



Introduction

Challenges to Iowa's farmers come from many directions and are impacting not only their lives but also the vitality of their communities. This most recent Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll asked questions about farmers' challenges including future governmental support through the Farm Bill, the price of farmland, incentives for conservation, and farm succession. Other questions concerned state-level economic development programs, methamphetamine production and addiction, and the ability of the Iowa State University Extension Service to meet farmers' needs.

Created in 1982 as a partnership of Iowa State University Extension, the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the poll helps target Extension and research programs to the needs of farm families. Data on issues of importance to the farming community are collected to provide input to local, state, and national leaders in their decision-making process. We thank the many farm families who responded to this year's survey.

Methods

Questionnaires were mailed to a statewide panel of 1,862 farm operators, with reminder postcards and replacement questionnaires

sent to maximize the response rate. Usable responses were received from 1,298 operators, yielding a 70 percent response rate. This report summarizes this year's poll findings. Additional copies of this or any previous year's report are available from your local county Extension office, from the Extension distribution Center at Iowa State University, or from the authors.

Highlights from the 2005 Farm Poll

Future Directions on the 2007 Farm Bill

Respondents were asked about the success of the 2002 Farm Bill (Table 1). Most Iowa farmers (61 percent) somewhat or strongly agreed that the basic direction of the 2002 Farm Bill is on target and should be continued, and that the 2002 Farm Bill has been a success (57 percent). A large majority (80 percent) agreed that the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) should be continued. Sixty percent agreed that the Farm Bill provided adequate income protection for farmers, and 56 percent agreed that it had provided good support for conservation efforts.

Opinions were mixed, however, on whether the bill had proven to be too expensive with one-third (33 percent) agreeing, another one-third (34 percent) disagreeing, and the remaining one-third not sure. Views were similarly split on whether grain production policy should return to supply management

(acreage set aside and deficiency payments) with 39 percent agreeing with the suggested change and 36 percent preferring that the policy remain the same. Forty-five percent of Iowa farmers disagreed that the needs of beginning farmers were adequately addressed by the 2002 Farm Bill.

Farmers did have opinions on improving the 2007 Farm Bill (Table 2). Most Iowa farmers (84 percent) somewhat or strongly agreed with more governmental efforts on promoting exports. Seventy-nine percent wanted to see

incentives that allow farmers to participate in alternative energy development. Better income insurance protection was supported by 60 percent, and 57 percent agreed that the farm bill should do more to address environmental issues in agriculture.

Farmland Prices

Iowa has witnessed an increase to record-levels of farmland prices. The rise in prices has been met with some uncertainty by Iowa farmers (Table 2). High farmland prices make it difficult for young people to get into farming,

Table 1.1. Iowa Farmers' Opinions on Farm Bill Items

	Strongly or Somewhat Disagree	Not Sure - Percent -	Somewhat or Strongly Agree
The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) should be continued	10	10	80
The basic directions in the 2002 Farm Bill should be continued in the 2007 Farm Bill	19	20	61
Overall, the 2002 Farm Bill provided an adequate income protection for farmers	19	21	60
Overall, the 2002 Bill has been successful	16	27	57
Overall, the 2002 Farm Bill has provided good support for conservation efforts	19	25	56
Grain production policy should return to supply management (acreage set aside and deficiency payments)	36	25	39
The 2002 Bill has proven to be too expensive	34	33	33
The 2002 Bill has adequately addressed the needs of beginning farmers	45	38	17

Table 1.2. Iowa Farmers Want to See the 2007 Farm Bill Provide:

	Strongly or Somewhat Disagree	Not Sure - Percent -	Somewhat or Strongly Agree
More governmental efforts promoting exports	5	11	84
Incentives to participate in alternative energy development	6	15	79
Better income insurance protection	16	24	60
More addressing of environmental issues	17	26	57

according to 95 percent of the respondents. Eighty-six percent felt they should be “wary” of purchasing farmland at this price level, and only 26 percent thought the prices were a sign of a strong farm economy. Opinions were split on whether or not the price increase was a reflection of corn and soybean bumper crops (44 percent agreed and 40 percent disagreed). A slight majority (53 percent) believed that if governmental programs are found to violate free trade rules, the reduction in price support would result in a dramatic drop in farmland values. Most farmers agreed with two explanations for the current price increase. Seventy-seven percent felt that the prices have resulted from the artificial economic support of subsidy payments, and the conversion of farmland to other non-farm uses was cited by 58 percent.

To address the increase in farmland prices 46 percent of farmers felt that limits should be placed on absentee ownership of farmland and a strong 78 percent disagreed with relaxing state laws limiting nonresident alien farmland ownership. Only 10 percent supported relaxing laws that limit foreign investment in farmland.

Conservation and the Environment

Respondents were asked about their familiarity with the Conservation Security Program (sometimes referred to as “green payments”) that pays farmers for conservation efforts rather than support commodity prices.

