively. In contrast, a greater percentage of medium and large farms were operated

by producers in the age ranges of 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 than in the small farm stratum. These results are consistent with national estimates recently published by USDA for operators of small and large farms (Hoppe and Banker).

Table 25 shows approximately 88 percent of producers were male. This compares almost exactly to the *2002 Census of Agriculture* where 89 percent of producers were nationwide. A larger percentage of small farm producers were female (13 percent) as compared to the medium and large farm categories at 5 percent each.

Table 26 shows approximately 2 percent of producers responded “yes” to the question whether they were of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino background. This is consistent with the overall farm population nationwide. The percentage of producers with Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino background was highest in the South and the West, at 3 percent and 2 percent respectively. By contrast, the North Central and the Northeast reported only 1 percent each.

Table 27 provides the results of a question on race or ethnicity. The share of producers who were white rounded to 98 percent. About 1 percent of producers were black or African American and 1 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native. Less than one-half of 1 percent of producers were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Similarly, less than one-half of 1 percent of producers were Asian. These percentages across the five race or ethnicity categories match up exactly with the census numbers for the surveyed states as a group and match up very closely with the nation as a whole.

Table 24. Age of Respondent (Question 30)

Age Category	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	North Central	North-east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Under 25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 - 34	2	4	4	2	3	4	1	3
35 - 44	10	15	16	11	13	12	8	9
45 - 54	25	35	37	27	29	27	24	27
55 - 64	28	28	28	28	27	30	29	30
65 and Over	34	17	15	31	28	27	37	32
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the age categories. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-23 in Appendix A.

Table 25. Gender of Respondent (Question 31)

Gender	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	North Central	North-east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Male	87	95	95	88	91	87	88	84
Female	13	5	5	12	9	13	12	16
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the gender categories. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-24 in Appendix A

Farm Income Characteristics

The first question (question 34) of a series of farm income questions was key to the analysis of the entire survey. In this question, producers were asked to categorize their operation in terms of the average annual market value of agricultural products sold from the farm or ranch, not counting government payments. The responses to this ques-

tion are summarized in Table 28. As the survey results were stratified into the small, medium, and large farm strata based on the responses of this question, the results effectively show the percentage of small farms across the three subcategories within the small farm stratum and the percentage of large farms across the three subcategories within the large farm stratum. The composite nationwide responses and the regional composite responses show the distribution of farms across all size categories.

The nationwide composite responses showed 31 percent of farms under \$10,000 in market value of sales, 28 percent between \$10,000 and \$50,000, and 23 percent between \$50,000 and \$100,000. This subtotal of 82 percent of farms below \$100,000 compares to 84 percent in the same size range for the nation as a whole. At the other end of the distribution, the nationwide composite results show 5 percent of farms in the size range of \$250,000 to \$499,999, 2 percent between \$500,000 and \$999,999, and 1 percent of farms at \$1,000,000 or more.

This subtotal of 8 percent fits exactly with the agriculture census numbers for the nation as a whole.

Table 29 presents another perspective on farm income in terms of the percentage of farm or ranch cash receipts from 19 different commodity categories grouped into the main categories of program crops (crops with a farm program safety net), non-program crops (crops without a specific farm program safety net), and livestock. The reported percentages the average split of receipts across categories for all farms. Because only shares and not dollar values are analyzed, the results do not represent the actual share of total receipts by category in a given strata or region (or state in Appendix Table A28).

The six categories of grains, oilseeds, cotton, pulses, peanuts, and sugar fit in the subcategory of program crops (pulses are included in program crops though not all pulse crops are eligible for commodity loan programs). The program crop category accounted for nearly 33 percent of average receipts on farms or ranches

Table 26. Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Background of Respondent (Question 32)

Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Background	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Yes	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	2
No	98	99	99	98	99	99	97	98
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino categories. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-25 in Appendix A.

Table 27. Race or Ethnicity of Respondent (Question 33)

Race or Ethnicity	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
White	98	100	99	98	99	99	96	98
Black or African American	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the race or ethnicity categories. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-26 in Appendix A.

Table 28. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold on the Farm or Ranch (Question 34)

Market Value Category	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Under \$10,000	37	0	0	31	23	43	38	34
\$10,000 - \$49,999	34	0	0	28	28	24	30	29
\$50,000 - \$99,999	28	0	0	23	26	17	22	21
\$100,000 - \$249,999	0	100	0	9	12	10	4	8
\$250,000 - \$499,999	0	0	57	5	6	4	3	4
\$500,000 - \$999,999	0	0	27	2	3	2	2	2
\$1,000,000 and Over	0	0	16	1	1	1	1	2
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the market value categories. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-27 in Appendix A.

Table 29. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts by Commodity Group (Question 35)

Source of Receipts		Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
		Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
		(percent of receipts)				(percent of receipts)			
Program Crops	Grains	17.5	28.2	25.3	19.1	27.7	10.4	9.6	17.7
	Oilseeds	9.0	16.4	14.0	10.1	19.9	3.8	2.0	0.2
	Cotton	2.2	3.1	5.7	2.5	0.1	0.0	7.9	0.3
	Pulses	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.7
	Peanuts	0.5	0.5	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0
	Sugar	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4
	Subtotal	29.7	49.0	47.2	32.8	48.2	14.2	21.7	19.4
Non-Program Crops	Fruits	4.0	2.2	3.1	3.8	1.9	4.6	5.0	6.7
	Vegetables	2.3	1.3	2.7	2.2	1.0	5.2	2.8	3.1
	Nursery Crops	4.0	2.4	5.2	3.9	2.0	8.8	4.5	6.1
	Forages	7.1	2.4	2.1	6.3	4.5	9.6	5.8	10.6
	Tobacco	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.2	1.4	0.0
	Other Crops	4.9	2.2	2.2	4.4	3.4	5.9	4.6	6.2
	Subtotal	22.7	11.1	16.0	21.2	13.0	34.4	24.1	32.7
Livestock	Dairy	3.7	15.3	12.6	5.5	6.8	18.3	1.2	2.1
	Sheep	3.0	0.5	0.3	2.6	1.4	3.7	3.7	3.4
	Aquaculture	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.8	1.4	0.5
	Cattle	31.9	17.9	15.3	29.3	24.5	16.3	38.6	32.9
	Hogs	1.3	2.5	5.0	1.7	2.4	2.0	1.1	.5
	Poultry	2.0	2.1	1.7	2.0	0.9	3.1	3.5	1.3
	Other Livestock	4.9	1.1	1.0	4.3	2.5	7.2	4.8	7.2
Subtotal		47.6	39.9	36.7	46.0	38.8	51.4	54.2	47.9
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Responses shown are the percent of farm or ranch cash receipts by each of the commodity groups. Total may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-28 in Appendix A.

** Pulses are included in the broad category of "Program Crops" though not all pulse crops are eligible for commodity loan programs.

nationwide. However, this category represented 48 percent of average receipts on farms in the North Central region, with nearly all of those receipts coming from grains and oilseeds. Medium and large farms had a higher concentration of receipts from program crops (49 percent and 47 percent, respectively) than did small farms (30 percent).

The non-program crop category of fruits, vegetables, nursery crops, forages, tobacco, and other crops represented 21 percent of average receipts on farms nationwide. Non-program crops were highest as a percentage of receipts on farms in the Northeast and in the West. Forages in particular contributed to the higher share for non-program crops in these two regions. Small farms had a higher percentage of average receipts from non-program crops (23 percent) than either medium or large farms (11 percent and 16 percent respectively).

Livestock and livestock products accounted for 46 percent of average receipts on farms nationwide. The category as a whole represented around half of average receipts on farms in all regions except the North Central region (39 percent). The Northeast reported average dairy receipts on farms at 18 percent, several times larger than any of the other three regions. Small farms showed a higher percentage of average livestock receipts (48 percent) than either medium farms (40 percent) or large farms (37 percent).

Table 30 summarizes the results of a question asking producers to report the percentage of farm or ranch cash receipts from the sales of organic products. The results show 6 percent of receipts on the average farm came from organic production. When reading Table 30, it is important to note that the definition of organic production was left to the interpretation

of the producer. It did not necessarily represent only certified organic production, but may also have included output that is produced with organic methods or with other natural methods. While the exact definition of organic is somewhat uncertain, the results showed significant differences between regions and size groups of farms. Small farms had a higher percentage of average receipts on farms from organic production (7 percent) than either medium farms (2 percent) or large farms (1 percent). Farms in the West and the Northeast also had higher percentages of average receipts on farms from organic production at 12 percent and 9 percent, respectively while the North Central lagged at only 3 percent.

A final question on farm income asked producers to report the share of their family income that came from farming or ranching. Based on the composite results in Table 31, most

Table 30. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts from Organic Production (Questions 36)

Source of Receipts	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of receipts)				(percent of receipts)			
Organic Receipts	6.85	2.13	1.33	5.98	3.29	9.42	6.10	12.15

* Responses shown are the percent of farm or ranch cash receipts from organic production. Detailed results are listed in Table A-29 in Appendix A.

Table 31. Share of Family Income from Farming or Ranching (Question 37)

Share of Family Income From Farming or Ranching Category	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
None	8	1	1	7	4	10	9	9
1 - 25%	44	7	4	37	31	43	45	39
26 - 50%	17	13	7	16	18	12	15	14
51 - 75%	11	20	15	12	14	9	10	11
76 - 100%	19	58	73	27	32	25	20	28
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the share of family income categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-30 in Appendix A.

farm families are relying on a significant percentage of family income coming from off the farm. A total of 7 percent of producers reported that farm or ranch income contributed nothing to family income; 37 percent of producers reported between 1 and 25 percent of family income; 16 percent of producers reported between 26 and 50 percent; 12 percent of producers reported between 51 and 75 percent; and 27 percent of producers reported between 76 and 100 percent.

Producers in the small farm category are most dependent on off-farm income; 69 percent of small farms contributed 50 percent or less of family income. Medium

and large producers reported that 78 percent and 88 percent of farms, respectively, contributed more than 50 percent of family income. Among regions, North Central farms showed a larger percentage of farms contributing more than 50 percent of family income (46 percent) than any of the other three regions.

Education, Management, and Related Issues

Table 32 provides a breakdown of producers' educational background based on the highest level of education achieved. The composite results showed that 2 percent of producers reported a

grade school education; 5 percent some high school education; 30 percent a high school or general equivalency diploma; 32 percent some college or technical school experience; 21 percent a college bachelor's degree; and 11 percent an advanced college degree. Summing across the college categories, 64 percent of producers reported at least some college education.

To assess producer familiarity with and participation in federal farm programs, producers were asked to check the programs they participated in or received benefits from in recent years.

The results in Table 33 show that 62 percent of producers nationwide reported participating in at least one of the farm support programs. Some 51 percent of producers reported participating in commodity programs, which would include both the crop support programs and the livestock commodity support programs for dairy and sheep producers. A smaller percentage (20 percent) reported participating in risk management programs, which included insurance programs. Similarly, 26 percent reported participating in disaster assistance programs. Just 5 percent reported participating in credit programs and less than one-half of 1 percent reported participating in trade adjustment programs.

These percentages varied across the country. The North Central region reported the highest participation in farm support programs (77 percent). This compares to participation rates of 41 percent in the Northeast, 52 percent in the South, and 47 percent in the West. There is a similar disparity in participa-

Table 32. Education of Respondent (Question 38)

Last Year of Education Completed	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Grade School	2	3	1	2	3	5	1	1
Some High School	5	3	2	5	4	7	4	4
High School/GED	30	32	25	30	36	35	24	20
Some College/Technical School	32	33	31	32	32	23	32	37
College Bachelor's Degree	20	23	34	21	19	19	25	25
College Advanced Degree	12	6	7	11	8	12	15	13
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the education categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-31 in Appendix A.

Table 33. Federal Farm Program Participation (Question 39)

Federal Farm Program Category		Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
		Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
		(percent responding yes)				(percent responding yes)			
Farm Support Programs	Commodity Programs	45	83	80	51	71	35	35	35
	Insurance Programs	15	41	44	20	25	11	16	17
	Agricultural Credit Programs	4	7	8	5	6	3	4	3
	Disaster Assistance Programs	23	39	38	26	27	12	29	26
	Trade Adjustment Programs	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
	Any Farm Support Programs	56	90	87	62	77	41	52	47
Conservation Programs	Land Retirement Programs	21	26	28	22	30	9	15	18
	Working Land Programs	11	20	28	13	14	10	13	14
	Land Preservation Programs	5	5	6	5	6	5	4	5
	Any Conservation Programs	30	41	46	32	40	21	26	32
Other Farm Programs		7	7	8	7	7	9	6	6
Any Farm Programs		68	93	91	72	86	53	63	58

* Responses shown are the percent responding that they participated in each of the program categories. Totals do not add across categories. Detailed results are listed in Table A-32 in Appendix A.

tion among farm size groups. Medium and large farms reported much greater participation in farm support programs, at 90 percent and 87 percent respectively, than did small farms (56 percent).

For conservation programs, the participation rates were much smaller. A total of 22 percent of producers nationwide reported participating in land retirement programs such as CRP and WRP. This percentage was much greater in the North Central region (30 percent) than in any of the other three regions, particularly the Northeast. A total of 13 percent of producers reported participating in working lands programs such as EQIP or CSP. For the working lands programs, participation was generally consistent across regions, but it was different across farm size as 20 percent of medium producers and 28 percent of large producers participated in working lands programs while just 11 percent of small producers participated. Just 5 percent of producers reported participating in preservation programs such as FRPP.

