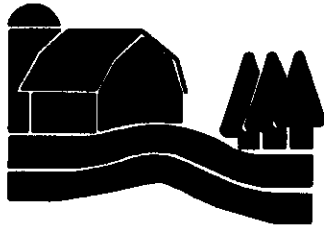


**Iowa
farm and
rural life
poll**



1994 Summary Report

Introduction

This report summarizes the Spring 1994 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll, an annual statewide survey of Iowa farm operators. The purpose of the poll is to annually survey Iowa producers on major agricultural and rural issues, and to provide their input to public discourse. Started in 1982, the project seeks farmers' opinions on a wide set of issues that affect farming and farm life. The project is jointly funded by the Iowa State University Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station and Iowa State University Extension, with the cooperation of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-Agricultural Statistics Service. We would like to thank all the farm operators who participated in the survey; without their involvement this project would not be possible.

Who Participated

Mail questionnaires were sent to a statewide random sample of 3,498 producers in late February and the data collection continued through April. Usable questionnaires were received from 2,030 producers, yielding a response rate of 58 percent.

Highlights from the 1994 Poll

- While about 4 in 10 farmers favor gradual elimination of commodity programs, 30 percent prefer to keep the present program.
- Revenue assurance as proposed by the Iowa Farm Bill Study Team received support from

42 percent and one-third were uncertain.

- Two-thirds of the respondents support targeting farm commodity payments to farms with gross sales less than \$200,000.
- Fifty-nine percent support conservation compliance.
- About 60 percent of Iowa farmers agreed that modern farming relies too heavily upon chemical fertilizers and pesticides and that there is too much attention about the harmful effects of pesticides.
- There continues to be growing levels of pessimism among farmers; that is reflected in diminished expectations for quality of life and economic prospects in the next five years.
- Respondents expressed moderate to high levels of satisfaction with their home communities.
- Sixty percent reported their personal level of stress has increased over the past five years.
- About one-third described their own farm financial condition as moderate to a very serious problem, compared with 57 percent for other farmers in their area.

Opinions About 1995 Farm Bill

Respondents were asked to indicate what kind of policies should exist after the 1990 farm bill expires in 1995. Operators were also asked to indicate their support for possible new programs in the 1995 Farm Bill (Table 1). Thirty percent

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Table 1. Farmers' opinions about agricultural policy.

What should be the policy toward production controls and price supports after the 1990 Food Agricultural Conservation and Trade Act (1990 Farm Bill) expires in 1995?

	Percent
Keep the present program	30
Establish a mandatory supply control program with all farmers required to participate if approved in a referendum	7
Separate government payments from production requirements (sometimes called decoupling)	15
Gradually eliminate commodity programs, including set aside, price support, deficiency payments, and government storage programs	39
Other	9
What should be the policy toward target prices?	
Keep target prices at the current levels	11
Raise target prices each year to match the rate of inflation	47
Lower target prices 2 to 4 percent each year to reduce federal deficiency payments and federal expenditures	5
Phase out target prices completely over a 5 to 10 year period	32
Other	5
What should be our commodity loan rate policy?	
Base loan rate on the previous 5 year average market prices to keep prices competitive	38
Raise loan rates as a primary means to support prices	23
Eliminate loan rates and commodity loans completely	34
Other	5
Should some form of farmer-owned grain reserve (FOR), with national minimum and maximum amounts to be stored, be continued?	
Yes	37
No	31
Not sure	32
The Iowa Farm Bill Study Team has proposed that the 1995 Farm Bill provide an income safety net for farmers through revenue assurance. Under this program, producers are assured of receiving 70 percent of their normal crop revenue by eliminating existing target prices, acreage reduction programs, federal crop insurance, and disaster assistance. This program would allow producers to plant whatever crops and amounts they desire. What is your opinion about this proposal?	
Strongly support	12
Somewhat support	30
Not sure	32
Somewhat oppose	13
Strongly oppose	13
Farmers should be permitted to plant more flexible nonpayment acres in any year and still retain the historic acreage bases for their program crops.	
Strongly agree	25
Agree	47
Not sure	13
Disagree	11
Strongly disagree	4
If further spending cuts must be made in farm commodity programs, which would you prefer?	
Reduce target prices	10
Reduce the percent of payment acres	13
Make payments only to small and medium size farms (under \$200,000 gross sales)	66
Other	11

