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# Rural Nebraska Tomorrow: The Gap Between the Preferred and Expected Future

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# THE CENTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A Research Report\*

**Rural Nebraska Tomorrow: The Gap Between  
the Preferred and Expected Future**

*1999 Nebraska Rural Poll Results*

John C. Allen  
Rebecca Filkins  
Sam Cordes

**Nebraska**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
& NATURAL RESOURCES

Center Research Report 99-2, August 1999.

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## *Executive Summary*

Many changes have occurred in rural Nebraska in the past twenty years. Globalization, centralization of agriculture, and an increase in telecommunication technologies have prompted many adjustments for rural Nebraskans. Given all these changes, what do they prefer to happen in the next twenty years? What do they prefer agriculture, their communities, their family structure and local government to look like? Also, are the futures they prefer similar to those they expect to see?

This report details results of 3,036 responses to the 1999 Nebraska Rural Poll, the fourth annual effort to take the pulse of rural Nebraskans. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their preferences and expectations for the future in the following areas: agriculture, population, employment, community, government, family and technology. Comparisons are made among different subgroups of the respondents, e.g., comparisons by community size, region, age, occupation, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***One-half of rural Nebraskans prefer the population of rural Nebraska increase by 150,000 during the next twenty years, and more than three-fourths of rural Nebraskans prefer (a) the rural population be evenly distributed across the state, (b) the continued existence of all of the state's smaller towns, and (c) the traditional variety of businesses within Nebraska's rural communities.*** While 50% of the respondents prefer a hypothetical increase of 150,000 in the state's rural population during the next twenty years, only 13% prefer a population decrease of the same amount. Eighty-four percent prefer that the majority of the rural population be evenly dispersed throughout the state (rather than clustered along the interstate corridor); 85% prefer that all of Nebraska's rural communities with less than 500 people continue to exist twenty years from now; and 88% prefer that Nebraska's rural communities have all of the traditional variety of businesses such as banks and grocery stores.
- ***Preferences for the future relative to the role of agriculture and small non-agricultural businesses in the rural economy were somewhat mixed.*** Nearly one-half (48%) of rural Nebraskans prefer a future in which the state's rural economy becomes more dependent upon agriculture and the majority of the non-agricultural employment in rural Nebraska is concentrated in businesses with ten or fewer employees. At the same time, approximately one-half (52%) of the respondents were either (a) undecided about their preferences on these two issues or (b) preferred a future rural economy that was less dependent upon agriculture and in which the majority of non-agricultural employment was provided by businesses with at least 100 employees.
- ***More than three quarters of rural Nebraskans prefer that no farms in the state be owned by non-family corporations twenty years from now. Less consensus in preferences exists in three other areas related to agriculture: preferred farm size, the role of biotechnology, and producing for global markets.*** Eighty percent of the

respondents prefer that no farms in Nebraska be owned by non-family corporations twenty years from now. When asked about the future size of Nebraska's farms, 38% were undecided about their preferences, 33% prefer the average farm size to increase by 200 acres, and 29% prefer it to decrease by the same amount. Similarly, 43% were undecided about the use of biotechnology by Nebraska's farms twenty years from now, 36% prefer that it be in use, and 21% prefer it not be used. Slightly more than one-half (56%) of the respondents prefer a future in which Nebraska's farms are producing for a global market, 23% prefer a market structure in which Nebraska's farms are producing for local and regional markets, and 21% are undecided about their preferences in this area.

- ***While rural Nebraskans were generally more positive toward telecommuting and telemedicine than toward biotechnology, a significant proportion of rural Nebraskans were also undecided as to where they stood relative to these two technological applications.*** Fifty-six percent of the respondents prefer a future twenty years from now in which telecommuting by rural Nebraskans is commonplace and 49% prefer the widespread application of telemedicine in rural Nebraska. However, at least one-third were undecided about their preferences relative to a future in which telecommuting and telemedicine would be commonplace in rural Nebraska.
- ***The vast majority of rural Nebraskans would like to see traditional, two-parent families in the future.*** Eighty-nine percent prefer that most families in rural Nebraska be traditional, two-parent families twenty years from now. Only four percent prefer that most families be non-traditional.
- ***Most rural Nebraskans would like to see funding for public education (K - 12) increased in the future, a continuation of independent county governments, and government providing the majority of local governmental services.*** Sixty-seven percent prefer the funding for public education be increased in the future. When asked about their preferred structure for local government, seventy-three percent prefer keeping independent county governments rather than moving to a regional government system. Seventy percent prefer local government continue to provide the majority of local governmental services, while fifteen percent prefer these services be privatized (contracted to private firms).
- ***For many aspects of rural Nebraska's future, what rural Nebraskans prefer to see is not what they expect to see.*** A considerable gap exists between rural Nebraskans' preferences and expectations about the future of rural Nebraska. This difference is greatest in terms of the future role of corporate farming and the continued existence of the state's smaller communities. Specifically, 80% prefer that twenty years from now none of the farms in the state will be owned by non-family corporations, but only 29% expect that to be the case. And, 85% prefer that all communities with fewer than 500 people will still exist twenty years from now, but only 35% expect this to happen. Three other areas where the divergence between future preferences and expectations is very large follow:

84% prefer that the majority of the rural population be evenly dispersed throughout the state twenty years from now, but only 37% believe that will occur; 88% prefer that all rural communities will have the traditional variety of businesses, but only 44% expect that to happen; and 89% prefer most families in rural Nebraska will be traditional two-parent families, but only 48% expect this will occur.

## *Introduction*

Many changes have been occurring in rural Nebraska throughout the past twenty years. In agriculture, the number of farms have decreased while the average size has increased. Globalization and changes in the farm program have made farmers more dependent on world demand for their products.

Communities in rural Nebraska have experienced change as well. Many small towns have experienced depopulation which has resulted in consolidation of some services. An increase in technological innovations has introduced new opportunities for rural communities and citizens. Such phenomena as telecommuting and the use of biotechnology is becoming more common.

Given all these changes, what do rural Nebraskans prefer to happen in the future? What do they prefer agriculture, their communities, their families and local government to look like? Do they prefer changes in employment patterns or population trends? How do they feel about the use of new technological applications in rural Nebraska? Also, are the futures rural Nebraskans prefer similar to those they expect to see?

This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their preferences and expectations for the future in the following areas: agriculture, population, employment, community, government,

family, and technology. Comparisons are made among different subgroups of the respondents, e.g., comparisons by community size, region, age, occupation, etc.

## *Methodology and Respondent Profile*

This study is based on 3,036 responses from Nebraskans living in the 87 non-metropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in February and March to approximately 6,100 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and Washington. The 18 page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, work, the future of rural Nebraska and local finance issues. This paper reports only results from the future of rural Nebraska portion of the survey.

A 50% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used were:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project director approximately seven days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to the entire sample approximately seven days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 14 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

The average respondent was 54 years of age. Seventy-six percent were married (Appendix

Table 1<sup>1</sup>) and fifty-one percent lived within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents had lived in Nebraska 47 years and had lived in their current community 34 years. Eighty-one percent were living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000.

Fifty-eight percent of the respondents reported their approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, for 1998 was below \$40,000. Twenty-seven percent reported incomes over \$50,000. Ninety-two percent had attained at least a high school diploma.

Seventy-six percent were employed in 1998 on a full-time, part-time or seasonal basis. Twenty percent were retired. Twenty-nine percent of those employed reported working in a professional/technical or administrative occupation. Twenty-six percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers.

### ***Preferences for the Future of Rural Nebraska***

Respondents were given several pairs of contrasting statements describing possible future directions for rural Nebraska using a bi-polar question format. Respondents were asked their preferences regarding agriculture, population, employment, community, government, family and technology.

The exact question wording was as follows.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix Table 1 also includes demographic data from previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire non-metropolitan population of Nebraska (using 1990 U.S. Census data).

“Listed on the following pages are several pairs of contrasting statements describing possible future directions for rural Nebraska. For each pair, please indicate which one of the two directions you would prefer for rural Nebraska’s future - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column - by circling the appropriate number on the line between them.”

The answer categories were described as:

1 = strongly agree with statement in left-hand column

2 = mildly agree with statement in left-hand column

3 = undecided

4 = mildly agree with statement in right-hand column

5 = strongly agree with statement in right-hand column

The sixteen pairs of statements are shown in Table 1 along with the proportions of respondents preferring each alternative view.

One-half (50%) of the respondents prefer that the population of rural Nebraska increase by 150,000 in twenty years. Thirteen percent prefer that it decrease by 150,000 and thirty-seven percent are undecided.

The vast majority of rural Nebraskans (84%) prefer that the population of rural Nebraska be evenly dispersed throughout the state. Only six percent prefer that the majority of the population of rural Nebraska be located along the interstate corridor. Eleven percent are undecided.

Respondents were also asked questions about their communities. They were asked

Table 1. Preferences for the Future of Rural Nebraska

	<i>Strongly/ mildly agree with LH statement</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Strongly/ mildly agree with RH statement</i>
<b>Population and Community:</b>			
I prefer that the population of rural Nebraska decrease by 150,000 in twenty years.	13%	37%	50%
Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of the population of rural Nebraska be located along the interstate corridor.	6%	11%	84%
I prefer that one-half of Nebraska's rural communities that currently have fewer than 500 people will no longer exist 20 years from now.	7%	9%	85%
Twenty years from now, I prefer that communities in rural Nebraska have all the traditional variety of businesses (banks, grocery stores, etc.)	88%	7%	5%
<b>The Rural Economy:</b>			
Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of the non-agricultural employment in rural Nebraska be provided by small businesses (10 or fewer employees.)	48%	27%	25%
Twenty years from now, I prefer that the economy of rural Nebraska be less dependent upon agriculture.	29%	23%	48%
<b>Agriculture:</b>			
Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of farms in the state be owned by non-family corporations.	9%	11%	80%
Twenty years from now, I prefer that the average farm size in Nebraska increase by 200 acres.	33%	38%	29%
			I prefer that the population of rural Nebraska increase by 150,000 in twenty years.
			Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of the population of rural Nebraska be evenly dispersed throughout the state.
			I prefer that all of Nebraska's rural communities that currently have fewer than 500 people will still exist 20 years from now.
			Twenty years from now, I prefer that communities in rural Nebraska have only convenience or large retail stores.
			Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of the non-agricultural employment in rural Nebraska be provided by larger businesses (with at least 100 employees.)
			Twenty years from now, I prefer that the economy of rural Nebraska be more dependent upon agriculture.
			Twenty years from now, I prefer that none of the farms in the state be owned by non-family corporations.
			Twenty years from now, I prefer that the average farm size in Nebraska decrease by 200 acres.

	<i>Strongly/ mildly agree with LH statement</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Strongly/ mildly agree with RH statement</i>	
Twenty years from now, I prefer that the farms in Nebraska produce for a global market.	56%	21%	23%	Twenty years from now, I prefer that the farms in Nebraska produce for local/regional markets.
I prefer that most of the food produced by Nebraska farms use biotechnology applications 20 years from now.	36%	43%	21%	I prefer that none of the food produced by Nebraska farms use biotechnology applications 20 years from now.
<b>Technology:</b> I prefer that telecommuting by rural Nebraskans will be commonplace 20 years from now.	56%	33%	12%	I prefer that telecommuting by rural Nebraskans will be rare 20 years from now.
I prefer that the technological application of telemedicine be commonplace in rural Nebraska 20 years from now.	49%	37%	14%	I prefer that the technological application of telemedicine be rarely used in rural Nebraska 20 years from now.
<b>Family:</b> Twenty years from now, I prefer that most families in rural Nebraska be traditional, two-parent families.	89%	8%	4%	Twenty years from now, I prefer that most families in rural Nebraska be non-traditional families.
<b>Education and Government:</b> Twenty years from now, I prefer that funding for public education (K - 12) be decreased.	13%	20%	67%	Twenty years from now, I prefer that funding for public education (K - 12) be increased.
Twenty years from now, I prefer that all of the counties in the state be part of a regional government system.	13%	13%	73%	Twenty years from now, I prefer that all the counties in the state continue to have independent county governments.
Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of local governmental services be privatized (contracted to private firms.)	15%	15%	70%	Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of local governmental services continue to be provided by local government.

their preference about the future of smaller communities. Eighty-five percent prefer that all communities that currently have fewer than 500 people will still exist twenty years from now. Only seven percent prefer that one-half of these smaller communities would no longer exist in twenty years. Nine percent are undecided on this issue.

When asked what businesses should be located in these communities, most rural Nebraskans (88%) prefer that rural Nebraskan communities have all the traditional variety of businesses (banks, grocery stores, etc.) Only five percent prefer that the communities only have convenience or large retail stores, and seven percent are undecided.

Almost one-half (48%) of rural Nebraskans prefer that the majority of the non-agricultural employment in rural Nebraska be provided by small businesses with 10 or fewer employees. Twenty-five percent prefer that most non-agricultural employment be provided by larger businesses with at least 100 employees. Twenty-seven percent are undecided.

When asked how dependent the economy of rural Nebraska should be on agriculture, almost one-half (48%) prefer the economy be more dependent on agriculture. Twenty-nine percent prefer that rural Nebraska's economy be less dependent on agriculture and twenty-three percent are undecided.

Respondents were more certain about their preferences for the ownership of the state's farms twenty years from now. Eighty percent prefer that none of the farms in the state be owned by non-family corporations twenty years from now. Only nine percent

prefer that the majority of farms in the state be owned by non-family corporations. Eleven percent are undecided.

Opinions are mixed on the preferred trend for the size of farms in Nebraska in the next twenty years. One-third (33%) of the respondents prefer the average farm size in Nebraska to increase by 200 acres. Twenty-nine percent prefer that the average farm size decrease by the same amount. Thirty-eight percent are undecided.

When asked about the future market for farmers' products, over one-half (56%) prefer that farms in the state produce for a global market. Twenty-three percent prefer they produce for local/regional markets and twenty-one percent are undecided.

Respondents were also asked their preferences regarding the use of biotechnology applications by Nebraska's farms. Thirty-six percent of rural Nebraskans prefer that most of the food produced by Nebraska farms use biotechnology applications twenty years from now. Twenty-one percent prefer that none of the food produced by Nebraska farms use these applications and forty-three percent are undecided.

Respondents were generally more positive about telecommuting and telemedicine than toward biotechnology. Fifty-six percent of rural Nebraskans prefer that telecommuting by rural Nebraskans will be commonplace twenty years from now. Twelve percent prefer that telecommuting by rural Nebraskans will be rare in twenty years. Thirty-three percent are undecided.

Almost one-half (49%) of rural Nebraskans

prefer that telemedicine be commonplace in rural Nebraska twenty years from now. Fourteen percent prefer that this application be rarely used in rural Nebraska in twenty years and thirty-seven percent are undecided.

When asked what type of families they would like to see in rural Nebraska twenty years from now, most rural Nebraskans (89%) prefer the families be traditional, two-parent families. Only four percent prefer that most of the families in rural Nebraska be non-traditional families. Eight percent are undecided.

Finally, respondents were asked their preferences regarding local government. Two-thirds (67%) of rural Nebraskans prefer that funding for public education (K - 12) be increased twenty years from now. Thirteen percent prefer that the funding be decreased and twenty percent are undecided.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of the respondents favor keeping independent county governments. Thirteen percent prefer that counties be part of a regional government system. Thirteen percent are undecided.

When asked who should provide local governmental services, seventy percent of rural Nebraskans prefer that the majority of these services continue to be provided by local government. Fifteen percent prefer that the majority of these services be privatized (contracted to private firms) and fifteen percent are undecided.

### *Expectations for the Future of Rural Nebraska*

Now that we have examined rural Nebraskans' preferences for the future, we will now look at their expectations. Respondents were given the same set of statements as before, but were now asked to give their expectations for the future. The exact question wording was as follows. "Now we would like to know what your expectations are for the future of rural Nebraska. For each pair of statements, please indicate which one of the two directions you expect in the future - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column - by circling the appropriate number on the line between them." The answer categories were the same as for the preference question (see page 2). The responses to these questions are shown in Table 2.

Almost one-half (46%) expect the population of rural Nebraska to decrease by 150,000 in twenty years. Thirty-one percent expect the population of rural Nebraska to increase by 150,000 in twenty years. Twenty-three percent are undecided.

Just under one-half (46%) of rural Nebraskans expect the majority of the population of rural Nebraska will be located along the interstate corridor twenty years from now. Thirty-seven percent expect most of the population will be evenly dispersed throughout the state.