A final category for all other farm programs was included, but reported participation was low at only 7 percent. When the responses for all programs were tabulated together, 72 percent of producers nationwide reported participating in federal farm programs. The participation rate was highest among medium farms (93 percent) and large farms (91 percent) compared to small farms (68 percent). The participation rate was also highest in the North Central region at 86 percent compared to the other three regions which reported between 53 percent and 63 percent participation.

Table 34 reports the percentage of producers by tenure category or the percent of farmland in the operation that is owned. Nationwide, 7 percent of producers reported owning none of the land they operate; 12 percent of producers owned 1 to 25 percent; 11 percent owned 26 to 50 percent; 10 percent owned 51 to 75 percent; and 61 percent owned 76 to 100 percent. When calculating these percentages at the midpoint of the tenure

ranges, the implied average percent tenure was 65 percent, very similar to the actual tenure rates of 63 percent in the surveyed states or 62 percent in the nation as a whole.

The results show that most producers own a large majority of the land in their operation, but they also show that tenure rates varied substantially across farm size. Among small farms, 74 percent owned more than half of the land they operated. In comparison, just 54 percent of medium farms and 50 percent of large farms owned more than half of the land they operated. Tenure varied across regions as well as producers in both the North Central region and the South owned less of the land they operated than did producers in the Northeast and the West.

Producers were asked about the expected future transition of their farm or ranch once they were no longer operating it. Table 35 shows the results of this expected transition, whether to the producer's spouse, children, other relatives, or other possibilities. Based on

Table 34. Farm or Ranch Tenure (Question 40)

Share of Farmland Owned Category	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	North Central	North-east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
None	7	5	5	7	6	6	6	7
1 - 25%	10	20	21	12	14	7	12	8
26 - 50%	9	20	23	11	13	7	10	8
51 - 75%	8	16	18	10	11	9	8	9
76 - 100%	66	38	32	61	56	72	63	68
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm tenure categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-33 in Appendix A.

the survey results, 6 percent of producers nationwide expected the farm or ranch to be operated by their spouse, 43 percent expected the operation to continue with their children, and 7 percent expected the operation continue with another relative. Altogether, 56 percent of producers expected their farm or ranch to continue with their immediate family or other relatives. Just 3 percent of producers expected the operation to continue with someone involved in the current operation who is not a relative. Some 22 percent of producers expected the operation to go to someone outside the current operation.

The possibility also exists that the farm or ranch could pass to non-farm use. A total of 18 percent of producers expected their farm or ranch to be converted to a non-farm use. On this point, a much larger percentage of small producers (20 percent) expected the farm to go to a non-farm use than did either medium producers (9 percent) or large producers (8 percent). This issue also

varied across the country, as producers in the densely populated Northeast showed the highest expectation of a conversion to non-farm use (29 percent), ahead of the West (23 percent), the South (22 percent), and lastly, the North Central region (12 percent).

Producers were asked to provide their definition of a “small” farm based on the measure of market value of agricultural products sold (as in question 34). Table 36 provides the analysis of this question.

When looking at the composite results, 14 percent of producers nationwide reported that a small farm was one with less than \$10,000 in sales; 27 percent one with less than \$50,000 in sales; and 23 percent one with less than \$100,000 in sales. An additional 12 percent of producers reported a small farm was one with less than \$250,000 in sales; thus, a total of 76 percent of producers reported a small farm was one with less than \$250,000 in sales, a

level of sales consistent with a widely accepted definition of small farms used in academic and policy analyses and discussions. A total of 6 percent of producers defined a small farm at a level above \$250,000 in sales, leaving 19 who preferred the statement that small farms cannot easily be defined by sales.

These results show some obvious deviations across farm size. In the small farm stratum (less than \$100,000 in sales), 69 percent of producers reported a small farm was one with less than \$100,000 in sales while 78 percent reported that a small farm was one with less than \$250,000 in sales. In the medium farm stratum (\$100,000 to \$249,999 in sales), just 39 percent of producers reported a small farm was one with less than \$100,000 in sales, but 74 percent reported a small farm was one with less than \$250,000 in sales. In the large farm stratum (defined in the survey as producers with \$250,000 or more in sales), only 36 percent of producers reported a small farm was one with less than \$100,000 in sales and 53 percent reported a small farm was one with less than \$250,000 in sales.

Summary

The demographics responses provide an analysis of the characteristics of producers responding to the survey. They also demonstrate the validity of the survey results as the distribution of producers by age, gender, ethnicity, race, sales, and tenure are representative of the

Table 35. Expected Farm or Ranch Transition (Question 41)

Expected Transition	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	North Central	North-east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Operated by Spouse	7	3	3	6	5	4	9	6
Operated by Children	41	48	54	43	43	41	44	38
Operated by Other Relatives	7	6	7	7	8	5	6	6
Operated by Non-Relatives in Current Operation	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	3
Operated by Individuals Outside Current Operation	21	30	23	22	27	18	16	24
Converted to Non-Farm Use	20	9	8	18	12	29	22	23
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm or ranch transition categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-34 in Appendix A.

Table 36. Respondent Definition of Farm Size (Question 42)

Market Value Category	Response by Farm Size* (Nationwide)				Response by Region*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Com- posite	North Central	North- east	South	West
	(percent of responses)				(percent of responses)			
Under \$10,000	16	3	3	14	11	16	18	15
Under \$50,000	30	14	13	27	26	23	31	26
Under \$100,000	23	22	20	23	27	21	19	21
Under \$250,000	9	35	17	12	15	11	9	11
Under \$500,000	2	8	16	4	4	4	3	4
Under \$1,000,000	1	2	8	2	2	2	1	2
Not Defined by Sales	19	16	22	19	16	25	19	21
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm size definition categories. Totals may not add due to rounding. Detailed results are listed in Table A-35 in Appendix A.

farm population in the surveyed states
and in the nation as a

While the demographic data are largely descriptive, the results showed the variability of agriculture across the United States. Regional and farm size variations in age, sales, farm receipts, farm income, farm program participation, and tenure all contributed to different perspectives on policy issues and different preferences for future policy directions. Additional data showed the nation's agricultural producers to be well educated. Nearly two-thirds of producers reporting at least some college education and almost a third of producers holding a college bachelor's or advanced degree. This solid educational background is critical as producers considered the complex policy issues and trade-offs surrounding the next farm bill.

Conclusion

The development of the next farm bill will be driven in part by the economic climate, the budget situation, the trade arena, and the political setting at the time of the debate. In this complex environment, understanding producer attitudes and policy preferences can be valuable to the discussion. The National Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy Preference Survey elicited agricultural producers' preferences on current policy issues and future policy directions related to the next farm bill.

A total of 27 states participated in the survey, representing more than 60 percent of all U.S. farms and ranches. Based on demographic data, the survey results are a good representation of the population of producers in the surveyed states and in the nation as a whole. The distribution of farms by age, gender, ethnicity, race, sales, and tenure all closely follow the corresponding distributions of farms in the *2002 Census of Agriculture*.

The survey focused on a number of policy issues and included key questions to analyze underlying policy goals and budget priorities. It included questions on specific commodity program issues and conservation program alternatives and examined issues in the broad categories of trade policy, food system and regulatory policy, and other related policy issues.

The analysis of policy goals shows that producers strongly supported a number of often-mentioned goals for the farm bill. Highest among those goals was the role of agriculture in reducing the nation's dependence on non-renewable energy. This suggests support for new initiatives in the area of bioenergy and, among possible new or reallocated program areas, producers ranked bioenergy highest. It is also clear that producers placed a strong emphasis on maintaining the current farm safety net. Among existing programs, producers across all size categories ranked disaster assistance as the highest priority, followed by crop insurance, working lands conservation programs, and the three-part farm income safety net of direct payments, counter-cyclical payments,

and commodity loans and loan deficiency payments.

The finding that disaster assistance, a program that has not historically been a formal part of the farm bill, was a highly-rated concern demonstrates the overall priority producers place on farm policy as a safety net. The prioritization of the safety net is reinforced even more by the fact that producers in the medium and large farm size categories ranked what is effectively a five-part safety net (disaster assistance, insurance, direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, and commodity loans and loan deficiency payments) above all other existing programs. Not all producers and not all regions have participated in the traditional safety net programs to the same degree and program priorities can be dependent on what programs have historically been important. In the Northeast, the livestock programs, including dairy, ranked higher than in other regions. Among small producers, the preference was for working lands conservation programs, ranked behind only disaster assistance programs.

Within the scope of existing commodity programs, issues, producers showed general support for tightening payment limits with a preference for eliminating the three-entity rule first, eliminating the unlimited commodity loan gains second, and finally, lowering program payment limits. A new concept regarding a potential buy-out of program benefits was not well received by producers, a majority of whom preferred not to see a buy-out proposal. Dairy policy is a significant issue with producer support behind both the continuation of the milk price support program and the MILC program.

Producers showed strong support for programs focused on conservation, favoring technical assistance or technical and financial assistance for a number of environmental goals ranging from water quality to soil erosion control and beyond. Producers supported a continuation of both CRP and CSP. Producers also showed a preference for sending federal

funding for conservation programs to states in the form of block grants to allow states to design and implement local conservation programs rather than the current mode of federal implementation.

In the trade arena, producers supported the pursuit of trade agreements, trade opportunities, and participation in the WTO. However, they also showed preferences for domestic policies versus trade policies and for comprehensive trade negotiations that can make the trade negotiation process far more complex.

Focusing on the food system, producers strongly supported COOL, favoring mandatory regulations over voluntary guidelines. Producers also supported labeling of biotech food products. All of these labeling issues might reflect a general strategy of improving food product traceability, which also received strong support from producers. A separate traceability tool, animal identification, also received support, though to a lesser degree. Producers expressed support for mandatory or voluntary BSE testing, although the preference was clearly for voluntary testing by industry.

Several other issues covered in the survey were asked in many, but not all of the states, as individual states selected the various policy issues and questions to address in the survey. Producers indicated programs for fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops may be an important part of the discussion of the next farm bill, but not necessarily in the form of traditional commodity programs. In the area of risk management, producers expressed support for many alternatives, particularly for new tools such as savings accounts and risk management incentive payments. Supply control policies received much more limited support, with positive support only for voluntary programs such as a paid set-aside program and a farmer-owned reserve program.

Producers also weighed in on a conservation issue related to open space and farmland preservation, showing a preference for programs aimed at increasing agricultural competitiveness

and an emphasis on voluntary conservation easements. These alternatives both scored more highly than other proposals focused on funding the purchase of, or facilitating the trade of, conservation easements. On the issue of the management of public lands, producers carried a similar message of maintaining active management and local control rather than federally-implemented controls.

Rural development programs are an important part of the farm bill debate. Producers responded with preferences that scored highest for programs focused on economic development, such as education and training and grants for business development and job creation. Development is also an issue with farm credit programs where the priority was clearly on beginning farmer programs.

Regarding research and Extension, producers showed strong support for maintaining or increasing the funding mix for research and Extension activities. Among numerous priority research areas, producers placed bioenergy as the highest priority research area, a finding consistent with earlier choices in the survey on farm bill goals and program funding.

Finally, the issue of labor showed producers were most concerned about the availability of labor, whether it is seasonal or full-time. While this issue has not been part of the formal farm bill debate, it certainly has implications for the agricultural sector in the present setting.

In sum, the survey analysis helps inform the upcoming farm bill debate. Certainly, the climate for the next farm bill is different than the last. The

economic setting and the political setting open the door to a debate on the shape of the farm bill and the potential for new directions or alternatives. The budget setting and the trade setting both present challenges for this farm bill debate in terms of program priorities and potential program trade-offs. Producers clearly demonstrated support for some of the emerging policy areas, including expanded conservation programs and bioenergy opportunities. But, producers also prioritized existing programs very highly, including the multi-part farm safety net.

The complex issues and the potential policy trade-offs will make policy choices for the next farm bill extremely challenging. Having a comprehensive analysis of policy alternatives and a clear understanding of producer preferences will be vital to the farm bill development process.

