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### Restructuring the Farm Bill: Opinions of Rural Nebraskans

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# CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION

A Research Report\*

**Restructuring the Farm Bill:  
Opinions of Rural Nebraskans**

*2001 Nebraska Rural Poll Results*

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Rebecca Vogt  
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**Nebraska**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
& NATURAL RESOURCES

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All of the Center's research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on the Center's World Wide Web page at <http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll.htm>.

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## *Executive Summary*

In this congressional session, there is expected to be much discussion about reworking the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (commonly referred to as the Freedom to Farm Act). This act is set to expire in 2002. Thus, new legislation will likely begin to be written this session. Federal farm policy has significant implications for all of rural Nebraska. Given this importance, how do rural Nebraskans feel the farm bill should be structured? How do they feel about farm program payments? Do they support payment limitations? How do they feel about other specific provisions that could be included in the bill?

This report details results of 3,199 responses to the 2001 Nebraska Rural Poll, the sixth annual effort to take the pulse of rural Nebraskans. Respondents were asked a series of questions about federal farm policy. Comparisons are made among different subgroups of the respondents, i.e., comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***The majority of rural Nebraskans favor keeping farm program payments.*** Seventy-five percent said they did not favor totally eliminating farm program payments, while 25 percent favored the elimination of such payments.
- ***Older respondents, males, persons with lower educational levels and non-farm households were the groups most likely to favor eliminating farm program payments.***
- ***The majority of rural Nebraskans favor farm program payment limitations.*** Seventy-three percent of those in favor of keeping farm program payments said there should be a limit on the amount of program payments each farm household can receive per year.
- ***Farm households had a higher average payment limit than did non-farm households.*** Farm households believed, on average, that farm households should be able to receive up to \$61,277 per year. In contrast, non-farm households had an average limit amount of \$36,579.
- ***Over one-half of rural Nebraskans believe that farm program payments should not be designed to provide support only to a certain size of farm.*** Fifty-nine percent did not advocate such a system, while 41 percent supported this concept.
- ***Over one-half of rural Nebraskans support the following federal farm bill provisions:***
  - *a short-term conservation reserve type program,*
  - *prohibiting livestock feeding by meat-packing firms,*
  - *a moratorium on mergers and acquisitions involving large agribusiness firms and*
  - *basing farm payments upon conservation practices.*
- ***Over seventy percent of the farm households supported the prohibition of livestock***

*feeding by meat-packing firms, a moratorium on mergers and acquisitions involving large agribusiness firms and the option to enter a short-term conservation reserve type program during times of surplus grain carryover.*

## *Introduction*

In this congressional session, there is expected to be much discussion about reworking the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (commonly referred to as the Freedom to Farm Act). This act is set to expire in 2002. Thus, new legislation will likely begin to be written this session.

The main provisions of the 1996 act were a decreasing schedule of payments beginning in 1996 and ending in 2002 for producers who raise certain commodities such as corn and wheat. By 2002, it was expected that farmers would be ready to operate on their own in the marketplace. However, during the past three years, Congress has had to increase the amount of payments made to producers due to declining grain prices and emergency assistance for weather-related conditions, such as the drought that plagued much of Nebraska last year.

Many different issues are expected to be addressed during the development of the new legislation. Some of the ideas currently being discussed include: counter-cyclical payments (payments that would only be paid when commodity prices are low), “green payments” (higher payments made for a higher level of conservation of soil, water and habitat), and payment limitations.

The provisions of the new legislation will have significant impacts on rural Nebraska. The Nebraska Farm Business Association recently reported that in 2000, government farm program payments (excluding Conservation Reserve Program payments) were 117% of net farm income for the 156 Nebraska operations enrolled in their

program. Thus, most farms would have been unable to generate an adequate income to support a family without these payments.<sup>1</sup>

Given this importance, how do rural Nebraskans feel the farm bill should be structured? How do they feel about farm program payments? Do they support payment limitations? How do they feel about other specific provisions that could be included in the bill? This report provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

The 2001 Nebraska Rural Poll is the sixth annual effort to take the pulse of rural Nebraskans. Respondents were asked a series of questions about federal farm policy. Comparisons will be made among several subgroups of the respondents, i.e., comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc.

### *Methodology and Respondent Profile*

This study is based on 3,199 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 6,400 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and Washington. The 14 page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, work, federal farm policy, charitable giving and the cost of living. This paper reports only results from the federal farm policy portion of the survey.

A 50% response rate was achieved using the

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<sup>1</sup> Source: “Production Ag Profitability Report” by Gary Bredensteiner in the May 9, 2001 issue of *Cornhusker Economics*.



total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used was:

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 56 years of age. Seventy percent were married (Appendix Table 1<sup>2</sup>) and sixty-nine percent lived within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents had lived in Nebraska 48 years and had lived in their current community 33 years. Fifty-nine percent were living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000.

Sixty-one percent of the respondents reported their approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, for 2000 was below \$40,000. Twenty-five percent reported incomes over \$50,000. Ninety-one percent had attained at least a high school diploma.

Sixty-nine percent were employed in 2000 on a full-time, part-time or seasonal basis. Twenty-six percent were retired. Thirty-one percent of those employed reported working in a professional/technical or administrative

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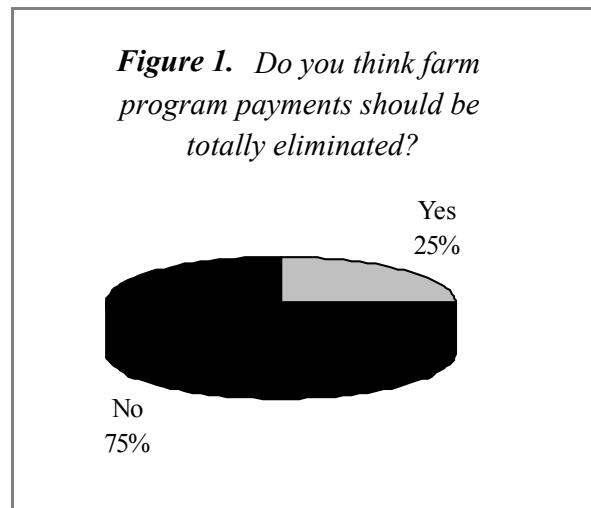
<sup>2</sup> Appendix Table 1 also includes demographic data from previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire non-metropolitan population of Nebraska (using 1990 U.S. Census data).

occupation. Seventeen percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers. When jointly considering the occupation of the respondent and their spouse/partner, nineteen percent of the employed are involved in farming or ranching. The employed respondents reported having to drive an average of 11 miles, one way, to their primary job.

