



**iowa
farm and
rural life
poll**

2000 Summary Report

Introduction

This survey of farm families provides a glimpse into the complex set of farm and rural issues confronting Iowa. Sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and the Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, the poll helps us target research and Extension programs to the needs of farm families. This project was created in 1982 as a partnership with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Data from the Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll are used to better inform local, state, and national leaders on the views of farmers, and how to better respond to farm and rural issues. Each of us who benefit from these findings is indebted to the hundreds of farm families who took time to respond to the survey and provide their candid assessments about important issues the state faces.

Methodology

Questionnaires were mailed to a statewide random sample of 4,977 farm operators in February, with follow-up reminder postcards and replacement questionnaires to maximize the response rate. We received useable responses from 3,049 producers for an aggregated response rate of 61 percent. The primary focus of the survey was determining producer opinions on a wide set of important public issues and to assess how changes in the farm economy are reflected in the attitudes of farm families. This report summarizes the major findings from this year's poll. Additional copies of this report and copies of previous survey summaries can be obtained from your local county Extension

office, by contacting the Extension Distribution Center at Iowa State University, or by contacting the author.

Highlights from the 2000 Poll

Opinions on Biotechnology

Iowa farmers gave a very mixed view about food safety and biotechnology as shown in Table 1. The highest level of agreement exists on two statements that addressed the issue of concentration of the food supply and state universities' role in protecting the integrity of the food system. Eighty-five percent agreed with the statement, "It is dangerous to have so much of the nation's food supply in the hands of just a few firms." Seventy-three percent agreed, "State universities should play a major role in preserving the integrity of our nation's food supply." When asked about specific dimensions of the biotechnology and food safety issue there were very mixed opinions about its potential costs and benefits. On the positive side, the majority (56 percent) agreed that biotechnology will enable farmers to become less dependent upon agricultural chemicals, and 51 percent agreed that genetically modified corn is no different than corn produced by more traditional crop breeding methods.

However, producers expressed some concerns about biotechnology. Almost 6 out of 10 (59 percent) agreed, "It's difficult to know whether biotechnology will improve food safety." Likewise, 48 percent disagreed that "cloning livestock, like calves and sheep, will produce safer food," yet only 19 percent agreed with the

Table 1. Opinions on Biotechnology

	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Sure</u> percent	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>
a. It is dangerous to have so much of the nation's food supply in the hands of just a few firms	45	40	10	4	1
b. State universities should play a major role in preserving the integrity of our nation's food supply.....	25	48	19	6	2
c. Biotechnology will enable farmers to become less dependent upon agricultural chemicals	13	43	29	11	4
d. Genetically modified corn is no different from corn produced by more traditional crop breeding methods	17	34	27	15	7
e. It's difficult to know whether biotechnology will improve food safety	9	50	28	11	2
f. Cloning livestock, like calves and sheep, will produce safer food	2	8	42	27	21
g. I wouldn't eat meat products that I knew were produced by genetic modification	7	12	35	31	15
h. I am bothered that it is illegal to label milk that has been produced through biotechnology	12	28	33	19	8
i. Larger farms will benefit more from biotechnology than smaller farmers	19	35	22	20	4
j. The consolidation of biotechnology agribusiness firms will make it more difficult to produce safe food.....	10	20	36	27	7
k. Government should regulate biotechnology to ensure food safety	13	40	26	15	6
l. A domestic biotechnology industry will protect against safety problems arising from imported foods	3	21	48	21	7
m. New discoveries by university scientists should be available without restriction to companies that wish to market these products	12	34	29	19	6

statement that they would not eat meat products that they knew were produced by genetic modification. In other cases, producer opinions were quite divided on particular issues about biotechnology. For example, 40 percent indicated they are bothered that it is illegal to label milk that has been produced through biotechnology, but one-third were not certain, and 27 percent were not troubled by this labeling ban. Fifty-four percent indicated that larger farms will benefit more from biotechnology than smaller farms, yet 24 percent disagreed.