Appendix A

Table A-1. Goals for the Farm Bill (Question 1)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*							
	Enhance				Reduce			
	Enhance Farm Income	Reduce Risk	Increase Competitiveness	Small/Beginning Farm Opportunities	Protect Natural Resources	Enhance Rural Economies	Assure Food Supply	Dependence on Non-Renewable Energy
Illinois	4.09	4.03	4.27	4.21	4.01	4.03	4.22	4.46
Iowa	3.76	3.79	4.08	4.34	4.05	4.01	3.98	4.33
Kansas	4.25	3.91	4.25	4.31	3.92	4.08	4.09	4.18
Michigan	4.28	4.09	4.33	4.40	3.97	3.99	4.39	4.42
Missouri	4.06	3.80	4.21	4.31	3.79	4.07	4.22	4.40
Nebraska	4.02	4.04	4.10	4.34	3.87	4.13	4.09	4.32
Ohio	4.10	3.84	4.20	4.32	4.08	3.95	4.24	4.39
South Dakota	3.76	3.77	3.96	4.42	3.82	4.03	4.13	4.35
Wisconsin	3.98	3.73	4.01	4.28	4.07	4.01	4.08	4.27
North Central	4.04	3.87	4.17	4.32	3.96	4.03	4.16	4.35
Maryland	4.38	3.76	4.24	4.41	4.19	3.99	4.36	4.40
New Jersey	4.09	3.61	3.97	4.41	4.12	3.82	4.34	4.30
New York	4.13	3.70	4.00	4.28	4.10	4.00	4.22	4.21
Pennsylvania	4.16	3.75	4.01	4.34	4.00	3.90	4.20	4.28
Vermont	3.84	3.47	3.67	4.41	4.23	4.14	4.25	4.24
Northeast	4.15	3.71	4.01	4.34	4.07	3.95	4.23	4.27
Alabama	4.26	4.00	4.42	4.33	4.29	4.17	4.58	4.42
Florida	3.83	3.51	4.12	4.37	3.97	3.75	4.45	4.19
Georgia	3.98	3.82	4.19	4.37	4.16	4.11	4.54	4.45
North Carolina	4.31	3.89	4.23	4.36	4.05	3.99	4.44	4.40
Texas	4.23	4.01	4.32	4.32	4.03	4.12	4.50	4.37
South	4.18	3.92	4.28	4.34	4.07	4.07	4.50	4.37
Arizona	3.72	3.57	4.09	4.29	4.03	3.98	4.47	4.19
Colorado	4.08	3.79	4.20	4.34	3.94	4.08	4.24	4.14
Idaho	4.04	3.74	4.18	4.32	3.79	3.99	4.35	4.32
Montana	4.16	3.91	4.16	4.33	3.63	4.07	4.25	4.13
Oregon	3.72	3.41	4.11	4.14	3.72	3.89	4.27	4.08
Utah	4.18	3.77	4.19	4.45	4.05	4.04	4.41	4.28
Washington	4.03	3.64	4.18	4.20	3.75	3.99	4.31	4.11
Wyoming	3.83	3.63	4.17	4.28	3.89	3.98	4.34	4.14
West	3.98	3.68	4.16	4.27	3.81	4.00	4.30	4.16
Nationwide	4.08	3.85	4.19	4.32	3.98	4.03	4.29	4.32

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-2. Maintenance of Funding for Existing Programs (Question 2)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*									
	Direct Payments	Counter-Cyclical Payments	Commodity Loans and LDPs	Livestock Commodity Supports	Land Retirement Programs	Working Land Programs	Land Preservation Programs	Insurance Programs	Agricultural Credit Programs	Disaster Assistance Programs
Illinois	3.78	3.80	3.93	3.32	3.55	3.60	3.47	3.70	3.53	3.89
Iowa	3.47	3.65	3.75	3.10	3.65	3.65	3.40	3.60	3.41	3.71
Kansas	3.98	3.84	3.93	3.13	3.64	3.58	3.16	3.69	3.30	4.05
Michigan	3.79	3.90	4.11	3.65	3.27	3.40	3.29	3.58	3.50	4.15
Missouri	3.34	3.36	3.47	3.20	3.06	3.32	3.15	3.40	3.26	3.91
Nebraska	3.84	3.88	3.95	3.09	3.53	3.53	3.27	3.68	3.40	4.02
Ohio	3.52	3.58	3.71	3.32	3.30	3.51	3.38	3.52	3.39	3.88
South Dakota	3.52	3.63	3.77	3.10	3.41	3.42	3.23	3.68	3.28	3.98
Wisconsin	3.43	3.52	3.55	3.55	3.36	3.50	3.41	3.24	3.23	3.77
North Central	3.60	3.65	3.76	3.27	3.40	3.50	3.31	3.54	3.36	3.91
Maryland	3.25	3.26	3.43	3.23	3.55	3.77	3.75	3.48	3.42	3.96
New Jersey	2.91	3.01	3.01	3.24	3.62	3.86	3.72	3.43	3.59	3.91
New York	3.08	3.14	3.15	3.50	3.09	3.51	3.48	3.23	3.31	3.74
Pennsylvania	3.08	3.20	3.28	3.45	3.05	3.52	3.36	3.34	3.37	3.90
Vermont	2.58	2.72	2.81	3.61	3.38	3.89	3.85	3.36	3.59	3.88
Northeast	3.06	3.15	3.21	3.43	3.17	3.59	3.49	3.33	3.39	3.86
Alabama	3.63	3.62	3.59	3.60	3.56	3.77	3.76	3.66	3.60	4.22
Florida	2.79	2.66	2.81	2.73	3.22	3.48	3.75	3.66	3.57	4.17
Georgia	3.43	3.42	3.43	3.24	3.74	3.89	3.91	3.70	3.46	4.05
North Carolina	3.32	3.33	3.39	3.36	3.33	3.68	3.72	3.63	3.52	4.06
Texas	3.59	3.58	3.62	3.28	3.38	3.67	3.54	3.83	3.58	4.32
South	3.46	3.44	3.48	3.26	3.42	3.69	3.65	3.76	3.56	4.23
Arizona	2.91	2.99	3.03	3.01	2.94	3.63	3.48	3.47	3.53	3.87
Colorado	3.44	3.40	3.40	3.14	3.54	3.64	3.45	3.64	3.48	4.10
Idaho	3.20	3.20	3.24	2.91	3.20	3.44	3.34	3.37	3.40	3.79
Montana	3.56	3.54	3.51	3.06	3.01	3.42	3.12	3.80	3.40	4.12
Oregon	2.64	2.72	2.76	2.68	3.03	3.38	3.38	3.23	3.34	3.74
Utah	3.06	3.17	3.14	3.13	2.98	3.49	3.50	3.41	3.55	3.87
Washington	3.12	3.18	3.23	2.84	3.16	3.41	3.32	3.45	3.48	3.88
Wyoming	2.83	2.96	3.00	2.80	2.87	3.44	3.30	3.45	3.38	3.98
West	3.12	3.15	3.17	2.92	3.14	3.47	3.35	3.47	3.43	3.91
Nationwide	3.44	3.47	3.54	3.23	3.35	3.56	3.44	3.58	3.44	4.00

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-3. Provision of New or Reallocated Funding for Select Programs (Question 3)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*						
	Supports Tied to Farm Income	Supports for Non-Program Commodities	Incentives for Farm Savings Accounts	Bioenergy Production Incentives	Biosecurity Incentives	Food Safety Programs	Traceability and Certification
Illinois	3.66	2.99	3.30	3.89	3.43	3.56	3.19
Iowa	3.46	2.80	3.11	3.76	3.40	3.59	3.32
Kansas	3.66	2.80	3.26	3.75	3.30	3.56	3.16
Michigan	3.54	3.34	3.41	3.97	3.56	3.64	3.14
Missouri	3.44	3.03	3.40	3.78	3.40	3.70	3.11
Nebraska	3.73	2.83	3.13	3.66	3.32	3.52	3.24
Ohio	3.47	3.07	3.36	3.85	3.40	3.62	3.27
South Dakota	3.53	2.80	3.06	3.69	3.39	3.67	3.44
Wisconsin	3.46	2.92	3.26	3.62	3.26	3.60	3.17
North Central	3.53	2.96	3.27	3.78	3.38	3.61	3.21
Maryland	3.39	3.15	3.57	3.92	3.55	3.78	3.24
New Jersey	3.39	3.39	3.62	3.93	3.60	3.97	3.51
New York	3.31	3.06	3.38	3.76	3.42	3.67	3.29
Pennsylvania	3.34	3.12	3.39	3.89	3.38	3.68	3.18
Vermont	3.29	2.93	3.36	3.76	3.30	3.70	3.29
Northeast	3.34	3.12	3.42	3.85	3.42	3.71	3.25
Alabama	3.49	3.36	3.61	3.99	3.64	4.12	3.74
Florida	3.09	3.17	3.63	3.78	3.52	3.87	3.46
Georgia	3.26	3.37	3.53	3.96	3.63	3.95	3.51
North Carolina	3.45	3.33	3.67	3.92	3.64	3.86	3.46
Texas	3.56	3.22	3.55	3.69	3.37	3.82	3.22
South	3.46	3.26	3.58	3.79	3.48	3.88	3.36
Arizona	3.08	2.97	3.27	3.57	3.30	3.78	3.27
Colorado	3.40	2.92	3.28	3.68	3.34	3.60	3.26
Idaho	3.32	2.91	3.45	3.71	3.30	3.71	3.33
Montana	3.45	2.91	3.29	3.72	3.36	3.67	3.50
Oregon	2.88	2.74	3.30	3.68	3.29	3.67	3.32
Utah	3.33	3.08	3.53	3.62	3.44	3.79	3.45
Washington	3.35	2.95	3.32	3.74	3.34	3.63	3.35
Wyoming	3.01	2.73	3.28	3.64	3.28	3.69	3.44
West	3.24	2.89	3.34	3.69	3.33	3.67	3.36
Nationwide	3.45	3.06	3.39	3.78	3.41	3.71	3.28

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-4.Commodity Program Implementation (Questions 4-9)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*						
	Phase Out Commodity Payments	Reduce Commodity Payments	Target Payments to Small Farmers	Lower Program Payment Limits	Eliminate the Three-Entity Rule	Eliminate Unlimited Commodity Loan Gains	
Illinois	2.04	2.42	3.69	2.97	3.79	3.48	3.48
Iowa	2.37	2.70	3.94	3.66	4.12	3.68	3.68
Kansas	1.92	2.10	3.80	2.88	3.76	3.43	3.43
Michigan	2.09	2.36	3.94	2.90	3.54	3.38	3.38
Missouri	2.42	2.54	3.91	3.26	3.74	3.46	3.46
Nebraska	1.95	2.28	3.92	3.30	4.10	3.59	3.59
Ohio	2.29	2.43	3.74	2.99	3.75	3.49	3.49
South Dakota	2.14	2.55	4.06	3.58	4.15	3.66	3.66
Wisconsin	2.33	2.49	3.90	3.12	3.68	3.46	3.46
North Central	2.21	2.45	3.87	3.18	3.83	3.51	3.51
Maryland	2.51	2.60	3.73	2.91	3.74	3.43	3.43
New Jersey	3.17	2.88	4.06	3.23	3.80	3.80	3.80
New York	2.72	2.68	3.89	3.22	3.69	3.47	3.47
Pennsylvania	2.64	2.73	3.83	3.17	3.69	3.45	3.45
Vermont	2.92	2.87	3.99	3.25	3.64	3.58	3.58
Northeast	2.71	2.72	3.86	3.17	3.70	3.49	3.49
Alabama	2.31	2.25	3.51	2.83	3.52	3.18	3.18
Florida	3.14	2.78	3.83	3.24	3.75	3.50	3.50
Georgia	2.56	2.59	3.65	2.91	3.56	3.37	3.37
North Carolina	2.45	2.51	3.63	2.90	3.30	3.24	3.24
Texas	2.23	2.35	3.58	2.76	3.47	3.24	3.24
South	2.40	2.43	3.61	2.85	3.50	3.27	3.27
Arizona	2.85	2.65	3.73	3.18	3.52	3.37	3.37
Colorado	2.31	2.35	3.79	3.00	3.59	3.39	3.39
Idaho	2.56	2.36	3.95	3.01	3.79	3.54	3.54
Montana	2.07	2.27	3.80	2.96	3.68	3.32	3.32
Oregon	3.03	2.82	3.71	3.30	3.67	3.40	3.40
Utah	2.78	2.85	3.85	3.07	3.44	3.32	3.32
Washington	2.55	2.46	3.73	2.94	3.59	3.28	3.28
Wyoming	2.87	2.68	3.78	3.21	3.61	3.55	3.55
West	2.59	2.53	3.79	3.07	3.63	3.38	3.38
Nationwide	2.37	2.48	3.78	3.06	3.69	3.42	3.42

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-5. Commodity Program Buy-Out (Question 10)

Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*																			
Offer Products a Buy-Out?				15-Year Buy-Out with Lump Sum Payment				15-Year Buy-Out with Installment Payments				25-Year Buy-Out with Lump Sum Payment				25-Year Buy-Out with Installment Payments			
State/Region	Yes	No	Don't Know/No Opinion	Yes	No	Don't Know/No Opinion	Yes	No	Don't Know/No Opinion	Yes	No	Don't Know/No Opinion	Yes	No	Don't Know/No Opinion				
Illinois	14	54	32	16	46	39	16	43	40	21	39	39	20	40	40				
Iowa	16	48	36	24	36	40	25	35	41	31	32	36	32	31	37				
Kansas	23	44	33	25	38	36	27	34	39	31	34	35	31	31	38				
Michigan	28	44	28	28	38	33	22	40	38	33	37	31	27	38	35				
Missouri	23	46	31	26	37	36	27	35	39	30	31	38	27	31	42				
Nebraska	18	50	32	19	46	35	19	44	37	27	40	33	27	37	36				
Ohio	21	48	30	22	43	36	21	42	37	28	40	32	23	41	37				
South Dakota	19	52	30	18	44	38	16	42	41	28	37	34	24	39	37				
Wisconsin	26	39	36	26	33	41	30	29	40	29	29	42	31	28	42				
North Central	21	47	32	23	39	37	23	37	39	29	35	36	27	34	39				
Maryland	20	31	49	17	30	53	22	24	55	22	25	53	20	26	54				
New Jersey	25	24	51	23	19	57	23	17	58	17	27	56	23	18	59				
New York	25	30	45	25	27	48	24	28	48	26	26	49	22	27	51				
Pennsylvania	24	34	43	21	32	47	21	30	49	23	30	47	25	27	48				
Vermont	26	29	45	18	23	59	18	22	60	19	22	59	19	23	59				
Northeast	24	31	45	22	28	49	22	27	50	23	28	49	23	26	51				
Alabama	24	43	33	35	24	41	29	29	43	39	23	38	31	26	43				
Florida	25	35	40	25	27	48	23	27	49	28	24	48	27	24	50				
Georgia	29	36	33	33	19	47	25	23	51	40	15	46	28	20	52				
North Carolina	23	44	33	33	29	40	30	29	42	36	25	39	32	25	43				
Texas	24	38	37	28	31	41	28	32	40	36	26	38	31	28	41				
South	24	39	36	29	28	42	27	29	43	36	24	40	30	26	44				
Arizona	25	37	38	25	27	49	20	29	50	27	25	46	24	27	48				
Colorado	22	43	35	19	37	44	21	34	45	24	34	42	25	31	43				
Idaho	26	44	30	25	36	39	23	33	43	32	32	36	23	35	42				
Montana	20	48	32	15	43	42	18	40	41	23	37	39	24	35	41				
Oregon	21	37	43	22	26	52	19	26	55	24	24	52	20	24	54				
Utah	26	41	33	20	35	45	21	32	47	26	29	44	25	29	45				
Washington	28	37	35	22	33	44	20	31	48	30	26	43	26	27	47				
Wyoming	20	41	39	21	36	44	20	36	45	26	31	43	26	31	43				
West	23	41	35	20	34	45	20	33	47	26	30	43	24	30	46				
Nationwide	23	42	35	25	34	41	24	33	42	30	30	39	27	30	42				