Surprisingly only 8 percent of Iowa farmers were very familiar with the Conservation Security Program and 47 percent were not

Table 2. Farmland Prices

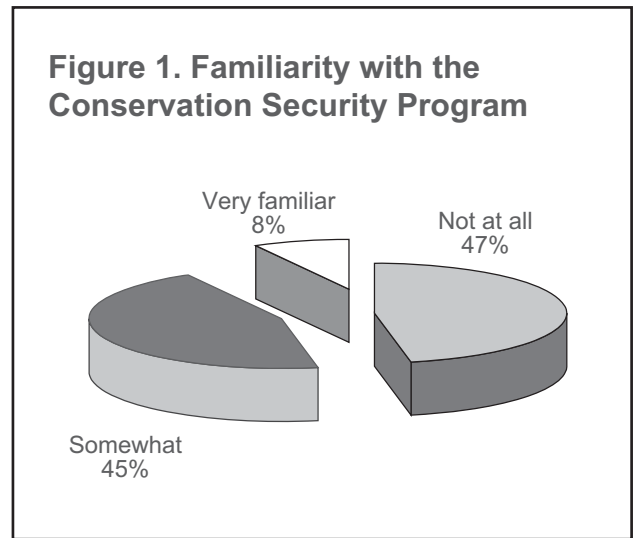
	Strongly or Some- what Disagree	Not Sure	Some- what or Strongly Agree
		-Percent-	
Record farmland prices make it increasingly difficult for young people to get into farming	2	3	95
Farmers should be wary of purchasing farmland at the current high prices	4	10	86
Farm subsidy payments artificially support high farmland prices	10	13	77
The conversion of farmland to other uses is a major contributing cause of high farmland values	24	18	58
If government farm programs are found to violate world free trade rules and are reduced, it will result in a major decline in farmland values	11	36	53
Limits should be placed on absentee ownership of farmland by individuals	29	25	46
High farmland values reflect the bumper crops in corn and soybeans of the past year	40	16	44
Record prices of Iowa farmland are a sign of a strong farm economy	58	16	26
State laws limiting nonresident aliens (foreign investors) from owning farmland should be relaxed	78	12	10

at all familiar with the program (Figure 1). Respondents agreed, however, that governmental incentives remain important in their ability to meet environmental standards and practices (Figure 2).

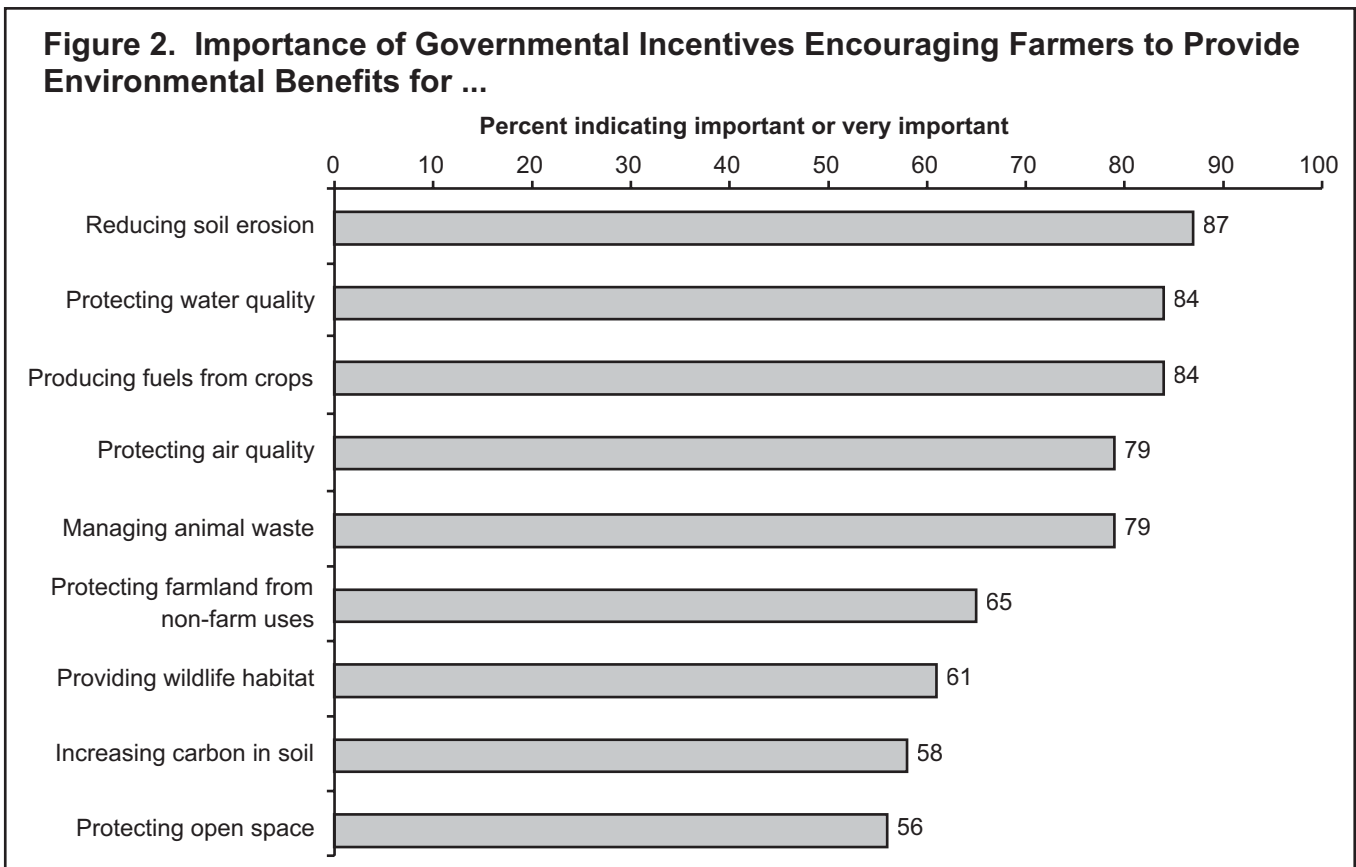
A substantial 87 percent thought the incentives were important or very important in reducing soil erosion, and 84 percent felt it helped them protect water quality and produce alternative fuels from crops. Additionally, 79 percent felt the government's role better helps them protect air quality and manage animal waste. Somewhat smaller percentages of farmers indicated government incentives were important for protecting farmland from non-farm uses (65 percent) providing wildlife habitat (61 percent), increasing carbon in soil (58 percent), and protecting open space (56 percent).

