

Report on 308 Completed Interviews in the Midwest*:

**Part of a Survey of a total of 2,213 Registered Voters
Conducted between June 2nd and July 26th**

***Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin**

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A. Respondents' Preferences for Income-Support Policies, including Possible Conservation Conditions for Farmers' Receipt of Aid

Some farmers receive such payments [from the federal government] either to offset or make up for low market prices for their farm products or to pay for damage to their crop from drought or floods. Have you seen, read, or heard about federal government payments to farmers to offset the effects of low market prices or severe weather?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Yes	79
No	21
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

When farmers face low market prices for their farm products, how do you feel about federal payments to help them stay in business? Do you:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Approve	79
Disapprove	19
Neutral	2
Don't know/won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

When drought or floods damage farmers' crops, how do you feel about federal payments to help them stay in business? Do you:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Approve	90
Disapprove	9
Neutral	1
Don't know/won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Thinking about federal payments to help farmers stay in business, some people believe that, in exchange for payments, farmers should apply some conservation practices such as protecting waterways, wetlands, and wildlife. Other people prefer that the payments be given without conservation conditions. Do you prefer:

Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Payments given without conservation conditions, or	20
requiring one or more conservation practices in exchange for payments?	77
Don't know/won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Types of Conservation Practices to be Applied in Exchange for Federal Payments to Help Farmers Stay in Business

Do you approve or disapprove of the condition that farmers receiving federal payments should adopt university-tested practices to prevent pollution of streams or other bodies of water?

Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Approve	67
Disapprove	7
Neutral	2
Don't know/won't say	1
Not asked this question because respondent preferred giving payments without conservation conditions.	23
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Do you approve or disapprove of the condition that farmers receiving federal payments should adopt university-tested practices for providing wildlife habitat on their land?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Approve	57
Disapprove	16
Neutral	4
Don't know/won't say	0
Not asked this question because respondent preferred giving payments without conservation conditions.	23
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Do you approve or disapprove of the condition that farmers receiving federal payments should protect wetlands on their farm or ranch?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Approve	65
Disapprove	9
Neutral	2
Don't know/won't say	1
Not asked this question because respondent preferred giving payments without conservation conditions.	23
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Respondents' Positions on a Proposed Policy to Allocate Relatively More Income-Support Payments to Farmers Willing to Apply Conservation Practices

Some people believe that farmers willing to use university-tested practices to protect water and air from pollution should receive more federal payments than farmers who refuse to do so. Other people believe that allocating the limited money available for helping farmers should be based only on financial need.	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Do you favor basing the assistance on financial need alone?	31
Or do you favor more federal payments to farmers using anti-pollution practices?	63
Neither or makes no difference	3
Don't know/won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Respondents' positions on the two similar policy options: (a) requiring one or more conservation practices as a condition for federal payments to help stay in business and (b) allocating more payments to farmers using anti-pollution practices compared to farmers who refuse to use them.	
Response Categories	% of Respondents per Choice*
Favored at least one of the two policies, i.e., one or the other conservation outcome from the payments	88
Approved of both policies.	52
Favored neither policy option.	12

* Percentages do not add up to 100.0.

Respondents' Positions on Extending Income-Support Assistance to Farmers Not Currently Receiving Such Aid

Not all farmers receive federal payments to help them stay in business. I am going to read two policies. Please tell me which one you prefer.	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
First, help farmers currently receiving aid but exclude new farmers.	21
Or second policy, extend aid to new farmers even though farmers currently receiving aid might receive less money.	71
Neither or makes no difference	6
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

B. Respondents' Preferences for Levels of Federal Spending, including Agricultural Conservation Purposes

Now I have a list of purposes for federal spending. For each purpose, please tell me whether you favor spending more, less, or about the same amount as currently. The first purpose is to achieve an effective military defense. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	37
Less	12
About the same as currently	49
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

To achieve effective treatment for cancer victims. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	71
Less	2
About the same as currently	26
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

To achieve good wildlife habitats on farms and ranches. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	32
Less	13
About the same as currently	53
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

To help farmers minimize their uses of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	41
Less	15
About the same as currently	42
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

To help farmers store and dispose of livestock manure safely. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	43
Less	9
About the same as currently	46
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

To effectively educate children in public schools. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	76
Less	3
About the same as currently	19
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

To protect wetlands on farms and ranches. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	34
Less	12
About the same as currently	51
Don't know/won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

To keep productive farmland from being converted into housing or commercial developments. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	55
Less	11
About the same as currently	33
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

To find economical ways to use corn or other crops as sources of fuel to produce power. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	74
Less	4
About the same as currently	21
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