### ***Farm Program Payments***

A major part of each federal farm bill is program payments made to farmers who raise specific commodities. As stated earlier, government farm program payments have had significant impact on farm profitability in recent years. To find out how rural Nebraskans feel about these payments, they were asked the following question: "A major part of the federal farm bill is program payments made to farmers who raise certain commodities. Do you think farm program payments should be totally eliminated?"

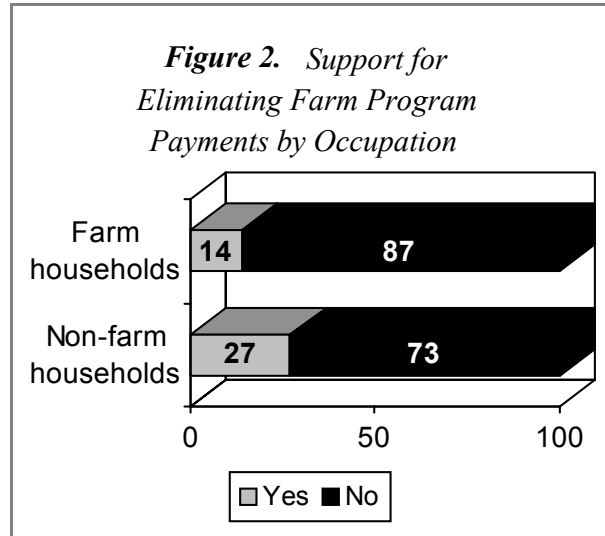
Three-quarters (75%) of the respondents do not support the elimination of these payments (Figure 1). The answers to this question were analyzed by the respondent's



region, size of community and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 2).

The reliance on farm program payments does vary by region of the state. When the total government payments received by farmers in 1999<sup>3</sup> in each region are calculated on a per capita basis (divided by the total number of people living in the region), the Southeast and South Central regions have the highest per capita program payment amount (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). The per capita program payment amount for each region were: \$1,764 for the Southeast, \$1,761 in the South Central region, \$1,477 for the North Central region, \$1,365 in the Northeast and \$1,084 for the Panhandle.

Even though the reliance on farm program payments varies across regions, the responses from respondents in each region did not exhibit statistically significant (at the .05 level) differences. Differences in opinion do show up when making comparisons by age, gender, education and occupation. The older respondents were more likely than the younger respondents to favor eliminating the payments. Approximately 25 percent of the respondents age 40 or older supported the elimination of these payments, compared to only 14 percent of those between the ages of 19 and 29. Males and those with lower educational levels were more likely than females and those with higher education levels to support eliminating the payments. When comparing the responses from farm households to those of non-farm households, the non-farm households were more likely



to think the payments should be totally eliminated (Figure 2). Twenty-seven percent of the non-farm households believe the payments should be eliminated, compared to only 14 percent of the farm households.

In the past, the larger producers (those producing the most commodities) tended to receive the largest program payments. Many have argued that this philosophy is leading to the demise of small and medium-sized operations. They have argued that instead, the size of payment available to one producer should be limited or that payments should be made only to certain sizes of operations.

Those that did not favor eliminating the payments were then asked about payment limitations. The exact question wording was, “If no, do you think there should be a limit on the amount of program payments each farm household can receive per year?” The majority of respondents to this question (73%) believe there should be a limit on the amount of program payments each

<sup>3</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

household can receive (Figure 3). Those that favored a payment limitation were then asked, “How much should each farm household be able to receive per year?” However, only about one-third of those eligible to answer chose to provide an amount. Of the answers given, the average amount was \$45,078. The answers given ranged from \$500 to \$300,000. Twenty-six percent of those answering the question gave \$50,000 as the amount they believe each farm household should be able to receive per year. Twenty-two percent gave amounts higher than \$50,000.

Comparisons of the answers to these two questions were made by community size, the region of the state in which the respondent lives and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Support for the payment limitations differed by age, gender and marital status. The older respondents were more likely than the younger respondents to believe there should be a limit on the amount of program payments each farm household can receive per year. Seventy-nine percent of those age 65 and older supported the payment limits, while

only 51 percent of the persons age 19 to 29 shared this opinion. Males were more likely than females to support the limitations. The widowed and married respondents were the two marital groups most likely to support the payment limitations.

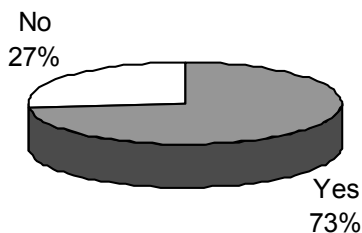
The average amounts given for the payment limitations differed by community size, age, gender, education and occupation. Respondents living in smaller communities had a higher average payment amount than those living in larger communities. Those living in or near communities with less than 500 people said, on average, that each farm household should be able to receive \$49,844 per year. However, those living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more felt farm households should only be able to receive \$34,361, on average. The middle-aged respondents (age 40 to 49), males and those with higher educational levels were the other groups that had the highest average payment amounts.

Farm households gave, on average, higher payment amounts than did the non-farm households. The average amount given by farm households was \$61,277. The non-farm households had an average of \$36,579.

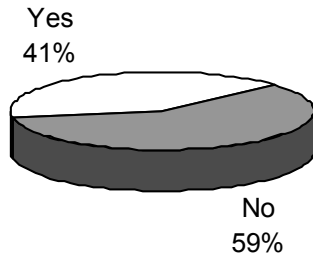
Respondents were also asked, “Do you think farm program payments should be designed to provide support only to a certain size of farm?” Forty-one percent answered yes (Figure 4).

Those supporting this idea were asked what size of farms should receive the program payments. They were asked to fill in the blanks of the following statement: “I believe farm program payments should be made available only to farms with annual sales

**Figure 3.** *Should there be a limit on the amount of program payments each farm household can receive per year?*



**Figure 4.** *Should farm program payments be designed to provide support only to a certain size of farm?*



between \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and \$ \_\_\_\_\_.”