New Economic Directions

Iowa farm operators were asked about their support for the plan to encourage growth in the state developed by the Governor's



Strategic Planning Council (Table 3). Energy-related development received the strongest level of support. Almost 90 percent of the respondents supported renewable energy sources development such as wind farms, and 87 percent supported developing bio-refineries that would utilize Iowa's agricultural products. Another aspect of development is attracting people to the state. Helping make



Iowa a tourist destination was supported by 63 percent. Attracting skilled people to the state by strengthening the job market was supported by 60 percent, and 57 percent supported encouraging former Iowans to return to the state. Other ideas receiving support include providing tax support through the Iowa values fund (59 percent) and providing tax incentives for new businesses (56 percent). One-half of those responding

supported county governments and services consolidation, and an equal percentage favored support mechanisms for entrepreneurs.

Considerable uncertainty was shown for several recommendations. Forty-eight percent would like to focus on quality of life issues although 34 percent were not sure of this direction. Developing Iowa as the “life sciences capital of the world” was supported by only 45 percent while 42 percent showed

Table 3. New Directions in Economic Development

	Strongly or Somewhat Oppose	Uncertain	Somewhat or Strongly Support
	- Percent -		
Develop renewable energy sources such as wind farms	3	8	89
Focus economic development on developing bio-refineries that produce chemicals, fuels, and other materials from Iowa agricultural products	3	10	87
Emphasize Iowa's cultural and natural attractions to create tourism destinations	12	25	63
Attract highly skilled and educated people to Iowa through advertising, direct mailing, special events, and electronic contacts that promote career opportunities and quality of life	13	27	60
Provide tax support through the Iowa Values Fund for projects with a strong potential of creating jobs and income	19	22	59
Encourage former Iowans to return to the state	9	34	57
Provide tax incentives to help new businesses flourish	20	24	56
Consolidate county governments and services to provide better efficiency for taxpayers	28	22	50
Provide training, mentoring, seed funds, and other local support for entrepreneurs	15	35	50
Enhance quality of life by expanding cultural, historic, athletic, and entertainment opportunities	18	34	48
Develop Iowa as the “life sciences capital of the world”	13	42	45
Provide funding to all Iowa communities for high-speed internet service	27	38	35
Attract, educate, and integrate immigrant and refugee populations into the workforce	54	27	19

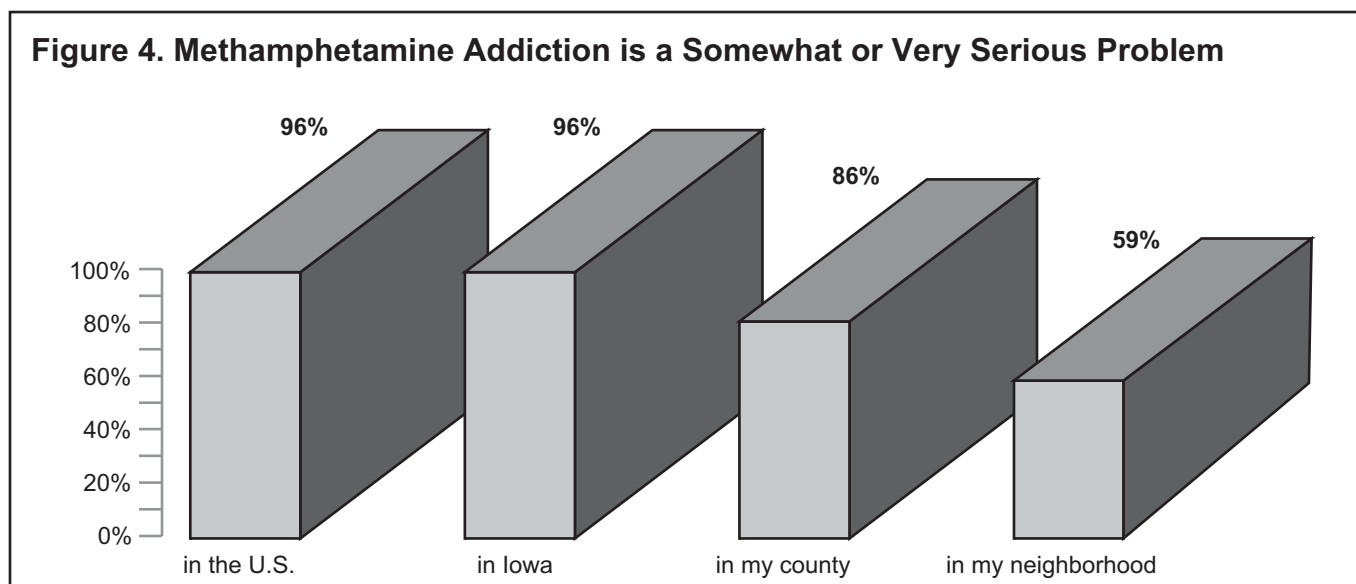
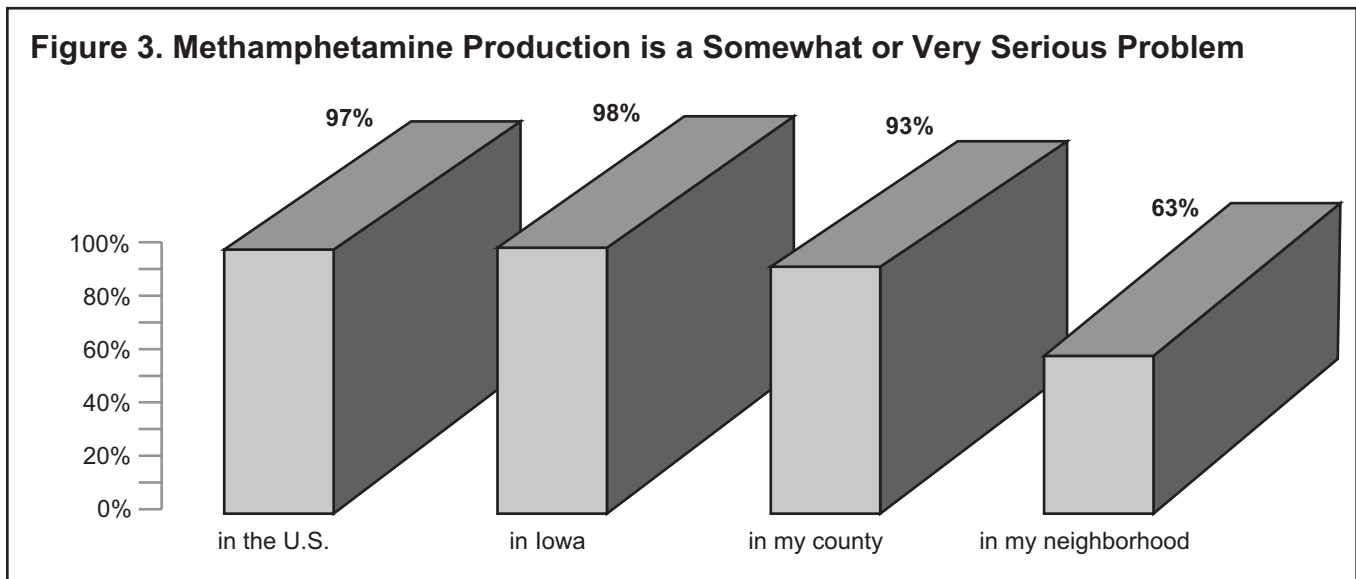
doubt. Farmers showed mixed support for funding Internet service for all communities with 35 percent supporting the idea, 38 percent having reservations, and 27 percent opposed. A majority of farmers (54 percent) were opposed to bringing immigrant and refugee populations into the workforce.

