



2025 NEBRASKA RURAL POLL RESEARCH REPORT



Biosecurity



The Rural Poll now offers a way for you to find the exact data you're looking for, for your research, policy decisions, or business proposals.

To purchase questions for the 2026 Poll, contact Survey Manager Becky Vogt at rvogt2@unl.edu.

Nebraska Rural Poll Research Report 25-4, December 2025.

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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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The demographic profile of Rural Poll Resondents can be found at allthingsnebraska.unl.edu

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



For Nebraska — a major agriculture and livestock state — effective biosecurity is critical to protect animal health, farm productivity, export markets, and rural livelihoods. In addition, many opportunities exist for the state in growing its bioeconomy (economic activity derived from its biological resources). For Nebraska’s rural communities and agriculture sector, combining strong biosecurity with value-added bioeconomy goals presents a pathway to both protect and grow the economy. Given these opportunities, how familiar are rural Nebraskans with biosecurity? How concerned are they about various threats to the food supply? What information sources do they trust about biosecurity threats? How do they view the impact of growing the bioeconomy in the state? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 943 responses to the 2025 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 30th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans’ perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about agricultural security and economy. Comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- **Most rural Nebraskans are at least somewhat familiar with the topic of biosecurity.** Just under one-half (49%) said they are somewhat familiar with the topic of biosecurity and one in ten (10%) are very familiar. Just over two in ten (21%) said they are not at all familiar with the topic.
- **Most rural Nebraskans are concerned about the contamination of food and water supplies, cyber security attacks by both foreign and domestic entities, natural disasters, biological agents, and invasive species.** At least one-half of rural Nebraskans are concerned or very concerned with the following: the contamination of food or water supplies (67%), cyber security attacks by foreign entities (65%), natural disasters including severe droughts and fires (63%), the intentional release of biological agents or materials (59%), cybersecurity attacks by USA entities (56%), and the introduction of invasive species (53%). Less than one-half are concerned or very concerned about the spread of infectious human and animal diseases as well as plant insects and pathogens.
 - Persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations are the occupation group most likely to be concerned about the contamination of food or water supplies. Nine in ten persons with these types of occupations are concerned or very concerned about this threat, compared to just over one-third of persons with occupations in agriculture (36%).
 - Panhandle residents are the regional group most likely to express concern about the intentional release of biological agents or materials. Just over seven in ten Panhandle residents (73%) are concerned or very concerned about this threat, compared to just under one-half of persons living in the Southeast region of the state (46%).
- **Most rural Nebraskans say they have not heard about any recent threats to the food supply or biosecurity incidents in their local community.** Just over three-fourths of rural Nebraskans (76%) said they have not heard of any incidents or concerns. Fifteen percent have heard of some biosecurity incidents or concerns in their community and nine percent are unsure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



- **Many rural Nebraskans are unsure of the rate of biosecurity threats in their community and many say they think it is staying the same.** Just under four in ten (37%) say they are unsure if the threats are increasing or decreasing. Approximately one-third (32%) say the threats are staying the same. Just over one-quarter (27%) say the threats are increasing.
- **Many rural Nebraskans are confident in the ability of local and regional authorities to respond to biosecurity threats and slightly less have confidence in national authorities.** Just over four in ten are somewhat or extremely confident in local and regional authorities (41%) and just over one-third (35%) are confident in national authorities.
- **Most rural Nebraskans agree that both individuals and government regulations are needed to contribute to biosecurity. Opinions are mixed on whether information about biosecurity is readily available to the public.** Most rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that individuals have a responsibility to contribute to biosecurity (71%) and that government regulations are necessary to ensure biosecurity (67%). Just over two in ten agree that information about biosecurity is readily available to the public (23%) while just over three in ten disagree (31%). Many (45%) are uncertain about this statement.
- **Most rural Nebraskans trust healthcare professionals, scientists, University Extension, state and local news media, and government agencies some or a lot for biosecurity information.** More than one-half of rural Nebraskans trust the following some or a lot: University Extension (86%), healthcare professionals (80%), scientists (79%), state government agencies (69%), local government agencies (67%), state news media (54%), local news media (53%), and federal government agencies (51%).
 - Younger persons are more likely than older persons to trust scientists a lot for biosecurity information. Almost six in ten persons aged 19 to 29 (57%) trust scientists a lot, compared to approximately one-quarter of persons aged 40 and older.
- **Most rural Nebraskans think it would be good for Nebraska to develop its bioeconomy.** Approximately three-quarters of rural Nebraskans (76%) believe it would be somewhat or definitely good to develop the state's bioeconomy. Only five percent think it would be bad.
- **Most rural Nebraskans think if Nebraska were to grow its bioeconomy, it would have a positive impact on jobs and economy, the environment, technology and innovation, local communities, and global competitiveness.** At least one-half of rural Nebraskans believe there would be a positive impact from growing the bioeconomy on the following: jobs and economy (72%), the environment (64%), technology and innovation (61%), local communities (61%), and global competitiveness (50%).



INTRODUCTION

For Nebraska — a major agriculture and livestock state — effective biosecurity is critical to protect animal health, farm productivity, export markets, and rural livelihoods. In addition, many opportunities exist for the state in growing its bioeconomy (economic activity derived from its biological resources). For Nebraska's rural communities and agriculture sector, combining strong biosecurity with value-added bioeconomy goals presents a pathway to both protect and grow the economy. Given these opportunities, how familiar are rural Nebraskans with biosecurity? How concerned are they about various threats to the food supply? What information sources do they trust about biosecurity threats? How do they view the impact of growing the bioeconomy in the state? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 943 responses to the 2025 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 30th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about agricultural security and economy.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 943 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.¹ A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in June and July to 6,745 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, energy resources, agricultural security, trust in institutions, algorithms, and trade policy. This paper reports only results from the agricultural security and economy section.