of the respondents wanted to keep the present program, while nearly 40 percent supported gradual elimination of commodity programs. Concerning current target prices policy, nearly one-half supported raising target prices each year to match inflation while about one-third supported phasing target prices out over the next five to ten years.

More than 40 percent of the respondents supported an income safety net, such as revenue assurance, in the 1995 Farm Bill, while nearly one-third were not sure about this. Two-thirds of the respondents believed that if further spending cuts must be made in farm commodity programs, then payments should only be made to small and medium sized farms.

Opinions About Conservation Policy

When asked about continuation of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), 37 percent of the respondents supported extension of contracts for another 10 years at the current rate (Table 2). Thirty-six percent indicated that only the most erodible acreage should be kept under contract with new bids. Nearly 60 percent of the respondents supported continuation of conservation compliance, while more than one-quarter did not think compliance should be continued.

Plans for CRP and HEL Acres

Concerning actions related to their own highly erodible land (HEL), over one-half (53 percent) of respondents said they would put this land (HEL) not currently enrolled in the CRP under conservation compliance (Table 3), while the rest intended to take the land out of row crop production (7 percent), no action (5 percent), undecided (14 percent), will sell the land (1 percent), other (8 percent) or did not have any HEL acres (12 percent).

Eighteen percent said they would return their CRP ground to production when the contract expires and 16 percent indicated they were not sure what they would do, while only 9 percent intended to seed the land down and leave it in hay or pasture. Forty-four percent of those who responded to this question did not have CRP ground.

Opinions About Disaster Assistance

Disaster assistance was a prominent issue for Iowa farmers as a result of the 1993 floods. Respondents were asked a couple of questions concerning assistance programs. Forty-four percent of the respondents indicated that farmers should buy private crop insurance if they want protection and the government should get out of the crop insurance business (Table 4).

Table 2. Farmers' opinions about conservation policy.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was established in 1985 with 10 year contracts to protect highly erodible land with cover crops. What should be the policy when these contracts begin to expire in 1996? The government should:

	Percent
Offer to extend all contracts for another 10 years at the current per acre payment rate	37
Keep only the most erodible acreage under contract with new bids	36
Discontinue this program	10
Replace CRP with different conservation and water quality programs	13
Other	4

Currently, to be eligible for farm program benefits, farmers are required to develop approved conservation plans and have them implemented by January 1, 1995. Should this compliance be continued?

Yes	59
No	26
Not sure	15

Table 3. Plans for CRP and other highly erodible land.

What plans do you have for your highly erodible cropland that is NOT currently enrolled in the CRP?	
	Percent
This land will be put under conservation compliance (i.e. will have an approved conservation plan)	53
This land will be taken out of row crop production and seeded down to hay or pasture	7
I plan no further conservation action on these acres, which means I will not be eligible for USDA commodity programs	5
Will sell the land	1
Undecided or not sure	14
Other	8
N/A, Don't have any	12

What are your plans for the highly erodible land that is currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program when the contract expires?

Land is seeded down, and will be left in hay or pasture	9
Land is planted to trees, and will be left in trees	1
Land will return to crop production according to an approved conservation plan	18
Not sure	16
Will sell the land	1
Other	11
N/A, Don't have any	44

Table 4. Farmers' opinions about disaster assistance.

Major droughts and floods show the high risks farmers face. How should the government protect farmers from such disasters?

	Percent
Let Congress decide each year about disaster aid programs	6
Develop a permanent disaster program for losses that exceed 50 percent and encourage farmers to buy additional protection by using private crop insurance	27
Set up a mandatory crop insurance program for all farmers as a condition of eligibility for additional disaster payments	18
Let farmers buy private crop insurance if they want protection and get the government out of crop insurance	44
Other	5

If the government were to offer a subsidized crop insurance program and no disaster program, which type of program would you prefer?