Approximately one-half of those eligible to answer chose to provide these amounts. The average amount given for the lower limit was \$38,355. Amounts given ranged from \$0 to \$500,000. Twenty-five percent of those answering gave a lower limit of \$0. Fifty-three percent gave amounts of \$10,000 or lower. Eighteen percent gave amounts greater than \$50,000.

The average amount for the upper limit was \$244,029. The amounts given ranged from \$2,000 to \$5,000,000. Fifty-eight percent gave amounts of \$150,000 or less. Only seven percent gave amounts over \$500,000.

Currently, 64.6 percent of the farms in the state have annual sales less than \$100,000 (according to the 1997 U.S. Census of Agriculture). Twenty-one percent have annual sales between \$100,000 and \$249,999 and 14 percent have annual sales of \$250,000 or more.

The answers to these questions were analyzed by the size of the respondent’s

community, the respondent’s region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Opinions about whether or not payments should be designed to provide support only to a certain size of farm differed only by gender. Males were more likely than females to believe payments should only go to a certain size of farm.

The amounts given for the lower limit differed only by occupation. The farm households had a higher average amount (\$63,018) than did the non-farm households (\$23,883).

The upper limits, however, differed by age, gender, education and occupation. Respondents between the ages of 30 and 39 had the highest average amount of the age groups (\$390,182). Males had a higher average amount than did females. When comparing education groups, those with higher educational levels gave larger amounts than did those with less education. And, farm households had a higher average (\$362,752) than did the non-farm households (\$208,194).

### ***Specific Farm Bill Provisions***

Respondents were also asked their opinions on specific provisions (or potential provisions) of federal farm policy. They were given a series of eight statements and were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with each. They were given a five-point scale on which to respond, where 1 denoted, “strongly disagree,” 3 indicated “no opinion” and 5 denoted “strongly agree.”

Table 1 shows the statements along with the proportion of respondents agreeing and

**Table 1. Proportion Agreeing With Specific Statements About Federal Farm Policy**

	<i>“Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree”</i>	<i>“No Opinion”</i>	<i>“Strongly Agree” or “Agree”</i>
Farm payments should be based upon the level of conservation and environmental contribution that a producer voluntarily chooses to follow (i.e., higher payments for a higher level of conservation of soil, water and habitat).	18%	30%	52%
A portion of the amount currently spent on farm income support and emergency payments should be shifted to research, market development and cooperative development programs that help farmers capture a larger share of the food dollar from the market.	22%	31%	47%
A livestock revenue insurance program (similar to the crop insurance programs) is needed.	23%	42%	35%
Livestock feeding by meat-packing firms should be prohibited.	13%	33%	54%
A moratorium on mergers and acquisitions involving large agribusiness firms should be enacted.	13%	34%	53%
There is a need for a voluntary supply management program to adjust the amount of crops produced.	17%	40%	43%
I would support a voluntary, farmer-owned grain reserve program which had specific price levels for entry, release and dispersal.	10%	47%	43%
In times of surplus grain carryover, producers should be given the option to enter a portion of their land into a short-term conservation reserve type program.	11%	29%	59%

disagreeing with each. Over one-half of the respondents agreed with four of the statements listed. These statements dealt with the concepts of a short-term conservation reserve type program, prohibiting livestock feeding by meat-

packing firms, a moratorium on mergers and acquisitions involving large agribusiness firms and basing farm payments upon conservation practices. It is also important to note that most of the statements had approximately one-third of the respondents

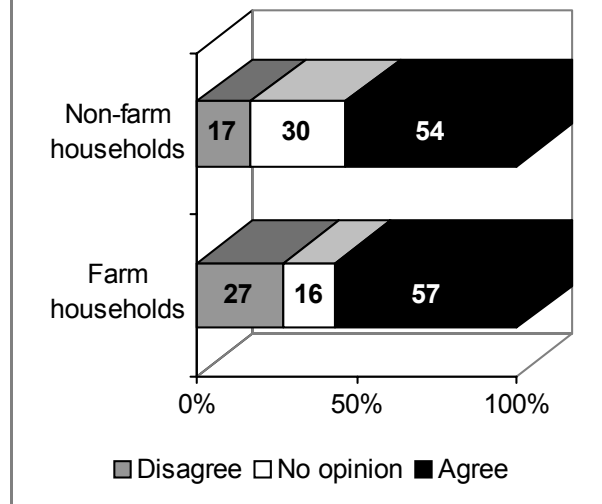
indicate “no opinion.”

The level of agreement with many of these statements varied by the respondent’s region, the size of their community and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 5).

Opinions about basing farm payments upon conservation practices differed by income, age, gender, education, marital status and occupation. Respondents with higher income levels, those between the ages of 30 and 49, males, the respondents with higher educational levels and the divorced or separated respondents were the groups most likely to agree with this statement. However, these differences tended to result because the other groups were more likely to select “no opinion,” rather than being more likely to disagree with the statement. Yet, when comparing the responses for the occupation groups, the farm households were more likely than the non-farm households to disagree with the statement (Figure 5). The non-farm households were more likely to answer “no opinion.”

When asked about shifting some of the money currently spent on income support and emergency payments to efforts that help farmers capture a larger share of the food dollar from the market, differences of opinion were evident by community size, age, gender, marital status and occupation. The persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people were more likely than those living in larger communities to disagree with the statement. Persons between the ages of 40 and 64, the married respondents and the farm households were the other groups most likely to disagree with the statement. Thirty-eight percent of the

**Figure 5.** Belief that Farm Payments Should be Based Upon Conservation Levels by Occupation



farm households disagreed with the statement, compared to 20 percent of the non-farm households, though a plurality of both groups agreed. Males were more likely than females to *agree* with the statement.

Opinions regarding whether or not a livestock insurance program is needed differed by age, gender, marital status and occupation. Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to agree that this type of program is needed. Forty-five percent of those between the ages of 19 and 29 agreed with the statement, while only 27 percent of those age 65 and older shared this opinion. The persons who have never married and the farm households were the other groups most likely to agree with this statement. Males were more likely than females to *disagree* with the statement.

