



# NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

## A Research Report

### **Perceptions of the Farm Bill Among Nonmetropolitan Nebraskans**

*2023 Nebraska Rural Poll Results*

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All of the research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on its webpage at <http://ruralpoll.unl.edu>

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# Executive Summary

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The federal legislation known as the farm bill encompasses all things related to agriculture and food. This includes not only farm income safety net and conservation programs that typically come to mind when thinking about the farm bill, but also domestic food assistance programs (like SNAP), rural development (providing funding for items like broadband service, utilities, and housing programs) as well as programs that are focused on specific producers and crops. Given the variety of programs it entails, how familiar are rural Nebraskans with the farm bill and federal agricultural policy? Do rural Nebraskans support federal spending on the various broad categories of farm bill programs? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,100 responses to the 2023 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 28<sup>th</sup> annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about federal agricultural policy. Comparisons are also made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- **Most rural Nebraskans report being unfamiliar with federal agricultural policy.** Two-thirds of rural Nebraskans are either very unfamiliar (43%) or somewhat unfamiliar (23%) with federal agricultural policy. Almost three in ten (27%) are somewhat familiar with this policy and only seven percent report being very familiar.
  - ✓ *Certain groups are more likely to be familiar with federal agricultural policy: persons living in or near smaller communities, residents of both the North Central and Northeast regions, older persons, males, married persons, persons with higher education levels, and persons with occupations in agriculture.*
- **Most rural Nebraskans support federal spending for most of the broad categories of farm bill programs.** The only program with less than a majority supporting it was international food assistance programs. Almost eight in ten rural Nebraskans support federal funding for conservation programs (79%), rural development (78%), and research and education programs (77%). On the other hand, just over one-third (35%) support funding for international food assistance programs.
- **Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to support funding for domestic food assistance programs.** Just under three-quarters (73%) of persons with household incomes under \$40,000 support funding for these programs, compared to approximately six in ten persons with higher incomes.
- **Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to support funding for programs focused on targeted producers (small, beginning, traditionally underserved, etc.).** Just over three-quarters of Panhandle residents support funding for these programs, compared to less than six in ten residents of the North Central region.

## Introduction

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The federal legislation known as the farm bill encompasses all things related to agriculture and food. This includes not only farm income safety net and conservation programs that typically come to mind when thinking about the farm bill, but also domestic food assistance programs (like SNAP), rural development (providing funding for items like broadband service, utilities, and housing programs) as well as programs that are focused on specific producers and crops. Given the variety of programs it entails, how familiar are rural Nebraskans with the farm bill and federal agricultural policy? Do rural Nebraskans support federal spending on the various broad categories of farm bill programs? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

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### *Methodology and Respondent Profile*

This study is based on 1,100 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.<sup>1</sup> A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in May and June to 6,030 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, civil discourse, the economy, federal agricultural

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<sup>1</sup> In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added in 2014 because of a joint

policy, and childcare. This paper reports only results from the federal agricultural policy section.

An 18% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

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 manager approximately two weeks later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded approximately two weeks after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 30 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2017 - 2021 American Community Survey). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Thus, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report. The

Metro Poll being conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha to ensure all counties in the state were sampled. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other "micropolitan" counties the Rural Poll surveys.

margin of error for this study is plus or minus three percent.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2020).

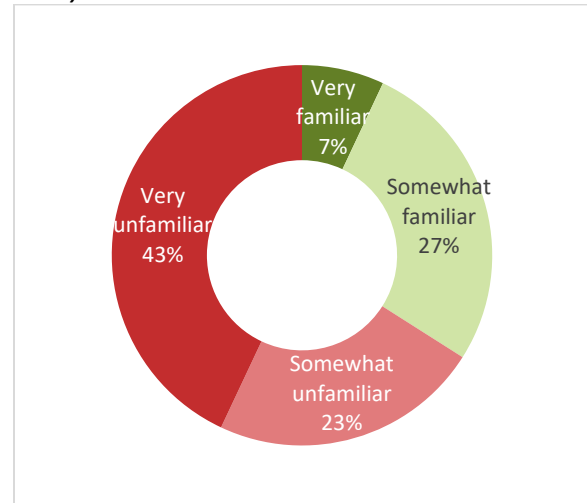
The average age of respondents is 50 years. Seventy-one percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 71 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 41 years and have lived in their current community 25 years. Sixty-one percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-eight percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Eighteen percent of the respondents report their 2022 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Sixty-seven percent report incomes over \$60,000. Seventy-five percent were employed in 2022 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Nineteen percent are retired. Thirty-one percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Ten percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

## Familiarity with Federal Agricultural Policy

Respondents were first asked how familiar they are with the farm bill and federal agricultural policy. Most rural Nebraskans report being *unfamiliar* with federal agricultural policy. Two-thirds of rural Nebraskans are either very unfamiliar (43%) or somewhat unfamiliar (23%) with federal agricultural policy (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Familiarity with Federal Agricultural Policy**



Almost three in ten (27%) are somewhat familiar with this policy and only seven percent report being very familiar.