Many rural Nebraskans expect one-half of the smaller communities in rural Nebraska will no longer exist twenty years from now and are mixed about the type of businesses

Table 2. *Expectations for the Future of Rural Nebraska*

	<i>Strongly/ mildly agree with LH statement</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Strongly/ mildly agree with RH statement</i>
<b><i>Population and Community:</i></b>			
I expect the population of rural Nebraska to decrease by 150,000 in twenty years.	46%	23%	31%
Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of the population of rural Nebraska to be located along the interstate corridor.	46%	18%	37%
I expect that one-half of Nebraska's rural communities that currently have fewer than 500 people will no longer exist 20 years from now.	52%	13%	35%
Twenty years from now, I expect communities in rural Nebraska to have all the traditional variety of businesses (banks, grocery stores, etc.)	44%	14%	43%
<b><i>The Rural Economy:</i></b>			
Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of the non-agricultural employment in rural Nebraska to be provided by small businesses (10 or fewer employees.)	32%	18%	50%
Twenty years from now, I expect the economy of rural Nebraska to be less dependent upon agriculture.	52%	18%	29%
<b><i>Agriculture:</i></b>			
Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of farms in the state will be owned by non-family corporations.	53%	19%	29%
Twenty years from now, I expect the average farm size in Nebraska to increase by 200 acres.	66%	16%	18%
			I expect the population of rural Nebraska to increase by 150,000 in twenty years.
			Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of the population of rural Nebraska to be evenly dispersed throughout the state.
			I expect that all of Nebraska's rural communities that currently have fewer than 500 people will still exist 20 years from now.
			Twenty years from now, I expect communities in rural Nebraska to have only convenience or large retail stores.
			Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of the non-agricultural employment in rural Nebraska to be provided by larger businesses (with at least 100 employees.)
			Twenty years from now, I expect the economy of rural Nebraska to be more dependent upon agriculture.
			Twenty years from now, I expect none of the farms in the state will be owned by non-family corporations.
			Twenty years from now, I expect the average farm size in Nebraska to decrease by 200 acres.

	<i>Strongly/ mildly agree with LH statement</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Strongly/ mildly agree with RH statement</i>	
I expect the farms in Nebraska will be producing for a global market twenty years from now.	75%	14%	11%	I expect the farms in Nebraska will be producing for local/ regional markets twenty years from now.
I expect most of the food produced by Nebraska farms will use biotechnology applications 20 years from now.	65%	27%	8%	I expect none of the food produced by Nebraska farms will use biotechnology applications 20 years from now.
<b>Technology:</b> I expect telecommuting by rural Nebraskans to be commonplace 20 years from now.	68%	26%	6%	I expect telecommuting by rural Nebraskans to be rare 20 years from now.
I expect the technological application of telemedicine to be commonplace in rural Nebraska 20 years from now.	59%	33%	9%	I expect the technological application of telemedicine to be rarely used in rural Nebraska 20 years from now.
<b>Family:</b> Twenty years from now, I expect most families in rural Nebraska to be traditional, two-parent families.	48%	17%	34%	Twenty years from now, I expect most families in rural Nebraska to be non-traditional families.
<b>Education and Government:</b> Twenty years from now, I expect funding for public education (K - 12) to be decreased.	32%	18%	51%	Twenty years from now, I expect funding for public education (K - 12) to be increased.
Twenty years from now, I expect all of the counties in the state to be part of a regional government system.	39%	19%	41%	Twenty years from now, I expect all of the counties in the state to continue to have independent county governments.
Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of local governmental services to be privatized (contracted to private firms.)	30%	22%	48%	Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of local governmental services to continue to be provided by local government.

that will be located in the communities. Fifty-two percent of rural Nebraskans expect that one-half of Nebraska's rural communities that currently have fewer than 500 people will no longer exist twenty years from now. Thirty-five percent expect all of these smaller communities will still exist twenty years from now. Opinions were mixed when asked their expectations regarding the types of businesses that will be in the communities. Forty-four percent expect the communities to have all the traditional variety of businesses (banks, grocery stores, etc.) Almost an identical proportion (43%) expect the communities to have only convenience or large retail stores.

When asked about employment patterns in the future, many rural Nebraskans expect the majority of employment will be provided by larger businesses and the economy will be less dependent upon agriculture. One-half (50%) of the respondents expect the majority of non-agricultural employment in rural Nebraska will be provided by larger businesses (with at least 100 employees) twenty years from now. Thirty-two percent expect the majority of non-agricultural employment will be provided by small businesses (10 or fewer employees). Just over one-half (52%) expect the economy of rural Nebraska will be less dependent upon agriculture twenty years from now. Twenty-nine percent expect the economy will be more dependent upon agriculture.

When asked their expectations regarding agriculture in the next twenty years, the majority of rural Nebraskans expect the farms to be owned by non-family corporations, bigger, producing for a global market and using biotechnology applications. Over one-half (53%) of rural Nebraskans expect the

majority of farms in the state will be owned by non-family corporations in twenty years. Twenty-nine percent expect none of the farms in the state will be owned by non-family corporations in the future. Two-thirds (66%) of rural Nebraskans expect the average farm size to increase by 200 acres twenty years from now. Only eighteen percent expect the average farm size to decrease by that same amount. Three-quarters (75%) of the respondents expect the farms to be producing for a global market. Only eleven percent expect the farms to be producing for local/regional markets. Almost two-thirds (65%) expect most of the food produced by Nebraska farms will use biotechnology applications. Only eight percent expect that none of the food produced will use biotechnology applications.

Rural Nebraskans were asked their expectations regarding the use of other technological applications in the future. Most expect telecommuting and telemedicine to be common in rural Nebraska. Sixty-eight percent expect telecommuting to be commonplace twenty years from now. Six percent expect telecommuting to be rare. Fifty-nine percent of the respondents expect telemedicine to be commonplace twenty years from now. Only nine percent expect it to be rarely used in the future.

Almost one-half (48%) expect most families in rural Nebraska will be traditional, two-parent families. Thirty-four percent expect most of the families will be non-traditional.

Opinions were mixed when asked their

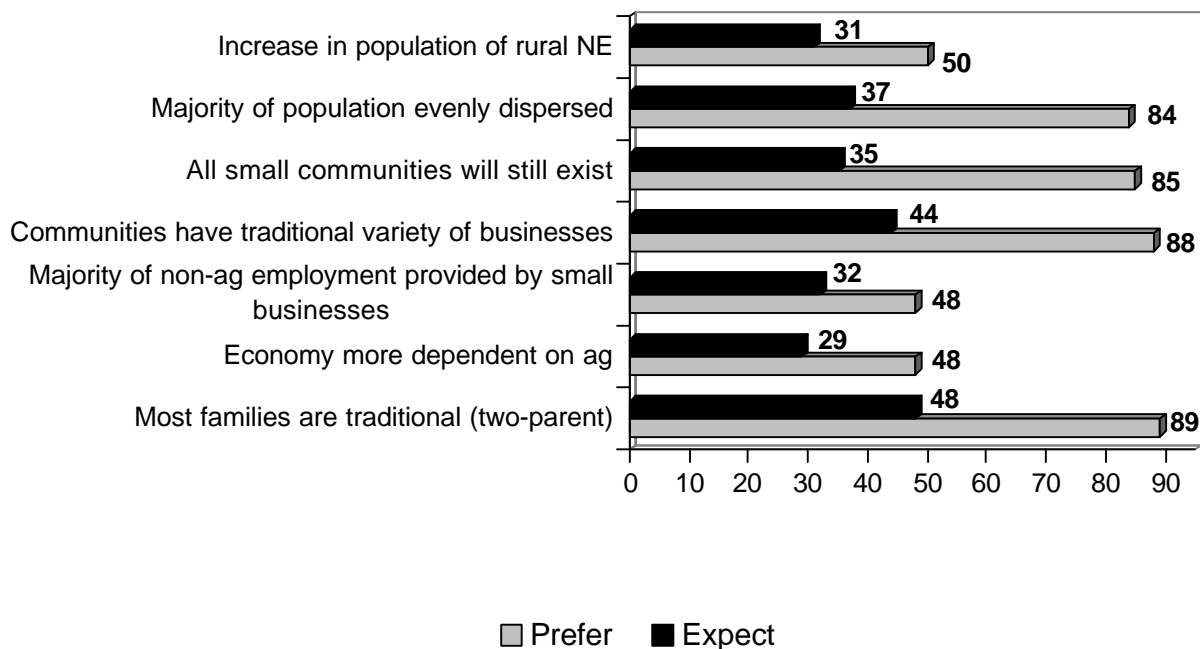
expectations about the structure of government in the future. Just over one-half (51%) expect funding for public education (K - 12) to be increased. Thirty-two percent expect the funding to be decreased. Forty-one percent expect that all the counties in the state will continue to have independent county governments. Thirty-nine percent expect the counties to be part of a regional government system. When asked about local governmental services, just under one-half (48%) expect they will continue to be provided by local government. Thirty percent expect the majority of these services will be privatized.

### *Differences Between Preferences and Expectations*

Now that we have examined both the respondents' preferences and expectations for the future, we will examine where these two differ. Figure 1 includes both the percentage preferring certain trends in population, community, the economy and family as well as the percentage of those expecting it. Some large differences are evident. For all these areas, more people prefer to see a trend than expect to see it.

Figure 2 shows the preferences and

**Figure 1.** *Preferences and Expectations for Population, Community, Employment and Family*

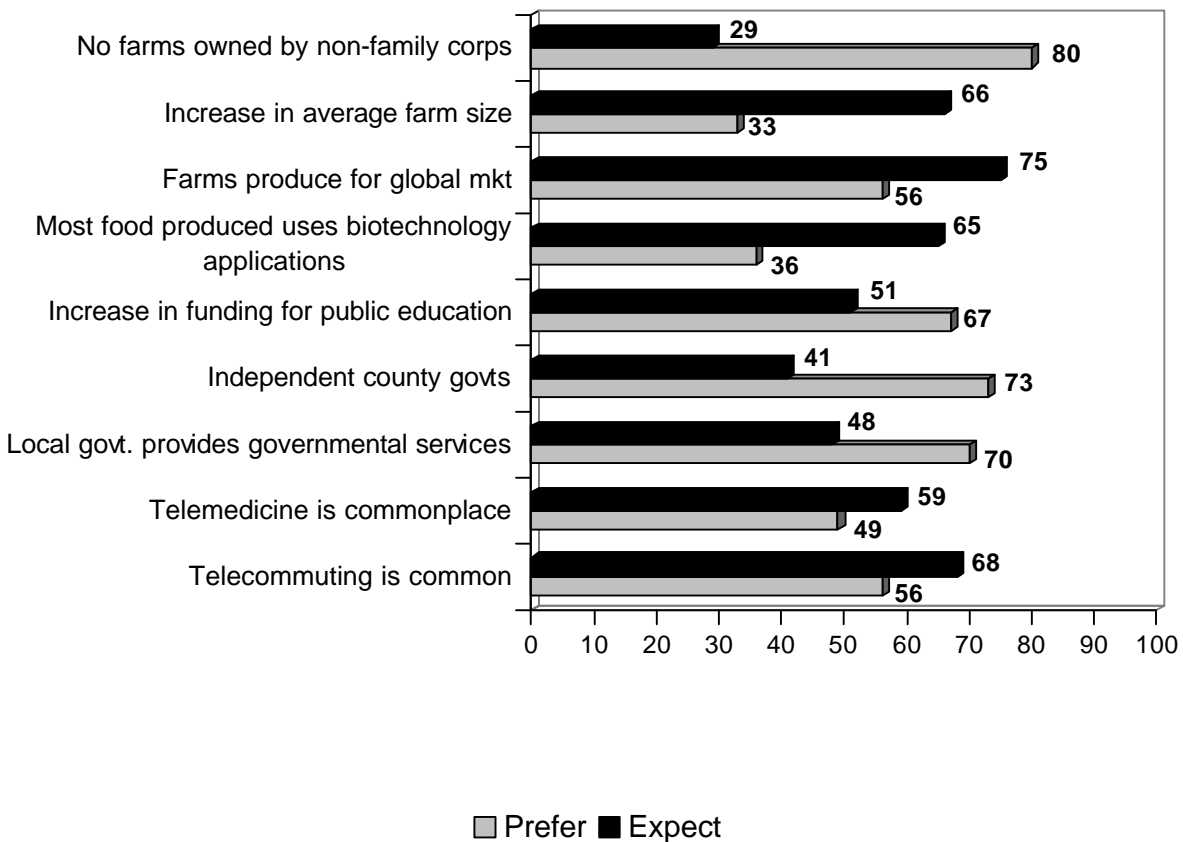


expectations for certain trends in agriculture, government and technology. Again we see that many trends have more people preferring to see it than those expecting it. These trends include: no farms owned by non-family corporations, an increase in the funding for public education (K - 12), independent county governments, and local governmental services provided by local government.

When these differences occur, this represents an area of possible future conflict for rural Nebraskans. In these areas, they are not expecting to see the type of future they would prefer.

For other trends, more people are expecting to see the trend than prefer to see it. These trends include: an increase in the average farm size, farms producing for a global market, the common use of biotechnology,

**Figure 2.** *Preferences and Expectations for Agriculture, Government and Technology*



telecommuting is common and the common use of telemedicine.

### ***Differences in Preferences Among Groups***

Many of the respondents' preferences for the future differed by community size, region, income, age, gender, education, marital status and occupation (Appendix Table 2).

Respondents living in the Northeast part of the state were more likely than those living in other regions to prefer that the average farm size decrease by 200 acres (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Thirty-five percent of the respondents in this region preferred the average farm size would decrease, while only twenty-two percent of the respondents living in the Panhandle agreed.

When comparing the preferences for farm size by income, the respondents with lower incomes were more likely than those with higher incomes to prefer that the average farm size would decrease. Thirty-four percent of the respondents with incomes under \$20,000 preferred the average farm size would decrease by 200 acres twenty years from now; however, only twenty-one percent of the respondents with incomes of \$60,000 or more felt the same.

Farmers and ranchers were the occupational group most likely to prefer that the average farm size in the state would decrease by 200 acres. Thirty-six percent of the farmers or ranchers preferred the decrease in farm size, compared to twenty-four percent of the respondents with professional occupations.

Other groups more likely to prefer a decrease in average farm size include: those living in

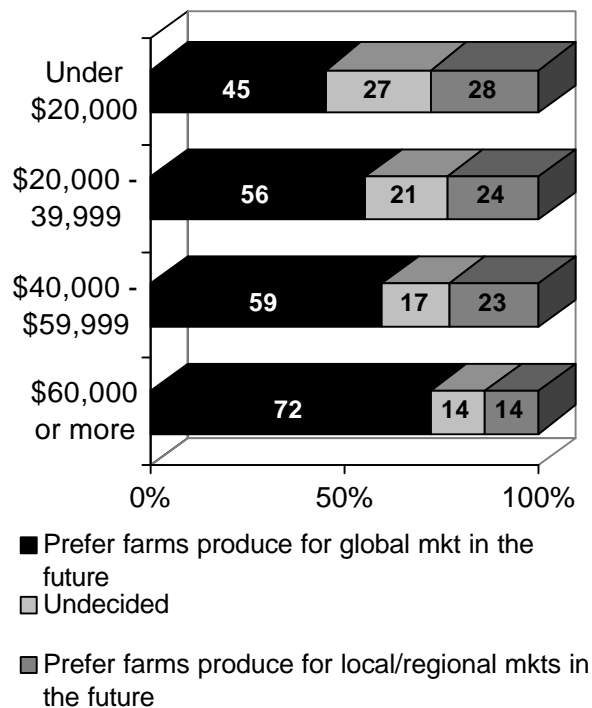
the smaller communities, older respondents, males, those with lower education levels, and the married respondents.

When asked about the preferred ownership of the farms, responses differed based on all of the characteristics except gender. The groups most likely to prefer that none of the farms in the state be owned by non-family corporations twenty years from now include: those living in smaller communities, those with incomes between \$20,000 and \$59,999, younger respondents, those with higher educational levels, married respondents and farmers/ranchers. When comparing the regional groups, those living in the Panhandle were *less* likely to prefer that none of the farms would be owned by non-family corporations in the future.

When asked if they would prefer the farms in Nebraska to produce for a global market versus local/regional markets, some groups were more likely than others to prefer a global market. Respondents with higher incomes were more likely than those with lower incomes to prefer that the farms produce for a global market. Seventy-two percent of the respondents with incomes of at least \$60,000 preferred that the farms produce for a global market, compared to only forty-five percent of those with incomes under \$20,000 (Figure 3).

Respondents with higher education levels were more likely than those with less education to prefer that farms produce for a global market in the future. Sixty-seven percent of the respondents with a college degree preferred farms produce for a global market, compared to fifty percent of the respondents with a high school diploma or less.

**Figure 3. Preference of Future Farm Market by Income**



Nebraska increase in the future included those with higher incomes and the respondents living in the smaller communities.