Methamphetamine Issues

Iowa farmers were asked a series of questions regarding methamphetamine issues and concerns. Most Iowa farmers see methamphetamine production and addiction as a serious problem affecting them at all levels and in many ways. Although almost all

farmers saw methamphetamine production and addiction as a very serious problem nationally, statewide, and in the county, fewer saw it as a problem in their neighborhoods. It is important to recognize, however, that about six-in-ten did define it as being a very serious problem in their neighborhood (Figures 3 and 4).

Most farmers (86 percent) use recommended practices to reduce theft of anhydrous ammonia (Table 4.1). Most (78 percent) also support plans to require retailers to lock up cold medications, limiting access to one of the key ingredients in methamphetamine



production. Farmers also believe there is a high level in community awareness of the dangers associated with methamphetamine according to 68 percent of those responding. Fifty-five percent believe there has been an increase in drug-related crimes due to the presence of methamphetamine production and addiction.

Opinion is mixed on how to effectively deal with this issue confronting Iowa communities. Only 43 percent knew the warning signs when a location is being used as a methamphetamine laboratory, and only 24 percent know the warning signs when someone is addicted.

Although 38 percent were willing to pay more taxes to address the problem at the state level, only 34 percent thought their community had the necessary resources and funding to address its methamphetamine concerns. Twenty-nine percent were certain that they knew at least one person who is addicted to methamphetamine.

Most farm operators agreed that law enforcement is effectively identifying methamphetamine users (Table 4.2). A 60 percent majority believed that law enforcement officials in their community are effectively addressing the issue and 54

Table 4.1. Opinion about the Problem of Methamphetamine in the Community

	Somewhat or Strongly Disagree	Not Sure -Percent-	Somewhat or Strongly Agree
I use all recommended practices to reduce theft of anhydrous ammonia from my farm	3	10	86
I support plans to require retailers to lock up cold medications to limit access to one of the key ingredients in methamphetamine production	11	22	78
Most of the people in my community understand the dangers of methamphetamine	13	18	68
There has been an increase in drug-related crimes in my community due to the presence of methamphetamine	15	30	55
Most of the people in my community know the warning signs when a place is being used as a methamphetamine laboratory	24	33	43
I am willing to pay more taxes to address the methamphetamine problem in Iowa	33	29	38
My community has the necessary resources and funding to address its methamphetamine-related concerns	18	47	34
I know at least one person who is addicted to methamphetamine	37	34	29
Most of the people in my community know the warning signs when someone is addicted to methamphetamine	30	46	24

Table 4.2. Opinions about Law Enforcement Officials' Ability to Effectively Address the Methamphetamine Issue

	Somewhat or Strongly Disagree	Not Sure -Percent-	Somewhat or Strongly Agree
Law enforcement officials in my community are effectively addressing the issue of methamphetamine production	15	25	60
Law enforcement officials in my community are effectively identifying methamphetamine users	13	33	54
Community leaders and law enforcement officials have an effective plan to prevent people from setting up methamphetamine laboratories	28	50	22
Community leaders and law enforcement officials have an effective plan to prevent individuals from accessing and using methamphetamine	32	48	20

percent agreed law enforcement officials were effectively identifying users. Most of those responding were not sure how they could tackle the issue as an individual or as a community. Only 22 percent agreed that the community leaders and law enforcement officials had an effective plan for preventing the set up of methamphetamine laboratories. Only 20 percent agreed that community had an effective plan to prevent individual access and use to methamphetamines.