Food Safety and Health Issues

Table 2 presents (in descending order) farmers' views about a number of food safety issues. Food borne diseases ranked high in their list of concerns, especially salmonella in food, E.coli contamination, and hepatitis. The average score for these three issues was nearly 4.0 on a 5-point scale. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents judged salmonella, E.coli, and hepatitis as high concerns with a score of 4 or 5. Other food safety concerns that were rated high on the 5-point scale included food-handling regulations

Table 2. Food Safety and Health Issues

	LEVEL OF CONCERN					Avg Score
	Not Concerned 1	2	Moderately Concerned 3	4	Very Concerned 5	
	percent					
a. Salmonella in food	2	9	24	29	36	3.9
b. E. coli contamination.....	2	10	24	30	34	3.8
c. Hepatitis.....	3	9	25	29	34	3.8
d. Food handling regulations	3	9	32	30	26	3.7
e. Pesticide residues in fresh fruit and vegetables	3	12	30	30	25	3.6
f. Aerial spraying of pesticides	6	13	30	26	25	3.5
g. Groundwater contamination from livestock manure	7	15	29	22	27	3.5
h. Antibiotic residues in meat and poultry ...	6	12	37	22	23	3.4
i. Hormones in food	6	16	33	26	19	3.4
j. Food additives such as dyes or preservatives	6	20	37	23	14	3.2
k. Cholesterol/fat content.....	7	19	37	23	14	3.2
l. Use of insecticides.....	9	20	35	20	16	3.1
m. Salt levels in food.....	10	24	37	18	11	2.9
n. Genetically modified crops (GMOs).....	23	24	28	14	11	2.7
o. Use of chemical fertilizers.....	23	28	28	12	9	2.6
p. Irradiation of food	23	24	29	13	11	2.6

(3.7), pesticide residues on fresh fruits and vegetables (3.6), and aerial spraying of pesticides (3.5). Issues of less importance included salt levels in food (2.9), genetically modified crops (GMOs) (2.7), use of chemical fertilizers (2.6), and irradiation of food (2.6).

Experience with Transgenic Hybrids

In general, farmers gave moderate to high marks in their experiences with herbicide

tolerant soybeans and insect resistant corn. Fifty-four percent of the respondents planted herbicide tolerant soybeans in 1999, and 42 percent planted insect tolerant corn. This represents 1,573 soybean producers with a combined acreage of nearly 262,000 acres of soybeans, and 1,208 corn producers with a combined acreage of 155,058 acres (Table 3).

Producers who planted herbicide tolerant soybeans were asked how they compared with

Table 3. Experiences with Transgenic Hybrids

	Herbicide Tolerant Soybeans	Insect Resistant Corn
Did you plant any in 1999	Yes....54%	Yes ...42%
	No....46%	No ...58%
Number of producers	1,573	1,208
Average number of acres planted	167	133
Range.....	1-1,950 acres	1-1,200 acres
Total acres planted.....	261,893	155,058

conventional varieties (Table 4). In general, it appears that yield and profits per acre compared favorably. Expenses and pest damages were reported as lower with the herbicide tolerant varieties. With insect resistant corn, yields per acre were higher, although production expenses were judged as higher; producers reported profits per acre were higher with pest damage generally much lower (Table 5).

Table 4. Overall, compared to conventional varieties, how did the herbicide tolerant soybeans perform on your farm?

	<u>Much Lower</u>		<u>No Difference</u> percent		<u>Much Higher</u>
a. Yield per acre.....	3	17	56	20	4
b. Expenses per acre.....	16	45	23	13	3
c. Pest damage per acre	17	24	56	3	0
d. Profit per acre	3	13	37	41	6

Table 5. Overall, compared to conventional varieties, how did the Bt corn perform on your farm?