	Percent
Let farmers buy crop insurance on a voluntary basis, paying for coverage based on their individual farm yields	66
Let farmers buy crop insurance on a voluntary basis, but base premiums on county average yields with no payoff unless county yields drop more than 10 percent	19
Require all farmers to buy crop insurance	8
Other	7

The next most popular option was developing a permanent disaster program for losses greater than 50 percent that was favored by 27 percent. If government offers a subsidized crop insurance but no disaster program, 66 percent of the respondents felt that farmers should buy it on a voluntary basis.

Farm Management: Practices and Opinions

The survey repeated measures of farm management practices that were first asked in

1989. Farmers were asked the extent to which they use a set of agricultural practices to reduce commercial fertilizer and pesticide use (Table 5).

Twenty-nine percent of the farmers indicated they make heavy use of soil testing. Fifty-two percent heavily use crop rotations, up from 44 percent five years ago. Twenty-two percent make heavy use of animal manure; 17 percent heavily use legumes; and 20 percent indicate they heavily scout their own fields. Twenty percent indicated heavy use of mechanical cultivation, down from 23 percent in 1989.

Table 5. Practices to reduce commercial fertilizer and pesticide use.

To what extent do you use the following practices to reduce commercial fertilizer and pesticide use:

	Do Not Use	Limited Use	Moderate Use	Heavy Use
	percent			
Soil testing				
Spring 1994	6	18	47	29
Spring 1989	6	20	47	27
Crop rotations				
Spring 1994	3	9	36	52
Spring 1989	2	11	43	44
Animal manure				
Spring 1994	25	21	32	22
Spring 1989	21	24	34	21
Plant legumes				
Spring 1994	19	31	33	17
Spring 1989	11	33	39	17
Mechanical cultivation				
Spring 1994	7	25	48	20
Spring 1989	2	15	60	23
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)				
Spring 1994	42	32	21	5
Spring 1989	41	34	22	3
Employ professional scouting service				
Spring 1994	80	13	5	2
Spring 1989	85	10	4	1
Do your own scouting				
Spring 1994	10	24	46	20
Spring 1989	10	29	46	15
Use degree days				
Spring 1994	40	31	24	5
Spring 1989	48	31	19	2
Banding of herbicides				
Spring 1994	52	18	17	13
Banding of fertilizer				
Spring 1994	58	17	16	9
Late spring nitrogen test				
Spring 1994	73	16	8	9
Integrated Crop Management (ICM)				
Spring 1994	56	25	16	3
Variable fertilizer rates				
Spring 1994	17	23	44	16

There was a sharper decline in those reporting moderate use of mechanical cultivation, down from 60 to 48 percent. Although few indicated heavy use of degree days (5 percent), the percentage of farmers making some use of this practice increased from 52 to 60 percent. Farmers made little or no use of integrated pest management, professional scouting services, banding of herbicides and fertilizer, integrated crop management, and late spring nitrogen tests.

Farmers were also asked a series of general questions related to government regulation of farming practices (Table 6). Fifty-four percent somewhat or strongly agreed that government should regulate certain farming practices and land uses to reduce ground water pollution. Thirty-eight percent disagreed with government regulations. While 55 percent agreed that farmers should be required to plant grass protection strips along streams, 36 percent disagreed. Sixty-seven percent agreed that farmers should be compensated for planting protective strips along stream banks and in waterways. Seventy-one percent agreed that owners should be compensated for losses in farm property value because of regulations. Fifty-six percent agreed that farmers should be required to keep records on their use of pesticides, although 33 percent disagreed with this option.