The familiarity with federal agricultural policy differs by community size, region, and many individual attributes (Appendix Table 2). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to be familiar with this policy. Approximately four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 5,000 are at least somewhat familiar with federal agricultural policy, compared to just over two in ten persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999.

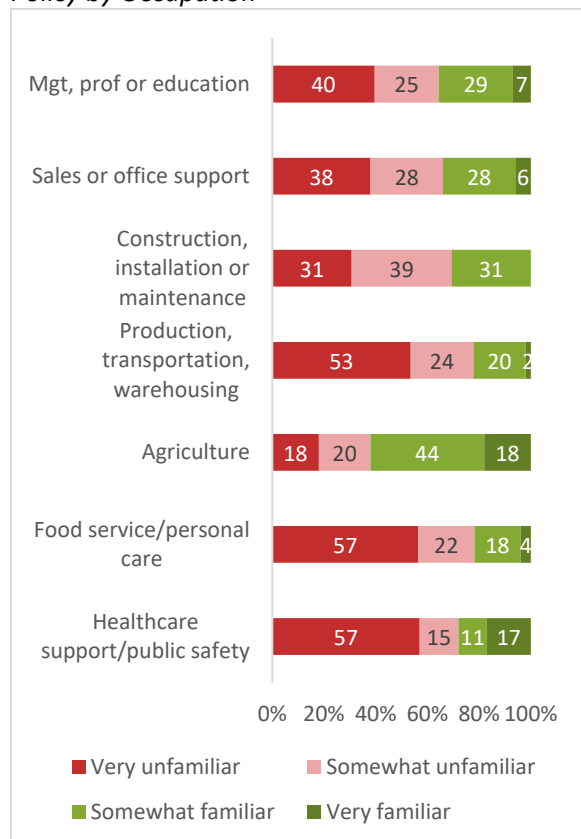
Residents of both the North Central and Northeast regions (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region) are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be at least somewhat familiar with federal agricultural policy. Approximately four in ten residents of these two regions are at least somewhat familiar with this policy, compared to just under three in ten residents of the

Panhandle.

Persons with occupations in agriculture are more likely than persons with different occupations to report being familiar with federal agricultural policy. Just over six in ten persons working in agriculture are at least somewhat familiar with this policy, compared to just over two in ten persons with food service or personal care occupations as well as persons with production, transportation, or warehousing occupations (Figure 2).

The other groups most likely to be familiar with federal agricultural policy include persons with higher household incomes, persons aged 65 and older, males, married persons, and persons with higher education levels.

**Figure 2. Familiarity with Federal Agricultural Policy by Occupation**



## Support for Farm Bill Programs

Finally, respondents were given a list of broad categories of farm bill programs and were asked if they support federal spending on each in general. Most rural Nebraskans support federal spending for most of the broad categories of farm bill programs. The only program with less than a majority supporting it was international food assistance programs. Almost eight in ten rural Nebraskans support federal funding for conservation programs (79%), rural development (78%), and research and education programs (77%) (Figure 3). On the other hand, just over one-third (35%) support funding for international food assistance programs.

Support for federal funding for these farm bill programs are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Many differences emerge.

