

**Report on 303 Completed Interviews in
the South Central States:***

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

***Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas**

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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	78
No	22
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	81
Disapprove	13
Neutral	4
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	93
Disapprove	6
Neutral	1
Don't know/won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	22
requiring one or more conservation practices in exchange for payments?	75
Don't know/won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	6
Neutral	1
Don't know/won't say	1
Not asked this question because respondent favored payments without conservation conditions or was unsure.	25
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	59
Disapprove	13
Neutral	2
Don't know/won't say	1
Not asked this question because respondent favored payments without conservation conditions or was unsure.	25
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	63
Disapprove	9
Neutral	2
Don't know/won't say	1
Not asked this question because respondent favored payments without conservation conditions or was unsure.	25
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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?	32
Or do you favor more federal payments to farmers using anti-pollution practices?	58
Neither or makes no difference	6
Don't know/won't say	4
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	85
Approved of both policies.	47
Favored neither policy option.	15

* Percentages do not add up to 100.

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.	24
Or second policy, extend aid to new farmers even though farmers currently receiving aid might receive less money.	68
Neither or makes no difference	4
Don't know/won't say	4
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	43
Less	11
About the same as currently	45
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

To achieve effective treatment for cancer victims. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	72
Less	2
About the same as currently	25
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

To achieve good wildlife habitats on farms and ranches. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	38
Less	14
About the same as currently	46
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

To help farmers minimize their uses of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	46
Less	14
About the same as currently	38
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

To help farmers store and dispose of livestock manure safely. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	38
Less	12
About the same as currently	47
Don't know/won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

To effectively educate children in public schools. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	80
Less	6
About the same as currently	12
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

To protect wetlands on farms and ranches. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	43
Less	10
About the same as currently	46
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

To keep productive farmland from being converted into housing or commercial developments. Do you favor spending:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
More	48
Less	12
About the same as currently	38
Don't know/won't say	2
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	65
Less	9
About the same as currently	25
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	60
No	40
Don't know/won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	57
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	53
No	46
Don't know/won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	32
Or have some of the money spent on conservation purposes?	65
Don't know/won't say	3
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	50
Somewhat concerned	28
Not too concerned	13
Not concerned at all	9
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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

Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	47
Somewhat concerned	16
Not too concerned	22
Not concerned at all	15
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

Concerned that nuclear missiles may attack United States cities?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	31
Somewhat concerned	17
Not too concerned	29
Not concerned at all	23
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

Concerned that the public schools may not be educating children in your community adequately?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	67
Somewhat concerned	19
Not too concerned	7
Not concerned at all	6
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

Concerned that meat or poultry sold in your community's stores might be unsafe to eat?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	41
Somewhat concerned	28
Not too concerned	17
Not concerned at all	14
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	39
Somewhat concerned	32
Not too concerned	17
Not concerned at all	12
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

Concerned that agricultural pesticides or livestock manure may contaminate drinking water in your community?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	44
Somewhat concerned	21
Not too concerned	18
Not concerned at all	17
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

Concerned that eating genetically modified food [sold at stores] may harm members of your family?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Very concerned	40
Somewhat concerned	29
Not too concerned	13
Not concerned at all	17
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	35
Somewhat concerned	29
Not too concerned	23
Not concerned at all	13
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	10
Value slightly	14
Value moderately	30
Value highly	46
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	19
Value slightly	16
Value moderately	33
Value highly	32
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	7
Value slightly	8
Value moderately	24
Value highly	61
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	18
Rarely	21
Sometimes	23
Frequently look at labels	38
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	5
Not too important	10
Somewhat important	29
Very important	56
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	24
Somewhat important	29
Very important	25
Don't know or won't say	0
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	63
No	36
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

If did buy directly from a farmer, did you buy something from:	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
A farmer's market only	26
A stand on a farm or ranch only	18
From both types of places	19
Don't know, won't say, or didn't buy from either type	37
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

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	44
No	51
Don't know or won't say	5
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303

In the past 12 months did visit a farm or ranch for business or pleasure?	
Response Choices	% of Respondents per Choice
Yes	52
No	47
Don't know or won't say	1
Total percent	100%
Total respondents	303