Respondents were also asked to agree or disagree with several statements pertaining to modern farming practices (Table 7). Sixty percent of farmers agreed that modern farming relies too heavily upon chemical fertilizers, and 61 percent thought farming relied too heavily upon insecticides and herbicides. The level of agreement with both of these statements was down considerably from the 76 and 78 percent, respectively, who agreed with these statements in 1989. Similarly, two-thirds of the farmers thought there was too much attention to the harmful effects of pesticides, up from the 30 percent who agreed with this assertion in 1989. Less than one-half (47 percent) thought there would be greater use of sustainable farming methods if more research information were available, down from 56 percent in 1989. Finally, 39 percent agreed that there is too much concern for food safety issues, down from 51 percent in 1989.

Opinions on Sustainable Agriculture

A series of questions pertaining specifically to sustainable agriculture was repeated from 1990. Respondents were asked to assess the likeliness of several outcomes as a result of the use of sustainable agriculture. More than three-fourths believed more labor would be required. Seventy-one percent indicated there would be

Table 6. Farmers' opinions about government regulation of farming practices.

How do you feel about the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Not Sure	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
	percent				
Government should regulate certain farming practices and land uses to reduce pollution of underground and stream water	18	20	8	42	12
To protect water quality, all farmers should be required to plant grass protection strips along stream banks and in waterways	20	16	9	35	20
Farmers should be compensated for planting grass protective strips along stream banks and in waterways	10	13	10	31	36
When government regulations reduce the value of farm property, the owner should be paid for this loss	7	8	14	27	44
Farmers should be required to keep records on their use of all agricultural pesticides	14	19	11	40	16

Table 7. Farmers' opinions on modern agricultural practices.

There is increasing public concern about the safety of some modern agricultural practices. What is your opinion of these statements?

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Uncertain	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	percent				
Increased use of sustainable farming practices would help maintain our natural resources					
Spring 1994	17	45	22	12	4
Spring 1989	21	48	19	10	2
The need for an adequate supply of food limits the use of sustainable farming practices on a commercial basis					
Spring 1994	9	36	29	19	7
Spring 1989	8	38	27	21	6
Modern farming relies too heavily upon chemical fertilizers					
Spring 1994	20	40	9	23	8
Spring 1989	34	42	5	15	4
Modern farming relies too heavily upon insecticides and herbicides					
Spring 1994	23	38	9	22	8
Spring 1989	40	38	6	13	3
There is too much attention about the harmful effects of pesticides and too little about their benefits					
Spring 1994	24	42	13	14	7
Spring 1989	6	24	14	37	19
Farmers would use more sustainable farming methods if more research information was available					
Spring 1994	8	39	35	15	3
Spring 1989	14	42	31	11	2
There is too much concern about food safety issues					
Spring 1994	9	30	18	31	12
Spring 1989	14	37	14	23	12

less dependence on suppliers, 65 percent indicated improved environmental conditions would occur, 61 percent believed there would be improved soil conditions. Fifty-nine percent indicated lower production costs were likely to occur.

Two-thirds of the respondents did not believe sustainable agriculture would result in fewer weeds and insects, and more than one-half (51 percent) did not think there would be better yields under adverse conditions. Opinions were mixed both negatively and positively as to whether better quality products and higher profits would be a result.

Quality of Life

Since 1982, the Poll has monitored farmers' opinions about their quality of life. In the following figures, farmers' responses to several quality of life questions are shown for 1982,

1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992 and 1994.

Figure 1 illustrates the continued decline of respondents' perceptions of the quality of life of farm families in their community with only 20 percent believing it had become better in the last five years. This is down from the peak of 36 percent in 1990 yet higher than the 5 percent in 1986 who thought the quality of life of farm families had become better.

Figure 2 shows respondents' perceptions of their own quality of life. Twenty-eight percent indicated it had become better, down from 33 percent in 1990 but still higher than the 16 percent in 1986.

Figure 3 shows the continued pessimistic outlook of respondents concerning the future quality of life of farm families in their community. The 14 percent who indicated the quality of life would become better continues a

decline from the 1988 peak of 34 percent and nearly matches the 1986 low of 12 percent.