When asked if livestock feeding by meat-

packing firms should be prohibited, differences of opinion resulted by all the variables examined, with the exception of income. The groups most likely to agree that this practice should be prohibited include: those living in or near the smallest communities, those in the Northeast region of the state, older respondents, males, those with a high school diploma and the married respondents. The farm households were much more likely than the non-farm households to agree that livestock feeding by meat-packing firms should be prohibited (Figure 6). Seventy-two percent of the farm households agree that this practice should be prohibited, compared to 50 percent of the non-farm households.

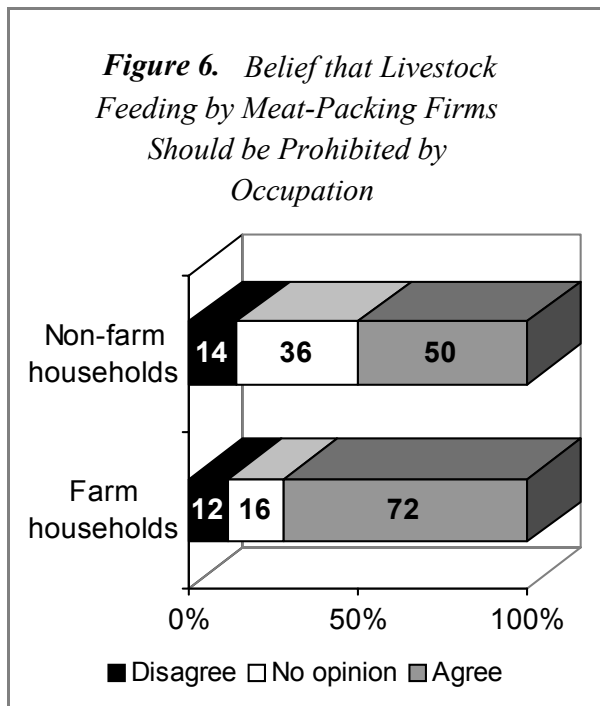
Opinions about a possible moratorium on mergers and acquisitions involving large agribusiness firms differed by every characteristic examined. Farm households were more likely than non-farm households

to agree that a moratorium was needed. Seventy-one percent of the farm households agreed with the statement, whereas only 49 percent of the non-farm households agreed.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities were more likely than those living in or near larger communities to be in favor of a moratorium. Sixty percent of those living in or near communities with less than 500 people agreed with the statement, while only 42 percent of those living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more shared this opinion. Other groups most likely to agree with the statement include: those living in the North Central and Southeast regions of the state, persons with household incomes ranging from \$20,000 to \$39,999, older respondents, males, those with at least a high school diploma, and the married respondents.

When asked if there was a need for a voluntary supply management program to adjust the amount of crops produced, opinions varied by community size, income, age, gender, marital status and occupation. Males were more likely than females to believe there was a need for this type of program. Forty-nine percent of the males agreed with the statement, compared to 33 percent of the females. The other groups most likely to agree include: those living in or near communities with less than 5,000 people, those with higher household incomes, older respondents, married respondents and farm households.

Support for a voluntary, farmer-owned grain reserve program varied by all the characteristics examined except region. Persons with higher educational levels were more likely than those with less education to



support such a program. Forty-nine percent of those with at least a bachelors degree agreed with the statement, but only 35 percent of those with no high school diploma shared this opinion. Fifty-four percent of the farm households agreed with the statement, compared to 41 percent of the non-farm households. Other groups most likely to agree with the statement include: those living in or near smaller communities, those with higher household incomes, persons between the ages of 40 and 64, males and the married respondents.

Opinions about a short-term conservation reserve type program varied by all the characteristics examined. Farm households were more likely than non-farm households to think producers should be given the option to enter a portion of their land into such a program during times of surplus grain carryover. Seventy-three percent of the farm households agreed with this statement, but only 58 percent of the non-farm households agreed. Other groups most likely to agree with the statement include: those living in or near the smaller communities, persons living in the Northeast region, those with higher household incomes, persons between the ages of 40 and 64, males, those with higher educational levels and the married respondents.

### ***Conclusion***

Most rural Nebraskans support continuing farm program payments. Only 25 percent supported eliminating these payments. However, most of those that favor keeping the payments are in favor of payment limitations. Seventy-three percent favored these limitations. The average amount given (though relatively few chose to provide an

amount) was \$45,078.

Farm households gave higher payment limits than did non-farm households. Farm households had an average payment limit of \$61,277 as compared to \$36,579 for the non-farm households.

Over one-half (59%) did not support designing farm program payments to provide support only to a certain size of farm.