Extension Evaluation

Farm operators were asked about their contacts with ISU Extension service and their opinions of the services they received in the past 12 months. Data from the 2001 poll are included to show how opinions have changed. Table 5 shows that the numbers and types of contacts farmers had with the Extension Service changed little over the four year period. Farmers most often read Extension materials in a farm magazine, read about Extension in local newspapers, read an Extension bulletin, or listened to an Extension report on the radio. But they visited their county Extension office, watched an Extension television report, or called the Extension office for information less often. Even fewer times were given for attending an Extension

meeting, whether or not an Extension staff person spoke or presented. Least mentioned among contact types were asking an Extension worker to visit the farm and serving on an Extension committee or council.

Farmers tended to be fairly conventional in the educational methods they preferred. In the question on the level of emphasis each educational method should receive in reaching farmers, some had a large number of respondents stating that they should have less emphasis, but for most methods the responses suggested the same or more emphasis (Table 6). Traditional educational methods such as local, regional, and statewide educational meetings and conferences, and printed bulletins and fact sheets were high in maintaining the same level of emphasis. A large number of farmers wanted more farmer involvement in applied research, on-farm demonstrations, and news releases, updates, and reports via the farm media.

Demand for technologically innovative educational methods—satellite and two-way interactive video courses—was more moderate. Just under one-half of farmer respondents stated they wanted the same emphasis and only 22 percent wanted more. Along with credit courses leading to either a bachelors or masters degree, video conferences

Table 5. Used Extension or Attended an Extension Program in the Past 12 Months (2005 and 2001)

		Number of Times		
		<u>None</u>	<u>1 or 2</u>	<u>3 or More</u>
		- Percentage -		
Read Extension material in a farm magazine	2005	18	22	60
	2001	19	21	60
Read about Extension in local newspapers	2005	19	21	60
	2001	21	20	59
Read an Extension bulletin	2005	15	28	57
	2001	17	24	59
Listened to an Extension report on the radio	2005	24	20	56
	2001	26	18	56
Watched an Extension television report	2005	51	22	27
	2001	51	20	29
Visited your county Extension office	2005	36	37	27
	2001	37	35	28
Called the Extension office for information	2005	46	34	20
	2001	45	32	23
Attended a meeting where Extension staff spoke/presented	2005	37	45	18
	2001	38	45	17
Attended an Extension meeting	2005	50	37	13
	2001	50	36	14
Asked an Extension worker to visit your farm	2005	89	9	2
	2001	88	10	2
Served on an Extension committee or council	2005	94	4	2
	2001	95	3	2

have the highest percentage of farmers stating they wanted less emphasis or they don't know.

Several other traditional methods also received fairly strong endorsement when the "same" and "more" categories are considered together: one-on-one consultations, 1-800 help lines, training/updates with farm supply dealers,

how-to video cassettes, and computer assisted instruction and educational materials.

Overall there were few major changes between 2001 and 2005, but interactive and satellite video conferences had a substantial decrease in the percentage answering "don't know" and a proportional substantial increase in the percentage answering "same."

Table 6. Amount of Emphasis Educational Methods Should Receive in Reaching Farmers (2005 and 2001)

Methods		Level of Emphasis			Don't Know
		<u>Less</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>More</u>	
- Percentage -					
Local educational meetings or conferences	2005	2	54	35	9
	2001	4	48	27	11
Regional educational meetings or conferences	2005	6	60	23	11
	2001	12	55	17	16
Statewide educational meetings or conferences	2005	11	58	16	15
	2001	20	50	13	17
Two-way interactive video conferences	2005	9	49	22	19
	2001	12	37	21	30
Satellite video conferences	2005	9	47	22	22
	2001	12	39	21	27
On-farm demonstrations	2005	3	40	48	9
	2001	4	37	47	12
Credit courses leading to bachelors or masters degree*	2005	7	38	33	21
Farmer involvement in applied research	2005	2	31	55	12
	2001	3	34	48	15
One-to-one consultations (personal & telephone)	2005	6	48	32	14
	2001	7	42	33	18
Farm media news releases, updates, and reports	2005	2	44	46	8
	2001	3	45	42	9
Printed bulletins and fact sheets	2005	3	55	35	7
	2001	5	50	37	8
"How to" video cassettes	2005	10	45	31	14
	2001	8	39	36	17
1-800 help lines	2005	5	50	30	15
	2001	7	42	34	17
Training/updates with farm supply dealers	2005	3	45	39	13
	2001	6	44	34	16
Computer-assisted instruction and educational materials	2005	5	41	37	7
	2001	7	39	33	21

*Not asked in 2001

Table 7. Where Farmers Would Go First for Farm, Home, and Community Information (2005 and 1995)

		<u>Professional farm manager</u>	<u>Private consultant</u>	<u>Farm magazine/ newsletter*</u>	<u>Dealer/ sales person</u>	<u>ISU Extension</u>	<u>Friend or neighbor</u>	<u>Internet/ Online programs*</u>	<u>Producer association representatives*</u>
TOPIC		- Percentage -							
Crop production									
	2005	2	7	7	56	12	10	2	3
	1995	2	5		62	17	10		
Livestock Production									
	2005	2	10	14	25	20	19	3	7
	1995	2	10		34	24	17		
Farm financial management									
	2005	11	48	9	4	14	5	4	4
	1995	10	39		4	13	3		
Organizing a citizen's group									
	2005	2	7	4	2	35	40	5	5
	1995	1	4		1	24	38		
Home financial management									
	2005	6	44	7	3	24	6	7	2
	1995	4	33		3	22	4		
Conservation tillage									
	2005	2	5	16	13	45	14	2	3
	1995	2	4		14	53	16		
Lawn and garden pests									
	2005	1	5	4	25	56	5	3	1
	1995	1	2		20	63	6		
Using futures markets									
	2005	11	41	9	11	9	6	8	4
	1995	7	36		14	16	6		
Selecting computer equipment									
	2005	2	23	3	30	3	22	15	1
	1995	2	18		30	9	16		
Reducing energy costs									
	2005	3	13	16	15	35	7	6	4
	1995	1	13		19	34	5		
Sustainable farming practices*									
	2005	3	6	17	8	48	10	3	3
	1995								
Innovative farming technologies*									
	2005	4	6	24	13	34	8	5	4
	1995								