	<u>Much Lower</u>		<u>No Difference</u> percent		<u>Much Higher</u>
a. Yield per acre.....	2	4	46	41	7
b. Expenses per acre.....	1	6	17	64	12
c. Pest damage per acre	23	42	32	3	0
d. Profit per acre	3	22	40	31	4

Eighty-seven percent of the producers of herbicide tolerant soybeans reported they had no problems selling their soybeans, and 71 percent of the insect resistant corn producers reported no problems selling their corn, although 15 percent fed their corn to livestock so marketing was not an issue (Table 6).

Table 6. Marketing of Transgenic Crops

	<u>Herbicide Tolerant Soybeans</u>	<u>Insect Resistant Corn</u>
	percent	
a. I have not sold them	12	14
b. I had no problems selling them	87	71
c. I received a lower price because they were genetically altered soybeans	0	0
d. I had trouble finding a grain dealer willing to take my crop	1	0
e. I plan to feed the corn to my livestock so marketing isn't an issue	0	15

When asked about their planting intentions for crop year 2000, 71 percent of the respondents planned to plant herbicide tolerant soybeans on about 238,000 acres. Fifty-eight percent reported they plan to plant insect resistant corn on about 133,000 acres (Table 7).

	Herbicide Tolerant <u>Soybeans</u>	Insect Resistant <u>Corn</u>
Do you plan to plant	Yes... 71%	Yes... 58%
	No... 19%	No... 31%
	Not Sure ... 10%	Not Sure... 11%
Number of producers	1,207	858
Average number of acres planted	197	155
Total acres planted.....	237,623	133,227

Availability of Services

Even though there is much concern about the closing of rural businesses and the consolidation of schools and service providers, the data collected this spring are not appreciably different than the data collected in 1990. While these data do not diminish the importance of families traveling further for goods and services, when comparing the 1990 and 2000 polls the distances traveled have not changed very much. Table 8 shows the average miles that farm families travel for a wide range

	Distance traveled to obtain services <u>(miles)</u>	Percent using the <u>closest source</u>	If not using the closest <u>source, miles traveled</u>
Machinery Dealer/Repair	15	85	12
..... 2000	15	85	12
..... 1990	14	85	8
Grain Elevator	7	89	6
..... 2000	7	89	6
..... 1990	6	87	5
Livestock Auction	24	91	21
..... 2000	24	91	21
..... 1990	20	88	16
Bank	8	77	6
..... 2000	8	77	6
..... 1990	8	77	5
Automobile Sales/Repair	14	80	9
..... 2000	14	80	9
..... 1990	12	81	9
Grocery Store	10	77	6
..... 2000	10	77	6
..... 1990	9	72	5
Hospital	17	84	14
..... 2000	17	84	14
..... 1990	16	84	14
Physician/Medical Clinic	13	81	9
..... 2000	13	81	9
..... 1990	12	80	8
Lumber Yard.....	11	86	8
..... 2000	11	86	8
..... 1990	9	89	7
Hardware Store	9	91	7
..... 2000	9	91	7
..... 1990	8	91	7
Library	7	94	6
..... 2000	7	94	6
..... 1990	7	94	6
Recreational Facilities	13	93	11
..... 2000	13	93	11
..... 1990	NA	NA	NA
Adequate nursing home care	9	95	8
..... 2000	9	95	8
..... 1990	NA	NA	NA

of goods and services. Most of the services and businesses included in the poll are within an average distance of 20 miles.

Perhaps the bright spot in the data is that the vast majority of farmers report they use the closest source of services. In most cases, upwards of 85-95 percent of the farm operators patronize or use the closest source which indicates a strong support for local businesses. Grocery stores and banks are two businesses most likely to be bypassed but, even in these cases, 77 percent of the respondents use the closest grocery and bank. Among those who bypass the closest grocery or bank, they are still shopping within their community as evidenced by the average distance of only six miles.