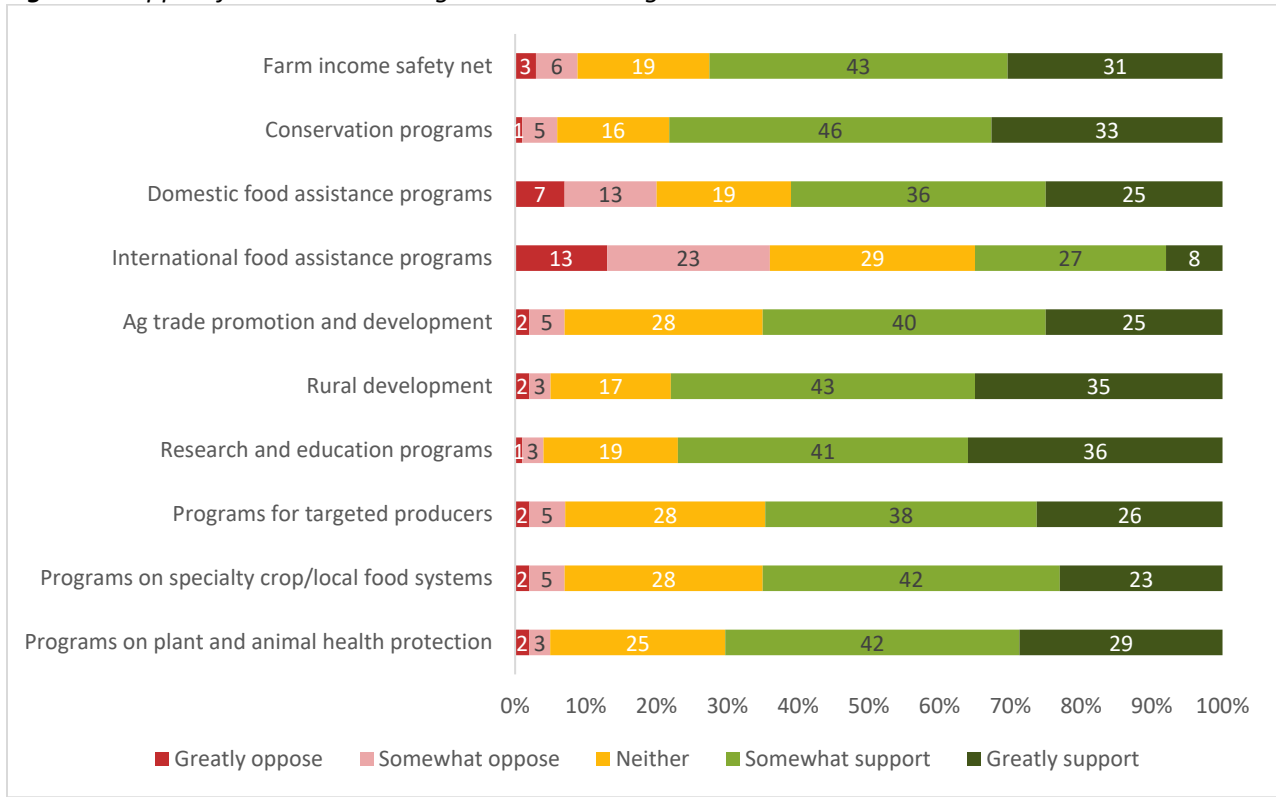
Persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, and persons with at least some college education are the groups most likely to support funding for farm income safety net (commodity, disaster, and insurance programs).

The groups most likely to support funding for conservation programs include persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, persons with higher education levels, and persons with management, professional, or education occupations.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to support funding for domestic food assistance programs (SNAP). Almost two-thirds of persons living in or near communities with populations of 1,000 or more support funding for these programs, compared



**Figure 3. Support for Federal Funding on Farm Bill Programs**



to just over four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations ranging between 500 and 999.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to support funding for domestic food assistance programs. Just under three-quarters (73%) of persons with household incomes under \$40,000 support funding for these programs, compared to approximately six in ten persons with higher incomes.

The other groups most likely to support funding for domestic food assistance programs include persons under the age of 30, females, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Residents of both the Panhandle and Northeast

regions are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to support funding for international food assistance programs. Approximately four in ten persons living in these two regions support funding for these programs, compared to three in ten residents of both the North Central and South Central regions.

The other groups most likely to support funding for international food assistance programs include persons living in or near larger communities, persons with the lowest household incomes, persons under the age of 30, females, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to

support funding for agricultural trade promotion and development programs. Almost three-quarters (74%) of Panhandle residents support funding for these programs, compared to just over six in ten residents of the South Central region.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities, persons with the highest household incomes, persons with at least some college education, and persons with production, transportation, or warehousing occupations are the other groups most likely to support funding for agricultural trade promotion and development programs.

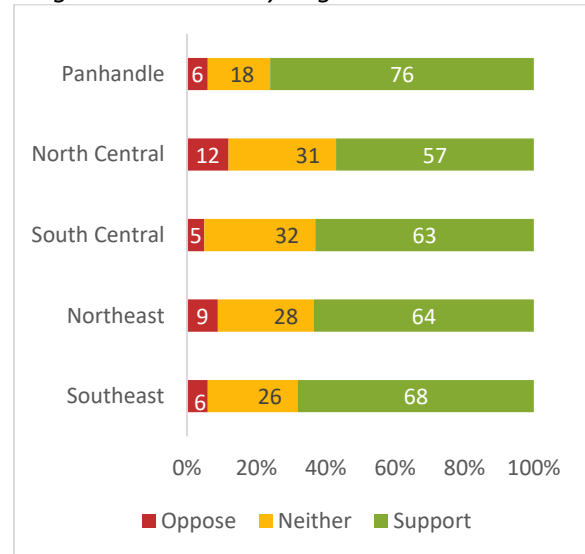
Females are more likely than males to support funding for rural development (broadband, utility, business, and housing programs). Just over eight in ten females support funding for rural development, compared to just over seven in ten males.

The groups most likely to support funding for research and education programs include persons living in or near the smallest communities, Panhandle residents, and females.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to support funding for programs focused on targeted producers (small, beginning, traditionally underserved, etc.). Just over three-quarters of Panhandle residents support funding for these programs, compared to less than six in ten residents of the North Central region (Figure 4).

The other groups most likely to support funding for programs focused on targeted producers include persons living in or near the smallest communities, females, persons with at least some college education, and persons with

**Figure 4. Support for Programs Focused on Targeted Producers by Region**



construction, installation, or maintenance occupations.