*Not asked in 1995

Where does ISU Extension fit among the various sources of information farmers have available to them? Following up on data collected in 1996 we asked where they would go first for information on a series of farming topics (Table 7). The information sources we asked about in addition to ISU Extension included professional farm manager, private consultants, farm magazine/newsletter, dealer/sales person, friend or neighbor, Internet/online programs, and producer association representative. Extension was selected as the first source by the largest percentage of farmers for lawn and garden pests (56 percent), sustainable farming practices (48 percent), conservation tillage (45 percent), reducing energy costs (35 percent), and innovative farming technologies (34 percent). Dealers/sales persons were selected by most respondents as first for crop production and livestock production (56 and 25 percent respectively), although Extension was a close second for the latter (20 percent). The largest

percentage of farmers (30 percent) also chose dealers/sales persons as the first source of information for selecting computer equipment.

For financial issues most respondents selected private consultants as their first source of information. Financial issues included farm financial management (48 percent), home financial management (44 percent), and using futures markets (41 percent). Friends or neighbors were selected first by most respondents for organizing a citizen group (40 percent) and were also close to Extension as second for livestock production (19 percent) and were scored to private consultants for selecting computer equipment (22 percent). Farm magazines/newsletters were selected by a substantial number of farmers for information on innovative farming technologies (24 percent). Most farmers, apparently, do not use professional farm managers, Internet/online programs, or producer association representatives as the first information

Table 8. Opinions on Refocusing Extension to Better Serve its Audiences (2005 and 2001)

		Strongly or Somewhat <u>Disagree</u>	Not <u>Sure</u> - Percentage -	Somewhat or Strongly <u>Agree</u>
Extension should refocus its efforts to better serve:				
Farm families	2005	4	16	81
	2001	3	14	83
Youth	2005	3	17	80
	2001	4	17	79
Communities	2005	8	30	62
	2001	10	26	64
Rural non-farm families	2005	14	33	53
	2001	16	33	51
Business and industry	2005	19	36	45
	2001	20	32	48
Urban families	2005	23	40	37
	2001	23	39	38

Table 9. Opinions about Iowa State University Extension Programs (2005 and 2001)

		Strongly or Somewhat Disagree	Not Sure - Percentage -	Somewhat or Strongly Agree
Extension programs:				
Have been beneficial to my family				
	2005	8	13	79
	2001	10	14	76
Have been beneficial to my farm				
	2005	8	15	77
	2001	10	12	78
Have responded to the needs of rural Iowa				
	2005	7	19	74
	2001	10	18	73

source to go to for any major farm operation decision. Although the data are not completely comparable for the two years of 2005 and 1996 because of changes in some response categories, overall, the results of those selected most often for each topic are the same.

Most farm operators believe that farm families and youth should be the primary audiences

ISU Extension should serve (Table 8), and opinions in 2005 were similar to opinions in 2001. In 2005 when asked whether Extension should refocus its efforts to serve several different sectors, 81 and 80 percent responded that it should refocus to better serve farm families and youth. Sixty-two percent agreed that it should refocus its efforts to better serve

Figure 5. Quality of Assistance/Information Received from ISU Extension over the Past Year