Recreational and Leisure Activities

The many changes in farm lifestyles have led many to comment on the loss of neighboring and how there are few differences between

rural and urban lifestyles. Table 9 explores one dimension of the changing farm lifestyle by exploring how farm families spend their free time. Unsurprising, watching television is the most dominant free time activity, although reading magazines and books occurs at least once a week among 92 percent of the respondents. Visiting with friends and neighbors remains a popular form of recreation—among 75 percent of the respondents report doing so at least once a week. Working on personal hobby projects is also a popular form of recreation among 46 percent of the respondents who work on their hobbies at least once a week. Over one-third reported they help their neighbors, friends, and relatives at least once a week. Eating out and participation in church activities are also important forms of recreation according to over 50 percent of the respondents who engage in these activities at least one once a week.

Table 9. Recreational and Leisure Activities

	Daily	At least once a week	Once or twice a month percent	Once or twice a year	Never
a. Watch TV shows	78	18	2	0	2
b. Read magazines or books	61	31	6	1	1
c. Visit with friends and relatives	28	49	20	3	0
d. Participate in church activities	3	50	18	15	14
e. Eat out	4	48	39	7	2
f. Work on personal hobby/projects	15	31	29	15	10
g. Help friends, relatives, and neighbors	7	29	44	19	1
h. Play on a computer or other electronic devices	14	18	12	10	46
i. Attend sports or other school-sponsored events	1	15	29	33	22
j. Volunteer in a community organization	2	12	25	35	26
k. Participate in club meetings (Rotary, 4H, PEO, etc. <i>(excluding church)</i>)	0	6	23	23	48
l. Travel to sports or recreational events outside of own community	0	6	20	42	32
m. Attend continuing education classes/seminars	0	2	9	53	36

When asked about recreational activities (Table 10), there were not major differences among groups that were viewed as needing more recreational and leisure activities. Between 40 and 50 percent of the respondents felt that each of the groups needed more opportunities for recreation.

Table 10. Perceptions of Recreational Activities

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Not Sure</u> percent	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
More recreational and leisure opportunities are needed for:					
a. School age children	12	34	29	21	4
b. Teenagers.....	18	39	24	16	3
c. Young single adults	13	43	31	11	2
d. Parents with children	10	39	36	13	2
e. Married couples without children	8	32	43	15	2
f. Senior citizens (retired).....	12	37	34	15	2

Minority and Immigrant Issues

In response to growing labor needs being filled by minority persons and immigrants, and calls for a more lenient immigration policy, it is timely that the survey sought some initial opinions about how well these new residents are being assimilated into their communities. Forty-three percent of the respondents indicated that minority persons live or work in their community, although 22 percent were not sure, and 35 percent reported that minorities do not live or work in their community (Table 11).

Table 11. Perceptions of Minority/Immigrant Resident Issues

Are there minority persons living or working within your community?

1. No	35%		
2. Not sure	22%	1. well integrated	18%
3. Yes	43%	2. somewhat integrated	32%
→ If yes, how well would you say minority persons are integrated into the life of your community?		3. integrated very little	25%
		4. not integrated at all	4%
		5. don't know	21%

Have you ever:

	<u>No</u>	<u>Once</u>	<u>Several Times</u> percent	<u>Frequently</u>
a. participated in a community project or committee that had at least one minority person involved.....	73	7	16	4
b. played sports, card games, or other recreational activity with a minority person	63	5	27	5
c. purchased services or goods from a minority-owned small business	59	6	30	5
d. worked with a minority person as a co-worker	63	5	20	12

Respondents who reported minority persons live or work in their communities were asked how well minorities were integrated into the life of the community. Eighteen percent felt that minority persons were well integrated into their community, and 32 percent felt they were somewhat integrated. However, 25 percent reported minorities were only marginally integrated and an additional 4 percent report they were not integrated at all. The balance (21 percent) was unsure about the level of integration of minorities in their communities.