Many of these same groups are also those most likely to support funding for programs focused on specialty crop or local food systems: persons living in or near the smallest communities, Panhandle residents, the youngest persons, females, and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to support funding for programs focused on plant and animal health protection. Over eight in ten Panhandle residents (85%) support funding for these programs, compared to approximately two-thirds of residents of both the North Central and Northeast regions.

The other groups most likely to support funding for plant and animal health protection programs include persons living in or near larger communities, persons under the age of 30, and females.

## Conclusion

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Most rural Nebraskans report being unfamiliar with federal agricultural policy. Two-thirds of rural Nebraskans are either very unfamiliar or somewhat unfamiliar with federal agricultural policy. Almost three in ten are somewhat familiar with this policy and only seven percent report being very familiar.

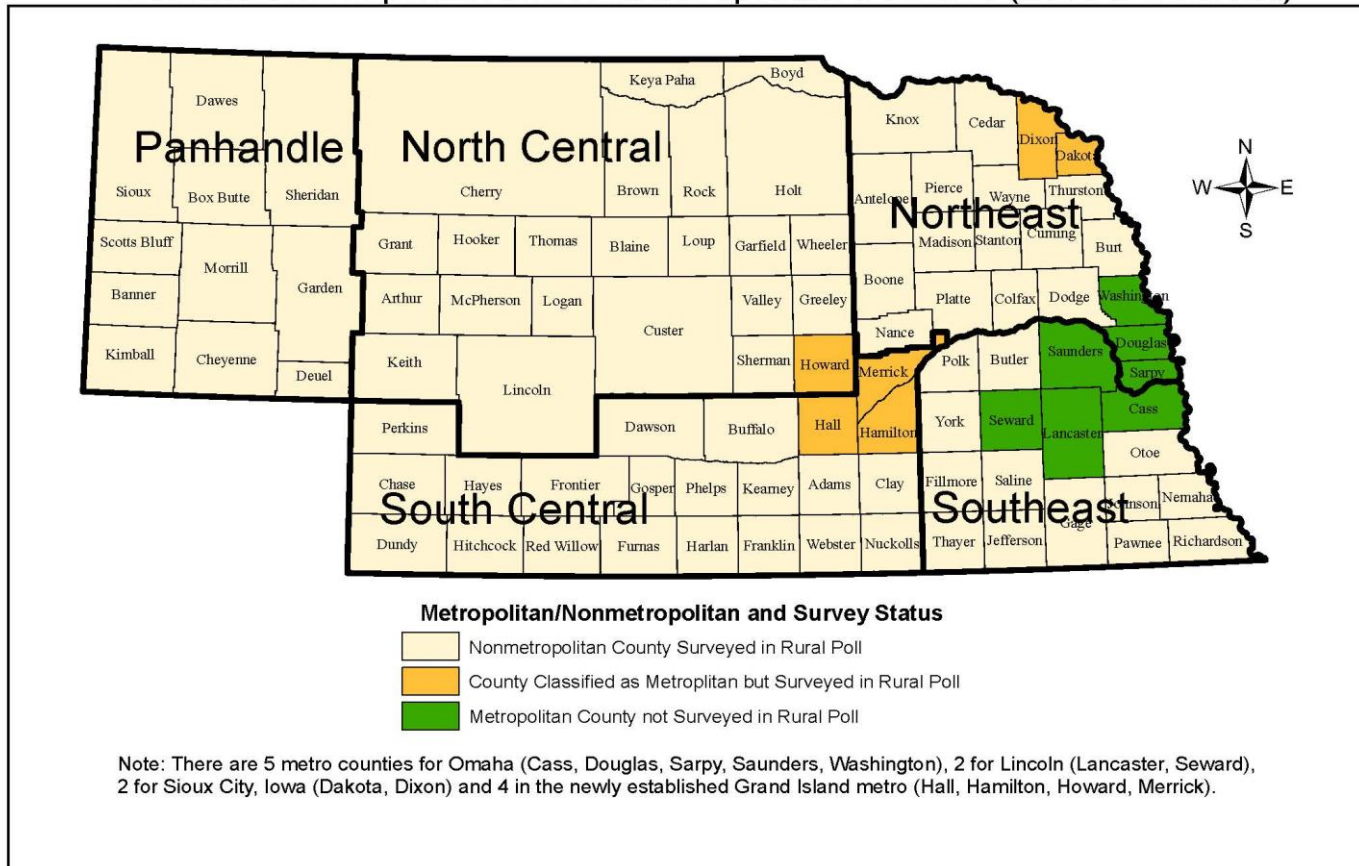
Certain groups are more likely to be familiar with federal agricultural policy: persons living in or near smaller communities, residents of both the North Central and Northeast regions, older persons, males, married persons, persons with higher education levels, and persons with occupations in agriculture.