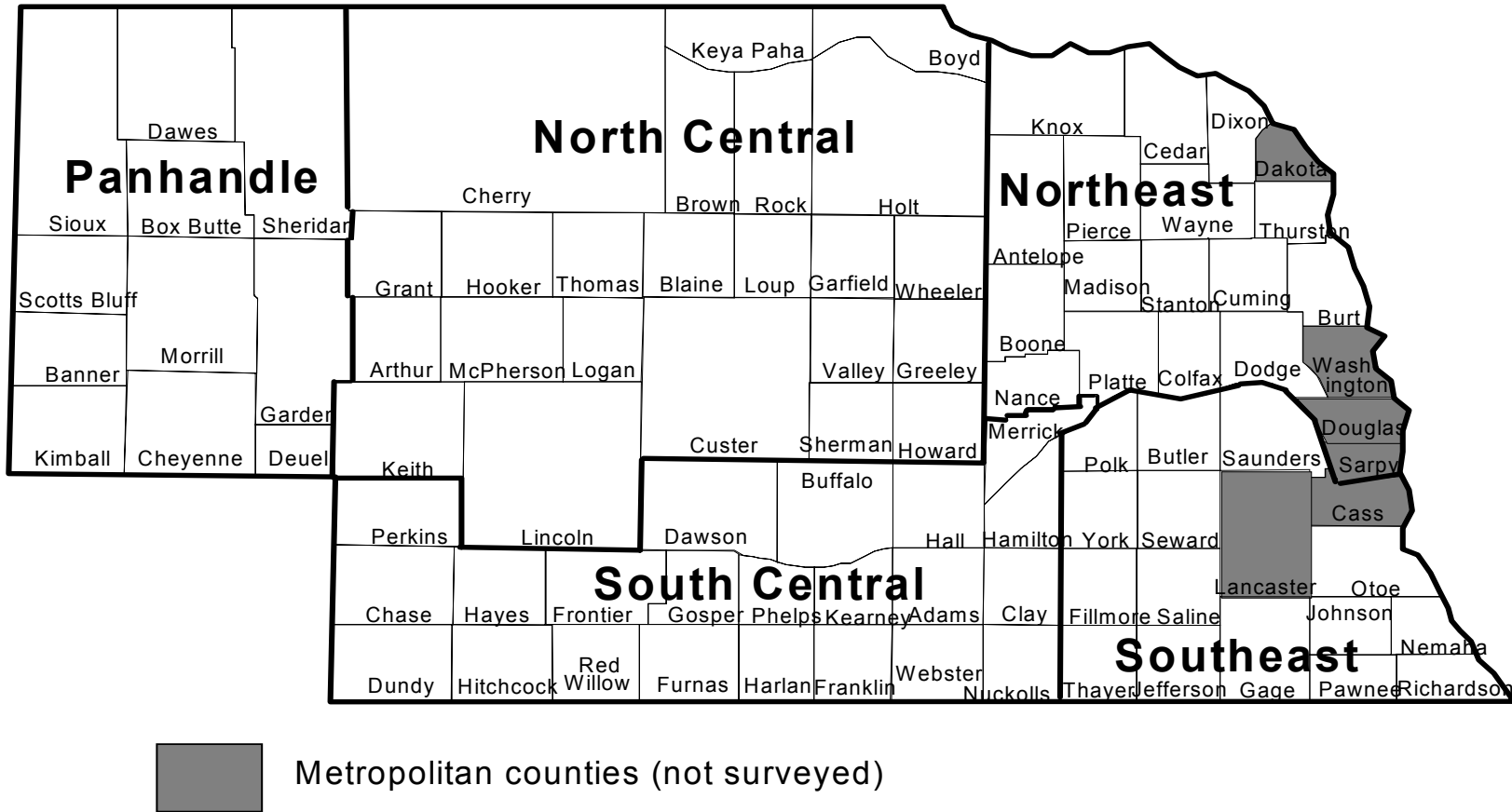
When asked about specific potential provisions for federal farm legislation, over one-half supported the following: a short-term conservation type program, the prohibition of livestock feeding by meat-packing firms, a moratorium on mergers and acquisitions involving large agribusiness firms, and basing farm payments upon conservation practices. Over 70 percent of farm households supported the latter three provisions.

These results show support for some new provisions for federal farm legislation. Although payment limitations are currently included in this legislation, it appears there is support for strictly enforcing these limits. In addition, rural Nebraskans appear to be concerned about the increasing concentration occurring among large agribusiness firms. Over one-half support a moratorium on mergers and acquisitions of these firms. There also appears to be support for addressing environmental issues in the new legislation. Over one-half of rural Nebraskans agree that farm payments should be based upon the level of conservation and environmental contribution that a producer voluntarily chooses to follow. There is also support for a short-



term conservation reserve type program for  
producers in times of surplus grain  
carryover.

# Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



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

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1990</b>
	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Census</b>
<b>Age : <sup>1</sup></b>						
20 - 39	17%	20%	21%	25%	24%	38%
40 - 64	49%	54%	52%	55%	48%	36%
65 and over	33%	26%	28%	20%	28%	26%
<b>Gender: <sup>2</sup></b>						
Female	37%	57%	31%	58%	28%	49%
Male	63%	43%	69%	42%	72%	51%
<b>Education: <sup>3</sup></b>						
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	4%	2%	3%	2%	5%	10%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)	5%	4%	5%	3%	5%	12%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	35%	34%	36%	33%	34%	38%
Some college, no degree	26%	28%	25%	27%	25%	21%
Associate degree	8%	9%	9%	10%	8%	7%
Bachelors degree	13%	15%	15%	16%	14%	9%
Graduate or professional degree	8%	9%	8%	9%	9%	3%
<b>Household income: <sup>4</sup></b>						
Less than \$10,000	9%	3%	8%	3%	7%	19%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	16%	10%	15%	10%	16%	25%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	20%	15%	18%	17%	19%	21%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	16%	19%	18%	20%	18%	15%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	14%	17%	15%	18%	14%	9%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	9%	15%	9%	12%	10%	5%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	8%	11%	8%	10%	7%	3%
\$75,000 or more	8%	11%	10%	10%	8%	3%
<b>Marital Status: <sup>5</sup></b>						
Married	70%	95%	76%	95%	73%	64%
Never married	7%	0.2%	7%	0.4%	8%	20%
Divorced/separated	10%	2%	8%	1%	9%	7%
Widowed/widower	14%	4%	10%	3%	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. Support for Eliminating Farm Program Payments in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.*

<i>Do you think farm program payments should be totally eliminated?</i>			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<b><u>Community Size</u></b>		(n = 2723)	
Less than 500	23	77	
500 - 999	23	77	
1,000 - 4,999	24	76	
5,000 - 9,999	25	75	P <sup>2</sup> = 2.99
10,000 and up	27	74	(.560)
<b><u>Region</u></b>		(n = 2771)	
Panhandle	29	71	
North Central	25	75	
South Central	21	79	
Northeast	25	76	P <sup>2</sup> = 7.69
Southeast	26	75	(.104)
<b><u>Individual Attributes:</u></b>			
<i>Income Level</i>		(n = 2566)	
Under \$20,000	26	74	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	25	75	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	24	76	P <sup>2</sup> = 1.70
\$60,000 and over	23	77	(.638)
<i>Age</i>		(n = 2745)	
19 - 29	14	87	
30 - 39	19	81	
40 - 49	25	76	
50 - 64	27	73	P <sup>2</sup> = 18.78
65 and older	26	74	(.001)
<i>Gender</i>		(n = 2760)	
Male	26	74	P <sup>2</sup> = 5.43
Female	22	78	(.011)
<i>Education</i>		(n = 2754)	
No H.S. diploma	29	71	
H.S. diploma	27	73	
Some college	25	75	P <sup>2</sup> = 24.20
Bachelors or graduate degree	17	83	(.000)

Appendix Table 2 Continued.