When asked about the extent to which they have interacted with minorities, there is a substantial lack of interaction. Seventy-three percent have never participated in a community project or committee with a minority person as a member. Sixty-three percent have never worked with a minority person as a co-worker, nor played sports or a recreational activity with a person of color. Fifty-nine percent reported they had never purchased goods or services from a minority person. These data suggest there is a need to improve the integration and interaction across these racial and ethnic groups if full integration is to occur.

Wildlife Issues

Following up on information that was collected in 1990, a series of questions about the extent to which farmers enjoy wildlife were repeated

(Table 12). The proportion of farmers that hunt and fish are virtually unchanged from the previous survey. Bird watching and photographing wildlife declined through the decade of the 1990s. Although among those that bird watch, the average number of days increased from 85 days to 92 days.

Opinions about the importance of wildlife have remained constant throughout the past decade (Table 13). The largest change is observed among the proportion agreeing that stiff penalties should be levied against those who illegally kill wildlife. In 1990, 58 percent agreed with this statement, but the proportion has declined to 42 percent with this survey. All the other

Table 12. Wildlife Issues: Behaviors

	Yes	Days Spent Doing This
Hunting..... 2000	35	11 days
..... 1990	33	8 days
Fishing 2000	41	11 days
..... 1990	43	10 days
Birdwatching..... 2000	25	92 days
..... 1990	40	85 days
Photographing..... 2000	8	14 days
wildlife 1990	14	16 days

Table 13. Wildlife Issues: Opinions

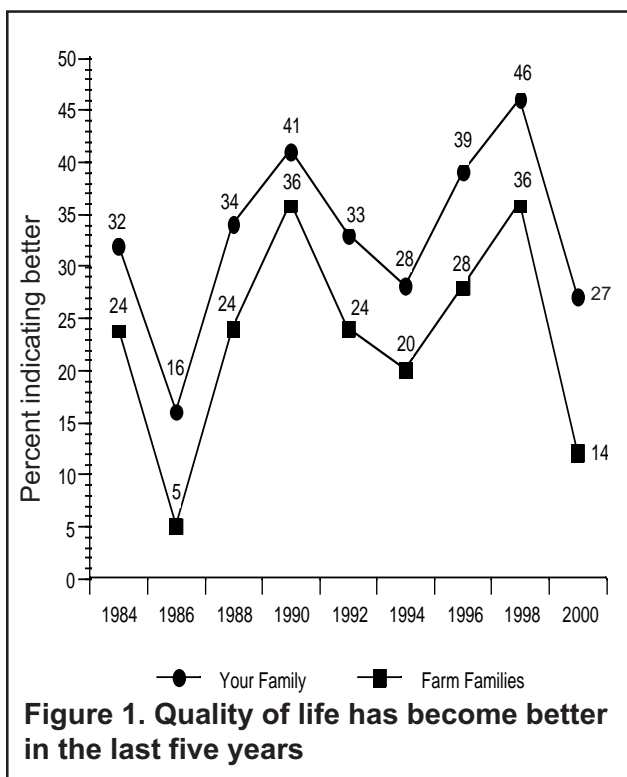
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Uncertain percent	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. The presence of wildlife on my farm is important to me..... 2000	48	35	7	7	3
..... 1990	44	37	9	8	2
b. Wildlife have as much right to exist on this land as I do..... 2000	31	36	10	15	8
..... 1990	34	35	12	13	6
c. Farmers should be paid by the government to save habitat for wildlife..... 2000	33	33	20	9	5
..... 1990	28	29	22	13	8
d. Game wildlife species are more important to me than non-game wildlife 2000	8	18	27	30	17
..... 1990	7	18	28	26	21
e. Wildlife habitat on my farm adds to its market value 2000	9	16	34	26	15
..... 1990	4	11	32	28	25
f. Financial incentives would encourage me to do more for wildlife on my farm 2000	22	31	26	14	7
..... 1990	17	27	29	16	11
g. Illegal killing of wildlife should result in stiff penalties 2000	43	29	14	8	5
..... 1990	58	26	9	4	3
h. Farmers should reduce pesticide use that is harmful to wildlife 2000	23	39	22	11	5
..... 1990	27	40	20	9	4

changes are within five percentage points suggesting a relatively stable view about the importance of wildlife on Iowa farms.