Figure 4 shows a similar decline in respondents' expectations of their families future quality of life with only 25 percent believing it would become better.

Figure 5 illustrates respondents' perceptions of the overall economic prospects for Iowa farmers in the next five years. Only 15 percent think farmers' economic prospects will get better. This is 6 percent less than at any point during the farm crisis years of the 1980s.

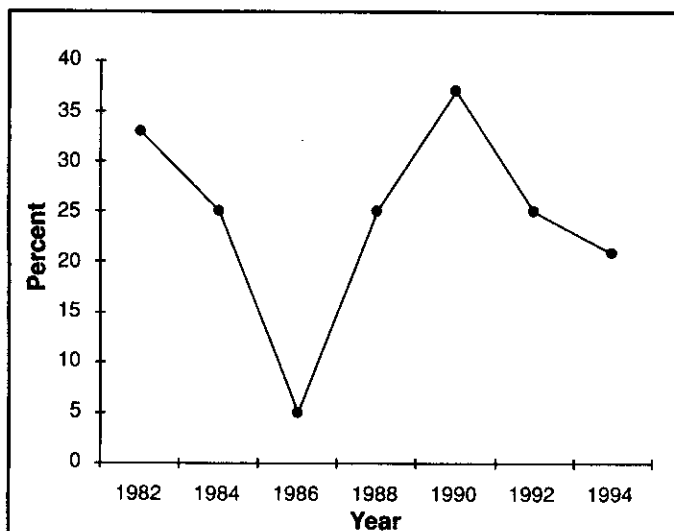


Figure 1. Percent of respondents indicating the quality of life for farm families in their communities has become better in the last five years.

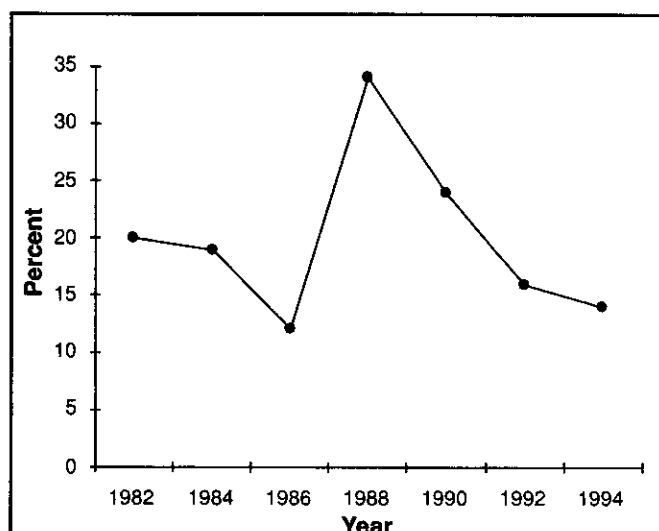


Figure 3. Percent of respondents indicating the quality of life for farm families in their communities will become better in the next five years.

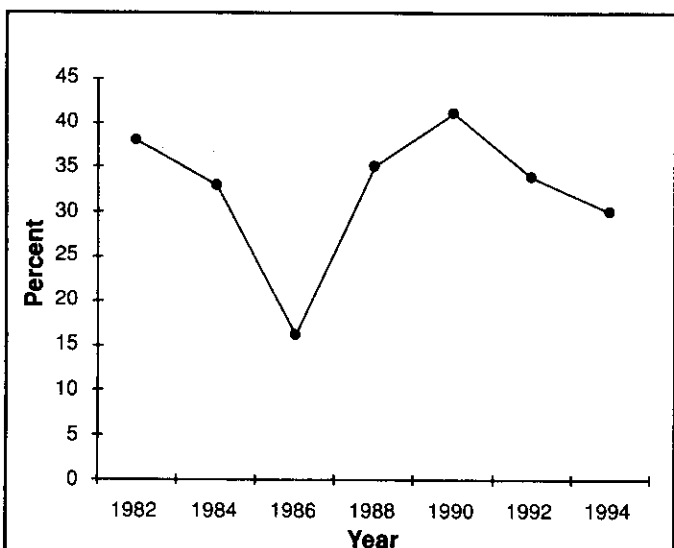


Figure 2. Percent of respondents indicating the quality of life for their family has become better in the last five years.