<i>Do you think farm program payments should be totally eliminated?</i>			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2760)		
Married	25	75	
Never married	20	80	
Divorced/separated	23	77	P <sup>2</sup> = 3.05
Widowed	24	76	(.384)
<i>Farm Household</i>	(n = 2046)		
Farm household	14	87	P <sup>2</sup> = 30.23
Non-farm household	27	73	(.000)

*Appendix Table 3. Support for Farm Program Payment Limitations by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.*

	<i>If no, do you think there should be a limit on the amount of program payments each farm household can receive per year?</i>			<i>If yes, how much should each farm household be able to receive per year?</i>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<b><u>Community Size</u></b>	<i>Percentages</i> (n = 1996)			<i>Means</i> (n = 503)	
Less than 500	74	26		\$49,844	
500 - 999	71	30		\$48,780	
1,000 - 4,999	72	28		\$47,368	
5,000 - 9,999	73	27	P <sup>2</sup> = 1.28	\$41,680	F = 2.93
10,000 and up	74	26	(.865)	\$34,361	(.021)
<b><u>Region</u></b>	<i>Percentages</i> (n = 2028)			<i>Means</i> (n = 511)	
Panhandle	74	26		\$41,133	
North Central	74	26		\$48,035	
South Central	73	27		\$48,220	
Northeast	73	27	P <sup>2</sup> = 0.40	\$42,825	F = 0.59
Southeast	72	28	(.983)	\$44,197	(.667)
<b><u>Individual Attributes:</u></b>					
<i>Income Level</i>	<i>Percentages</i> (n = 1879)			<i>Means</i> (n = 477)	
Under \$20,000	72	28		\$40,924	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	73	27		\$43,450	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	73	27	P <sup>2</sup> = 0.06	\$41,588	F = 1.76
\$60,000 and over	73	27	(.996)	\$52,045	(.154)
<i>Age</i>	<i>Percentages</i> (n = 2009)			<i>Means</i> (n = 508)	
19 - 29	51	49		\$17,955	
30 - 39	71	29		\$41,876	
40 - 49	68	32		\$49,219	
50 - 64	75	25	P <sup>2</sup> = 46.57	\$48,457	F = 2.44
65 and older	79	21	(.000)	\$41,622	(.046)
<i>Gender</i>	<i>Percentages</i> (n = 2018)			<i>Means</i> (n = 508)	
Male	74	26	P <sup>2</sup> = 3.92	\$46,907	F = 4.52
Female	70	30	(.027)	\$37,719	(.034)
<i>Education</i>	<i>Percentages</i> (n = 2010)			<i>Means</i> (n = 506)	
No H.S. diploma	78	22		\$30,488	
H.S. diploma	75	25		\$43,905	
Some college	71	29	P <sup>2</sup> = 5.45	\$48,473	F = 2.72
Bachelors or graduate degree	72	29	(.142)	\$47,747	(.044)

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	<i>If no, do you think there should be a limit on the amount of program payments each farm household can receive per year?</i>			<i>If yes, how much should each farm household be able to receive per year?</i>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<i>Marital Status</i>		(n = 2017 )		(n = 508)	
Married	74	26		\$46,140	
Never married	61	39		\$51,382	
Divorced/separated	68	32	P <sup>2</sup> = 14.93	\$35,934	F = 1.95
Widowed	75	25	(.002)	\$32,500	(.121)
<i>Farm Household</i>		(n = 1504)		(n = 403)	
Farm household	69	32	P <sup>2</sup> = 1.83	\$61,277	F = 39.85
Non-farm household	72	28	(.100)	\$36,579	(.000)

**Appendix Table 4. Support for Designing Farm Program Payments to Support Only a Certain Size of Farm by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

	<i>Do you think farm program payments should be designed to provide support only to a certain size of farm?</i>			<i>I believe farm program payments should be made available only to farms with annual sales between \$_____ and \$_____.</i>			
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Lower Limit</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Upper Limit</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>			<i>Means</i>			
<b><u>Community Size</u></b>	(n = 1928)			(n = 408)		(n = 405)	
Less than 500	42	58		\$45,072		\$274,541	
500 - 999	41	59		\$35,546		\$197,979	
1,000 - 4,999	40	60		\$38,569		\$296,204	
5,000 - 9,999	42	58	P <sup>2</sup> = 1.65	\$41,676	F = 0.41	\$196,075	F = 1.21
10,000 and up	43	57	(.800)	\$32,641	(.799)	\$210,626	(.307)
<b><u>Region</u></b>	(n = 1962)			(n = 412)		(n = 409)	
Panhandle	37	64		\$37,872		\$208,810	
North Central	43	57		\$47,764		\$209,630	
South Central	38	62		\$38,160		\$305,083	
Northeast	45	55	P <sup>2</sup> = 7.50	\$43,552	F = 0.73	\$237,376	F = 0.98
Southeast	43	57	(.112)	\$29,910	(.573)	\$221,845	(.420)
<b><u>Individual Attributes:</u></b>	(n = 1818)			(n = 387)		(n = 384)	
<i>Income Level</i>							
Under \$20,000	41	59		\$42,484		\$205,029	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	40	60		\$33,109		\$196,609	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	42	58	P <sup>2</sup> = 0.49	\$32,795	F = 1.16	\$257,760	F = 2.24
\$60,000 and over	41	59	(.921)	\$49,715	(.325)	\$328,963	(.083)



Appendix Table 4 Continued.