Most rural Nebraskans support federal spending for most of the broad categories of farm bill programs. The only program with less than a majority supporting it was international food assistance programs. Almost eight in ten rural Nebraskans support federal funding for conservation programs, rural development, and research and education programs. On the other hand, just over one-third support funding for international food assistance programs.

Some of the program garnered more support from certain demographic groups. Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to support funding for domestic food assistance programs. Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to support funding for programs focused on targeted producers (small, beginning, traditionally underserved, etc.).

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska

Nebraska Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties (2013 Definitions)



Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13  
 Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

**Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents<sup>1</sup> Compared to 2017 – 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Average for Nebraska\***

	<b>2023 Poll</b>	<b>2022 Poll</b>	<b>2021 Poll</b>	<b>2020 Poll</b>	<b>2019 Poll</b>	<b>2017 - 2021 ACS</b>
<b>Age : <sup>2</sup></b>						
20 - 39	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%
40 - 64	44%	44%	44%	44%	44%	42%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	26%
<b>Gender: <sup>3</sup></b>						
Female	60%	51%	55%	55%	55%	50%
Male	40%	49%	45%	46%	45%	50%
<b>Education: <sup>4</sup></b>						
Less than high school graduate	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	10%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%	32%
Some college, no degree	25%	26%	26%	18%	18%	24%
Associate degree	13%	16%	15%	24%	24%	12%
Bachelors degree	28%	25%	28%	26%	29%	16%
Graduate or professional degree	17%	16%	13%	14%	13%	7%
<b>Household Income: <sup>5</sup></b>						
Less than \$20,000	7%	6%	8%	7%	7%	14%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	12%	15%	17%	14%	15%	19%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	15%	17%	16%	19%	18%	18%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	18%	17%	14%	16%	16%	11%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	16%	16%	17%	21%	19%	15%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	22%	17%	19%	15%	16%	15%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%
\$200,000 or more	5%	6%	4%	4%	3%	4%
<b>Marital Status: <sup>6</sup></b>						
Married	71%	66%	69%	69%	70%	61%
Never married	13%	17%	13%	12%	12%	20%
Divorced/separated	10%	10%	11%	10%	9%	12%
Widowed/widower	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%

<sup>1</sup> Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

<sup>2</sup> 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

<sup>3</sup> 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

<sup>4</sup> 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 25 years of age and over.

<sup>5</sup> 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

<sup>6</sup> 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

\*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.

**Appendix Table 2. Familiarity with the Farm Bill and Federal Agricultural Policy by Community Size, Region, and Individual Attributes**

<i>In general, how familiar are you with the farm bill and federal agricultural policy?</i>					
	<i>Very unfamiliar</i>	<i>Somewhat unfamiliar</i>	<i>Somewhat familiar</i>	<i>Very familiar</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	43	23	27	7	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1076)			
Less than 500	30	30	30	10	
500 - 999	48	17	28	8	
1,000 - 4,999	36	25	32	8	
5,000 - 9,999	61	17	17	5	$\chi^2 = 45.33^*$
10,000 and up	48	21	26	6	(.000)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1094)			
Panhandle	36	36	24	5	
North Central	39	21	29	12	
South Central	45	23	27	5	
Northeast	40	19	30	10	$\chi^2 = 32.11^*$
Southeast	50	20	25	5	(.001)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1050)			
Under \$40,000	53	25	19	3	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	45	20	30	4	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	38	29	28	5	$\chi^2 = 49.56^*$
\$100,000 and over	37	22	27	14	(.000)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1093)			
19 - 29	39	28	22	11	
30 - 39	49	26	18	7	
40 - 49	45	20	29	6	
50 - 64	43	22	28	7	$\chi^2 = 26.02^*$
65 and older	38	20	35	7	(.011)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1082)			
Male	35	24	29	12	$\chi^2 = 29.68^*$
Female	48	22	26	5	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1066)			
Married	37	24	30	9	
Never married	71	19	11	0	
Divorced/separated	49	19	28	5	$\chi^2 = 66.70^*$
Widowed	46	21	29	4	(.000)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1086)			
H.S. diploma or less	58	20	17	5	
Some college	41	26	29	5	$\chi^2 = 38.83^*$
Bachelors degree	38	21	30	11	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 794)			
Mgt, prof, education	40	25	29	7	
Sales/office support	38	28	28	6	
Const, inst or maint	31	39	31	0	
Prodn/trans/warehs	53	24	20	2	
Agriculture	18	20	44	18	
Food serv/pers. care	57	22	18	4	
Hlthcare supp/safety	57	15	11	17	$\chi^2 = 95.17^*$
Other	64	7	21	7	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Appendix Table 3. Support for Federal Funding on Farm Bill Programs by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.**