A 14% 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 2019 - 2023 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

¹ In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area, though Howard County was no longer considered a metropolitan county in 2023. 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 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.

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 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 approximately 50 years. Sixty-seven percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 64 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 43 years and have lived in their current community 26 years. Fifty percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-seven percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Sixteen percent of the respondents report their 2024 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Seventy percent report incomes over \$60,000. Seventy-eight percent were employed in 2024 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Seventeen percent are retired. Twenty-eight percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Ten percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

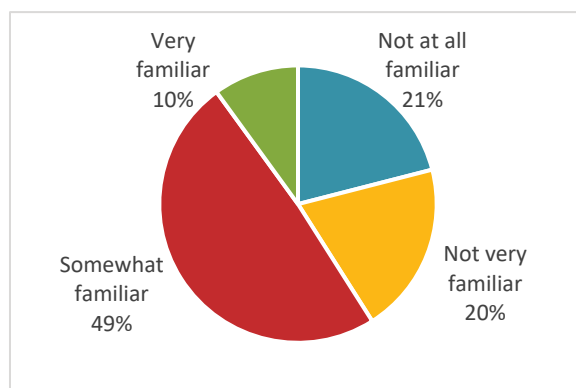
AGRICULTURAL SECURITY

The term “biosecurity” involves practices to prevent the spread of diseases that can affect livestock, crops, ecosystems, and people. Threats can arise from human actions or natural events, and biosecurity measures help protect our food supply, economy, and health.

First, respondents were asked how familiar they were with the topic of biosecurity before completing the survey. Most rural Nebraskans are at least somewhat familiar with the topic of biosecurity. Just under

one-half (49%) said they are somewhat familiar with the topic of biosecurity and one in ten (10%) are very familiar (Figure 1). Just over two in ten (21%) said they are not at all familiar with the topic.

Figure 1. Familiarity with Biosecurity



Familiarity with the topic of biosecurity is examined by community size, region, and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 2). Many differences are detected.

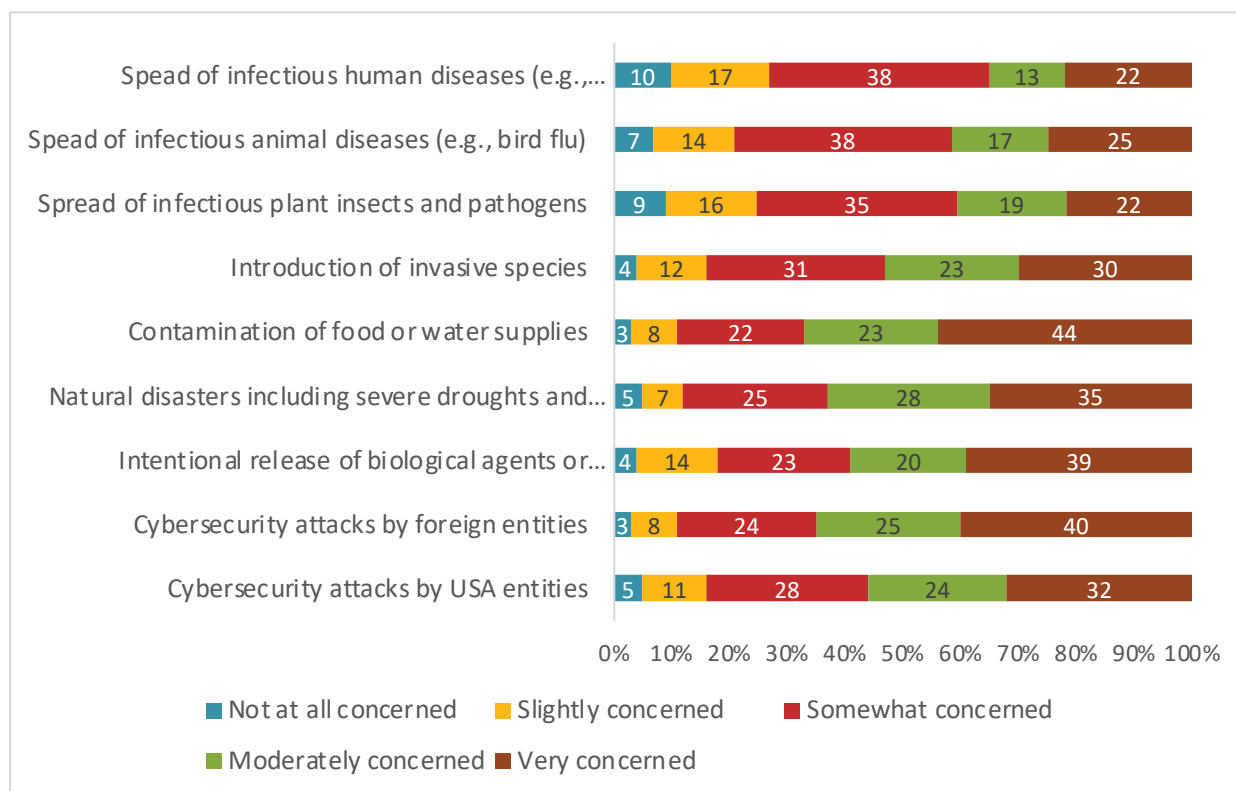
Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say they are at least somewhat familiar with the topic of biosecurity.