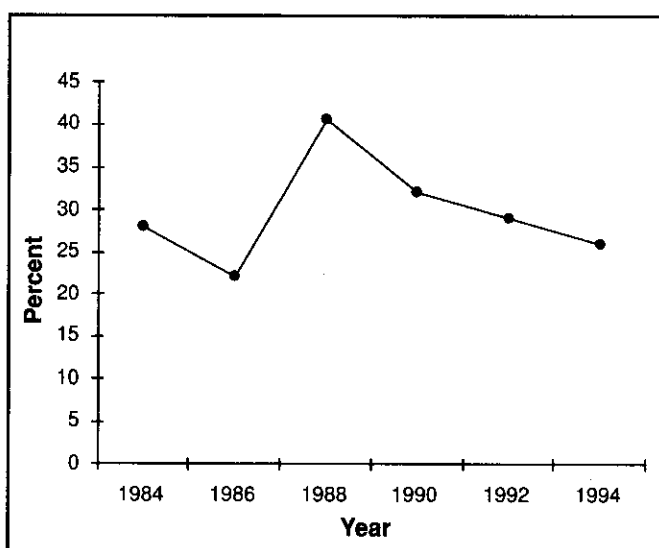
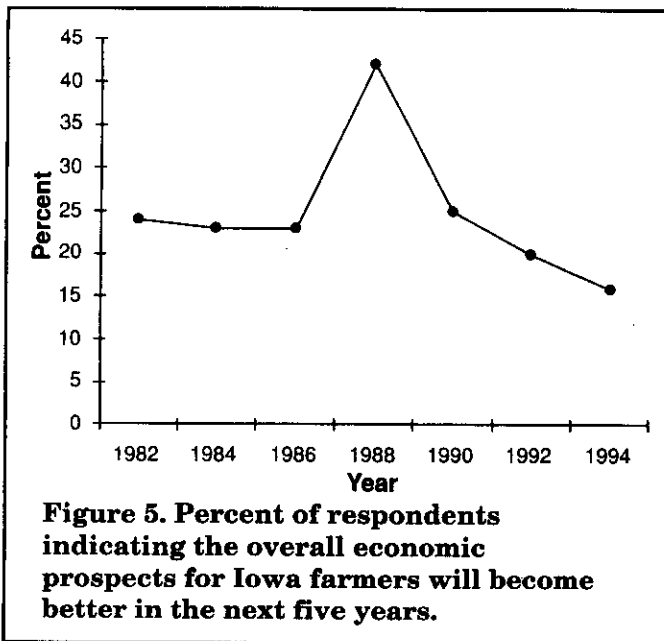


Figure 4. Percent of respondents indicating their families' quality of life will improve in the next five years.



Perceptions of Stress

Sixty percent of farmers indicated that their personal stress had increased over the past five years (Table 8). Nearly one-half (48 percent) were concerned about their level of stress. Nearly one-half (48 percent) also indicated their stress on a day-to-day basis had increased.

had cut back on social activities, and 54 percent had postponed a major household purchase in the last 12 months. About one-half (48 percent) had cut back on charitable contributions and 41 percent had used savings to meet living expenses. Around a third of the respondents indicated they had changed their food shopping to save money (38 percent), taken off-farm employment (37 percent), changed transportation patterns (34 percent), and reduced household utility use (33 percent). One quarter indicated they had purchased more items on credit than normal, and 22 percent had postponed medical care to save money. Ten percent had let their life insurance lapse and 9 percent had sold some land or other assets. Only 4 percent had been unable to pay property taxes and 2 percent had forfeited a land contract or mortgage.