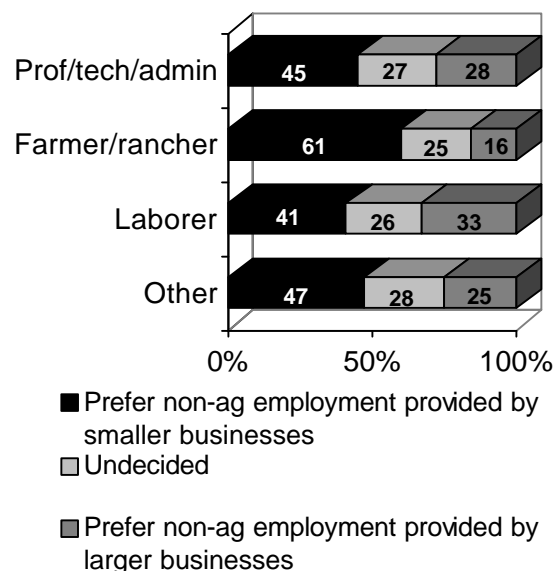
When asked which types of businesses should provide the majority of non-agricultural employment in the future, some groups were more likely to prefer that this employment be provided by small businesses. Farmers and ranchers were the occupation group more likely to prefer smaller businesses providing the majority of non-agricultural employment. Sixty-one percent of the farmers and ranchers preferred having employment provided by smaller businesses, while only forty-one percent of the laborers agreed (Figure 4).

Regional differences also emerged. Respondents living in the North Central region were more likely than those living in other regions to prefer that smaller businesses provide the majority of non-agricultural

Other groups more likely to prefer that Nebraska farms produce for a global market in the future include: respondents living in larger communities, those between the ages of 40 and 64, males, respondents who have never married, and those with professional occupations.

Preferences regarding future population trends in rural Nebraska differed by community size, income, and age. Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to prefer that the population of rural Nebraska increase by 150,000 in twenty years. Fifty-seven percent of those age 65 and older preferred the population increase, compared to forty percent of the respondents under the age of 40. The other groups more likely to prefer that the population of rural

**Figure 4. Preference of Size of Business Providing Employment by Occupation**



employment in the state. Sixty-one percent of the respondents in this region preferred smaller businesses provide this employment, compared to forty-four percent of those living in the Southeast region of the state.

Those living in smaller communities were more likely than those living in larger communities to prefer having smaller businesses provide the majority of non-agricultural employment. Approximately one-half (50%) of those living in communities with less than 5,000 people preferred having smaller businesses provide the employment; however, only thirty-nine percent of those living in communities with populations of 5,000 or more preferred having smaller businesses provide the majority of employment.

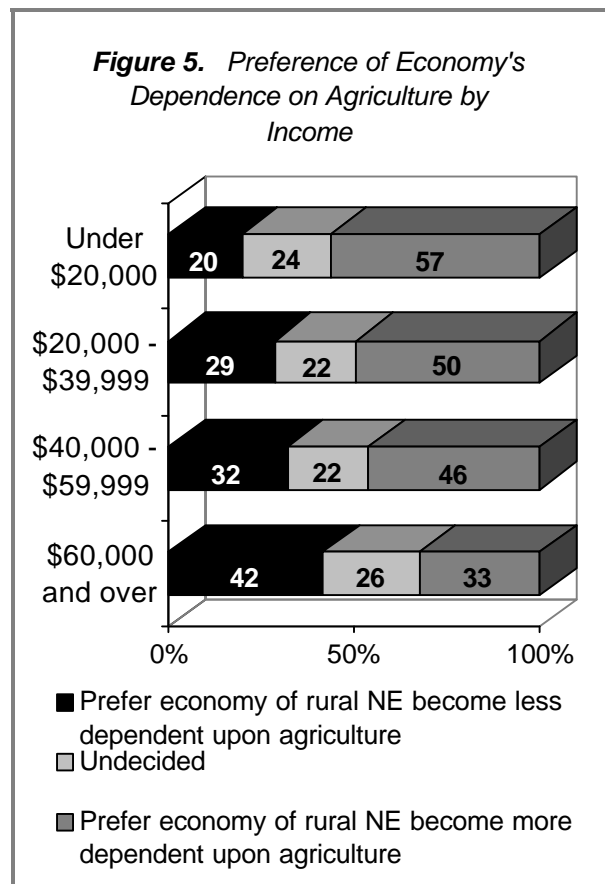
Other groups more likely to prefer having smaller businesses provide much of the non-agricultural employment included: respondents with incomes ranging from \$20,000 to \$39,999, males, and those with college degrees.

When asked if the economy of rural Nebraska should be more or less dependent upon agriculture in the future, some groups were more likely to prefer that it be more dependent. Farmers and ranchers were the occupation group more likely to prefer the increased dependence on agriculture in the future. Sixty-four percent of the farmers or ranchers preferred that the economy of rural Nebraska be more dependent upon agriculture in the future, compared to only thirty-four percent of the respondents with professional occupations.

Respondents with lower incomes were more likely than those with higher incomes to

prefer the economy become more dependent upon agriculture. Fifty-seven percent of the respondents with incomes under \$20,000 preferred the increased dependence, while only thirty-three percent of those with incomes of at least \$60,000 shared this opinion (Figure 5).

Respondents with lower education levels were more likely than those with more education to prefer the increased dependence upon agriculture. Fifty-four percent of the respondents with a high school diploma or less preferred the economy be more dependent on agriculture in the future, compared to thirty-eight percent of the respondents with a college degree. Other groups more likely to prefer that the economy be more dependent on agriculture



included: those living in the smaller communities, respondents living in the North Central or Northeast region of the state, the older respondents, and the respondents who are widowed.

Certain groups were more likely to prefer the continued existence of the smaller communities in rural Nebraska.

Respondents living in smaller communities were more likely than those living in the larger communities to prefer that all of the rural communities that currently have less than 500 people will still exist in twenty years. Ninety percent of the respondents currently living in communities with less than 500 people preferred these communities still exist in the future, compared to seventy-nine percent of the respondents living in communities with at least 5,000 people.

Other groups more likely to prefer the continued existence of the smaller communities include: those living in the North Central region, respondents with incomes ranging from \$20,000 to \$59,999, younger respondents, the farmers/ranchers and laborers.

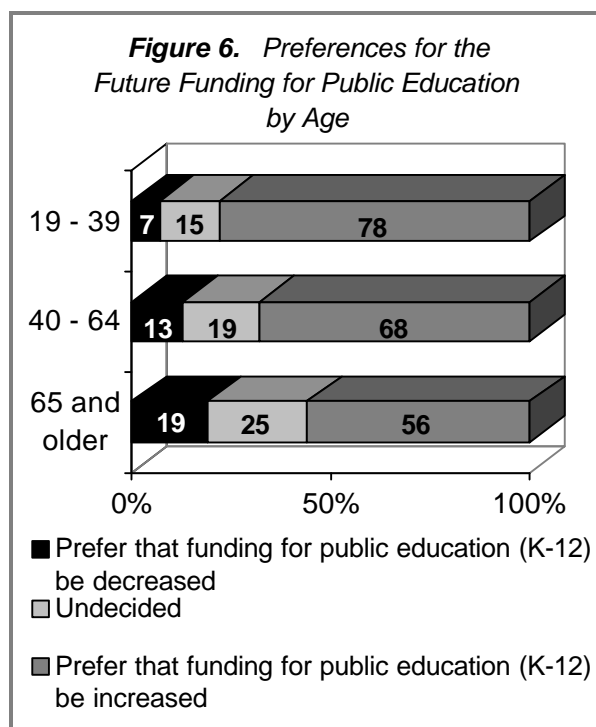
Preferences about the geographic location of the population in rural Nebraska differed by community size, region, income, age, education and occupation. The groups more likely to prefer that the majority of the population be evenly dispersed throughout the state twenty years from now include: those living in smaller communities, those in the Northeast region, respondents with higher incomes, respondents with some college education, and laborers.

Groups more likely to prefer that communities in rural Nebraska have all the

traditional variety of businesses in the future include: those living in the smaller communities, those with higher incomes, and the younger respondents.

Some groups were more likely to prefer that funding for public education (K - 12) be increased twenty years from now. Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to prefer that the funding for public education be increased. Seventy-eight percent of the respondents under the age of 40 preferred that the funding be increased, while only fifty-six percent of those age 65 or older felt the same (Figure 6).

Respondents with professional occupations were more likely than those with different occupations to prefer the increase in funding for public education. Seventy-five percent of the respondents with professional occupations preferred that the funding be increased, compared to only sixty percent of



the farmers or ranchers.

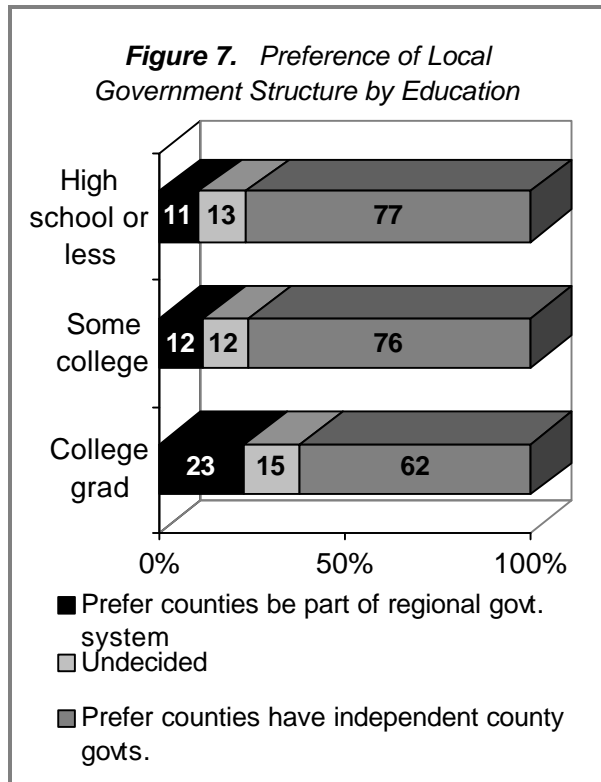
Other groups more likely to prefer that the funding be increased include: those living in the smaller communities, those with incomes between \$40,000 and \$59,999, females, and those with higher education levels.

When asked about the structure of local government in the future, certain groups were more likely to prefer that all counties in the state continue to have independent county governments. Respondents with less education were more likely than those with more education to prefer the continued existence of independent county governments. Seventy-seven percent of the respondents with a high school education or less preferred independent county governments, compared to sixty-two percent of those with a college degree (Figure 7).

Those with lower income levels were more likely than those with higher incomes to prefer keeping independent county governments. Seventy-seven percent of the respondents with incomes under \$20,000 preferred the independent county governments, while only sixty-five percent of those with incomes of at least \$60,00 shared this opinion.

Respondents living in smaller communities were more likely than those living in larger communities to prefer the continuation of independent county governments. Seventy-seven percent of those living in communities with less than 500 people preferred keeping the independent county governments, compared to sixty-six percent of those living in communities with at least 5,000 people.

Other groups more likely to prefer keeping



independent county governments include farmers/ranchers and laborers. Of the marital groups, those who have never married were the least likely to prefer the continuation of independent county governments.

Certain groups were more likely to prefer that the majority of local governmental services should continue to be provided by local government. Respondents with lower education levels were more likely than those with higher educational levels to prefer that local government continue to provide most governmental services. Seventy-six percent of the respondents with a high school education or less preferred that the services be provided by local government, compared to sixty-two percent of the respondents with a college degree.

Respondents living in smaller communities

were more likely than those living in larger communities to prefer that these services continue to be provided by local government. Seventy-four percent of the respondents living in communities with less than 500 people preferred that local government provide these services, while only sixty-one percent of the respondents living in communities with at least 5,000 people agreed (Figure 8).

Respondents with lower income levels were more likely than those with higher incomes to prefer that local government continue to provide the majority of local governmental services. Seventy-three percent of those with incomes under \$40,000 preferred local government provide these services, while sixty percent of the respondents with incomes of \$60,000 or more shared this opinion.

Other groups more likely to prefer

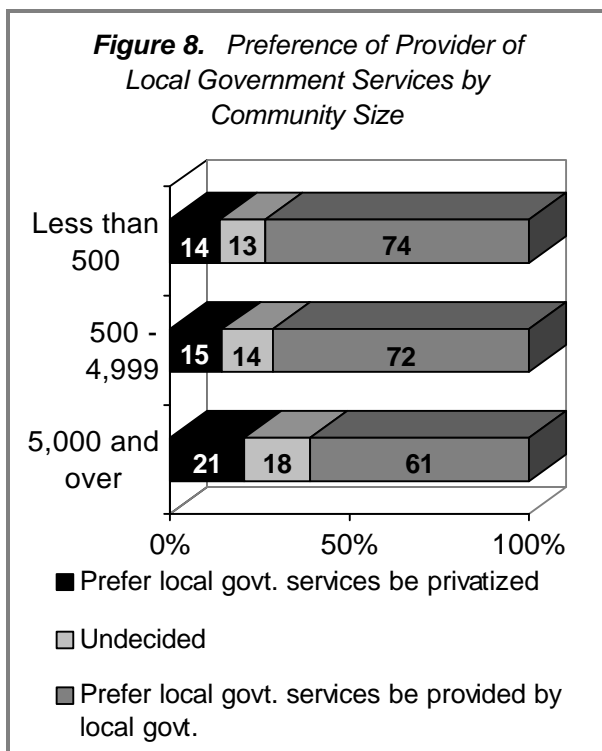
government continue to provide these services include: older respondents, females, those who are widowed and respondents who are laborers.

Preferences regarding family structure differed by income, age, gender, education, marital status, and occupation. The respondents who are married were more likely than those not married to prefer that the majority of families in rural Nebraska be traditional, two-parent families. Ninety-one percent of the married respondents preferred this family structure, compared to seventy-seven percent of the widowed respondents.

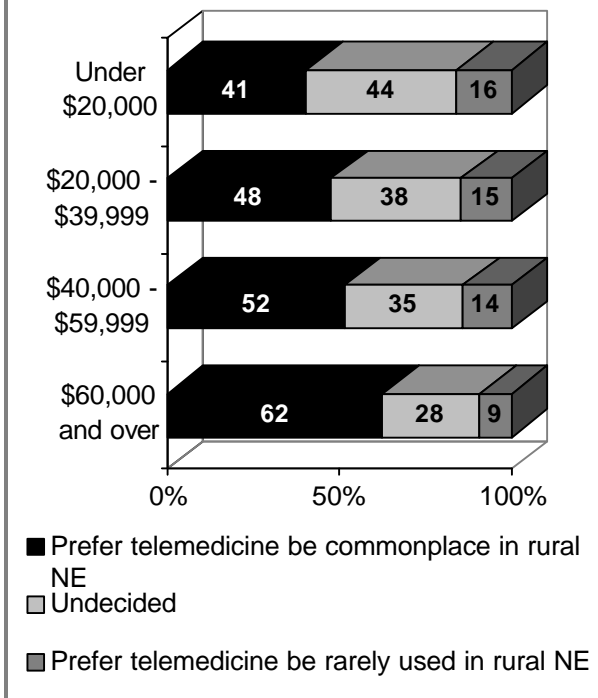
Respondents with higher incomes were more likely than those with lower income levels to prefer the traditional two-parent family structure. Ninety-four percent of the respondents with incomes of \$60,000 or more preferred this structure, while eighty-two percent of the respondents with incomes under \$20,000 agreed.

Other groups more likely to prefer the traditional, two-parent family include: those between the ages of 40 and 64, males, those with more education, and farmers/ranchers.

When asked how common telemedicine should be in the future, responses differed by income, age, education, marital status and occupation. Respondents with higher incomes were more likely than those with lower incomes to prefer that telemedicine be commonplace twenty years from now. Sixty-two percent of the respondents with incomes of \$60,000 or more preferred this technological application be commonplace, compared to forty-one percent of the respondents with incomes under \$20,000 (Figure 9).



**Figure 9. Preferences Regarding Telemedicine by Income**



Those with higher education levels were more likely than those with less education to prefer that telemedicine be commonplace in rural Nebraska twenty years from now. Sixty-one percent of the respondents with a college degree preferred telemedicine be commonplace in the future, compared to forty-one percent of those with a high school education or lower.

Of the occupational groups, those with professional occupations were most likely to prefer telemedicine be common in the future. Sixty percent of the respondents with this type of occupation preferred it be common, while only forty-two percent of the laborers shared this belief.

Other groups more likely to prefer that

telemedicine be commonplace in the future include those between the ages of 40 and 64 and those who have never married.