	<i>Farm income safety net (commodity, disaster, and insurance programs)</i>				<i>Conservation programs</i>			
	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	8	19	73		6	16	79	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1058)				(n = 1058)			
Less than 500	5	17	78		5	13	82	
500 - 999	12	20	68		4	31	65	
1,000 - 4,999	11	15	74		9	11	81	
5,000 - 9,999	8	30	62	$\chi^2 = 20.94^*$	4	26	70	$\chi^2 = 44.37^*$
10,000 and up	7	18	75	(.007)	5	13	82	(.000)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1072)				(n = 1071)			
Panhandle	4	14	82		2	17	82	
North Central	9	17	73		9	13	79	
South Central	8	16	76		4	17	79	
Northeast	10	22	69	$\chi^2 = 14.21$	9	17	75	$\chi^2 = 17.36^*$
Southeast	9	24	68	(.077)	3	13	83	(.027)
<b>Household Income Level</b>	(n = 1027)				(n = 1025)			
Under \$40,000	7	26	67		4	23	74	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	6	23	72		7	16	78	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	9	9	81	$\chi^2 = 28.91^*$	8	8	85	$\chi^2 = 18.30^*$
\$100,000 and over	11	15	74	(.000)	4	15	81	(.006)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 1071)				(n = 1070)			
19 - 29	6	11	83		6	6	89	
30 - 39	6	21	73		6	13	81	
40 - 49	8	23	69		6	23	71	
50 - 64	12	16	72	$\chi^2 = 19.66^*$	6	15	79	$\chi^2 = 26.62^*$
65 and older	9	21	71	(.012)	5	18	78	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 1059)				(n = 1060)			
Male	13	15	72	$\chi^2 = 20.47^*$	9	13	78	$\chi^2 = 14.80^*$
Female	5	21	74	(.000)	4	17	80	(.000)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 1065)				(n = 1064)			
High school diploma or less	6	26	68		5	27	68	
Some college	7	19	74	$\chi^2 = 13.21^*$	6	16	79	$\chi^2 = 25.27^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	10	15	74	(.010)	6	11	83	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>	(n = 1046)				(n = 1046)			
Married	9	17	74		7	15	78	
Never married	5	19	76		3	17	81	
Divorced/separated	6	20	74	$\chi^2 = 4.11$	3	15	82	$\chi^2 = 6.20$
Widowed	8	18	74	(.662)	5	20	76	(.402)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 786)				(n = 787)			
Mgt, prof or education	6	18	76		4	10	86	
Sales or office support	9	18	74		9	11	80	
Constrn, inst or maint	4	13	83		4	19	77	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	9	11	80		0	18	82	
Agriculture	10	7	83		19	9	72	
Food serv/pers. care	6	29	65		6	29	65	
Hlthcare supp/safety	15	29	56	$\chi^2 = 40.18^*$	3	23	74	$\chi^2 = 59.26^*$
Other	19	15	67	(.000)	7	15	78	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>Domestic food assistance programs (SNAP)</i>			<i>Significance</i>	<i>International food assistance programs</i>			<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>		<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>	
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	20	19	61		36	29	35	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1055)				(n = 1046)			
Less than 500	19	23	58		41	36	23	
500 - 999	27	29	44		44	32	24	
1,000 - 4,999	23	13	64		38	29	33	
5,000 - 9,999	12	23	65	$\chi^2 = 32.19^*$	30	24	46	$\chi^2 = 38.65^*$
10,000 and up	19	16	65	(.000)	30	25	45	(.000)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1067)				(n = 1059)			
Panhandle	12	21	67		33	25	41	
North Central	26	17	57		41	29	30	
South Central	21	19	60		44	27	30	
Northeast	18	19	63	$\chi^2 = 10.28$	29	31	40	$\chi^2 = 20.54^*$
Southeast	21	19	61	(.246)	31	33	36	(.008)
<b>Household Income Level</b>	(n = 1022)				(n = 1016)			
Under \$40,000	10	17	73		25	31	44	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	20	21	59		38	25	37	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	20	18	62	$\chi^2 = 18.72^*$	39	37	24	$\chi^2 = 23.53^*$
\$100,000 and over	24	17	59	(.005)	38	27	35	(.000)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 1068)				(n = 1060)			
19 - 29	22	0	78		33	17	50	
30 - 39	23	21	56		45	26	29	
40 - 49	20	21	59		37	34	29	
50 - 64	19	22	58	$\chi^2 = 54.00^*$	35	35	30	$\chi^2 = 38.33^*$
65 and older	17	25	58	(.000)	32	30	38	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 1058)				(n = 1049)			
Male	30	17	53	$\chi^2 = 45.05^*$	45	26	29	$\chi^2 = 25.12^*$
Female	13	20	67	(.000)	30	31	39	(.000)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 1062)				(n = 1050)			
High school diploma or less	13	25	62		31	34	35	
Some college	20	19	61	$\chi^2 = 12.61^*$	41	25	34	$\chi^2 = 8.85$
Bachelors or grad degree	23	16	61	(.013)	34	31	35	(.065)
<b>Marital Status</b>	(n = 1043)				(n = 1034)			
Married	21	21	58		37	31	32	
Never married	17	10	73		35	15	51	
Divorced/separated	20	11	69	$\chi^2 = 19.74^*$	37	35	29	$\chi^2 = 25.43^*$
Widowed	19	23	59	(.003)	34	33	33	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 787)				(n = 777)			
Mgt, prof or education	15	15	70		31	31	38	
Sales or office support	23	20	58		35	34	31	
Constrn, inst or maint	28	11	60		66	19	15	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	20	22	58		30	23	48	
Agriculture	28	17	55		58	19	23	
Food serv/pers. care	8	12	80		18	24	58	
Hlthcare supp/safety	28	25	47	$\chi^2 = 44.10^*$	41	32	27	$\chi^2 = 64.93^*$
Other	39	29	32	(.000)	46	32	21	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.



Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>Agricultural trade promotion and development programs</i>				<i>Rural development (broadband, utility, business, and housing programs)</i>			
	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	7	28	65		5	17	78	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1053)				(n = 1057)		
Less than 500	6	19	74		3	17	81	
500 - 999	7	39	54		5	20	76	
1,000 - 4,999	8	23	69		8	12	80	
5,000 - 9,999	7	37	56	$\chi^2 = 27.70^*$	4	20	76	$\chi^2 = 18.79^*$
10,000 and up	5	32	63	(.000)	5	21	75	(.016)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1066)				(n = 1068)		
Panhandle	5	22	74		1	16	83	
North Central	15	19	66		5	19	76	
South Central	6	33	61		5	19	76	
Northeast	4	32	64	$\chi^2 = 41.47^*$	7	15	78	$\chi^2 = 9.60$
Southeast	3	29	68	(.000)	6	15	79	(.294)
<b>Household Income Level</b>		(n = 1021)				(n = 1027)		
Under \$40,000	5	36	59		3	21	76	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	5	30	66		6	18	76	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	15	26	59	$\chi^2 = 33.02^*$	8	18	74	$\chi^2 = 11.57$
\$100,000 and over	5	23	72	(.000)	4	14	83	(.072)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1069)				(n = 1071)		
19 - 29	6	22	72		6	11	83	
30 - 39	9	27	64		4	16	80	
40 - 49	6	36	58		5	21	74	
50 - 64	8	29	63	$\chi^2 = 14.77$	5	17	78	$\chi^2 = 8.43$
65 and older	5	26	69	(.064)	5	19	76	(.393)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1056)				(n = 1059)		
Male	6	27	68	$\chi^2 = 2.06$	9	18	73	$\chi^2 = 29.51^*$
Female	7	30	63	(.356)	2	16	82	(.000)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1059)				(n = 1062)		
High school diploma or less	8	36	56		6	22	72	
Some college	4	32	64	$\chi^2 = 18.50^*$	6	18	76	$\chi^2 = 9.42$
Bachelors or grad degree	8	23	69	(.000)	4	14	82	(.051)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1041)				(n = 1044)		
Married	7	29	64		6	16	78	
Never married	2	25	73		3	19	78	
Divorced/separated	10	31	59	$\chi^2 = 8.73$	2	19	79	$\chi^2 = 5.48$
Widowed	8	26	67	(.189)	5	20	75	(.483)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 785)				(n = 784)		
Mgt, prof or education	5	28	67		3	16	81	
Sales or office support	5	27	68		4	13	84	
Constrn, inst or maint	4	42	55		8	11	81	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	2	16	82		7	11	82	
Agriculture	7	14	79		14	15	71	
Food serv/pers. care	6	42	52		0	16	84	
Hlthcare supp/safety	13	29	59	$\chi^2 = 38.91^*$	3	21	76	$\chi^2 = 36.02^*$
Other	4	48	48	(.000)	14	18	68	(.001)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>Research and education programs</i>				<i>Programs focused on targeted producers (small, beginning, traditionally underserved, etc.)</i>			
	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	4	19	77		7	28	64	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1041)				(n = 1057)		
Less than 500	2	16	83		4	24	72	
500 - 999	1	30	69		5	37	58	
1,000 - 4,999	8	15	77		12	20	68	
5,000 - 9,999	1	20	79	$\chi^2 = 34.82^*$	4	38	59	$\chi^2 = 39.92^*$
10,000 and up	3	20	77	(.000)	6	33	61	(.000)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1053)				(n = 1072)		
Panhandle	4	12	85		6	18	76	
North Central	6	22	72		12	31	57	
South Central	6	20	74		5	32	63	
Northeast	3	17	81	$\chi^2 = 16.75^*$	9	28	64	$\chi^2 = 19.96^*$
Southeast	2	22	77	(.033)	6	26	68	(.010)
<b>Household Income Level</b>		(n = 1011)				(n = 1026)		
Under \$40,000	3	21	77		5	36	60	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	5	19	76		6	25	69	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	7	10	83	$\chi^2 = 15.81^*$	4	29	66	$\chi^2 = 15.69^*$
\$100,000 and over	2	19	79	(.015)	10	26	64	(.016)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1055)				(n = 1073)		
19 - 29	6	11	83		6	22	72	
30 - 39	4	16	80		9	24	67	
40 - 49	3	21	75		7	34	59	
50 - 64	4	21	75	$\chi^2 = 11.46$	8	29	64	$\chi^2 = 11.06$
