



UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS 7-STATE FARMER SURVEY: COMBINED

March 29, 2018

1. As you may know, Congress is writing a five-year new Farm Bill this year. How closely are you following the details of that process?

	Total
Extremely closely	14%
Very closely	19%
Somewhat closely	37%
Not very closely	30%

2. If you had to rate the importance of the Farm Bill to your personal livelihood on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 being completely unimportant and 7 being extremely important, what would you say?

Mean Score	Total
	4.94
Very important (6-7)	47%
Somewhat important (4-5)	28%
Not very important (1-3)	25%

3. Next, I'm going to read a list of ways that US farm policy can shape agriculture in the years ahead. Answer yes or no to indicate which you think are important to the future of farming:

	Yes	No
Offering incentives for farmers to take steps to reduce runoff and soil loss, improve water quality, and increase resilience to floods and droughts	75%	25%

2,867 interviews among farmers in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin were conducted March 12-19, 2018 via automated phone survey and online interviews. The results were weighted to ensure proportional response.

Margin of error for these results is +/- 1.83.

For questions, please email: info@rabaresearch.com or call (917) 685 4819.





Strengthening the hand of farmers in dealings with companies that control the production chain	74%	26%
Supporting research on ways to increase farm profitability by decreasing the need for costly chemical inputs	74%	26%
Improving crop insurance options for a wider range of crops	58%	42%
Helping connect farmers with new buyers through marketing arrangements like food hubs and farm-to-school programs	69%	31%

4. Now I'm going to ask about different kinds of farm programs created by the Farm Bill and carried out by the US Department of Agriculture. Have you ever participated in a USDA program aimed at helping you implement conservation practices, get access to farmland, diversify your production, or market your products?

	Total
Yes	61%
No	39%

5. For any of these kinds of Farm Bill programs, what would make you MORE likely to participate in the future?

	Yes	No
More USDA outreach about the programs that are available to me and how they can help my business	56%	44%
Greater financial incentives to implement new practices	66%	34%
Greater technical support to implement new practices	53%	47%
Less burdensome paperwork or other administrative requirements	66%	34%

6. If a candidate for public office seemed to favor farm success through sustainable ag priorities instead of business as usual, would you be more or less likely to support that candidate?

	Total
More likely	72%
Less likely	16%



Makes no difference/unsure 12%

7. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or something else?

	Total
Republican	55%
Democrat	20%
Something else	25%

8. What is your gender?

	Total
Men	75%
Women	12%
Don't know/refused	13%

9. What is your age?

	Total
18-24	1%
25-44	11%
45-64	39%
65+	36%
Unknown	13%