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents answering "Yes," "No," or "No Opinion/Don't Know" for each separate part of the question. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-6. Dairy Programs (Question 11)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*			
	Eliminate All Dairy Programs	Eliminate MILC Program	Eliminate Price Support Program	Retain All Dairy Programs
Illinois	22	18	14	46
Iowa	29	17	16	38
Kansas	27	15	14	43
Michigan	26	14	18	41
Missouri	28	16	13	43
Nebraska	26	21	13	40
Ohio	27	14	13	47
South Dakota	23	23	14	39
Wisconsin	21	12	15	53
North Central	26	16	15	43
Maryland	25	14	11	50
New Jersey	28	8	13	51
New York	20	14	11	56
Pennsylvania	23	12	15	51
Vermont	17	10	14	59
Northeast	22	12	13	53
Alabama	25	12	10	53
Florida	43	16	8	34
Georgia	24	16	15	46
North Carolina	22	12	9	57
Texas	29	18	11	42
South	28	16	11	45
Arizona	38	13	12	38
Colorado	30	15	15	39
Idaho	44	11	15	31
Montana	26	16	21	38
Oregon	39	18	11	32
Utah	33	16	13	38
Washington	32	17	14	37
Wyoming	39	15	13	34
West	34	16	14	36
Nationwide	28	16	13	43

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents answering "No Federal Assistance", "Technical Assistance Only", "Technical Assistance and Financial Assistance", or "No Opinion/Don't Know" for each separate goal. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-7. Environmental Goals and Conservation Programs (Question 12) *continued*

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*											
	Open Space Protection			Animal Waste Management			Carbon Sequestration			Biodiversity Maintenance		
	No Assist.	Tech. Assist.	Tech./Fin. Assist.	Don't Know	No Assist.	Tech. Assist.	Tech./Fin. Assist.	Don't Know	No Assist.	Tech. Assist.	Tech./Fin. Assist.	Don't Know
Illinois	20	20	33	27	14	29	41	16	11	21	27	41
Iowa	20	25	30	25	11	40	40	8	14	30	23	33
Kansas	21	25	26	28	10	29	47	14	15	22	28	35
Michigan	18	26	43	13	15	26	45	14	10	20	29	40
Missouri	23	24	26	27	15	33	40	12	12	24	21	44
Nebraska	25	23	26	26	16	34	40	10	16	21	29	34
Ohio	20	28	33	19	12	31	50	9	10	26	26	38
South Dakota	27	24	19	31	11	37	41	10	15	24	25	37
Wisconsin	18	24	32	27	10	24	53	13	11	20	25	44
North Central	21	24	30	25	13	31	44	11	12	24	25	39
Maryland	11	18	50	21	9	25	50	16	9	20	30	41
New Jersey	9	12	70	8	10	36	41	13	10	25	33	32
New York	16	22	41	21	9	23	55	13	8	19	28	45
Pennsylvania	16	24	43	17	10	28	52	10	9	22	25	43
Vermont	15	18	55	12	6	23	63	8	8	21	36	36
Northeast	15	22	46	18	10	27	52	12	9	22	27	42
Alabama	12	31	36	21	11	29	47	12	10	27	30	34
Florida	17	25	42	17	12	33	38	16	10	24	31	37
Georgia	10	33	41	17	11	34	41	15	8	27	27	37
North Carolina	15	25	44	16	9	25	55	11	8	21	31	40
Texas	19	27	33	22	16	33	35	16	15	25	20	40
South	16	28	37	20	14	32	40	15	12	25	24	39
Arizona	20	20	45	15	12	33	39	15	12	21	27	40
Colorado	26	25	34	14	16	39	32	13	17	25	22	36
Idaho	18	27	38	16	16	32	41	11	16	22	25	37
Montana	31	21	33	15	17	34	36	13	16	23	27	34
Oregon	23	23	38	16	15	33	39	12	14	24	29	34
Utah	19	22	42	17	16	26	42	16	12	22	25	41
Washington	17	22	51	10	14	29	47	11	14	23	33	30
Wyoming	26	25	36	14	15	33	37	15	15	22	28	35
West	23	23	40	14	16	33	39	13	15	23	28	35
Nationwide	19	25	35	21	13	31	43	12	13	24	26	39
												30
												33

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents answering "No Federal Assistance," "Technical Assistance Only," "Technical and Financial Assistance," or "No Opinion/Don't Know" for each separate goal. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-8. Conservation Program State Block Grants (Question 13)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Illinois	10	13	18	29	15
Iowa	7	5	23	33	22
Kansas	10	8	20	35	18
Michigan	12	9	15	34	20
Missouri	11	6	17	36	21
Nebraska	10	7	19	36	19
Ohio	12	7	19	31	20
South Dakota	9	9	21	31	22
Wisconsin	9	8	19	32	17
North Central	10	8	19	33	19
Maryland	12	9	18	28	22
New Jersey	11	9	19	27	22
New York	12	10	19	26	18
Pennsylvania	12	8	16	33	18
Vermont	10	5	12	35	28
Northeast	12	9	17	30	19
Alabama	17	12	18	27	18
Florida	15	9	12	26	29
Georgia	8	8	19	34	23
North Carolina	9	8	16	33	19
Texas	12	6	14	32	23
South	12	8	15	31	23
Arizona	11	9	12	32	26
Colorado	12	9	15	30	23
Idaho	12	5	13	32	30
Montana	9	9	14	29	30
Oregon	13	8	14	30	22
Utah	8	6	11	27	38
Washington	14	9	12	29	25
Wyoming	4	7	11	35	38
West	12	8	13	30	27
Nationwide	11	8	17	32	21

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents answering "Strongly Disagree," "Disagree," "Neutral," "Agree," "Strongly Agree," or "No Opinion/Don't Know". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-9. Conservation Reserve Program (Question 14)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*			
	Re-Bid Expiring Contracts	Re-Enroll High-Ranking Contracts	Restrict CRP to Environmentally-Sensitive Lands	Eliminate CRP
Illinois	40	32	17	10
Iowa	33	40	19	8
Kansas	35	37	17	11
Michigan	28	33	20	20
Missouri	30	27	20	23
Nebraska	37	36	16	11
Ohio	34	32	19	15
South Dakota	40	28	20	11
Wisconsin	34	28	19	19
North Central	34	32	19	15
Maryland	35	34	17	14
New Jersey	41	33	13	13
New York	31	27	18	22
Pennsylvania	28	24	26	23
Vermont	32	36	16	16
Northeast	31	27	21	20
Alabama	36	26	17	21
Florida	35	28	10	27
Georgia	41	29	13	16
North Carolina	38	28	16	18
Texas	36	22	19	23
South	37	25	17	21
Arizona	33	25	16	27
Colorado	34	30	17	19
Idaho	31	29	16	25
Montana	24	28	24	25
Oregon	28	26	18	28
Utah	37	15	17	29
Washington	28	30	22	20
Wyoming	24	24	22	31
West	30	27	19	24
Nationwide	34	29	18	18

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-10. Conservation Security Program (Question 15)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*		
	Implement CSP by Watershed	Implement CSP Nationwide	Eliminate CSP
Illinois	65	18	18
Iowa	58	25	17
Kansas	55	22	22
Michigan	55	22	23
Missouri	53	20	26
Nebraska	58	22	21
Ohio	62	22	16
South Dakota	58	20	21
Wisconsin	61	19	21
North Central	58	21	20
Maryland	54	28	18
New Jersey	50	32	18
New York	53	25	22
Pennsylvania	63	19	18
Vermont	52	30	18
Northeast	57	23	19
Alabama	58	22	20
Florida	47	24	28
Georgia	55	26	19
North Carolina	56	23	21
Texas	52	23	27
South	53	23	25
Arizona	49	23	28
Colorado	55	25	20
Idaho	52	20	29
Montana	51	21	28
Oregon	49	21	29
Utah	57	23	19
Washington	45	26	28
Wyoming	52	19	29
West	51	23	26
Nationwide	55	22	22

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the three policy alternatives. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-11. Trade Policy Issues (Questions 16-22)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*							
	Labor, Environment, and Food				Market Access			
	Pursue Free-Trade Agreements	Safety Negotiations	Comply with WTO Ruling	Domestic Goals over Trade Goals	Withdraw from WTO	Problems if Withdrawal from WTO	Eliminate Unilateral Sanctions on Food Trade	
Illinois	3.72	3.81	3.15	3.07	2.62	3.42	3.29	
Iowa	3.77	3.86	3.31	3.13	2.58	3.58	3.33	
Kansas	3.79	3.91	3.19	3.09	2.59	3.69	3.53	
Michigan	3.09	4.12	3.14	3.44	2.98	3.44	3.36	
Missouri	3.54	3.99	3.19	3.27	2.80	3.44	3.22	
Nebraska	3.60	3.95	3.06	3.17	2.81	3.47	3.42	
Ohio	3.59	4.18	3.31	3.25	2.72	3.48	3.17	
South Dakota	3.03	3.98	3.12	3.35	2.95	3.13	3.29	
Wisconsin	3.36	4.16	3.32	3.32	2.71	3.43	3.19	
North Central	3.54	3.99	3.22	3.22	2.73	3.47	3.30	
Maryland	3.60	4.03	3.44	3.18	2.64	3.82	3.36	
New Jersey	3.70	4.19	3.52	3.21	2.48	3.85	3.17	
New York	3.17	4.19	3.28	3.46	2.71	3.45	3.13	
Pennsylvania	3.46	4.14	3.36	3.28	2.66	3.58	3.08	
Vermont	3.07	4.28	3.79	3.56	2.65	3.43	3.18	
Northeast	3.39	4.16	3.38	3.33	2.66	3.58	3.13	
Alabama	3.24	4.35	2.92	3.21	2.96	3.34	2.97	
Florida	2.84	4.33	3.55	3.49	2.96	3.26	3.14	
Georgia	3.47	4.36	3.11	3.40	2.86	3.39	2.97	
North Carolina	3.17	4.09	3.04	3.43	2.87	3.44	3.14	
Texas	3.70	4.10	2.99	3.22	2.89	3.44	3.26	
South	3.47	4.18	3.06	3.29	2.90	3.40	3.17	
Arizona	3.41	4.17	3.21	3.37	2.87	3.33	2.90	
Colorado	3.26	3.96	3.21	3.26	2.79	3.45	3.10	
Idaho	2.70	4.12	3.36	3.34	3.28	3.02	3.14	
Montana	2.42	4.05	3.13	3.64	3.27	2.97	3.15	
Oregon	2.97	4.24	3.38	3.36	2.94	3.25	3.02	
Utah	3.11	4.06	3.26	3.41	3.12	3.37	3.09	
Washington	3.07	4.13	3.25	3.36	3.11	3.33	3.34	
Wyoming	2.73	3.97	3.18	3.46	3.18	2.99	3.00	
West	2.94	4.10	3.26	3.39	3.06	3.23	3.12	
Nationwide	3.42	4.08	3.19	3.28	2.82	3.43	3.22	