Almost seven in ten persons living in or near the smallest communities (69%) are somewhat or very familiar with the topic, compared to just over one-half of persons living in or near the largest communities (52%).

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be familiar with the topic of biosecurity (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Approximately two-thirds of the residents of the North Central region (67%) are at least somewhat familiar with the topic of biosecurity, compared to just over one-half of the residents of the South Central and Panhandle regions.

Other groups most likely to be at least somewhat familiar with the topic of biosecurity include: persons with higher household incomes, the youngest persons, males, persons with at least some college education, persons with occupations in agriculture, and persons with production, transportation and warehousing occupations.

Figure 2. Concerns About Threats to Food Supply and Biosecurity



Respondents were next asked how concerned they are with various threats to the food supply and biosecurity. Most rural Nebraskans are concerned about the contamination of food and water supplies, cyber security attacks by both foreign and domestic entities, natural disasters, biological agents, and invasive species. At least one-half of rural Nebraskans are concerned or very concerned with the following: the contamination of food or water supplies (67%), cyber security attacks by foreign entities (65%), natural disasters including severe droughts and fires (63%), the intentional release of biological agents or materials (59%), cybersecurity attacks by USA entities (56%), and the introduction of invasive species (53%) (Figure 2). Less than one-half are concerned or very concerned about the spread of infectious human and animal diseases as well as plant insects and pathogens.

The concerns about these threats are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Persons with less education are more likely than persons with higher education levels to be concerned about the spread of infectious human diseases. Just under six

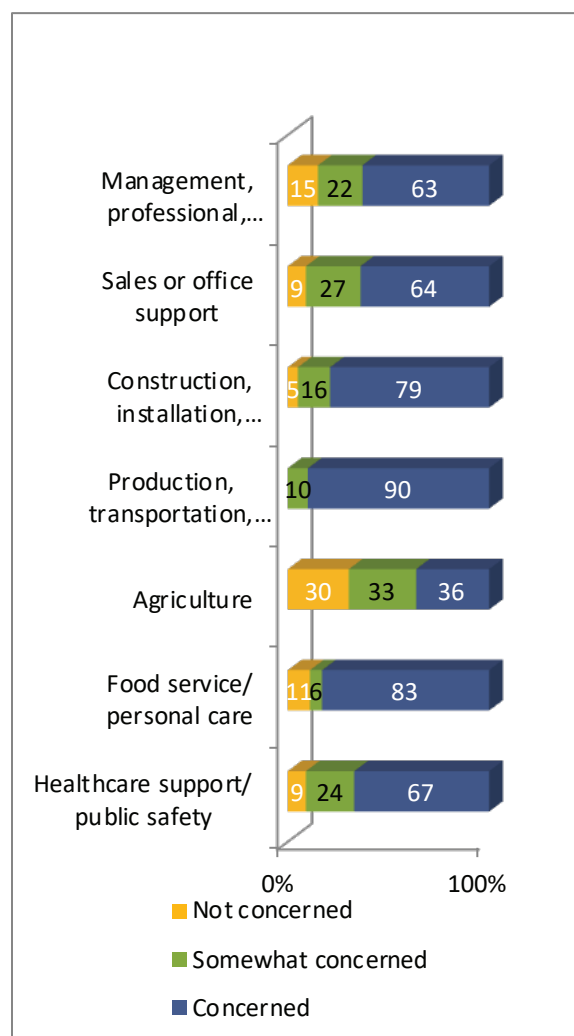
in ten persons having a high school diploma or less education (59%) are concerned or very concerned about this threat, compared to approximately three in ten persons with at least some college education. The other groups most likely to be concerned about the spread of infectious human diseases include: persons with lower household incomes, older persons, persons who are divorced or separated, widowed persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Many of these same groups are also those most concerned about the spread of infectious animal diseases: persons with lower household incomes, older persons, persons without any college education, and persons with food service or personal care occupations. Widowed persons join these groups as those most concerned about the spread of infectious plant insects and pathogens.

Both the youngest and oldest persons are the age groups most likely to be concerned with the introduction of invasive species. Approximately two-thirds of both persons under the age of 30 and those age 65 and older (67%) are concerned or very

concerned about this threat, compared to less than four in ten persons aged 30 to 49. The other groups most likely to be concerned about the introduction of invasive species include: persons with lower household incomes, persons having a high school diploma or less education, widowed persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Figure 3. Importance of Lower Prices for Consumers in Determining Trade Policy by Age



The other groups most concerned about the contamination of food or water supplies include: persons living in or near the largest communities, persons with lower household incomes, the oldest persons, persons having a high school diploma or less education, widowed persons, and persons who are divorced or separated.

Persons with mid-level household incomes,

females, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the groups most likely to be concerned about natural disasters including severe droughts and fires.

Panhandle residents are the regional group most likely to express concern about the intentional release of biological agents or materials. Just over seven in ten Panhandle residents (73%) are concerned or very concerned about this threat, compared to just under one-half of persons living in the Southeast region of the state (46%).

The other groups most likely to be concerned about the intentional release of biological agents or materials include: persons with lower household incomes, the oldest persons, persons with lower education levels, widowed persons, persons who are divorced or separated, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be concerned about cybersecurity attacks by foreign entities. Just over seven in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more express concern about this threat, compared to approximately six in ten persons living in or near smaller communities.