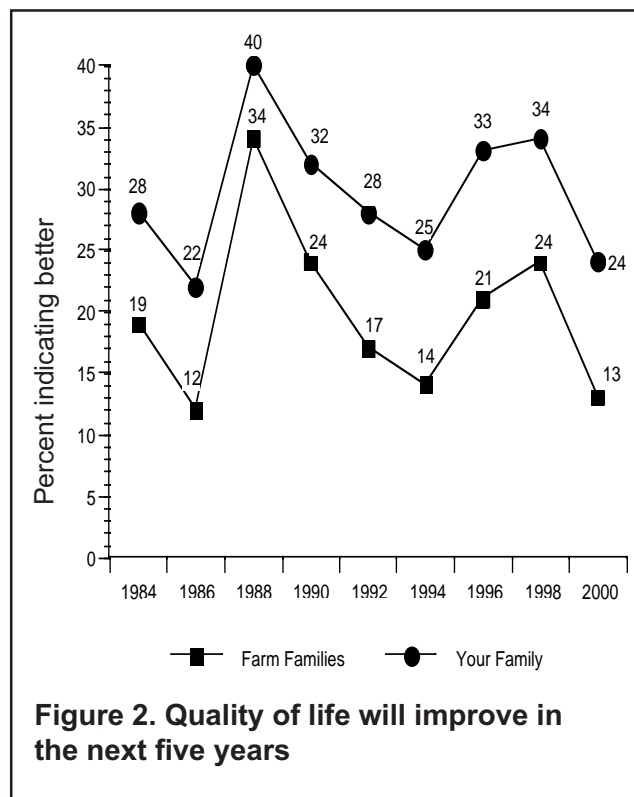
Producer Perceptions of Quality of Life Changes

Perceptions about how farm families' quality of life has changed in the last five years is shown in Figure 1. Whereas 46 percent reported their own family's quality of life had improved in the 1998 poll, this spring only 27 percent indicated an improvement. When asked about farm families in their community, only 14 percent reported an improvement compared to 36 percent in 1998. In addition to this two-year comparison, the trend lines in Figure 2 paint a troubling picture. Since 1994, the proportion of respondents indicating an improved quality of life for both themselves and farmers in their community had increased and, in fact, 1998 either tied or exceeded the previous peaks. However, since 1998 there has been a significant decline.

Figure 2 shows the proportion of respondents indicating that farmers' quality of life will



improve in the next five years. As such these data can be interpreted as a measure of optimism about the future. After a long slide from 1988 through 1994, there was a rebound in



optimism from 1994 through 1998. However, this spring the level of optimism has plummeted to near record lows. For their own families, only 24 percent expect an improved quality of life in the next five years, which is only 2 percentage points above the lowest proportion recorded in 1986—the midst of the farm crisis. Likewise, when asked about their neighbors' quality of life in the next five years, only 13 percent expected things would get better, which is only 1 percentage point above the lowest point recorded in 1986.

Equally disturbing is the long-term decline in perceptions that overall economic conditions will improve in the next five years that is shown in Figure 3. With the exception of 1988 and 1996 when there was a spike in the optimism, there is a general downward trend. A new low was reached this year with only 12 percent

reporting they felt overall economic conditions would improve in the next five years.

Table 14 provides the complete data set that was used to produce these graphs. The seriousness of the farm economy is shown by the jump from 14 percent of respondents that reported their family's quality of life had worsened in 1998 to 29 percent this spring. Likewise, while 21 percent reported their neighbors' quality of life had declined in 1998, it jumped to 51 percent this year.