Preferences regarding telecommuting by rural Nebraskans differed by community size, income, age, education and occupation. Those with higher incomes were more likely than those with lower income levels to prefer that telecommuting by rural Nebraskans be commonplace twenty years from now. Seventy-three percent of those with incomes of \$60,000 or more preferred telecommuting to be common, compared to forty-five percent of the respondents with incomes under \$20,000.

Those with higher education levels were more likely than those with lower education levels to prefer that telecommuting be commonplace in the future. Seventy-two percent of the respondents with a college degree preferred this scenario, while only forty-six percent of the respondents with a high school education or less agreed.

Respondents with professional occupations were more likely than those with other types of occupations to prefer the increase in telecommuting by rural Nebraskans. Sixty-nine percent of the respondents in this occupational group preferred telecommuting be common, compared to only forty-eight percent of the laborers.

The other groups more likely to prefer that telecommuting be commonplace in the future include those living in larger communities and the respondents between the ages of 40 and 64.

When asked about the use of biotechnology applications by Nebraska farms, preferences differed by all of the characteristics except by region. Respondents with professional occupations and those who are farmers or ranchers were the occupational groups most likely to prefer that most of the food produced by Nebraska farms use biotechnology applications in twenty years. Approximately forty-four percent of these two occupational groups preferred this common use of biotechnology, compared to only twenty-four percent of the laborers (Figure 10).

Respondents with higher income levels were more likely than those with lower incomes to prefer that most of the food produced by Nebraska farms use biotechnology applications. Forty-seven percent of the

respondents with incomes of \$60,000 or more preferred the common use of biotechnology applications in food production, compared to only twenty-eight percent of the respondents with incomes under \$20,000.

Persons with higher educational levels were more likely than those with less education to prefer the use of biotechnology applications. Forty-nine percent of the respondents with a college degree preferred the use of biotechnology in food production, while only thirty percent of the respondents with a high school education or less felt the same.

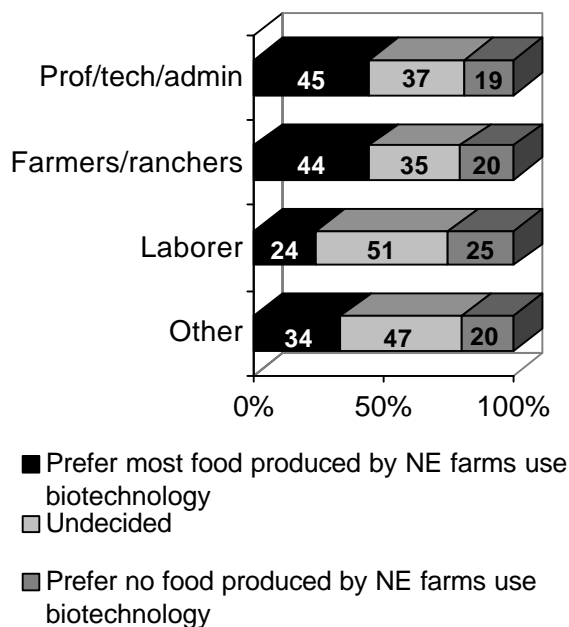
Other groups more likely to prefer that most of the food produced by Nebraska farms use biotechnology applications include: those living in larger communities, respondents between the ages of 40 and 64, and males. When comparing responses by marital status, the widowed respondents were *less* likely than the other groups to prefer this use of biotechnology.

### ***Differences in Expectations Among Groups***

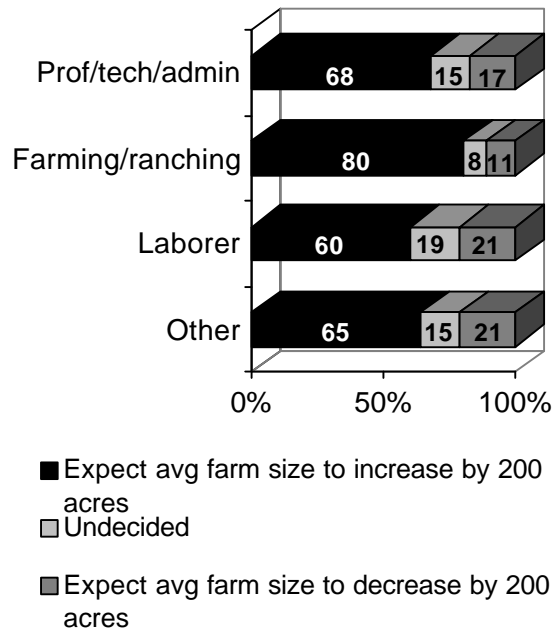
The responses to the expectation questions were also analyzed by community size, region, income, age, gender, education, marital status and occupation (Appendix Table 3). Farmers and ranchers were more likely than those with different occupations to expect that the average farm size in the state will increase by 200 acres twenty years from now. Eighty percent of the farmers and ranchers expect this increase in farm size, while only sixty percent of the laborers expect the increase (Figure 11).

The respondents who have never married were more likely than the other marital status

**Figure 10.** Preferences Regarding Biotechnology Use by Occupation



**Figure 11.** *Expectations About Future Farm Size by Occupation*



groups to expect that the average farm size would increase in the future. Seventy-two percent of those who have never married expect this size increase, compared to fifty-two percent of those who are widowed.

When comparing responses by income, it was found that those with higher incomes were more likely than those with lower incomes to expect the increase in farm size. Seventy-five percent of the respondents with incomes of \$60,000 or more expect the average farm size to increase, while only fifty-eight percent of those with incomes under \$20,000 felt the same.

Other groups more likely to expect the average farm size to increase in the future include: the respondents living in the smaller

communities, those between the ages of 40 and 64, males, and the respondents with more education.

Expectations about the ownership of the farms differed by income, age, education and marital status. The respondents who have never married were more likely than the other marital groups to expect the majority of farms in the state to be owned by non-family corporations twenty years from now. Fifty-nine percent of this group expect most of the farms to be owned by non-family corporations, in comparison to only thirty-five percent of the respondents who are widowed.

The younger respondents were more likely than the older respondents to expect most of the farms to be owned by non-family corporations. Sixty-two percent of those between the ages of 19 and 39 expect this ownership structure, while only thirty-nine percent of the respondents age 65 and older shared this belief. The respondents with higher incomes and those with more education were the other groups more likely to expect non-family corporations to own most of the farms in the state twenty years from now.

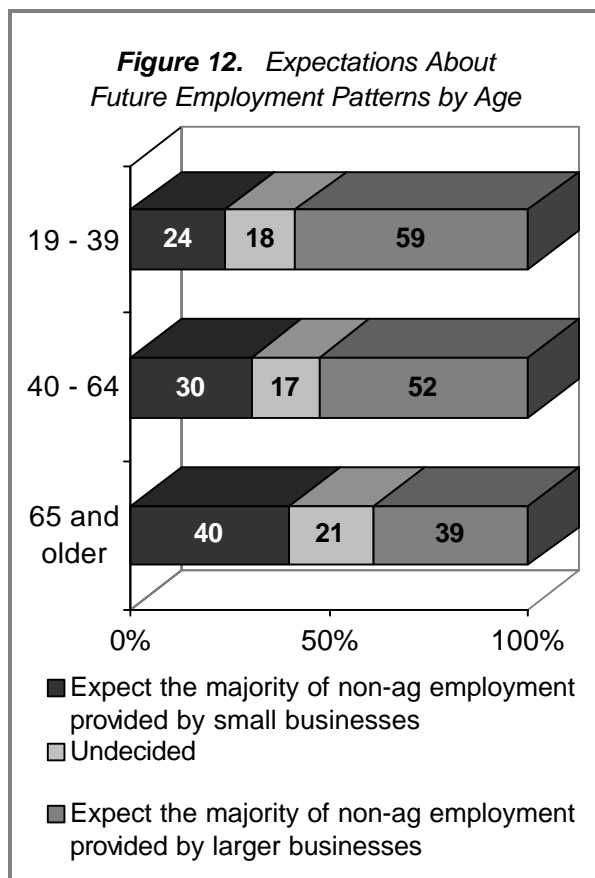
Certain groups were more likely to expect the farms in the state to be producing for a global market twenty years from now. The respondents with higher incomes were more likely than those with lower incomes to expect the farms to be producing for a global market. Eighty-seven percent of the respondents with incomes of \$60,000 or more expect this trend, compared to sixty-one percent of those with incomes under \$20,000. Other groups more likely to expect the farms to produce for a global market

include: the younger respondents, males, those with higher education levels, the married respondents, and those with professional occupations.

Expectations about future population trends differed by community size, income, age, education, and occupation. The groups more likely to expect the population of rural Nebraska to decrease by 150,000 in twenty years include: those living in communities with less than 5,000 people, those with higher incomes, respondents between the ages of 40 and 64, those with higher education levels, and farmers/ranchers.

When asked what types of businesses they expect to provide the majority of non-agricultural employment in the future, certain groups were more likely to state that they expect larger businesses (at least 100 employees) to provide it. The younger respondents were more likely than the older respondents to expect larger businesses to provide most of the non-agricultural employment in the future. Fifty-nine percent of those between the ages of 19 and 39 expect this employment pattern, while only thirty-nine percent of those age 65 and older agreed (Figure 12).

The respondents who are married and those who have never married were more likely than the other marital groups to expect larger businesses to provide most of the employment in the future. Approximately fifty-two percent of these two groups expect this employment pattern, while only thirty-seven percent of the widowed respondents shared this belief. Other groups more likely to expect larger businesses to provide most of the non-agricultural employment include: those in the Northeast region of the state,



those with incomes between \$40,000 and \$59,999, those with more education, farmers/ranchers and laborers.

Certain groups were more likely to expect the economy of rural Nebraska to be less dependent upon agriculture twenty years from now. Respondents with higher incomes were more likely than those with lower incomes to expect less dependence upon agriculture in the future. Sixty-four percent of the respondents with incomes of \$60,000 or more expect the economy to be less dependent upon agriculture, compared to forty-three percent of those with incomes under \$20,000.

Respondents with higher educational levels were more likely than those with less

education to expect the economy to be less dependent upon agriculture. Sixty-three percent of the respondents with a college degree expect this decreased reliance on agriculture in the future, while only forty-five percent of those with a high school education or less felt the same.

Other groups more likely to expect the economy to be less dependent upon agriculture twenty years from now include: those living in the larger communities, respondents between the ages of 40 and 64, those who are married, and respondents with professional occupations.

When asked their expectations regarding the viability of smaller communities in rural Nebraska, certain groups were more likely to state that they expect one-half of the communities that currently have fewer than 500 people to no longer exist twenty years from now. Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to expect some of these towns will no longer exist in the future. Fifty-nine percent of those between the ages of 19 and 39 expect one-half of these smaller communities will no longer exist twenty years from now, compared to thirty-nine percent of those age 65 or older.

Respondents with higher education levels were more likely than those with less education to expect fewer smaller communities will exist in the future. Sixty-one percent of the respondents with a college degree expect this trend, while forty-four percent of those with a high school education or less felt the same.

Other groups that were more likely to expect one-half of these towns will no longer exist twenty years from now include: those living

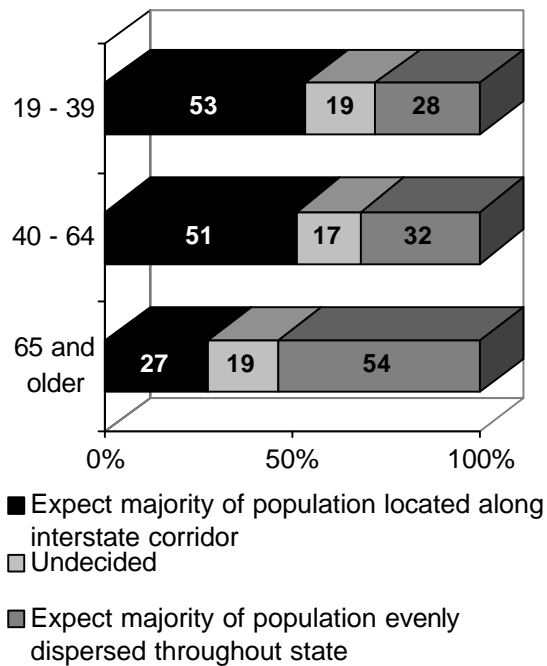
in the larger communities, persons with higher income levels, those who have never married, and farmers/ranchers.

Most of these same groups were also those most likely to expect the majority of the population of rural Nebraska to be located along the interstate corridor twenty years from now. Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to expect this population concentration along the interstate. Fifty-three percent of those between the ages of 19 and 39 expect most of the population of rural Nebraska to locate along this corridor. Only twenty-seven percent of those age 65 or older expect this same trend (Figure 13).

Those with higher education levels were more likely than those with less education to expect the concentration of the population along the interstate. Fifty-eight percent of those with a college degree expect the concentration of the population of rural Nebraska along this corridor, compared to thirty-five percent of those with a high school education or less.

Other groups more likely to expect this population distribution trend include: those with higher incomes, males, those with professional occupations and farmers/ranchers. When comparing the marital groups, the widowed respondents were *less* likely than the other groups to expect this trend.

**Figure 13.** *Expectations About Distribution of Population by Age*



Respondents' expectations regarding the types of businesses that the communities in rural Nebraska will have differed for some of these groups. Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to expect the communities will only have convenience or large retail stores twenty years from now. Forty-nine percent of those age 19 to 39 expect only these types of businesses in the communities, compared to thirty percent of those age 65 and older. Other groups more likely to expect only these type of businesses in the community include: those with higher incomes, persons with higher education levels, and farmers/ranchers. When comparing the marital groups, the widowed were less likely than the others to expect this trend.

The groups most likely to expect funding for

public education (K - 12) to be decreased twenty years from now include: those with higher incomes, younger respondents, females, those with higher education levels, and those who are married.

Certain groups were more likely to expect all counties to continue to have independent county governments in the future. Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to expect the independent county government structure to continue. Fifty-five percent of those age 65 and older expect independent county governments to continue to exist in the future, compared to only thirty-four percent of those between the ages of 19 and 39. Respondents living in communities with populations ranging from 500 to 4,999, those with lower income levels, persons with lower education levels, and the widowed respondents were the other groups more likely to expect independent county governments to continue twenty years from now. These same groups were also more likely to expect the majority of local governmental services will continue to be provided by local government twenty years from now.

Differences also emerged when asked what type of family structure they expect twenty years from now. Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to expect most families in rural Nebraska will be non-traditional families. Forty-seven percent of those age 19 to 39 expect these non-traditional families, while only twenty percent of those age 65 and older shared this belief.

The respondents who have never married were the marital group most likely to expect most families to be non-traditional twenty years from now. Forty-four percent of those

who have never married expect this trend, compared to twenty-one percent of those who are widowed (Figure 14).

Other groups more likely to expect non-traditional families include: those with higher income levels, females and those with higher educational levels.

Certain groups were more likely to expect telemedicine to be commonplace in rural Nebraska twenty years from now. These groups include: persons living in the South Central region of the state, those with higher income levels, persons between the ages of 40 and 64, respondents with higher education levels, and those with professional occupations. Of the marital groups, those who are widowed were less likely to expect telemedicine to be common twenty years from now.

Many of these same groups were also more likely to expect telecommuting and the use of biotechnology applications to be common in the future. These groups include: those with higher incomes, persons between the ages of 40 and 64, and those with higher education levels. The widowed respondents were less likely to expect either of these technological applications to be common in the future.

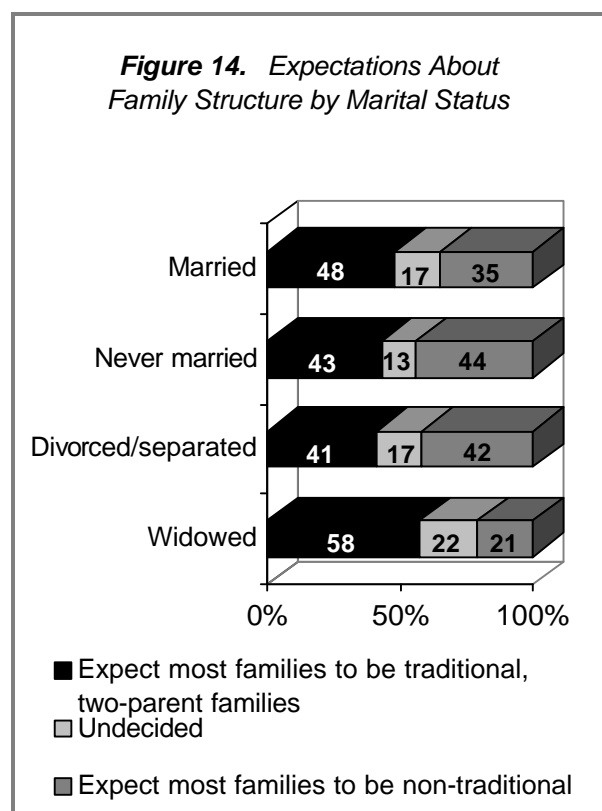
When comparing occupational groups, the laborers were less likely than the other groups to expect telecommuting to be commonplace twenty years from now. The laborers and those with occupations classified as “other” were less likely to expect the use of biotechnology applications to be common in future food production. Farmers/ranchers were the occupational group most likely to expect most food produced by Nebraska farms will use biotechnology applications twenty years from now.