The other groups most likely to say they are concerned about cybersecurity attacks by foreign entities include: persons aged 50 and over, persons having a high school diploma or less education, widowed persons, divorced or separated persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations. Many of these same groups are those most concerned about cybersecurity attacks by USA entities: persons living in or near larger communities, persons aged 50 and over, persons with lower education levels, widowed persons, persons with food service or personal care occupations, and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Respondents were next asked in which sources they have seen information about

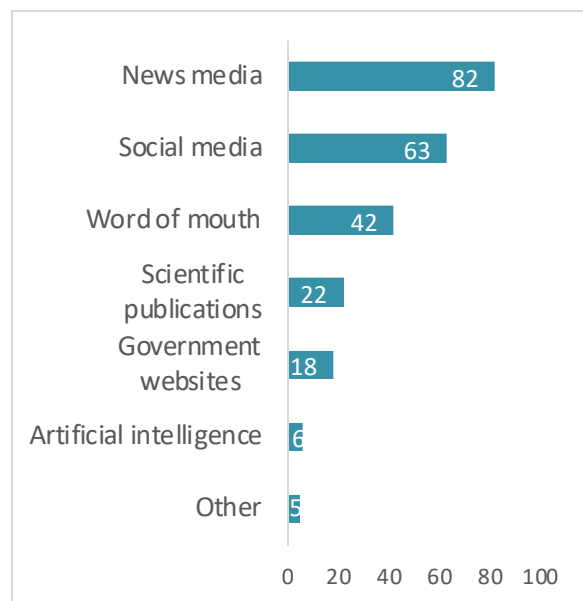
threats to the food supply and biosecurity. Most rural Nebraskans see biosecurity information in news media and social media. Just over eight in ten respondents have seen biosecurity information in news media (82%) and just over six in ten (63%) have seen it in social media (Figure 4). Just over four in ten report getting this information by word of mouth.

The sources of information for respondents are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 4).

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to see biosecurity information in news media. On the other hand, younger persons are more likely than older persons to see this information in social media and artificial intelligence.

Most rural Nebraskans say they have not heard about any recent threats to the food supply or biosecurity incidents in their local community.

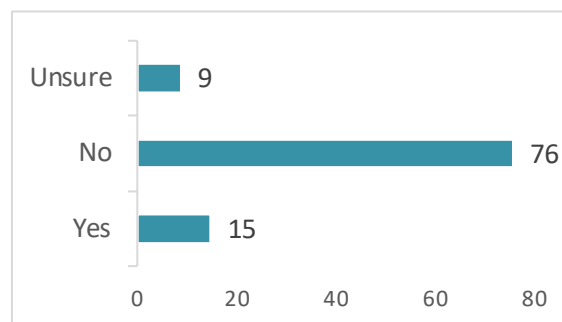
Figure 4. Sources of Biosecurity Information



Just over three-fourths of rural Nebraskans (76%) said they have not heard of any incidents or concerns (Figure 5). Fifteen percent have heard of some biosecurity incidents or concerns in their community and nine percent are unsure.

These experiences are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 5). A few differences occur.

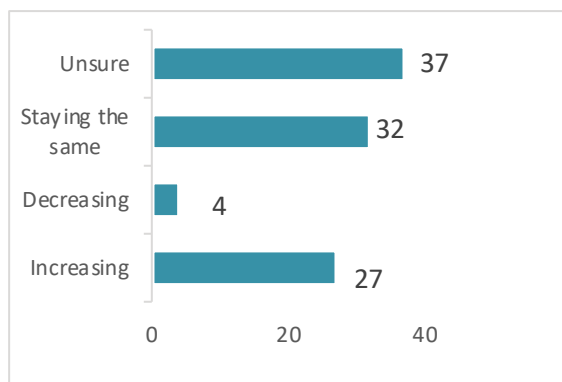
Figure 5. Heard about Recent Biosecurity Incidents in Local Community



Persons aged 30 to 39 are more likely than other age groups to say they have heard of recent threats to the food supply or biosecurity incidents or concerns in their community. Just over one-quarter (26%) of persons aged 30 to 39 say they have heard of such incidents or concerns, compared to approximately one in ten persons aged 50 or older. Males, persons who have never married, married persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the other groups most likely to have heard of such incidents or concerns.

Next, they were asked if they believe that biosecurity threats are increasing or decreasing in their community. Many rural Nebraskans are unsure of the rate of biosecurity threats in their community and many say they think it is staying the same. Just under four in ten (37%) say they are unsure if the threats are increasing or decreasing (Figure 6). Approximately one-third (32%) say the threats are staying the same. Just over one-quarter (27%) say the threats are increasing.

Figure 6. Perceived Frequency of Biosecurity Threats in Community

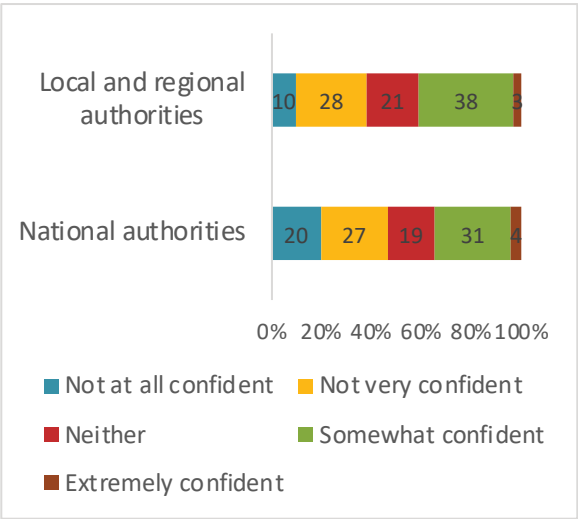


The answers to this question are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 6). Some differences are shown.