When asked about the next five years, 27 percent expect their quality of life to decline and predict that 50 percent of their neighbors will experience a deteriorating quality of life. Sixty-four percent predict that the overall economic prospects for farmers will either become somewhat or much worse in the next

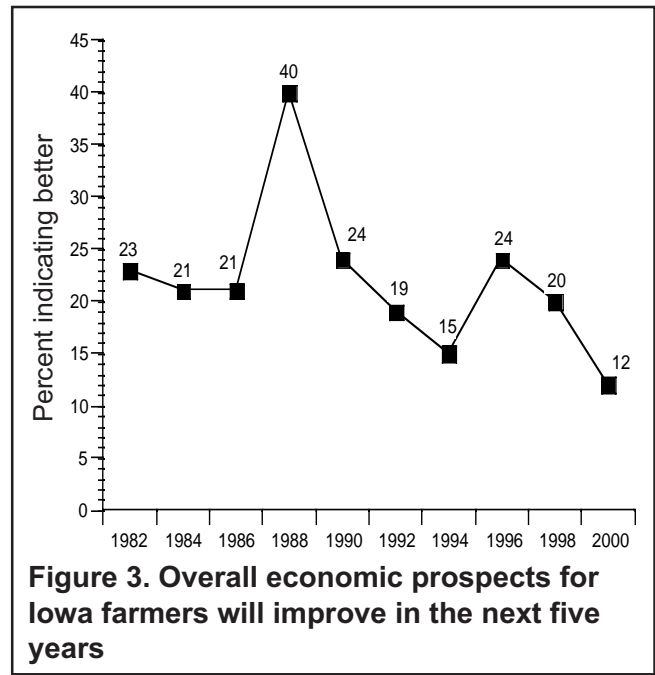


Figure 3. Overall economic prospects for Iowa farmers will improve in the next five years

Table 14. Farmers' Perceptions of Quality of Life for 1990-2000

		Become	Become	Remained	Become	Become
		Much	Somewhat	the	Somewhat	Much
		Better	Better	Same	Worse	Worse
percent						
During the past five years, has the quality of life of your family:	.....2000	4	23	46	23	6
	.....1998	8	38	40	10	4
	.....1996	4	35	45	14	2
	.....1994	4	25	45	22	5
	.....1992	4	29	45	18	4
.....1990	5	36	40	15	4	
During the past five years, has the quality of life of farm families in your community:	.....2000	2	12	35	40	11
	.....1998	3	33	43	18	3
	.....1996	2	26	42	27	3
	.....1994	2	18	41	33	6
	.....1992	2	22	43	27	6
.....1990	3	33	35	24	5	
In the next five years, will the quality of life of your family:	.....2000	2	22	49	22	5
	.....1998	5	29	50	13	3
	.....1996	3	30	53	12	2
	.....1994	3	22	51	20	4
	.....1992	2	26	51	18	3
.....1990	3	29	53	13	2	
In the next five years, will the quality of life of farm families in your community:	.....2000	1	12	37	40	10
	.....1998	2	22	45	26	6
	.....1996	1	20	50	26	3
	.....1994	1	13	43	36	7
	.....1992	1	16	49	29	5
.....1990	1	23	50	22	4	
In the next five years, will the overall economic prospects for Iowa farmers:	.....2000	1	11	24	45	19
	.....1998	1	19	32	38	10
	.....1996	1	23	33	36	7
	.....1994	1	14	30	44	12
	.....1992	1	18	32	40	9
.....1990	1	23	38	32	6	

five years. This is the highest level of pessimism we have recorded since we began tracking farmers' opinions on these issues in 1984.

Perceptions of Financial Conditions

Given these data on quality of life, it is not surprising to find parallel concerns over the financial conditions. One-third of the respondents indicated that farmers in their area faced a very serious problem, and 40 percent described it as a moderate problem. Nearly three-fourths of the respondents indicating a moderate or serious financial problem among neighbors paints a grave picture. A tripling of the proportion indicating a very serious problem, moving from 10 percent in 1998 to 33

percent this spring, may be a harbinger of additional problems ahead.