Gender differences emerged on the biotechnology question. Males were more likely than females to expect the common use of biotechnology applications in food production twenty years from now.

### Conclusion

When asked what type of future they prefer for rural Nebraska, approximately one-half of rural Nebraskans would prefer to see the following: the population base of rural Nebraska increase by 150,000, small businesses would provide the majority of the non-agricultural employment and the economy would be more dependent upon agriculture.

They were more certain about their preferences for the distribution of the



population and regarding their future communities. The majority of respondents would prefer the population would be evenly dispersed throughout the state, all the smaller communities would continue to exist twenty years from now, and the traditional variety of businesses would be located in these communities.

Concerning agriculture, most respondents would like to see no farms owned by non-family corporations and the farms would produce for a global market. Opinions were mixed on their preferences for the size of farms twenty years from now and the use of biotechnology applications by the farms.

Regarding the use of various technological applications, most would like to see telemedicine and telecommuting to be common in rural Nebraska in the future. Yet, a significant proportion were undecided. Their preferences for the future families in rural Nebraska would be that most be traditional, two-parent families. Most would also like to see funding for public education (K - 12) increased twenty years from now. When asked about the structure of local government in the future, many would like to see a continuation of the current structure. Most prefer to see counties continue to have independent county governments and local government would still provide the majority of local governmental services.

When asked what type of future they expect, many of these trends are not the same. Almost one-half expect the population of rural Nebraska to decline and for it to be concentrated along the interstate corridor.

Regarding the economy of rural Nebraska

and the future communities, approximately one-half expect the majority of non-agricultural employment will be provided by larger businesses, the economy to be less dependent upon agriculture, and one-half of the smaller communities will no longer exist. Opinions were mixed on the type of businesses they expect to see in the communities.

In agriculture, over one-half expect the majority of farms will be owned by non-family corporations, the average farm size will increase, they will be producing for a global market, and will be using biotechnology applications.

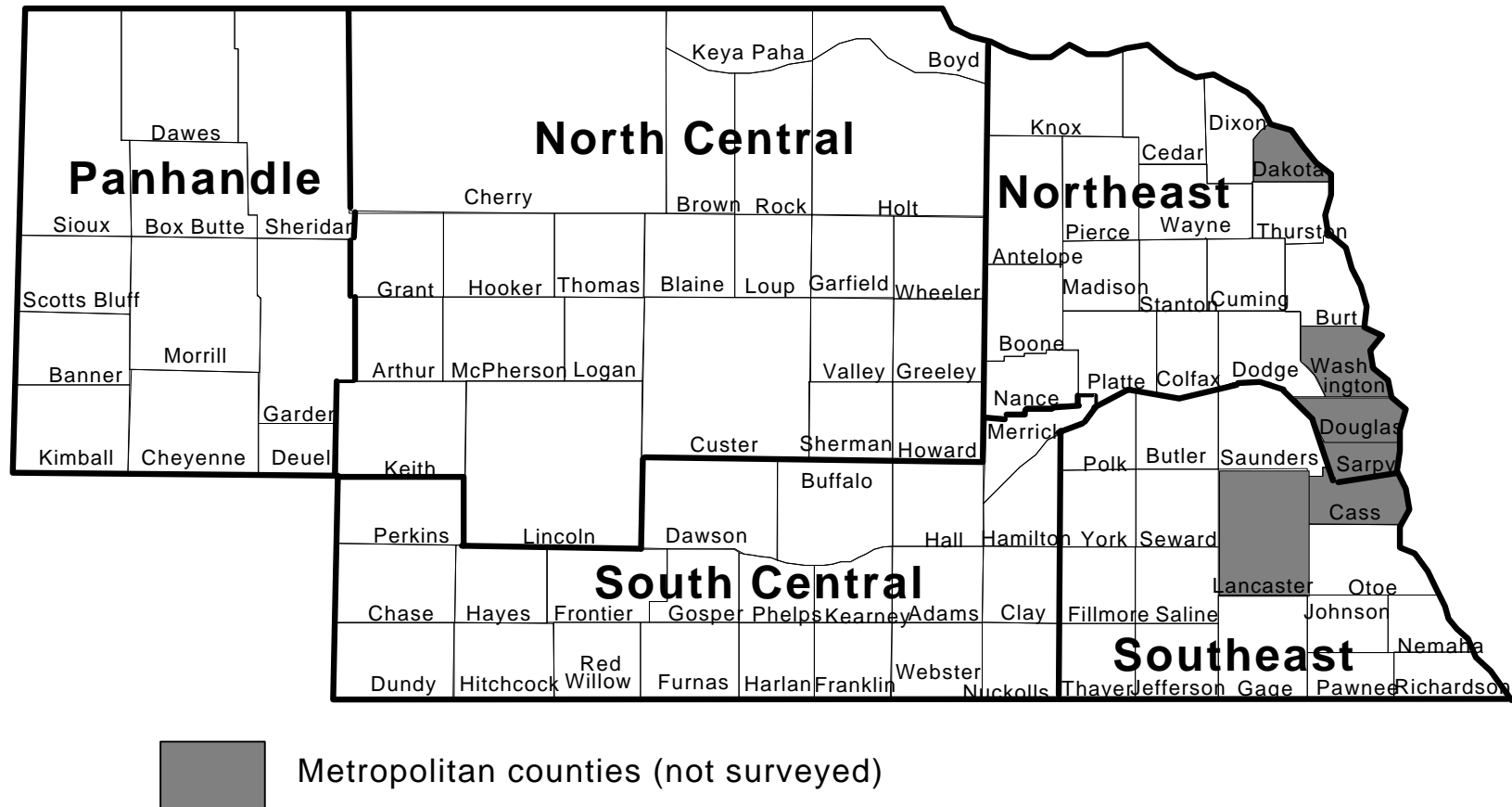
When asked about the use of technology in rural Nebraska twenty years from now, most see telemedicine and telecommuting being widely used. They have mixed opinions about the future structure of families.

Most expect that funding for public education (K - 12) will be increased twenty years from now. Opinions were mixed regarding their expectations for the future structure of local government. But, almost one-half expect that local government will continue to provide the majority of local governmental services.

When comparing these preferences and expectations, many differences emerge. In many areas, more people would prefer to see a trend than expect to see it. The larger discrepancies occurred in the areas of agriculture, family, community and government. For example, eighty percent of the respondents prefer that no farms in the future be owned by non-family corporations. But, only twenty-nine percent expect that no farms will be owned by non-family

corporations in the future. As another example, eighty-five percent prefer that all communities with less than 500 people will still exist twenty years from now, but only thirty-five percent expect to see this happen. In these areas, rural Nebraskans have indicated that they don't prefer what they foresee happening in the future.

# Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



**Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 1990 Census**

	<b>1999 Poll</b>	<b>1998 Poll</b>	<b>1997 Poll</b>	<b>1996 Poll</b>	<b>1990 Census</b>
<b>Age : <sup>1</sup></b>					
20 - 39	21%	25%	24%	22%	38%
40 - 64	52%	55%	48%	49%	36%
65 and over	28%	20%	28%	29%	26%
<b>Gender: <sup>2</sup></b>					
Female	31%	58%	28%	27%	49%
Male	69%	42%	72%	73%	51%
<b>Education: <sup>3</sup></b>					
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	3%	2%	5%	3%	10%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)	5%	3%	5%	5%	12%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	36%	33%	34%	34%	38%
Some college, no degree	25%	27%	25%	26%	21%
Associate degree	9%	10%	8%	7%	7%
Bachelors degree	15%	16%	14%	14%	9%
Graduate or professional degree	8%	9%	9%	10%	3%
<b>Household income: <sup>4</sup></b>					
Less than \$10,000	8%	3%	7%	8%	19%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	15%	10%	16%	17%	25%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	18%	17%	19%	19%	21%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	18%	20%	18%	18%	15%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	15%	18%	14%	15%	9%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	9%	12%	10%	9%	5%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	8%	10%	7%	7%	3%
\$75,000 or more	10%	10%	8%	7%	3%
<b>Marital Status: <sup>5</sup></b>					
Married	76%	95%	73%	75%	64%
Never married	7%	0.4%	8%	7%	20%
Divorced/separated	8%	1%	9%	8%	7%
Widowed/widower	10%	3%	10%	10%	10%

<sup>1</sup> 1990 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

<sup>2</sup> 1990 Census universe is total non-metro population.

<sup>3</sup> 1990 Census universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

<sup>4</sup> 1990 Census universe is all non-metro households.

<sup>5</sup> 1990 Census universe is non-metro population 15 years of age and over.

**Appendix Table 2. Preferences for the Future of Rural Nebraska by Community Size, Region, and Individual Attributes**

*Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\**

	Twenty years from now, I prefer that the average farm size in rural Nebraska increase by 200 acres.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that the average farm size in rural Nebraska decrease by 200 acres.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of farms in the state be owned by non-family corporations.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that none of the farms in the state be owned by non-family corporations.					
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.
Percentages (n = 2859)												Percentages (n = 2857)												
Community Size																								
Less than 500	13	19	36	15	18	$\chi^2 =$	7	3	8	19	64	$\chi^2 =$	7	3	8	19	64	$\chi^2 =$	7	3	8	19	64	$\chi^2 =$
500 - 4,999	14	19	37	15	14	33.81	5	3	11	21	60	38.43	5	3	11	21	60	38.43	5	3	11	21	60	38.43
5,000 and over	16	18	44	14	8	(.000)	7	4	15	25	50	(.000)	7	4	15	25	50	(.000)	7	4	15	25	50	(.000)
Region																								
Panhandle	14	21	43	12	10	$\chi^2 =$ 28.89 (.025)	6	4	16	21	53	$\chi^2 =$ 34.45 (.005)	6	4	16	21	53	$\chi^2 =$ 34.45 (.005)	6	4	16	21	53	$\chi^2 =$ 34.45 (.005)
North Central	17	17	37	16	14		7	4	10	17	63		7	4	10	17	63							
South Central	13	20	41	13	14		6	2	12	24	56		6	2	12	24	56							
Northeast	14	17	35	18	17		7	3	8	18	64		7	3	8	18	64							
Southeast	14	19	38	16	14		6	3	11	21	60		6	3	11	21	60							
Income Level																								
Under \$20,000	14	15	37	14	20	$\chi^2 =$ 44.01 (.000)	8	2	13	16	61	$\chi^2 =$ 53.56 (.000)	8	2	13	16	61	$\chi^2 =$ 53.56 (.000)	8	2	13	16	61	$\chi^2 =$ 53.56 (.000)
\$20,000 - \$39,999	13	20	36	16	15		5	4	10	20	62		5	4	10	20	62							
\$40,000 - \$59,999	14	17	40	16	14		5	2	10	22	61		5	2	10	22	61							
\$60,000 and over	16	22	42	12	9		6	4	10	31	49		6	4	10	31	49							
Age																								
19 - 39	15	21	39	15	10	$\chi^2 =$	4	2	10	25	59	$\chi^2 =$	4	2	10	25	59	$\chi^2 =$	4	2	10	25	59	$\chi^2 =$
40 - 64	13	19	38	16	14	22.23	6	3	10	23	58	50.03	6	3	10	23	58	50.03	6	3	10	23	58	50.03
65 and over	16	16	38	13	17	(.005)	9	4	13	13	62	(.000)	9	4	13	13	62	(.000)	9	4	13	13	62	(.000)
Gender																								
Male	13	19	37	15	16	$\chi^2 =$ 23.99 (.000)	6	3	10	20	61	5.97 (.202)	6	3	10	20	61	5.97 (.202)	6	3	10	20	61	5.97 (.202)
Female	16	18	41	15	10		7	3	13	21	57		7	3	13	21	57		7	3	13	21	57	
Education																								
High school or less	14	17	38	15	17	$\chi^2 =$ 26.27 (.001)	8	3	13	14	63	$\chi^2 =$ 83.43 (.000)	8	3	13	14	63	$\chi^2 =$ 83.43 (.000)	8	3	13	14	63	$\chi^2 =$ 83.43 (.000)
Some college	14	20	37	15	14		5	3	9	23	60		5	3	9	23	60		5	3	9	23	60	
College grad	14	21	40	16	9		5	3	10	31	51		5	3	10	31	51		5	3	10	31	51	
Marital Status																								
Married	13	19	37	16	15	$\chi^2 =$ 31.82 (.001)	6	3	10	21	61	$\chi^2 =$ 39.60 (.000)	6	3	10	21	61	$\chi^2 =$ 39.60 (.000)	6	3	10	21	61	$\chi^2 =$ 39.60 (.000)
Never married	13	23	38	16	10		6	3	14	25	53		6	3	14	25	53							
Divorced/separated	20	19	36	12	14		8	2	15	22	53		8	2	15	22	53							
Widowed	15	10	49	12	14		5	5	18	13	59		5	5	18	13	59							
Occupation																								
Prof/tech/admin.	13	21	41	15	9	$\chi^2 =$ 37.48 (.000)	6	2	13	29	51	$\chi^2 =$ 69.97 (.000)	6	2	13	29	51	$\chi^2 =$ 69.97 (.000)	6	2	13	29	51	$\chi^2 =$ 69.97 (.000)
Farming/ranching	15	19	31	19	17		4	2	5	16	73		4	2	5	16	73							
Laborer	11	17	43	14	15		5	3	12	21	59		5	3	12	21	59							
Other	16	18	39	14	13		6	3	10	24	57		6	3	10	24	57							

Appendix Table 2.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.*														
	Twenty years from now, I prefer that the farms in Nebraska produce for a global market.			Twenty years from now, I prefer that the farms in Nebraska produce for local/regional markets.				I prefer that the population of rural Nebraska decrease by 150,000 in twenty years.			I prefer that the population of rural Nebraska increase by 150,000 in twenty years.			
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.	
	Percentages (n = 2839)							Percentages (n = 2873)						
Community Size														
Less than 500	30	25	20	11	14	$\chi^2 =$		6	8	33	25	28	$\chi^2 =$	
500 - 4,999	31	24	22	13	10	23.94		5	8	37	28	23	30.26	
5,000 and over	37	27	18	12	7	(.002)		5	9	42	28	17	(.000)	
Region			(n = 2890)							(n = 2924)				
Panhandle	30	27	21	12	11			5	10	39	25	20		
North Central	25	27	22	12	13			6	9	37	24	24		
South Central	37	24	19	12	9	$\chi^2 =$		5	8	37	27	23	$\chi^2 =$	
Northeast	30	25	22	13	12	23.95		5	5	38	29	23	16.12	
Southeast	32	24	21	13	11	(.091)		6	8	35	27	24	(.445)	
Income Level			(n = 2657)							(n = 2686)				
Under \$20,000	22	23	27	11	17			6	6	42	24	23		
\$20,000 - \$39,999	32	24	21	14	10	$\chi^2 =$		5	10	35	27	23	$\chi^2 =$	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	33	26	17	13	10	102.44		7	7	34	31	22	32.75	
\$60,000 and over	42	30	14	8	6	(.000)		3	6	38	25	28	(.001)	
Age			(n = 2860)							(n = 2892)				
19 - 39	31	25	21	13	9	$\chi^2 =$		5	11	44	24	16	$\chi^2 =$	
40 - 64	34	26	19	12	9	33.30		6	8	36	28	23	57.62	
65 and over	28	23	22	11	16	(.000)		4	5	34	27	30	(.000)	
Gender			(n = 2865)			$\chi^2 =$				(n = 2898)			$\chi^2 =$	
Male	35	25	18	11	11	43.50		6	7	36	27	25	7.50	
Female	25	24	26	14	10	(.000)		5	9	39	27	21	(.112)	
Education			(n = 2823)							(n = 2858)				
High school or less	30	20	23	12	14	$\chi^2 =$		5	8	37	26	24	$\chi^2 =$	
Some college	31	26	19	14	11	63.77		6	9	37	26	22	12.19	
College grad	35	32	17	10	6	(.000)		4	7	34	30	25	(.143)	
Marital Status			(n = 2873)							(n = 2906)				
Married	33	25	20	12	10			5	8	36	27	24		
Never married	29	31	22	11	8	$\chi^2 =$		5	10	39	31	15	$\chi^2 =$	
Divorced/separated	32	24	20	9	16	28.54		6	8	43	20	24	18.99	
Widowed	23	24	27	13	13	(.005)		4	5	35	29	26	(.089)	
Occupation			(n = 2044)							(n = 2057)				
Prof/tech/admin.	36	28	19	11	7			5	10	34	29	22		
Farming/ranching	32	29	16	12	11	$\chi^2 =$		6	7	38	26	23	$\chi^2 =$	
Laborer	32	23	22	13	10	23.43		6	8	39	26	21	7.58	
Other	32	23	21	15	10	(.024)		5	7	38	27	24	(.817)	