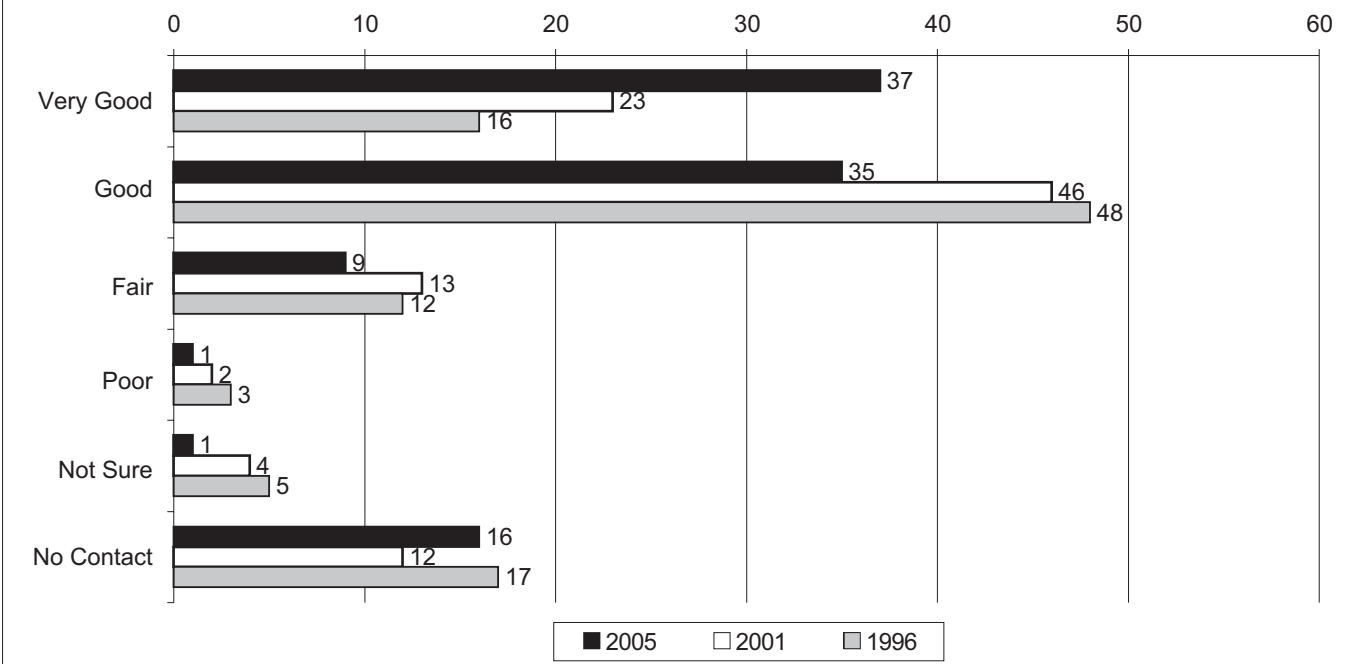
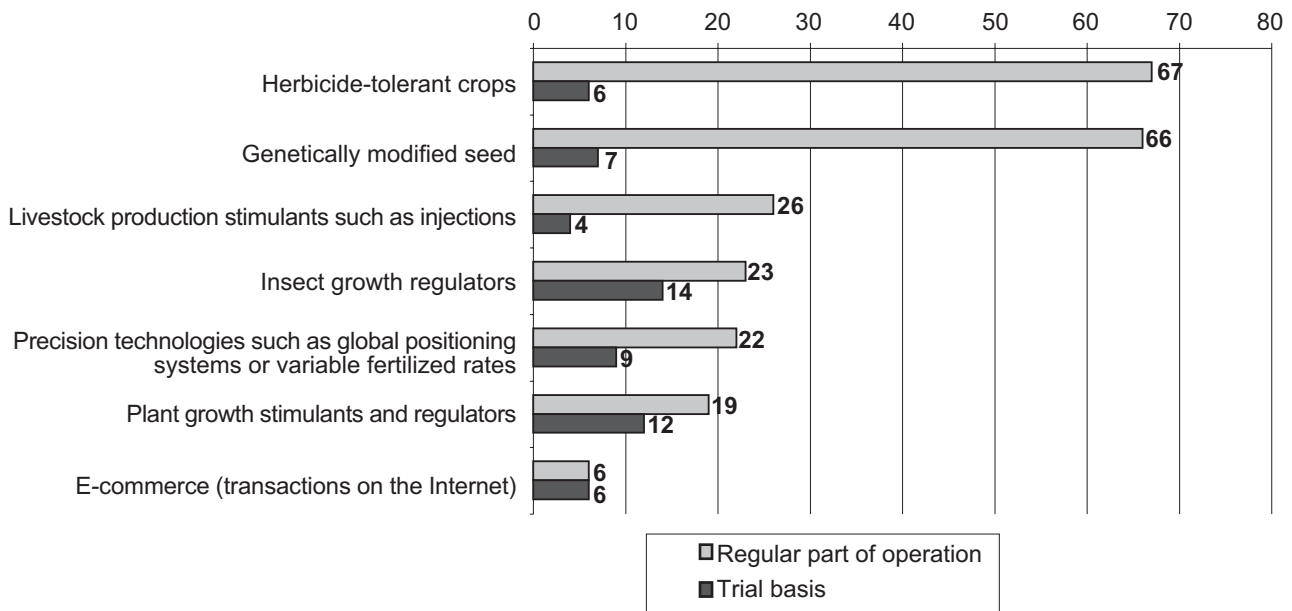


Figure 6. Innovative Technologies Used in Production of Crops or Livestock in 2004



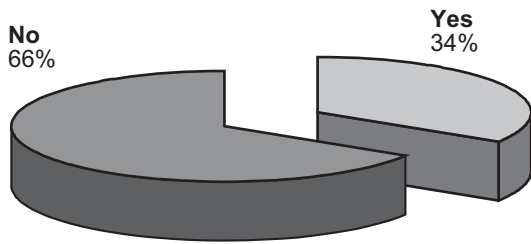
communities. Less than 45 percent agreed that Extension should refocus for business and industry, and 53 percent agreed it should refocus for rural non-farm families. Only 36 percent agreed to a refocus for urban families, with the greatest disagreement (23 percent) among all the audiences.

Overall, in 2005 farmers were generally pleased about how Extension served them which also was the case in 2001. Seventy-nine percent felt Extension programs have benefited their families, 77 percent thought the programs have benefited their farms, and 74 percent believed the programs responded to the needs of rural Iowa (Table 9). In evaluating the contact with ISU Extension over the past year, 37 percent said the assistance or information was very good (Figure 5). This was a substantial increase from 16 percent responding very good in 1996 and 23 percent in 2001. Only one percent said it was poor.

Use of Innovative Farming Technology

Farming technology continues to change and farmers are constantly faced with decisions about incorporating new technologies into their farming operations. We asked farmers about their use of seven innovative technologies. Figure 6 shows the percentage of farmers—for whom the technologies are relevant—who are using each of these technologies either on a regular basis or on a trial basis. Herbicide-tolerant crops and genetically modified seeds both are being used by an almost equal percentage of farmers as a regular part of the operation (67 and 66 percent respectively) and on a trial basis (6 and 7 percent respectively). Fewer farmers are using the other innovative technologies. About one-quarter of livestock producers (26 percent) use production stimulants on a regular basis, and an additional four percent are using them on a trial basis. About one-fifth of the respondents are using as a regular part

Figure 7. Have you identified a potential successor who will eventually manage your farm?