Perceptions of Financial Conditions

Farm operators were asked their opinions on the current financial conditions of farmers in their area (Table 10). These opinions had also been measured in 1986, 1988, 1990, and 1992 and are

Table 8. Perceptions of stress.

	Greatly Increased	Somewhat Increased	Remained the Same	Somewhat Declined	Greatly Declined
	percent				
Over the past 5 years, has your personal level of stress					
1994	17	43	31	8	1
1989	11	33	30	21	5
Has your concern with your level of stress					
1994	11	37	43	7	2
1989	5	28	44	18	5
On a day-to-day basis, has your stress					
1994	10	38	41	9	2
1989	4	25	42	23	6

Financial Management Adjustments

A series of questions pertaining to adjustments in financial management were posed to farmers (Table 9). Sixty percent indicated they had postponed a major farm purchase, 55 percent

included in the table. Operators' concern for farmers in the area continued at levels similar to 1992, with 16 percent indicating it was a very serious problem and 41 percent indicating this was a moderate problem. The financial condition of agribusiness was not perceived as

Table 9. Family adjustments in financial management practices.

In the past 12 months, has your family made any of the following adjustments in its financial management practices?

During the past 12 months:

Yes
percent

Postponed major farm purchase(s)	60
Cut back on social activities and entertainment expenses	55
Postponed major household purchase(s)	54
Cut back on charitable contributions	48
Used savings to meet living expenses	41
Changed food shopping or eating habits to save money	38
Family member has taken off-farm employment to help meet expenses	37
Changed transportation patterns to save money	34
Reduced household utility use	33
Purchased more items on credit than we used to	25
Postponed medical care to save money	22
Sold possessions or cashed in insurance	19
Let life insurance lapse	10
Have sold some land or other assets	9
Have not been able to pay property tax	4
Forfeited a land contract or mortgage	2

Table 10. Farmers' perceptions of farm financial conditions.

How do you feel about the current financial condition of:

	Not Sure	Not a Problem	Slight Problem	Moderate Problem	Very Serious Problem
	percent				
farmers in your area:					
Spring 1994	6	7	30	41	16
Spring 1992	6	7	30	41	16
Spring 1990	6	8	33	40	13
* Spring 1988	5	3	12	50	30
* Spring 1986	3	1	3	19	74
agribusiness firms in your area:					
Spring 1994	8	20	33	30	9
Spring 1992	8	15	32	34	11
Spring 1990	7	15	35	34	9
* Spring 1988	6	9	21	47	17
* Spring 1986	6	2	7	37	48
financial institutions in your area:					
Spring 1994	7	60	21	10	2
Spring 1992	8	41	30	17	4
Spring 1990	7	41	29	19	4
* Spring 1988	8	28	30	28	6
* Spring 1986	11	7	18	41	23
your own farm:					
Spring 1994	1	39	31	21	8
Spring 1992	1	41	28	21	9
Spring 1990	1	44	26	21	8
* Spring 1988	1	25	25	23	26
* Spring 1986	1	17	19	22	41

* In the 1986 and 1988 polls, the response categories were: "not sure, not concerned, slightly concerned, moderately concerned and very concerned."

problematic with 9 percent indicating it was a very serious problem and 30 percent indicating it was a moderate problem. Operators did not perceive financial institutions having any problem (60 percent). On their own farms, operators generally ranged from indicating they had no problem (39 percent) to a moderate problem (21 percent).

Family Characteristics

The average age of the farm operators and spouses is 55 and 52, respectively (Table 11). Forty-one percent of the operators and 58 percent of the spouses worked off farm. Most of the operators had been farming more than 10

Table 11. Family characteristics.

	Operator	Spouse
Ages	55	52
	percent	
Work off farm?	41	58
Number of days worked off farm		
less than 50	11	9
50 to 99	4	5
100 to 149	4	6
150 to 199	4	8
more than 200	18	30
Years have been farming		
10 or less	5	10
11 to 20	23	24
21 to 30	24	24
31 to 40	25	24
41 or more	23	18
Retired from farming	9	10
Years farm has been in family		
25 or less	18	
26 to 50	36	
51 to 75	19	
76 to 100	17	
101 or more	10	
Is farm a registered century farm	10	(N=197)

years, and 9 percent had been farming for more than 40 years. More than 80 percent of the farms had been in the family more than 25 years and over a quarter (27 percent) had been operated by the family for more than 75 years. One in ten of the respondents indicated they operated a registered century farm.