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to say the threats are increasing in their community. Three in ten persons aged 50 and older say they are increasing, compared to two in ten persons aged 19 to 29. The other groups most likely to say the threats are increasing include: males, married persons, widowed persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

The respondents were next asked how confident they are in the ability of different authorities to prevent and respond to threats to the food supply or biosecurity threats. Many rural Nebraskans are confident in the ability of local and regional authorities to respond to biosecurity threats and slightly less have confidence in national authorities. Just over four in ten are somewhat or extremely confident in local and regional authorities (41%) and just over one-third (35%) are confident in national authorities (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Confidence in Authorities to Prevent and Respond to Biosecurity Threats



The confidence respondents have in these authorities are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 7).

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say they are confident in local and regional authorities to prevent and respond to biosecurity threats. Just over one-half of persons aged 19 to 29 (53%) are confident in local and regional authorities, compared to less than three in ten persons aged 30 to 39.

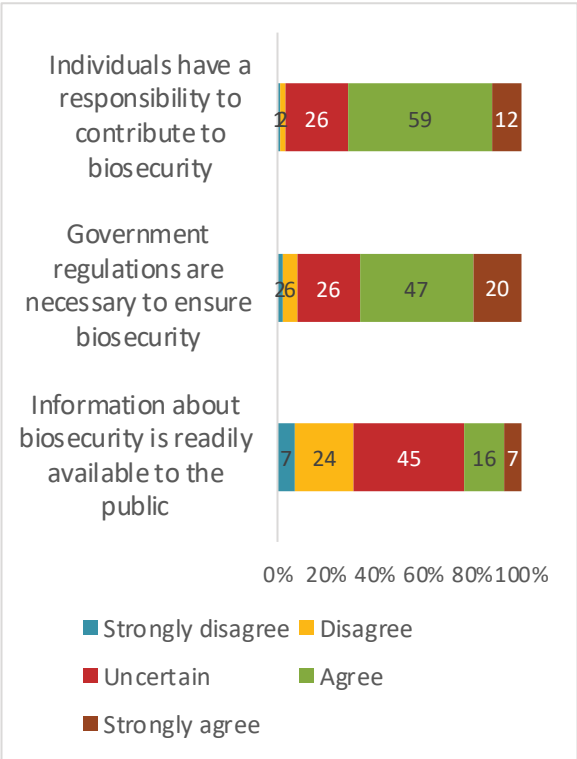
Residents of the Southeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to have confidence in national authorities to prevent and

respond to biosecurity threats. Just under one-half of the residents of the Southeast region (49%) are confident in national authorities, compared to just over three in ten persons living in the other four regions of the state.

The other groups most likely to be confident in national authorities to prevent and respond to biosecurity threats include older persons and persons with occupations in agriculture. Almost one-half of persons with occupations in agriculture (46%) express confidence in national authorities.

Respondents were next asked to indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree with some statements about biosecurity. Most rural Nebraskans agree that both individuals and government regulations are needed to contribute to biosecurity. Opinions are mixed on whether information about biosecurity is readily available to the public. Most rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that individuals have a responsibility to contribute to biosecurity (71%) and that government regulations are necessary to ensure biosecurity (67%) (Figure 8). Just over two in ten agree that information about biosecurity is readily available to the public (23%) while just over three in ten disagree (31%). Many (45%) are uncertain about this statement.

Figure 8. Opinions about Biosecurity

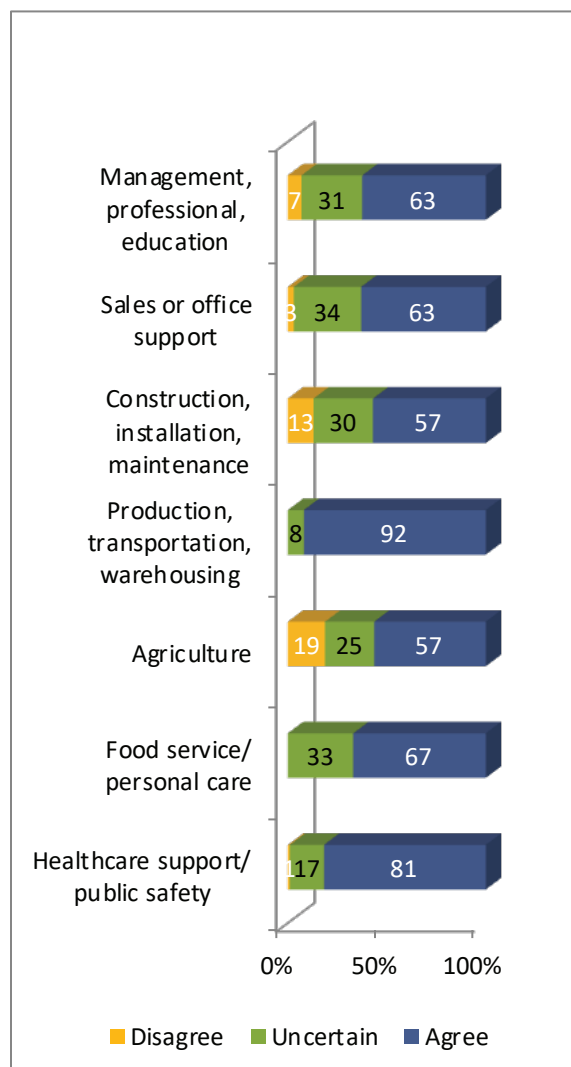


Responses to these questions are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 8). Some differences exist.

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than the residents of other regions to agree that individuals have a responsibility to contribute to biosecurity. Almost nine in ten Panhandle residents agree with this statement, compared to approximately two-thirds of residents of the South Central, Northeast, and Southeast regions.

Other groups most likely to agree that individuals have a responsibility to contribute to biosecurity include: persons with higher household incomes, males, persons with higher education levels, persons who have never married, and persons with production, transportation, and warehousing occupations.