		<i>Do you think farm program payments should be designed to provide support only to a certain size of farm?</i>			<i>I believe farm program payments should be made available only to farms with annual sales between \$_____ and \$_____.</i>			
		<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Lower Limit</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Upper Limit</i>	<i>Significance</i>
<i>Age</i>			(n = 1940)		(n = 410)		(n = 407)	
	19 - 29	33	67		\$60,638		\$189,667	
	30 - 39	40	60		\$26,834		\$390,182	
	40 - 49	41	59		\$34,640		\$251,798	
	50 - 64	41	59	P <sup>2</sup> = 4.08	\$39,753	F = 0.94	\$257,336	F = 3.75
	65 and older	43	57	(.396)	\$42,863	(.444)	\$148,802	(.005)
<i>Gender</i>			(n = 1950)		(n = 410)		(n = 407)	
	Male	44	56	P <sup>2</sup> = 11.79	\$36,874	F = 0.46	\$266,584	F = 4.85
	Female	36	64	(.000)	\$42,677	(.498)	\$165,856	(.028)
<i>Education</i>			(n = 1944)		(n = 410)		(n = 407)	
	No H.S. diploma	43	57		\$28,583		\$103,750	
	H.S. diploma	40	60		\$48,932		\$219,411	
	Some college	43	58	P <sup>2</sup> = 1.06	\$35,059	F = 1.43	\$205,510	F = 4.88
	Bachelors or graduate degree	40	60	(.787)	\$32,376	(.235)	\$353,482	(.002)
<i>Marital Status</i>			(n = 1949)		(n = 410)		(n = 407)	
	Married	42	58		\$40,690		\$264,022	
	Never married	42	58		\$27,362		\$245,714	
	Divorced/separated	43	57	P <sup>2</sup> = 4.24	\$30,624	F = 0.63	\$158,026	F = 1.82
	Widowed	35	65	(.237)	\$28,370	(.596)	\$112,609	(.142)
<i>Farm Household</i>			(n = 1466)		(n = 328)		(n = 325)	
	Farm household	41	59	P <sup>2</sup> = 0.09	\$63,018	F = 22.77	\$362,752	F = 10.23
	Non-farm household	40	60	(.404)	\$23,883	(.000)	\$208,194	(.002)

**Appendix Table 5. Level of Agreement with Statements about Federal Farm Policy by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

	<i>Farm payments should be based upon the level of conservation and environmental contribution that a producer voluntarily chooses to follow.</i>				<i>A portion of the amount currently spent on farm income support and emergency payments should be shifted to research, market development and cooperative development programs that help farmers capture a larger share of the food dollar from the market.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>				<i>Percentages</i>			
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2760)				(n = 2748)			
Less than 500	19	28	53		26	29	45	
500 - 999	16	29	55		24	28	48	
1,000 - 4,999	19	29	52		23	29	48	
5,000 - 9,999	18	30	51	P <sup>2</sup> = 7.05	25	30	45	P <sup>2</sup> = 23.63
10,000 and up	16	33	51	(.531)	16	35	49	(.003)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2822)				(n = 2810)			
Panhandle	19	30	51		24	30	46	
North Central	19	35	47		23	31	47	
South Central	18	31	51		22	32	47	
Northeast	16	28	56	P <sup>2</sup> = 12.59	20	29	51	P <sup>2</sup> = 5.38
Southeast	19	27	54	(.127)	23	30	47	(.717)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2597)				(n = 2592)			
Under \$20,000	17	36	47		22	33	45	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	18	29	53		22	31	48	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	18	25	57	P <sup>2</sup> = 27.14	24	28	48	P <sup>2</sup> = 12.11
\$60,000 and over	18	23	59	(.000)	23	24	53	(.059)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2790)				(n = 2780)			
19 - 29	16	33	51		16	38	47	
30 - 39	17	26	57		21	30	49	
40 - 49	19	23	58		26	28	47	
50 - 64	21	26	52	P <sup>2</sup> = 55.44	26	26	49	P <sup>2</sup> = 34.93
65 and older	15	38	47	(.000)	18	35	47	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2804)				(n = 2795)			
Male	19	26	56	P <sup>2</sup> = 42.55	23	26	51	P <sup>2</sup> = 50.03
Female	17	37	46	(.000)	21	39	40	(.000)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2797)				(n = 2787)			
No H.S. diploma	17	43	40		20	38	42	
High school diploma	19	32	49		22	31	47	
Some college	17	29	54	P <sup>2</sup> = 55.15	23	29	48	P <sup>2</sup> = 10.25
Bachelors or grad degree	19	20	61	(.000)	24	27	49	(.114)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2805)				(n = 2795)			
Married	19	27	54		24	27	49	
Never married	19	28	53		19	31	50	
Divorced/separated	14	30	56	P <sup>2</sup> = 67.91	19	36	45	P <sup>2</sup> = 44.67
Widowed	14	48	38	(.000)	16	44	41	(.000)
<i>Farm Household</i>	(n = 2064)				(n = 2060)			
Farm household	27	16	57	P <sup>2</sup> = 39.05	38	19	43	P <sup>2</sup> = 63.65
Non-farm household	17	30	54	(.000)	20	31	49	(.000)

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	<i>A livestock revenue insurance program (similar to the crop insurance programs) is needed.</i>				<i>Livestock feeding by meat-packing firms should be prohibited.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2734)				(n = 2722)			
Less than 500	24	38	38		12	26	62	
500 - 999	21	43	36		11	30	59	
1,000 - 4,999	24	42	34		15	29	56	
5,000 - 9,999	27	42	31	P <sup>2</sup> = 10.17	14	37	49	P <sup>2</sup> = 46.76
10,000 and up	22	45	34	(.253)	14	40	46	(.000)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2792)				(n = 2779)			
Panhandle	23	42	35		17	42	42	
North Central	24	37	39		12	31	57	
South Central	21	45	34		15	34	51	
Northeast	24	42	33	P <sup>2</sup> = 8.23	11	28	61	P <sup>2</sup> = 37.62
Southeast	24	42	34	(.412)	13	32	55	(.000)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2574)				(n = 2560)			
Under \$20,000	20	46	34		13	35	51	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	23	40	37		12	30	58	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	26	38	36	P <sup>2</sup> = 10.23	14	33	53	P <sup>2</sup> = 12.17
\$60,000 and over	25	40	35	(.115)	16	33	51	(.058)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2763)				(n = 2750)			
19 - 29	10	44	45		9	48	43	
30 - 39	21	35	43		14	35	51	
40 - 49	22	38	40		15	34	51	
50 - 64	26	41	33	P <sup>2</sup> = 67.89	14	27	59	P <sup>2</sup> = 30.65
65 and older	24	50	27	(.000)	12	33	55	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2778)				(n = 2764)			
Male	27	39	34	P <sup>2</sup> = 35.09	13	28	59	P <sup>2</sup> = 61.87
Female	17	47	36	(.000)	14	42	44	(.000)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2770)				(n = 2757)			
No H.S. diploma	21	47	31		12	40	48	
High school diploma	24	44	32		11	31	58	
Some college	23	41	36	P <sup>2</sup> = 11.87	14	32	55	P <sup>2</sup> = 19.93
Bachelors or grad degree	23	39	38	(.065)	16	34	49	(.003)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2778)				(n = 2764)			
Married	26	39	35		14	30	56	
Never married	15	41	44		12	37	51	
Divorced/separated	17	48	34	P <sup>2</sup> = 49.56	10	40	50	P <sup>2</sup> = 26.55
Widowed	16	55	29	(.000)	12	41	47	(.000)
<i>Farm Household</i>	(n = 2050)				(n = 2037)			
Farm household	29	30	41	P <sup>2</sup> = 22.07	12	16	72	P <sup>2</sup> = 68.82
Non-farm household	22	42	36	(.000)	14	36	50	(.000)