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-12. Food System and Regulatory Policy Issues (Questions 23-29)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*						
	Mandatory COOL	Voluntary COOL Guidelines	Food Product Traceability	Mandatory Animal Identification	Government-Mandated BSE Testing	Voluntary Industry BSE Testing	Biotech Food Product Labels
Illinois	3.98	3.47	3.76	3.43	3.25	3.44	3.21
Iowa	4.08	3.37	3.81	3.56	3.32	3.44	3.16
Kansas	4.07	3.38	3.69	3.32	3.00	3.37	3.35
Michigan	4.36	3.13	3.84	3.59	3.19	3.16	2.96
Missouri	4.17	3.44	3.74	3.32	2.97	3.39	3.54
Nebraska	4.25	3.23	3.79	3.42	2.93	3.41	3.14
Ohio	4.13	3.13	3.79	3.61	3.45	3.35	3.42
South Dakota	4.46	3.10	3.90	3.50	3.01	3.45	3.24
Wisconsin	4.46	3.35	3.93	3.54	3.10	3.25	3.63
North Central	4.19	3.31	3.80	3.47	3.15	3.36	3.33
Maryland	4.36	3.32	4.06	3.67	3.38	3.42	3.55
New Jersey	4.64	3.39	4.20	4.09	4.08	3.59	3.89
New York	4.56	3.28	4.15	3.81	3.39	3.37	3.86
Pennsylvania	4.37	3.39	3.94	3.54	3.16	3.35	3.61
Vermont	4.53	3.01	4.23	3.83	3.55	3.10	4.13
Northeast	4.45	3.33	4.05	3.69	3.34	3.37	3.73
Alabama	4.58	3.43	4.33	4.09	3.83	3.43	3.92
Florida	4.54	3.05	4.23	3.93	3.53	3.42	3.90
Georgia	4.60	3.42	4.24	3.93	3.72	3.58	3.74
North Carolina	4.44	3.37	4.17	3.83	3.31	3.44	3.76
Texas	4.26	3.35	3.82	3.25	2.98	3.38	3.58
South	4.38	3.34	4.01	3.56	3.25	3.42	3.69
Arizona	4.30	3.40	3.92	3.63	3.17	3.32	3.57
Colorado	4.30	3.30	3.82	3.51	3.10	3.45	3.42
Idaho	4.47	3.33	3.93	3.54	3.31	3.41	3.45
Montana	4.56	3.10	3.89	3.50	3.14	3.46	3.75
Oregon	4.43	3.05	4.00	3.78	3.48	3.25	3.60
Utah	4.37	3.29	4.05	3.67	3.21	3.45	3.79
Washington	4.43	3.28	4.05	3.75	3.51	3.35	3.55
Wyoming	4.54	3.04	3.97	3.50	3.26	3.30	3.70
West	4.43	3.21	3.95	3.63	3.30	3.37	3.58
Nationwide	4.31	3.31	3.91	3.54	3.22	3.38	3.51

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-13. Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Programs (Question Z1)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*						
	Counter-		Commodity		Subsidized		Block Grants for State Programs
	Direct Payments	Cyclical Price Payments	Loans and LDPs		Crop Insurance	Disaster Assistance Programs	
Illinois	2.95	3.12	3.23	3.32	3.39	3.39	2.86
Michigan	3.27	3.43	3.39	3.57	4.03	3.40	3.40
New York	2.68	2.82	2.97	3.09	3.69	3.08	3.08
Florida	2.92	2.83	3.00	3.45	4.12	3.40	3.40
Idaho	2.64	2.96	3.08	3.19	3.64	3.15	3.15
Montana	2.70	3.02	3.13	3.42	3.95	3.13	3.13
Oregon	2.35	2.60	2.65	2.99	3.66	3.10	3.10
Composite	2.84	3.00	3.10	3.31	3.76	3.14	3.14

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-14. Risk Management Programs (Question Z2)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*						
	Livestock Insurance		Whole-Farm Income Insurance		Tax-Deferred Savings Accounts		Risk Management Incentives
	Crop Insurance						
Illinois	3.58	3.14	3.23	3.80	3.43	3.43	3.43
Iowa	3.48	3.01	3.03	3.75	3.21	3.21	3.21
Kansas	3.57	3.09	3.27	3.92	3.35	3.35	3.35
Missouri	3.02	3.00	2.99	3.89	3.25	3.25	3.25
Nebraska	3.72	3.21	3.28	3.93	3.40	3.40	3.40
Wisconsin	3.12	3.00	3.04	3.98	3.37	3.37	3.37
Maryland	3.31	3.23	3.28	4.23	3.69	3.69	3.69
New York	2.96	2.98	3.05	4.19	3.52	3.52	3.52
Alabama	3.41	3.30	3.46	4.11	3.62	3.62	3.62
North Carolina	3.23	3.26	3.33	4.12	3.71	3.71	3.71
Texas	3.41	3.36	3.42	4.23	3.58	3.58	3.58
Montana	3.47	3.22	3.37	3.94	3.36	3.36	3.36
Washington	3.12	2.81	3.25	4.09	3.47	3.47	3.47
Composite	3.35	3.15	3.24	4.02	3.44	3.44	3.44

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-15. Supply Control (Question Z3)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*			
	Mandatory Paid Set-Aside	Non-Voluntary Paid Set-Aside	Farmer-Owned Reserve	
Iowa	2.43	3.12	2.90	
Missouri	2.31	3.11	3.12	
New Jersey	2.67	3.07	3.16	
Alabama	2.27	3.35	3.24	
North Carolina	2.53	3.08	3.21	
Texas	2.44	3.33	3.20	
Composite	2.41	3.22	3.14	

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-16. Open Space and Farmland Preservation (Question Z4)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*				
	Federal Funding for PDRs/CEs	Private Funding for PDRs/CEs	Federal Support for TDR Programs	Voluntary Donations of CE's	Agricultural Competitive-ness
Illinois	2.61	3.03	2.32	3.19	4.09
Michigan	3.25	2.69	2.80	3.30	4.28
Wisconsin	2.83	2.86	2.59	3.36	3.98
Maryland	3.92	2.53	2.88	3.64	4.38
New Jersey	4.02	2.59	3.17	3.74	4.09
Florida	3.05	3.06	2.56	3.43	3.83
Colorado	2.76	2.88	2.36	3.41	4.08
Oregon	2.66	2.83	2.58	3.38	3.72
Utah	2.65	3.23	2.59	3.33	4.18
Wyoming	2.30	3.01	2.35	3.25	3.83
Composite	2.90	2.89	2.56	3.35	4.03

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-17. Rural Development Programs (Question Z5)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*				
	Access to Capital	Education and Training	Rural High-Speed Internet Access	Infrastructure and Services	Business Development and Job Creation
Illinois	3.60	3.60	3.49	3.51	3.60
Iowa	3.61	3.71	3.44	3.28	3.67
Kansas	3.73	3.73	3.55	3.29	3.78
Michigan	3.35	3.53	3.11	3.24	3.36
Missouri	3.47	3.63	3.28	3.15	3.52
Nebraska	3.83	3.77	3.63	3.42	3.83
New Jersey	3.46	3.91	3.54	3.45	3.51
Florida	3.66	3.95	3.64	3.39	3.65
Georgia	3.63	3.95	3.60	3.38	3.68
Colorado	3.69	3.84	3.43	3.31	3.75
Oregon	3.42	3.63	3.20	3.07	3.41
Utah	3.61	4.03	3.54	3.56	3.72
Washington	3.65	3.67	3.42	3.31	3.55
Composite	3.59	3.72	3.43	3.31	3.61

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-19. Research and Extension Funding (Question Z8)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*			
	Mix of Formula and Competitive Funding	Increased Formula Funding	Shift to Competitive Funding	Eliminate Funding
Iowa	58	22	14	6
Kansas	56	23	14	7
Nebraska	55	22	14	9
Wisconsin	55	14	18	13
Montana	49	33	11	6
Wyoming	48	27	15	10
Composite	56	21	15	9

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-18. Farm Credit Program Funding (Question Z6)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*		
	Farm Operating Loans	Farm Ownership Loans	Beginning Farmer Loans
Illinois	3.64	3.64	4.02
Michigan	3.68	3.71	4.09
Missouri	3.39	3.42	4.04
Composite	3.53	3.56	4.04

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-20. Research Funding Priorities (Question Z9)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*										
	Biofuels and Renewable Energy			Production Agriculture			Nutrition and Obesity			Private Forest Land Management	
	Energy	Biotechnology	Food Security	Food Safety	Food Security	Food Safety	Food Safety	Obesity	Air Quality	Soil Quality	Water Quality
Illinois	4.58	3.78	3.75	3.90	3.75	3.88	3.90	3.25	3.67	3.96	4.21
Iowa	4.54	3.73	3.88	4.02	3.88	3.70	4.02	3.29	3.70	3.88	4.18
Kansas	4.36	3.57	3.66	3.87	3.66	3.82	3.87	3.11	3.53	3.79	4.18
Missouri	4.45	3.62	3.93	4.06	3.93	3.87	4.06	3.35	3.62	3.84	4.11
Nebraska	4.46	3.52	3.70	3.88	3.70	3.73	3.88	2.98	3.48	3.68	4.08
New Jersey	4.58	3.83	4.18	4.34	4.18	3.84	4.34	3.61	4.02	4.07	4.31
Pennsylvania	4.38	3.65	3.96	4.11	3.96	3.97	4.11	3.36	3.62	3.89	4.19
Alabama	4.53	3.91	4.29	4.39	4.29	4.03	4.39	3.55	3.90	4.10	4.31
Florida	4.35	3.77	4.07	4.29	4.07	4.06	4.29	3.52	3.94	4.05	4.27
Georgia	4.55	3.76	4.25	4.39	4.25	4.00	4.39	3.54	4.02	4.04	4.36
North Carolina	4.46	3.82	4.18	4.27	4.18	4.04	4.27	3.51	3.86	3.95	4.22
Texas	4.28	3.65	4.05	4.17	4.05	4.04	4.17	3.38	3.80	3.94	4.31
Colorado	4.35	3.60	3.90	4.08	3.90	3.97	4.08	3.29	3.62	3.84	4.15
Idaho	4.35	3.57	3.98	4.06	3.98	3.86	4.06	3.16	3.64	3.83	4.10
Oregon	4.41	3.48	3.97	4.18	3.97	3.74	4.18	3.38	3.77	3.85	4.15
Composite	4.42	3.68	3.97	4.11	3.97	3.92	4.11	3.34	3.73	3.91	4.22

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-21. Public Lands Management (Question Z10)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*									
	Market-Based Land Use Fees			Economic-Based Access Criteria		Ecological-Based Access Criteria		Transfer from Federal to State Management		Federal Lands
	Land Use Fees	Economic-Based Access Criteria	Ecological-Based Access Criteria	Ecological-Based Access Criteria	Ecological-Based Access Criteria	Ecological-Based Access Criteria	Ecological-Based Access Criteria	Transfer from Federal to State Management	Transfer from Federal to State Management	Revenues to Local Governments
Idaho	3.41	3.20	2.94	2.94	3.90	3.90	3.90	2.90	4.12	4.25
Montana	3.50	3.23	2.99	2.99	3.83	3.83	3.83	2.94	4.11	4.16
Utah	3.31	3.39	3.17	3.17	3.95	3.95	3.95	2.98	4.01	4.28
Wyoming	3.38	3.16	2.96	2.96	4.07	4.07	4.07	2.93	4.17	4.19
Composite	3.42	3.24	3.01	3.01	3.91	3.91	3.91	2.93	4.10	4.22

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-22. Labor Issues (Question Z11)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*			
	Full-Time Laborer Availability	Seasonal Labor Availability	Foreign Guest Worker Program	Public Services in Immigrant Communities
Illinois	2.77	2.89	2.11	2.32
Florida	3.82	3.88	3.23	3.17
Texas	3.43	3.53	3.04	2.73
Idaho	3.21	3.29	2.75	2.75
Wyoming	3.17	3.31	2.78	2.62
Composite	3.33	3.43	2.86	2.70

* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

Table A-23. Age of Respondent (Question 30)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*						
	Under 25	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and Over	
Illinois	0	2	16	28	28	26	26
Iowa	0	3	13	32	26	26	26
Kansas	0	3	10	26	26	34	34
Michigan	0	2	14	30	29	25	25
Missouri	0	4	8	25	29	33	33
Nebraska	0	5	12	31	25	26	26
Ohio	0	1	13	31	26	28	28
South Dakota	0	5	15	28	27	25	25
Wisconsin	0	3	18	28	27	25	25
North Central	0	3	13	29	27	28	28
Maryland	2	3	10	22	32	31	31
New Jersey	1	2	7	27	25	39	39
New York	0	2	11	29	32	26	26
Pennsylvania	0	5	12	27	29	26	26
Vermont	0	5	16	24	26	28	28
Northeast	0	4	12	27	30	27	27
Alabama	0	2	9	19	30	39	39
Florida	0	1	11	33	23	32	32
Georgia	0	1	6	26	34	34	34
North Carolina	0	3	9	28	31	30	30
Texas	0	1	8	22	29	40	40
South	0	1	8	24	29	37	37
Arizona	0	2	6	25	29	38	38
Colorado	0	3	11	25	26	33	33
Idaho	0	2	9	27	34	28	28
Montana	0	7	10	25	25	32	32
Oregon	0	2	8	27	32	31	31
Utah	0	4	7	27	30	33	33
Washington	0	1	9	28	33	28	28
Wyoming	0	3	8	24	31	34	34
West	0	3	9	27	30	32	32
Nationwide	0	2	11	27	28	31	31

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the age categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-24. Gender of Respondent (Question 31)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*	
	Male	Female
Illinois	96	4
Iowa	93	7
Kansas	89	11
Michigan	91	9
Missouri	90	10
Nebraska	91	9
Ohio	93	7
South Dakota	91	9
Wisconsin	89	11
North Central	91	9
Maryland	85	15
New Jersey	86	14
New York	85	15
Pennsylvania	91	9
Vermont	75	25
Northeast	87	13
Alabama	89	11
Florida	84	16
Georgia	86	14
North Carolina	91	9
Texas	89	11
South	88	12
Arizona	86	14
Colorado	83	17
Idaho	90	10
Montana	82	18
Oregon	76	24
Utah	95	5
Washington	85	15
Wyoming	84	16
West	84	16
Nationwide	88	12