Figure 9. Government Regulations are Necessary to Ensure Biosecurity by Occupation



Residents of the Southeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that government regulations are necessary to ensure biosecurity. Just over three-fourths of residents of the Southeast region (76%) agree with this statement, compared to just over one-half of residents of the North Central region (52%).

Persons with production, transportation, and warehousing occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to agree that government regulations are necessary to ensure biosecurity. Just over nine in ten persons with these types of occupations (92%) agree with that statement, compared to just under six in ten persons with occupations in agriculture or persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations (Figure 9).

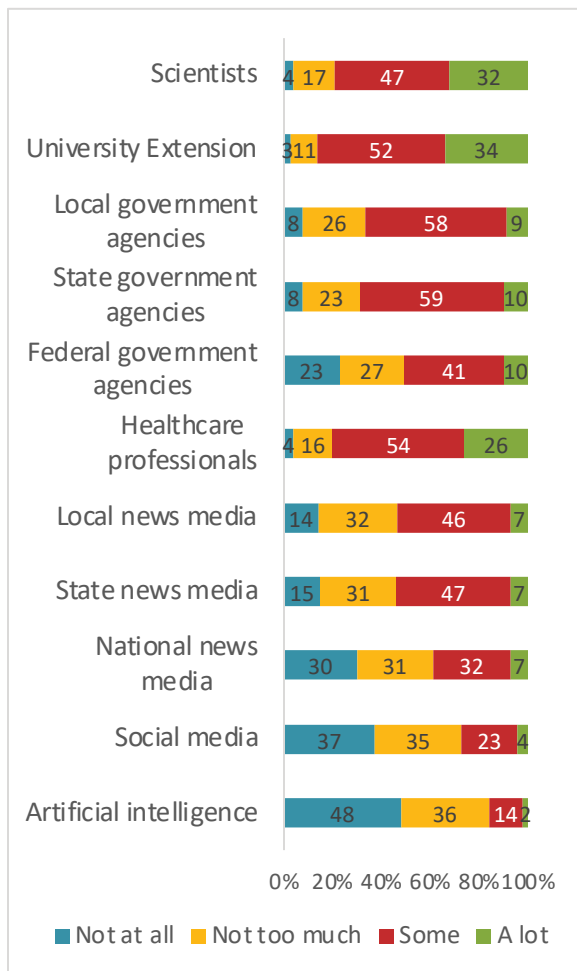
Persons living in or near smaller communities, residents of the North Central region, persons with lower household incomes, persons with lower education levels, persons who are divorced or separated, and persons who have never married are the groups most likely to agree that information about biosecurity is readily available to the public.

Finally, respondents were asked how much they trust various sources of information about biosecurity. Most rural Nebraskans trust healthcare professionals, scientists, University Extension, state and local news media, and government agencies some or a lot for biosecurity information. More than one-half of rural Nebraskans trust the following some or a lot: University Extension (86%), healthcare professionals (80%), scientists (79%), state government agencies (69%), local government agencies (67%), state news media (54%), local news media (53%), and federal government agencies (51%) (Figure 10).

Trust in these information sources are examined by community size, region, and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 9). Younger persons are more likely than older persons to trust scientists a lot for biosecurity information. Almost six in ten persons aged 19 to 29 (57%) trust scientists a lot, compared to approximately one-quarter of persons aged 40 and older (Figure 11).

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to trust scientists a lot. Almost four in ten persons with at least a four-year college degree (38%) trust

Figure 10. Trust in Biosecurity Information Sources



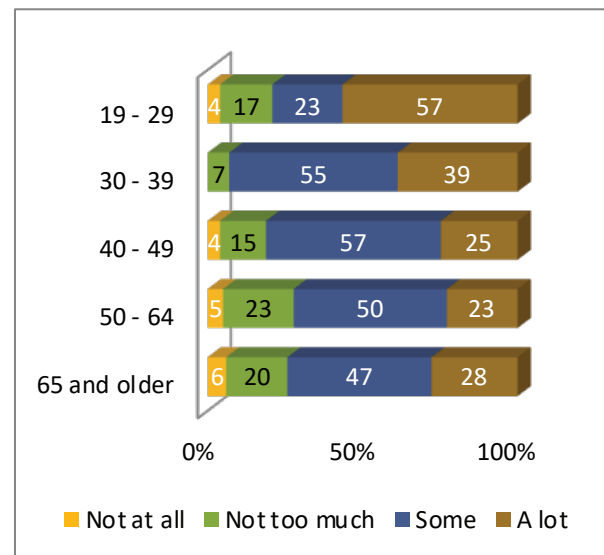
scientists a lot, compared to one-quarter of persons having a high school diploma or less education.

The other groups most likely to trust scientists a lot for biosecurity information include: persons living in or near larger communities, residents of the South Central region, females, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to trust University Extension a lot for biosecurity information. One-half of persons aged 19 to 29 trust University Extension a lot, compared to just under three in ten persons aged 40 to 64.

The other groups most likely to trust University Extension a lot for biosecurity information include: persons living in or near larger communities, persons with food service or personal care occupations, and persons with management, professional, or education occupations.

Figure 11. Trust in Scientists for Biosecurity Information by Age



Persons with lower household incomes, the youngest persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the groups most likely to trust federal government agencies a lot for biosecurity information.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to trust healthcare professionals a lot for biosecurity information. One-third of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (33%) trust healthcare professionals a lot, compared to approximately two in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 10,000.

The other groups most likely to say they trust healthcare professionals a lot for biosecurity information include younger persons and persons who have never married.