65 and older	3	20	76	(.177)	7	31	62	(.198)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1044)				(n = 1060)		
Male	6	21	73	$\chi^2 = 12.28^*$	12	27	61	$\chi^2 = 19.86^*$
Female	3	17	81	(.002)	4	29	67	(.000)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1047)				(n = 1065)		
High school diploma or less	6	21	73		7	37	56	
Some college	5	19	76	$\chi^2 = 6.51$	4	29	67	$\chi^2 = 21.24^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	3	17	81	(.164)	10	24	66	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1032)				(n = 1047)		
Married	4	18	78		8	26	66	
Never married	5	21	74		6	34	60	
Divorced/separated	2	17	81	$\chi^2 = 3.30$	3	38	59	$\chi^2 = 11.34$
Widowed	6	18	76	(.770)	8	28	64	(.078)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 777)				(n = 786)		
Mgt, prof or education	2	16	82		7	25	68	
Sales or office support	3	29	68		6	30	64	
Constrn, inst or maint	23	10	67		0	19	81	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	2	32	66		0	42	58	
Agriculture	1	11	88		8	19	73	
Food serv/pers. care	0	10	90		2	38	60	
Hlthcare supp/safety	4	21	75	$\chi^2 = 84.22^*$	14	36	50	$\chi^2 = 37.84^*$
Other	4	18	79	(.000)	7	30	63	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>Programs focused on specialty crop/local food systems (fruits and vegetables, organic, direct- marketed, value-added, etc.)</i>				<i>Programs focused on plant and animal health protection</i>			
	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Significance</i>
<b>Total</b>	7	28	65		5	25	71	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1060)				(n = 1058)		
Less than 500	6	23	71		4	34	62	
500 - 999	6	37	57		3	31	66	
1,000 - 4,999	9	22	69		5	17	78	
5,000 - 9,999	8	33	60	$\chi^2 = 18.12^*$	4	21	75	$\chi^2 = 26.00^*$
10,000 and up	7	32	61	(.020)	6	24	70	(.001)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1073)				(n = 1072)		
Panhandle	11	13	76		2	13	85	
North Central	7	33	60		8	25	67	
South Central	9	29	63		4	26	70	
Northeast	5	33	63	$\chi^2 = 24.68^*$	5	29	67	$\chi^2 = 20.63^*$
Southeast	6	27	68	(.002)	4	24	72	(.008)
<b>Household Income Level</b>		(n = 1027)				(n = 1028)		
Under \$40,000	4	31	65		5	19	76	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	8	25	67		4	25	71	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	10	30	60	$\chi^2 = 6.88$	7	26	68	$\chi^2 = 6.90$
\$100,000 and over	7	28	66	(.332)	4	27	69	(.331)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1074)				(n = 1074)		
19 - 29	6	22	72		0	22	78	
30 - 39	13	24	63		4	28	68	
40 - 49	4	35	61		4	27	68	
50 - 64	8	29	63	$\chi^2 = 20.36^*$	7	22	71	$\chi^2 = 18.19^*$
65 and older	7	29	65	(.009)	7	24	69	(.020)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1061)				(n = 1061)		
Male	11	29	60	$\chi^2 = 19.82^*$	6	27	67	$\chi^2 = 6.92^*$
Female	4	28	68	(.000)	4	23	74	(.032)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1064)				(n = 1063)		
High school diploma or less	6	31	63		6	21	74	
Some college	4	29	67	$\chi^2 = 11.90^*$	4	27	70	$\chi^2 = 4.25$
Bachelors or grad degree	10	27	63	(.018)	5	24	71	(.373)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1046)				(n = 1047)		
Married	7	28	65		5	27	69	
Never married	13	28	59		6	21	73	
Divorced/separated	6	30	64	$\chi^2 = 8.81$	4	19	78	$\chi^2 = 5.19$
Widowed	5	28	67	(.185)	6	24	70	(.520)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 788)				(n = 789)		
Mgt, prof or education	8	24	68		3	26	71	
Sales or office support	3	36	61		6	24	70	
Constrn, inst or maint	4	17	80		0	38	62	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	7	38	56		2	16	82	
Agriculture	16	23	61		7	26	67	
Food serv/pers. care	0	28	72		2	16	82	
Hlthcare supp/safety	11	47	43	$\chi^2 = 52.56^*$	8	30	63	$\chi^2 = 21.98$
Other	7	18	75	(.000)	7	25	68	(.079)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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