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the gender categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-25. Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Background of Respondent (Question 32)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*	
	Yes	No
Illinois	1	99
Iowa	1	99
Kansas	1	99
Michigan	2	98
Missouri	1	99
Nebraska	1	99
Ohio	0	100
South Dakota	0	100
Wisconsin	1	99
North Central	1	99
Maryland	1	99
New Jersey	1	99
New York	1	99
Pennsylvania	0	100
Vermont	1	99
Northeast	1	99
Alabama	0	100
Florida	7	93
Georgia	1	99
North Carolina	1	99
Texas	3	97
South	3	97
Arizona	7	93
Colorado	4	96
Idaho	3	97
Montana	1	99
Oregon	1	99
Utah	1	99
Washington	1	99
Wyoming	1	99
West	2	98
Nationwide	2	98

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino background categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-26. Race or Ethnicity of Respondent (Question 33)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*					
	White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Native	Asian
Illinois	99	0	1	0	0	0
Iowa	100	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	99	0	1	0	0	0
Michigan	99	1	0	0	0	0
Missouri	98	0	1	0	0	0
Nebraska	99	0	1	0	0	0
Ohio	99	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota	99	0	1	0	0	0
Wisconsin	100	0	0	0	0	0
North Central	99	0	1	0	0	0
Maryland	99	1	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	98	1	0	0	1	1
New York	99	0	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	99	1	0	0	0	0
Vermont	98	0	2	0	0	0
Northeast	99	1	0	0	0	0
Alabama	93	5	1	0	0	0
Florida	93	3	2	1	1	1
Georgia	95	4	1	0	0	0
North Carolina	97	2	1	0	0	0
Texas	98	1	1	0	0	0
South	96	2	1	0	0	0
Arizona	96	0	4	0	0	0
Colorado	99	0	1	0	0	0
Idaho	100	0	0	0	0	0
Montana	98	0	2	0	0	0
Oregon	98	0	1	0	0	0
Utah	98	0	2	0	0	0
Washington	98	0	1	0	1	1
Wyoming	98	0	2	0	0	0
West	98	0	1	0	0	0
Nationwide	98	1	1	0	0	0

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the race or ethnicity categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-27. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold on the Farm or Ranch (Question 34)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*									
	Small			Medium			Large			
	Under \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$249,999	\$250,000 - \$499,999	\$500,000 - \$999,999	\$1,000,000 and Over			
Illinois	30	34	35	100	62	27	12			
Iowa	25	42	33	100	66	24	10			
Kansas	29	38	33	100	57	26	17			
Michigan	18	27	55	100	48	40	12			
Missouri	29	41	30	100	54	35	12			
Nebraska	18	36	46	100	66	28	7			
Ohio	36	35	29	100	67	23	10			
South Dakota	18	41	41	100	63	24	13			
Wisconsin	46	31	23	100	70	20	10			
North Central	29	36	34	100	63	27	11			
Maryland	64	25	11	100	62	23	15			
New Jersey	61	27	12	100	29	43	29			
New York	44	32	23	100	43	27	30			
Pennsylvania	48	29	22	100	59	30	12			
Vermont	69	25	6	100	63	25	13			
Northeast	51	29	20	100	52	29	20			
Alabama	67	26	7	100	57	26	17			
Florida	46	34	20	100	44	15	41			
Georgia	62	24	14	100	48	32	20			
North Carolina	45	31	24	100	43	41	15			
Texas	33	37	29	100	57	24	19			
South	42	33	24	100	50	29	21			
Arizona	54	31	15	100	26	25	49			
Colorado	41	33	26	100	44	31	26			
Idaho	40	39	22	100	51	23	26			
Montana	27	34	39	100	68	25	7			
Oregon	47	32	21	100	46	26	28			
Utah	51	34	15	100	58	29	13			
Washington	40	36	25	100	48	26	26			
Wyoming	36	36	28	100	69	14	16			
West	41	34	25	100	50	26	24			
Nationwide	37	34	28	100	57	27	16			

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the market value categories with each size strata. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-28. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts by Commodity Group (Question 35)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*											
	Program Crops						Non-Program Crops					
	Grains	Oilseeds	Cotton	Pulses**	Peanuts	Sugar	Fruits	Vegeta- bles	Nursery Crops	Forages	Tobacco	Other Crops
Livestock												
Sheep and Goats												
Dairy												
Aqua- culture												
Cattle												
Hogs												
Poultry												
Other Live- stock												
Illinois	42.2	32.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.7	3.4	0.0	2.6
Iowa	36.3	28.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	3.4	0.0	2.7
Kansas	40.4	11.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.9	4.9	0.0	5.6
Michigan	19.4	16.8	0.0	3.2	0.3	1.2	12.9	4.8	9.1	3.0	0.0	3.6
Missouri	12.7	17.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.5	1.3	5.0	0.2	2.0
Nebraska	37.2	18.8	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	3.7	0.0	2.4
Ohio	23.6	24.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	1.8	4.6	4.1	1.0	3.3
South Dakota	27.5	16.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	5.1	0.0	4.5
Wisconsin	17.5	7.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.7	1.0	7.8	0.4	5.6
North Central	27.7	19.9	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1	1.9	1.0	2.0	4.5	0.2	3.4
Maryland	16.0	12.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	4.6	6.9	9.5	0.2	4.5
New Jersey	10.2	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	7.8	25.8	8.6	0.0	7.9
New York	7.0	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	6.4	5.8	6.9	11.7	0.1	6.7
Pennsylvania	12.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9	4.1	7.8	8.5	0.3	4.6
Vermont	4.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	4.6	9.4	6.4	10.1	0.0	13.0
Northeast	10.4	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	5.2	8.8	9.6	0.2	5.9
Alabama	7.4	6.2	15.4	0.3	4.9	0.0	5.1	1.8	0.9	7.4	0.0	12.9
Florida	3.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.3	0.4	23.3	4.3	19.3	4.1	0.4	5.9
Georgia	6.9	3.0	8.1	0.3	5.3	0.2	6.9	12.1	2.4	9.5	1.1	10.1
North Carolina	6.8	6.8	2.2	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.1	3.5	10.4	3.1	10.5	4.7
Texas	12.3	0.3	9.1	0.0	1.0	0.2	2.1	0.6	1.5	5.7	0.0	1.5
South	9.6	2.0	7.9	0.1	1.9	0.1	5.0	2.8	4.5	5.8	1.4	4.6
Arizona	2.1	0.0	6.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	10.0	3.1	4.4	6.1	0.0	3.3
Colorado	26.7	0.6	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.2	2.7	2.4	2.4	11.6	0.0	4.9
Idaho	20.0	0.4	0.0	1.6	0.1	1.2	0.6	4.8	2.9	14.3	0.0	5.3
Montana	25.9	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.7	1.3	0.1	8.0	0.0	4.4
Oregon	8.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	11.5	3.3	18.3	9.4	0.0	9.1
Utah	9.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	3.0	2.8	14.2	0.0	5.6
Washington	22.7	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	15.4	4.4	5.8	9.4	0.0	8.1
Wyoming	9.5	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.1	0.6	0.8	14.1	0.0	3.4
West	17.7	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.4	6.7	3.1	6.1	10.6	0.0	6.2
Nationwide	19.1	10.1	2.5	0.3	0.6	0.2	3.8	2.2	3.9	6.3	0.6	4.4

* Responses shown are the percent of farm or ranch cash receipts by each of the commodity groups. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

** Pulses are included in the broad category of "Program Crops" though not all pulse crops are eligible for commodity loan programs.

Table A-29. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts from Organic Production (Question 36)

State/Region	Percent Composite Response by State/Region*
Illinois	1.95
Iowa	2.52
Kansas	3.22
Michigan	2.66
Missouri	5.61
Nebraska	1.57
Ohio	3.40
South Dakota	2.23
Wisconsin	4.13
North Central	3.29
Maryland	7.12
New Jersey	15.03
New York	12.70
Pennsylvania	5.06
Vermont	26.71
Northeast	9.42
Alabama	5.07
Florida	13.54
Georgia	9.91
North Carolina	5.87
Texas	4.17
South	6.10
Arizona	18.44
Colorado	12.40
Idaho	9.71
Montana	7.53
Oregon	16.20
Utah	10.69
Washington	12.72
Wyoming	7.83
West	12.15
Nationwide	5.98

* Responses shown are the percent of farm or ranch cash receipts from organic production.

Table A-30. Share of Family Income from Farming or Ranching (Question 37)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*				
	None	1 - 25%	26 - 50%	51 - 75%	76 - 100%
Illinois	3	34	16	17	31
Iowa	3	26	21	18	30
Kansas	5	31	18	14	32
Michigan	2	26	17	15	42
Missouri	5	37	21	13	24
Nebraska	3	15	16	19	46
Ohio	5	44	20	9	22
South Dakota	3	18	15	16	48
Wisconsin	8	37	13	11	32
North Central	4	31	18	14	32
Maryland	15	48	12	5	20
New Jersey	13	57	11	5	14
New York	8	40	12	10	28
Pennsylvania	10	42	12	9	27
Vermont	16	53	10	6	16
Northeast	10	43	12	9	25
Alabama	15	54	11	5	15
Florida	12	51	13	10	13
Georgia	15	58	9	5	13
North Carolina	9	40	13	12	26
Texas	7	40	18	11	23
South	9	45	15	10	20
Arizona	14	46	14	9	17
Colorado	7	37	11	13	31
Idaho	9	37	17	12	26
Montana	5	23	12	14	46
Oregon	9	46	13	10	23
Utah	13	55	14	4	14
Washington	7	39	15	10	28
Wyoming	8	37	16	10	30
West	9	39	14	11	28
Nationwide	7	37	16	12	27

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the share of family income categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-31. Education of Respondent (Question 38)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*					
	Grade School	Some High School	High School/GED	Some College/Technical School	College Bachelor's Degree	College Advanced Degree
Illinois	1	3	38	30	21	8
Iowa	3	3	35	34	17	7
Kansas	2	4	25	32	25	12
Michigan	2	6	37	33	16	9
Missouri	3	6	38	26	20	8
Nebraska	2	4	32	33	24	6
Ohio	3	2	43	29	14	9
South Dakota	4	2	32	32	24	7
Wisconsin	2	6	37	34	13	8
North Central	3	4	36	32	19	8
Maryland	3	6	27	25	24	16
New Jersey	2	2	24	21	31	22
New York	3	7	32	31	19	10
Pennsylvania	7	8	42	18	15	9
Vermont	2	4	23	25	26	20
Northeast	5	7	35	23	19	12
Alabama	1	6	22	35	25	11
Florida	1	2	19	37	27	15
Georgia	2	5	28	27	20	18
North Carolina	3	4	26	33	22	12
Texas	1	3	24	31	27	15
South	1	4	24	32	25	15
Arizona	1	2	18	36	23	19
Colorado	1	4	23	35	25	13
Idaho	0	3	24	37	22	14
Montana	2	3	23	36	27	9
Oregon	0	4	18	39	26	15
Utah	0	6	21	36	22	15
Washington	1	2	18	38	27	15
Wyoming	1	5	24	35	21	14
West	1	4	20	37	25	13
Nationwide	2	5	30	32	21	11

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the education categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-32. Federal Farm Program Participation (Question 39)

State/Region	Percent Responding Yes by State/Region*											
	Federal Farm Program Category						Combined Program Category					
	Commodity Programs (a)	Land Retirement Programs (b)	Working Land Programs (c)	Land Preservation Programs (d)	Insurance Programs (e)	Agricultural Credit Programs (f)	Disaster Assistance Programs (g)	Trade Adjustment Programs (h)	Other Programs (i)	Farm Support Programs (a, e - h)	Conservation Programs (b - d)	Any Programs (a - i)
Illinois	82	38	12	4	28	7	13	0	6	83	44	92
Iowa	84	42	16	6	33	7	14	1	6	85	50	93
Kansas	77	41	17	7	37	4	41	1	6	80	50	90
Michigan	69	15	8	4	18	6	36	0	11	81	23	83
Missouri	53	23	14	6	15	5	28	0	7	65	36	77
Nebraska	83	24	21	9	38	8	42	1	5	90	41	94
Ohio	63	21	11	6	17	5	18	0	5	68	30	76
South Dakota	80	42	10	7	41	6	55	0	8	88	47	94
Wisconsin	63	29	12	5	15	5	19	0	10	67	39	87
North Central	71	30	14	6	25	6	27	0	7	77	40	86
Maryland	32	21	13	7	12	2	9	0	4	36	33	54
New Jersey	16	3	11	4	9	2	8	0	3	20	16	28
New York	38	8	7	3	8	5	12	1	9	45	14	55
Pennsylvania	38	10	11	5	14	3	13	1	9	44	22	57
Vermont	16	5	16	9	7	4	11	0	8	22	25	43
Northeast	35	9	10	5	11	3	12	1	9	41	21	53
Alabama	36	33	10	8	10	4	21	2	6	48	44	76
Florida	11	10	8	8	12	3	33	1	3	46	17	54
Georgia	33	22	12	5	10	4	18	0	3	43	33	59
North Carolina	35	8	12	5	9	8	22	0	10	48	20	60
Texas	40	13	14	3	21	3	35	1	7	56	25	65
South	35	15	13	4	16	4	29	1	6	52	26	63
Arizona	19	2	23	5	12	3	15	0	6	33	26	45
Colorado	43	27	14	8	25	4	39	0	7	56	40	72
Idaho	46	19	14	5	11	5	18	1	7	52	30	65
Montana	57	31	17	3	33	5	46	1	6	70	41	78
Oregon	20	8	11	4	7	1	10	0	4	28	17	37
Utah	20	6	10	5	11	4	24	1	9	40	17	51
Washington	34	20	12	5	14	3	20	0	6	45	29	56
Wyoming	29	13	16	7	19	5	36	0	6	53	29	66
West	35	18	14	5	17	3	26	0	6	47	29	58
Nationwide	51	22	13	5	20	5	26	0	7	62	32	72

* Responses shown are the percent responding that they participated in each of the program categories. Totals do not add across categories.