Persons with lower household incomes, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the groups most likely to say they trust local news media a lot for biosecurity information. The youngest persons and persons with less than a four-year degree join these groups as those most likely to trust state news media a lot.

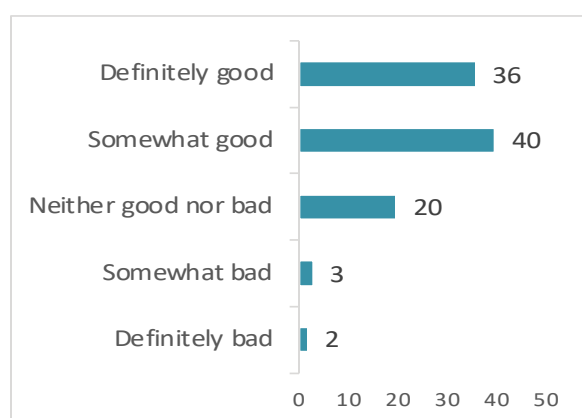
Persons with the lowest household incomes, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the groups most likely to say they trust national news media a lot for biosecurity information.

Persons with lower household incomes, the youngest persons, persons having a high school diploma or less education, and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the groups most likely to trust social media a lot for biosecurity information. Persons having a high school diploma or less education and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the groups most likely to trust artificial intelligence a lot for this information.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

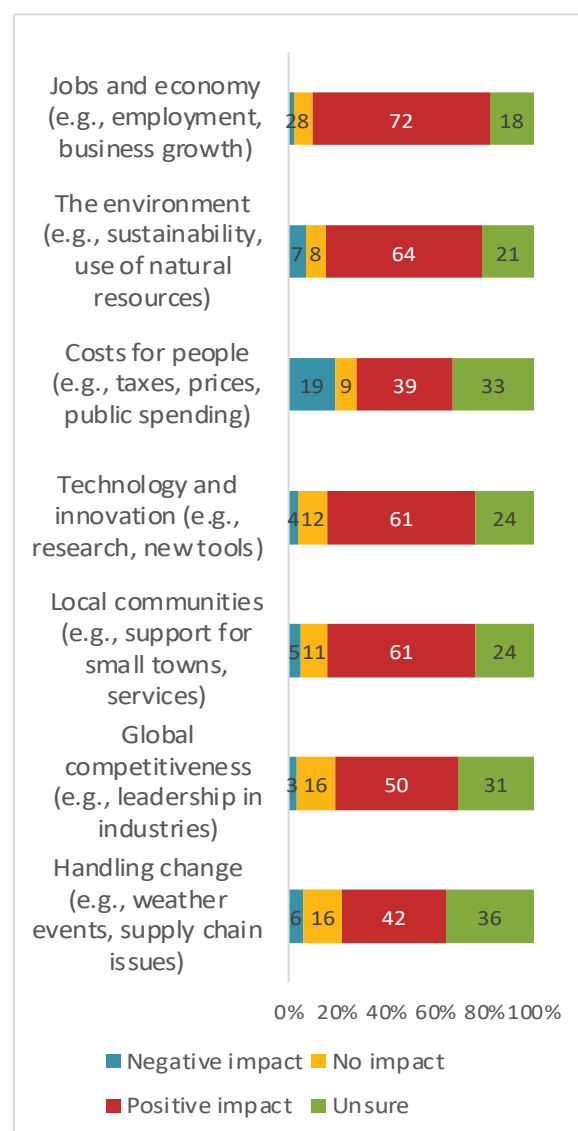
Respondents were also asked two questions about the bioeconomy. The definition of bioeconomy given to respondents was, “using renewable biological resources – like crops, forest products, and agricultural by-products – to sustainably produce food, energy, and bio-based materials.” First, they were asked, “Overall, do you think it would be good or bad for Nebraska to develop its bioeconomy?” Most rural Nebraskans think it would be good for Nebraska to develop its bioeconomy. Approximately three-quarters of rural Nebraskans (76%) believe it would be somewhat or definitely good to develop the state’s bioeconomy (Figure 12). Only five percent think it would be bad. These opinions about the development of the bioeconomy are examined by community size, region, or individual attributes (Appendix Table 10). Some differences are detected.

Figure 12. Would it be good or bad for Nebraska to develop its bioeconomy?



Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to say it would be good for the state to develop its bioeconomy. Over eight in ten persons with at least a four-year college degree (84%) believe it would be good for Nebraska to develop its bioeconomy, compared to just over six in ten persons having a high school diploma or less education (63%).

Figure 13. Impacts of Growing Bioeconomy



The other groups most likely to think it would be good for Nebraska to develop its bioeconomy include persons with higher household incomes and females.

Finally, respondents were given a list of items and were asked if Nebraska were to grow its bioeconomy what type of impact it would have on each. Most rural Nebraskans think if Nebraska were to grow its bioeconomy, it would have a positive impact on jobs and economy, the environment, technology and innovation, local communities, and global competitiveness. At least one-half of rural Nebraskans believe there would be a positive impact from growing the bioeconomy on the following: jobs and economy (72%), the environment (64%), technology and innovation (61%), local communities (61%), and global competitiveness (50%) (Figure 13).

These perceived impacts are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 11). Many differences of opinion are detected.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say development of the bioeconomy would have positive impacts on jobs and economy. Just over eight in ten Panhandle residents (82%) believe there would be a positive impact on jobs and economy from developing the bioeconomy, compared to approximately two-thirds of residents of both the Northeast and Southeast regions.

