

## **Report on 308 Completed Interviews in the Northeast:\***

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

**\*Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts,  
New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont**

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

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Yes	75
No	21
Don't know or won't say	4
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>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:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Approve	80
Disapprove	9
Neutral	8
Don't know/won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>When drought or floods damage farmers' crops, how do you feel about federal payments to help them stay in business? Do you:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Approve	90
Disapprove	5
Neutral	3
Don't know/won't say	2
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:**

<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Payments given without conservation conditions, or	25
requiring one or more conservation practices in exchange for payments?	<b>66</b>
Don't know/won't say	9
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?**

<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Approve	<b>59</b>
Disapprove	2
Neutral	2
Don't know/won't say	2
Not asked this question because respondent preferred giving payments without conservation conditions.	35
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Approve	51
Disapprove	6
Neutral	3
Don't know/won't say	5
Not asked this question because respondent preferred giving payments without conservation conditions.	35
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>Do you approve or disapprove of the condition that farmers receiving federal payments should protect wetlands on their farm or ranch?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Approve	57
Disapprove	5
Neutral	2
Don't know/won't say	1
Not asked this question because respondent preferred giving payments without conservation conditions.	35
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***

<b>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.</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Do you favor basing the assistance on financial need alone?	33
Or do you favor more federal payments to farmers using anti-pollution practices?	<b>55</b>
Neither or makes no difference	5
Don't know/won't say	7
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>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.</b>	
<b>Response Categories</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice*</b>
Favored at least one of the two policies, i.e., one or the other conservation outcome from the payments	77
Approved of both policies.	42
Favored neither policy option.	23

\* Percentages do not add up to 100.0.

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

<b>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.</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
First, help farmers currently receiving aid but exclude new farmers.	25
Or second policy, extend aid to new farmers even though farmers currently receiving aid might receive less money.	<b>64</b>
Neither or makes no difference	6
Don't know/won't say	5
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

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

<b>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:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
More	<b>36</b>
Less	15
About the same as currently	46
Don't know/won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>To achieve effective treatment for cancer victims. Do you favor spending:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
More	<b>73</b>
Less	1
About the same as currently	24
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>To achieve good wildlife habitats on farms and ranches. Do you favor spending:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
More	<b>45</b>
Less	8
About the same as currently	43
Don't know/won't say	4
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>To help farmers minimize their uses of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Do you favor spending:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
More	<b>52</b>
Less	10
About the same as currently	33
Don't know/won't say	5
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>To help farmers store and dispose of livestock manure safely. Do you favor spending:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
More	<b>49</b>
Less	9
About the same as currently	36
Don't know/won't say	6
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>To effectively educate children in public schools. Do you favor spending:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
More	<b>78</b>
Less	6
About the same as currently	15
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>To protect wetlands on farms and ranches. Do you favor spending:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
More	<b>46</b>
Less	10
About the same as currently	40
Don't know/won't say	4
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>To keep productive farmland from being converted into housing or commercial developments. Do you favor spending:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
More	<b>54</b>
Less	11
About the same as currently	31
Don't know/won't say	4
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>To find economical ways to use corn or other crops as sources of fuel to produce power. Do you favor spending:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
More	<b>65</b>
Less	7
About the same as currently	23
Don't know/won't say	5
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

### ***C. Respondents' Willingness to Pay to Achieve Conservation Purposes***

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Yes	<b>59</b>
No	34
Don't know/won't say	7
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Yes	<b>45</b>
No	46
Don't know/won't say	9
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Yes	<b>53</b>
No	40
Don't know/won't say	7
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:**

<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
To receive the entire \$100	29
Or have some of the money spent on conservation purposes?	<b>67</b>
Don't know/won't say	4
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?**

<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Very concerned	<b>52</b>
Somewhat concerned	28
Not too concerned	11
Not concerned at all	8
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

**Concerned about members of your family or friends being laid off from work?**

<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Very concerned	<b>38</b>
Somewhat concerned	19
Not too concerned	24
Not concerned at all	19
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>Concerned that nuclear missiles may attack United States cities?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Very concerned	<b>26</b>
Somewhat concerned	16
Not too concerned	25
Not concerned at all	31
Don't know or won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>Concerned that the public schools may not be educating children in your community adequately?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Very concerned	<b>58</b>
Somewhat concerned	22
Not too concerned	8
Not concerned at all	11
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>Concerned that meat or poultry sold in your community's stores might be unsafe to eat?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Very concerned	<b>41</b>
Somewhat concerned	25
Not too concerned	21
Not concerned at all	11
Don't know or won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>Concerned that unhealthy levels of residues from agricultural pesticides may remain on fruit or vegetables sold in your community's grocery stores?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Very concerned	<b>40</b>
Somewhat concerned	30
Not too concerned	16
Not concerned at all	13
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>Concerned that agricultural pesticides or livestock manure may contaminate drinking water in your community?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Very concerned	<b>39</b>
Somewhat concerned	25
Not too concerned	17
Not concerned at all	17
Don't know or won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>Concerned that eating genetically modified food [sold at stores] may harm members of your family?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Very concerned	<b>35</b>
Somewhat concerned	25
Not too concerned	17
Not concerned at all	20
Don't know or won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>Concerned that too much farmland in your state may be converted to houses, stores, and other nonagricultural developments?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Very concerned	<b>37</b>
Somewhat concerned	33
Not too concerned	15
Not concerned at all	12
Don't know or won't say	3
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***

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Value not at all	7
Value slightly	10
Value moderately	31
Value highly	<b>50</b>
Don't know or won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Value not at all	20
Value slightly	19
Value moderately	24
Value highly	<b>35</b>
Don't know or won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>How much do you value farms or ranches as habitats for wildlife like pheasants, wild ducks, and other animals?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Value not at all	5
Value slightly	8
Value moderately	24
Value highly	<b>61</b>
Don't know or won't say	2
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***

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Never	22
Rarely	19
Sometimes	21
Frequently look at labels	<b>37</b>
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>How important is it that the food you eat comes from farms and ranches in the United States rather than from foreign countries?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Not at all important	11
Not too important	10
Somewhat important	30
Very important	<b>47</b>
Don't know or won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>How important is it that the food you eat comes from farms and ranches in your own state rather than outside your state?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Not at all important	30
Not too important	18
Somewhat important	29
Very important	<b>22</b>
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Yes	<b>69</b>
No	29
Don't know or won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>If did buy directly from a farmer, did you buy something from:</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
A farmer's market	25
A stand on a farm or ranch	16
From both types of places	28
Don't know, won't say, or didn't buy from either type	31
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>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?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Yes	<b>45</b>
No	46
Don't know or won't say	9
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308

<b>In the past 12 months did visit a farm or ranch for business or pleasure?</b>	
<b>Response Choices</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Choice</b>
Yes	46
No	53
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	308