Table A-33. Farm or Ranch Tenure (Question 40)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*				
	None	1 - 25%	26 - 50%	51 - 75%	76 - 100%
Illinois	8	23	14	8	46
Iowa	12	17	16	10	45
Kansas	7	15	16	14	49
Michigan	5	12	18	10	53
Missouri	3	7	10	11	68
Nebraska	9	20	15	16	41
Ohio	5	14	13	10	58
South Dakota	5	8	15	17	54
Wisconsin	4	5	7	11	72
North Central	6	14	13	11	56
Maryland	6	8	8	7	71
New Jersey	4	4	4	4	83
New York	5	4	6	12	74
Pennsylvania	7	7	9	9	68
Vermont	9	7	6	6	73
Northeast	6	7	7	9	72
Alabama	4	10	10	4	72
Florida	10	7	6	3	75
Georgia	3	6	9	7	75
North Carolina	7	13	10	9	61
Texas	7	14	11	10	58
South	6	12	10	8	63
Arizona	13	17	5	6	59
Colorado	6	8	11	11	66
Idaho	7	6	8	6	72
Montana	9	7	11	16	58
Oregon	4	6	7	6	78
Utah	6	12	7	7	67
Washington	6	10	9	7	68
Wyoming	9	8	9	13	61
West	7	8	8	9	68
Nationwide	7	12	11	10	61

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm tenure categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-34. Expected Farm or Ranch Transition (Question 41)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*					
	Operated by Spouse	Operated by Children	Operated by Other Relatives	Operated by Non-Relatives in Current Operation	Operated by Individuals Outside Current Operation	Converted to Non-Farm Use
Illinois	9	44	10	3	25	9
Iowa	6	35	10	5	37	7
Kansas	6	41	11	6	30	6
Michigan	3	45	3	2	23	22
Missouri	8	50	6	3	20	13
Nebraska	3	46	8	9	32	2
Ohio	4	48	7	3	24	16
South Dakota	5	40	11	4	37	3
Wisconsin	4	40	6	4	24	23
North Central	5	43	8	4	27	12
Maryland	9	38	5	4	15	30
New Jersey	4	31	4	5	23	34
New York	4	37	5	3	20	31
Pennsylvania	3	47	6	3	17	26
Vermont	4	30	5	2	19	39
Northeast	4	41	5	3	18	29
Alabama	8	51	4	2	11	23
Florida	6	32	5	3	9	45
Georgia	10	38	6	1	11	33
North Carolina	8	40	7	4	13	27
Texas	9	47	7	4	20	14
South	9	44	6	3	16	22
Arizona	7	31	6	4	17	35
Colorado	5	40	6	4	26	20
Idaho	4	31	6	5	27	27
Montana	5	50	7	3	25	10
Oregon	8	34	5	2	25	25
Utah	3	43	7	2	16	29
Washington	6	35	5	3	25	26
Wyoming	6	48	5	3	20	18
West	6	38	6	3	24	23
Nationwide	6	43	7	3	22	18

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm or ranch transition categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table A-35. Respondent Definition of Farm Size (Question 42)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*								Not Defined by Sales
	Under \$10,000	Under \$50,000	Under \$100,000	Under \$250,000	Under \$500,000	Under \$1,000,000	Under \$1,000,000		
Illinois	10	28	26	16	4	2	13		
Iowa	10	23	29	18	5	2	11		
Kansas	11	30	29	12	3	1	12		
Michigan	7	24	28	14	4	2	19		
Missouri	13	33	21	10	3	0	20		
Nebraska	6	21	30	19	9	1	15		
Ohio	15	27	26	10	3	0	18		
South Dakota	3	21	34	21	6	1	13		
Wisconsin	10	24	27	16	4	1	20		
North Central	11	26	27	15	4	2	16		
Maryland	24	25	16	7	3	1	24		
New Jersey	25	21	19	6	5	0	23		
New York	15	22	22	12	4	2	24		
Pennsylvania	14	24	21	12	3	1	25		
Vermont	17	18	19	11	3	2	30		
Northeast	16	23	21	11	4	2	25		
Alabama	24	31	16	5	4	2	19		
Florida	13	25	19	10	7	2	22		
Georgia	25	28	15	6	4	1	22		
North Carolina	19	27	20	10	3	1	21		
Texas	16	34	20	10	3	0	17		
South	18	31	19	9	3	1	19		
Arizona	21	23	16	7	6	2	23		
Colorado	11	33	21	12	4	1	19		
Idaho	15	22	23	9	5	3	23		
Montana	10	25	25	16	4	1	19		
Oregon	18	24	21	11	3	1	21		
Utah	22	27	20	7	4	3	18		
Washington	14	25	21	12	4	3	22		
Wyoming	16	31	22	8	5	1	17		
West	15	26	21	11	4	2	21		
Nationwide	14	27	23	12	4	2	19		

* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm size definition categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Appendix B

2005 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL, FOOD, AND PUBLIC POLICY PREFERENCE SURVEY

This survey asks for your preferences and opinions on the 2007 Farm Bill. Congress will face many challenges, constraints, and trade-offs in writing this legislation. Budget deficits, trade issues and agreements, changing farm policy priorities, and new emerging issues will all affect the debate. The opinions of farm or ranch operators who respond to this survey will be reported in a national Extension publication that will help guide what is proposed, what is traded off, and what is ultimately authorized and funded in the upcoming Farm Bill.

If you are currently a farm or ranch operator and grew any crops, raised any livestock, or had any crops or livestock in inventory on your operation in 2005, please fill out this questionnaire and provide your opinion about the selected policy issues and alternatives and return the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope. If you are not currently a farm or ranch operator, please return this questionnaire in the enclosed envelope and provide the name and address of the current operator in the available space above.

SECTION A - FARM PROGRAMS AND BUDGET PRIORITIES

The 2007 Farm Bill may need to reduce or reallocate federal funding for current farm programs. The 2007 Farm Bill may also support new programs with new or reallocated federal funding. With these significant questions and possible trade-offs, your opinions are sought on the overall goals and priorities for federal legislation.

Please indicate how important you feel each of the following goals or programs is by circling the appropriate number. (1 = least important (LI), 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, 5 = most important (MI), X = don't know/no opinion (DK))

- | | LI | MI | DK |
|---|----|----|---------|
| 1. The goals of the Farm Bill should be to: | | | |
| a. Enhance farm income | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| b. Reduce price/income risk | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| c. Increase the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| d. Enhance opportunities for small farms/ranches and beginning farms/ranches | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| e. Contribute to protecting the nation's land, water, and environmental resources | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| f. Enhance rural economies | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| g. Assure a safe, secure, abundant, and affordable food supply | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| h. Reduce the nation's dependency on non-renewable sources of energy | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| 2. How important is it to maintain funding for the following existing programs? | | | |
| a. Fixed, decoupled crop commodity payments (direct payments) | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| b. Crop commodity payments tied to price (counter-cyclical payments) | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| c. Crop commodity payments tied to price and production (commodity loans, LDPs, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| d. Livestock commodity supports tied to price and production (milk support programs, MILC payments, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| e. Land retirement conservation programs (CRP, WRP) | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| f. Working land conservation programs (EQIP, WHIP, CSP, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| g. Wildlife habitat, agricultural land, and grassland preservation programs (WHIP, FRPP, GRP) | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| h. Risk management programs (crop and livestock insurance programs) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| i. Agricultural credit programs (FSA direct and guaranteed loans) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| j. Disaster assistance programs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| 3. How important is it to provide new or reallocated funds for the following programs? | | | | | | |
| a. Support payments tied to farm income level | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| b. Support payments for commodities not included in existing programs (fruits, vegetables, nursery crops, livestock, wood products, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| c. Incentives for farm savings accounts | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| d. Bioenergy production incentives | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| e. Biosecurity incentives and assistance | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| f. Food safety programs and assistance | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| g. Traceability and certification programs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |

SECTION B - COMMODITY PROGRAMS AND RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Commodity programs and related risk management programs have been a fundamental part of federal farm policy over the years. The design of these programs and their impact on producers and production decisions is a critical part of the Farm Bill debate. Because of the impact of these programs, your opinions are sought on the following issues.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree, X = no opinion or don't know)

- | | SD | SA | DK |
|--|----|----|---------|
| 4. Farm program commodity payments should be phased out over the length of the 2007 Farm Bill. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| 5. Farm program commodity payments should be reduced, but not phased out in the 2007 Farm Bill. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| 6. Farm program commodity payments should be targeted to small farmers | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| 7. Existing commodity program payment limits should be reduced to lower levels. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| 8. Existing commodity program payment limits should be changed to apply to a single individual, eliminating what is known as the three-entity rule. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| 9. Existing commodity program payment limits on marketing loans should be changed to eliminate the unlimited use of certificate and forfeiture gains. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |

10. Some have suggested that current commodity programs could offer a buy-out program similar to that recently implemented for tobacco. In a buy-out program, producers would be offered a lump-sum payment or series of payments in exchange for eliminating all future rights to federal commodity program payments. Please indicate your preference for each of the following buy-out options.

	Yes	No	No Opin./ Don't Know
a. Producers should be offered a buy-out of existing commodity programs.	☐	☐	☐
b. If a buy-out were offered in a single lump-sum equal to 15 years worth of my current commodity payments in today's dollars, I would take it.	☐	☐	☐
c. I would accept an equal value of the buy-out described in 10b if it were paid in a series of annual installments.	☐	☐	☐
d. If a buy-out were offered in a single lump-sum equal to 25 years worth of my current commodity payments in today's dollars, I would take it.	☐	☐	☐
e. I would accept an equal value of the buy-out described in 10d if it were paid in a series of annual installments.	☐	☐	☐

11. Federal dairy programs have included both a dairy price support program backed by government purchases and a direct payment program based on milk prices called the milk income loss contract (MILC). What should be the policy regarding future dairy programs? (Check one)

a. Eliminate all dairy support programs.	☐
b. Eliminate the MILC program and retain only the dairy price support program.	☐
c. Eliminate the dairy price support program and provide direct payments only in a method similar to the MILC program.	☐
d. Reauthorize both the current dairy price support program and the MILC program.	☐

SECTION C - CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Conservation of the nation's land and water resources is a well-recognized national priority. Effective federal program design must deal with targeting conservation priorities, streamlining program delivery, managing partnerships with state and local governments, recognizing changes in farming and land ownership, and encouraging farmers and rural landowners to be conservation-minded. Because of the significant issues involved in these programs, your opinions are sought on the following issues.

12. Considering the following environmental goals, please indicate your preference for organizing federal technical and financial assistance to private landowners. (Check one for each listed goal)

	No Fed. Assist.	Tech. Assist. Only	Tech. and Fin. Assist.	No Opin./ Don't Know
a. Water quality protection	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Soil erosion control	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Air quality protection	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Wildlife habitat protection	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Open space protection	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Management of animal wastes	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Carbon sequestration	☐	☐	☐	☐
h. Maintenance of biodiversity	☐	☐	☐	☐

13. One option for tailoring conservation programs to local needs is to transfer federal funding through block grants to states and give them more authority to implement conservation programs. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with this approach.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Opinion/ Don't Know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

14. Most contracts for land currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will expire by 2010. If changes to the CRP policy are considered, which of the following alternatives would you prefer? (Check one)

a. Keep current rules and allow current contracts to expire on schedule and compete for re-enrollment against other land being offered for enrollment.	☐
b. Allow current contracts ranking highest in environmental benefits to be automatically eligible for re-enrollment at existing annual rental rates.	☐
c. Reduce the acreage in the CRP as current contracts expire by restricting future enrollments to high-priority, environmentally sensitive lands.	☐
d. Eliminate the CRP as current contracts expire.	☐

15. The Conservation Security Program (CSP) provides cost-share assistance, incentive payments, and technical assistance to producers for adopting and/or maintaining targeted conservation practices on working lands. How should the CSP be addressed in the next Farm Bill? (Check one)

a. Continue the current policy of implementing the CSP on a watershed-by-watershed basis as funding allows.	☐
b. Increase funding to allow immediate nationwide implementation of the CSP.	☐
c. Eliminate the CSP as existing contracts in pilot watersheds expire.	☐

SECTION D - TRADE POLICY

Most U.S. agricultural commodities are substantially impacted by international trade and competition from imports or demand for exports. The United States participates in bilateral and regional trade agreements and in the multinational World Trade Organization (WTO). Because of the impact of international trade, your opinions are sought on these issues.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree, X = no opinion or don't know)