Debt-asset ratio

Farm operators were asked to estimate the current market value of their farm assets and

liabilities. The ratio created by dividing the liabilities by the assets provides a useful indicator of financial conditions.

Multiplying the ratio by 100 then provides the dollars owed for each \$100 of assets. Thus, a debt-to-asset ratio of 20 means that for every \$100 of assets, the farmer owes \$20.

Table 12 shows the financial status of Iowa farmers by debt-to-asset ratios for 1988, 1990, 1992, and 1994. Twenty-three percent of the respondents had a debt-to-asset ratio of less than 11 and are considered to be in strong financial condition. Twenty-four percent of the respondents had debt-to-asset ratios between 11 and 40 percent. These farmers are considered to be in moderate to strong financial condition.

Thirteen percent of the farm operators had debt-to-asset ratios between 41 and 70 percent. These operators are likely to experience moderate financial stress which is reflected in their relatively high debt load. Six percent are likely experiencing the greatest financial stress with debt-to-asset ratios greater than 70 percent.

Comparing this data with results from previous years, there has been a notable increase in the number of Iowa farm operators with low debt-to-asset ratios (less than 11 percent) and a marked decrease in the number of farmers with high debt-to-asset ratios (greater than 40 percent). In fact, the percent of operators with debt-to-asset ratios greater than 40 percent has decreased from 41 percent of respondents in 1992 to 19 percent in 1994.

Community Satisfaction

Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with a series of statements concerning community satisfaction (Table 13). Over three-quarters (79 percent) believed their community was a good place for future generations to raise their families. Forty percent thought the future of their community looked bright while one-quarter did not think it looked bright. Respondents were split almost evenly over

Table 12. Summary of debt-to-asset ratios among Iowa farmers.

Ratio	Year	Number of Farms Reporting	Percent of Farms Reporting	Total Amount of Assets (\$1,000)	Percent of Assets	Total Amount of Liabilities (\$1,000)	Percent of Liabilities
Less than 11%	1994	464	35	\$180,986	32	\$4,758	3
	1992	205	16	93,134	17	5,313	3
	1990	204	17	94,949	19	5,303	3
	1988	370	27	120,957	25	4,762	3
10% - 40%	1994	481	36	238,875	42	61,996	39
	1992	564	43	241,399	46	59,220	32
	1990	521	42	225,474	45	54,840	31
	1988	494	35	184,772	38	46,352	26
41% - 70%	1994	262	20	121,825	21	63,912	41
	1992	348	27	153,833	29	80,963	44
	1990	327	27	138,836	27	74,059	42
	1988	303	22	125,220	25	67,580	38
71% or more	1994	127	9	30,647	5	27,355	17
	1992	182	14	41,275	8	38,722	21
	1990	178	14	44,824	9	42,007	24
	1988	219	16	57,261	12	57,680	33
TOTAL	1994	1,334	100	572,334	100	158,022	100

whether their community had more going for it than other communities. Finally, 57 percent

indicated they couldn't think of any other community in which they would rather live.

Table 13. Farmers' community satisfaction.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
This community would be a good place for future generations to raise their families	22	57	13	7	1
The future of this community looks bright	8	32	35	22	3
This community has more things going for it than other communities in this area	6	31	31	28	4
I can't think of any other community where I'd rather live	17	40	24	15	4

Report authored by Paul Lasley, extension sociologist, and Jeff Sharp, graduate research assistant. Joan Steffen-Baker provided valuable layout assistance for the questionnaire and this report. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Statistics, assisted in the data collection.

B File: CRD 7, Rural Development
Public Affairs 1, Ag Policy

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