C. Respondents' Willingness to Pay to Achieve Conservation Purposes

To keep drinking water safe, some local governments help farmers use practices that prevent polluted water from their fields getting near public wells and reservoirs. Would you be willing to pay any additional property or sales taxes to help farmers to achieve safe drinking water in this way?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Yes	59
No	40
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

In some parts of this country, citizens have agreed to tax themselves extra each year to keep especially beautiful farmland from being developed. Would you be willing to pay any additional property or sales taxes to help protect especially beautiful farmland?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Yes	42
No	54
Don't know/won't say	4
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

In some parts of this country, citizens have agreed to tax themselves extra each year to protect farmland that produces fruits and vegetables sold locally from being developed. Would you be willing to pay any additional property or sales taxes to help protect farmland that produces locally sold fruits and vegetables?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Yes	49
No	48
Don't know/won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Let's say that you might get a \$100 tax refund, and there is an opportunity for some of that money to be spent on protecting waterways, wetlands, or wildlife habitat. Would you prefer:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
To receive the entire \$100	33
Or have some of the money spent on conservation purposes?	65
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

D. Respondents' Concerns, including about Agricultural Conservation Issues

In this section I am going to read you several statements. Please tell me if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all. How concerned are you about gasoline prices being too high for your family's budget?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	59
Somewhat concerned	26
Not too concerned	11
Not concerned at all	4
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Concerned about members of your family or friends being laid off from work?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	42
Somewhat concerned	24
Not too concerned	20
Not concerned at all	14
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Concerned that nuclear missiles may attack United States cities?

Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	23
Somewhat concerned	21
Not too concerned	31
Not concerned at all	24
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Concerned that the public schools may not be educating children in your community adequately?

Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	59
Somewhat concerned	26
Not too concerned	6
Not concerned at all	9
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Concerned that meat or poultry sold in your community's stores might be unsafe to eat?

Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	42
Somewhat concerned	30
Not too concerned	19
Not concerned at all	9
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Concerned that unhealthy levels of residues from agricultural pesticides may remain on fruit or vegetables sold in your community's grocery stores?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	38
Somewhat concerned	34
Not too concerned	18
Not concerned at all	10
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Concerned that agricultural pesticides or livestock manure may contaminate drinking water in your community?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	36
Somewhat concerned	25
Not too concerned	22
Not concerned at all	16
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Concerned that eating genetically modified food [sold at stores] may harm members of your family?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	39
Somewhat concerned	28
Not too concerned	17
Not concerned at all	15
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Concerned that too much farmland in your state may be converted to houses, stores, and other nonagricultural developments?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	41
Somewhat concerned	32
Not too concerned	18
Not concerned at all	9
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

E. Respondents' Personal Interest in, and Contacts with Farming and Ranching, including What They Value about Farmland and Ranchland

Some people value farms and ranches for their scenic beauty while other people don't find farms particularly attractive. How much do you value farms or ranches for their scenic qualities?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Value not at all	8
Value slightly	12
Value moderately	34
Value highly	45
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Some people value farms and ranches for their recreational opportunities, such as providing places to hunt, hike, or camp if the owner permits. How much do you value farmland or ranchland for its recreational opportunities?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Value not at all	18
Value slightly	21
Value moderately	29
Value highly	32
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

How much do you value farms or ranches as habitats for wildlife like pheasants, wild ducks, and other animals?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Value not at all	5
Value slightly	11
Value moderately	30
Value highly	54
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

Respondents' Preferred Geographic Source of Food, Their Patronage of Farms Stands and Farmers' Markets, Their Purchase of Organically Grown Food, and Their Visits to Farms or Ranches

When you purchase or use food or beverages, how often do you look at the labels to see in which country or state they were produced?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Never	16
Rarely	23
Sometimes	24
Frequently look at labels	37
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

How important is it that the food you eat comes from farms and ranches in the United States rather than from foreign countries?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Not at all important	3
Not too important	9
Somewhat important	33
Very important	55
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

How important is it that the food you eat comes from farms and ranches in your own state rather than outside your state?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Not at all important	22
Not too important	25
Somewhat important	31
Very important	22
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

In the past 12 months did you buy anything directly from a farmer such as from a farmers' market or a stand at a farm or ranch?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Yes	72
No	28
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

If did buy directly from a farmer, did you buy something from:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
A farmer's market	29
A stand on a farm or ranch	18
From both types of places	24
Don't know, won't say, or didn't buy from either type	29
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

In the past 12 months did you buy any organically produced fruits or vegetables, that is, fruits or vegetables labeled as produced without any chemical pesticides or fertilizers?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Yes	38
No	56
Don't know or won't say	6
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

In the past 12 months did visit a farm or ranch for business or pleasure?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Yes	53
No	47
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308