Fifty-four percent reported that agribusiness firms in their area face a moderate or very serious financial condition. One-in-five (20 percent) indicated banks and other lenders face a moderate or very serious financial situation. While some would argue that these data are only perceptions of neighbors', agribusiness', or lenders' financial situations and may be distorted, we see an equally disturbing rise in the proportion of producers who describe their own financial situation as a very serious problem. Forty percent indicated they face a moderate to very serious problem. A doubling of the proportion defining their financial situation as a very serious problem since 1998 is disconcerting.

Table 15. Farmers' Perceptions of Farm Financial Conditions for 1990-2000

	Not Sure	Not a Problem	Slight Problem	Moderate Problem	Very Serious Problem
	percent				
farmers in your area:.....2000	3	4	20	40	33
.....1998	7	15	35	33	10
.....1996	8	14	34	34	10
.....1994	6	7	30	41	16
.....1992	6	7	30	41	16
.....1990	6	8	33	40	13
agribusiness firms in your area: .....2000	7	12	27	39	15
.....1998	7	27	34	26	6
.....1996	9	26	37	23	5
.....1994	8	20	33	30	9
.....1992	8	15	32	34	11
.....1990	7	15	35	34	9
financial institutions in your area: .....2000	8	47	25	17	3
.....1998	7	61	20	10	2
.....1996	9	60	19	9	2
.....1994	7	60	21	10	2
.....1992	8	41	30	17	4
.....1990	7	41	29	19	4
your own farm: .....2000	1	30	29	28	12
.....1998	2	45	29	18	6
.....1996	2	49	28	16	5
.....1994	1	39	31	21	8
.....1992	1	41	28	21	9
.....1990	1	44	26	21	8

 . . . and justice for all

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Alternative Livestock Production

Given the lack of profits in traditional livestock, some farmers have turned to what we term alternative livestock production (Table 16). The first column of data shows the number of producers included in the sample that have alternative livestock. Out of the sample of 3,049 farmers, a relatively small number are producing alternative livestock. The most frequent alternative was fish being produced by 113 farmers, followed by pheasants (75), quail (59) and goats for meat (25). While we do not have historical data on the number of producers engaged in alternative livestock, when we asked about the number of years they had been producing these species, we note that most have been in business only a few years. In several cases, the sample size was so small that aver-

age numbers were meaningless. The data presented on the right side of the table shows the level of interest among those not already producing these species. There is more interest in producing pheasants and quail than any other species. In general, there was only modest interest reflected among non-producers. While alternative livestock production is an important source of income and satisfaction for those in production, there is not a great interest among non-producers to get involved. Perhaps alternative livestock will remain a relatively small but important niche market for a few producers. As is the case in many new developments, it may take a few years for this part of agriculture to grow. It will be interesting to revisit this issue in a few years to see how the number of producers and interest levels have changed.

Table 16. Interest in Alternative Livestock Enterprises

<u>Enterprise</u>	<u>Number of Producers</u>	<u>Years Producing (average)</u>	<u>If not producing, what is your level of interest in producing them</u>		
			<u>Very Interested</u>	<u>Somewhat Interested</u>	<u>Not Interested</u>
			percent		
a. Buffalo.....	11	11	2	10	88
b. Elk.....	9	8	2	9	89
c. Emu	9	5	1	4	95
d. Fallow deer (or other non-native species).....	15	14	1	8	91
e. Fish.....	113	18	5	16	79
f. Foxes/minks.....	13	30	1	3	96
g. Llamas	14	NR	1	6	93
h. Goats for meat	25	NR	1	7	92
i. Ostriches.....	8	NR	1	4	95
j. Pheasants.....	75	NR	7	20	73
k. Quail	59	NR	7	17	76
l. Rheas	7	NR	1	3	96
m. Snapping turtles.....	11	4	1	6	93
n. Other.....	25	15	1	3	96

* NR = Not reported

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[B] File: Communities 9-3

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