Appendix Table 2.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.*																											
	Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of non-ag employment in rural NE be provided by small businesses.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of non-ag employment in rural NE be provided by larger businesses.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that the economy of rural Nebraska be less dependent upon agriculture.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that the economy of rural Nebraska be more dependent upon agriculture.								
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.
	Percentages (n = 2869)													Percentages (n = 2847)													
Community Size																											
Less than 500	23	28	26	15	8	$\chi^2 =$		6	20	21	25	28	$\chi^2 =$		6	20	21	25	28	$\chi^2 =$		6	20	21	25	28	$\chi^2 =$
500 - 4,999	21	29	27	16	7	32.24		7	21	23	25	24	39.58		7	21	23	25	24	39.58		7	21	23	25	24	39.58
5,000 and over	16	23	31	22	9	(.000)		9	26	26	23	16	(.000)		9	26	26	23	16	(.000)		9	26	26	23	16	(.000)
Region																											
Panhandle	22	28	24	21	6			9	18	27	22	24			9	18	27	22	24			9	18	27	22	24	
North Central	30	31	23	9	7			7	20	19	26	28			7	20	19	26	28			7	20	19	26	28	
South Central	18	28	29	17	9	$\chi^2 =$		10	25	24	23	19	$\chi^2 =$		10	25	24	23	19	$\chi^2 =$		10	25	24	23	19	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	20	28	27	18	8	59.55		5	20	23	26	27	43.22		5	20	23	26	27	43.22		5	20	23	26	27	43.22
Southeast	18	26	28	20	8	(.000)		7	20	24	25	24	(.000)		7	20	24	25	24	(.000)		7	20	24	25	24	(.000)
Income Level																											
Under \$20,000	23	25	29	14	9			6	14	24	22	35			6	14	24	22	35			6	14	24	22	35	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	21	30	25	16	8	$\chi^2 =$		8	21	22	26	24	$\chi^2 =$		8	21	22	26	24	$\chi^2 =$		8	21	22	26	24	$\chi^2 =$
\$40,000 - \$59,999	17	29	25	21	9	36.56		7	25	22	27	19	120.87		7	25	22	27	19	120.87		7	25	22	27	19	120.87
\$60,000 and over	22	25	31	17	5	(.000)		12	30	26	21	12	(.000)		12	30	26	21	12	(.000)		12	30	26	21	12	(.000)
Age																											
19 - 39	16	30	29	20	5	$\chi^2 =$		6	19	25	27	23	$\chi^2 =$		6	19	25	27	23	$\chi^2 =$		6	19	25	27	23	$\chi^2 =$
40 - 64	21	28	27	17	8	28.71		9	24	22	25	20	60.74		9	24	22	25	20	60.74		9	24	22	25	20	60.74
65 and over	24	25	26	15	10	(.000)		6	17	23	22	33	(.000)		6	17	23	22	33	(.000)		6	17	23	22	33	(.000)
Gender																											
Male	22	28	26	17	8	13.36		8	23	22	24	23	20.46		8	23	22	24	23	20.46		8	23	22	24	23	20.46
Female	17	27	30	18	8	(.010)		5	18	25	26	25	(.000)		5	18	25	26	25	(.000)		5	18	25	26	25	(.000)
Education																											
High school or less	22	25	30	15	9	$\chi^2 =$		7	17	23	23	31	$\chi^2 =$		7	17	23	23	31	$\chi^2 =$		7	17	23	23	31	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	21	27	26	19	8	34.51		7	22	22	26	23	106.44		7	22	22	26	23	106.44		7	22	22	26	23	106.44
College grad	19	33	25	19	5	(.000)		9	29	25	26	12	(.000)		9	29	25	26	12	(.000)		9	29	25	26	12	(.000)
Marital Status																											
Married	21	28	27	16	7			8	22	22	25	23			8	22	22	25	23			8	22	22	25	23	
Never married	15	31	26	21	7	$\chi^2 =$		5	27	25	25	19	$\chi^2 =$		5	27	25	25	19	$\chi^2 =$		5	27	25	25	19	$\chi^2 =$
Divorced/separated	20	24	28	19	9	15.10		7	21	27	21	25	32.38		7	21	27	21	25	32.38		7	21	27	21	25	32.38
Widowed	19	23	30	18	10	(.236)		5	12	26	24	32	(.001)		5	12	26	24	32	(.001)		5	12	26	24	32	(.001)
Occupation																											
Prof/tech/admin.	16	29	27	21	7			11	31	24	23	11			11	31	24	23	11			11	31	24	23	11	
Farming/ranching	28	33	25	11	5	$\chi^2 =$		4	13	19	29	35	$\chi^2 =$		4	13	19	29	35	$\chi^2 =$		4	13	19	29	35	$\chi^2 =$
Laborer	17	24	26	21	12	71.05		9	27	23	24	17	148.87		9	27	23	24	17	148.87		9	27	23	24	17	148.87
Other	21	26	28	19	6	(.000)		9	23	26	23	19	(.000)		9	23	26	23	19	(.000)		9	23	26	23	19	(.000)

Appendix Table 2.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\*

	I prefer that 1/2 of Nebraska's rural communities with less than 500 people will no longer exist in 20 years.		I prefer that all of Nebraska's rural communities with less than 500 people will still exist in 20 years.			Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of the population of rural NE be located along the interstate corridor.		Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of the population of rural NE be evenly dispersed throughout the state.				
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.
	Percentages						Percentages					
Community Size	(n = 2850)						(n = 2848)					
Less than 500	2	3	5	15	75	$\chi^2 =$	3	2	10	19	66	$\chi^2 =$
500 - 4,999	4	4	8	22	63	86.48	2	4	9	25	60	38.96
5,000 and over	3	5	14	25	54	(.000)	2	5	14	28	52	(.000)
Region	(n = 2894)						(n = 2891)					
Panhandle	4	5	10	23	59		1	5	9	30	55	
North Central	5	3	6	17	70		4	2	11	21	63	
South Central	3	3	10	24	60	$\chi^2 =$	2	4	12	24	58	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	2	4	8	19	67	28.36	1	3	9	22	65	33.13
Southeast	3	4	9	19	66	(.029)	3	3	11	25	58	(.007)
Income Level	(n = 2660)						(n = 2654)					
Under \$20,000	4	3	11	17	65		3	2	15	21	60	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	2	3	7	19	69	$\chi^2 =$	2	4	9	24	61	$\chi^2 =$
\$40,000 - \$59,999	2	3	7	22	66	41.69	3	4	7	24	62	40.44
\$60,000 and over	4	5	11	24	56	(.000)	1	3	12	28	56	(.000)
Age	(n = 2866)						(n = 2864)					
19 - 39	1	3	7	20	69	$\chi^2 =$	2	4	11	29	54	$\chi^2 =$
40 - 64	4	4	8	20	65	15.73	3	4	10	25	60	31.63
65 and over	4	4	10	21	62	(.046)	2	2	11	19	66	(.000)
Gender	(n = 2872)					$\chi^2 =$	(n = 2869)					$\chi^2 =$
Male	3	4	8	20	65	0.98	2	4	10	24	60	5.22
Female	3	4	9	21	64	(.912)	2	2	11	23	61	(.266)
Education	(n = 2834)						(n = 2830)					
High school or less	3	3	9	18	67	$\chi^2 =$	2	3	11	20	64	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	3	4	7	19	67	35.93	3	3	9	24	62	44.10
College grad	3	5	10	27	55	(.000)	2	5	12	31	51	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 2879)						(n = 2876)					
Married	3	4	8	19	66		2	3	10	23	61	
Never married	3	4	9	24	60	$\chi^2 =$	2	5	12	31	51	$\chi^2 =$
Divorced/separated	5	2	9	22	63	14.92	4	2	10	25	59	16.55
Widowed	4	5	10	24	57	(.246)	4	2	13	21	60	(.167)
Occupation	(n = 2038)						(n = 2037)					
Prof/tech/admin.	3	4	8	25	59		2	5	11	30	52	
Farming/ranching	2	3	4	18	73	$\chi^2 =$	3	3	9	22	64	$\chi^2 =$
Laborer	2	3	6	21	69	37.97	3	2	7	24	65	32.98
Other	4	4	10	18	65	(.000)	2	4	11	25	58	(.001)

Appendix Table 2.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\*

	Twenty years from now, I prefer that communities in rural NE have all the traditional variety of businesses.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that communities in rural NE have only convenience or large retail stores.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that funding for public education (K - 12) be decreased.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that funding for public education (K - 12) be increased.				
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.			
			Percentages (n = 2855)								Percentages (n = 2851)								Percentages (n = 2896)				
Community Size																							
Less than 500	65	23	7	3	2	$\chi^2 =$	7	7	18	22	47	$\chi^2 =$		7	7	18	22	47	$\chi^2 =$				
500 - 4,999	63	27	6	2	2	34.13	6	8	19	25	42	19.65		6	8	19	25	42	19.65				
5,000 and over	53	31	11	4	2	(.000)	6	6	25	26	37	(.012)		6	6	25	26	37	(.012)				
Region			(n = 2901)								(n = 2896)								(n = 2896)				
Panhandle	56	33	5	4	2		7	7	22	29	36			7	7	22	29	36					
North Central	69	21	7	2	2		8	6	18	19	50			8	6	18	19	50					
South Central	59	28	8	3	2	$\chi^2 =$	6	7	20	24	43	$\chi^2 =$		6	7	20	24	43	$\chi^2 =$				
Northeast	63	25	7	2	3	29.77	6	7	21	25	41	23.79		6	7	21	25	41	23.79				
Southeast	60	28	8	3	1	(.019)	6	8	19	25	42	(.094)		6	8	19	25	42	(.094)				
Income Level			(n = 2661)								(n = 2658)								(n = 2658)				
Under \$20,000	62	23	10	2	3		7	9	24	21	38			7	9	24	21	38					
\$20,000 - \$39,999	65	25	5	3	2	$\chi^2 =$	6	6	18	25	44	$\chi^2 =$		6	6	18	25	44	$\chi^2 =$				
\$40,000 - \$59,999	61	28	7	2	2	35.13	5	7	16	25	47	32.16		5	7	16	25	47	32.16				
\$60,000 and over	55	33	6	4	2	(.000)	5	7	22	28	39	(.001)		5	7	22	28	39	(.001)				
Age			(n = 2874)								(n = 2868)								(n = 2868)				
19 - 39	60	29	7	2	2	$\chi^2 =$	3	4	15	23	55	$\chi^2 =$		3	4	15	23	55	$\chi^2 =$				
40 - 64	63	27	6	3	2	18.81	6	7	19	26	42	90.94		6	7	19	26	42	90.94				
65 and over	60	24	10	3	3	(.016)	9	10	25	22	34	(.000)		9	10	25	22	34	(.000)				
Gender			(n = 2879)								(n = 2873)								(n = 2873)				
Male	61	26	8	3	2	4.11	8	8	21	25	39	53.17		8	8	21	25	39	53.17				
Female	62	27	6	3	3	(.392)	4	5	17	23	51	(.000)		4	5	17	23	51	(.000)				
Education			(n = 2838)								(n = 2834)								(n = 2834)				
High school or less	65	22	8	3	3	$\chi^2 =$	7	8	23	23	40	$\chi^2 =$		7	8	23	23	40	$\chi^2 =$				
Some college	63	28	6	2	2	45.99	6	7	18	26	43	22.89		6	7	18	26	43	22.89				
College grad	53	34	8	3	2	(.000)	5	7	17	25	47	(.004)		5	7	17	25	47	(.004)				
Marital Status			(n = 2886)								(n = 2881)								(n = 2881)				
Married	62	26	7	3	2		7	7	19	25	43			7	7	19	25	43					
Never married	56	30	10	3	1	$\chi^2 =$	4	8	20	23	45	$\chi^2 =$		4	8	20	23	45	$\chi^2 =$				
Divorced/separated	59	29	7	3	3	10.78	5	6	28	23	38	17.57		5	6	28	23	38	17.57				
Widowed	59	26	9	3	4	(.547)	8	8	22	23	39	(.129)		8	8	22	23	39	(.129)				
Occupation			(n = 2039)								(n = 2040)								(n = 2040)				
Prof/tech/admin.	56	32	7	3	2		5	5	16	24	51			5	5	16	24	51					
Farming/ranching	68	22	7	2	1	$\chi^2 =$	8	9	23	27	33	$\chi^2 =$		8	9	23	27	33	$\chi^2 =$				
Laborer	64	26	5	3	3	25.26	5	7	17	24	48	50.52		5	7	17	24	48	50.52				
Other	64	27	5	2	2	(.014)	5	5	18	27	45	(.000)		5	5	18	27	45	(.000)				

Appendix Table 2.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\*

	Twenty years from now, I prefer that all of the counties in the state be part of a regional government system.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of local governmental services be privatized.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that the majority of local governmental services continue to be provided by local govt.					
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.
	Percentages						Percentages						Percentages					
Community Size	(n = 2849)						(n = 2841)						(n = 2884)					
Less than 500	4	8	11	18	59	$\chi^2 =$	6	8	13	25	49	$\chi^2 =$	6	8	13	25	49	$\chi^2 =$
500 - 4,999	4	9	12	22	52	37.99	6	9	14	26	46	52.70	6	9	14	26	46	52.70
5,000 and over	6	9	19	22	44	(.000)	5	16	18	26	35	(.000)	5	16	18	26	35	(.000)
Region	(n = 2894)						(n = 2884)						(n = 2884)					
Panhandle	6	9	13	22	50	$\chi^2 =$	6	13	14	25	42	$\chi^2 =$	6	13	14	25	42	$\chi^2 =$
North Central	4	6	10	20	61		5	8	14	22	51		5	8	14	22	51	
South Central	6	9	15	21	50		6	10	15	26	42		6	10	15	26	42	
Northeast	5	8	14	19	54		5	9	15	24	47		5	9	15	24	47	
Southeast	4	10	14	22	50		5	10	13	28	43		5	10	13	28	43	
Income Level	(n = 2656)						(n = 2648)						(n = 2648)					
Under \$20,000	4	5	15	19	58	$\chi^2 =$	5	6	15	22	51	$\chi^2 =$	5	6	15	22	51	$\chi^2 =$
\$20,000 - \$39,999	4	8	13	20	56		5	8	13	28	45		5	8	13	28	45	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	5	10	14	24	48		5	11	14	28	42		5	11	14	28	42	
\$60,000 and over	8	16	11	21	44		7	18	16	24	36		7	18	16	24	36	
Age	(n = 2867)						(n = 2856)						(n = 2856)					
19 - 39	3	7	19	23	49	$\chi^2 =$	6	11	18	28	38	$\chi^2 =$	6	11	18	28	38	$\chi^2 =$
40 - 64	5	10	11	21	54	44.48	6	11	15	27	42	70.52	6	11	15	27	42	70.52
65 and over	6	8	14	18	54	(.000)	5	6	12	20	57	(.000)	5	6	12	20	57	(.000)
Gender	(n = 2871)						(n = 2861)						(n = 2861)					
Male	6	10	12	21	51	$\chi^2 =$	6	12	14	25	42	$\chi^2 =$	6	12	14	25	42	$\chi^2 =$
Female	3	6	17	19	56	(.000)	4	5	15	25	51	(.000)	4	5	15	25	51	(.000)
Education	(n = 2835)						(n = 2825)						(n = 2825)					
High school or less	4	7	13	19	58	$\chi^2 =$	4	6	14	25	51	$\chi^2 =$	4	6	14	25	51	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	5	7	12	20	56	108.79	6	11	13	25	46	88.60	6	11	13	25	46	88.60
College grad	7	16	15	24	38	(.000)	6	16	16	29	33	(.000)	6	16	16	29	33	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 2879)						(n = 2869)						(n = 2869)					
Married	5	9	12	21	53	$\chi^2 =$	6	11	14	25	44	$\chi^2 =$	6	11	14	25	44	$\chi^2 =$
Never married	2	9	21	23	45		5	6	17	34	38		5	6	17	34	38	
Divorced/separated	4	7	14	18	57		6	10	14	25	45		6	10	14	25	45	
Widowed	2	7	19	17	55		2	4	15	21	59		2	4	15	21	59	
Occupation	(n = 2038)						(n = 2029)						(n = 2029)					
Prof/tech/admin.	7	14	13	23	44	$\chi^2 =$	6	15	16	27	36	$\chi^2 =$	6	15	16	27	36	$\chi^2 =$
Farming/ranching	4	9	10	22	55		7	12	15	25	42		7	12	15	25	42	
Laborer	2	7	14	21	56		5	7	13	27	48		5	7	13	27	48	
Other	4	8	14	19	55		6	10	15	27	42		6	10	15	27	42	