The other groups most likely to believe the development of the bioeconomy would have positive impacts on jobs and economy include: persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, persons with higher education levels, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations. Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say the development of the bioeconomy would have positive impacts on the environment. At least six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations over 500 have this opinion, compared to just under one-half of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500.

The other groups most likely to say the development of the bioeconomy would have positive benefits to the environment are persons aged 30 to 39 and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Younger persons, persons with at least a four-year college degree, married persons, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the groups most likely to say the development of the bioeconomy would have positive impacts on costs for people.

The groups most likely to believe the development of the bioeconomy would have positive impacts on technology and innovation include: persons with higher household incomes, persons with higher education levels, persons who have never married, and persons with production, transportation, or warehousing occupations.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say the development of the bioeconomy would have positive impacts on local communities. Just over seven in ten persons under the age of 40

share this opinion, compared to just over one-half of persons aged 65 and older (51%).

The other groups most likely to say there would be positive impacts on local communities from development of the bioeconomy include: persons with higher household incomes, females, persons with at least a four-year college degree, and persons who have never married.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say development of the bioeconomy would have positive impacts on global competitiveness. Just over six in ten persons aged 19 to 29 (63%) share this opinion, compared to just over four in ten persons aged 65 and older.

Persons with at least some college education, married persons, and persons who have never married are the other groups most likely to believe there would be positive impacts on global competitiveness from developing the bioeconomy.

The groups most likely to say there would be positive impacts on handling change from developing the bioeconomy include: persons aged 30 to 39, persons who have never married, and persons with production, transportation, or warehousing occupations.

CONCLUSION

Most rural Nebraskans are at least somewhat familiar with the topic of biosecurity. As for the threats they are most concerned about, most rural Nebraskans are concerned about the contamination of food and water supplies, cyber security attacks by both foreign and domestic entities, natural disasters, biological agents, and invasive species

Most rural Nebraskans say they have not heard about any recent threats to the food supply or biosecurity incidents in their local community. And, many rural Nebraskans are unsure of the rate of biosecurity threats in their community and many say they think it is staying the same.

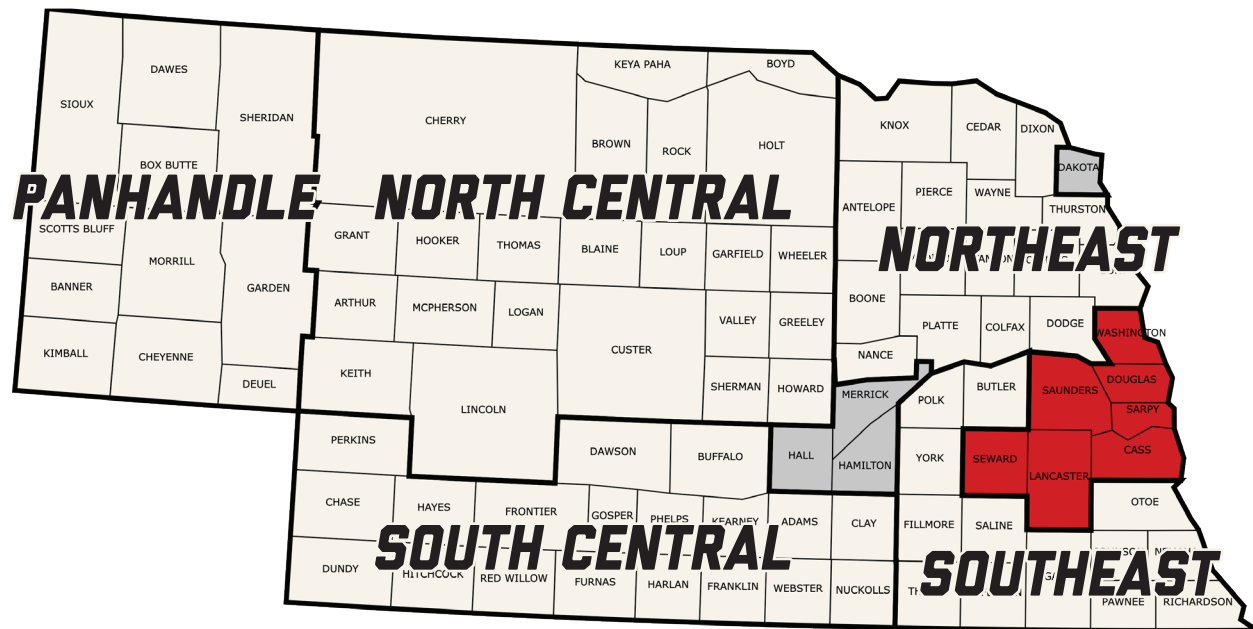
Many rural Nebraskans are confident in the ability of local and regional authorities to respond to biosecurity threats and slightly less have confidence in national authorities. Most rural Nebraskans agree that both individuals and government regulations are needed to contribute to biosecurity. Opinions are mixed on whether information about biosecurity is readily

available to the public.

As for sources of biosecurity information, most rural Nebraskans trust healthcare professionals, scientists, University Extension, state and local news media, and government agencies some or a lot.

When asked about the bioeconomy, most rural Nebraskans think it would be good for Nebraska to develop its bioeconomy. Furthermore, most rural Nebraskans think if Nebraska were to grow its bioeconomy, it would have a positive impact on jobs and economy, the environment, technology and innovation, local communities, and global competitiveness.

NEBRASKA RURAL POLL REGIONS



- Nonmetropolitan county surveyed in Rural Poll
- Metropolitan county not surveyed in Rural Poll
- County classified as metropolitan but surveyed in Rural Poll



RURAL POLL

**Nebraska Rural Poll
Research Report 25-4
results compiled by:**

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