	SD	SA	DK
16. The United States should continue to pursue free trade agreements (WTO, CAFTA, etc.) to reduce and eliminate trade barriers.	1	2	3 4 5 X
17. Labor laws, environmental impacts, and food safety standards should be included as part of international trade negotiations.	1	2	3 4 5 X
18. To comply with the recent WTO ruling on cotton, the United States should eliminate export credits and industry payments such as Step 2 cotton payments.	1	2	3 4 5 X
19. The United States should emphasize domestic economic and social policy goals rather than trade policies.	1	2	3 4 5 X
20. The United States should withdraw from the WTO.	1	2	3 4 5 X
21. If the United States withdraws from the WTO, U.S. producers will face greater market access problems getting agricultural exports into other countries.	1	2	3 4 5 X
22. The United States should eliminate unilateral sanctions prohibiting food trade with certain other countries.	1	2	3 4 5 X

SECTION E - FOOD SYSTEM AND REGULATORY POLICY

There are many policies developed in the Farm Bill or in closely related legislation that affect the nation's food system and regulatory framework. Because of the impact of these food system policies on U.S. agriculture, your opinions are sought on the following issues.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree, X = no opinion or don't know)

	SD		SA	DK
23. The government should implement mandatory labeling rules to identify the country of origin on food products.	1	2	3	4 5 X
24. The government should develop voluntary labeling guidelines to better establish what the identification of the country of origin means for food products.	1	2	3	4 5 X
25. The government should increase efforts to improve traceability of food products from the consumer back to the producer.	1	2	3	4 5 X
26. The government should adopt mandatory animal identification rules to improve animal health and food safety monitoring efforts.	1	2	3	4 5 X
27. The government should adopt mandatory BSE testing of all cattle over 30 months of age.	1	2	3	4 5 X
28. The government should establish guidelines for voluntary BSE testing of cattle by private industry.	1	2	3	4 5 X
29. Food products made with biotechnology should be labeled regardless of whether there is a scientifically-determined difference in the product.	1	2	3	4 5 X

SECTION F - RELATED POLICY ISSUES

Many other policy issues affect agriculture and rural America. Because of the significance of these various policies, your opinions are sought on the following issues.

SECTION G - PERSONAL DATA

30. What is your age? (Check one)

Under 25 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 and over

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

31. What is your gender? (Check one)

Male Female

☐ ☐

32. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin or background such as Mexican, Cuban, or Puerto Rican, regardless of race? (Check one)

Yes No

☐ ☐

33. What is your race or ethnicity? (Check one)

- a. White ☐
- b. Black or African American ☐
- c. American Indian or Alaska Native ☐
- d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐
- e. Asian ☐

34. What is the approximate average annual market value of agricultural products sold from your farm or ranch in recent years, **not including government payments**? (Check one)

- a. Under \$10,000 ☐
- b. \$10,000 - \$49,999 ☐
- c. \$50,000 - \$99,999 ☐
- d. \$100,000 - \$249,999 ☐
- e. \$250,000 - \$499,999 ☐
- f. \$500,000 - \$999,999 ☐
- g. \$1,000,000 and over ☐

35. What percent of your total farm or ranch cash receipts in recent years came from the following sources? (Insert whole percentages-numbers should add to 100%)

- a. Food and feed grains
- b. Soybeans and other oilseeds
- c. Cotton
- d. Dry beans, dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas
- e. Peanuts
- f. Sugar beets and sugar cane
- g. Tobacco
- h. Fruits, tree nuts, and berries
- i. Vegetables, melons, and potatoes
- j. Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod
- k. Forages
- l. All other crops
- m. Aquaculture
- n. Cattle and calves
- o. Dairy cattle and dairy products
- p. Hogs and pigs
- q. Sheep, goats, and their products
- r. Poultry and poultry products
- s. All other livestock and livestock products

36. What percent of your total farm or ranch cash receipts in recent years came from sales of organic products? (Insert percentage as a whole number)

37. What percent of your family income is typically earned from farming or ranching? (Check one)

None 1 - 25% 26 - 50% 51 - 75% 76 - 100%

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

38. What was the last year of school you completed? (Check one)

Grade School Some High School High School/ GED Some College/ Tech School College Bachelor's Degree College Advanced Degree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

39. What federal farm programs did your operation participate in or receive benefits from in recent years? (Check all that apply)

- a. Commodity programs (direct payments, price supports, commodity loans, LDPs, etc.) ☐
- b. Land retirement conservation programs (CRP, WRP) ☐
- c. Working land conservation programs (EQIP, CSP, etc.) ☐
- d. Wildlife habitat, agricultural land, and grassland preservation programs (WHIP, FRPP, GRP) ☐
- e. Risk management programs (crop and livestock insurance programs) ☐
- f. Agricultural credit programs ☐
- g. Disaster assistance programs ☐
- h. Trade adjustment assistance programs ☐
- i. Other federal farm programs ☐

40. What percent of the land operated in your farm or ranch do you own? (Check one)

None 1 - 25% 26 - 50% 51 - 75% 76 - 100%

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

41. When you are no longer operating your farm or ranch, what do you expect will happen to the operation? (Check one)

- a. It will be operated by my spouse ☐
- b. It will be operated by my children ☐
- c. It will be operated by other relatives ☐
- d. It will be operated by a non-relative who is currently involved in the operation ☐
- e. It will be operated by individuals not involved in the current operation ☐
- f. It will be converted to a non-farm use ☐

42. If farm size is defined by the value of agricultural products sold, what size level would you suggest defines a small farm? (Check one)

- a. Under \$10,000 ☐
- b. Under \$50,000 ☐
- c. Under \$100,000 ☐
- d. Under \$250,000 ☐
- e. Under \$500,000 ☐
- f. Under \$1,000,000 ☐
- g. Small farms cannot be easily defined by sales ☐

Thank you for your effort to complete this survey. Please return it in the enclosed envelope.

SECTION Z - OPTIONAL QUESTIONS

Select questions from this section to be added to the “Related Policy Issues” section of the survey instrument for your state

and/or

Develop your own state-specific questions to be added to the “Related Policy Issues” section of the survey instrument for your state.

The added questions should be selected or designed to fill the blank space left on page 3 of the national survey document.

1. If fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops were included in government commodity programs and provided funding, which programs would be most preferred? Please indicate how important you feel it is to support the following alternatives. (1 = least important (LI), 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, 5 = most important (MI), X = don't know/no opinion (DK))

	LI	MI	DK
a. Fixed, decoupled crop commodity payments (direct payments)	1	2	3 4 5 X
b. Crop commodity payments tied to price (counter-cyclical payments)	1	2	3 4 5 X
c. Crop commodity payments tied to price and production (commodity, loans, LDPs, etc.)	1	2	3 4 5 X
d. Risk management programs (subsidized crop insurance)	1	2	3 4 5 X
e. Disaster assistance programs	1	2	3 4 5 X
f. Federal funding for block grants to states to develop state-level programs for fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops	1	2	3 4 5 X

2. If funding for risk management programs is increased, which approaches are most preferred? Please indicate how important you feel it is to support the following alternatives. (1 = least important (LI), 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, 5 = most important (MI), X = don't know/no opinion (DK))

	LI	MI	DK
a. Increased coverage levels and premium subsidies for crop production and revenue insurance products (APH, RA, IP, CRC, etc.)	1	2	3 4 5 X
b. Increased coverage, protection levels, and premium subsidies for livestock revenue insurance (LRP)	1	2	3 4 5 X
c. Increased coverage, protection levels, and premium subsidies for whole-farm or ranch income insurance (AGR, AGR-Lite)	1	2	3 4 5 X
d. Tax-deferred savings accounts for farmers, providing for withdrawals in low-income years or at retirement	1	2	3 4 5 X
e. Incentive payments to producers to encourage the use of various risk management tools, including hedging, insurance, savings accounts, and educational programs.	1	2	3 4 5 X

3. Current commodity programs do not contain any direct supply control mechanisms. However, some have suggested reimplementing certain supply control programs used previously in commodity programs. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree, X = no opinion or don't know)

SD SA DK

- a. The farm program should require farmers to participate in a mandatory (non-paid) set-aside acreage program in order to qualify for commodity payments. 1 2 3 4 5 X
- b. The farm program should implement a voluntary (paid) set-aside program as a part of the commodity programs. 1 2 3 4 5 X
- c. The farm program should implement long-term commodity storage programs such as the farmer-owned reserve program. 1 2 3 4 5 X
4. If government funding is focused on open space and farmland preservation, what policy tools would be most preferred? Please indicate how important you feel it is to support the following alternatives. (1 = least important (LI), 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, 5 = most important (MI), X = don't know/no opinion (DK))
- | | LI | MI | DK |
|---|----|----|---------|
| a. Increase federal funding for programs that purchase development rights and conservation easements. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| b. Reduce federal funding and emphasize privately funded programs that purchase development rights and conservation easements | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| c. Provide federal supports and/or grants to local governments who allow developers to purchase development rights in certain areas in exchange for developing other areas (allow transfer of development rights) | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| d. Encourage voluntary donations of conservation easements and/or land donations to conservation areas/foundations | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| e. Support entrepreneurial programs designed to make farm and food production more competitive with non-farmland uses | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
5. Among possible rural development programs, which programs are most preferred? Please indicate how important you feel it is to support the following policy goals. (1 = least important (LI), 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, 5 = most important (MI), X = don't know/no opinion (DK))
- | | LI | MI | DK |
|---|----|----|---------|
| a. Improve access to capital for business growth and development in rural areas. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| b. Improve education and training programs for rural development. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| c. Increase rural high-speed access to the Internet. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| d. Increase funds provided to local governments for infrastructure and services | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| e. Increase grants for business development and job creation in rural areas. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
6. Among farm credit programs funded in the Farm Bill, which programs are most important? Please indicate how important you feel it is to support the following policy alternatives. (1 = least important (LI), 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, 5 = most important (MI), X = don't know/no opinion (DK)) Federal farm credit programs should provide:
- | | LI | MI | DK |
|---|----|----|---------|
| a. Funding for direct and guaranteed farm operating (production) loans. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| b. Funding for direct and guaranteed farm ownership (land purchase) loans. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |
| c. Funding for beginning-farmer loans. | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 X |

7. Some suggest that farm credit programs should be targeted to specific clientele. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree that the following audiences should be targeted. (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree, X = no opinion or don't know)

	SD	SA	DK
a. Beginning farmers.....	1	2	3 4 5 X
b. New enterprises and diversification	1	2	3 4 5 X
c. Socially-disadvantaged groups.....	1	2	3 4 5 X
d. Low-income farms and rural areas	1	2	3 4 5 X

8. What should be the policy regarding public funding for research and extension activities in the land grant university system. (Check one)

a. Maintain current mix of formula funds and competitive grants for research and extension	☐
b. Increase formula funding for research and extension	☐
c. Shift research and extension funding to competitive funding programs.....	☐
d. Eliminate funding for research and extension programs.....	☐

9. If research funds were available to allocate to certain areas, which ones are most important? Please indicate how important you feel it is to fund each of the following research areas. (1 = least important (LI), 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, 5 = most important (MI), X = don't know/no opinion (DK))

	LI	MI	DK
a. Biofuels and renewable energy.....	1	2	3 4 5 X
b. Biotechnology	1	2	3 4 5 X
c. Production agriculture	1	2	3 4 5 X
d. Biosecurity (plant, animal, and food system)	1	2	3 4 5 X
e. Food security	1	2	3 4 5 X
f. Food safety	1	2	3 4 5 X
g. Nutrition and obesity	1	2	3 4 5 X
h. Air quality	1	2	3 4 5 X
i. Soil quality.....	1	2	3 4 5 X
j. Water quality	1	2	3 4 5 X
k. Private forest land management.....	1	2	3 4 5 X
l. Community and economic development.....	1	2	3 4 5 X

10. Several policies affect those who use public lands administered by the federal agencies (BLM, Forest Service, etc.) Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree, X = no opinion or don't know)

	SD	SA	DK
a. All users (grazing, timber, recreation, mining) of public lands should pay fees comparable to fair market value as suggested in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.	1	2	3 4 5 X
b. Users (grazing, timber, recreation, mining) of public lands should gain access to these lands based on economic criteria.	1	2	3 4 5 X
c. Users (grazing, timber, recreation, mining) of public lands should gain access to these lands based on ecological criteria.	1	2	3 4 5 X
d. Management of federal lands should be transferred to the states where they are located...	1	2	3 4 5 X

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| e. The sale or transfer of federal lands to private ownership should be encouraged. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| f. Federal funds should be allocated to allow federal land management agencies to acquire lands that are currently privately owned. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| g. Grazing and timber cutting on federal lands should be encouraged. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| h. Oil and gas exploration on federal lands should be encouraged. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| i. A larger portion of revenues currently coming from federal lands should be returned to local units of government. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |
| j. Payments in lieu of taxes should be increased as a means of supporting local government services... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | X |

11. From the following list of labor issues affecting agriculture, please indicate how important you feel it is to address each with federal policy. (1 = least important (LI), 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, 5 = most important (MI), X = don't know/no opinion (DK))

	LI	MI	DK
a. Availability of full-time ag laborers.....	1	2	3 4 5 X
b. Availability of seasonal ag laborers.....	1	2	3 4 5 X
c. Foreign guest worker program.....	1	2	3 4 5 X
d. Public services and needs in communities of immigrant ag workers.....	1	2	3 4 5 X

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