Appendix Table 2.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.*																							
	Twenty years from now, I prefer that most families in rural Nebraska be traditional, two-parent families.						Twenty years from now, I prefer that most families in rural Nebraska be non-traditional families.						I prefer that the technological application of telemedicine be commonplace in rural NE 20 years from now.						I prefer that the technological application of telemedicine be rarely used in rural Nebraska twenty years from now.				
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.			
	Percentages											Percentages											
	(n = 2857)											(n = 2814)											
Community Size																							
Less than 500	77	12	7	2	2	$\chi^2 =$		25	22	39	6	8	$\chi^2 =$		25	24	37	7	8	9.66			
500 - 4,999	77	13	7	1	2	10.19		25	24	37	7	8	9.66		28	26	36	6	5	(.290)			
5,000 and over	73	14	10	3	1	(.252)		28	26	36	6	5	(.290)										
Region																							
	(n = 2903)											(n = 2856)											
Panhandle	73	14	10	1	3			25	23	39	7	8			25	23	39	7	8				
North Central	78	11	8	1	3			27	23	37	6	9			27	23	37	6	9				
South Central	74	13	9	2	2	$\chi^2 =$		30	24	35	6	6	$\chi^2 =$		30	24	35	6	6	19.63			
Northeast	80	12	5	2	2	25.25		23	23	39	7	8	19.63		23	23	39	7	8	19.63			
Southeast	74	14	8	2	1	(.065)		23	25	39	7	6	(.237)		23	25	39	7	6	(.237)			
Income Level																							
	(n = 2663)											(n = 2630)											
Under \$20,000	68	14	12	2	4			23	18	44	7	9			23	18	44	7	9				
\$20,000 - \$39,999	76	12	8	2	2	$\chi^2 =$		23	25	38	7	8	$\chi^2 =$		23	25	38	7	8	87.85			
\$40,000 - \$59,999	80	13	6	1	1	58.25		25	27	35	9	5	87.85		25	27	35	9	5	87.85			
\$60,000 and over	82	12	5	1	1	(.000)		38	24	28	5	4	(.000)		38	24	28	5	4	(.000)			
Age																							
	(n = 2875)											(n = 2830)											
19 - 39	76	13	8	2	1	$\chi^2 =$		22	24	45	6	4	$\chi^2 =$		22	24	45	6	4	36.99			
40 - 64	77	14	7	2	1	28.39		28	25	34	7	7	36.99		28	25	34	7	7	36.99			
65 and over	75	11	9	2	4	(.000)		25	21	38	7	10	(.000)		25	21	38	7	10	(.000)			
Gender																							
	(n = 2880)											(n = 2835)											
Male	79	12	6	2	2	37.48		26	24	37	6	7	4.52		26	24	37	6	7	4.52			
Female	69	15	11	2	3	(.000)		25	21	39	7	7	(.340)		25	21	39	7	7	(.340)			
Education																							
	(n = 2840)											(n = 2799)											
High school or less	74	12	9	2	3	$\chi^2 =$		20	21	43	7	9	$\chi^2 =$		20	21	43	7	9	79.96			
Some college	78	13	7	1	1	31.07		28	24	37	7	6	79.96		28	24	37	7	6	79.96			
College grad	77	14	6	2	1	(.000)		32	29	27	6	6	(.000)		32	29	27	6	6	(.000)			
Marital Status																							
	(n = 2888)											(n = 2842)											
Married	79	12	6	1	2			26	24	36	7	7			26	24	36	7	7				
Never married	67	20	9	3	1	$\chi^2 =$		26	27	39	4	3	$\chi^2 =$		26	27	39	4	3	30.83			
Divorced/separated	61	18	15	2	3	95.85		28	21	38	6	7	30.83		28	21	38	6	7	30.83			
Widowed	65	12	14	4	5	(.000)		19	17	47	5	11	(.002)		19	17	47	5	11	(.002)			
Occupation																							
	(n = 2041)											(n = 2019)											
Prof/tech/admin.	76	14	7	2	1			33	27	28	7	5			33	27	28	7	5				
Farming/ranching	86	9	3	1	1	$\chi^2 =$		24	22	41	7	8	$\chi^2 =$		24	22	41	7	8	48.18			
Laborer	74	14	9	2	2	33.98		20	22	45	6	7	48.18		20	22	45	6	7	48.18			
Other	76	13	9	1	1	(.001)		26	24	36	8	6	(.000)		26	24	36	8	6	(.000)			

Appendix Table 2.

*Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\**

	I prefer that telecommuting by rural Nebraskans will be commonplace 20 years from now.			I prefer that telecommuting by rural Nebraskans will be rare 20 years from now.				I prefer that most of the food produced by Nebraska farms use biotechnology applications in 20 years.			I prefer that none of the food produced by Nebraska farms use biotechnology applications 20 years from now.		
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.
<i>Percentages</i>							<i>Percentages</i>						
(n = 2814)							(n = 2840)						
<i>Community Size</i>													
Less than 500	27	25	34	7	7	$\chi^2 =$	11	21	44	12	11	$\chi^2 =$	
500 - 4,999	26	30	32	7	6	20.35	13	25	40	13	8	23.58	
5,000 and over	29	32	32	5	3	(.009)	12	26	45	9	7	(.003)	
<i>Region</i>			(n = 2858)						(n = 2886)				
Panhandle	27	32	33	4	4		10	23	45	12	11		
North Central	24	27	34	8	7		12	23	43	13	9		
South Central	31	28	31	6	4	$\chi^2 =$	16	24	43	11	7	$\chi^2 =$	
Northeast	26	29	33	6	6	24.19	10	23	43	13	11	23.55	
Southeast	24	30	34	7	6	(.085)	12	25	41	12	9	(.100)	
<i>Income Level</i>			(n = 2628)						(n = 2657)				
Under \$20,000	22	23	39	9	7		10	18	46	14	13		
\$20,000 - \$39,999	23	29	36	7	6	$\chi^2 =$	11	24	41	14	10	$\chi^2 =$	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	28	33	28	6	5	115.91	13	27	43	11	6	66.01	
\$60,000 and over	41	32	22	3	2	(.000)	18	29	37	10	6	(.000)	
<i>Age</i>			(n = 2832)						(n = 2860)				
19 - 39	21	30	41	5	4	$\chi^2 =$	10	23	47	14	6	$\chi^2 =$	
40 - 64	30	31	28	7	5	60.64	13	26	40	12	9	25.18	
65 and over	24	25	36	7	8	(.000)	13	21	42	12	12	(.001)	
<i>Gender</i>			(n = 2836)			$\chi^2 =$			(n = 2862)			$\chi^2 =$	
Male	27	30	32	6	5	6.62	13	26	40	12	9	30.55	
Female	25	27	34	7	6	(.158)	10	19	48	13	9	(.000)	
<i>Education</i>			(n = 2798)						(n = 2824)				
High school or less	22	24	39	7	7	$\chi^2 =$	11	19	46	12	12	$\chi^2 =$	
Some college	28	29	33	6	5	120.91	13	23	42	14	8	85.42	
College grad	33	39	20	5	3	(.000)	14	35	35	10	6	(.000)	
<i>Marital Status</i>			(n = 2843)						(n = 2870)				
Married	28	29	32	6	5		13	25	41	13	9		
Never married	22	33	35	6	4	$\chi^2 =$	12	25	47	11	5	$\chi^2 =$	
Divorced/separated	25	31	32	7	5	18.34	12	22	41	10	16	34.01	
Widowed	24	22	40	6	9	(.106)	11	14	51	13	10	(.001)	
<i>Occupation</i>			(n = 2021)						(n = 2036)				
Prof/tech/admin.	35	34	23	5	4		16	29	37	12	7		
Farming/ranching	24	29	35	6	5	$\chi^2 =$	13	31	35	13	7	$\chi^2 =$	
Laborer	21	27	39	8	6	59.16	8	16	51	13	12	68.55	
Other	28	31	31	7	4	(.000)	11	23	47	13	7	(.000)	

**Appendix Table 3.** *Expectations for the Future of Rural Nebraska by Community Size, Region, and Individual Attributes.*

*Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\**

	Twenty years from now, I expect the average farm size in rural Nebraska to increase by 200 acres.						Twenty years from now, I expect the average farm size in rural Nebraska decrease by 200 acres.						Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of farms in the state will be owned by non-family corporations.						Twenty years from now, I expect none of the farms in the state will be owned by non-family corporations.									
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Sig.</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Sig.</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Sig.</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	
	<i>Percentages</i>							<i>Percentages</i>							<i>Percentages</i>							<i>Percentages</i>						
<i>Community Size</i>	(n = 2873)							(n = 2872)							(n = 2872)							(n = 2872)						
Less than 500	36	32	14	9	9	$\chi^2 =$	20	33	18	16	13	$\chi^2 =$		20	33	18	16	13	$\chi^2 =$		20	33	18	16	13	$\chi^2 =$		
500 - 4,999	38	31	15	10	7	27.91	18	34	19	18	12	13.43		18	34	19	18	12	13.43		18	34	19	18	12	13.43		
5,000 and over	28	32	21	12	7	(.000)	15	39	19	17	9	(.098)		15	39	19	17	9	(.098)		15	39	19	17	9	(.098)		
<i>Region</i>	(n = 2920)							(n = 2917)							(n = 2917)							(n = 2917)						
Panhandle	34	32	18	10	6		19	36	20	14	12			19	36	20	14	12			19	36	20	14	12			
North Central	33	30	16	11	10		23	33	19	17	8			23	33	19	17	8			23	33	19	17	8			
South Central	36	31	16	10	8	$\chi^2 =$	18	35	19	18	11	$\chi^2 =$		18	35	19	18	11	$\chi^2 =$		18	35	19	18	11	$\chi^2 =$		
Northeast	35	33	15	10	7	9.49	16	35	19	18	13	19.51		16	35	19	18	13	19.51		16	35	19	18	13	19.51		
Southeast	37	29	17	10	8	(.892)	17	35	18	17	13	(.243)		17	35	18	17	13	(.243)		17	35	18	17	13	(.243)		
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2685)							(n = 2683)							(n = 2683)							(n = 2683)						
Under \$20,000	32	26	21	11	11		20	26	21	18	15			20	26	21	18	15			20	26	21	18	15			
\$20,000 - \$39,999	33	35	15	9	8	$\chi^2 =$	19	35	18	17	12	$\chi^2 =$		19	35	18	17	12	$\chi^2 =$		19	35	18	17	12	$\chi^2 =$		
\$40,000 - \$59,999	38	31	15	11	6	56.60	19	39	16	16	10	56.34		19	39	16	16	10	56.34		19	39	16	16	10	56.34		
\$60,000 and over	43	32	11	9	6	(.000)	15	44	17	18	6	(.000)		15	44	17	18	6	(.000)		15	44	17	18	6	(.000)		
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2890)							(n = 2887)							(n = 2887)							(n = 2887)						
19 - 39	40	26	14	13	6	$\chi^2 =$	23	39	16	15	8	$\chi^2 =$		23	39	16	15	8	$\chi^2 =$		23	39	16	15	8	$\chi^2 =$		
40 - 64	35	34	14	9	8	39.33	19	38	17	17	10	104.59		19	38	17	17	10	104.59		19	38	17	17	10	104.59		
65 and over	31	30	20	10	9	(.000)	13	26	25	19	18	(.000)		13	26	25	19	18	(.000)		13	26	25	19	18	(.000)		
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2895)							(n = 2892)							(n = 2892)							(n = 2892)						
Male	39	32	14	8	7	72.80	18	36	18	17	10	9.45		18	36	18	17	10	9.45		18	36	18	17	10	9.45		
Female	27	29	20	14	10	(.000)	17	32	19	17	14	(.051)		17	32	19	17	14	(.051)		17	32	19	17	14	(.051)		
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2856)							(n = 2855)							(n = 2855)							(n = 2855)						
High school or less	32	30	18	10	9	$\chi^2 =$	19	30	20	17	15	$\chi^2 =$		19	30	20	17	15	$\chi^2 =$		19	30	20	17	15	$\chi^2 =$		
Some college	35	32	14	11	8	43.02	20	37	17	16	11	68.41		20	37	17	16	11	68.41		20	37	17	16	11	68.41		
College grad	42	33	13	8	4	(.000)	15	41	19	20	5	(.000)		15	41	19	20	5	(.000)		15	41	19	20	5	(.000)		
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2904)							(n = 2901)							(n = 2901)							(n = 2901)						
Married	36	32	14	10	7		18	37	17	17	11			18	37	17	17	11			18	37	17	17	11			
Never married	40	32	11	11	7	$\chi^2 =$	22	37	16	16	10	$\chi^2 =$		22	37	16	16	10	$\chi^2 =$		22	37	16	16	10	$\chi^2 =$		
Divorced/separated	34	27	20	8	11	52.28	20	27	23	17	14	54.91		20	27	23	17	14	54.91		20	27	23	17	14	54.91		
Widowed	25	27	29	11	9	(.000)	13	22	30	19	17	(.000)		13	22	30	19	17	(.000)		13	22	30	19	17	(.000)		
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 2051)							(n = 2049)							(n = 2049)							(n = 2049)						
Prof/tech/admin.	32	36	15	11	6		18	42	15	17	7			18	42	15	17	7			18	42	15	17	7			
Farming/ranching	51	29	8	6	5	$\chi^2 =$	18	36	20	16	10	$\chi^2 =$		18	36	20	16	10	$\chi^2 =$		18	36	20	16	10	$\chi^2 =$		
Laborer	29	31	19	13	8	85.40	22	38	15	14	11	18.04		22	38	15	14	11	18.04		22	38	15	14	11	18.04		
Other	35	30	15	12	9	(.000)	21	37	16	17	9	(.114)		21	37	16	17	9	(.114)		21	37	16	17	9	(.114)		

Appendix Table 3.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\*

	I expect the farms in rural Nebraska will be producing for a global market 20 years from now.						I expect the farms in Nebraska will be producing for local/regional markets 20 years from now.						I expect the population of rural Nebraska to decrease by 150,000 in twenty years.						I expect the population of rural Nebraska to increase by 150,000 in twenty years.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
			Percentages (n = 2842)								Percentages (n = 2872)								Percentages (n = 2920)								Percentages (n = 2683)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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Appendix Table 3.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.*																								
	Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of non-ag employment in rural NE to be provided by smaller businesses.						Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of non-ag employment in rural NE to be provided by larger businesses.						Twenty years from now, I expect the economy of rural Nebraska to be less dependent upon agriculture.						Twenty years from now, I expect the economy of rural Nebraska to be more dependent upon agriculture.					
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.				
	Percentages (n = 2862)												Percentages (n = 2862)											
Community Size																								
Less than 500	11	20	17	34	18	$\chi^2 =$		17	33	19	18	13	$\chi^2 =$		17	33	19	18	13	$\chi^2 =$				
500 - 4,999	9	23	18	34	16	11.90		15	38	17	19	11	21.53		15	38	17	19	11	21.53				
5,000 and over	9	19	21	37	14	(.156)		15	42	20	16	8	(.006)		15	42	20	16	8	(.006)				
Region																								
Panhandle	9	21	16	40	14			16	38	19	16	11			16	38	19	16	11					
North Central	12	26	17	28	17			15	33	18	21	12			15	33	18	21	12					
South Central	11	21	19	34	15	$\chi^2 =$		14	38	20	18	11	$\chi^2 =$		14	38	20	18	11	$\chi^2 =$				
Northeast	7	19	18	36	20	33.25		17	36	17	20	11	14.27		17	36	17	20	11	14.27				
Southeast	10	23	19	34	15	(.007)		16	39	17	18	11	(.579)		16	39	17	18	11	(.579)				
Income Level																								
Under \$20,000	12	22	20	27	19			14	29	20	20	18			14	29	20	20	18					
\$20,000 - \$39,999	10	22	18	36	15	$\chi^2 =$		16	37	16	21	10	$\chi^2 =$		16	37	16	21	10	$\chi^2 =$				
\$40,000 - \$59,999	8	19	17	38	18	31.18		15	41	17	17	9	87.06		15	41	17	17	9	87.06				
\$60,000 and over	9	25	16	36	14	(.002)		18	46	19	12	5	(.000)		18	46	19	12	5	(.000)				
Age																								
19 - 39	7	17	18	39	20	$\chi^2 =$		16	37	20	18	8	$\chi^2 =$		16	37	20	18	8	$\chi^2 =$				
40 - 64	9	21	17	35	17	65.51		17	39	18	18	8	64.94		17	39	18	18	8	64.94				
65 and over	13	27	21	28	11	(.000)		12	33	17	20	18	(.000)		12	33	17	20	18	(.000)				
Gender																								
Male	9	23	18	34	16	$\chi^2 =$		16	37	18	19	10	$\chi^2 =$		16	37	18	19	10	$\chi^2 =$				
Female	11	20	19	33	16	(.290)		15	36	20	17	12	(.275)		15	36	20	17	12	(.275)				
Education																								
High school or less	9	22	21	31	17	$\chi^2 =$		14	31	20	20	16	$\chi^2 =$		14	31	20	20	16	$\chi^2 =$				
Some college	11	21	15	36	17	28.10		17	39	17	19	8	95.33		17	39	17	19	8	95.33				
College grad	8	24	17	38	14	(.000)		17	46	17	14	6	(.000)		17	46	17	14	6	(.000)				
Marital Status																								
Married	9	21	18	35	17			16	38	18	18	10			16	38	18	18	10					
Never married	7	22	19	33	20	$\chi^2 =$		15	36	20	21	8	$\chi^2 =$		15	36	20	21	8	$\chi^2 =$				
Divorced/separated	11	22	20	31	16	28.11		17	35	21	12	14	45.66		17	35	21	12	14	45.66				
Widowed	15	27	22	26	11	(.005)		11	27	20	23	20	(.000)		11	27	20	23	20	(.000)				
Occupation																								
Prof/tech/admin.	9	24	16	39	12			16	43	20	15	6			16	43	20	15	6					
Farming/ranching	9	18	16	37	20	$\chi^2 =$		19	34	15	21	11	$\chi^2 =$		19	34	15	21	11	$\chi^2 =$				
Laborer	11	15	18	34	22	35.58		16	36	19	19	10	30.11		16	36	19	19	10	30.11				
Other	7	23	19	34	18	(.000)		16	41	18	18	7	(.003)		16	41	18	18	7	(.003)				

Appendix Table 3.

*Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\**

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.*																							
	I expect that 1/2 of Nebraska's rural communities with less than 500 people will no longer exist in 20 years.						I expect that all of Nebraska's rural communities with less than 500 people will still exist in 20 years.						Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of the population of rural NE to be located along the interstate corridor.						Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of the population of rural NE to be evenly dispersed throughout the state.				
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.			
	Percentages (n = 2873)							Percentages (n = 2844)															
Community Size																							
Less than 500	20	28	12	24	18	$\chi^2 =$	14	31	17	22	17	$\chi^2 =$		14	31	17	22	17	$\chi^2 =$				
500 - 4,999	19	34	13	20	13	28.55	12	33	18	22	14	12.40		12	33	18	22	14	12.40				
5,000 and over	20	34	15	21	11	(.000)	13	35	18	22	12	(.134)		13	35	18	22	12	(.134)				
Region																							
Panhandle	20	32	12	21	16		12	33	18	22	15			12	33	18	22	15					
North Central	21	33	13	20	14		14	33	19	21	13			14	33	19	21	13					
South Central	22	30	13	21	13	$\chi^2 =$	16	33	16	22	14	$\chi^2 =$		16	33	16	22	14	$\chi^2 =$				
Northeast	17	33	13	24	13	17.76	10	31	20	24	16	22.43		10	31	20	24	16	22.43				
Southeast	18	32	15	20	16	(.338)	11	33	18	22	16	(.130)		11	33	18	22	16	(.130)				
Income Level																							
Under \$20,000	19	26	15	20	21		11	24	19	22	23			11	24	19	22	23					
\$20,000 - \$39,999	21	31	12	24	13	$\chi^2 =$	12	31	18	25	13	$\chi^2 =$		12	31	18	25	13	$\chi^2 =$				
\$40,000 - \$59,999	18	38	13	18	13	55.86	14	40	15	20	11	102.66		14	40	15	20	11	102.66				
\$60,000 and over	21	35	13	22	9	(.000)	16	40	17	19	8	(.000)		16	40	17	19	8	(.000)				
Age																							
19 - 39	24	35	13	20	9	$\chi^2 =$	17	36	19	19	9	$\chi^2 =$		17	36	19	19	9	$\chi^2 =$				
40 - 64	21	35	12	20	13	90.14	14	37	17	21	11	189.37		14	37	17	21	11	189.37				
65 and over	14	25	16	24	21	(.000)	7	20	19	27	27	(.000)		7	20	19	27	27	(.000)				
Gender																							
Male	18	33	13	22	14	$\chi^2 =$						$\chi^2 =$		13	34	16	22	14	$\chi^2 =$				
Female	22	31	14	19	15	(.075)	12	29	21	22	16	(.004)		12	29	21	22	16	(.004)				
Education																							
High school or less	17	27	14	23	20	$\chi^2 =$	10	25	19	26	21	$\chi^2 =$		10	25	19	26	21	$\chi^2 =$				
Some college	21	34	12	20	13	91.58	15	37	17	19	13	143.57		15	37	17	19	13	143.57				
College grad	22	39	14	20	6	(.000)	16	42	17	19	6	(.000)		16	42	17	19	6	(.000)				
Marital Status																							
Married	20	33	13	21	13		13	35	17	22	13			13	35	17	22	13					
Never married	20	36	14	21	10	$\chi^2 =$	12	31	19	23	16	$\chi^2 =$		12	31	19	23	16	$\chi^2 =$				
Divorced/separated	22	28	16	18	16	34.01	16	33	15	19	17	67.61		16	33	15	19	17	67.61				
Widowed	13	25	17	23	22	(.001)	7	16	25	28	24	(.000)		7	16	25	28	24	(.000)				
Occupation																							
Prof/tech/admin.	19	38	13	21	9		15	41	19	18	7			15	41	19	18	7					
Farming/ranching	22	37	11	19	11	$\chi^2 =$	15	38	14	23	11	$\chi^2 =$		15	38	14	23	11	$\chi^2 =$				
Laborer	19	33	10	22	17	27.42	12	31	16	23	17	42.19		12	31	16	23	17	42.19				
Other	22	33	15	20	10	(.007)	15	34	19	21	11	(.000)		15	34	19	21	11	(.000)				

Appendix Table 3.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\*

	Twenty years from now, I expect communities in rural NE to have all the traditional variety of businesses.						Twenty years from now, I expect communities in rural NE to have only convenience or large retail stores.						Twenty years from now, I expect funding for public education (K - 12) to be decreased.						Twenty years from now, I expect funding for public education (K - 12) to be increased.					
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.				

Appendix Table 3.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\*

	Twenty years from now, I expect all of the counties in the state to be part of a regional government system.						Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of local governmental services to be privatized.						Twenty years from now, I expect the majority of local governmental services to continue to be provided by local govt.				
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.					
	Percentages (n = 2834)						Percentages (n = 2843)						Percentages (n = 2885)				
Community Size																	
Less than 500	15	29	17	20	19	$\chi^2 =$	11	21	22	28	20	$\chi^2 =$					
500 - 4,999	9	29	19	25	18	27.43	7	22	22	32	18	23.36					
5,000 and over	10	28	22	24	16	(.001)	8	26	24	29	14	(.003)					
Region																	
Panhandle	10	30	20	22	19		8	26	19	26	20						
North Central	13	28	19	20	20		10	23	21	27	19						
South Central	12	30	16	24	18	$\chi^2 =$	9	23	23	28	17	$\chi^2 =$					
Northeast	9	28	22	25	17	20.66	7	19	23	34	16	22.58					
Southeast	9	29	20	24	18	(.192)	6	21	22	32	19	(.126)					
Income Level																	
Under \$20,000	12	23	18	23	24		9	16	24	27	24						
\$20,000 - \$39,999	10	28	20	24	18	$\chi^2 =$	8	23	19	32	18	$\chi^2 =$					
\$40,000 - \$59,999	10	33	19	24	14	48.90	7	26	24	30	13	62.43					
\$60,000 and over	11	36	18	23	12	(.000)	8	27	23	31	11	(.000)					
Age																	
19 - 39	11	29	26	23	11	$\chi^2 =$	9	27	28	25	12	$\chi^2 =$					
40 - 64	12	32	18	22	15	121.37	8	26	22	30	14	145.29					
65 and over	7	22	16	26	29	(.000)	6	12	19	35	28	(.000)					
Gender																	
Male	11	30	19	24	17	$\chi^2 =$	8	23	22	31	16	$\chi^2 =$					
Female	11	27	21	22	19	6.86	8	20	23	28	21	11.35					
						(.144)						(.023)					
Education																	
High school or less	9	24	20	24	23	$\chi^2 =$	7	18	23	30	23	$\chi^2 =$					
Some college	12	31	17	23	17	77.19	11	25	20	28	17	88.31					
College grad	12	35	21	23	9	(.000)	7	28	23	34	9	(.000)					
Marital Status																	
Married	11	30	19	24	17		8	23	22	30	17						
Never married	11	23	29	25	12	$\chi^2 =$	7	26	27	25	15	$\chi^2 =$					
Divorced/separated	14	27	18	18	24	47.68	13	24	17	25	21	43.41					
Widowed	7	21	20	26	26	(.000)	6	12	23	36	25	(.000)					
Occupation																	
Prof/tech/admin.	11	33	19	25	13		6	28	22	33	13						
Farming/ranching	12	34	19	23	13	$\chi^2 =$	9	25	24	29	14	$\chi^2 =$					
Laborer	11	28	19	26	17	12.98	9	24	21	30	16	13.62					
Other	11	30	21	21	16	(.371)	8	24	24	28	16	(.326)					

Appendix Table 3.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\*

	Twenty years from now, I expect most families in rural Nebraska to be traditional, two-parent families.						Twenty years from now, I expect most families in rural Nebraska to be non-traditional families.						I expect the technological application of telemedicine to be commonplace in rural NE 20 years from now.						I expect the technological application of telemedicine to be rarely used in rural Nebraska twenty years from now.				
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.			
	Percentages (n = 2843)							Percentages (n = 2810)							Percentages (n = 2852)								
Community Size																							
Less than 500	20	28	16	24	12	$\chi^2 =$	20	36	33	7	3	$\chi^2 =$		20	39	33	8	2					
500 - 4,999	20	29	18	24	10	13.47	20	40	32	5	3	6.58		20	35	31	7	4					
5,000 and over	16	29	17	29	9	(.097)	22	40	31	6	2	(.583)		24	39	30	6	2	$\chi^2 =$				
Region																							
Panhandle	18	28	17	28	9		19	39	33	8	2			17	43	33	4	3	34.09				
North Central	21	26	16	24	12		23	35	31	7	4			19	36	36	7	3	(.005)				
South Central	17	30	19	24	9	$\chi^2 =$	24	39	30	6	2	$\chi^2 =$		21	28	17	26	9	(.335)				
Northeast	21	31	16	22	11	17.81	17	43	33	4	3	34.09		21	31	16	22	11					
Southeast	21	28	17	26	9	(.335)	19	36	36	7	3	(.005)		21	28	17	26	9					
Income Level																							
Under \$20,000	25	28	18	19	10		20	31	40	5	4			25	28	18	19	10					
\$20,000 - \$39,999	18	29	18	23	12	$\chi^2 =$	19	40	31	7	3	$\chi^2 =$		18	29	18	23	12					
\$40,000 - \$59,999	17	31	15	28	10	53.10	19	43	31	5	1	67.91		17	31	15	28	10					
\$60,000 and over	15	29	17	33	6	(.000)	28	41	25	5	1	(.000)		15	29	17	33	6					
Age																							
19 - 39	12	25	16	33	14	$\chi^2 =$	18	36	39	6	1	$\chi^2 =$		12	25	16	33	14					
40 - 64	17	28	18	26	10	145.18	23	40	29	5	2	41.41		17	28	18	26	10					
65 and over	30	33	17	14	6	(.000)	19	35	34	8	4	(.000)		30	33	17	14	6					
Gender																							
Male	20	30	18	23	8	23.84	21	39	32	6	3	3.03		20	30	18	23	8					
Female	18	26	17	27	13	(.000)	20	37	34	6	3	(.553)		18	26	17	27	13					
Education																							
High school or less	24	30	18	19	9	$\chi^2 =$	18	35	38	6	3	$\chi^2 =$		24	30	18	19	9					
Some college	19	28	16	26	12	74.63	22	39	31	6	3	47.79		19	28	16	26	12					
College grad	12	28	17	34	10	(.000)	24	45	25	6	2	(.000)		12	28	17	34	10					
Marital Status																							
Married	19	29	17	25	10		21	39	32	6	3			19	29	17	25	10					
Never married	13	30	13	33	11	$\chi^2 =$	15	41	35	7	2	$\chi^2 =$		13	30	13	33	11					
Divorced/separated	19	22	17	25	17	50.37	28	34	31	4	2	30.27		19	22	17	25	17					
Widowed	27	31	22	15	6	(.000)	18	30	40	7	5	(.003)		27	31	22	15	6					
Occupation																							
Prof/tech/admin.	13	27	16	33	11		25	40	27	6	2			13	27	16	33	11					
Farming/ranching	18	30	18	24	10	$\chi^2 =$	21	38	33	6	3	$\chi^2 =$		18	30	18	24	10					
Laborer	19	30	16	26	11	20.74	15	41	37	5	2	24.10		19	30	16	26	11					
Other	16	26	20	27	11	(.054)	22	40	32	5	2	(.020)		16	26	20	27	11					

Appendix Table 3.

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.\*

Please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column.*														
	I expect telecommuting by rural Nebraskans to be commonplace 20 years from now.			I expect telecommuting by rural Nebraskans will to be rare 20 years from now.				I expect most of the food produced by Nebraska farms will use biotechnology applications in 20 years.			I expect none of the food produced by Nebraska farms will use biotechnology applications 20 years from now.			
	1	2	3	4	5	Sig.		1	2	3	4	5	Sig.	
	Percentages (n = 2818)							Percentages (n = 2821)						
Community Size														
Less than 500	26	41	26	5	3	$\chi^2 =$	24	39	28	5	4	$\chi^2 =$		
500 - 4,999	26	44	24	3	2	10.65	23	43	25	6	2	12.32		
5,000 and over	25	42	27	5	1	(.222)	21	44	28	4	2	(.137)		
Region														
Panhandle	25	43	26	5	1		19	41	31	7	2			
North Central	26	42	26	3	3		24	39	27	6	3			
South Central	30	42	23	4	2	$\chi^2 =$	25	41	26	5	3	$\chi^2 =$		
Northeast	24	45	25	4	2	22.61	21	44	27	6	2	12.86		
Southeast	23	41	28	5	3	(.124)	22	43	26	5	3	(.683)		
Income Level														
Under \$20,000	24	37	30	6	3		20	34	34	7	5			
\$20,000 - \$39,999	25	44	26	3	2	$\chi^2 =$	23	43	26	6	2	$\chi^2 =$		
\$40,000 - \$59,999	25	46	24	5	1	48.77	22	46	25	5	2	78.51		
\$60,000 and over	31	47	18	3	1	(.000)	29	47	19	3	1	(.000)		
Age														
19 - 39	23	40	32	4	1	$\chi^2 =$	21	41	31	5	2	$\chi^2 =$		
40 - 64	28	45	22	4	2	46.93	25	45	23	5	3	40.98		
65 and over	24	40	27	5	4	(.000)	19	39	32	6	4	(.000)		
Gender														
Male	26	43	25	4	2	$\chi^2 =$	24	44	25	5	2	$\chi^2 =$		
Female	25	40	28	5	3	(.169)	19	38	33	7	3	(.000)		
Education														
High school or less	23	38	32	5	3	$\chi^2 =$	20	38	33	7	3	$\chi^2 =$		
Some college	28	43	24	3	3	79.66	25	44	25	5	2	68.19		
College grad	28	51	16	4	1	(.000)	26	49	18	5	2	(.000)		
Marital Status														
Married	26	43	25	4	2		24	44	25	5	2			
Never married	20	48	26	5	2	$\chi^2 =$	21	41	31	6	2	$\chi^2 =$		
Divorced/separated	31	36	27	4	2	22.93	24	36	28	6	5	45.07		
Widowed	22	37	32	5	4	(.028)	15	34	39	9	4	(.000)		
Occupation														
Prof/tech/admin.	27	45	22	5	1		23	48	21	6	2			
Farming/ranching	29	43	23	2	3	$\chi^2 =$	30	45	18	5	3	$\chi^2 =$		
Laborer	20	41	32	5	2	33.74	19	42	32	6	3	56.33		
Other	24	49	22	4	2	(.001)	21	41	32	4	2	(.000)		