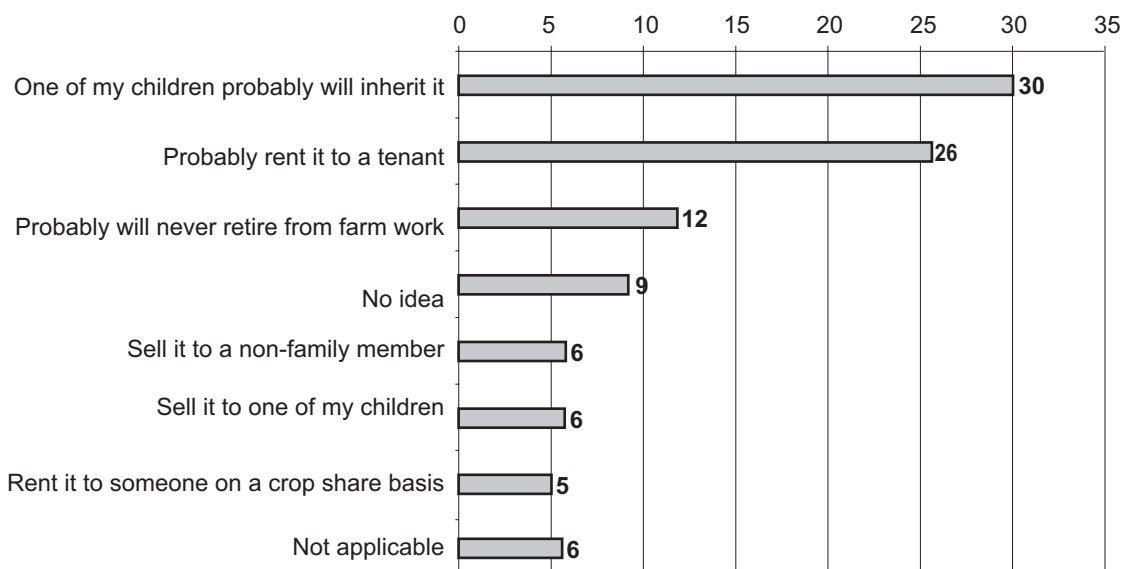
of their operation insect growth regulators (23 percent), precision agriculture technologies (22 percent), and plant growth regulators (23 percent), precision agriculture technologies (22 percent), and plant growth stimulants and regulators (19 percent) with about half as many using each on a trial basis. E-commerce is least used—only six percent each on a regular or trial basis.

Farm Succession

Communities across the state have begun to see the effects as baby-boomers begin to retire. But for farm owners retirement poses a unique challenge—figuring out what to do with their family farm. Sixty-six percent have not identified a potential successor for when they retire (Figure 7).

When asked what would happen to their farm upon retirement (Figure 8), most farmers said that one of their children would inherit it (30 percent) or they would rent it to a tenant (26 percent). Twelve percent thought that they would probably never retire, 9 percent had no idea. Others thought they might either sell it to a non-family member or one of their children. Some even will consider renting it on a cropshare basis. The face of the Iowa farm community will likely be changing in the next ten to twenty years.

Figure 8. What Will Happen to Your Family Farm When You Retire?



Summary

2007 Farm Bill (Percent Agreeing)

- Conservation Reserve Program should be continued (80 percent)
- Basic directions of the 2002 Farm Bill should be continued (61 percent)
- More government assistance in promoting exports (84 percent)
- Incentives to participate in alternative energy development (79 percent)

Farmland Prices

- 95 percent agreed that farmland prices make it increasingly difficult to begin farming
- 86 percent agreed that farmers should be “wary” of buying farmland at current prices
- 77 percent agreed that government subsidies artificially support high farmland prices
- 78 percent are opposed to relaxing state laws that restrict foreign farmland investment

Directions in Economic Development

- 89 percent supported developing renewable energy sources
- 87 percent supported a focus on developing biorefineries that produce materials from Iowa agricultural products
- A majority supported three options for attracting people to the state: Make Iowa a tourist destination (63 percent), attract skilled people by strengthening the job market (60 percent), and encourage former Iowans to return to the state (57 percent)

Methamphetamine

- Almost all farmers see a national, statewide, and countywide methamphetamine production and addiction problem, and 60 percent see it as a neighborhood problem
- 86 percent agreed that they used all

recommended practices to reduce theft of anhydrous ammonia

- 78 percent agreed that retailers should be required to lock up cold medications
- Just over one-half agreed that local law enforcement officials are effectively addressing methamphetamine production (54 percent) and effectively identifying users (54 percent)

Extension Evaluation

- The most common contacts with Extension were reading Extension material in a farm magazine, reading about Extension in local newspapers, reading Extension bulletins, and listening to Extension reports on the radio
- Between 50 and 60 percent of farmers thought Extension should continue to give about the same level of emphasis to local, regional and statewide meetings and conferences, printed bulletins and fact sheets, and 1-800 help lines
- About half wanted more hands-on activities through involvement in applied research and on-farm demonstrations
- Extension was selected first most often as the source for various types of farm, home, and community information, followed by private consultants and dealer-sales persons
- 72 percent rated the quality of assistance/information from Extension as good or very good
- About three-fourths or more agreed that Extension had been beneficial to their family, their farm, and rural Iowa

Innovative Technologies

- About two-thirds of farmers are using herbicide tolerant crops (67 percent) and genetically modified seeds (66 percent)

Farm Succession

- 34 percent have identified a potential successor to manage the farm upon retirement

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Helping Iowans become their best.

Prepared by Peter Korsching, professor, Paul Lasley, extension sociologist, and Trevalyn Gruber. Leslie Daub and Del Marks provided valuable layout assistance to the questionnaire and this report. The Iowa Department of Land Stewardship, Division of Statistics, assisted in the data collection.
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...and justice for all

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