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	<i>A moratorium on mergers and acquisitions involving large agribusiness firms should be enacted.</i>				<i>There is a need for a voluntary supply management program to adjust the amount of crops produced.</i>			
	<i>No Disagree</i>	<i>opinion</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>No Disagree</i>	<i>opinion</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2752)				(n = 2738)			
Less than 500	12	28	60		19	35	46	
500 - 999	10	31	59		17	38	45	
1,000 - 4,999	13	31	56		17	36	47	
5,000 - 9,999	13	37	50	P <sup>2</sup> = 58.08	18	40	42	P <sup>2</sup> = 26.33
10,000 and up	15	43	42	(.000)	16	47	38	(.001)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2812)				(n = 2800)			
Panhandle	16	37	47		18	43	39	
North Central	11	32	58		17	41	42	
South Central	14	37	49		17	39	44	
Northeast	12	35	53	P <sup>2</sup> = 21.20	17	40	44	P <sup>2</sup> = 4.23
Southeast	13	30	57	(.007)	18	37	45	(.836)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2590)				(n = 2581)			
Under \$20,000	11	39	51		16	45	40	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	11	33	56		17	39	45	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	14	33	53	P <sup>2</sup> = 39.25	18	38	45	P <sup>2</sup> = 15.24
\$60,000 and over	22	28	50	(.000)	19	33	48	(.019)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2785)				(n = 2772)			
19 - 29	4	61	35		17	48	35	
30 - 39	14	38	48		21	42	38	
40 - 49	14	34	52		18	40	42	
50 - 64	16	27	57	P <sup>2</sup> = 69.33	18	35	48	P <sup>2</sup> = 24.16
65 and older	11	35	54	(.000)	14	41	45	(.002)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2798)				(n = 2785)			
Male	15	28	57	P <sup>2</sup> = 79.84	18	33	49	P <sup>2</sup> = 89.83
Female	10	45	44	(.000)	16	51	33	(.000)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2789)				(n = 2777)			
No H.S. diploma	14	45	42		15	46	39	
High school diploma	11	36	53		16	40	44	
Some college	12	34	54	P <sup>2</sup> = 38.34	18	40	42	P <sup>2</sup> = 10.25
Bachelors or grad degree	18	28	54	(.000)	19	36	45	(.115)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2798)				(n = 2785)			
Married	15	31	54		18	36	46	
Never married	8	40	53		18	39	43	
Divorced/separated	7	49	44	P <sup>2</sup> = 50.79	15	52	33	P <sup>2</sup> = 41.73
Widowed	11	40	49	(.000)	15	50	35	(.000)
<i>Farm Household</i>	(n = 2058)				(n = 2050)			
Farm household	12	18	71	P <sup>2</sup> = 69.22	22	27	51	P <sup>2</sup> = 29.06
Non-farm household	14	38	49	(.000)	17	42	42	(.000)

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	<i>I would support a voluntary, farmer-owned grain reserve program which had specific price levels for entry, release and dispersal.</i>				<i>In times of surplus grain carryover, producers should be given the option to enter a portion of their land into a short-term conservation reserve type program.</i>			
	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>opinion</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>opinion</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2741)				(n = 2763)			
Less than 500	11	43	46		12	26	61	
500 - 999	10	43	47		12	25	63	
1,000 - 4,999	10	45	45		12	27	61	
5,000 - 9,999	10	48	42	P <sup>2</sup> = 18.05	10	32	58	P <sup>2</sup> = 22.13
10,000 and up	9	53	38	(.021)	10	35	55	(.005)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2800)				(n = 2825)			
Panhandle	10	49	41		10	33	57	
North Central	9	53	38		13	34	54	
South Central	10	48	43		10	31	60	
Northeast	10	46	45	P <sup>2</sup> = 9.72	11	27	62	P <sup>2</sup> = 15.66
Southeast	10	44	46	(.285)	13	26	61	(.047)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2584)				(n = 2599)			
Under \$20,000	9	54	37		10	35	56	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	9	47	44		11	28	61	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	10	44	46	P <sup>2</sup> = 25.75	12	26	62	P <sup>2</sup> = 17.70
\$60,000 and over	12	39	49	(.000)	10	25	65	(.007)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2770)				(n = 2795)			
19 - 29	7	59	34		5	40	56	
30 - 39	9	50	41		12	28	60	
40 - 49	10	45	45		11	26	63	
50 - 64	11	43	46	P <sup>2</sup> = 17.32	13	25	62	P <sup>2</sup> = 32.49
65 and older	9	49	42	(.027)	10	34	56	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2785)				(n = 2810)			
Male	11	42	47	P <sup>2</sup> = 66.78	13	23	64	P <sup>2</sup> = 91.83
Female	7	58	35	(.000)	9	41	51	(.000)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2778)				(n = 2802)			
No H.S. diploma	9	56	35		11	35	54	
High school diploma	11	48	41		12	31	57	
Some college	10	47	44	P <sup>2</sup> = 18.71	10	30	60	P <sup>2</sup> = 23.11
Bachelors or grad degree	10	42	49	(.005)	13	22	65	(.001)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2785)				(n = 2810)			
Married	11	44	45		12	26	62	
Never married	8	49	43		10	32	58	
Divorced/separated	3	57	41	P <sup>2</sup> = 46.21	8	34	58	P <sup>2</sup> = 42.47
Widowed	9	58	34	(.000)	10	42	48	(.000)
<i>Farm Household</i>	(n = 2054)				(n = 2061)			
Farm household	14	33	54	P <sup>2</sup> = 38.13	12	15	73	P <sup>2</sup> = 39.35
Non-farm household	9	50	41	(.000)	11	30	58	(.000)

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